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Representing Over 7,500 Recreational Anglers

Warmest ocean ever... How will it impact the fish?

by
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Much of the heat generated by global warming, heat that would normally raise our air temperatures around the world, is absorbed into our oceans. How much heat has been absorbed? The answer is, "a lot."

Last year our oceans absorbed 93 percent of the heat our carbon emissions trapped in the atmosphere. The ocean would never release all this retained heat at once, but if the heat stored in the world oceans since 1955 was instantly transferred, NOAA relates the atmosphere would warm by 65 degrees F.



According to a study released January 16, 2019 in *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences*, 2018 set a new record of ocean heating, surpassing 2017, which was the previous warmest year ever recorded. This level of heat places **2018 as the hottest year ever recorded**. In fact, according to the study, the past five years are the warmest years on record.

Long-term trends of ocean heating create the expansion of water and a rise in sea level that exposes our coastal freshwater supplies to saltwater intrusion, makes our coastal communities susceptible to storm surges, and threatens coastal infrastructure. The current sea level and its associated pattern is expected to continue and accelerate in the near future. **(to page 38)**

Bill Sokolowski
with 6.8 lb. tautog that he caught off Newport on October 30.

Recreational fishing is worth \$412 MILLION to the Rhode Island economy and over 4,000 jobs!

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