



RHODE ISLAND **SALTWATER** *Anglers*

Representing
OVER 7,500
Recreational
Anglers

IN THIS ISSUE:

RHODE ISLAND TUNA!!

CATCH GIANT FLUKE

*Captain Brian Bacon of
Big Game Sportfishing
Charters with a nice
bluefin.*

PLUS:
Cooking Your Catch & More!

ISSUE: 281 • June 2022

www.RISAA.org • 401-826-2121

EVENTS & MEETINGS

JUNE

- 13 Fly Fishing Event, Kings Park/ Fort Adams, 7:00pm
- 17-19 Spring Surf Fishing Club Challenge
- 21 RISAA BOD meeting, 6:00pm
- 22 Fly Fishing Event, Chepianoxet, 12pm
- 27 RISAA Monthly Meeting, Kayak Fishing Seminar, 7:00pm
- 29-30 RISAA/DEM Youth Fishing Camp

JULY

- 1-10 RISAA Team Fluke Contest
- 2 Surfcasters Sunrise Event - Jamestown
- 13 Fly Fishing Event - Quonnie, 6:00pm
- 17 RISAA Fluke Trip Lady Francis
- 20 Surfcasters Event - Camp Cronin 4:00pm
- 25 RISAA Monthly Seminar, Striped Bass, 7:00pm
- 26 Fly Fishing Event - Quonnie 5:00pm

AUGUST

- 21 Take A Kid Fishing 7 B's Sea Bass & Porgy - 1/2 Day
- 28 RISAA Monthly Meeting - Catching Blue Crabs

RECREATIONAL FISHING IS WORTH

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TO THE RHODE ISLAND ECONOMY AND OVER

4,000 JOBS!

The Official Newsletter of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association

Published Monthly

RISAA, PO BOX 299, Tiverton, RI 02878

FROM THE HELM



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

I love June fishing; I really do... No matter your preference June offers RISAA members a chance to follow their fishing passion like no other month. Want to throw flies ... fish are still in the ponds, you can wade into the surf or hop on board a boat and make your fly-fishing dreams come true. Want to throw large plugs for top-water action, both surf and boat anglers have plenty of fish within their reach in June. Out front the reefs come to life as the fish begin to push out of the bay and are supplemented by fresh arrivals from further south that didn't migrate as fast. Head to Block? Eventually all these options have their day in June.

Kayak fans have their choice, stay in the Bay, the ponds or head out to open ocean, no month has more varieties of fish accessible as close to launch ramps than June. Hoping for the doormat fluke... you guessed it, June is the month for many a doormat to come over the rail. Surf anglers have bluefish and stripers well with casting distance in June as fresh fish push in and out of the surf all month long. Even better for us this year sea bass are now a viable June option thanks to the new regs RISAA was able to help enact. Want something "large and in charge" on the end of your line... June typically offers our offshore anglers their first crack at large pelagic, be it tuna or sharks both seem to find the June water temps to their liking.

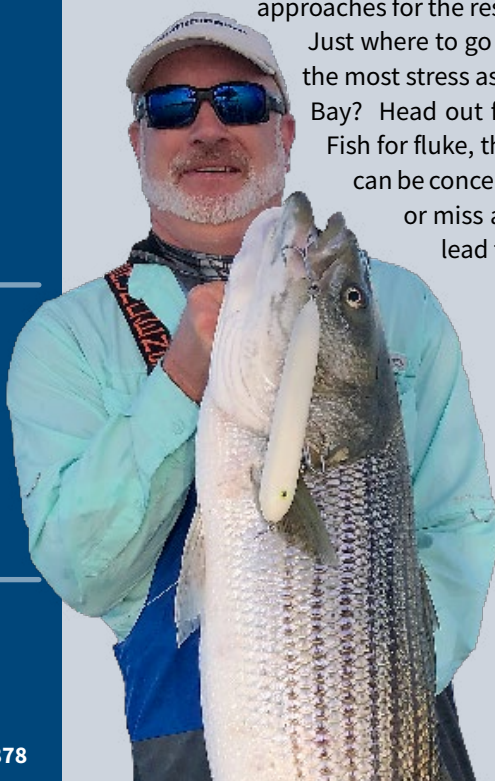
Not only does June offer variety of species and opportunity like no other month but it is also when you can start to get the first sense I believe of how the season is going to go. Often by the end of June patterns and trends can start to be identified by astute anglers that will allow you to capitalize on and refine your approaches for the rest of the season.

Just where to go is often the question in June that causes anglers the most stress as the fish begin to push out of the Bay. Stay in the Bay? Head out front? Wait for fresh arrivals from further south.

Fish for fluke, throw flies? It can feel overwhelming and the fish can be concentrated in June which makes the "miss" part of hit or miss a bit more frequent than we would hope but can lead to terrific fishing when you "hit".

Keep in mind RISAA has many committees and events that specialize in helping anglers be successful in almost all of the approaches outlined above. My suggestion participate in RISAA, join a committee such as surf, fly, kayak, get involved, expand your knowledge and or help share what you already know and have some fun!

Catch em up...



Greg **VESPE**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Reported by: **Richard Hittinger**
CHAIRMAN



MORE FISHING, LESS MEETING

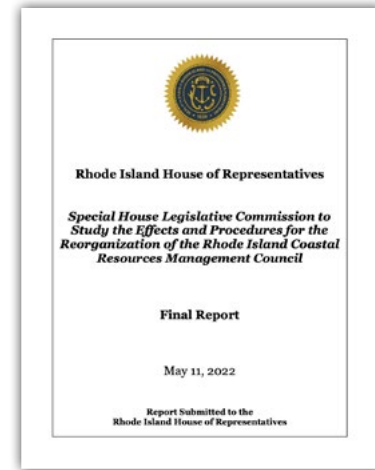
Well as others have discussed in this publication, the saltwater fishing season is open and some fishing is going strong. Tautog, striped bass, fluke and squid have pushed into our waters and some anglers are having great success. I am very happy that black sea bass opened on May 22 and I hope that many are out catching some delicious dinner. I am now starting to spend more time fishing and less time working on fishing regulations, however I will give an update below on two groups on which I have worked this winter: the CRMC Reorganization Commission and the Summer Flounder MSE Working Group.

CRMC COMMISSION

We had our final meeting of the CRMC Commission on May 11. We did not get to recommend everything that I wanted, but we have a list of short-term and of long-term recommendations. Our hope is that the short-term recommendations will be passed by the Legislature this year and the long-term recommendations will be worked into the legislative process next year. I give a list of our recommendations below but want to stress that our overall conclusion is that when the CRMC was founded the enabling legislation stated that “preservation and restoration of ecological systems shall be the primary guiding principle...” It appears to me and too many Commission members that the politically appointed Council has allowed politics to push the Council away from this primary guiding principle and it is important that the legislature push CRMC back to this principle.

The Commission short term recommendations are:

1. Continue the present CRMC Council structure with the following changes:
 - a. Limit Council members to three three-year terms
 - b. No Council member may serve for more than 2 terms
 - c. No municipality shall be represented by more than one Council member
 - d. Include one representative from an urban community and one from a non-coastal community.
2. Require a full-time in-house staff attorney.
3. Fund a full-time hearing officer pursuant to 46-23-20.1 to hear both contested permit and enforcement cases.
4. The CRMC Council shall conduct a public review and update of its regulations, the “Red Book,” beginning in January 1, 2023 and continuing every five years.



5. Require all aquaculture permit applicants to notify the public through a local newspaper advertisement and to hold a public forum in the community with municipal leaders to answer questions and define the scope of the project before a permit is granted by CRMC.
6. Require all aquaculture permit holders to label aquaculture equipment and implement a fine of \$2,500 for failing to label equipment or failing to retrieve loose equipment. (I would not include this in this list of findings. This recommendation is too tactical and specific. This is a staff call. Maybe urge better monitoring management)
7. Empower Harbormasters to enforce aquaculture CRMC permits.

The Commission long-term recommendations are:

1. Empower the Executive Director to make all permitting decisions, and require all appeals to be heard by a hearing officer, similar to the process at the Department of Environmental Management.
2. Change the CRMC from an empowered council to a council advisory to the Director. The CRMC structure was established in a different time when diversity of issues and scientific and technical data for decision making was not as available. Today, the issues and matters require more expertise and technical support.
3. Empower the Governor to appoint the Executive Director to a term of six years with the advice and consent of the Senate and having the Executive Director report directly to the Governor, not the Council.
4. Make the local municipality a party to CRMC issued permits and consider other options to increase a local authority’s ability to enforce permit requirements.
5. Separate advocacy of aquaculture and permitting/enforcement into two departments. Consider moving advocacy to the Department of Environmental Management, since it handles Marine Fisheries, and keep permitting with CRMC.

