



RHODE ISLAND **SALTWATER** *Anglers*

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Anglers

IN THIS ISSUE:

**TAUTOG
BASICS &
SOME TIPS
FROM THE
SHARPIES**

**HOLDOVER
STRIPERS**

Mike "Wicked" Wec
shows off a nice
Tautog

*Alé Grande
with a motor
bluefish!*

PLUS:
CANYON LESSONS & COOKING YOUR CATCH

ISSUE: 285 • October 2022

www.RISAA.org • 401-826-2121

OCTOBER

- 15 Kayak -8am - Third Beach Middletown
- 21 Fly - 3pm- Napatree
- 22 RISAA Member Tog Trip - 5am Island Current /Snug Harbor
- 24 RISAA Meeting - 7pm Seminar "An Evening with Charley Soares"
- 25 Fly - 5pm - Narrow River

NOVEMBER

- 1 Fly - 12 Noon - Narrow River
- 7 Fly Annual Meeting - 6:30pm - Gregg's North Kingstown
- 9 Fly - 4pm - Third Beach
- 11 Fly - 4pm- Narrow River
- 14 Kayak - 6:30pm - Annual Meeting Gregg's North Kingstown
- 28 RISAA Monthly Seminar: Seminar Tips, Trends & Preparing Fish Dishes with Chef Scott Crain

RECREATIONAL FISHING IS WORTH

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The Official Newsletter of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association

Published Monthly

RISAA, PO BOX 299, Tiverton, RI 02878

FROM THE HELM



FRIENDSHIPS & TOG

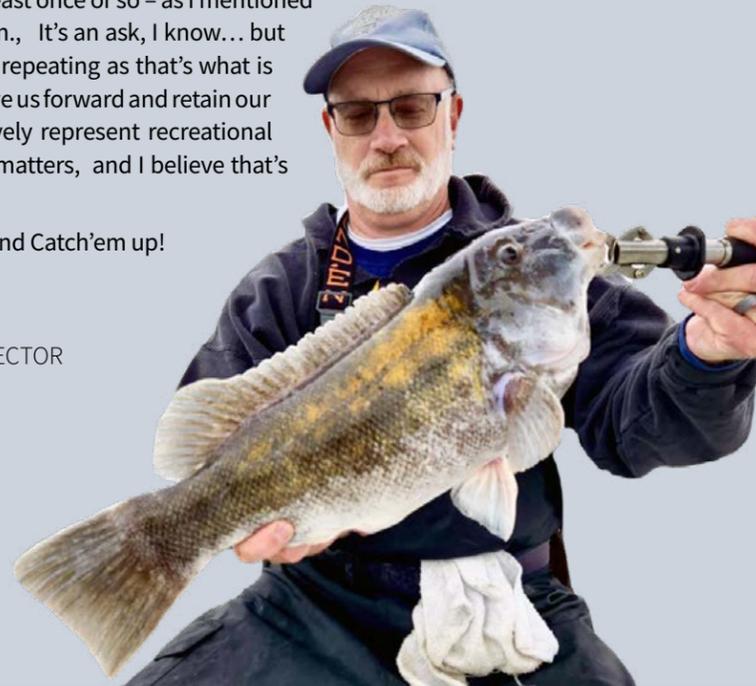
As the mornings get cool what better way to celebrate fall in New England than a tog trip? Of all the fishing we tend to do, tautog fishing probably allows for the most social interaction among anglers. While surf fishing for stripers either involves intentional solitude or combat situations (Canal) and fly fishing by definition requires space and distance, Tog fishing requires none of that. Most often it involves a boat full of anglers, most all of whom are willing to point out to you that for the x time that morning that a tog has just gotten the better of you.

In fact, good natured ribbing mixed in with anglers each espousing the benefits of their favorite rigs, jigs and certain rods/gear is part of the fabric that makes these late season boat trips so great. If you aren't being ribbed on a tog trip for missing a good fish, then frankly you need better friends. I always have this sense in the fall that another season is getting ready to pass and I want to hang onto it as long as I can and give thanks for having been able to partake in it. Sharing that feeling with fellow anglers seems to somehow help me find peace with the end of another year's fishing. Beyond the chatter and laughs with an occasional celebratory hoot when a big one comes on board, hot coffee and discussions on whether the green crab legs should stay or go have become as much a part of the fall as leaves falling off trees to me.

This year there is also the feeling that we (RISAA) did something good last winter to protect these wonderful fish. It is even more heartening to see that Massachusetts is now taking steps to match Rhode Island's new Tog regs, and hopefully this is another step toward preserving our wonderful fishery in its current state. As more and more people continue to be drawn to this fall fishery (understandably so) I think in time we will be even more proud of what we have accomplished. In the meantime, please get out and enjoy this fishery. Share your knowledge where you can and perhaps get out with other members who don't have a chance to get out as often as they once did. Just as important, if you find yourself out fishing with non-members please consider asking them to join RISAA as opposed to kicking in for fuel and bait at least once or so – as I mentioned in my last column., It's an ask, I know... but I think it's worth repeating as that's what is going to help drive us forward and retain our ability to effectively represent recreational fishing in future matters, and I believe that's important.

Enjoy the fall and Catch'em up!

Greg VESPE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RI SALTWATER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
Legislative Committee

Reported by: Richard **Hittinger**, CHAIRMAN

SLOW SPEED ZONES FOR WHALES

The first topic that I will discuss this month is the slow speed restrictions being proposed by NOAA to protect right whales. This topic has been discussed on our SNE-SA email group and among many different trade groups along the Atlantic coast over the past two months. To start off, I want to say that RISAA acknowledges that right whale populations are in very bad shape and every right whale killed by a vessel strike is a tremendous blow to the potential survivability of that species because there are less than 400 of these animals alive in our oceans today.

The proposed amendments as published in the Federal Register on August 1 outline 10 knot speed restrictions for all vessels 35 feet or longer from Florida to Massachusetts as shown in Figure 1 below. As you can see from the figure, in our area this would cover all waters from the mouth of Narragansett Bay to roughly 60 miles offshore and would be effective from November 1 to May 30 each year. This is a very large area and this regulation would impact thousands of vessels during these 7 months every year. I personally think it is too broad and far-reaching in scope even though it does not affect my vessel. As extended on September 16, comments are due by October 31.

Although we don't have many members with boats over 35 feet, we certainly have some, including some who operate in this area during the affected months, so RISAA wrote a letter to the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) which is posted on the RISAA website if you would like to read it. In the letter we pointed out that there are presently restrictions in the Seasonal Management Areas (SMAs) off the coasts of Massachusetts and Rhode Island to protect right whales that take into consideration where they had historically been observed. We also suggested the use of other tools such as Seasonal Speed Zones and Dynamic Speed Zones which NMFS already uses to protect right whales. These measures could be implemented in a more select area when right whales are either known to be present or strongly suspected to be present. By diligent use of these tools right whales could be protected and fewer mariners would be affected.

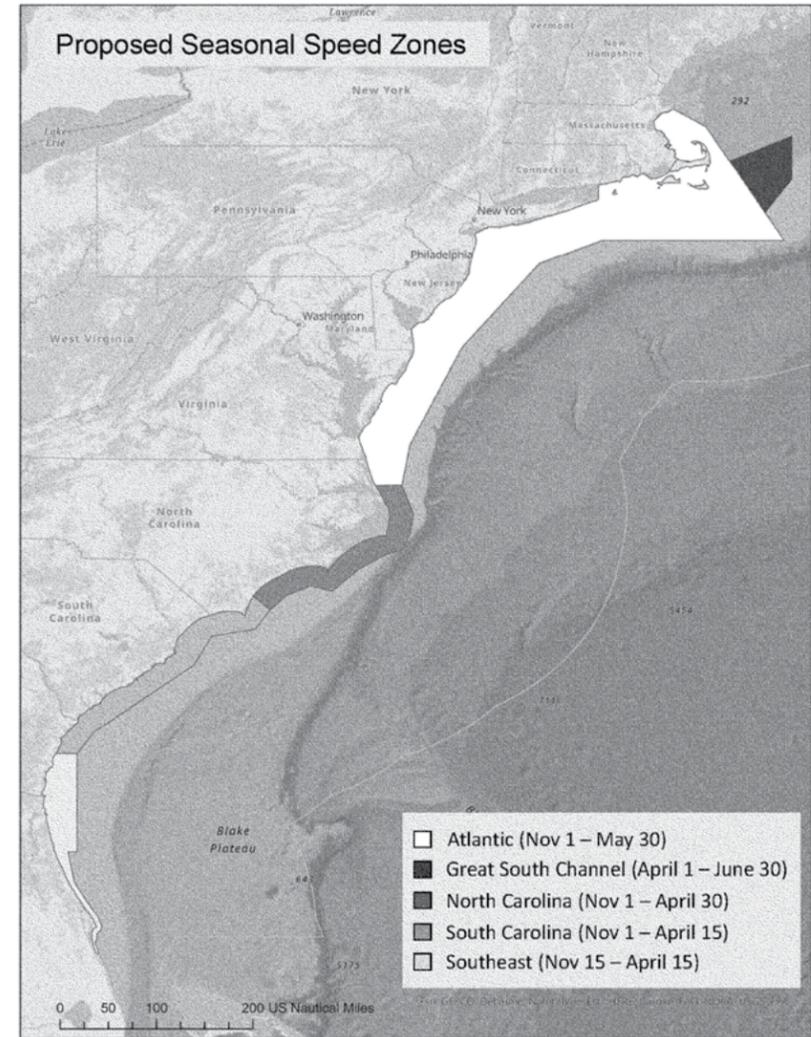


Figure 1: Proposed Seasonal Speed Zones and Effective Dates Each Year

RECREATIONAL FISHING CENTER

The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation did submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) to the RIDEM on September 22 stating that we believe the former Chase Marina facility in Tiverton, RI should be considered for use as a Recreational Fishing Center. In this letter,

(Continued on page 10)

THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filiatreault Wood, CHAIR



Welcome NEW Members!

- Chad Weikman - West Greenwich, RI
- Norman Breton - Tiverton, RI
- Alan Hollandersky - Ledyard, CT
- Joseph Ebert - Stratham, NH
- John Livingston - Tiverton, MA
- Peter Livingston - Tiverton, MA
- Owen Fleischer - Durham, NH
- Sarah Baccl - Reading, MA
- Cassandra Bell - Warwick, RI
- Brady Watson - East Greenwich, RI
- Gregory A. Rodrigues - Wrentham, MA
- David Cunningham - Middletown, RI
- James Buchok - Riverton, CT
- Thomas Freeman - Newport, RI
- Andrea Costa - East Providence, RI
- Joseph Kohler - Jamestown, RI
- Mary McDowell - Portsmouth, RI
- Jacob Berger - East Greenwich, RI
- Marcy Deveny - Warwick, RI
- Brad Johnson - Lakeville, MA
- Michael Cullen - South Kingstown, 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.

