



# Secretary's Office

Susan Lema



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 22, 2020 Meeting Summary

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

- **Treasurer's Report** given by Peter O'Biso

### MEMBERSHIP

- The Board voted to assist a member suffering a sudden, temporary disability

### OLD BUSINESS

- **Online Seminars.**

The Board received a report on the test program of providing the video of the August seminar (Vespe) available to members for two weeks following the actual seminar. Zoom tracks and identifies each person who watches them. S. Medeiros reported that 49 members watched the video during those two weeks. The Board decided to continue this program each month with permission of each seminar speaker.

### NEW BUSINESS

- **Insurance.**

The Board voted to increase RISAA's Medical/Injury insurance coverage.

- **Kayak Committee request.**

The Board approved use of the RISAA logo on special flags that would be made by member **Mona Rodriguez**, which would be flown on kayaks and identify it as a member of the RISAA Kayak Committee. Purchase of the flags would be voluntary and sold "for cost" to committee members.



- **Annual Banquet**

The Annual Banquet is always held in January each year. The Board voted that, due to COVID-19, it will not be held this time. There was discussion on possibly conducting an online awards ceremony in lieu of the formal banquet. The subject was tabled to next month until the Tournaments Committee could be contacted for input.

- **Angler Mobile app**

Dave Monti gave the Board an update on a grant application between RISAA, RIDEM and Harbor Light Software for an angler reporting pilot project. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Foundation has requested additional information which is good news since it shows the grant is actually being considered.

- **Offshore Wind Policy**

Dave Monti explained that Board should attempt to create

an offshore wind policy for RISAA. Most of the major saltwater organizations, both commercial and recreational, have formed their own policies, some for, some against. To date RISAA has been neither PRO or CON, but has advocated for environmental safeguards, angler access and recreational fishing input as the process continues. It was decided that a subcommittee, consisting of Dave Monti, Rich Hittinger and Dawn Wood, would try to come up with more information that could help the Board develop a formal RISAA policy.

- **Offshore Fishing**

Dave Monti informed the board that Orsted is creating a "Fishing Cockpit Series" webinar about fishing in wind farm areas. So far, he and many RISAA member charter captains and private anglers have agreed to participate. We'll announce to all members when this will happen.

- **Offshore Fishing**

Dave Monti informed the Board that he has been asked to be a New England panelist at a hearing by Congressman Jared Huffman, Chair of the Water, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee, who is on a listening tour at the 5 regional Fisheries Councils. This will be an opportunity to state RISAA's positions on effects of climate change on fisheries, change in fish migrations, and needed updates to Magnuson-Stevens to account for these.

- **New England Council - Charter/Head Boats**

An email is circulating regarding a public meeting to be held by the New England Council in October to accept feedback on a "draft limited entry template" for party/charter vessels on groundfish. Could this be a veiled attempt to create separate quotas for charter boats or to keep new charter boats out of the groundfish (cod) fishery? Dave Monti will try to obtain more information on this.

- **Elections for 2021**

Steve informed the Board that the deadline for anyone wanting to submit his/her name for the ballot was October 15. Per RISAA rules, the Board also submits a tentative slate to the Election Committee by the deadline.

Larry Hill and Doug MacPherson will not be able to serve in 2021.

Steve informed the board that Richard Reich and Greg Vespe, both of whom previously served on the Board, would like to again serve in 2021. Steve will now send formal letter from Board to Election Committee chair with this proposed slate.