

SALTWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE REPORT (from page 1)

Further, it mandates this report by submitted to the Marine Fisheries Council and “one or more public meetings to solicit input from recreational fisherman and the general public.” The Fisheries Council then prepares an addendum to the report, setting for the Council’s opinion on whether the program is meeting its intended purposes.

The report is also annually submitted to the General Assumbly.

For the past several years, DEM staff presents this report to a meeting of the RISAA Board of Directors and Legislative Committee (which is comprised of delegates from 28 affiliate clubs). The meeting took place on February 7, and all present approved of the 2017 expenditures and proposed plans for 2018.

HOW WE GOT HERE

Back in 2009 the federal government mandated that all recreational saltwater anglers be registered and that each state could create it’s own permit system, but if any state did not, it’s saltwater fishing citizens would have to purchase a \$15 federal permit.

That Federal Angler Registry permit today costs \$29, while the Rhode Island license is \$7. The Rhode Island license is also accepted in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine and New York through

a reciprocity agreement.

Not only does Rhode Island have a much lower cost than

the federal fee, RI does not charge a fee to residents over 65, or to residents who are blind, permanently disabled and RI residents who are on leave from active military duty.

A portion of each RI license sold, \$2 for each license sold online, and \$3 for each license sold at a vendor, is used to cover the costs of administering the program. The money goes directly to the vendors who administer the program, and are not revenues received by the state. In this way the program covers its own costs and is self-sustaining.

The balance of the revenues derived from license sales are deposited into a restricted receipt account, which is managed by the DEM and subject to the exclusive-use restrictions set for by law. Monies from the account can ONLY be used for managing Rhode Island’s marine recreational fisheries, with particular reference to improving state-based recreational fishery catch and effort statistics and stock assessments; and enhancing recreational fishing opportunities in the state.

RI Saltwater Recreational Fishing Licenses Issued

License Type	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Resident Full Year	18,658	26,556	25,864	25,938	26,084	29,335	28,605
Non-Resident Full Year	5,249	7,649	6,975	7,432	7,381	8,428	8,378
Resident 7-Day	60	122	107	144	134	159	158
Non-Resident 7 Day	1,310	2,505	2,730	2,958	3,055	3,141	3,221
Resident Over 65	3,635	4,613	4,653	4,667	4,704	5,078	5,613
Active Military Stationed in RI	703	993	996	1,055	992	1,006	971
Totals:	29,615	42,438	41,325	42,194	42,350	47,147	46,946

RI Saltwater Recreational Fishing Gross Revenue

License Type	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Resident Full Year	\$130,606	\$185,892	\$181,048	\$181,566	\$182,588	\$205,345	\$200,235
Non-Resident Full Year	\$52,490	\$76,490	\$69,750	\$74,320	\$73,810	\$84,280	\$83,780
Resident 7-Day	\$300	\$610	\$535	\$720	\$670	\$795	\$790
Non-Resident 7 Day	\$6,550	\$12,525	\$13,650	\$14,790	\$15,275	\$15,705	\$16,105
Resident Over 65	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Active Military Stationed in RI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals:	\$189,946	\$275,517	\$264,983	\$271,396	\$272,343	\$306,125	\$300,910

RI Saltwater Recreational Fishing Net Revenue

License Type	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Resident Full Year	\$88,462	\$124,413	\$120,880	\$120,736	\$121,175	\$136,810	\$133,772
Non-Resident Full Year	\$40,702	\$58,566	\$53,340	\$56,970	\$56,682	\$64,923	\$64,664
Resident 7-Day	\$174	\$352	\$304	\$411	\$382	\$453	\$430
Non-Resident 7 Day	\$3,605	\$6,528	\$6,988	\$7,794	\$8,085	\$8,445	\$8,765
Resident Over 65	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Active Military Stationed in RI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals:	\$132,943	\$189,859	\$181,512	\$185,911	\$186,324	\$210,631	\$207,631

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