

## New England Fishing (from page 11)

### Jig Technique

In the western parts of Long Island Sound, such as off Stamford, Norwalk and New Haven, jigging for blackfish has really taken off over the past few years. With shallower water, slower currents and 30-pound-test braided line, it's possible in many places to get down with jigs as light as ½ to 2 ounces. The key to this approach is to tip your jig with a small green or quarter-sized Asian crab, or a quartered green crab, and crawl it slowly across the bottom while fishing at anchor until you feel a tap. Any hit or the sense of extra weight hanging on the jig is a sign to strike immediately and start cranking to get the fish out of the rocks.



**An Asian crab impaled on a light jighead can be a fun way to target blackfish when current allows**

Several brands of blackfish jigs work well, including Tidal Tails, T&A Sparkie Jigs and Magic Meez Crab Jigs from S&S Bucktails. I've caught well on all three, as long as I use the lightest one that will let me tend bottom.

There is one caveat to jigging for blackfish: Avoid trying it around very "grabby" wrecks or you'll lose a bunch of gear. Rocky bottom, mussel-bed edges and boulder fields are prime jigging locations.

### You Never Know...

Like Perri and Wadsworth, I've been unable to discern a particular pattern when it comes to targeting the biggest blackfish. My three best fish, so far, include a 12 1/2-pounder jigged in 10-foot depths inside Port Washington Harbor, another

12 1/2-pounder taken on a double-hook "snafu" rig and an Asian crab in 40 feet of water near Bridgeport, and a whopping 15-pounder decked last November aboard Capt. Rich Jensen's *Nancy Ann IV* out of Orient Point, New York. That fish, caught on a single-hook bottom rig baited with a whole, quarter-sized green crab, struck while fishing a 70-foot-deep boulder field a bit past mid-Sound on the Connecticut side.



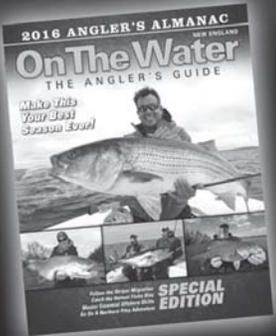
**A bucko o'fillets is a nice reward for a chilly day of blackfishing.**

So you see, there doesn't seem to be any proven formula when it comes to locating the biggest fish. But that's what makes blackfishing so exciting! You just never know when and where you might hook a beast.

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### About the author....

**Tom Richardson**, a RISAA member and Massachusetts native, is passionate for the outdoors, including camping, hiking, boating and fishing. An award-winning writer, he was editor for *Salt Water Sportsman* for 15 years prior to becoming editor of the regional boating magazine *Offshore* in 2004. In 2009, he started the boating-lifestyle BoatingLocal.com. Three years later, BoatingLocal became **New England Boating**, a multimedia brand comprising the website, a glossy magazine, and a TV show, all edited and co-hosted by Richardson. In 2016, he launched **New England Fishing** magazine, website and TV show, which he also wrote and hosted.