(Continued on page 24)

THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filiatreault Wood, CHAIR



Welcome NEW Members!

Gerry Arnini, Charlestown, RI
Barry Averso, Quaker Hill, CT
Paul Baeder, North Kingstown, RI
Kimsour Chea, Cranston, RI
Chris Clarke, Middletown, RI
John Driscoll, Brooklyn, NY
Wylie Earp, Shelburne Falls, MA
Kelley Gipson, Charlestown, RI
Herman Ho, Warwick, RI
Frederick Jarosz, Cranston, RI
Steven Kennedy, Jamestown, RI
Tristan Krensavage, Portsmouth, RI
Philip Lavoie, Coventry, RI
John Liss, Newburyport, MA
Michael Menard, Middletown, RI
Erin Noblet, Narragansett, RI
Rylee Prue, N. Windham, CT
Daniel Risica, Hudson, MA
Evan Rugg, North Kingstown, RI
Katie Sherring, Portsmouth, RI
Bryan Stevens, Middletown, RI
Joshua Taub, Barrington, RI
Alma Taub, Barrington, RI
Esther Taub, Barrington, RI
Carson Turowski, Newport, RI
Albert Vickers, Narragansett, RI
Mike Wec, Central Falls, RI
Randolph Zambrana, Cranston, RI

The purpose of the Welcome Committee is to contact new members, welcome them to the Association and answer any questions they may have about RISAA and its activities.

MEMBER PHOTOS



Dave Pollack, Prior long-time Fly Committee Chairman, with a beautiful striper, released after the photo, was boated on his 8 weight fly rod on May 16 fishing with Ray Stachelek near Prudence Island.



RISAA Member Jim Fonner with a recent RI Bluefish that's still out there swimming for next RISAA member to catch?!



RISAA Member Alec Grande with a gater blue!

RECREATIONAL SALTWATER FISHING REGULATIONS

(Always look at your State's website for up-to-date regulations)

SPECIES	Rhode Island	Connecticut	Massachusetts	New York
American Eel	9" Min.: 25 Fish	9" Min.: 25 Fish	9" Min.: 25 Fish	9" Min.: 25 Fish
(Party /Charter)	Max. 50 Fish Per Day			Max. 50 Fish Per Day
Black Sea Bass (Recreational)	16" Min. May 22 to Aug. 31: 2 Fish Sept. 1 to Dec. 31: 6 fish	16" Min. May 19 to Dec. 31: 5 Fish	16" Min. May 21 to Sept. 4: 4 Fish	16" Min. PENDING
(Party /Charter)	June 18 to Aug. 31: 2 Fish Sept. 1 to Dec. 31: 6 Fish	May 19 to Aug. 30: 5 Fish Sept. 1 to Dec. 31: 7 Fish		
Bluefish	No Size Min.: 3 Fish No Closed Season	No Size Min.: 3 Fish No Closed Season	No Size Min.: 3 Fish No Closed Season	No Size Min.: 3 Fish No Closed Season
(Party /Charter)	No Size Min.: 5 Fish		No Size Min.: 5 Fish	No Size Min.: 5 Fish
Cod	21" Min.: 10 Fish No Closed Season	21" Min.: 10 Fish No Closed Season	21" Min.: 10 Fish <i>No Closed Season South & East of Cape Cod</i> Apr. 1 to Apr. 14: 1 Fish Sept. 1 to Sept. 30: 1 Fish	21" Min.: 10 Fish No Closed Season
Haddock	18" Min.: No Limit No Closed Season	18" Min.: No Limit No Closed Season	18" Min.: 15 Fish No Closed Season	18" Min.: No Limit No Closed Season
Pollock	19" Min.: No Limit No Closed Season	19" Min.: No Limit No Closed Season	19" Min.: No Limit No Closed Season	19" Min.: No Limit No Closed Season
Scup/Porgy (Recreational)	10" Min.: 30 fish No Closed Season	10" Min.: 30 fish No Closed Season	10" Min.: 30 fish No Closed Season	Not Published Yet
Special Shore Designation	9" Min.: 30 fish No Closed Season			
(Party /Charter)	10" Min. Jan. 1 to Aug. 31: 30 Fish Sept. 1 to Oct. 31: 50 Fish Nov. 1 to Dec. 31: 30 Fish	10" Min. Jan. 1 to Aug. 31: 30 Fish Sept. 1 to Oct. 31: 50 Fish Nov. 1 to Dec. 31: 30 Fish	10" Min. Jan. 1 to Apr. 30: 30 Fish May 1 to June 30: 50 Fish July 1 to Dec. 31: 30 Fish	Not Published Yet
Striped Bass <i>In line Circle Hook only if using bait all NE States</i>	SLOT: 28" to under 35": 1 Fish No closed season	SLOT: 28" to under 35": 1 Fish No closed season	SLOT: 28" to under 35": 1 Fish No closed season	SLOT: 28" to under 35": 1 Fish No closed season <i>*NY has special regulations for Hudson River North of GWB</i>
Summer Flounder	18" Min. May 3 to Dec. 31: 4 Fish <i>At special shore areas in RI 2 of the 4 fluke may be 17"</i>	18.5" Min. May 1 to Oct. 9: 4 Fish <i>At special shore areas in CT fluke may be 17"</i>	16.5" Min. May 21 to Sept. 29: 5 Fish	18.5" Min. May 1 to Oct. 9: 4 Fish
Tautog (Recreational)	16" Min. <i>Only 1 Fish Over 21" per angler</i> Apr. 1 to May 31: 3 Fish June 1 to July 31: Closed Aug. 1 to Oct. 14: 3 Fish Oct. 15 to Dec. 31: 5 Fish <i>Max. Rec. Vessel Limit: 10 Fish</i>	16" Min. Apr. 1 to Apr. 30: 2 Fish May 1 to June 30: Closed July 1 to Aug. 31: 2 Fish Sept. 1 to Oct 9: Closed Oct. 10 to Nov. 28: 3 Fish	16" Min. Jan. 1 to Mar. 31 - Closed Apr. 1 to May 31: 3 Fish June 1 to July 31: 1 Fish Aug. 1 to Oct. 14: 3 Fish Oct. 15 to Dec. 31: 5 Fish	16" Min. Jan. 1 to Mar. 30 - Closed Apr. 1 to Apr. 30: 2 Fish May 1 to Oct. 10: Closed Oct. 11 to Dec. 9: 3 Fish (<i>LI Sound</i>) Oct. 15 to Dec. 22: 4 Fish (<i>NY Bight</i>)
Weakfish (Squeteague)	16" Min.: 1 Fish No Closed Season	16" Min.: 1 Fish No Closed Season	16" Min.: 1 Fish No Closed Season	16" Min.: 1 Fish No Closed Season
Winter Flounder	12" Min. Mar. 1 to Dec. 31: 2 Fish <i>RI Narragansett Bay Potter and Point Judith ponds and Harbor of Refuge are all closed to winter Flounder fishing</i>	12" Min. Apr. 1 to Dec. 31: 2 Fish	<i>North of Cape Cod:</i> 12" Min. - 8 Fish - No Close <i>South of Cape Cod:</i> 12" Min. - 2 Fish - Mar. 1 to Dec. 31	12" Min. Apr. 1 to Dec. 31: 2 Fish

COOKING YOUR CATCH

GRILLED STRIPED BASS

By: Paula Smalec

If you are lucky enough to land a “keeper” striped bass, this is a delicious recipe for preparing your prized catch. I recommend cutting the fillet into smaller portions based on its thickness. Allow the thicker portions to cook for a bit longer than the thinner ones.

- 1/3 cup dry white wine
- 2 Tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 plump shallot, peeled and finely minced
- 4 Tbsp. olive oil, plus extra for oiling the grill grate
- 1 Tbsp. minced fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1 Tbsp. coarsely chopped fresh tarragon
- 4 fresh striped bass fillet portions (6 - 8 oz. each)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper lemon wedges, for serving

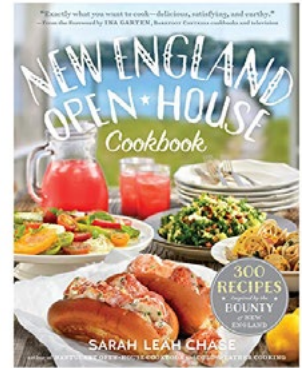
Combine the white wine, lemon juice, and shallot in a small nonreactive bowl. Let stand until the shallot softens, about 10 minutes. Whisk in the olive oil, parsley, and tarragon.

