



Secretary's Office

Roger Tellier



The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) Board of Directors meets monthly. In order to keep all members apprised of Board business I will report here when appropriate. It is important to note that not all business will be reported here since there are often issues dealing with individual members and privacy will always be protected. Also, some Board business that doesn't result in any action won't be printed.

RISAA Board of Directors September 12, 2019 Meeting Summary

The R.I. Saltwater Anglers Association Board meeting was held and called to order at 6:30 PM with a busy agenda.

• **Treasurer's Report** was given by Peter O'Biso and approved by all.

• **Newsletter.** The Board voted to send a much-past-due newsletter advertiser's account to our attorney for collection.

• **Public Access: Newton Ave., Narragansett Right of Way (ROW).** Board discussed communication received from a surf fisherman asking RISAA to look into why the parking at the Newton Avenue ROW had been altered and parking there reduced from twelve spaces to four. Steve Medeiros has contacted CRMC public access enforcement and Narragansett Parks seeking information.

Bob Murray agreed to go to the site to investigate and take photos.

• **ASMFC Striped Bass Addendum VI.** Board received a copy of the ASMFC full addendum document to review, plus a list of the options, and all comments and suggestions submitted by RISAA members to the Board.

It was noted that the 2011 year class of striped bass was the largest since the early 2000s and that those fish are now 28 inches. Bob Murray stated that the Option A2 which proposes a 28" - 34" slot would put all of the fishing pressure on those 28" fish which would be much more valuable leaving them in the water to spawn.

Steve also noted the fact that we in RI are fortunate to have a rocky shoreline with perfect structure for stripers, and with the added abundance of stripers that frequent Block Island, we are used to catching large fish. But we should consider that the rest of the coast does not have the same type of coastline, and other states' anglers catch smaller fish with 28" much more common. For both of those reasons, the Board felt the 28-34 option would put too much pressure on the important 28" stock. This is also reflected in the Addendum document that shows 28-34 option as a 19% reduction.

So, the Board decided that, by selecting the 34"- 40" slot option (A3), it would take the pressure off that large year class of now-breeding fish, and with less anglers on the coast likely to catch 32"- 40" fish, that would be the best conservation-minded option, which was noted as a 21% reduction in the document. So best scenario for recovery would be A3.

With all in favor, the board voted to proposed option A3.

Then on the section on use of circle hooks, most agreed that circle hooks "usually" work, but noted that it would be nearly impossible for Environmental Police Officers to enforce.

Therefore the Board agreed to support Circle Hook Option 3, with 8 in favor and 3 opposed.

• **22nd Annual Banquet.** The board voted to hold our Annual Banquet on Saturday, January 25, 2020 and directed Steve to make arrangements with the Quonset O Club in North Kingstown.

• **Anti-Poaching Stickers.** Steve noted he had received an email from member Paul Boutiette who stated that he was pleased to see that DEM Enforcement was making arrest on poachers. He also suggested that maybe there should be stickers that say "Stop Poaching". The Board all thought this was a great idea, and such stickers could be posted on members' boats, vehicles, tackle boxes, etc. along with the phone numbers to call to report violations. Steve will investigate cost, etc. and when ready, this will be presented to the Foundation Board for financial support.

• **Cobia.** Steve reported about a meeting held with Jason McNamee, RI Marine Fisheries Chief, regarding the possibility of RI becoming involved in cobia management at the ASMFC level. While still rare here, this NJ and south fish is a highly sought gamefish. It is noted that cobia are appearing more frequently in RI waters, and a couple of Board members noted catching them in past couple of years. The Board was unsure how strict a cobia regulation would be here in RI. Steve was directed to go back to McNamee for more information.

• **American Sportfishing Association.** The Board approved paying annual dues (\$500) for our membership in ASA.

• **2020 Officers and Board.** As required by By-Laws, the Board discussed and came up with proposed slate for 2020 to be sent to the Elections Committee prior to the October 15 deadline.

It was noted that, for personal reasons, Greg Vespe and Diane Valerien will not continue on the Board for 2020.

• **RI Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC).** Dave Monti reported that the RIMFC is considering allowing commercial fishermen to sell their catch directly to restaurants. This is already permissible by lobster fisherman, but not finfish. There is also a proposal to allow two licensed fishermen on the same boat.

RIMFC also to study the effect of offshore wind on recreational fishing and to have recreational fisherment record catch and trip information.

Dave also reported there is an opening for a recreational representative on the Shellfish Advisory Panel and Industry Advisory Panel.

• Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM