



RISAA
Events & Meetings

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

Nov 2 • 4:00 PM • Surfcasters Committee fishing at Charlestown Breachway

Nov 2 • 7:00 PM • Fly Fishing Committee Annual Meeting

Nov 7 • 3:00 PM • Fly Fishing Committee fishing Narrow River

Nov 9 • 6:30 PM • Surfcasters Committee Annual Meeting

Nov 18 • 6:30 PM • Kayak Committee Annual Meeting

Nov 23 • 6:30 PM • Tournaments Committee Annual Meeting

Nov 24 • 6:30 PM • Board of Directors

Nov 30 • 7:00 PM RISAA Seminar

Dec 1-3 • New England Fisheries Council Meeting, Newport, RI

Dec 22 • 6:30 PM • Board of Directors

Dec 28 • 7:00 PM • RISAA's 22nd Annual Meeting & Seminar

Jan 19 • 6:30 PM • Board of Directors

Jan 25 • 7:00 PM • RISAA Seminar

Feb 22 • 7:00 PM • RISAA Seminar

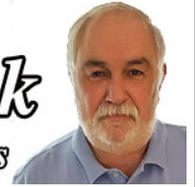
Mar 7-9 • 18th Annual New England Saltwater Fishing Show

Mar 29 • 7:00 PM • RISAA Seminar

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From the
President's Desk
Stephen Medeiros



COVID's effect on RISAA

The COVID-19 pandemic has effected lives all over the world. Many people have lost family members.

Many have experienced the terrible illness of coronavirus exposure.

And no one has escaped the emotional and financial losses effected everyone in February when COVID arrived in our area. In a few short weeks, everyone's life changed.

It almost seems trivial to talk about our RISAA happenings, but that's my job, so here goes...

The first effect upon our RISAA community was the sudden cancellation of our New England Saltwater Fishing Show. That brought instant turmoil when we had to cancel with 300 exhibitors, hundreds of advance tickets sold, and all the refund requests. At the time we were so close to the show that we had TV commercials, magazine and newspaper advertisements already in place and paid for.

For the next six months, several of us worked every days in dealing with insurance and attempts to get refunds for what we paid, and refunds to those who had paid us.

Thanks to Rich Hittinger who helped me deal with the Lloyds of London insurance.

Thanks to our treasurer, Pete O'Biso, who spent countless hours assisting me with the mess, and writing dozens and dozens of refund checks.

To this day we still have advertising money we spent still not returned to us.

As you all know, with new restrictions in place, we had to cancel our March, April and May monthly seminars, but the RISAA Board approved funding two Zoom accounts that allows us to have both online meetings and webinars.

This was followed by cancelled events as the weeks rolled on and Governor Raimondo increased restrictions.

Our annual May Party Boat Squid

Fishing Trip had to be cancelled.

The Youth Fishing Camp and Take-A-Kid Fishing Day for June both had to be cancelled.

Also cancelled was the annual Party Boat Fluke Trip, followed by the annual August Adult/Junior Fishing Trip.

One thing on the plus side is that members were enjoying the online Zoom seminars each month. I received emails from members who said they never got to attend meetings because they live too far or work nights. So now any member can watch the seminar live each month or watch the video online for two weeks after.

And, our annual Fall Tautog Party Boat trip *DID* happen on October 24 on schedule. For safety, only 30 members went (boat takes 60) in order to keep safe distances on board.

Next up is our annual banquet that's always held in January. The Board rightly decided already that we couldn't safely have a banquet with over 200 people jammed together at tables in a banquet facility.

So working with the Tournaments Committee it was decided to conduct an online "Awards Night" so that everyone who earned tournament awards in 2020 could be recognized.

Also this will include announcing the *Angler of the Year* and *Junior Angler of the Year*. Likewise, the Board of Directors could still name the 2020 *Member of the Year*.

The date chosen was Monday, February 1, 2021. While the banquet was always on a Saturday night, the Board felt that, with no meal, it might be better to not tie-up a weekend evening for members who may have other plans. More information will follow in next month's issue.

In the meantime, please **STAY SAFE and STAY HEALTHY** so we can all be here same time, next year!