



Official News Magazine Of the
RHODE ISLAND

SALTWATER ANGLERS

Association



www.RISAA.org

SEPTEMBER, 2020- • Issue 260

401-826-2121

Representing Over 7,500 Recreational Anglers

We've Moved The Line For Menhaden

On August 5th, Atlantic menhaden management reached a critical milestone. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Atlantic Menhaden Management Board voted unanimously to adopt **ecological reference points** (ERPs) that will be used to set annual catch levels for the Atlantic coast.

With so many predators – from bluefish and striped bass to ospreys and humpback whales – dependent on menhaden, the new reference points are designed to account for menhaden's critical role in the food web.

ERPs are similar to traditional fishing reference points in that both set targets



(where you aim to be) and thresholds (where you want to avoid) to meet management objectives.

The important difference is that ERPs are designed to meet ecological objectives. In this case, menhaden fishing mortality is set to maintain the striped bass population. When striped bass needs are accounted for, the

menhaden target and threshold are lower than traditional "single-species" reference points that are based solely on menhaden biology, leaving more menhaden in the water as forage.

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Members
Barbara & Larry Audino
display a couple of keeper fluke that they caught off Jamestown on July 19.

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

ILLEGAL FISHING HURTS EVERYONE

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