

NEW TO FISHING (from page 14)

Pound for pound scup is a great little fighting fish and they are delicious to eat. The Special Area Provision for shore anglers includes India Point Park (Providence), Conimicut Point (Warwick), Stone Bridge (Tiverton), Fort Adams (Newport), Fort Wetherill (Jamestown), and the West Wall at the Harbor of Refuge in South County.

You need a saltwater fishing license

To fish in Rhode Island you need a state saltwater fishing license. This is the case for CT and MA too. Licenses are very easy to obtain. I have asked many friends to get a license on line while my boat engine is warming up before leaving the dock. They get a license in five minutes online using their smart phones.

Rhode Island's saltwater fishing licenses cost \$7 for RI residents and \$10 for out-of-state residents. Residents 65 years and older, need a license, but there is no fee.

RI has a reciprocity agreement with CT and MA (and other states too), so if you have a RI license (or one from a state RI has an agreement with) you can fish in that state too.

Children under 16 years of age do not need a license to fish in RI.

We have a page on the RISAA.ORG web site, "Everything you wanted to know about the saltwater license" that answers every possible question. You can view the page at www.risaa.org/rec_license.html

Visit www.ri.gov/DEM/saltwater/ for additional information about licenses and to apply for one online. By the way, you can also obtain a state license at many area bait and tackle shops as well as Benny's in RI.

How else can I learn how to fish?

The Rhode Island Saltwater Fishing Association (RISAA), the publisher of this magazine, is arguably **the best saltwater fishing group on the east coast**. They have monthly seminars on "How to fish" for various species with expert speakers that provide information for beginners to experts.

Membership is one of the best fishing investments you can make, \$50 per year which provides you with free admission to a year of seminars and their monthly magazine that is filled with fishing news, how to articles and the latest in fishing regulation and conservation advocacy in the fishing community.

Also on the RISAA web site is a section called "Fishing Guide" which describes common fish in our area, the type of fish you can catch during each season, and several shore locations in Narragansett Bay to try. Check it out at www.risaa.org/guide/fishing_guide.html

Other ways to learn include fishing on a party or charter boat. The Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association (www.rifishing.com) has a comprehensive list of member boats and captains with links to their web sites that relates where they fish, what they fish for and cost.



NOAA FISHERIES

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Help Wanted: Tropical Tuna Tagging Program



The Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Program (AOTTP) was established by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in 2015 to study key aspects of bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna life history and movements in the Atlantic Ocean.

Over a five year period, the AOTTP aims to partner with scientists and commercial and recreational tuna fishermen to tag at least 120,000 tropical tuna with conventional and/or electronic tags throughout the Atlantic. The data generated from these tags will be essential in improving understanding of these important species, which will enhance fisheries management and promote sustainability of the stocks. Given the status of the stocks, data on tropical tunas are desperately needed to preserve fishing opportunities in the western North Atlantic.

As part of the AOTTP, Dr. Walt Golet from the University of Maine and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute will be working with colleagues at the New England Aquarium, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, University of Miami, and NOAA Fisheries to deploy 5,000 conventional tags on bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna in the western North Atlantic from Canada to Venezuela, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. However, to do this, we need your help!

*If you are interested in participating in the AOTTP project and would like to volunteer to tag bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna, simply contact Dr. Walt Golet at walter.golet@maine.edu or call 207-351-5413 to get more information on how to become involved in this **free** program.*

Signing up is easy. Just provide your contact information and mailing address and we will send you all the necessary information, instructions, and materials to start tagging tuna.

Every fish tagged will not only allow you to become involved in important scientific research, but also give you a chance to win one of 20 individual cash prizes totaling more than \$39,000 US dollars that will be awarded at the end of the project.

For more information visit: <https://www.iccat.int/aottp/en/index.html>