



# RHODE ISLAND **SALTWATER** *Anglers*

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*IN THIS ISSUE:*

**2022 FALL  
SURFCASTERS  
CHALLENGE**

**FISHING ROD  
EVOLUTION**

Paula Smalec of  
Portsmouth with the  
ten pound Tautog  
she caught and  
released.

**PLUS:**  
FISH WRAP HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE!

ISSUE: 286 • November/December 2022  
[www.RISAA.org](http://www.RISAA.org) • 401-826-2121

## EVENTS & MEETINGS

### DECEMBER

26 RISAA Monthly Seminar  
*Bottom Fish Panel*

### JANUARY

30 RISAA Monthly Seminar  
*Choosing The Right Fishing Rod*

### FEBRUARY

18 RISAA Annual Banquet  
5PM - Quonset Officers Club  
27 RISAA Monthly Meeting

### MARCH

10-12 19 Annual NE  
Saltwater Fishing Show  
27 Seminar - TBD

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Anglers Association

*Published Monthly*

RISAA, PO BOX 299, Tiverton, RI 02878

## FROM THE HELM



# APPRECIATE EVERY FISH

As the 2022 season rapidly winds down and becomes memories to be stored and recalled at a later time over a hot coffee, a cold beer among friends or some quiet time to be recalled years down the road please take time to slow down, enjoy and even appreciate each fish.

For members that fish with me if there is one saying or mantra that I like to be associated with its “appreciate every fish”. It is something I have always done in part because well if you don’t catch very many then it makes sense to give thanks and appreciate what you are fortunate enough to land and partly because I have always had an easy time finding something special about each species and at times individual fish I catch. Be it the beauty of its coloration, its ability to camouflage, its willingness to strike a lure larger than itself or some aspect of its fight or taste there is always something to look at and be impressed with. Moreover I believe every fish we catch, or don’t catch, can teach us something if we allow them to.

Seeing what they respond to, how they approach a bait, other predators and, whether they tend to dive, jump or run upon hooked. If you can learn what fish most often do when hooked... such as do they run down current when hooked (stripers) or up current (dogfish and cobia) or simply everywhere (Albies) can help you anticipate and be prepared for the fish of a lifetime’s fight when you finally get that chance.

Calling out a fish species that I am fighting even before I have seen it remains a favorite thing to do as most fish have a fairly unique way of fighting and if you take the time to enjoy and get a feel for the fight you can most often figure out what you have hooked long before you see it and again it may allow you to adjust your approach to improve the odds of landing it. As an example knowing you having a squeague on the line before you see it definitely allows you the opportunity to soften up your pressure and reduce a hook pull out do to you treating it like a bluefish or a striper.

Just as enjoyable to me is being able to catch a mix of species in a single trip whether bait fishing with the ubiquitous strip of squid or sea clam utilizing a vertical jigging technique I am always thrilled when I can get a nice mix of willing customers. Granted after one or two oyster toadfish, I’m plenty happy to move on to other species, although I did take time to verify on my last trip that at 2.4 lbs. I had just established my new somewhat dubious toadfish record which the Captain I won’t name promptly threw overboard before I could snap a picture and possibly give credit to his skill in finding this behemoth.

Much like the fish I speak of, our members also continue to remind me how special they are, both from a fishing skills standpoint as well as simply being helpful, enthusiastic contributors to our club. Each of us fall somewhere along the continuum of our fishing careers, yet all of us have something to offer each other so until the season is absolutely over... slow down, sip the coffee a bit longer, take in the sights a bit longer and appreciate every fish.

Catch’em up.

