

# From the RISAA MAIL BOX



The RISAA Board of Directors decided that they should share, with all members, the many formal letters, fisheries and environmental input documents, etc. that the Board sends out almost every month. Input from members is important feedback to the Board. Here are a few comments received....

## ***Angler Electronic Reporting Program Proposed for Grant***

Most members already know that RISAA, RIDEM and Harbor Light Software was given a NFWF grant to establish an electronic reporting app. After a year of preparation, the app, called AnglerCatch, is now in the testing phase and will be fully operational and put out to the public during the summer.

Another grant proposal is being prepared which, if funded and becomes reality, would allow anglers to “opt in” to various fisheries studies with their angling data. This new program would be “Technical Enhancements and Marketing Expansion of Angler Reporting Application Software.”

The RISAA Board approved sending a letter of support for this grant proposal since they believe it would help recreational fishing data in the future.

**SEE RISAA LETTER AT RIGHT**

Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Grant Program  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
1133 Fifteenth St., N.W., Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear National Fish & Wildlife Foundation:

It is our honor to pledge support for the Electronic Monitoring and Reporting Grant Program under the project entitled, “**Technical Enhancements and Market Expansion of Angler Reporting Application Software**”.

The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) represents over 7,500 recreational anglers and 28 affiliated fishing clubs and organizations in New England.

We believe that better recreational fishing data is crucial to recreational fishing. Electronic monitoring and reporting is part of the solution and this grant will help prove that. The grant application from the State of Rhode Island, Harbor Light Software and RISAA has all the right partners engaged to successfully develop and implement a program. The partnership ensures that the data collected will be used to help make management decisions.

We pledge to support the program with staff and volunteer resources treating it as a major RISAA initiative.

Thank you for the consideration.

Stephen Medeiros      Richard Hittinger

## **Thank you to RISAA for Grant Support**

Attached is the National Fish & Wildlife (NFWF) electronic reporting grant proposal submitted yesterday. I wanted to express our deep appreciation to you for working with us to get this grant proposal in on time, and for your letters of support for this project. We feel that, if funded, this project will provide fishermen with an electronic reporting application that is based, whenever possible, on industry standards, while collecting and distributing the data to the proper agencies or associations.

The ability for fishermen to opt into citizen science projects that they feel are worthy of their data will bring new insights into fisheries that we have not been able to easily capture in the past. Our hope is that this data will lead to more robust scientific research that will help managers and fishermen make better decisions into the future.

We wish we could have expounded more on each project within the grant, but the process limited the length of the proposal within the grant system. We should hear something by the end of the year, with projects normally slated to be in early 2022.

Again, thank you for your support. We think this is a really strong and innovative proposal. We will keep our fingers crossed!

**Francine Karp**  
Harbor Light Software

Commercial fishing is decimating the menhaden in Narragansett Bay. I have been on the water the past 8 days. Every day there are fewer fish. Few folks catching striped bass. Commercial fishing for menhaden and striped bass should be stopped before you lose another fishery. Remember winter flounder...I do.

Sincerely,  
**Allan Gadoury**  
Member

To DEM,  
Outstanding move to prevent the depletion of Menhaden.  
To RISAA, keep up the great work.  
**Dan Walter**  
Member