

SALTWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE REPORT (from page 11)

DEM continues to issue periodic press releases regarding the license program and produce fact sheets, information cards and brochures for dissemination at public events such as the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) annual New England Saltwater Fishing Show, an ideal opportunity to interact directly with the recreational fishing community.

Per the suggestion from the meeting with the RISAA Board of Directors, the Division will provide more frequent updates to RISAA and other interested parties on projects funded by recreational license funds. For example, the Division will report any boat ramp repairs or construction updates to RISAA to disseminate to their members.

The RISAA Board feels that it is important to increase public awareness of how recreational saltwater license funds are being spent. To that end the Division will also highlight these projects in its annual magazine. The RISAA Board also suggested more communication between the Division and the angling public to direct where access point maintenance is needed.

In the 2017 funding cycle, the Division started funding an annual Youth Fishing Camp administered by the R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association with oversight from the Division. The Camp has been a success enrolling 50 children for three days centered around fishing. The popularity of the Camp had prompted the Division to continue support in 2018.

RISAA is a very active, large recreational fishing organization based in Rhode Island. An overview of the Association can be found on their web site: www.risaa.org. The state funding used to match the federal USFWS sportfish grant was derived almost entirely from credits derives from the donated time spent by RISAA volunteers. Future camps will continue to leverage volunteer hours to match federal funding. In the event that source of match comes up short, recreational saltwater license revenue will be used to match the shortfall.

2018 EXPENDITURES

During the 2018 fiscal year, a total of \$109,267 was spend on the Rhode Island Recreational Fishing Program. This amount is down from the \$214,858 expended in FY2017. Of that total:

- \$14,129 was used to hire two additional field interviewers to accomplish additional MRIP intercept interviews

- \$86,105 was used for personnel and equipment costs in support of the Division's finfish surveys for stock assessments
- \$277 was used for the management of Marine Recreational Fisheries Program

• \$720 was used to support the Division's boating/fishing access site maintenance program. Maintenance was performed at marine shore fishing sites including mowing, brush removal, tree limbs and downed trees removal. Litter and trash is removed weekly, or biweekly, as needed. Fishing line recycle boxes under Division oversight are emptied of fishing line. Snow was plowed at some saltwater access areas. Location and regulation signs were inspected at each fishing site and repaired or replaces as needed. Specifically:

- ✓ Camp Cronin – grade and repair parking area, installed signs and trash removal;
- ✓ Arranged placement of portable sanitary facilities at Quonochontaug, Galilee, Deep Hole, Sakonnet, Black Point salt water fishing access areas from April through October;
- ✓ Weekapaug fishing access-grade road and parking area, signage, trash and install new location sign. Removed trash following volunteer cleanup;
- ✓ Charlestown Breechway-periodically checked area and removed trash from boat ramp area;
- ✓ Quonochontaug- repair and grade road and parking area, repair top of ramp, signs replaced, trash removal, cut back road side, remove and dispose of discarded boat trailer;
- ✓ Seapowet- relocate kiosk to new parking lot and install new signage;
- ✓ Deep Hole fishing area- signage, repair snow fence, grade parking lot and road;
- ✓ Kings Beach Fishing access- delivered gravel;
- ✓ Black Point-replaced regulation signs.
- ✓ Posted signs for no parking and trailers only at boat ramps throughout state.
- ✓ Removed trash from portajons at Cronin, Deep Hole, Weekapaug and Quonochontaug.
- ✓ Assist with deceased mammal removal as needed at marine fishing areas.
- ✓ Assist with mixing oyster clutch for restoration projects and developing staging area.

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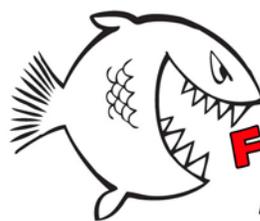
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