Place the fish fillets into a ziplock bag and pour the marinade over them. Seal the bag and allow the marinade to cover as much of the fish as possible for 30-45 minutes.

Preheat your grill to medium high. When you are ready to cook, oil the grill grate. Remove the fillets from the marinade and place them flesh-side down on the grate. Grill the fillets until cooked through in the center (they will flake easily when tested with a fork), 3 to 4 minutes per side, turning them once.

Season the fish at the table with salt, pepper, and freshly squeezed lemon juice.

Recipe can be found on page 159, *New England Open-House Cookbook: 300 Recipes Inspired by the Bounty of New England* by Sarah Leah Chase



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MEMBER

AnglerCatch Is A Good Catch For Anglers

By: Captain Dave **Monti**
BOARD MEMBER

Ever wonder how many striped bass you caught last June, or when the summer flounder (fluke) bite kicked in for you the past few years.

Or better still, what the weather, seas and winds are like at your favorite fishing spot in the Bay, around Cape Cod, Block Island or offshore. Maybe if you had this information in advance you would plan your trips differently. Plan them better.

Now you can get your historical fishing information (like a log book) complete with photos of the fish you caught. You can also find out tides, wind, and sea conditions anywhere through buoy weather with your smartphone or tablet in one simple app called *AnglerCatch*.

And, at the same time, you will be providing fish managers at the RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM), the MA Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), or the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) with important recreational fishing data to supplement what is already collected while participating in a pilot project for science.

You will not be giving your fishing spots away, as the data is used in aggregate. And, if you chose not to share specific location information that is OK too.

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years. It provides me with helpful log information and makes me feel good, as I am contributing to better fisheries data and fish conservation.

Download the *AnglerCatch* app for free at your favorite app store. The company that designed the software, Harbor Light

Software, has an outstanding help line if you should run into any difficulties. All of this is free as *AnglerCatch* is a pilot project developed by the RI Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA), DEM, and Harbor Light Software. Visit [Marine Reporting Software | anglercatch \(harborlightsoftware.com\)](http://MarineReportingSoftware.anglercatch.harborlightsoftware.com).

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CATCH BIGGER FLUKE

Summer flounder (fluke) fishing got off to a great start this year.

By: **Captain Dave Monti**
BOARD MEMBER

On Saturday, May 21, 2022 Peter Johnson of Connecticut said, "I limited out on fluke in eighty feet of water in the Block Island Wind Farm area." Peter is a firm believer in going light. He uses 15 pound braid, jigs and stingers tipped with gulp and sometimes squid strips.

Two years ago Peter caught one of his personal best, a 28" fluke right in front of Warwick Light in Narraganset Bay fishing the banks and deep water in the channel. Peter said, "This is the largest fluke I ever caught. I have been waiting for this a long time. I caught this, 28" fluke using 15 pound braid line... a white four once buck tail jig with white feathers did the trick. The idea is to keep it light."

Angler Rich Hittinger of Warwick did manage a personal best in 2020 just outside of the wind farm area when he caught an 11.16 pound, 30" fluke. Hittinger said, "We moved to 50 feet of water to avoid some of the dogfish. He fish hit a trailer hook with a green squid skirt. I had a 10 once sinker holding bottom. She fought from the bottom to the top, taking drag several times."

And who can forget the scream heard off Newport last year when RISAA Executive Director Greg Vespe of Tiverton caught a 15 pound, 8 once, 31.5 inch fluke while fishing off Newport with his friend Capt. BJ Silvia of Flippin Out Charters.

Greg said, "My rod just got heavy, no nibble or classic kind of tap tap, the whole thing loaded up. For a second I thought I had a lobster pot line, then you could tell it was definitely something alive and it came up relatively easily the first 40 feet. When it realized it was hooked it decided to fight, and what a fight. Even though my drag was tight she went all the way back down to the bottom and bulldozed for a bit. Finally she started to come back up. When we saw it I let out a holler that is probably still vibrating around Newport."

Greg caught the fluke with a fairly rare/hard to find deep purple squid body Capt. BJ fluke rig tipped with a six inch gulp and a teaser up above the rig tipped with a squid strip.

Summer flounder (fluke) fishing in Rhode Island runs from May 3 to December 31. The minimum size is 18" this year which is liberalized from last year's 19" fish. The bag limit this year is four fish/person/day. In Massachusetts the season is May 21 to September 29, a 16.5" minimum size with a five fish/person/day limit.



Greg Vespe of Tiverton with the 15 pound, 8 once summer flounder (fluke) he caught off Newport last June when fishing with friend Capt. BJ Silvia of Flippin Out Fishing Charters.

Fluke Facts

In May, fluke move in shore from deep Continental Shelf waters where they spend the winter. They stay inland until October and then move back to the deep water.

Fluke return to the same areas, bays, etc. year after year.

The local abundance of summer flounder or fluke, has increased over the years due to warming water. Visit <https://apps-st.fisheries.noaa.gov/dismap/> to see an animation of summer flounder (and hundreds of other species) moving up the coast over the years as the water warms.

Fluke are a flat fish with two eyes on the same side of the fish. They are bottom fish that do not look aggressive, but they will chase bait aggressively and eat the same bait that bluefish and striped bass eat. The difference is that they feed off the bottom.

They can be caught from a boat (usually while drifting) or from shore (more difficult) with little knowledge, so they are an ideal catch for beginners and children.

Fluke are chameleons; they change color to blend with the bottom.

According to the International Game Fish Association the all tackle world record for summer flounder (fluke) is 22 pound, 7 ounces caught at Montauk, NY in 1975

Fluke Tips

Fluke face into the current to feed, so you want to drag your bait over the front of them, drifting with the tide and wind in the same direction when in a boat or slowing pulling your bait over the bottom when on land

Fish edges of channels, banks, underwater valleys and humps as big fish ambush bait there

When fishing slack or flood tide with no water movement, try to fish in locations that have a lot of current (like under bridges or around jetties) or try power drifting (putting the vessel in and out of gear to create movement)... or troll perpendicular if in a boat so no matter what way the fish are facing you are passing them at least on a right angle.

When it comes to fluking, squid is the bait of choice. Some anglers cut it in very fine strips yet others like to use the whole squid with others using what they catch that day... strips of bluefish, sea robin, etc.

Both jigs and jugs with a second stinger hook trailing 30 to 36" behind work. Traditional squid rigs work as well.

Find the fish and repeat pattern... drifting over the same location or depth that is yielding fish.

One of my favorite fluke baits is a fluorescent green or white plastic squid rig, baited with a squid strip. And, depending on what the fish want a minnow or silverside and/or a strip of fluke belly. I sometimes use a stinger hook with some type of attractant above this rig.

Try to match the bait in the water that fluke may be feeding on. For example, early in the season the squid are in, so emphasize squid on your fluke rigs. Some anglers use an entire squid when the squid are in, however, later in the season they may emphasize other baits... silversides, mummies, menhaden, bluefish or some other attractant.

Another tactic that will enhance your fluke bite is teaser bait placed above the main bait. The idea is to create action above and behind the main bait that gives fluke a second chance to see your bait. A buck tail skirted hook is often used as a teaser with a piece of squid strip.



Rich Hittinger of Warwick with the 11.16 pound, 30" fluke he caught in the month of June off Block Island Power drifting.



Capt. Dave Monti with a 24" fluke caught while power drifting on a no wind day working the edges/bank of Austin Hollow, Jamestown.

Favorite Places to Catch Fluke

Look for drop offs, structure, the banks of channels, and deep water particularly in the warm weather, in spring time they tend to be in lower depths. Favorite places:

- Channel breaks in and around Warwick Neck light
- Channel breaks on the northeast side of the Jamestown bridge
- Areas off the north west corner of Dutch Island
- Underwater valley off the southeast side of Dutch Island
- Areas off URI's Bay Campus in the West Passage
- Austin's Hollow (an underwater valley) off the west side of Jamestown
- Beavertail in deep water off the west side
- Off southern Rhode Island coastal beaches: Watch Hill, Charlestown, in front of the five cottages, etc.
- Off the center wall of the Harbor of Refuge
- Off Newport over humps and bumps
- At the mouth of Hull and Mackerel Coves off Jamestown at the drop-offs
- Structure in two to three areas visible on the chart one to three miles off the Sakonnet River
- Elbow Ledge near the mouth of the Sakonnet
- Off Block Island... the East Fishing Grounds, the North Rip, Cow Cove on the north end, along the State beach on the east side and the south and southwest sides of the Island including in and around the Block Island Wind Farm.