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jkarlin@westernmilling.com

RISAA ELECTION COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS AND ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

By: Gisele Golembeski, CHAIR

The nominations for the elections of 2023 Officers and Board Members has closed as of October 1, 2022. As of that date, no members came forward seeking election, so the proposed slate by the Board of Directors shall become elected at the Annual Meeting on December 26, 2022 as follows:

- President: Dawn Filiatreault Wood
- 1st Vice President: Capt. Richard Hittinger
- 2nd Vice President: Fred DeFinis
- Secretary: Susan Lema
- Treasurer: Capt. Steve Skenyon
- Sergeant-At-Arms: Capt. David Michel

Directors:

- Board Member: Ron Barnes
- Board Member: Gary Johnson
- Board Member: Karlis Kaugars
- Board Member: Robert Murray
- Board Member: Richard Reich
- Board Member: Kraig Ruth

If any member has questions,
I can be reached by gisele@risaa.org.

MEMBER PHOTO



RISAA member Susan Estabrook and Rhonda Snow doubling up on the fly for albies with Captain Eric Thomas!

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 (Party /Charter)	9" Min.: 25 Fish Max. 50 Fish Per Day	9" Min.: 25 Fish	9" Min.: 25 Fish	9" Min.: 25 Fish Max. 50 Fish Per Day
Black Sea Bass (Recreational) (Party /Charter)	16" Min. May 22 to Aug. 31: 2 Fish Sept. 1 to Dec. 31: 3 fish June 18 to Aug. 31: 2 Fish Sept. 1 to Dec. 31: 6 Fish	16" Min. May 19 to Dec. 31: 5 Fish May 19 to Aug. 30: 5 Fish Sept. 1 to Dec. 31: 7 Fish	16" Min. May 21 to Sept. 4: 4 Fish	16" Min. PENDING
Bluefish (Party /Charter)	No Size Min.: 3 Fish No Closed Season No Size Min.: 5 Fish	No Size Min.: 3 Fish No Closed Season	No Size Min.: 3 Fish No Closed Season No Size Min.: 5 Fish	No Size Min.: 3 Fish No Closed Season No Size Min.: 5 Fish
Cod	22" Min. 28" Max.: 5 Fish Aug 1 to May 1	21" Min.: 10 Fish No Closed Season	22" Min. 28" Max.: 5 Fish No Closed Season South & East of Cape Cod Apr. 1 to Apr. 14: 1 Fish Sept. 1 to Sept. 30: 1 Fish	21" Min.: 10 Fish No Closed Season
Federal Waters - RI, CT, & MA - Aug. 1 to May 1: 5 fish - 22" to 28"				
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) Special Shore Designation	10" Min.: 30 fish No Closed Season 9" Min.: 30 fish No Closed Season	10" Min.: 30 fish No Closed Season	10" Min.: 30 fish No Closed Season	Not Published Yet
(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 At special shore areas in RI 2 of the 4 fluke may be 17"	18.5" Min. May 1 to Oct. 9: 4 Fish At special shore areas in CT fluke may be 17"	16.5" Min. May 21 to Sept. 29: 5 Fish	18.5" Min. May 1 to Oct. 9: 4 Fish
Tautog (Recreational) <small>Visit your State's Federal Regulations website for Charter Regulations</small>	16" Min. Only 1 Fish Over 21" per angler 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 Max. Rec. Vessel Limit: 10 Fish	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 Oct. 9: 3 Fish (LI Sound) Oct. 15 to Dec. 22: 4 Fish (NY Bight)
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 RI Narragansett Bay Potter and Point Judith ponds and Harbor of Refuge are all closed to winter Flounder fishing	12" Min. Apr. 1 to Dec. 31: 2 Fish	North of Cape Cod: 12" Min. - 8 Fish - No Close South of Cape Cod: 12" Min. - 2 Fish - Mar. 1 to Dec. 31	12" Min. Apr. 1 to Dec. 31: 2 Fish

COOKING YOUR CATCH

By: Paula Smalec

BLACK SEA BASS (OR TAUTOG) CEBOLADA

This recipe is from On the Water columnist Andy Nabreski's YouTube video titled "Portuguese-Style Baked Black Sea Bass". In the video, Andy shares that he heard about this recipe from Charlie Soares. I strongly encourage you to view this short video to see how easy it is to make this great tasting dish. In the video, Andy uses black sea bass, but I tried this with tautog fillets and it was delicious. You'll just need to add a few more minutes to the baking time because tautog fillets typically are thicker than sea bass fillets.

Cebolada is a traditional Portuguese sauce or paste that uses onions as its main ingredient. It typically also contains tomatoes, olive oil, garlic, paprika and other optional ingredients.

To view the video, go to <https://youtube.com> and type in the search bar "Portuguese-Style Baked Black Sea Bass". I've jotted down the recipe for you here. If you don't have individual baking dishes, you can bake the entire recipe in one larger baking dish.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 black sea bass or tautog fillets
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 3 whole bay leaves
- 3 cups chopped onion
- 3 cloves minced garlic
- ½ of a 6 oz. can of tomato paste
- ¼ cup red wine
- 1 tbsp Portuguese crushed red pepper sauce
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 14 oz. can diced tomatoes
- ½ tablespoon smoked paprika
- ½ cup diced chorizo
- 1 tablespoon butter
- olive oil, for drizzling over top
- chopped fresh basil, for garnish



Screen shot of "Portuguese-Style Baked Black Sea Bass" from On the Water columnist Andy Nabreski's YouTube video. The recipe is from Charlie Soares.

Slide an oven rack into the highest setting and preheat the oven to 375.

Heat olive oil in a large saucepan or small Dutch oven. When the oil is hot, add the bay leaves and simmer for 1-2 minutes. Add the chopped onion and sauté until they are translucent. Add a little salt and pepper. Add the minced garlic and one-half of a 6 oz. can of tomato paste. Stir and cook for 2-3 minutes or until the garlic starts to soften. Deglaze the pan with red wine. Stir in the Portuguese crushed red pepper sauce and red wine vinegar. Add the diced tomatoes and smoked paprika. Stir well to blend everything together. Turn the heat to low and simmer the mixture for 15 minutes. Add the chorizo and simmer for an additional 10 minutes. Stir in the butter and remove the pan from the heat.

Season the fish fillets with salt and pepper.

Transfer enough of the onion & tomato mixture to form a layer on the bottoms of each individual ceramic baking dish. Tuck under the tail portion of a fillet and place it on top of the bed of sauce. Repeat with the other fillet. Spoon additional tomato & onion sauce over the top of the fillets but do not completely cover them. Leave some portions of the fillet exposed.

Place baking dishes into the oven on the top rack and bake for 10 minutes. Finish cooking under the broiler for 2-3 minutes or until slightly charred on top. Drizzle olive oil over the top of each dish and garnish with chopped fresh basil. 🍴

Fabulous New Cookbook!

Outdoors sports writer and Striper Chronicles author, Leo Orsi, has assembled a fabulous collection of outstanding recipes for appetizers, seafood, pasta, and some wonderfully eclectic culinary dishes that will excite even the most discerning palates.

His collection of detailed, but easy-to-follow recipes were established over 40 years as the executive chef of the Princeton Fishing Team.

The cookbook is further embellished by highly acclaimed recipes from some of Rhode Island's top restaurants and their executive chefs including; 22 Bowens, The Black Pearl, Bouchards, Castle Hill Inn & Resort and J22 - to name just a few.

Each recipe in the cookbook is accompanied by brilliant full-color pictures and detailed preparation instructions. And along with many of the recipes, are interesting stories explaining the evolution behind the recipes and why they are selected for this must-have cookbook.

"Leo has captured the essence of many local dishes. They're presented with colorful pictures and easy to understand instructions. I am honored to keep this in my cookbook collection."

—Chef Frank Terranova,
Senior Chef Instructor – Johnson & Wales University
Executive Chef, WJAR Channel 10 Sunday Brunch

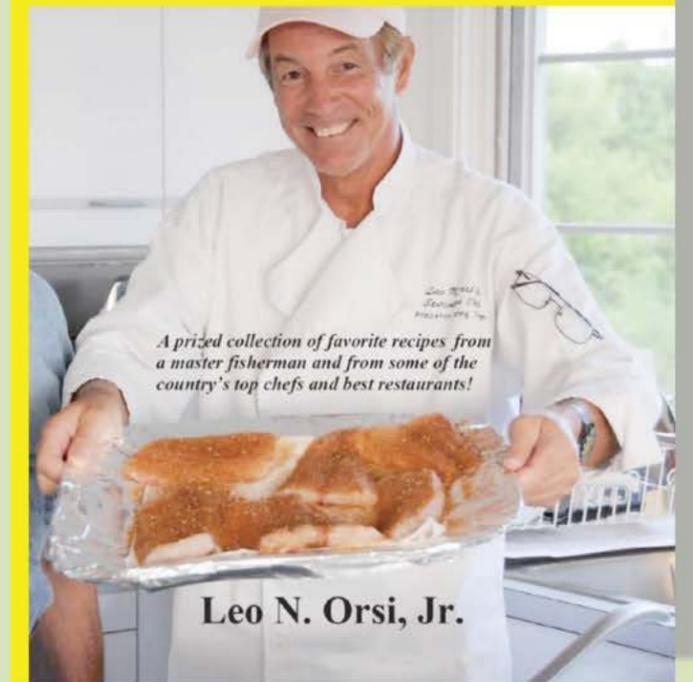
"Leo Orsi knows that whether making a meal at a fishing lodge, cooking the day's catch, or dining out at a coastal restaurant, food just tastes better after a day on the water. His eclectic collection of coastal recipes is laced with special memories of time spent with friends and family in iconic locations—what good cooking and good food is all about."

—Kevin Blinkoff, Editor, On The Water Magazine

"Orsi has given me many new ideas on what to do with all the fresh New England seafood that's available right at our fingertips. My husband and I also quahog and now we're opening up this cookbook to figure out what to do with our fresh catch. The book will have you running to the ocean with your fishing rod, or at least to the local market for some fresh fish."