Greg **VESPE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RHODE ISLAND SALTWATER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION  
Legislative Committee

## THE WATCH

Reported by: Richard **Hittinger**, CHAIRMAN

# A BUSY YEAR FOR RISAA

*The year is coming to an end and it has been very busy in the RISAA Legislative Committee. The year was full of activities and some policy gains for anglers.*

**Public Access** - As always, we have been keeping a close eye on public access all around Rhode Island and we have been doing what we can to keep parking available and access ways clear for those who want to walk to the shore and take a few casts. Early in 2022 I was invited to make a presentation before the RI House Commission on Beach Access where I was able to tell them how important access is to the citizens of RI and how the RISAA survey showed that 33% of all fishing trips are shore fishing. Although legislation only passed the House and not the Senate in 2022 we are helping to push legislation past both the House and Senate in 2023 that will clarify the rights of the public to access along the shore. On specific sites it seems that we made progress on the Spring Avenue Right of Way in Westerly and we supported the Ocean State dive group to complete some repairs on the Fort Wetherill ramp.

**CRMC**—RISAA continues to communicate regularly with CRMC on a wide range of issues from public access to aquaculture leases to offshore wind energy and cables proposed to run into Narragansett Bay. We look at CRMC as a very important part of regulating the use and potential development of the marine environment in RI and RISAA holds quarterly calls with CRMC leadership. I served on the House Commission to Review the RI CRMC. We wrote a report to the Legislature where we made several recommendations that we believe would improve the structure and operation of CRMC. This activity produced an approved budget item for an in-house Hearing Officer and produced some draft legislation to require CRMC to have in-house legal representation as well as reduce the political influence in final permitting decisions by CRMC. The actual legislation was submitted late in the session and didn’t pass due to the short timing, but we will help push it forward in the 2023 session.

**RI Saltwater Regulations** – RISAA again has been active promoting changes to saltwater regulations and following all regulations that are important to anglers in RI. Early in the year we proposed an earlier opening for black sea bass

and changes for tautog to preserve large breeders. Both of those changes were adopted by RIDEM for the 2022 fishing season. In addition, it looks like the tautog regulations will be adopted by Massachusetts for the 2023 season. This is a great accomplishment when we can influence changes that will benefit RI anglers for many years to come.

**Menhaden** – Thank goodness we are no longer in the middle of “menhaden wars” like we were 15 years ago, but we still work with the Menhaden Coalition to try to protect menhaden and manage them for their value as food for a wide range of predator fish like striped bass, tuna, and others. As with many species we are constantly reviewing actions on the part of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and we have signed on to multiple letters on the topic in 2022. We would like to see the reduction fishery of the Virginia company, Omega Protein further restricted so that more of the menhaden remain in the water as food for other fish, but again that is a constant battle. The ASMFC did allow a significant increase in harvest for 2023 but we expected it because the data on menhaden show populations are increasing.

**Offshore Wind Energy** – Following the disappointing decision by CRMC late in 2021 to permit the construction of South Fork Wind on Cox Ledge we continue to be involved with the CRMC Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB). Our priority focus in 2022 was to review the proposals to run export cables through RI waters to either Quonset Point or to the former Bryton Point Power Station. The FAB has been in active negotiations with CRMC and Orsted, developer of Revolution Wind regarding the high-voltage power cable from Revolution Wind that would enter RI state waters south of Little Compton, run to the northwest, south of Newport and across the opening of the East Passage, south of Beavertail and up the West Passage to Quonset Point. We have also been reviewing the idea of

(Continued on page 10)

# THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filiatreault Wood, CHAIR



## Welcome NEW Members!

- Don Kloss - Colchester, CT
- Christopher Sarro - Newport, RI
- James Lundy - Foxboro, MA
- Joseph Marinello - West Warwick, RI
- David Butterfield - San Diego, CA
- Charles Lawrence - Tiverton, RI
- Anthony Stradone - Narragansett, RI
- Raymond De Rosa - Narragansett, RI
- Thomas M. Lerner - Hope Valley, RI
- Angela Leng - Florence, MA
- Annie Costa - East Providence, RI
- Lilly Costa - East Providence, RI
- Ethan Aguilar - West Greenwich, RI
- Lawrence Holden Jr. - Lincoln, MA

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.



RISAA Member Tom Houde with a nice stringer of tautog.

# MEMBER PHOTOS



New RISAA member from Foxboro MA, Jim Lundy, with a nice striper caught off Common Fence Point.



