



Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Watch

Richard
Hittinger
Chairman



The RISAA Legislative Committee’s mission is to provide, in partnership with the Affiliated Clubs, a forum for improving the knowledge and understanding of fishery-related and government issues that affect recreational anglers. An informed membership encourages involvement and advocacy. The Legislative Committee will strive to advocate responsible fishery decision.

The Committee is comprised of RISAA Members and delegates from the Affiliated Clubs. The Committee meets two or three times a year, depending on the number of fishery and/or legislative issues that develop.

It’s Summertime!

Yes, its now officially summer and finally black sea bass has opened recreationally. Get out there quickly to catch some before the larger fish move back out of shallow water!

On that front, RISAA will continue to push RIDEM to shift regulations so that recreational black sea bass fishing opens earlier like our neighboring states, even if it means a smaller bag limit in the fall.

But get out and enjoy the Rhode Island summer with family and friends. Catch some fish and relax.

There are many other things happening in the recreational fishing world.

RHODE ISLAND INFLUENCE ON NATIONAL FISHERIES

For example, we now have two Rhode Islanders in Washington in very influential positions with respect to all fishing activities.



Gina Raimondo
Sec of Commerce

Former RI Governor **Gina Raimondo** as **Secretary of Commerce** oversees all NOAA activities and programs including the National Marine Fisheries.

And now, Secretary Raimondo, On June 21, selected **Janet Coit** to lead **NOAA Fisheries!** She will also serve as Acting Assistant Secretary of



Janet Coit

Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Deputy NOAA Administrator, for which she will support and manage NOAA’s coastal and marine programs.

RISAA has always had a great working relationship with Janet Coit during her years as head of RIDEM.

Hopefully these two appointments of people who are familiar with recreational fishing will help all recreational fishing nationwide, including us here in Southeastern New England.

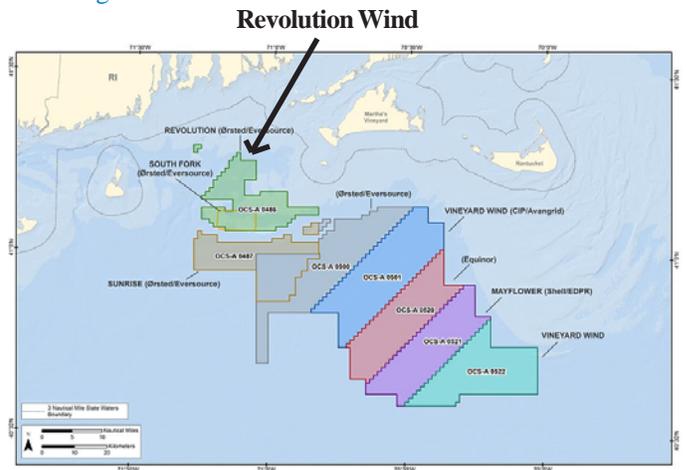
OFFSHORE WIND ON COX LEDGE, A DISAPPOINTMENT FOR RECREATIONAL FISHING

On the offshore wind front things are moving very quickly. The full RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) overruled their own CRMC staff and approved the South Fork Wind Farm (SFW) with very limited requirements.

This project, the first industrial scale wind energy facility will be located on Cox Ledge. I personally have significant reservations about the impacts of the project and feel that it may severely negatively impact cod fishing in RI for the rest of my life.

But the full Council wanted to push the project forward even though their own staff wrote, “...the location of the SFW project on Cox Ledge, an area known for its biological diversity, is in our view one of the worst possible locations within Rhode Island Sound for this project.”

This is, of course, part of the national push for development of alternative energy. You can see the location of these projects in the map below and get more information on the BOEM website <https://www.boem.gov/Revolution-Wind-Scoping-Virtual-Meetings>



REVOLUTION WIND FARM EVEN CLOSER TO RI

But right on the heels of this SFW approval is permitting of the **Revolution Wind** project (RW). RW will be **even closer to RI** than SFW (12 miles south of Sakonnet Point) and includes some critical habitat areas itself, including terminal moraines.

The cable for RW will enter Narragansett Bay and will land at Quonset Point. The CRMC will be conducting a CZMA federal consistency review for the RW wind farm and that portion of export cable within federal waters. A CRMC State Assent is required for that portion of the export cable that will be located within state waters. **(to page 32)**