



Rhode Island SALTWATER ANGLERS FOUNDATION

A nonprofit, IRS recognized (501c3) charitable and community service foundation.
Contributions to the RISA Foundation are deductible on your federal income tax.

RISA Foundation Awards \$15,000 to The Nature Conservancy for Artificial Reef

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Rhode Island has applied for, and received, a \$15,000 Recreational Fishing Advancement Grant from the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation.

The project will create an experimental artificial reef in upper Narragansett Bay, off Sabin Point, East Providence.

The site was selected because there is currently a fishing pier at Sabin Point, relatively low quantity and quality of fish habitat structure in the subtidal water, physical and biological features that support fish, and low impact to competing uses of the area.

RIDEM Division of Marine Fisheries is also partnering in the project to combine resources and expertise to study this degraded estuary and determine opportunities to improve fish habitat.

The RISAA grant will be used to achieve a 3:1 public funding match.

The project will consist of the construction of a 0.14 acre artificial reef using 91 prefabricated reef balls of different sizes.

The project was chosen from 12 sampling sites due to available infrastructure near this site and for existing fishing pier at the location.

The site currently is composed of sand. This artificial reef should provide a quality fish habitat structure which is currently not available at this site.

In addition to the actual structures, the resulting colonization by algae, barnacles, bivalves, sponges, and anemone species on the artificial reef will provide food and enhance habitat for fish species.

The increase in fish abundance created by the reef system

will help improve the recreational fishing experience at the park's pier.

Finally, this array will help advance research on the impact of artificial reefs in Rhode Island waters and provide the first artificial reef ball research station in Narragansett Bay, which may serve as a model in future artificial reef initiatives.

The project has been approved by CRMC and Army Corps of Engineers and construction was scheduled to begin on October 15, 2019.



The Nature Conservancy 



John Torgan, State Director of The Nature Conservancy, Rhode Island accepted RISA Foundation check from Steve Medeiros last month.

About the RISA Foundation Recreational Fishing Advancement Grants

The RISA Foundation is interested in promoting and investing in programs or research projects that will have benefit to the recreational fishing community.

The RISA Foundation is willing to fund a project exclusively, however we encourage applicants to leverage our grant with Federal, State or other such funding to allow these funds to be used as a key part of a larger project.

The amount available for these awards is \$15,000 and may be used for on-

the-ground habitat conservation and improvement projects, culture specific to species of recreational interest, or for projects that will in some way benefit recreational fishermen in Southern New England.

For more information, go to www.risaa.org/foundation.html