



Tournaments Committee

John Volpe, Chairman



Spring Has Arrived!

The longer days of spring have finally arrived and the fishing season is ready to begin! Herring are beginning to make their annual appearance. The spring tautog season is also upon us. Striped bass will soon be arriving off the southerly beaches.

This is the time to check your equipment and make sure you have plenty of supplies, if you haven't already done so.

This also means the RISAA Tournaments season is here, and it's a good time to become familiar with the tournament rules. You can find them online at the RISAA web site: www.risaa.org/tournaments/rules.html.

Check the list of our Official Weight-In Stations as well. They are always updated and listed on the web site AND in this news magazine (see page 19). These shops do all of us a service by weighing fish for RISAA members.



Member Greg Spier with a spring bass caught last year

Hopefully, our members will support these local shops. Also, always be familiar with the current recreational fishing regulations,

as they sometimes change mid-season. It is very convenient to keep the link with the most up-to-date regulations on your smartphone.

OUT OF STATE CATCH RULE

Early and late in the fishing season, fishermen may venture to other areas to follow the migration of species. Each year the question comes up about whether or not a fish can be entered into a RISAA tournament if it is caught outside of Rhode Island waters.

The simple answer is "yes" it can, but only if it conforms to Rhode Island regulations. Here is the exact rule:

A fish caught in Connecticut, Massachusetts, or Montauk coastal waters, caught by a RISAA member in good standing, may be entered in a RISAA tournament. The fish needs to be legal in Rhode Island at that time, according to Rhode Island Saltwater Recreational Fishing Regulations. It also needs to be weighed at one of the RISAA-approved Weigh-In Stations. For example, a black sea bass, legally caught in Massachusetts, could not be entered into the RISAA tournament if the black sea bass season was closed in Rhode Island at the time.

For more information on all tournament rules go to: <http://www.risaa.org/tournaments/rules.html>



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