BRINGING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ANGLERS ON BOARD!

By: Greg Vespe

Fishing and kids on one hand seem to go together like peanut butter and Jelly. But ask any fishing fanatic parent and at times they will tell you it can feel more like oil and water. So how do we start this next generation off on the right path and avoid the oil and water scenario?

Here are a few tips I can suggest, but I always keep in mind every child is different and attention abilities vary. Always accept there may be need to adjust based on whatever factors seem to be in play that day.

Tip one. The trip itself is the experience, make it an event. Things that don't seem like much to an adult can be the parts of the trip that make it all worthwhile to a young child. It is often the little stuff that you do to get the trip going more efficiently that may be what actually holds much of their interest.

First- if it is truly a child's first time, I take them to pick out their life jacket. If it's a guest, I try to have a few they can pick from ahead of time. Kids in general always respond well when they have a bit of say in things. Even if its "do you want the yellow one or the blue one?" the more they can be part of it the more fun for them it is. Kids grow fast and my soon to be five year old grandson couldn't wait this spring to pick out his life jacket for this season. It's already programed in him: He gets a life jacket each spring. Nothing ends a fun trip faster than the dreaded "I don't want to wear this." PFD complaint. Telling a five year old about how when you were a kid the big orange things really sucked eggs isn't going to work despite how much we think the next generations are soft. Save that conversation for the VFW. So give them some choices and let them pick. Trust me on this one.

Second- Traditions are part of what makes fishing so great. The ability to pass things that were part of your own life to future generations, to me anyway, feels like I have succeeded in life. Thus, I strongly encourage you to begin the trip with "The Lucky Snack". My grandsons and every child I take gets to pick a "lucky snack" before the trip. Sometimes we stop on the way, sometimes we pick it out earlier out of grandma's snack bin at the house, but the boat never, and I mean never; leaves the dock if the lucky snack isn't on board. Perhaps discourage bananas. Even for shore trips the bucket doesn't leave the truck until it has the snack. If space allows, especially on the boat, consider some back up snacks. Desperate times call for desperate measures, sometimes having all kids switch lucky snacks can bring just the needed luck to get the fish biting and the kids back in the game again for a few more minutes. For me it was the Hostess Cherry fruit pies. My Uncle was a fishing guide in Wyoming, outside of Yellowstone, and always took me fishing, but before we left his camp (which sold fruit pies) I could pick the flavor I wanted before we headed out for a day's fishing. I was convinced the fruit pie was the reason we caught


cutthroat after cutthroat. My Uncle being one of the best trout guides in Wyoming probably didn't hurt, but I was pretty sure the snack was the reason for our success. I still bring a lucky snack on board each tournament I enter.

Third - the trip to the bait shop, above all else don't skip the bait shop and don't just rush in and out. Let them look around, see the sights, checkout the tanks. Let them pick a ½ dozen sand-worms or a pint of frozen clam and let them carry the bait back to the car. This is all about them and having them be a part of it. I stop at the bait shop for something even if I honestly don't need bait - which is most of the time. It's about getting kids use to being around anglers and fishing shops; the coffee and the smell, the old timers and their stories.

Fourth - the power of the bait bucket. It's like the "force", it draws kids to it. Embrace it, don't fight it. Understand the bait is the sacrifice on this trip... put the crabs in bucket the kids can get to. Let a few eels "swim" in the bottom of the bucket on the boat or at the shoreline. Keep in mind, depending on the age of the child, the bait bucket will often be more of the focus than the fishing. Always have a stick or something they can prod the bait with. My then three year old grandson would give me play by play of the crab battle that would ensue once he would stir them up with his stick.

Fifth - Find fish that the kids can catch. The size of a fish in a child's mind is not the issue, it's the fish itself that matters. A 6" scup can be just as important a catch to them as a 20 pound strip-er. I have never seen the size of the fish caught actually have any effect on the joy a child gets from catching a fish. It's only later, and more often adults, who express joy in the size of the fish caught by a child that affects this. A tug on the line and splash at the boat is really what matters in my experience. It's the adults who all want to go home and announce the size of the fish caught, not the kids.

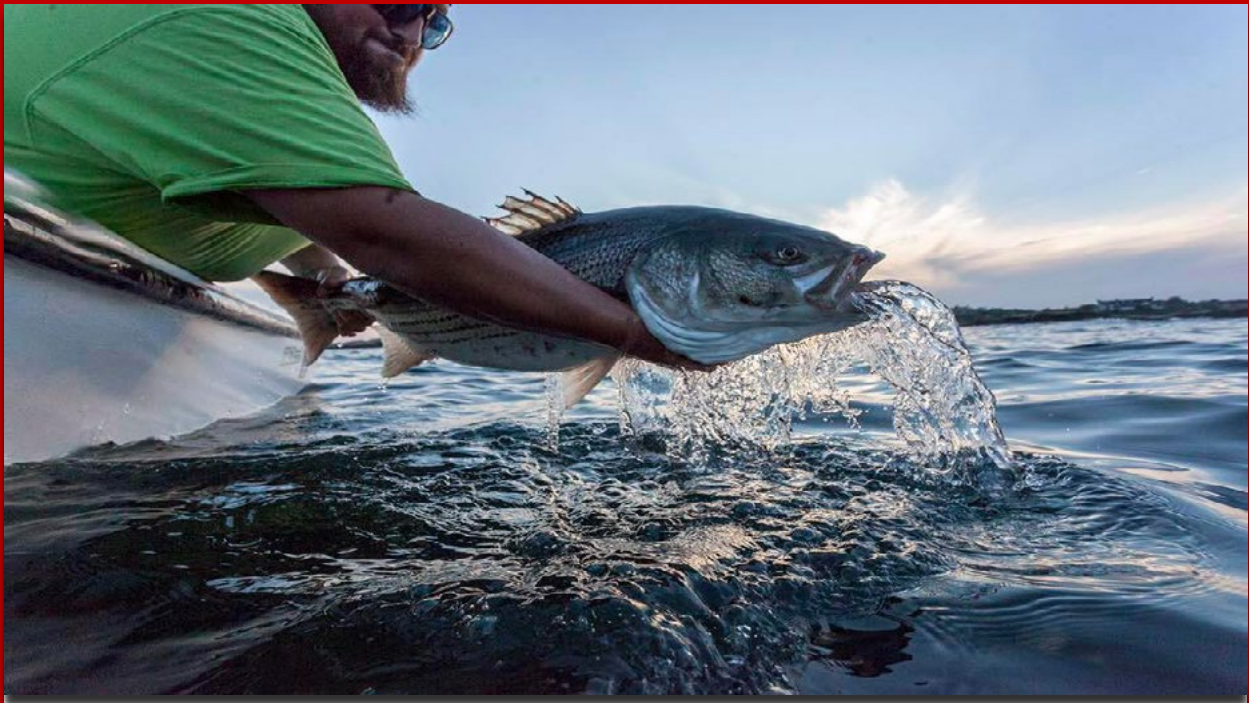
Last tip for today- Keep it short. Really short, if the child is six or under. I mean maybe one to a half dozen fish is more than enough to accomplish the goal of getting them to want to come back and do it again. And that's really the goal, right? We want them to want to come back and do it again. So maybe ½ hour actually fishing, maybe an hour tops. Always, and I mean always, leave the spot with the child still wanting to stay. That way they can't wait until next time. What you really want to avoid is hearing is "I want to go home", as if that's the last thing they say that's what sticks. "I don't want to go home" is the win.... take it every time. Cut it short, go home and they will come again in a heartbeat next time. Don't push and bust on this time issue.

More to come in our 'kid's column', but for now, let's get a smile on their faces and accept the fact that the bait has a higher purpose! 

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BLUEFIN TUNA FOR BEGINNERS

Seasoned Veterans provide some basics on this exciting fishery!

By: Fred DeFinis



Kanae Tokunaga, all smiles with a nice bi-catch yellow fin.