RISAA Member Marc Pachinco with a very respectable winter tautog.

# 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 <i>No Closed Season South &amp; 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
<i>Federal Waters - RI, CT, &amp; MA - Aug. 1 to May 1: 5 fish - 22" to 28"</i>				
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 (Party /Charter)	10" Min.: 30 fish No Closed Season 9" Min.: 30 fish No Closed Season 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.: 30 fish No Closed Season 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.: 30 fish No Closed Season 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 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) <small>Visit your State's Federal Regulations website for Charter Regulations</small>	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 Oct. 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

By: Paula Smalec

## FISH CHOWDER

Tautog fillets are ideal for this thin, creamy fish chowder recipe, but any firm flesh fish will work well. I use my frozen tautog fillets for this recipe and prepare it throughout the cold winter months.

Cook bacon or salt pork in a large Dutch oven or other heavy pot over medium heat, stirring often, until crisp. Transfer bacon or salt pork pieces to a folded paper towel to drain.

Add butter to drippings in pot. When the butter is melted, add the onion and celery and sauté, stirring occasionally, until soft, 5 - 8 minutes.

Add potatoes, fish stock, and thyme and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until potatoes are tender, 12-14 minutes.

Season fish fillets with salt and pepper and place on top of potatoes. Press fillets down so that they are at least half submerged in the liquid.

Return the liquid to a boil and adjust heat so that it settles down to a simmer.

Cover the pot and simmer until the fish is opaque throughout, 5 - 7 minutes.

Without stirring, add half and half and return to a simmer. Remove the chowder from the heat. Taste and season with salt and pepper, giving the mixture one or two stirs to blend. The more you stir, the more the fish will break apart, so try to blend in the salt and pepper without stirring too much.

Ladle the soup into serving bowls. If desired, sprinkle reserved bacon or salt pork pieces on top and garnish with paprika before serving. 🐟



CREAMY FISH CHOWDER

Recipe is adapted from [www.bonappetit.com](http://www.bonappetit.com)

### Fish Chowder, 6 servings

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 oz. bacon or salt pork, diced
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 large celery stalks, diced
- 2 large Yukon Gold potatoes (approx. 1 lb.), peeled and diced into ½" cubes
- 2 cups fish stock
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
- 1½ pounds firm fish fillets (tautog, cod)
- 3 cups half and half
- kosher salt, ground black pepper, paprika (optional for garnish)

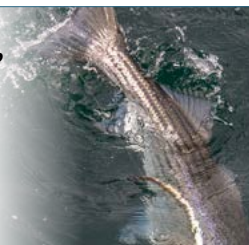
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## Fabulous New Cookbook!

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, Bouchard's, 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*

