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Representing Over 7,500 Recreational Anglers



Commercial Fishing Policies Need to be Improved for Sake of Marine Environment

by Richard Hittinger

Is this any way to manage our marine resources?

Most any summer day along the Rhode Island coast you will see scenes like the one depicted in the photograph at right.

Commercial fishermen are employing techniques that have been used for decades. They lower large nets from the stern of their vessels. Some of these nets are well over 100 feet wide. They are held open with “doors” that pull the cables behind the boat apart so that they “fly” through the water with a wide-open mouth. They are lowered to



Birds feeding behind a dragger with Jamestown, RI visible in the background

tend bottom as the trawler moves slowly forward for anywhere from less than a mile to up to 10 miles, or until there is so much strain on the cables that the net must be raised to be emptied.

Some of these nets have chains that drag across the bottom to chase fish that are near the bottom up and trap them in the net. Anything in the way of this net is captured, including fish, seaweed, invertebrates.

The nets are brought up to the stern of the vessel and the mass of material is dropped on the vessel’s deck. This is when all those gulls are fed. **(to page 27)**

Member

Peter O'Biso

is all smiles with a spring schoolie that he caught in Potters Pond. It was his first time since COVID that he got to fish with his Sue & Roger Lema, his usual spring partners.



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



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission following tagging study by Massachusetts Marine Fisheries



Do Circle Hooks Reduce Release Mortality in Striped Bass?

(See report on page 2)