In the past few years changing water and forage conditions have brought bluefin tuna closer to our shores, making them accessible to more anglers than at any time in recent history. Old timers will remember when bluefin were found within a few miles of Point Judith, and last year for three to four weeks they were two miles off Narragansett Beach, which hasn't happened in many years.

With the current conditions, bluefin may be found not far south and/or east of Block Island, putting them within reach of many anglers. Hopefully, the recent patterns will repeat and bring us another chance at these fish this summer. To help newcomers get started, we talked to **Brian Bacon of Big Game Sportfishing Charters** and RISAA Vice President and experienced offshore angler **Rich Hittinger** to provide some basics on this fishery. Here are some of their thoughts.

Know Before You Go

You need to make sure you have a boat capable of making this trip and making it back even if conditions deteriorate. All mechanical systems need to be in top shape and you must have all required safety and communications gear aboard. If you have any questions about your boat's or your ability to make a run offshore, it is best to err on the side of caution and perhaps try a charter instead. Also, be sure you and any fishing partners are healthy enough for a prolonged battle with a fish that pulls as hard as you do. There is no fish that is worth risking the safety of the vessel, the crew and yourself. If you decide to go, check all systems, fill up with clean fuel and check the weather, then check it again. Give someone on land a float plan so they know where you are going and when you expect to be back. Also consider keeping in touch with another boat who you know will be out in the area that you are fishing. The second boat can make it easier to find fish and safer in case of any trouble. Captain Bacon recommends the Windy APP to supplement other forecasts as wind is a critical factor in safety and comfort.

Bluefin tuna (BFT) are highly regulated so you need to be aware of the current regulations. As of this writing, the private vessel limit is two fish 27-47 inches and one fish 48-73 inches per day. Also, regs may change during the season so check the latest before any trip. You will also need a Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit

to target BFT. The vessel is licensed, not the anglers. Remember that there are also catch reporting requirements after your trip is complete. There are hefty fines for non-compliance.

Equipment

The most common ways to catch BFT are trolling, jigging and drifting baits. You will want rods and reels in the fifty-pound class which should handle most of the fish found in the near locations according to Brian. Your local tackle shop can advise you on what lures are working, depending on conditions and what baits the BFT are feeding on. The possibilities are nearly endless. Brian says that ballyhoo are a must have for trolling—either naked or rigged with a skirt. His favorite color for lures is green but you need to find what is working on any particular day. For boats without outriggers, you will most likely employ a spread of four lures or perhaps five depending on the rod holders available on your craft.

As with trolling lures, the variety of jigs is extensive so consult your local tackle shop on what sizes, colors and configurations are catching. Brian recommends Ron-Z lures in 4-5 ounce sizes--white, olive or pink are his go-to colors. Also, the Daiwa SK jig in 100-140 gram weights especially in the pink/purple/silver combo color. But variations of the Crippled Herring jig also work well.

For fishing with bait, size 7/0 to 9/0 circle hooks are usually best. These need to be very sturdy as the forces on the hook can be substantial. Many of the better hooks now are sharp out of the package but check to make sure and dress the points with a file or stone if needed. This is true of the hooks on your trolling and jigging lures as well. You don't want to run miles offshore and miss a fish because your hook was dull. Check all knots or crimps to be sure they will hold under stress. If you are fishing dead bait it is important that your baits look as natural in the water as possible. Tuna have large eyes and very good eyesight. One trick is to have some Styrofoam with you; cut off a small piece sized so that when put on the hook it is neutrally buoyant in a bucket of water. Then

bury that Styrofoam in the bait so that your hooked bait sinks naturally.

You will also need a gaff, a couple tail ropes to hang fish while they are bleeding, as well as a large ice chest, cooler or insulated fish box to ice down your catch. BFT can spoil rapidly if not cooled down quickly so bring plenty of ice. Lastly, be sure to bring some light tackle including squid jigs and Sabiki rigs in case you need to catch live bait. You want to have all possibilities available if you are going to travel that far in search of fish.

Finding the Fish

If you are new at this the best advice is to listen for successful reports before you venture out. As with any other species, you may find fish by observing bird or other sea life activity, marking them on your fish finding device and/or observing where other anglers are fishing or following fishing reports. If you find mammals such as whales or dolphins, they are likely to be feeding on the same bait that will attract BFT. If the fish crash the surface in search of bait, it is quite a spectacle. If the fish are not readily visible, try trolling to cover an area and locate the fish.

Trolling

Trolling for BFT is done at much higher speeds than for inshore species such as striped bass—typically 5-8 knots. For a five rod spread, run one lure in the center about a hundred yards back and stagger the other four closer to the boat, about 40-50 yards back. Experiment with different lure placement to see what works as each boat is different and produces a different wake, sound, etc. Brian says that you want the lures to be running as naturally as possible without jumping out of the water. Don't be afraid to experiment with lure placement and also color, style, etc. A trolling lure Brian likes is the side tracker such as those made by Chatter-Lures. The old stand-by Green Machine and bird chains are best

fished far back in the spread while the Cedar jigs and hex heads should be up tight to the boat darting in and out of the white water. When you find something that seems to be working, expand on it. According to Brian, *"It's all about what's working today, what you did one day might not work the next time"*.

Jigging

The first step is to mark the fish on your fish finder and note the depth at which they are feeding. Brian likes to try a variety of techniques to see what is working so he'll have some anglers using the Daiwa jigs and jigging them aggressively. At the same time, others will use the Ron-Z and fish them with a gentler jigging motion or even dead stick them, letting the motion of the boat impart a gentle action to the jig. He often gets results by lowering the Roz-Z to the bottom and then reeling up about twenty feet and letting the jig work there. Tuna are very fast swimmers so don't be afraid to try rapid retrieve since that will often trigger a strike.

Fishing with Baits

As with jigging, you need to locate the fish and determine the proper depth to present the baits. Present several baits at different depths to cover a broader range of the water column. The deeper baits should be further away from the boat on a balloon with the closest bait the shallowest just like the chum drifts deeper as it moves away from the boat. The most common bait is butterfish but peanut bunker or mackerel work well also. For live bait, Brian likes squid because they don't move about too much or cause tangles. He hooks them through the mantle and lets them swim. For using live bluefish, he likes bluefish in the 10-16 inch size, hooked behind the head, ahead of the dorsal fin. Tuna are sight feeders so you want fluorocarbon leaders (60-80 lb. test) and rust free hooks. Hide the hooks as much as possible within the baits but with the tip and barb exposed to effortlessly hook the fish. Let the





baits drift back naturally, then reel them in and repeat. Keep the number of baits reasonable (about three) to avoid tangles. When a fish takes the bait, bring the line tight and let the circle hook do its work to engage the fish's jaw. Don't jerk the line trying to set the hook. Most striper anglers should be familiar with this technique now that circle hooks are required for bait fishing striped bass.

When You Hook Up

Tuna are powerful creatures and when hooked can go on extensive runs. Keep your fingers clear of the line and rapidly spinning reel drum to avoid injuries. When the fish has ended its initial run, apply constant and steady pressure. You don't need to move the rod in a long arc, just keep stroking and reeling, pulling the fish as much as you can with each stroke. In the excitement, don't forget to breathe and stay relaxed—a steady approach will win the fight. If you become tired and can't continue moving the fish towards the boat, don't be embarrassed to hand the rod off to another angler. According to Brian, *"It's a team effort to get the fish to the boat as soon as possible. The longer it stays on the line, the better chances of losing it"*.

At The Boat

Many fish are lost at the boat when the tuna heads under the boat and cuts the leader/line on the bottom of the boat or running gear. It is important that the angler and helmsman work together to keep the fish from going under the boat. If a smaller fish is going to be released, swing it aboard, take a quick photo and release it quickly, dropping it head first into the water. To release a larger fish, hold it alongside the boat with the boat moving slowly forward and release the fish when you are sure it is ready to swim


off. A long shank dehooker can be very useful, but if you cannot dislodge the hook, cut the leader as close to the hook as possible. If you are going to keep a fish, one of the crew can handle the leader while another gaffs the fish and lifts it aboard. Keep clear of the tail and any flailing lures to avoid injury. Subdue the fish with a blow to the head with a club or similar tool. Bleed it by cutting behind the pectoral fins and just forward of the tail. Tuna have a specialized circulatory system that conserves their body heat but this makes them overheat during a prolonged battle. It is important to get the core of the fish chilled quickly. Get the fish on ice or into an ice slurry as quickly as possible to avoid spoilage. One trick is to freeze water in plastic bottles which can be inserted into the body cavity of the fish.

