



RISAA Events & Meetings

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

Oct 3 • 6:00 PM Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Weekapaug Breachway

Oct 4-6 Annual Fall Surf Fishing Club Challenge

Oct 5 • 7:00 AM Kayak Committee fishing for albies, Camp Cronin

Oct 12 • 7:00 AM Kayak Committee fishing at Narrow River

Oct 12 • 6:00 AM Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Narrow River

Oct 18-20 • Annual Fall Surf Fishing Club Challenge. To fish as part of the RISAA team contact Rich Heffernan at heffernan@risaa.org

Oct 22 • Board of Directors meeting

Oct 28 • 7:00 PM Monthly Seminar

Nov 2 • 8:00 AM Surfcasters Committee fishing at Charlestown Breachway

Nov 4 • 4:00 PM Surfcasters Committee

Nov 6 • 3:00 PM Fly Fishing Committee Fishing at Narrow River

Nov 11 • 6:30 PM Fly Fishing Committee Annual Meeting, Gregg's, N. Kingstown

Nov 18 • 6:30 PM Kayak Committee Annual Meeting, Gregg's, N. Kingstown

Nov 19 • Board of Directors meeting

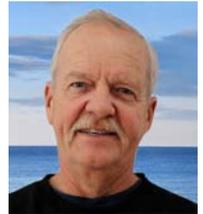
Nov 25 • 7:00 PM Monthly Seminar

Dec 30 • 7:00 PM RISAA Annual Meeting

Jan 27 • 7:00 PM Monthly Seminar

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

Windfarm developers refusing to study effects on recreational fishing



by Capt. Richard Hittinger
1st Vice President, RISAA

As a representative of the Rhode Island recreational fishing community I am concerned that the development of offshore wind is moving forward without adequate attention given to the potential impacts on recreational fishing.

RISAA has been an active participant in representing recreational fishing interests in discussions with wind energy development interests for many years, going back to the development of the Ocean SAMP in 2008 to 2010 and continuing through the sponsoring of an Offshore Wind Forum at our monthly seminar in November 2018.

I represent RISAA on the Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB) and RISAA has submitted several comment letters stressing that developers need to act quickly to conduct surveys before, during, and after construction of wind turbines to help evaluate how the development of wind turbines may affect recreational fishing in those areas from the northwest portion of Coxes Ledge and continuing to the east and south.

Despite our offers to assist in the design and implementation of such surveys RISAA has not received a request from any developers to help since we helped design and conduct a

rod & reel survey of the proposed South Fork Wind Farm area during the winter of 2017 – 2018.

We continue to believe that, if done properly, the structures provided may represent improved fish habitat however, we are concerned that there is far too much unknown about the potential impacts of construction of hundreds of turbines in an area of both bottom species and highly migratory species important to recreational fishers.

The general conclusion is that the 5 turbines constructed within 3 miles of the southeast corner of Block Island have not had any significant negative impact on recreational fishing.

But these are only 5 turbines, constructed with bases consisting of 4 smaller legs and lattice supports. Actual pile driving was much less energy intensive because of the smaller leg diameters. All base construction was completed during one year. Most important there was significant communication with recreational fishers during the development.

We continue to have concerns that the new wind farms may constitute much more of an impact without including design aspects that would improve fish habitat or otherwise help to mitigate fisheries impacts.

