



RISAA
Events & Meetings

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

SEPTEMBER

- 1...Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Bristol Narrows. 5PM
- 11...Kayak Committee fishing at Third Beach, Middletown. Sunrise
- 11...Surfcasters Committee fishing at Narragansett. Sunrise.
- 14...Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Barrington Beach. 5PM
- 21...Board of Directors. 6:30 PM
- 25...Kayak Committee fishing at Camp Cronin, Narragansett. 9AM
- 27...Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Narrow River. 9AM
- 27... RISAA Seminar. 7PM

OCTOBER

- 2...Kayak Committee fishing at Fogland, Tiverton. 8AM
- 5...Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Blue Shutters Beach. 6AM
- 12...Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Third Beach. 6PM
- 15-17 Fall Surf Fishing Club Challenge.
- 16...Kayak Committee fishing at Camp Cronin, Narragansett. 6AM
- 19...Board of Directors. 6:30 PM
- 19-21...ASMFC Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA
- 21...Legislaive Committee Quarterly Meeting. 6:30 PM
- 23...RISAA Party Boat Tautog Trip
- 23...Surfcasters Committee fishing at Weekapaug. Sunrise
- 25...RISAA Seminar. 7PM
- 26...Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Narrow River. 9AM

The Official Newsletter of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association
Published Monthly
Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1465
Coventry, RI 02816

From the
President's Desk
Stephen Medeiros



RI recognizes RISAA opinions as important to public access

Very often we think of ourselves (RISAA) as just a fishing club, but in reality RISAA is so much more, especially when viewed by the public and government and fisheries officials.

Time and time again we are called upon for our views on all possible topics from fishing regulations to wind farms to rights-of way access, etc.

Here's just a couple of examples from the past month....

SHORELINE ACCESS

There's no question that shoreline access is very important to recreational anglers. RISAA was behind the 2011 Misquamicut (Westerly) case that went to the RI Supreme Court when we convinced (then) Attorney General Peter Kilmartin to block Atlantic Avenue residents from blocking the public's right of way to the shoreline. The Court didn't agree with the AG's case, but it was step forward anyway.

The shoreline access issue is still important and keeps rising. Thanks to legislation sponsored by **Rep. Terri Cortvriend** and passed by the House in June, a 12-member Special Commission to study and provide recommendations on issues relating to lateral shoreline access along the Rhode Island shoreline. The Commission will report back to the House in the fall.

Richard Hittinger, our 1st Vice President is scheduled to testify before the Commission as of this writing. Rich is an excellent public speaker, full of knowledge, and I defer to him whenever something like this comes up.

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (CRMC)

The RI CRMC has come under fire lately and we have written about it here recently, particularly about the political make-up of the Council.

Thanks to legislation sponsored by **Rep. Deborah Ruggieri** (Jamestown)

another Special House Commission to Study the CRMC has been created and will issue its findings by April 1.

The Commission will consist of 18 persons, representing coastal towns in state and local governments, environmental groups, and the **Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association** represented by **Richard Hittinger**.

Congratulations Rich on this appointment!

Speaking of the CRMC, a Zoom meeting was held last month on aquaculture between **Jeff Willis**, **James Boyd** and **Ben Goetsch** from CRMC and the RISAA Board and Legislative Committee. The meeting was well-recived with mutual exchanges of information on aquaculture. All agreed to contue to meet quarterly, and perhaps even set up this type of meeting for the full RISAA membership in the future.

ARTICLES IN RISAA NEWSLETTER MUST BE LIMITED

I've been asked many times over the years, how do I find so much stuff to print in our monthly newsletters. My answer has always been, "It's now what to I put in, but how much I have to leave out!"

All during the month I get articles, submissions, and stuff I see that I save to share with members. Much of it doesn't get in for lack of space.

Most of this year, I've been keeping each issue to 48 pages, but this month I needed to go up to 52 pages.

One of the items that I often get from members are requests to print the obituary of a fishing buddy who **is not** a RISAA member. I understand the loss, but there's just no room to print about nonmembers and I feel like a cruel person when I have to say no. I hope everyone understands.