Summary

Experienced captains stress that one of the keys to successful bluefin tuna fishing is being ready for different situations and being able to adapt and experiment. If you know the fish are there and you aren't hooking up, switch tactics, baits, lures, or whatever. This means having a variety of tackle, lures and baits as well as the ability to catch live baits on site. With today's fuel prices, you will be spending a lot of money to reach the tuna grounds and you don't want to go home empty handed because you didn't have what you needed or were afraid to try something different.

Thanks again to Captain Brian Bacon of Big Game Sportfishing Charters and Captain Rich Hittinger, RISAA First Vice President for their contributions to this article. 🐟





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PORTAL SHOWS WARMING WATER PUSHING FISH NORTH

By: Captain Dave Monti

As the ocean warms, some fish species adapt by moving into cooler and deeper water so they remain in their preferred water temperatures. Those marine species that cannot move either adapt or perish.

On April 19, 2022 NOAA Fisheries released a new tool that can show the movement of hundreds of species due in part to climate change and warming water.

The tool, developed by NOAA climatologist Melissa Karp is called the Distribution Mapping and Analysis Portal, or DisMAP. The portal can help fish managers, researchers and fishers understand and respond to changes in marine species' distributions.

In an advisory announcing the Portal NOAA said, "Changes in marine ecosystems can have big implications for the sustainability of U.S. fishing... And, when species move outside of standard survey boundaries, it can impact estimates of abundance that feed into stock assessments."

Karp's portal uses NOAA Fisheries bottom trawl survey data. Stakeholders can use the portal's map-based visualizations to explore changes over time in the distributions of more than 800 species.

Remarkable shifts include American lobster, their distribution moved 122 miles north between 1974 and 2019. Back sea bass moved about 143 miles north, and expanded its range by about 39 miles, whereas summer flounder moved north by about 48 miles but acutely contracted its range by about 73 miles.

These changes in distribution and range have wreaked havoc with recreational harvest limits and regulations. For example a greater abundance of a species in our area like black sea bass means we will likely catch more. We catch too many and we may overfish, and when we overfish, fishing regulations become more

“Changes in marine ecosystems can have big implications for the sustainability of U.S. fishing...”

- **Melissa Karp**
NOAA Climatologist



conservative to prevent overfishing. Yet we have a great abundance of black sea bass in our waters.

We need to adapt our fishing laws to be more climate nimble to respond to climate impacts like fish distribution. We need enhanced climate research and more frequent stock assessments to figure out just what is happening to specie distribution and range changes so we can incorporate into more frequent stock assessments.

To link to the portal visit
Distribution Mapping and Analysis Portal (noaa.gov).

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FOOLING FISH WITH SOFT PLASTICS

By: Captain Dave **Monti**

“Vibration and color are important when using soft plastic baits.” said Al Gagliarducci, owner and designer of Al Gag’s Custom Lures since 1978. He has spoken to RISAA members several times at seminars since his company was founded on ‘Fooling fish with soft plastics’.

“Fish can feel vibrations and can tell the difference between light and dark...That’s why our lures are designed to move back and forth vibrating as they swim through the water.” said Gagliarducci. And, in regard to color the rule is simple. “Bright day, bright (or light colored) lure; dark day, dark colored lure.” said Gagliarducci.

Al Gag’s Custom Lures came out with his Whip-It-Fish lure in 2014. Like its predecessor the Whip-It-Eel, the lure is PVC rubber, can be used in fresh or saltwater, comes in various sizes and colors and uses the same weighted heads and hooks.

Al Gag said, “The Whip-It-Fish has a unique design paddle tail that allows the lure to roll from side to side as it travels through the water.” The lure mimics a variety of bait fish including shad and silversides and is available in 3” to 6” sizes.

“Throw one of these Whip-it-Fish off the stern and deadhead it in a rod holder and you will be surprised at what you catch. The lure bounces off the bottom as the boat bobs up and down.” Gagliarducci also showed his double hook fluke rig that can be



A lot of shaking going on: Al Gag with his new Whip-It-Fish lure that rolls from side to side as it travels underwater while shaking its tail.

use as is or weighted using a three way swivel, however, he said, “If you are going to use a three way swivel to weight the lure make sure you have an extra long leader... about five feet... to allow that lure to bounce up and down off the bottom.”

Visit www.algagsfishinglures.com for information and video links. 



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UPCOMING SEMINAR

LIVE! Back at the **ELKS LODGE**
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KAYAK FISHING REVIEWED

Local Launches, Target Species and Fishing Launch Areas



Featuring Kraig Ruth

June 27, 2022

Long time RISAA member and Kayak Committee chairman Kraig Ruth will be the featured seminar speaker for our June 27 Seminar. Kraig has extensive knowledge of Rhode Island waters that are accessible via a kayak, and as committee chairman, Kraig represents one of RISAA's most active and growing committees.

This seminar is not only ideal for kayakers but will also include species targeted from each launch area so it will be perfect for our small boat and shore members who often fish the same areas as our plastic navy members.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

This is an in person seminar at the West Warwick Elks Lodge, 60 Clyde Street, West Warwick, RI. We plan to have food available at 5:30 p.m. as in the past and plan to tape the seminar for members who were not able to attend.



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I LOVE SLUG-GOS!



By: Captain Ken **Cooper**

If you are not fishing with soft plastic lures, you should be! I was introduced to soft plastics one evening in the late 1950s. I was casting a black Jitterbug from the shore of a reservoir near my home in Yonkers, New York, and thinking that I was doing great with a pair of three pound largemouth bass on my stringer. And then my world changed when an older teenager came by with a stringer of five largemouths that were easily from five to eight pounds. I did not know bass grew that big in that reservoir. I asked the guy what he was using, and he actually showed me what was on the end of his fishing line: A “rubber” worm—the first I had ever seen.

Within the next twelve months I was using rubber worms to catch outsized largemouth bass in my local lakes and ponds, and substituting rubber worms for sandworms on my spinner and worm rigs to catch schoolie stripers in the bays and estuaries around my summer haunt of Long Beach, New York.

Soft plastic lures have come a long way since those early days. I love fishing soft plastics for striped bass, and I’m even willing to sacrifice a bunch to bluefish if I need some of those toothy critters for the smoker.

“*Soft plastic lures are not only great fish catchers, they are relatively economical when compared to plugs.*”

There’s an abundance of makes and models of soft plastic lures on the market, including products from Hogy, Z-man, Got Stryper and Zoom, to name just a few. Big box stores such as Bass Pro Shops and Cabela’s sell their own store brand soft plastic baits. I’m partial to lures by Lunker City, a company based in Meriden, Connecticut, that markets the Slug-Go and Fin S Fish baits. (www.lunkercity.com)

Soft plastic lures are not only great fish catchers, they are relatively economical when compared to plugs. For example, the nine inch Doc plug retails for around \$24. A three-pack of nine inch Slug-Gos lists for \$7.99. Impale one on an Owner, Gamakatsu or similar high quality worm hook, and you have a highly effective lure for about one-sixth the cost of the Doc. A two-pack of



BKD ten inch lure shown (top) with a seven and nine inch Slug-Go with work hooks.

twelve inch Slug-Gos lists for \$9.99. Add a quality worm hook and your total cost is only one-third of the Doc plug. Now, don’t get me wrong: I love fishing my Doc and Baby Doc plugs. In general, the hard plastic Doc will outlast any soft plastic lure. But if a big bluefish bites through the leader, or a big striper cuts you off on a barnacle encrusted rock and makes off with your plug, would you rather be out \$6 or \$24?

There are several excellent YouTube videos showing how to rig a Slug-Go. I have found that a single hook is adequate. The only “trick” I employ is to wrap some thread on the hook shank and apply a bit of “super” glue to the thread just before pushing the hook into the Slug-Go. That helps keep the lure in proper position on the hook. Another option is to secure the nose of the Slug-Go to the hook with a zip-tie.

If you need to add casting distance, Lunker City offers grooved weights that can be pushed into the body of the Slug-Go, or you can achieve the same end with a suitable finishing nail or a metal screw with its head sawed off.

I prefer to fish Slug-Gos on the surface, but they are extremely effective when fished on a lead-head jig. Instead of slinging an eel, try casting a black twelve inch Slug-Go on a Point Jude Lures Wobble Head jig, and then hang on tight when you set the hook into a cow striper.

