

# Status on AnglerCatch software app

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**AnglerCatch**, the electronic recording catch and effort software, developed by RISAA and its partners, Rhode Island DEM and Harbor Light Software, is now in an alpha testing phase.

The RISAA eREC Committee (electronic RECORDing) has been meeting since January to assist in setting up the app including items that should be recorded, etc. Angler Focus Groups were held during the winter to collect input from *average* anglers on what they would like to see in such an application.

In addition, RIDEM Marine Fisheries leaders have been part of this group during the whole time to insure that data was collected in format that would make it all useful for our local fisheries management.

The bugs are being worked out with a small group of committee members and early adopters. See screen shots that are part of this article.

A larger group of RISAA members will be doing beta testing of the software application this year under real conditions. The hope is that the AnglerCatch will be available for all interested RISAA members in August.

**Fran Karp**, chief executive officer of Harbor Light Software, said, “The aim for the entire two year project is to serve as a pilot project, constantly receiving angler input and fine tuning AnglerCatch so it works better for anglers.”

The app is not going to be perfect for alpha and beta testers as the whole point is to use RISAA members as a test group, even when it expands in year two and possible year three and four.

Yes, I say year three and four as Harbor Light Software is applying for a second Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant that would further develop the software for anglers coastwide utilizing it for a variety of research purposes. More to come on this as it develops.

After RISAA testing, when the app is available to all anglers, it will be able to be downloaded free to smartphones or tablets just like any other app.

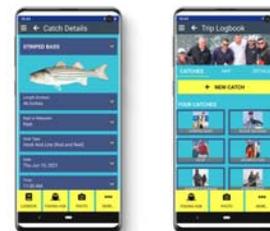
## Growing fish for the future

AnglerCatch will help anglers provide more accurate data to fish managers while providing a logbook that can help enhance an anglers fishing efforts. The data anglers collect will supplement the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) used to estimate recreational fishing catch and effort. So every time the app is used anglers are making a contribution to conservation, and fish abundance.

## Your personal angler log book

The angler “log book” feature of AnglerCatch will enhance fishing by providing information on past fishing trips to help develop an angler’s fishing strategies and tactics to catch more or larger fish on future trips.

Reports on species caught in any given month, tide and wind when the bite was on (and off) and the types of baits and lures that seem to work best are only some of the helpful information points that can be logged. You can put a lot of effort into entering log information, or none at all and just report your catch and effort to help fish managers manage better.



## Helpful information... tides, regulations and more

AnglerCatch will eventually take advantage of the information already at your disposal on your smartphone and puts it into one convenient application.

In future iterations the hope is that you will be able to check tides, moon phases, regulations, weather, etc. as features are added or linked to AnglerCatch.

## Free application

The app will be completely free to download and to use.

## Program goal

The goal of this pilot program is to provide an additional source of accurate, up-to-date data on the status of the Rhode Island recreational fishery that could be incorporated into stock assessments, as well as be utilized to guide management decisions pertaining to recreational harvest limits and fishing seasons.

The data will be shared with RI DEM Marine Fisheries and other fisheries managers to fill in data gaps for certain species/fishing modes, provide alternate metric for managers to compare with catch estimates generated by NOAA Fisheries MRIP, and to help refine recreational fishing regulations and allocations.

## How to get the AnglerCatch app?

AnglerCatch will be available this year for RISAA members, hopefully in August. More to come on this later this month.

In the meantime the Harbor Light Software may call on some of those who registered to be early testers.

For information contact Steve Medeiros or Dave Monti.



The AnglerCatch “loading” page and working pages