—Jamie Coelho, Editor, Rhode Island Monthly Magazine

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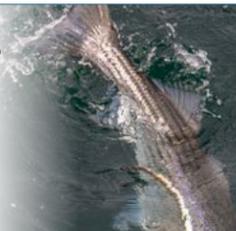
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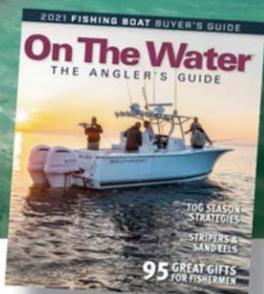
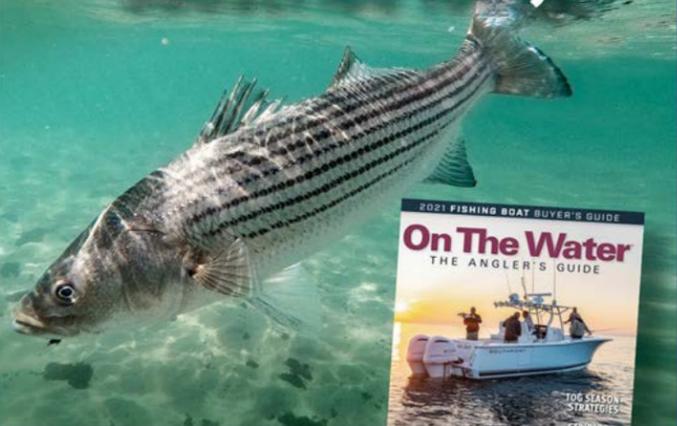
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RISAA is lucky to have such great local bait and tackle shops that support us and our members. When making purchases please keep them in mind as without them many of our club activities would struggle to take place and they are a integral part of RI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

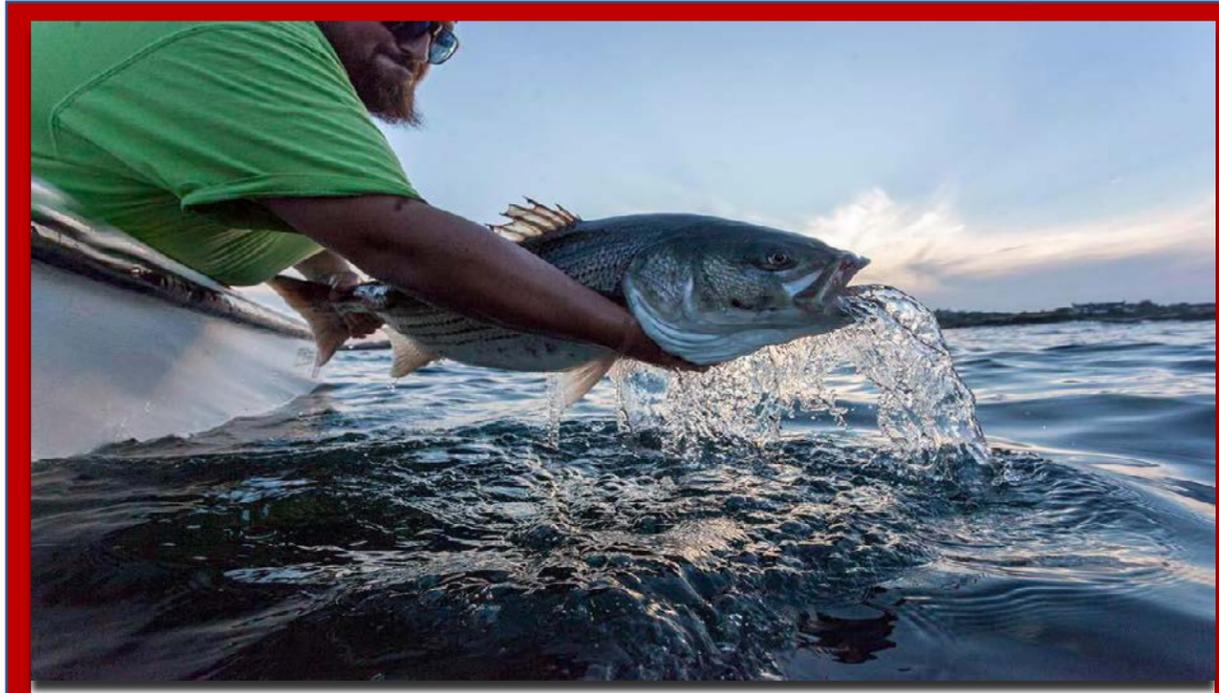
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which is posted on the RISAA website we outline how the facility could be used for education, research, and partnerships with RIDEM Division of Marine Fisheries and local universities. With the existing public fishing area and boat launch adjacent to the site it is uniquely positioned for this purpose. RIDEM was previously only considering the site for use as a commercial fishing asset or to support aquaculture, so we are not sure how they will receive our LOI, but we are optimistic.

CRABBING AT NIGHT

As a follow-up to our monthly seminar in July about crabbing in RI waters, Greg has been working with RIDEM Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) to see if we can allow recreational crabbing at night. The speakers at that seminar stated that it is allowed in other states and night time is the right time for crabbing! Greg found out that this restriction is found in legislation, not regulation by DMF, therefore the only way to have it changed is to have the legislature turn this authority back to RIDEM DMF and then we can work with them to allow night time crabbing. We will work on this change during the coming legislative session.

FISHING LOCATION SURVEY

As competing uses of our waterways are considered we are finding that it is becoming very important to document where recreational fishing occurs both in the bay and outside of the bay and rivers. Projects such as offshore wind energy are proposing to install towers offshore and run undersea cables into shore facilities like Quonset Point and Brayton Point. Aquaculture is becoming more important each year and facilities are proposed for many locations in our saltwater ponds and bays with many more likely in the near future outside of these areas for raising fish. When these facilities are selecting areas to impact they look at existing data regarding use of these areas. Commercial fishing is documented as are ferry routes and some other uses, but there is an obvious lack of information about where recreational fishing occurs. This allows some developers to just proclaim – since there is no data, then recreational fishing does not occur in those locations – even

though we may know well that the location is a favorite fishing spot.

RISAA is making an attempt to change this and we will likely be asking for your help. No – we will not ask you to give us all of your favorite fishing spots in detail, but we will be asking for input regarding where you fish in general. Maybe giving an area rather than that favorite rock. RISAA made the first attempt at this type of survey information about 2 years ago and that information has helped. We have been in discussions with RI Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) to help better define areas where recreational fishing occurs both in the bays as well as outside in State water. We expect that this cooperative survey will help protect those areas that recreational fishing uses by documenting this existing use. Keep an eye out for this survey in your email and in the RISAA magazine in the near future and please help us document existing and past use by recreational fishing.

MENHADEN COMMENT LETTER

Finally, RISAA did sign on a Menhaden comment letter that was written by the Menhaden Coalition, of which RISAA is a partner. This letter expressed our comments on Draft Addendum I to Amendment 3 of the Atlantic Menhaden Interstate Fishery Management Plan. The letter, on the RISAA website for review, includes comments on all sections of the draft addendum. Some of our concerns included the use of single species models rather than ecosystem-based models for decision making and failure to include updated data for other related species such as Atlantic herring when setting the 2023 total allowable catch (TAC). See the full letter for more information. 🐟

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 November 17 via Zoom.



FISHING FOR NORTH CAROLINA ALBIES

By: Captain Ken Cooper

It's true. You have a fair shot at catching a 20 pound false albacore on fly or spin tackle from the waters surrounding Cape Lookout, North Carolina. I have done just that, and more than once.

Cape Lookout is at the southern end of the Outer Banks. It's adjacent to Morehead City with its bustling industrial port, Atlantic Beach with miles of pristine beaches running south from Morehead City, and Beaufort, a charming little town. The prime fishing location is sometimes referred to as Harkers Island, and indeed there is such a place, and it does have facilities catering to fishermen, but there's a lot more to N.C. albie fishing than Harkers Island.

Light tackle and fly fishing for false albacore around Cape Lookout became popular about thirty years ago when Tom Earnhardt, a fly fisherman, environmental lawyer and professor, wrote an article challenging fly fishers to come to North Carolina to pursue "tuna on steroids." He described the local variety of albies as large, powerful, abundant and eager to eat flies. Word spread, and lots of fly guys and light tackle fishermen made a B-line for Morehead City, Harkers Island and Atlantic Beach in late October and early November, peak albie season.

From personal experience, I can tell you that Professor Earnhardt was pretty accurate in his description. Over the years, I made a half dozen trips to Morehead City, which is about a seven hour drive from my Washington, DC, home. I generally lodged at the Comfort Inn and hired a terrific guide named Bill Harris. I lost contact with Bill years ago and don't know whether he is alive or where he resides. The Comfort Inn is also gone, but you will find many lodging options by searching online, focusing on Morehead City, Atlantic Beach and Beaufort, NC. (As an aside, I will tell you

that the IGFA record bluefin tuna caught on fly tackle came aboard Captain Bill's boat from the waters off Morehead City, and the angler used a fly rod harness designed by Bill. After that catch, the IGFA ruled that no further fly caught records would be certified if the angler used a harness.)

At least for your first trip, I strongly recommend that you hire a local guide. There's a reason that the Outer Banks are called "The Graveyard of the Atlantic." The waters around Cape Lookout in October and November can change on a dime from calm and pleasant to furious and treacherous. As well, sometimes the albies are on the far side of a very long shoal that can be challenging to cross at any time and deadly if you don't know where and how to do it. (Think Block's North Rip under the worst possible conditions, but miles longer.) There is currently a cadre of excellent guides available if you want to chase albies around Cape Lookout. Among the most popular are the husband and wife team

of Brian Horsley and Sarah Gardener. You can book Sarah (Fly Girl Charters) or Brian (Flat Out Charters) at Harkers Island Fishing Center, 1002 Island Road, Harkers Island, NC 28531; tel. (252) 982-6330; email brian.horsley@icloud.com.

When I fished with Captain Bill Harris, he ran a 25 foot Contender. On one of those trips I brought along my friend and fellow RISAA mem-



Author Ken Cooper with a 20 pound false albacore caught in North Carolina a few years ago.

(Continued on page 23)

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Tautog Basics & Some Tips From The Sharpies

By: Captain Dave Monti

Last month ended with a big tautog bang, after two major fall storms (remnants of hurricanes), the bite was on and in a big way. The bite continued right on into October just in time for the possession limit to increase from three to five fish/person on October 15 (see below regulation).

Tautog (or Blackfish) are great eating fish with a white/greyish meat. They are not often sold in fish markets because they are difficult to harvest commercially. Tautog are not caught trawling because they live in structure so most commercial fish are caught in fish traps or by commercial rod & reel fishermen.

Tautog fishing is much like a tug of war. Once you hook one the battle is on to keep it from going into structure. Keep your drag tight. Many times anglers hook up on the bottom when fishing for tautog. My experience is half the time the bottom hook up is caused by a fish that takes the angler's bait into the rocks before they even know it.

Here are some tautog basics and tips from the sharpies.

