



Official News Magazine Of the  
**RHODE ISLAND**

# **SALTWATER ANGLERS**

Association



www.RISAA.org

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## Representing Over 7,500 Recreational Anglers

### Members sought to help in science study of mercury in striped bass

Fish are an excellent source of protein and omega-3 fatty acids that provide numerous health benefits to human consumers.

However, contaminant levels in some fish may be sufficiently high to negatively affect human health.

For example, **mercury is an environmental contaminant** that poses significant risk to human health, and exposure occurs mainly through fish consumption. To minimize mercury exposure, federal and state government agencies issue advisories to inform the public of potential health risks of eating fish. Advisories focused on marine fish consumption, however, often lack geographic detail, and thus



are not fully effective because they do not account for spatial variations, i.e., location of capture, in mercury contamination.

**Dr. David Taylor**, a Professor of Marine Biology at **Roger Williams University**, who is also a **RISAA Member**, is working collaboratively with the Rhode Island



**Dr. David Taylor**

Department of Environmental Management, Division of Marine Fisheries, to better understand mercury contamination in recreational fisheries.

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Member  
**GREG VESPE**  
with a  
15.65 lb  
doormat fluke  
that he caught  
on June 25  
on a  
Flippin'Out  
fluke rig with squid



**Recreational fishing is worth \$412 MILLION to the Rhode Island economy and over 4,000 jobs!**

### Boating boom continues nationwide

The National Marine Manufacturer's Association (NMMA) announced that continued momentum of boat sales and boating demand, propelled by the COVID-



19 pandemic, still continues. New boat sales, which reached a 13-year high in 2020, remain at elevated levels with sales through March 2021 up 30% compared to the 2020 average. Demand is at an all-time high as Americans take to the water in record numbers; and dealers are selling new boats as fast as they receive them.

- Retail unit sales of new powerboats in the U.S. reached a 13-year high in 2020
- Annual U.S. sales of boats, marine products and services totaled \$49.3 billion in 2020

**Boating and fishing are the largest outdoor recreational activities in the U.S. totalling \$23.7 billion in current-dollar value!**