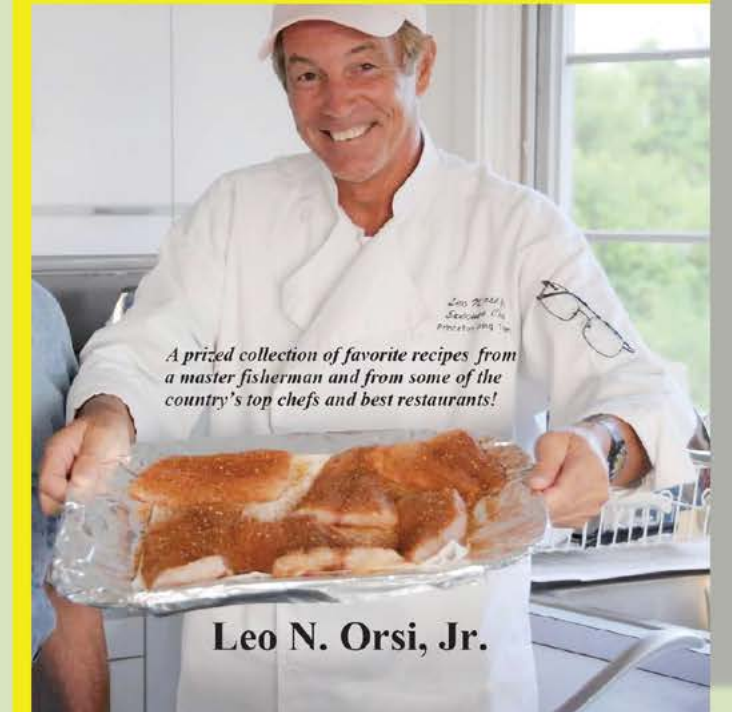
*"Leo Orsi knows that whether making a meal at a fishing lodge, cooking the day's catch, or dining out at a coastal restaurant, food just tastes better after a day on the water. His eclectic collection of coastal recipes is laced with special memories of time spent with friends and family in iconic locations—what 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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running export cables from Mayflower Wind and potentially other OWE projects up the Sakonnet River to reach the former Brayton Point Power Station grid tie-in. We co-sponsored a public meeting in Portsmouth with URI Coastal Resources Center and the Town regarding the potential impacts to the Sakonnet from installation of high-power cables. Our position is that the developer should use a land-based alternative that would land the cable in Westport, MA and run north within existing roadways that are already developed rather than risk potential impact to the Sakonnet which has been shown to be critical habitat for juvenile cod and other fish that are important to Rhode Islanders.

### MISCELLANEOUS

The Mid-Atlantic Marine Fishery Management Council (MAMFC) fluke taskforce on which I served finished our work and submitted a report to the MAMFC and the ASMFC with some ideas about how fluke can be managed to reduce the number of regulatory discards and increase the number of fish that anglers can take home. These recommendations are working their way through the regulatory process and may influence regulations for the 2023 season.

We have been reviewing and commenting on the reallocation process where ASMFC is adjusting the quota split between recreational and commercial fishing for scup, fluke, and black sea bass. These adjusted percentages have been finalized and although they are far short of where they should be to adjust for changes in recreational catch estimating procedures, they did make modest shifts in allowable catch from commercial to recreational fishing.

RISAA, through our RISA Foundation submitted a letter of interest to propose that the former Chase Marina in Tiverton should be used for recreational fishing purposes. We proposed that in conjunction with RIDEM and educational

institutions this facility could be a center for education and research associated with recreational fishing. Although this is not directly a Legislative Committee endeavor we have been active in the base planning to date. We are now waiting to hear back from RIDEM.

We have provided comment on the Harvest Control Rule which is being considered by the ASMFC and the MAMFC. We are in favor of some changes to avoid the situation that we saw in the past 2 years with black sea bass and fluke. With the current management structure, we were allowed increases in fluke catch because we didn't catch more than was allowed and with black sea bass we had to take a reduction because we caught too many. As those of us on the water know, that is because there are many sea bass around and so they are easy to catch but there aren't many fluke so they are relatively hard to catch. This factor cannot be considered under current management but would be considered under the new harvest control rule.

The above discussion is a very brief and incomplete list of activities of the RISAA Legislative Committee for 2022. These are some of the things that your membership in RISAA supports and you are welcome to become a more active contributor to this committee. If you are interested send an email to me at [hitinger@risaa.org](mailto:hitinger@risaa.org) and we will send you the link (via email) to the next Legislative Committee meeting. The next meeting will be in February via Zoom.

### 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 [hitinger@risaa.org](mailto:hitinger@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.

# FISH WRAP HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

By: Todd Corayer

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fish Wrap Holiday Gear and Gift Guide will help you avoid hours squandered wandering crowded mall halls and food courts or squinting at small screens to find perfect holiday gifts for favorite outdoorsmen or women and possibly, a little something for yourself. We tested a lot of gear this year and these are our favorites.

