



The Bay Assessment & Response Team

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's (DEM) Bay Line (401-222-8888) is a central number to leave a recorded message about any sign of Narragansett Bay-related environmental problems throughout the summer season for appropriate follow-up. It also provides referral numbers to contact DEM for immediate assistance or to inquire about current restrictions on beaches or fishing.

Calls can provide DEM with early warnings about emerging issues, such as algae blooms, that might serve as precursors to low-oxygen events and fish kills.

Bay Assessment & Response Team

The Bay Assessment & Response Team (BART) is part of the Rhode Island DEM. Its aim is rapid, effective response to environmental incidents on Narragansett Bay.

Narragansett Bay sustains much more than The Ocean State. Its riches are at once natural, recreational, aesthetic, cultural, economic, and spiritual.

But humans have been imperfect stewards. Support for that impression abounds in monitoring projects, like those that DEM has been conducting for decades.

Other monitors – at every level of government, in business and volunteer organizations, researchers, residents, and visitors – also suggest the need for ever more effort to nurture the Bay and its watershed. Improvement requires broad, cooperative, sustained efforts.

Nevertheless, some threats to the Bay are urgent. For example, when a ship sinks or when downpours overwhelm a water treatment plant, the Bay suffers trauma. Sometimes, too, tiny threats subtly accumulate and then boldly surface. For example, a small shift in the weather can doom a suffering sector of the Bay's ecosystem: Dead fish or seaweed wash ashore; the sight and smell of them overwhelm the senses; swimming is restricted and clam beds are closed; ordinary life along the coast is disrupted or worse. For such environmental incidents, BART is prepared to:

- Receive reports
- Assess impacts
- Pursue appropriate remedies
- Provide information and advice.

To report environmental issues, call the Bay Line: 401-222-8888 (May 15 to Oct. 15)



My best cod fishing day ever!

by RISAA Member
Paul Boutiette



July 31, 2020.

When heading out to go fishing on my 28' Parker, *Miss Pauline*, we usually depart the dock at the "crack of noon." However, on this day, I fished with two buddies and we left the dock "early" at 8:15 AM.

I headed to Shark's Ledge. It had been a while since I went there, but heard good reports lately.

We arrived at one of my usual numbers at 9:00 AM.

Seas were flat, water 74°F with a slow drift. The weather was pleasant all day, except for 2-3 hours of very light rain which was not bad to fish under.

I began jiggging and my buddies used clams.

They immediately began hooking up and landing some very nice keepers.



It took awhile for my jig to heat up, but finally I began putting them in the fish locker and catching up with my buddies.

It was non-stop action for three hours. Once the tide change around noon the bit nearly shut off. We caught one more cod on a jig at 1:30 and decided to call it a day since I had a lot of work ahead of me cleaning fish.

Total for the day was 22 keeper cod to 27 inches on ice. We also got two black sea bass.

Best of all NO DOGS!

Ended up with three 5-gallon pails of cod racks to use for chum the following Saturday. The seagulls even left me alone after a while as they couldn't eat another bite of cod skins.

Great day on the water!

Best cod fishing day ever!