



RISAA Events & Meetings

All events and meetings can
be found online at
www.risaa.org/calendar.html

Sep 2 • 5:00 PM • Fly Fishing
Committee, Bristol Narrows

Sep 4-13 • RISAA Black Sea Bass
Special Tournament

Sep 12 • sunrise • Surfcasters
Committee, fish at Narragansett

Sep 15 • 5:00 PM • Fly Fishing
Committee, Barrington Beach

Sep 22 • 6:30 PM • Board of Directors

Sep 25-Oct 4 • RISAA Bluefish
Special Tournament

Sep 26 • 9:00 AM • Kayak Committee
fishing at Camp, Narragansett

Sep 28 • 9:00 AM Fly Fishing
Committee at Narrow River

Sep 28 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly
Seminar

Sep 29-Oct 1 • New England
Fisheries Mgmt Council, Gloucester

Oct 3 • 8:00 AM • Kayak Committee
fishing Camp Cronin, Narragansett

Oct 9-25 RISAA Fall Tautog Special
Tournament

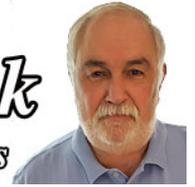
Oct 13 • 6:00 AM • Fly Fishing
Committee, Weekapaug Breachwy

Oct 17 • 8:00 AM • Kayak Committee
fishing Fogland Beach, Tiverton

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From the President's Desk Stephen Medeiros



Striped Bass License Plate Changes

It's been two years since legislation passed creating the Rhode Island striped bass license plate for us.

When the process began I was sure everyone would want a plate with a striped bass on it. I guessed that we would all see the plates on our cars within 6 months.

There was a quick burst of sales. Almost immediately, I received emails asking why the plates were only available for passenger cars. Why not pickups, since many fishermen had trucks to tow their boats. So I contact the RI registry and was told that yes, we could also sell the "commercial" and "combination" plates,



but it would require us to reach 600 of EACH type before the plates would be made. But we figured to give it a try.

While the sale of passenger plates slowly continues to climb, the other plates have hit a stalemate. I felt that there was no way combination/commercial plates would ever reach 600 sales of each.

All of the license plate funds have been deposited into a separate bank account to be held until the plate production began.

Last month, the RISAA Board agreed and authorized cancelling the attempt on commercial and combination plates and authorized the treasurer to begin issuing refunds.

All of the those persons will be contacted by me via email to inform them of this decision and to confirm their mailing address in order to send a refund check.

But we're not giving up on PASSENGER license plates.

Unfortunately, we are still a long way from 600 plate sales. We sit at 187.

There are other charity organizations, like us, who are also trying to sell 600 license plates.

Last June 22, a last-minute bill was introduced in the Rhode Island House

that would allow groups like us, that was willing to kick in \$3,000 up front to help the DMV pay for the plates and drop the minimum order to 150. We said YES, we would gladly pay that to get the plates made.

The bill had a quick House Finance Committee hearing in the final two days of the 2019 session. The head of DMV appeared and said they were too busy to make special plates.

The bill was "held for further sturdy." That's usually the death of bills, but we were told that if they went back into session in the fall, the bill was still active and had a good chance of passing. But the House didn't go back into Fall session. Don't worry, I was told, it will be handled in January session.

We also planned to make a big push for the striped bass plates at our New England Saltwater Fishing Show in March. Everything was set!

Then COVID-19 struck and the world stopped.

So now we have a couple of RISAA-friendly Senators and Representatives who plan a new push for us to get the required number lowered.

In the meantime, all passenger plate funds are sitting in escrow, and when someone asks how long they have to wait, I tell them this same story, and always say they can have a refund at any time. Fortunately, they all say, the will hang on with us.

I have had many people tell me that "for sure" they will get the striped bass plate for their cars, but they will wait until they start making the plates.

But duh-h-h....

If everyone didn't wait, we might actually have the plates by now.

And I want a striper plate on my car!