### StickTite Lenses

[www.sticktitelens.com](http://www.sticktitelens.com)

This is one of the coolest outdoor creations ever. If you fish, hunt or hike with corrective or sunglasses or even just with cheaters around your neck, if you need glasses in the tree stand but not to aim, if you have lost a pair of anything overboard, StickTite lenses are game changers. Available in magnifications from 1.25 to 3.0, they arrive smartly packaged, are easily applied, perform precisely as intended and will save you money and junk hanging around your neck. Find that sweet spot on the bottom of your favorite glasses, apply, wait a few minutes then ditch those cheaters. If you have a collection of fancy shades for all occasions, change your outlook in minutes and even swap lenses between glasses. When you gift them, add extra pairs for yourself. Few products have so positively affected my fishing as StickTite Lenses. Starting at \$19.99.



### Garmont T-4 Groove G-Dry boots

[www.garmonttactical.com](http://www.garmonttactical.com)

I made a profound mistake with this test. T-4's were so comfortable out of the box, I neglected to track the usual high and low points normally associated with a critical review. Out the door on a rainy day, it was noon before I realized they were supporting me. The waterproof G-Dry outer quickly eased into comfort mode. The soles are strong and did not slip. They are comfortable, sized properly and secure when fully laced. Uppers are padded and tall enough to keep water out, lower sections have clever details affording them a sporting look with enough grit to serve as workday boots. The coyote color is close to traditional military tan styles but clearly Garmont gave this important detail considerable thought. Surpassing a field of big box store, mediocre outdoor footwear, the T4 has proven to be a solid and comfortable choice for people who need real tactical grade gear without any bs. Starting at \$165.

### Grundens Full Share Pants

[www.grundens.com/products/full-share-pant](http://www.grundens.com/products/full-share-pant)

If you fish in all weather, if you're not seasonal, if you choose gear carefully, if you're not interested in some small print performance disclaimer, then you need these pants. Economy be damned, we need authentic, reliable gear that doesn't fail under pressure. Full Share Pants are made right. That's all I asked from them and they delivered. Cold and wet, hauling in unhappy slot sized bass well past midnight, Full Share Pants have kept me warm, dry, and protected from fins and rough scales. Grundens respect for high quality and weather resilience has been incorporated into Full Share pants and not for nothing, they're handsome with deep pockets and web belt that easily holds a knife. If you must leap from boat to bar, they'll look pretty good during after-hours story stretching. They also arrived in a smart compostable bag but most importantly, I trust them. Starting at \$129.99.




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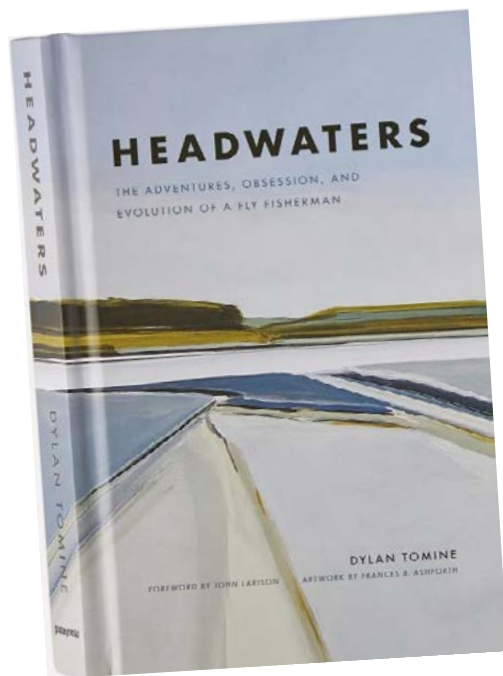


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**Headwaters, The Adventures, Obsession, and Evolution of a Fly Fisherman by Dylan Tomine**

[www.patagonia.com](http://www.patagonia.com)

