



# Tournaments Committee

John Volpe, Chairman



## Tournaments Are Open to ALL Members

*Never participated before? Read below to answer all of your questions!*

RISAA's official statement of "Purpose" says: "The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association is a non-profit organization, created to provide a forum for recreational saltwater anglers; to provide education to members concerning fishing techniques, improved catches, and **overall enjoyment of fishing; to foster sportsmanship**; to support marine conservation and sound management of fisheries resources; and provide a unified voice to preserve and protect the rights, traditions and the future of recreational fishing in Rhode Island."

That *overall enjoyment of fishing and to foster sportsmanship* is accomplished in many ways by several RISAA committees (fly fishing, kayaks, surfcasters, tournaments). The Tournaments Committee works to accomplish the joy of fishing and good sportsmanship by offering and managing several tournaments via our Yearlong and Special Tournament programs.

### RISAA TOURNAMENTS EXPLAINED

Each tournament has separate competition sections for Adults and Juniors (17 and under) and most of the tournaments have separate BOAT and SHORE Divisions, giving each angler an opportunity to be involved, no matter which form of fishing they enjoy.

### The Yearlong Tournament

The Yearlong Tournament runs from January 1 to December 15 annually.

It consists of 13 species of fish which are common in and round New England coastal waters. You can see the Yearlong Tournament species on page 18 of this issue.

### Special Tournaments

The Special Tournaments run for a limited period of time (usually ten days) and includes one "team tournament" and several individual tournaments.

State recreational regulations and catch limits are taken into consideration when planning the fish species and number of Special Tournaments scheduled for the year.

One very popular Special Tournament is the "Team Fluke Challenge" where two RISAA members team up. The top winning team is based on the total weight of the top four fish caught. The "Top Ten" teams receive a prize and a extra prize is awarded to the team with the largest fluke. In the past, this has always been a two-day weekend tournament, but because bad

weather can keep anglers at the dock the Tournaments Committee has decided to extend it. This year's "Team Fluke Challenge" is scheduled for July 4-14.

You can see the list of 2019 Special Tournaments on page 19 in this issue.

### TOURNAMENT RULES

The tournaments rules are fairly simple and straight forward, and here are all of the RISAA Tournament rules:

#### THE BASICS

- Only RISAA members *in good-standing* may enter tournaments. (your dues are up to date)
- There are no fees to participate in RISAA tournaments.
- There are two **categories: Adult and Junior**.
- Junior members may enter fish in the Junior category only.
- A member may submit as many entries in all tournaments as they want.
- There shall be two **divisions: Shore and Boat**.
- No person shall hold more than one place, per species, in each division (Boat or Shore) of any tournament at one time.
- Shore anglers must have both feet on "terra firma" (docks/piers acceptable).

#### THE ENTRY FORM

- All data on the form must be completed for a valid entry. If not, the entry may be voided.
- All fish entered must meet the Rhode Island recreational minimum legal size limits and seasons, if any exists.
- All slips must be signed by the person weighing the entry, as well as the RISAA member entering the fish.
- Only one fish per weight slip. Use a different form for each fish to be entered.
- Original Entry Form for all tournaments must be submitted within seven (7) days of the date weighed, to the RISAA office by either:
  - o **Hand-delivered** at monthly seminars with seven (7) days
  - o **Mail** to: RISAA, P.O. Box 1465, Coventry, RI 02816
  - o **Members are reminded to take the entry form from the weigh-in station. It is not the responsibility of the weigh-in station to mail in your form.**

#### THE WEIGH-IN

- All entries must be weighed on a **RISAA CERTIFIED SCALE**.
- The scale must be digital and must give the weight in pounds, tenths and hundreds of pounds, i.e. 9.52 lbs.
- Scales that provide the weight in pounds and ounces are not acceptable. The use of a conversion chart is not acceptable.

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