Tautog regulations. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) regulates recreational tautog fishing.



Personal best: Jamie Wong of Cambridge, MA with a 25" tautog he caught with a snafu rig off Newport.



Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle with a ten pound tautog caught with an orange jig off Bristol, RI.

There are new regulations for tautog fishing this year. Anglers are allowed just one trophy fish, 21" or larger, the minimum size is still 16" and a ten fish boat limit applies for private recreational vessels. The spring season ran from April 1 to May 31 allowing for three fish/person/day, the season reopened August 1 to October 14 with a three fish/person/day limit and then jumps to five fish from October 15 to December 31.

Tautog rigs should have as little hardware as possible to avoid bottom tie-ups. I make single hook rigs with about seven or eight feet of monofilament leader and attach it to the main braid line directly with a dropper loop for a pre-snelled 'Lazar Sharp' brand hook (you need sharp hooks to get through tough tautog lips). The loop is about five inches above the sinker.

To reduce bottom tie ups by 50 percent I use an egg sinker rig when in heavy structure. The egg sinker slides on a small piece of monofilament adorned with red and white beads which has a two-way swivel on each end, a pre-snelled Lazar Sharp hook is attached to the end of the swivel and hangs down about eight inches so you can fish it over heavy structure, down between rocks, have it lay

on a rock or the bottom next to structure.

More and more anglers are using tautog jigs tipped with crab with good success as their go to bait. The jigs are made in a variety of colors mimicking Asian crabs, baby lobsters, green crabs (whole or cut in half).

Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle said, "By far my favorite tautog jig color is orange." Orange actually replicates the color of green crabs once cut in half. Capt. Rob Taylor of Newport Sportfishing Charters said, "White is my favorite go to jig color as it gets the tautog's attention particularly when fishing in deep water."

This month Greg Vespe, RISAA's Executive Director, has an outstanding article in the RISAA magazine on when to use jigs and when to use bait rigs. It is the most informative article on the subject I have read so you don't want to miss it.

Find structure to find tautog. Tautog can be fished from shore or boat and in both cases they like structure (rocks, wrecks, bridge piers, dock pilings, mussel beds, ledges holes and humps along the coast). So, no structure, no tautog.

Boat placement is important. Find structure, estimate wind/drift direction and anchor up current from where you want to fish and drift back to the spot as the anchor is setting. Once in position fish all sides of the boat. Cast a bit to cover as much area as you can. If still no bites let some anchor line out to change your position.

Ralph Craft of Crafty One Customs, Portsmouth, RI, said, "For anglers that do not have an electric motor with spot lock consider turning you engine(s) to change position. It's just one more tactic you can use to change position before moving the boat.



Double trouble: Lucia Wong caught two tautog at the same time while fishing with Capt. Dave Monti.

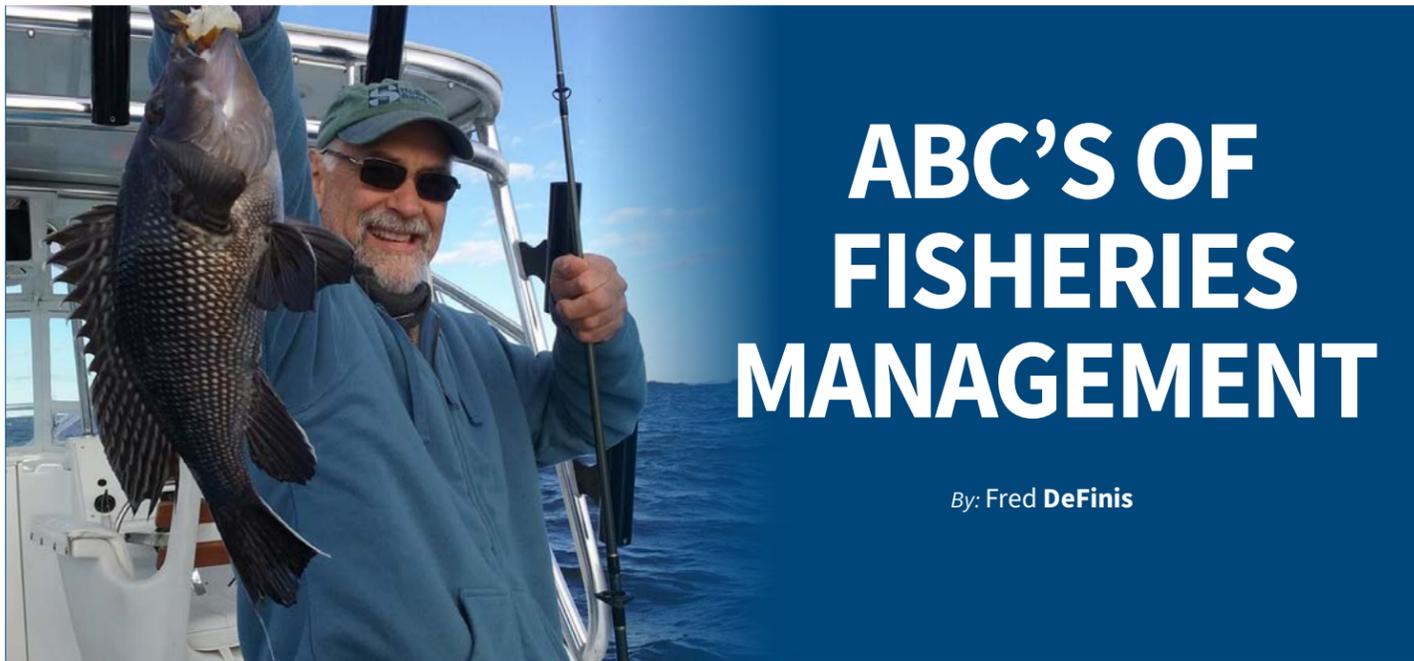


Tautog is good to eat even as sushi, dish prepared and photo by Jamie Wong.

When to change location when there are no bites is always a concern when tautog fishing. You can't catch fish where there are no fish. Capt. Wade Baker of Booked Off Charters, South Kingstown said, "If I have faith that there are big fish in a spot I will stay there for 45 minutes or longer if I believe conditions (such as water movement) are about to improve."

Tautog baits. Green crabs or Asian crabs are the baits of choice in the fall. When using green crabs make it easy for the tautog to bite and take the bait. I like to break off most of the legs and claws leaving one per side on the end, cut the crab in half and hook it through one leg socket and out another. Often times I will even take the shell off to make things easy for the tautog.

Where to fish for Tautog. From shore look for rocky coastline like Beavertail Point on Jamestown, locations off Newport and off jetties along our coastal shore. From a boat I have had good luck at Plum Point light house next to the Jamestown Bridge, the rock jetty at Coddington Cove in Portsmouth, off Hope Island, General Rock in North Kingstown, around Brenton Reef and Seal Ledge off Newport, off Narragansett at rock clusters or the bolder field off Scarborough, Whale Rock, Ohio Ledge in the East Passage and any other place there is structure, debris, rock clusters, wrecks, etc. It's good to find your own spots as popular ones often get overfished.



ABC'S OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

By: Fred DeFinis

Did you ever wonder about all the Federal, regional and state agencies that manage our fisheries and what they do? Here is a brief introduction to the players, who they are, what they do and some basics on how they go about their work.

THE PLAYERS

At the top level we have the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or NOAA. This agency regulates our fisheries under the Magnuson-Stevens Act first passed in 1976 and re-authorized and revised several times since then. As an aside, Janet Coit, former head of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is now Department of Commerce Assistant Administrator and in charge of all NOAA Fisheries.

Next, we have the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission or ASMFC. The purpose of this organization is to manage shared migratory fishery resources in the region. It would make little sense for each state to have widely divergent seasons, size or bag limits given that the fish move from place to place seasonally. ASMFC manages 25 nearshore species in every state on the Atlantic coast.

At the local level we have the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council or RIMFC which makes recommendations to the DEM Director for the management of commercial and recreational fisheries. Generally, the Director will implement the recommendations of the Council.

WHAT THEY DO

In the simplest terms, these agencies are charged with conserving our fisheries resources so that the stocks will be sustainable and not overfished or otherwise threatened. In doing this work they must balance conservation issues with social, economic and environmental impacts—no easy task. A few of their responsibilities:

- Conservation of fisheries resources
- Preservation of fish habitats

- Where necessary, rebuilding of depleted fish stocks
- Promoting fishing in line with conservation principles
- Supporting enforcement at all levels

SOME TERMS TO KNOW

Spawning Stock Biomass SSB - An indicator of the status of the stock of a particular species and its reproductive capacity. It can be defined as the combined weight of all individuals in a fish stock (usually females only) that have reached sexual maturity and are capable of reproducing. When the mortality (through harvest and/or release mortality) of a species exceeds the allowable threshold calculated to preserve SSB, that species is considered over-fished.

Recruitment - Recruitment refers to the process of small, young fish transitioning to an older, larger life stage. Recruitment can be affected by natural causes such as predation, environmental causes such as habitat destruction or water quality or by human causes such as fishing.

Total Allowable Catch TAC - This is the maximum amount of a particular species (usually expressed in tons) that is allowed to be caught in a given year. This limit is set with respect to maintaining the stock in a sustainable condition.

Allocation - As the term implies, regulatory bodies allocate portions of the Total Allowable Catch by state and by segment—i.e. commercial vs. recreational. This process can lead to some heated conflicts.

Conservation Equivalency CE - This is a concept which allows states to develop local regulations based on some proposed trade-offs to achieve the same projected end goal in harvest. For example, a state might propose a shorter season on a species in return for an increased daily possession limit. The state would have to convince the regional regulatory body that their proposed change would not increase the total harvest beyond their allowable allocation of TAC.

THE PROCESS

The condensed version of this process is that fisheries managers estimate the stocks of a particular species based on three factors—Catch, Abundance & Biology. The first is self-explanatory. Abundance measures are taken by scientific sampling to determine the amount and density of a species throughout its range. Biology refers to fish size, health, reproduction, etc.

When regulators have a handle on the condition of the fishery, they determine the Total Allowable Catch for the upcoming year for each species. In doing so, they take into account past harvests and their potential impacts on the species going forward. Once the TAC has been determined, the catch is allocated among the relevant states and then divided between commercial and recreational segments, largely based on historical landings data. Commercial landings are fairly well-known as the harvest is recorded when the fish are sold at market. Recreational harvest is more difficult to pinpoint as regulators use a combination of phone, mail and personal surveys (i.e. intercept interviews at docks, launch ramps, etc.) to get estimates of the recreational take. Some of the drawbacks in estimating the recreational catch are small sample sizes, lack of angler cooperation, regulators using out-of-date data and other reasons. Readers of the “Watch” column in this magazine should be pretty familiar with some of these issues.