It's immediately clear Mr. Tomine has survived, contemplated and reckoned with so many positives and costs for being an obsessive fly fishing waterman. Destination anticipation, wind knots, hatchery damage, low waters, mammoth browns, bug bites and missed careers play roles in his assemblage of memories and magazine posts from the Carmel, American, Situk, Stillaguamish, Ventura and other rivers. "Today, as a growing percentage of our country seems intent on ignoring scientific fact, the support for hatcheries remains," he writes remorsefully. His researched and disdain for hatchery fish polluting wild waters and ancestral gene pools runs through his works as he sacrifices family, work and friends to find more wild fish on the fly. Read Mr. Tomine's book to learn real numbers proving declines of native fishes, clean waters and open land crippled by increases in apathy, sprawl and ignorance for Native American values. Read it to understand emotions, reflections, and acceptance of honest life screw ups. Read it to float on western rivers and Russian trout streams, to hear cold rain and snow tinkling off a tent then get city water thrown in your face for not being part of the solution. It's made clear, catch and release will not reverse or cure a failing fishery or streams of ignorant regulators and anglers. Anglers, not watermen.

After reading Headwaters, I found myself pondering his threadbare question: "All of which leaves us where?" Headwaters is the right gift for anyone who knows of iced gloves hauling back February steelhead and for anyone who wishes to feel that burn. It is a fine gift to remind us all how life evolves and how far we need to go to return some balance to waters we say we love. Published by Patagonia Works, \$27.95.



**Go Sun Sport E**

[www.gosun.co](http://www.gosun.co)

"Really?" "No way." "You have to be kidding me." "There's just no way." I said all of that as my Go Sun Sport E cooked pizza strips on a cloudy tailgate. With a damp south wind, laundry stayed wet all day but the Go Sun gathered heat and cooked lunch. This clever invention harnesses reflected sun rays to cook food and heat water. It will change our outdoor cooking options in places with little or no power or honestly, it's fun to cook in the backyard, or driveway as it were, without plugging in. It was easy to set up, has only a few essential parts and basic how-to's. It sits on a sturdy metal frame, should be turned to follow the sun (yes, they provide a guide for that) and packs into a travel case.

As we consumers demand more of the grid then complain about alternative energy technologies bothering our views, the Go Sun is a simple, smart, practical alternative that heats to 550°. Tailgating? No need to carry charcoal or tuck a hot grill under your car at game time. Backyard lounging? Load in bread, veggies and some sauce and relax while the sun takes care of the cooking. Apps, tenders and dips will be ready in short order. And you can even boil water for coffee or tea. Truth be told, on that cloudy damp day, with almost no sunshine and thick overhead clouds, I was getting hot pepperoni grease on my keyboard in less than 15 minutes. That's real world right there. If you get way, pack a Go Sun Sport E; it weighs just seven pounds, hold 40 ounces of food and is available in three models. \$279.

