



# Rhode Island SALTWATER ANGLERS FOUNDATION

A nonprofit, IRS recognized (501c3) charitable and community service foundation.  
Contributions to the RISAA Foundation are deductible on your federal income tax.



## Thank you Bentley Foundation

Every year since 2013, The Bentley Foundation has made a \$500 donation to the RISAA Foundation to help with our youth fishing programs.

The Bentley Foundation manages the charitable giving of DiSanto, Priest & Co., Bentley Wealth Advisors and Bentley Consulting Group of Warwick, RI.

In photo, Dawn Wood, and employee of the Bentley Foundation, presents check to Mike Warner, chairman of the RISAA Foundation Committee.

## RISAA Receives Save The Bay Award

During Save The Bay's Annual Meeting on June 14, the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association was honored to receive the Save The Bay's Environmental Achievement Award.

Presenting the award was **Topher Hamblett**, STB's Director of Advocacy and Policy. He provided us with the text of his presentation.

*Twenty -years ago, the phone rang in my office at Save The Bay.*

*"Topher, you don't know me, but I'm Steve*

*Medeiros, and I've formed the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association to be a voice and a political force for recreational anglers."*

*Have they ever!*

*Here are just a few of their accomplishments:*

*For the past 18 years, RISAA has organized its "Take A Kid Fishing Day." For many kids, this is their first time fishing, and their first experience on the Bay. RISAA has partnered with Providence Recreation Department, scouting troops, group homes and other community organizations to connect kids to Narragansett Bay.*

*RISAA formed the Saltwater Anglers Foundation to support marine science, research, and scholarships, adoption of public access points, the restoration of fish runs and many other great initiatives.*



(l-r) Topher Hamblett, Jonathan Stone, Executive Director of Save The Bay, RISAA President Steve Medeiros, RISAA 1st Vice President Richard Hittinger and Cynthia Butler, President of Save The Bay's Board of Directors.

*RISAA has been a highly effective champion of YOUR Constitutional right to access the shore. They have advocated in neighborhoods, and city and town halls. They have successfully urged many Attorneys General to protect public access in laws and in the courts.*

*RISAA rightfully prides itself as an advocate for conservation of fish and wildlife, most notably for striped bass, herring and menhaden. The*

*organization backs up its conservation work with data, knowledge, experience and common sense.*

*RISAA formed a Political Action Committee that embodies its mission to:*

- Improve and maintain public access to the shoreline
- Ensure the conservation of marine resources
- Protect the rights, traditions and future of recreational anglers.

*I love their PAC's motto: "We Fish! We Vote!" and their message to us all that "Democracy is not a spectator sport!"*

*The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association is a great friend to Narragansett Bay, and an inspiration to Save The Bay.*

*Congratulations on being the recipient of Save The Bay's 2018 Environmental Achievement Award.*