Regulating the commercial harvest is relatively simple. When the commercial segment reaches their allocated quota, the fishery is closed. On the recreational side, managers may use a combination of tools to regulate the harvest, including length of season, daily possession limits, size or slot limits and so forth. They may also implement regulations to reduce release mortality such as the recent requirement to use circle hooks when targeting striped

bass with natural bait. Think for a moment about how the 28-35 inch slot limit on striped bass may have affected your fishing this season. How many over-slot fish did you release that might have ended up in the cooler a few years ago? You can feel good knowing that most of those large fish will be breeding the next generation of stripers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

We as recreational anglers are often frustrated at regulations that don't seem to make sense—see Black Sea Bass as an example. Our country has among, if not the best fisheries management in the world but it is not perfect. So, what can YOU do?

Become Informed - Each month the RISAA magazine has one or more articles on the state of our fish stocks and fisheries management. In particular, “The Watch” column by First Vice President Rich Hittinger goes into these issues in depth.

Provide information to fisheries managers - Some anglers erroneously believe they can “game” the system by not cooperating with regulators or by providing misleading information on their catch. This is backwards thinking. According to Executive Director Greg Vespe “We need to be heard as recreational anglers. It is in our best interests to be sure that we provide all the information we can so that we get our fair share of the allocation”. Participate in interviews and surveys when asked. Also, use AnglerCatch to report your trips whenever possible.

Get Involved - This year, RISAA successfully suggested and supported three important changes in our RI fishing regs—early opening for BSB season, reduced length limit on fluke and protection of trophy tog. In the public input sessions we had over forty RISAA members weigh in on these proposals via Zoom. Imagine

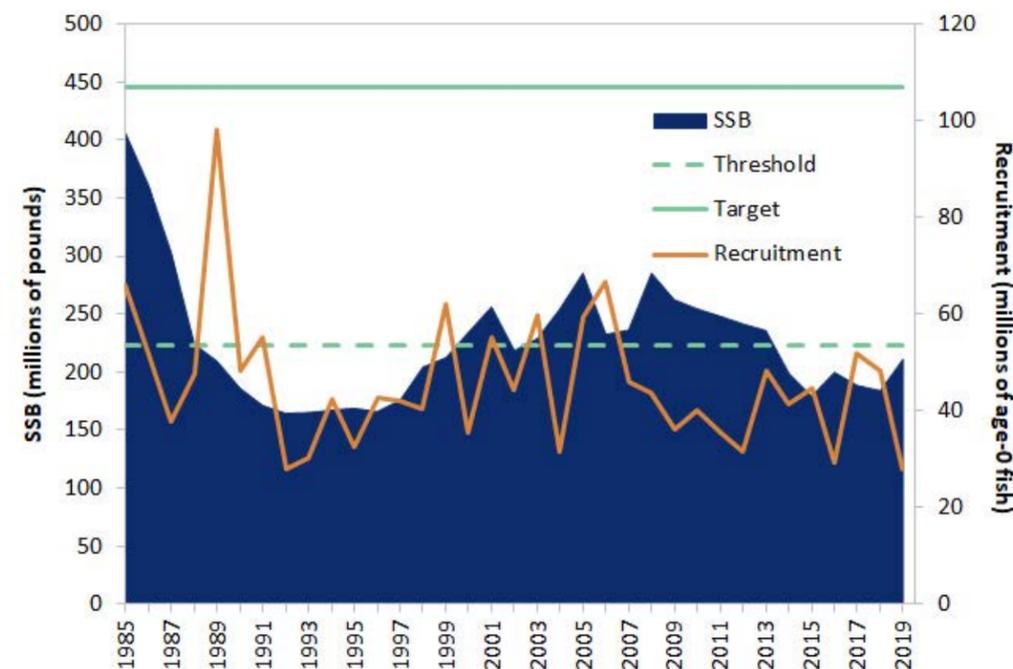
what we could accomplish with two hundred or two thousand voices! Another way to become more informed and support recreational fishing is to join the RISAA Legislative Committee. Meetings are held quarterly on Zoom and cover a range of topics from regulations to shore access.

As in all things regulatory, “Come to the table or end up on the menu”.

This year, RISAA members advocating at the RI Marine Fisheries Council helped secure an earlier start to the black sea bass season.

Bluefish Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) and Recruitment

Source: Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 2021



UPCOMING SEMINAR

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



RISAA PRESENTS "AN EVENING WITH CHARLEY"

Shawn Hayes-Costello



This **October 24th at 7 pm** Author, fisherman, historian and classic waterman Charely Soares comes to RISAA for a special Seminar "An Evening with Charley" This is Charley at his best - from covering early childhood memories along our local riverbanks and bridges to experiencing first hand commercial bass fishing in its heyday to the evolution of recreational fishing as we know it today. No one does it better than Charley. Charley's ability to both convey his appreciation of the history our New England fishing culture and interweave the colorful characters he met and often shared a tide with coupled with his ability to look forward to what's ahead is what makes Charley a Crown Jewel of New England fishing scene and we are very much looking forward to this event. This is a seminar that is not to be missed and will only be offered for a limited run on video afterwards. So come out in person and be part of RISAA's October meeting.

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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LET'S BE COURTEOUS OUT THERE!

By: Rich Hittinger



I have seen personally and heard many accounts of behavior by recreational boaters, mostly fishermen, over the past two years that show that there is a lack of common courtesy by some on the water. Please respect our waterways and fellow boaters when you are operating a vessel! RISAA has long promoted courtesy on the water. We have published our RISAA Code of Conduct many times and it is printed again in this magazine. Among other things it states that "Members shall treat other anglers, boaters and property owners with courtesy and respect."

I don't know if it is in any way related to COVID, but it seems that boaters are not paying attention to anyone else at times. Even commercial fishermen have complained to me about fast sportfishing boats flying by them close to their outriggers and then cutting in front of them even in the dark; sometimes even stopping in their path. I have experienced this lack of respect myself. In particular, one Saturday I was fishing on the south side of Block Island for fluke. There were many boats spread out for a few miles and every so often a big boat, like one center console with 4 outboards would move through the crowd at high speed throwing a huge wake and knocking everyone around. I have an 11' beam and we were rocking so hard that the big blue cooler full of ice and seawater was moving around on the deck.

There are also many reports on SNESA about bad actors like the one reporting that a 40' Sportfishing boat was flying in the West Gap, bow way up, screaming along, easily +30 knots. They caught a much smaller boat between the wall and his track. The captain didn't back off throttles one bit, all the way in to center wall. Steep 6' to 7' wake buried his bow, slug of wash over bow into cockpit. Another similar report from the West Gap included a smaller boat intentionally getting on the starboard side of a big boat approaching like that to force him to slow because there were kayaks in the gap that would have been swamped.

From reports that I received, it seems that this problem was very bad in the tuna fleets that assembled out in the Gully and Tuna Ridge areas. I have heard that several Captains have had their rigs run over and cut off. At 150 bucks a rig that doesn't go over too

well. It was so bad that two private boats had their rigs tangled in each other when a third private boat split them and cut a lot of their stuff off, getting it caught in his triple outboards. These stories plus the water bottles and other trash floating indicate that people are forgetting what our mothers told us - "do onto others as you would have them do onto you". That is the Golden Rule - right? Let's not forget it.

Please don't allow this bad behavior become the "new normal". Remember:

- Always give other vessels who are fishing plenty of room to cast and work any fish that they may hook when you operate near them. It will only take you a minute or two out of your way.
- Know the boating rules and follow them! Take a boating safety course.
- When you are moving up on a drift in an area where other boats are working, whether it be fishing for fluke, striper, albies or sea bass either run at a no wake speed or go around, outside of the crowd. If you do it the other guy might do the same.
- If you see birds working the surface don't go running right into the action; rather move up drift and stop so that you will drift down into the area.
- Follow all fishing regulations and keep only the amount of fish that you will use. Never waste our precious resources.
- Keep trash onboard in a place where it can not blow overboard and pick up trash when you can to make our waters nicer for everyone.
- If you see a violation report it to RIDEM at 401-222-3070.

There is much fishing season still left this year so let's see an improvement even before the start of the 2023 fishing season. If we all take a little time and think about what we are doing out there we can make boating and fishing more enjoyable for everyone. Do a good deed and "pay it forward".



Todd Corayer holds a holdover bass.

SIX HOLDOVER STRIPER FISHING TIPS

By: Todd Corayer

The vast majority of striped bass winter in the Chesapeake, Hudson or other mid-Atlantic estuaries after migrating along New England beaches as the much anticipated autumn attraction for surfcasters. A select few might stay in local waters perhaps by choice or just by getting caught feeding too long on herring or bunker and occasionally some insulated souls would hoist a few fish through Southern New England ice on the shortest of days. Lately, we haven't seen much thick ice but stripers are arriving from offshore all the way to Christmas and many are much larger than thin "racers" we typically encounter. If you're hoping to extend your season, here are a few tips to make the most of those short days.

GO BIG, SMALL AND SIMPLE. To survive months of limited forage, overwintering stripers must adapt to less saline waters at low ends of their preferred temperature range and conserve precious calories. They will make the most of an opportunity while other times, sit and watch, so I pack a series of pearl, white, yellow, and green over yellow or orange plastics in the four to six inch range on 1/8 to 1/4 ounce jig heads. Something simple as having a paddle tail versus a thin split tail can make the winning difference. I also carry six to eight inch plastics in dark colors and a box of grub imitations. Being close cousins, white perch often feed near stripers. Both can be caught when jigging. Low and slow is winter truth but when my Lowrance shows me fish and there's no bite, it's best to jig and jig fast to trigger natural lateral line reactions. I also keep several patterns of inexpensive rattling largemouth crankbaits and divers. A small, bright, loud, wiggling fish cruising through sunny shallows might be the ticket. Swap out those cheap trebles for singles to make releases quick and easy.

PACK LIGHT. There's no benefit to having cases of summer lures; bass know what to expect in salty rivers and ponds and it's not a 10" hard plastic squid imitation. Late season trips are short. Fish can be stubborn and we are easily drawn to the sirens smell of distant woodstoves while shivering fingers try to tie a double surgeon's knot. If you kayak fish, clip the paddle to your vest, secure rods with bungee type chords and have a few charcoal activated hand warmers. They are the best ten bucks you might spend all winter. Keep weight to a minimum, which limits your reaching around for something, risking a flip.