As for colors, the nine and twelve inch Slug-Gos in Bubble-gum and Squid are great when stripers are chasing big squid in the spring. If the bass are eating large bunker (pogies) or hickory shad, then Alewife (slightly off white) is a good choice. If the primary forage is sand eels, I’d be casting the seven inch Slug-go in Arkansas Shiner. Any size in Black is right at night.

Slug-Gos—don’t leave home without ‘em! 🐟

UPCOMING SEMINAR

LIVE! Back at the **ELKS LODGE**
60 Clyde Street, West Warwick, RI



OLD SALTS & YOUNG GUNS

RISAA's July Seminar is just what you have been waiting for! If you are a striped bass fanatic, then put this on the calendar and circle it twice! RISAA has assembled a panel of both "Old Salts" including the Current State Record holder, Peter Vican, his partner and big bass expert himself-Don Smith, as well as a pair of "Young Gun" Charter Captains-Kurt Rivard and Brandon Hagopain, who are fast carving out reputations as the next generation of big bass hawks. All are among the best RI has in targeting, finding and catching large stripers...even when others can't.

Want to know how they did it old school style? Don and Peter will share their perspectives on what it was like years ago, how they settled on the techniques that worked for them, what others were doing at that time, and how they continue to approach striper fishing today. Want to hear from the young guns on what techniques they gravitated towards, what new twists they have to add and how they have been able to distance themselves from many of their peers? Then this is the seminar for you!

July 25, 2022



Don Smith Kurt Rivard Peter Vican Brandon Hagopain

SPECIAL NOTICE!

This is an in person seminar at the West Warwick Elks Lodge, 60 Clyde Street, West Warwick, RI. We plan to have food available at 5:30 p.m. as in the past and plan to tape the seminar for members who were not able to attend.

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hittinger@risaa.org • 401-739-1875

Menhaden Subcommittee

David Monti, Chair
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Public Access Subcommittee

Peter Jenkins, Chair
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MERCHANDISE COMMITTEE

Gary Johnson, Chair
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POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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NEWSLETTER

Greg Vespe
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SALTWATER FISHING SHOW

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SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

David Michel, Chair
michel@risaa.org • 401-952-8697

SURFCASTERS COMMITTEE

Ron Barnes, Chair
barnes@risaa.org • 508-958-6781

TAG & RELEASE PROGRAM

Robert Murray, Coordinator
murray@risaa.org • 401-378-5895

TOURNAMENTS COMMITTEE

John Volpe, Chair
volpe@risaa.org • 401-580-1063

WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filliatreault Wood, Chair
wood@risaa.org • 401-263-3919

If you would like more information or would like to join a committee contact:

Greg Vespe - vespe@risaa.org

Saltwater Anglers Foundation

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



2022 FOUNDATION DONATIONS

PLATINUM (\$500+)

- Fidelity Charity
- John W. Edwards, II
- Kamen Foundation
- Rich C. Hittinger
- “Kids Zone - 2022 NE Saltwater Fishing Show”
- Lynn Medeiros
- “Mr. Poseidon”
- RI DEM Enforcement Officers
(in memory of Stephen Medeiros)
- Trout Unlimited
(Steve Medeiros/Black Point Fund)
- James Weber

SILVER (\$100+)

- Blackbaud Giving Fund
- Christine Bollmann
- Capt. Kenneth Cooper
- Joseph Doyle
- Derek J. Dunne
- David Green
- Giacomo Guarnaccia Jr.
- F. Charles Haig Jr.
- Gregory O’ Houde
- John Iannucci
- Capt. Sandy Kane
- David Michel
- D. Kielau & John Paul
- Charitable Fund
- Vincent Lechmanick
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- David Pollack
- Luca Joseph Razza
- Robert Roseman
- Victoria Sauer
- Justin Serbent
- Schwab Charitable Trust
- Joseph Torrealday
- Lamar Wallace
- Shawn Williams

BRONZE (\$50+)

- Fredrick Ruhleman
- Orlando Savastano
- William Sosnicki
- Aimee Tavares
- Roger Tellier
- Anthony Verrill

COPPER (UP TO \$49)

- Ann Archibald
- Thersa Capelo
- William B. Carpenter
- Christopher Connoly
- Edward Desrosiers
- Sara Fullerton
- Robert Hojnoski
- Johnny O’s Tackle

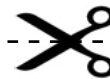
IN MEMORY OF

- O. Hajnoski
- Stephen J. Medeiros
- Stephen J. Therrien

Continue the
Support &
**DONATE
TODAY!**

PREVIOUS AND CONTINUALLY SUPPORTED PROGRAMS

- Blackstone River Fish Ladder Construction
- College Scholarships in Marine Sciences
- Kickemuit River Fish Ladder Construction
- Mercury in Local Fish Research Grant
- Narragansett Bay Journal Publication
- Newport Fisherman’s Ladder Repairs
- Ninigret Park Fishing Access
- Pawtuxet River Fish Passage
- Public Access Adoption Programs
- Public Education Programs & Seminars
- Recreational Fishing Symposium 2013, 2015, 2018
- Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation
- Sabin Point Artificial Reef (Upper Narr. Bay)
- Saugatucket River Fish Passage (Westerly)
- Sea Grant Research Programs
- Special Shore Fishing Scup Signs for RIDEM
- Striped Bass Myco Research
- Tag & Release Programs
- Tag-A-Giant Tuna Foundation
- Ten Mile River Fish Ladders
- RISAA/RIDEM Adopt-A-Ramp Signs
- Take-A-Kid Fishing Days 1998-2019
- Youth Fishing Camps 2016-2020



THANK YOU!



PLEASE
PRINT

Any donation over \$10 will be sent a receipt that proves your contribution for tax purposes.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to
The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is cash or check for: \$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$

It’s OK to Print My Name Please DO NOT Print My Name

Donation Made In The Name Of:

MAIL TO:
RISA Foundation
P.O. Box 299
Tiverton, RI 02878

6. Review permitting procedures in coastal zones so that they are better coordinated for the applicant. Determine if there can be better coordination between local zoning officials and CRMC.


SUMMER FLOUNDER MSE WORKING GROUP

We had our final in-person meeting of the Summer Flounder MSE (Management Strategy Evaluation) Working Group in Philadelphia, PA on May 2 & 3. We will have one more on-line meeting to prepare information to be presented to the MAFMC at their meeting on June 7. We are reiterating that our major goal is to reduce discard mortality in the fluke fishery while improving angler experience and hopefully increasing recreational harvest.

Some of the concepts that we are working to put into practice through the MAFMC include the following:

- How can State regulations be modified to allow recreational harvest of fluke in the 15" to 19" range that are now being released and counted as dead discards?
- We cannot accept a coastwide regulation that limits bag to 1 fluke even at a smaller minimum size.
- We do not see the benefit of allowing harvest of fluke under 16".

- In general, we believe that it will be impossible to have one regulation coastwide since the abundance and seasons are so different from North Carolina to Massachusetts.
- One coastwide option - 3 fish at 16"-20" with season of May 15-Sept 15 is under consideration.
- The most likely regulations would be Regional with 3 regions: MA to NY, NJ, and DE to NC. These would likely be based on the current regulations but modified to reduce discards, possibly by allowing one smaller fish.

I am not sure how this will all turn out, but things need to move along if any changes will be ready prior to the 2023 fishing season. I will give an update after the final report is prepared. 

JOIN RISAA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

All RISAA members are welcome to join the RISAA Legislative Committee. If you are interested send an email to me at hittinger@risaa.org and we will send you the link (via email) to the next Legislative meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for August 25th via Zoom.

