



SURFCASTERS Committee



Rich Heffernan, Chairman

Fishing and Friendships (You are welcome to join us)

The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association has a group of members who are devoted to surfcasting along the state's shores. Even though this Surfcasters Committee is only 35 members strong, they consider themselves small but mighty – sort of like Rhode Island itself!

If you were to look you may find us anywhere there's shore access: driving the South County beaches searching for schools of striped bass, or maybe just that big one; at the end of a rock jetty throwing plugs we paid too much money for; swimming eels on moonless nights; and even braving the slippery granite ledges in the fall enticing those funny tropical visitors to run with our epoxy jigs, Minnows and Snax.

But it's not all fish, fish, and more fish. And each year the Surfcasters gather for dinner meetings at a local restaurant to swap stories, share some cheer, and either review the past year or plan out the coming season's list of activities.

We have a few regular spots on the calendar, such as fishing for stripers during the spring run or testing our luck on those persnickety tautog.

We also try out new locales that seem promising too. This year, for example, we'll fish a stretch of the west bay that doesn't see too much fishing pressure and can accommodate a group of night stalkers. Who knows, maybe we'll find out why no one fishes there if you catch my drift!

However, sometimes it's not as much about catching the big ones as it is about hanging with like-minded sportsmen on a beautiful summer evening sharing a common love.

Or is it addiction?

SURF FISHING TOURNAMENTS

The Surfcasters Committee conducts two tournaments every year as well. These *Surf Fishing Club Challenges* are striped bass and bluefish contests pitting the areas surf fishing clubs against one another. So even if you're not interested in competing, per se, these spring and fall events are an easy entry into a team sport that's fun and well, "challenging."

Last year we had nine surf clubs from the tristate area vying to be the Tournament Champion. Who would guess there's that many surf fishing clubs still around? Actually there's more and this year we hope to get others to join in on the fun.

One of the benefits that keeps clubs coming back year after year is the awesome seaside

Fisherman's Breakfast and awards ceremony that concludes each tournament. Here you'll see dozens of New England's best surf anglers gathered together in a spirit of friendship that is really something to behold – as is the amazing charity raffle we always have!

Who won the 2018 Challenges you ask? RISAA took the spring contest (yeah!) and the Rhode Island Mobile Sportfishermen bested all other clubs last fall.

Interested in joining? Just go to the [Contact Us](#) link on rissa.org and you'll see the Surfcasters Committee listed. Drop us a line...



Team RISAA won the 2018 Surf Fishing Club Challenge

No Fluke Charter Fishing & Tours



Fish on a meticulously restored 26' Bonito fishing machine with Capt. Dave Monti, noted fishing columnist. Children and adults welcome.

- Striped bass, fluke, tautog, bluefish, scup
- Ocean fishing or calm water Bay fishing
- Learn how to fish trips
- Sunset cruises and harbor tours

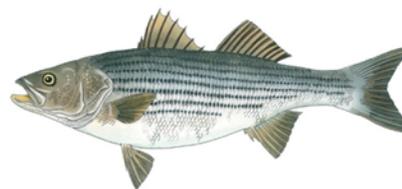
Enjoy fishing aboard the **VIRGINIA-JOAN**, 26' Bonito fishing machine. E-mail: dmontifish@verizon.net or call 401.480.3444.

Visit noflukecharters.com or fishing column at noflukefishing.blogspot.com.



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