PLEASE, PLEASE RELEASE ME. More people and fish are staying here later and later each year. If you find fish, there's a chance someone else did also. Word will spread quickly. Pressure on holdovers will increase. Vehicle and foot traffic will increase. The number of fish removed will increase. NO TRESPASSING signs will return. Nature is keeping more fish here than in decades past to feed and breed in the spring. Before holdover populations take a hit, please release them carefully. Gills and eyes are terribly fragile in cold air so either forgo the picture, take a water shot or be ready to shoot and release. When you realize how cold your hands are, think about those thin fish gills. Like many of us, they're just trying to get through a long winter.

DON'T DENY. Our environment is changing, whether you cast from a donkey or an elephant. If you are fortunate to find a bluebird day with air and water in the mid-forties and stripers blitzing on peanut bunker, it's easy to understand our waters are changing also. Approach like a trout angler. Take a moment, look around, see everything. Take mental notes. Small environmental details

or presence of other species might make you a better angler and over time, paint a picture of change. Write your notes when you're home by the fire. We humans are very successful using rear view mirrors to see where we went wrong but we should see things changing right now, regardless of who you blame or what you want to deny.

“Releasing a pretty winter fish may be the highlight of your winter.”

BE SAFE. This is no tip at all, it's a mandate. No six pound bass, fresh or salt, is worth tipping over or falling over. December green rocks remain slippery rocks. There are less sea wall walkers or Weekapaug Fire District rental cops harassing bundled up beachcombers to alert if something goes sideways. Fishing is supposed to bring us joy, relief, peace, excitement and overly exaggerated stories, not some brisk risk to be an internet hero. Your social media followers won't follow you when you bang your head on a gunwale getting into some old icy pram. PFD technology has created lightweight horseshow type inflatable styles and traditional vests with enough pockets and zingers to keep us occupied when fishing is slow. Brite Strike Technologies produces APAL lights which are affordable, crushable, adhere to anything, last for years and can be seen for miles. I carry a half dozen in my PFD and kayak. Have lights, a whistle and an emergency blanket like a SOL HD. If you go over, you need to restore core temps rapidly. Keep a bag with bulky sweatpants, sweatshirts and wool socks in your vehicle to fit over wet clothes. Wading out chest deep in July pales in some dim December sunlight, especially if you slip. After failing to fully zip a PFD while on patrol with his Coast Guard unit, my younger brother was tested in icy Jonesport, Maine waters. They heaved him overboard. Short story long, he was unable to bring a simple zipper up one inch. That's reality and a sober reminder that we aren't as tough as we think we are when water and air combine to overrule our internal systems. Late season fishing begins with choosing the right day.



Lunch break on the water with Eddy Stahowiak.

BE THANKFUL. Most of all, we are four seasons fortunate to fish where we do. The more grateful we are for our environment and all nature provides, the more inclined we are to protect it. Releasing a pretty winter fish may be the highlight of your winter.

Todd Corayer is a lifelong fisherman and occasional hunter surrounded by outdoorsmen and women whose stories and passions help his words fit together like puzzle pieces. Read more New England fishing reports, stories, regulatory updates and introductions at www.fishwrapwriter.com



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TIPS, TRENDS & PREPARING FISH DISHES WITH CHEF SCOTT CRAIN



Executive Chef Scott Crain is not only a well known local Kayak fishermen but he is equally regarded as an excellent chef so get ready as this November Scott will bring his love for all things fish to RISAA as our Seminar Speaker. Scott will cover what he sees as Trends in Seafood Cooking, tips on fish prep and handling as well as practical seafood cooking advice and a few favorite recipes. Find out what fish species he most likes to prepare, which ones he finds difficult and what fish are under appreciated here in New England. If you take pride in not only your fishing skills but your ability to transform your catch into something better special then this is the seminar for you.



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.

CANYON LESSONS

By: John Stavrakas

I was in Pittsburgh Mon - Wed on business and looking at the weather for Fri - Sat. The ongoing bigeye bite at the WHOI buoys near West Atlantis had my attention. I started working on setting up a crew. I ended up short handed with only one taker, heading offshore Friday at noon on my 31 Albemarle. Just me and my buddy looking to get in on the bigeye bite.

We arrived on site before four o'clock and started jigging along with 15 - 20 other boats. The bite had shut down and nobody was doing much of anything. After six hours of jigging, we decided to head over to the fish tails to chunk for yellowfin.

On site at the fish tails, the fleet was hooking up with a few fish here and there. We sent out our rigs, filled a bucket with chunks, and I settled down for a nap. The far rod went off and we were tight. I was running from the helm to the cockpit keeping the fish out from under the boat and helping my buddy cinch up the belt, etc. The reel had just been packed with fresh line and when we got the fish close to the boat, my buddy had not done a good job spreading the line and it jammed in the reel. My gloves, which I had left out, were missing. I leaded the fish bare handed and of course it took off and I got burned. We got the fish close, I reached out with the gaff and sunk it in the back of the fish, but I was over extended and couldn't hold it as it took off with my new gaff in its back. We got the fish back to the boat, the reel jammed again (@#%&), my buddy pulled line off the reel, leaving slack in the line, and the fish was gone. That was our only bite for the trip.

We kept chunking until 7:30 with no luck, the weather had kicked



up (very different than forecast - no surprise) and decided to head back, maybe try for some mahi. Making only fifteen knots into a head sea, we beat towards Point Judith. We stopped at one lobster pot but the mahi weren't cooperating. Halfway to home, near Ryan's Horn, we stopped for a comfort break. I smelled something burning and started looking around. It was coming from the engine room. The port voltage meter was reading zero and the battery meter on the panel was reading high (14.5V). I shut the port engine down. Looking into the engine room, I didn't see anything obvious and nothing alarming (smoke, fluids, water...). I started the port engine and the voltmeter was reading normal but I had no propulsion. The engine was not going into gear. Maybe the transmission solenoids I had replaced over the winter burned up? Who knows - that's for another day to figure out. The next fifty miles was made at 10 knots with Sea Tow meeting us at the west gap to help us back into the marina.

Lessons learned: canyon fishing shorthanded is very challenging, never never leader a fish bare handed (if I had gloves on I could have held the fish better and maybe had a better gaff shot), wait for a good gaff shot (don't over reach on a big fish), don't over pack the reel with line, if the reel jams put the boat in gear and let the fish pull line off without giving slack, expect things to go wrong and be prepared.

Diagnostics at the dock the following day revealed that all the transmission fluid had leaked out of the port transmission (that was what we were smelling). The port transmission is blown. More bad news. 🐟



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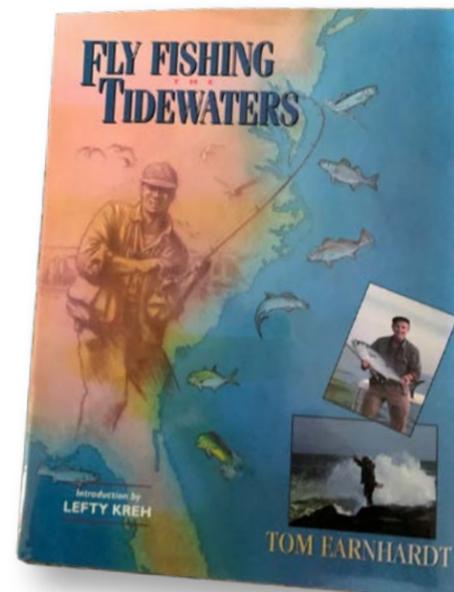
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Fly Fishing the Tidewaters
by Tom Earnhardt is introduced by Lefty Kreh.

ber Ben DeMario (now Captain Ben of Watch Hill Charters), and we put a big hurt on our hands and arms clobbering outsized albies. I used fly tackle, Ben used spin, and together one day we landed sixty—yes, 60!--albies that averaged fifteen pounds. As usual, Ben outfished me; I think the final score was 36 to 24. Most were caught casting to busting fish, but many were caught dropping an olive over white Clouser Deep Minnow fly into a boiling mass of albies swirling around the chum bag hanging off the aft corner of Bill's boat. (Bill never left the ramp without at least two blocks of frozen spearing for chum.) That banner day was not so unusual. When the bite was on, it was really on. If fishing was slow, the chum slick reliably livened things up.

The primary baitfish during N.C. albie season are spearing/silversides and cigar minnows. The same flies and lures that are effective off Newport and Watch Hill work well around Cape Lookout, but you may want to bring flies that are at least three to four

inches long and tied on 1/0 or larger hooks. Nine and ten weight fly outfits are appropriate. On one trip with a different guide, I opted to demonstrate my skill with an eight weight. That turned out to be a foolish mistake: An 18 pound albie almost spooled me before we were able to give chase and catch up to that fish. For spin tackle, a seven foot, medium heavy rod paired with a 4000 size reel spooled with twenty pound braid is just right. If the albies are attacking balled up cigar minnows, then in addition to Albie Snax, try throwing a bone colored Rebel Jumpin' Minnow plug (with upgraded hooks and split rings) for explosive surface strikes.

Because the weather is so changeable, ideally you should plan to have three days on site. If you get blown off open water, there is inshore fishing for speckled trout and redfish. There is also a reasonable shot at catching an albie from shore. One of the guide services will ferry fishermen to the Shackelford Banks near The Hook (part of Barden Inlet that is adjacent to the Cape Lookout Lighthouse) where one can fish the surf in the company of wild horses (similar to the wild ponies of Assateague Island, Virginia).

There is so much more to fishing the Cape Lookout area than chasing after albies around Halloween. There is usually a run of Atlantic Bonito in the early spring, and a shot at large bluefin tuna offshore in the late fall. In between, you can target bull redfish, cobia, amberjack, and even tarpon, just to name a few of the species that ply the waters. But, if you want that albie of a lifetime, Cape Lookout is the place to be. 🐟

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.



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“TO JIG OR TO RIG?”

What’s really the best technique to use when pursuing tautog?

By: Greg Vespe

When I was kid, Tog fishing was relatively simple: you used a conventional rod, a sinker, a Virginia style blued Tog hook and a crab. The only decision to make at all was in the spring some guys used sandworms and a few used clam strips in place of the crab. Fast forward 40 years to today when few things bring about more passionate discussion than Tog tactics and the use of tog jigs or tog rigs.

Tog jigs and their use has exploded over the last 5 -10 years to where it’s so mainstream that nearly every major tackle manufacturer has some version and even better many small home town jig makers have sprung up each with a slightly different hook or body style/color choice to help keep anglers supplied with jigs. Not to mention the specialized rods and gear that has now hit the market.