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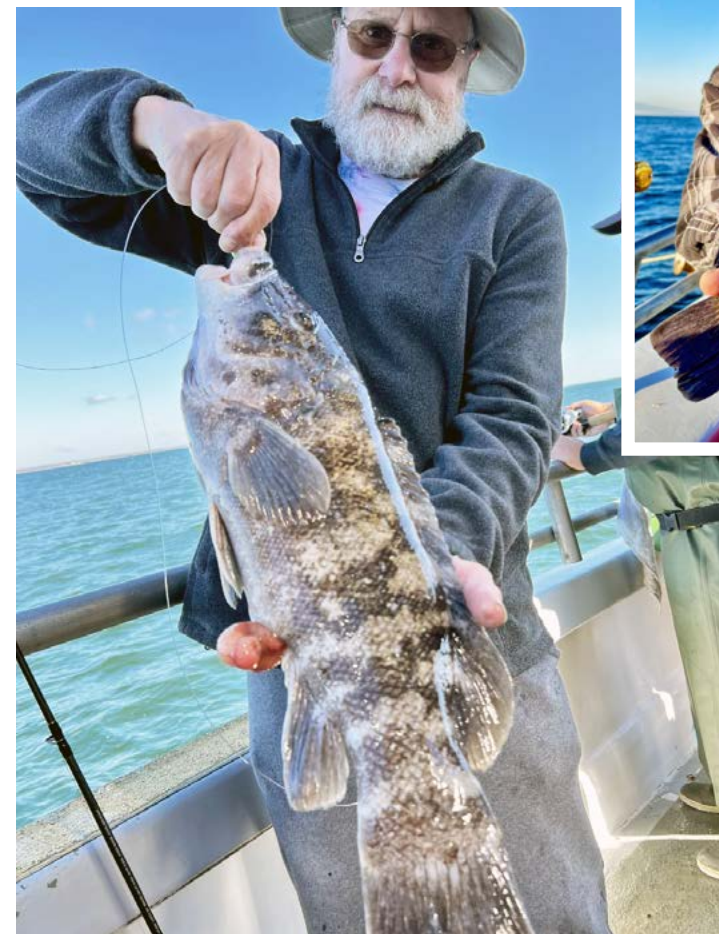
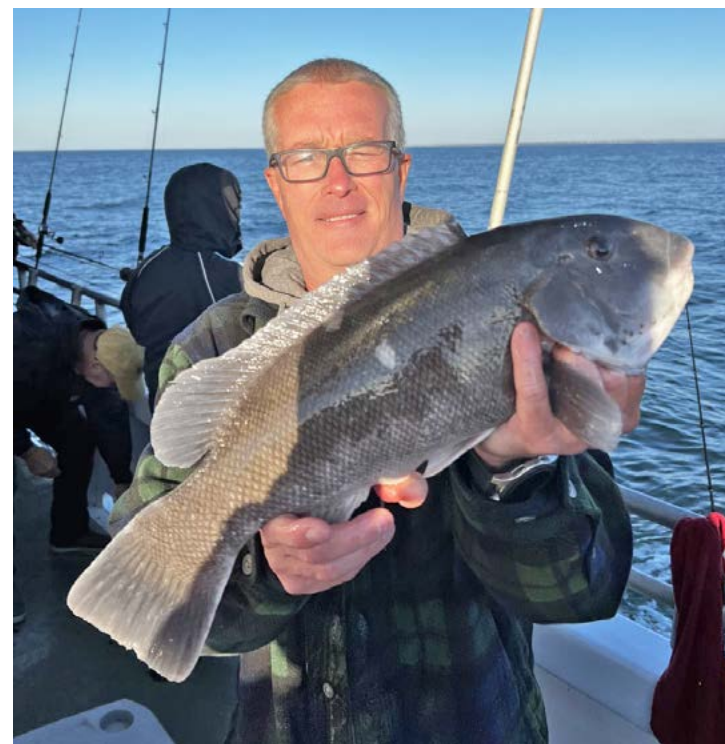
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# RISAA TOG TRIP

An early 5am departure time proved to be no problem for our 50 motivated RISAA Toggers!



I had worried a bit that the change from our traditional 7 am start times would be problematic but when the Trip filled up in under 10 days I knew we were going to be fine. I arrived at 4 am and to my surprise standing at the dock to meet every RISAA member was Island Current owner and RISAA member Chris Cullen as well as Captain Scott whose crew for the day was busy loading crabs and readying the boat for the days fishing while we arrived and settled into our spots.

Just as thoughtful, I was pleased to see some of our members had pitched in and bought the Captain and Crew donuts to get us off to a good start with a new boat. By 5am sure enough every RISAA Angler was on board and we were steaming to points east. Hot breakfast sandwiches were available as was a microwave for any fishermen who wanted to warm up anything they had brought for the trip. The weather was nearly picture perfect and our full crew took to the rails in hopes of TogZilla.

Fishing turned out that day to be a decent pick with some members catching up to 4 keepers each, others had to work a bit to find one for the box but Captain Scott worked hard, double anchored at each spot and did his best to keep us on the fish. Meanwhile the crew kept everyone laughing and in good spirits as the day progressed. Rigs seems to work best early and those who switched to jigs later found a few more keepers.

Overall, it turned out to be a terrific day with lots of fish, laughs, and memories made. The Trip also split the 50/50 between the biggest fish and the RISAA Steve Medeiros fund so even the RISAA foundation ended the day in better shape than when it began. Every Angler on board at the end of the day indicated they had fun and were ready to sign up again.