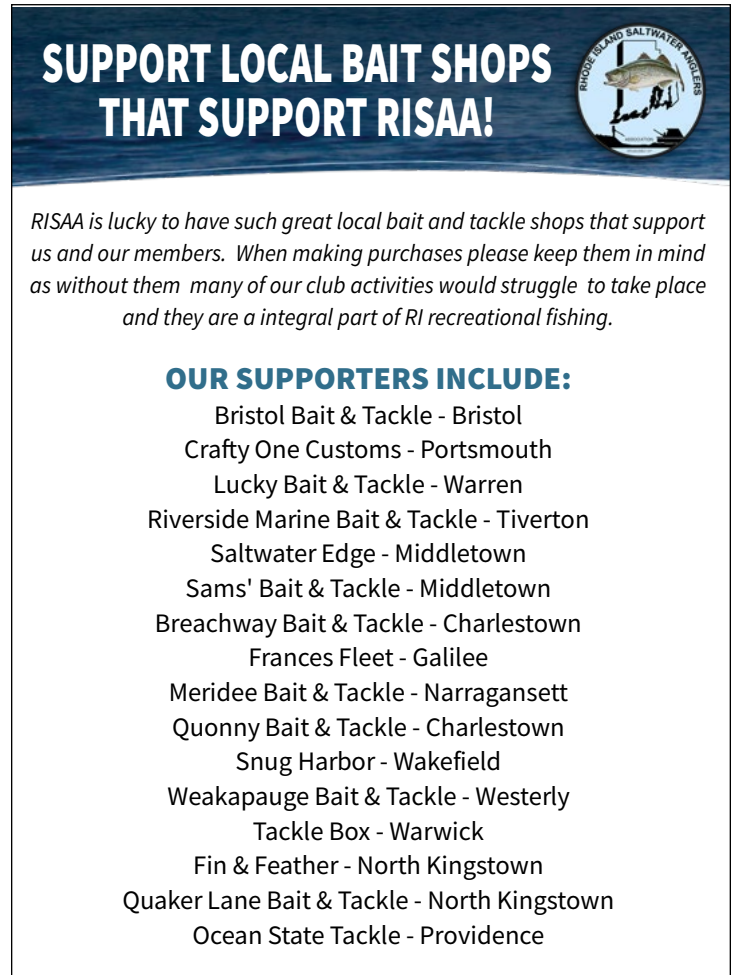


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ON THE WATER



SUPPORT LOCAL BAIT SHOPS THAT SUPPORT RISAA!


RISAA is lucky to have such great local bait and tackle shops that support us and our members. When making purchases please keep them in mind as without them many of our club activities would struggle to take place and they are a integral part of RI recreational fishing.

OUR SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:


- Bristol Bait & Tackle - Bristol
- Crafty One Customs - Portsmouth
- Lucky Bait & Tackle - Warren
- Riverside Marine Bait & Tackle - Tiverton
- Saltwater Edge - Middletown
- Sams' Bait & Tackle - Middletown
- Breachway Bait & Tackle - Charlestown
- Frances Fleet - Galilee
- Meridee Bait & Tackle - Narragansett
- Quonny Bait & Tackle - Charlestown
- Snug Harbor - Wakefield
- Weakapauge Bait & Tackle - Westerly
- Tackle Box - Warwick
- Fin & Feather - North Kingstown
- Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle - North Kingstown
- Ocean State Tackle - Providence

YEARLONG TOURNAMENT

The Yearlong Tournament is a continuing tournament that runs from January 1 to December 15 each year. All RISAA members are eligible to participate, and there are no fees. Official Weight Slips are available at each monthly meeting and at all sanctioned bait shops. Only authorized weigh-in stations with certified digital scales may be used. A complete list of rules is printed on the back of every weight slip.




**NEW
THIS YEAR**




SEA ROBIN
SHORE DIVISION - **ADULT**
1. John Migliori 2.76 lbs

GRAY TRIGGERFISH
No Entry




BLACK SEA BASS
BOAT DIVISION - **ADULT**
No Entry
BOAT DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
1. Flynn Jansen 2.56 lbs
2. Hayes Jansen 2.04 lbs
SHORE DIVISION - **ADULT**
No Entry
SHORE DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry



BLUEFISH
BOAT DIVISION - **ADULT**
1. Stephen Skenyon 12.50 lbs
BOAT DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry
SHORE DIVISION - **ADULT**
1. Dan Gingras 12.02 lbs
2. Gil Bell 11.88 lbs
3. Ronald Lynch 11.20 lbs
SHORE DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry



BONITO
BOAT DIVISION - **ADULT**
No Entry
BOAT DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry
SHORE DIVISION - **ADULT**
No Entry
SHORE DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry



COD
BOAT DIVISION - **ADULT**
No Entry
BOAT DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry




FALSE ALBACORE
BOAT DIVISION - **ADULT**
No Entry
BOAT DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry
SHORE DIVISION - **ADULT**
No Entry
SHORE DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry



FLUKE
BOAT DIVISION - **ADULT**
No Entry
BOAT DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry
SHORE DIVISION - **ADULT**
No Entry
SHORE DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry




HADDOCK
BOAT DIVISION - **ADULT**
No Entry
BOAT DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry




MAHI MAHI
BOAT DIVISION - **ADULT**
No Entry
BOAT DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry



POLLOCK
BOAT DIVISION - **ADULT**
No Entry
BOAT DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry



TAUTOG
BOAT DIVISION - **ADULT**
1. Karlis Kaugars 10.00 lbs
BOAT DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry
SHORE DIVISION - **ADULT**
1. John Migliori 6.96 lbs
SHORE DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry




SCUP
BOAT DIVISION - **ADULT**
1. Michael Lynch 1.38 lbs
BOAT DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry
SHORE DIVISION - **ADULT**
1. John Migliori 2.64 lbs
SHORE DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry



TUNA - BLUEFIN
BOAT DIVISION - **ADULT**
No Entry
BOAT DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry



TUNA - ALBACORE
BOAT DIVISION - **ADULT**
No Entry
BOAT DIVISION - **JUNIOR**
No Entry



STRIPED BASS

Because it has been determined by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council that Striped Bass are currently in "Overfished" status, the RISAA Tournaments Committee has removed striped bass as an eligible species for the 2022 Tournament Season.

ENTER YOUR CATCHES AT:
www.risaa.org/tournament-entry

MOST UP-TO-DATE STANDINGS:
risaa.org/tournament-standings



AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

The Rhode Island Saltwater Angler's Association (RISAA) believes in the sensible management of fisheries and the conservation and restoration of all marine resources. RISAA has accepted a leadership role in order to provide a unified voice to preserve and protect the rights, traditions and future of recreational angling. In order to achieve these goals, it is important for organizations who have the same goals to join together, uniting their voices and votes for the good of present and future generations of anglers. Therefore, RISAA is proud to be **AFFILIATED** with these respected organizations:



COALITION PARTNERS

In order to promote fisheries management and conservation on a regional, national and international scale, the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association has associated with these organizations:





APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association is a nonprofit Association established to provide a forum for saltwater anglers; to provide education to members concerning fishing techniques and overall enjoyment of fishing; to foster sportsmanship; to support marine conservation and the sound management of fisheries resources; and provide a unified voice to preserve and protect the rights, traditions and the future of recreational fishing.

Complete the form below and mail to: RISAA, P.O. Box 299, Tiverton, RI 02875
or **REGISTER ONLINE** at www.risaa.org/register to

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date Of Birth _____ Phone # (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Put me on RISAA E-mail list: YES NO Thank You

Occupation _____ Employed At _____

Children (up to 17 yrs): _____

Register them as Junior Members (FREE). YES (Complete Below) NO Thank You

INFORMATION

Prefer to Fish From (check all that apply):

Rocks & Piers Charter Boats Party Boats Fly Fishing Surfcasting Other _____

Own Boat: Length: _____ ft Maker/Type: _____ Boat Name: _____ Docked at: _____

How did you hear about RISAA?

Friend Tackle Shop Facebook News Article RISAA Newsletter Fishing Show Web Site

Saw Advertisement at: Internet Magazine Newspaper TV

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Regular Adult: \$50/year

Multiple Years (save \$5/year): \$90 (2 yrs) \$135 (3 yrs) \$180 (4 yrs)

Senior (Age 65+): \$25/year. Requires date of birth: _____

Life Member: \$500 (one time, single payment)

Student (College/Trade School): \$25/year (max .6 yrs). Requires copy of current student ID card

Junior Member: FREE (Up to 17 years. Requires parent membership or a RISAA sponsor)

Junior's Name: _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

Junior's Name: _____ Age _____ Date of Birth _____

RISAA Sponsor (if parent not a member): _____ Relationship _____

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (Payable to: RISAA)

To pay by credit card, visit: www.risaa.org/regist

MAIL TO:

RISAA
P.O. Box 299
Tiverton, RI 02875

Meetings: Held on the last Monday of each month at the West Warwick Elks in West Warwick, RI at 7:00 pm. (attendance not required)

Membership Benefits Include: Monthly Seminars • Fishing Tournaments • Fishing Trips • Monthly Newsletter • Discounts at Tackle Shops & Marine Dealers • Social Events • College Scholarships • Adds your voice to fisheries management and conservation issues.



RISAA

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