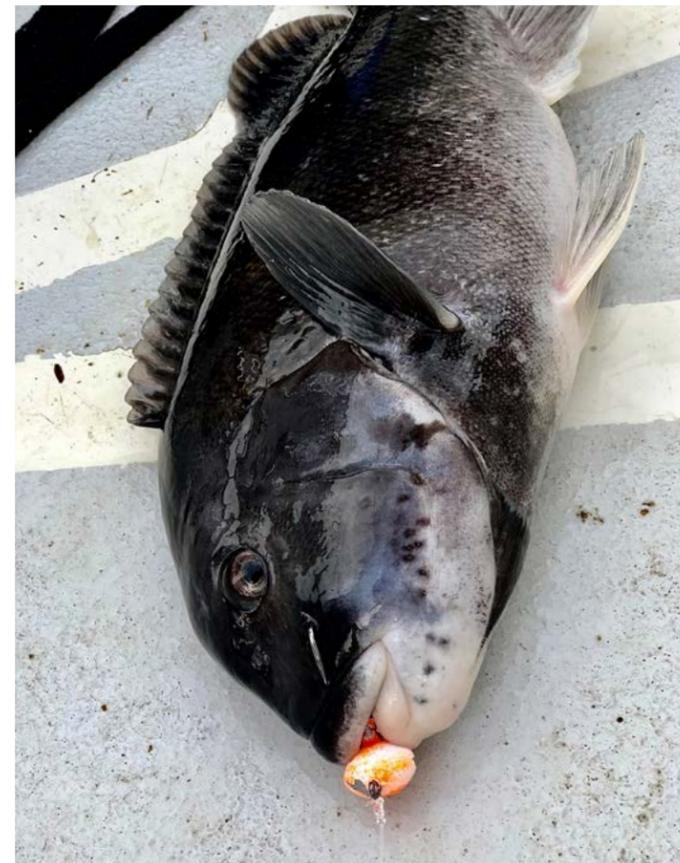
At the same time even Tog rigs have gotten considerably more sophisticated, rarely do you see a Virginia blued hook being used. Nowadays slider rigs, SNAFU Rigs, varying length high/low, Sammy rigs and even simple “low rigs” now dominate the rig market. Octopus or straight eyed Gami, Owner or Aydea hooks have all replaced the Virginia blued hook. The original theory was the Virginia hooks held up well in rocks and weren’t prevalent to snagging (both true). The downside was the hook cant dull much against the rocks if its already dull in the first place, and the small narrow gap on a Virginia hook doesn’t give one much grabbing range as it exits a Togs mouth, so onto better hooks we went.

By now most of us have either seen or heard of days where jigs or rigs outperformed the other by leaps and bounds. ”It was strictly a jig bite today” or “rigs clobbered jigs” can often be heard as anglers exit boats or as described on social media on a daily basis.

So what’s an angler to do? Become a Jig only disciple as have many or stick to a newer version of the old standby Tog Rig? To start I will say it’s my belief just as there is no perfect boat for all conditions, there is no perfect choice for tog. But let’s take a closer look and see if we can make some sense of it. Let’s start with the newcomer, the Tog Jig, and take a closer look. For starters jigs when baited with a crab, place the crab directly on the bottom

where a tog might normally expect to find a crab ... not mysteriously floating 6” to over a foot above the bottom. Second, with the right rod and line you can feel anything that makes the crab (and thus jig) move even the slightest amount which gives the experienced angler a better idea on when to set the hook and when to allow it to remain in wait of a Tog. Jigs are usually tied directly to the leader – although some anglers will use a snap or clip especially at first until they feel out the conditions and settle on the right weight jig for that day. Additionally, when fishing in a mild current an angler can with small lifts of the rod tip “walk the jig” (and the crab) down current mimicking a crab crawling along the bottom to its next hiding place. Crabs on jigs don’t windmill in the current and sit perfectly still unless disturbed by either angler or fish. It is also much less common to lose your crab without being aware of it happening with a jig. Shallow water situations, as in spring and early fall fishing, allow for jigs to be pitched up and away from the boat, which at times is a more comfortable situation for the angler. I know I have never felt like fishing a rig directly under a boat in 10 or 12 ft of water. Jigs avoid this. Jigs can also be pitched under or at piers and dock pilings from a distance allowing for a stealthy approach

The down side. Once the jig lands, if it happens to end up in a location that isn’t very visible, you have to hope that a tog happens to swim directly over it to see it... Secondly if it lands in even an inch or two of mung or weed it can literally be swallowed up by schmutz and won’t be found. The other limitation is that at some point either due to current or depth, controlling jig placement becomes more difficult, or you end up drifting the jig back down to “somewhere – parts unknown”. This is probably fine if you are over a boulder field or gravel bay, but not so great if you are fishing a very particular piece of structure or wreck. Depth at some point becomes an enemy as it takes more specialized gear, a heavier jig and a much more refined feel to ably detect a bite in 60 – 70 or 80 ft. of water on a jig. The other down side is while good for boat or dock fishing using a jig is difficult from shore, especially where significant distance is needed on the cast to reach tog water... waves



often can toss the jig around and feel can be very limited.

Now let’s look at rigs. There are now entire articles and then some that can be written just about rig set ups. Let’s look at rigs and where they shine. Rigs can effectively be attached to nearly any sinker weight needed which allows an angler to compensate for large and varying amounts of current and tide by correct sinker choice. This is ideal for a wreck or heavy cover where you don’t want a rig drifting or sliding into a hang. 6, 8, 10 or even 12 oz. sinkers can be used on rigs, and since the hook is connected above the sinker feel can still be maintained despite the heavy weight. Conversely, jig weight eventually affects the anglers feel as eventually the jig becomes too heavy to fish functionally and remember the tog needs to move the jig for a bit to be felt. Rigs allow for an angler to choose hook size and replace a hook as needed whereas the jig eventually needs to be replaced entirely. Rigs can be ideal for larger crab baits as the hook size can be increased and or a second hook as either slider rig or a SNAFU rig provide can be used on same bait High/low rigs allow a bait to be presented higher up in the water column which increases visibility (at times to one’s detriment) to all fish in the area. As well as depending on where the rig lands allows for a bait to remain visible even if the low bait is swallowed up by bottom cover. Sinker/hook rigs can also be cast well past the surf line by a shore based angler where a jig tends not to have enough weight to allow for long distance casting.

The downside, no rig allows the crab to be flat on the bottom like a jig, as even if tied just off the sinker connection most sinkers of any size stand up when the line is kept taught which brings the

hook eye several inches off the sea floor. Hooks on even short leaders tend to allow the crab to float around a bit and in current this can produce a pinwheel effect and appear unnatural as well as rapidly washout the crab. Crabs can be picked off the hook easier with a rig as small fish can surround the floating bait and bang it back and forth without ever actually producing enough tension for the angler to be aware of what’s happened.

Where I fall in the debate. I have my preferences but I also keep my eyes open. If I’m using a rig and the two guys next to me are smoking them on jigs... well, momma didn’t raise a fool. In general here’s how I decide what approach I tend to select. When fishing in less than 40 feet of water and in moderate or lighter tide, I tend to prefer and start with jigs. If I come up with serious weed/shmutz covering my jig then I may re-think that. When fishing near or on a wreck or very sticky bottom. I tend to prefer a rig as it allows me to drop and hold tight rather than scope out drift into a snag. 40 and 60 foot depths are more about how I’m feeling. As long as the tide isn’t ripping and beyond 60 feet, I almost always tend to favor a rig of some sort. Aside from depth and current, the other time I tend to prefer a rig is tournament time when using larger baits as I feel a pair of larger octopus style hooks allows for greater hook-up potential.

In the end each angler has to consider what gear he or she possesses and if they are better off sticking with a particular approach based on that, along with water depth, current, etc. Hopefully this article gives you a starting point when deciding how to approach the day’s fishing the next time you go togging.




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BLACK SEA BASS

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**
1. Capt. Richard Hittinger..... 6.10 lbs
 2. Capt. TJ Harris 6.01 lbs
 3. Paul Boutiette..... 4.54 lbs

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. Domenic Bianco 2.87 lbs
 2. Luke Lamson..... 2.80 lbs
 3. Flynn Jansen..... 2.56 lbs

- SHORE DIVISION - ADULT**
1. Michael Tilelli..... 2.29 lbs
 2. No Entry
 3. No Entry

- SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. No Entry
 2. No Entry
 3. No Entry



BLUEFISH

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**
1. Thomas Houde 13.05 lbs
 2. Stephen Skenyon 12.50 lbs
 3. Michael Epstein..... 11.20 lbs

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. Domenic Bianco 12.33 lbs
 2. Nolan O'Connell 2.63 lbs
 3. No Entry

- SHORE DIVISION - ADULT**
1. John Migliori..... 13.32 lbs
 2. Gil Bell 13.06 lbs
 3. Dan Gingras 12.02 lbs

- SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. No Entry
 2. No Entry
 3. No Entry



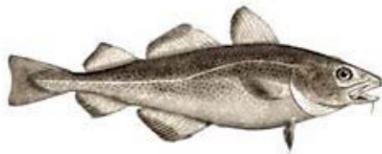
BONITO

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**
1. David Garzoli..... 9.30 lbs
 2. Ronald Lynch 4.38 lbs

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. No Entry

- SHORE DIVISION - ADULT**
1. No Entry

- SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. No Entry



COD

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**
1. Paul Boutiette 7.78 lbs
 2. No Entry
 3. No Entry

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. Flynn Jansen..... 3.30 lbs
 2. No Entry
 3. No Entry



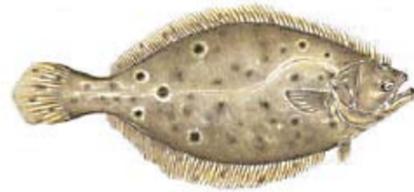
FALSE ALBACORE

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**
1. Ronald Lynch 7.56 lbs

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. No Entry

- SHORE DIVISION - ADULT**
1. Michael Tilelli 11.16 lbs
 2. Ronald Lynch 9.00 lbs
 3. Michael Lynch 7.14 lbs

- SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. No Entry



FLUKE

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**
1. John Meserve 12.00 lbs
 2. Jack Guarnaccia 9.75 lbs
 3. Joseph Medeiros 9.66 lbs

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. Tucker Jansen..... 8.70 lbs
 2. Hayes Jansen..... 5.24 lbs
 3. Nick Duda..... 3.46 lbs

- SHORE DIVISION - ADULT**
1. Michael Tilelli 2.20 lbs

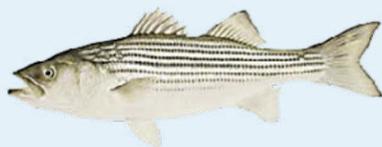
- SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. No Entry



HADDOCK

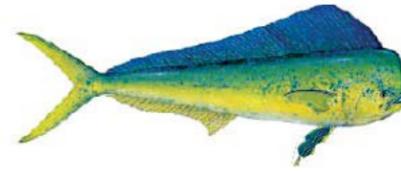
- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**
1. No Entry

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. 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.



