



# Rhode Island SALTWATER ANGLERS FOUNDATION

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Contributions to the RISA Foundation are deductible on your federal income tax.

## RISA Foundation Helps Fund Projects

### Plans to remove Potter Hill Dam put residents and toffials at odds

by ecoRI News

#### *RISA Foundation contributes to project*



The last dam on the Pawcatuck River is failing and set for demolition, which would improve fish passage and reduce the risk of downstream flooding.

At the second public meeting on the proposal, held on June 10, exposed tensions between the two RI municipalities, Hopkington and Westerly. In addition, residents continued to voice concerns about how lower water levels might impact their riverfront properties, and especially, their wells.

The meeting was hosted by Lisa Pellegrini, Westerly Director of Development, who noted the goals of the project, "To improve the river habitat and fish migratory passage - that is essentially the number one goal of the grant that we received to improve fish passage," she said, "and it's also to make sure that we reduce the flood risk for the town, to have a safe and improved river for recreational boating opportunities."

The project is a collaborative effort involving NOAA, The Nature Conservancy, the Westerly Town Council, the Westerly Conservation Commission, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the R.I. Dept. of Environmental Management, the Southern RI Conservation District and the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association.

#### **The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation contributed a \$15,000 Grant to the project.**

The removal of the dam would be the final step in restoring the natural flow of the Pawcatuck River, which has received a "Wild and Scenic" designation from the National Park Service. The Lower Shannock Horseshoe Falls and Kenyon Mill dams have already been removed, along with the White Rock and Bradford dams.

### RISAA Junior Member completes Eagle Scout project with environment project

#### *RISA Foundation contributes to project*

Junior Member, **Nathan Simas** of Bristol, contacted the RISAA Foundation requesting financial help, if possible, on a project he intended to complete for his Eagle Scout project.

He wrote, "I am a Junior Member and fishing enthusiast and my dad is a RISAA Life Member of RISAA. Due to the global pandemic limiting our summer travel plans, we had the opportunity to spend most of the summer shore fishing. Through countless trips my dad and I have taken we have seen an increase of monofilament lines being left at precious spots like parks and other public fishing locations. Seeing this mono line not being disposed of properly is a danger to the sealife and wildlife right in my town.

"I am part of Troop 2 Bristol and am working towards my Eagle Scout rank. I decided my Eagle Scout project should focus on helping my community and local wildlife, I plan to construct and set up monofilament line recepticals. I am working with the Town of Bristol and my Scoutmaster Greg Marsilli who is also the Bristol Harbormaster, and Mr. John Lake of RIDEM to determine suitable spots in the East Bay that are both town and state owned locations. Myself and DEM plan to continuously maintain the receptacles after installation.

I plan to ask local bait and tackle shops for a donation and plan to ask a few chartering services.

I'm looking for donations for my project and any assistance you could provide would be greatly appreciated. Feel free to contact me and hope I can count on your support."

The RISAA Foundation's Board immediately provided \$500 to Nathan, in addition to signage and stickers that RISAA already hand from previously line collectors RISAA installed.

Nathan began work and ended up installing five line collectors at the Mount Hope boat ramp, Independence Park, The Narrows, Bristol Marina, and the State Street Dock.



**Nathan Andrews (left) and helper/friend Nathan Dieterich, pose by one of the mono line collectors he built and installed.**