MAHI MAHI

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**

1. No Entry
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**

1. Hayes Jansen 1.34 lbs
2. Flynn Jansen..... 1.06 lbs



POLLOCK

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**

1. No Entry
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**

1. No Entry
2. No Entry
3. No Entry



TAUTOG

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**

1. Karlis Kaugars 10.00 lbs
2. James Manzo 9.74 lbs
3. Greg Vespe 9.24 lbs

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**

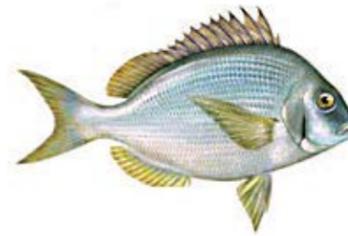
1. Tucker Jansen 3.44 lbs
2. Hayes Jansen 3.44 lbs
3. Flynn Jansen 2.66 lbs

- SHORE DIVISION - ADULT**

1. John Migliori..... 6.96 lbs
2. Richard Reich 5.88 lbs
3. Normand Morrisette 5.13 lbs

- SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR**

1. No Entry



SCUP

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**

1. Robert Sangster..... 3.72 lbs
2. Joseph Saltamachia..... 2.62 lbs

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**

1. Domenic Bianco 1.44 lbs
2. Flynn Jansen..... 1.32 lbs
3. Hayes Jansen 1.10 lbs

- SHORE DIVISION - ADULT**

1. John Migliori..... 2.64 lbs
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

- SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR**

1. No Entry
2. No Entry
3. No Entry



SEA ROBIN

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**

1. Peter Chang 2.69 lbs
2. Greg Vespe 1.98 lbs
3. Barbara Audino..... 1.62 lbs

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**

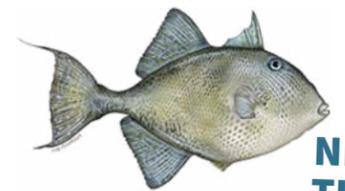
1. Tucker Jansen 1.78 lbs
2. Luke Jansen 1.72 lbs
3. Flynn Jansen 1.22 lbs

- SHORE DIVISION - ADULT**

1. John Migliori..... 2.76 lbs
2. Michael Tilelli 1.70 lbs

- SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR**

1. Luke Lamson 1.28 lbs



NEW THIS YEAR!

GRAY TRIGGERFISH

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**

1. Bill Hubert..... 2.76 lbs
2. Capt. Stephen Skenyon 2.30 lbs

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**

1. Luke Lamson 3.40 lbs

- SHORE DIVISION - ADULT**

1. No Entry

- SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR**

1. No Entry



TUNA - BLUEFIN

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**

1. No Entry

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**

1. Luke Lamson..... 48.52 lbs



TUNA - ALBACORE

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**

1. No Entry

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**

1. No Entry



TUNA - YELLOWFIN

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**

1. No Entry

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**

1. Luke Lamson 13.22 lbs

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DEM/ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE ARREST & CITATION LOG

**Arrest = Individual charged criminally with violations under the jurisdiction of the Rhode Island District or Superior Court or charged through Administrative Adjudication civil procedures by DEM.*

**Any indication of an arrest does NOT mean the individual identified has been convicted of a crime.*

**All persons arrested are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Incidents are listed in chronological order as they occurred through the month.*



- LI, Jimin**, 37, of Malden, MA, for Possession of Undersize Black Sea Bass
- CHEN, Jie**, 37, of Lexington, MA, for Possession of Undersize Black Sea Bass
- HOPKINS, Jonathan R.**, 65, of South Kingstown, RI, for CRMC Violation
- ZHANG, Junzhong**, 35, of Rocky Hill, CT, for Possession of Undersize Tautog and Exceeding Daily Limit of Tautog
- SILVEIRA, Joao Cardoso**, 51, of Boston, MA, for Possession of Undersize Tautog, Possession of Undersize Black Sea Bass, & Possession of Undersize Scup
- GRANADOS, Rigoberto**, 46, of Chelsea, MA, for Possession of Undersize Scup, Possession of Undersize Black Sea Bass, Exceeding Daily Limit of Black Sea Bass.
- LUNDHOLM, Cullen M.**, 33, of East Sandwich, MA, for Commercial Fishing Without a License, Failure to Declare Vessel, and Operating a Charter Boat Without a License
- WOODS, Jonathan B.**, 41, of New York City, NY, for Possession of Oversize Striped Bass
- SOTO AREVALO, Orlando**, 49, of Framingham, MA, for Possession of Undersize Striped Bass (2 Counts) and Exceeding the Daily Limit of Striped Bass
- ZHENG, Zhong G.**, 61, of Quincy, MA, for Possession of Undersize Striped Bass (6 Counts) and Exceeding the Daily Limit of Striped Bass
- RAPOSO, Antonio E.**, 71, of East Providence, RI, for Possession of Undersize Tautog and Exceeding the Daily Limit of Tautog
- MEDEIROS, John J.**, 53, of Pawtucket, RI, for Exceeding the Daily Limit of Bluefish
- MEDEIROS, Arlene**, 33, of Pawtucket, RI, for Exceeding the Daily Limit of Bluefish

The following is a breakdown of the citations issued for the period of: September 2022

*Individuals receiving citations have been civilly charged with violations under the jurisdiction of the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal.

VIOLATION CITATIONS ISSUED

State Property Violations	27
(Parking, Alcohol, Disorderly Conduct, Dumping/Littering, etc.)	
Motor Vehicle	8
Boating Violations	15
ATV Violations	0
Freshwater Fishing Violations	0
Saltwater Fishing Violations	11
CRMC Beach Violations	0
Hunting Violations.....	1
Total	62

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE THROUGH OUR DISPATCH CENTER: 2,026

WARNINGS ISSUED: Verbal or Written
Warnings issued to first-time offenders for a de minimis violation. Corrective action was taken at the scene and/or the occurrence was utilized as an educational opportunity in lieu of a summons. **TOTAL: 114**

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*If you would like more information or would like to join a committee contact:
Greg Vespe - vespe@risaa.org*

CLIMATE IMPACTS ON FISHING

Last month RISSA sent along comments to the East Coast Climate Change Scenario planning team. The core team members include all three East Coast Fishery Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and NOAA Fisheries.

The planning team conducted a workshop this summer with 70 commercial and recreational fishers, scientists and fish managers from states and regions to identify what impacts climate may have on fishing and habitat twenty years from now.

RISAA board member Dave Monti attended the meeting. Here are highlights of RISAA's board approved letter sent to the core planning team by Greg Vespe, Executive Director.

First, we believe climate change is and will have a profound impact on recreational fishing. With all the uncertainty ahead, we emphasize that abundant, healthy fisheries should still be the goal of management.

New arrivals. Fish stocks arriving in new areas due to climate impacts will experience an explosion at first, plenty of food, limited predators, but the boom may not last for 20 years, things even out so need a scenario like this. This could possibly happen in each of the scenarios.

What will things be like 20 years from now i.e. striped bass spawning in New England, BSB biomass in Canada?, etc. Very hard to predict. Not enough of this visioning was integrated into the scenarios.

Recreational fishing is at a big disadvantage as we have data poor stocks already i.e. bonito, false albacore with little research done to date as they are not commercially harvested versus science now available on summer flounder, scup, black sea bass and other fish that are commercially harvested.

Does all this fish movement mean species will be spawning in different places i.e. striped bass and will we have the habitat and spawning grounds to support them, and how can we get ahead of things and plan for the use of new spawning grounds? This will occur in each of the scenarios.

Protected species/mammals are expected to be greatly impacted i.e. whale collisions in northeast with rec boaters/fishers this summer.

In all scenarios recreational fishing is taking it on the chin as access points are disappearing due to sea level rise, habitat degrading, etc. Even with the best case scenario of good/accurate science and healthy stocks access points are disappearing with urban anglers suffering most and social environmental justice becomes a major part of the climate impact discussion as it relates to recreational fishing.

In summary, as part of the solution phase, we need to identify recreational and commercial climate research needs, identify beefed up stock assessments and the frequency of assessments separately so recreational fishing does not take a back seat during final planning and implementation. When impacts were discussed in the past, few from the private recreational community were participating in the process. So few climate change impacts and challenges on recreational fishing made it into the scenarios.

We need to assess climate research and stock assessment needs, put a number to them, and work together to seek funding and get it approved integrating impacts and solutions for private anglers, the charter industry and commercial fishers being mindful of social environmental justice concerns every step of the way.



The carapace of an invasive green crab, and a live green crab from Alaska. Photo by Linda Shaw.

OUR BELOVED GREEN CRAB ACTUALLY COMES FROM EUROPE

The green crabs we use to fish tautog are actually an invasive species that originally came from Europe. NOAA Fisheries has been tasked with tracking this invasive species and this August in an on-line NOAA article reported that the species has now made it into Alaskan waters. Read the article "Green Crab Detected in Alaska for First Time" at www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/green-crab-detected-alaska-first-time.

RI Saltwater Anglers Foundation

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



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AnglerCatch & RI Tautog Classic

By: Captain Dave Monti

This month AnglerCatch, the RISAA sponsored angler smartphone software application, teamed up with the Rhode Island Tautog Classic Tournament on Sunday, October 9.

Greg Vespe, RISAA Executive Director, said, "We came up with the idea of tournament participants using the app to record their tournament catches. And, those showing their recorded and submitted catches to AnglerCatch staff at the tournament party after would get a chance to win a \$650 tautog jigging rig."

Over twenty-five participants attended a special Zoom pre-tournament workshop on "How to Fish a Tautog Tournament" with panelists Jeff Sullivan of Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren; Capt. Robb Taylor of Newport Sportfishing Charters; and Capt. Wade Baker of Booked Off Charters. The panel discussion was facilitated by Greg Vespe and Ralph Craft of Crafty One Customs, tournament sponsors.

Strategies and tactics for fishing a tautog tournament were dis-



cussed followed by a session on how to use AnglerCatch by Chris Cimino of Harbor Light Software. John Lake, Supervising Marine Biologist for the RI Department of Environmental Management, gave an overview of how AnglerCatch supplemental data will be used by the Marine Fisheries Division.

AnglerCatch aims to explore teaming up with other RISSA, affiliate and member tournaments in the future. It is a great way to support fish conservation efforts while improving angler fishing with helpful log data for further fishing trips.

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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 _____
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How did you hear about RISAA?
 Friend Tackle Shop Facebook News Article RISAA Newsletter Fishing Show Web Site
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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)
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 Junior Member: FREE (Up to 17 years. Requires parent membership or a RISAA sponsor)
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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.



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