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**RISAA members SAVE on your first visit to BHO when you sign up for the Perks Program.**

To welcome you aboard, we will award you an additional 10% off your first purchase, plus get the Points, as our way of saying welcome to BHO.

**CODE:** WELCOMEABOARD

**TERMS:** 10% OFF your first purchase!

# UGLY, BUT DEADLY

By: Captain Ken Cooper

I'm going to give away one of my long-held secrets--one of my own-design flies that has proved to be very effective, especially for picky striped bass.

First, let me tell you where I stand on the perennial debate about what constitutes a "fly." On one side of the debate are the ultra-purists. They contend that a fly must be constructed with purely natural materials (excluding the thread and hook, of course), meaning just fur and feathers. At the other extreme (where I fit in) are those who say it's a fly so long as you can cast it with a fly rod. In between are those who abide adding one or more of a seemingly endless selection of man-made materials, even including lead dumbbell "eyes" and mini spinner blades. The secret I am about to reveal takes it one step further.

I devised this fly about thirty years ago while fishing with a true striper bum, a fellow who practically abandoned his wife and family, his day job and his usual circle of friends to focus on fishing for striped bass, whenever and wherever, barely managing to "get by" financially. I was introduced to this fellow by my late friend Newell Steele, who owned and operated the very successful Angler's Lie fly shop in Arlington, Virginia. I won't reveal the fellow's real name, but Newell had nicknamed him "Mud Shad." In the spring, I had fished an all-nighter at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge with Mud Shad from the small center console boat he had borrowed from his sister, and we had done well on stripers (aka Rockfish, locally) and gotten along satisfactorily. And so, months later when he called to invite me to fish the outflow of a power plant from that same boat, I said yes.

The month was January and the power plant was at Morgantown, about 60 miles down the Potomac River from Washington, DC. I don't recall from where we launched, but I do remember that we anchored in a current seam in the midst of the warm water outflow from the power plant. I had spin and fly gear aboard. Mud Shad stuck with heavier conventional tackle. There were holdover stripers stacked up in the outflow, and we each hooked up multiple times using five inch paddle tail soft plastics on one-ounce leadhead jigs. Mud Shad caught more bass than me, but I landed one that weighed just under 25 pounds on my Boga Grip scale. I wanted to nail one like that on fly, and so I started using my 10 weight outfit with a 450 grain Teeny line. I went through a variety of five to seven inch flies without so much as a nibble. Then Mud Shad clued me in: It's the vibration from the paddle tail that triggers the bite.

A light bulb went off in my brain. I took one of my flies that was tied "Clouser-style" with heavy lead dumbbell eyes, spread the bucktail hairs aside, and pushed a five inch paddle tail onto the hook shank. As soon as I bounced that fly off the bottom, a decent striper whacked it—and then several more before we quit fishing. I did not hook a bass over twelve pounds on that fly, but ugly as it was, the stripers were nevertheless attracted to it.



**What-Constitutes-a-Fly... ugly flies by Capt. Ken Cooper**

Months later, at the end of June, I was fishing at Lobsterville Beach on Martha's Vineyard on a windless, flat calm night. The sea in front of me was alive with schoolie stripers chomping on small sandeels. "Slurping" the sandeels would be a more accurate description of the feeding. I "matched the hatch" casting slender sandeel flies on a floating line, but had minimal success. This had happened on a prior late June trip to the Vineyard, and this time I was better prepared. Based on my experience at the power plant months before, I had constructed a few paddle tail flies in different sizes and colors. That night at Lobsterville, I swapped out the skinny sandeel imitation for a three inch long black paddle tail glued to the hook behind a brass cone. I'm not saying this "fly" was easy to cast; it was not! But the stripers loved it, and so did I.

I never named the fly. I suppose *Captain Ken's Paddle Tail Clouser* would be appropriate, if a little long. Anyway, if you are on my end of the What-Constitutes-a-Fly spectrum, then construct a few and give them a try.



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# Dennis Zambrotta's "Surfcasting Around the Block, Part II"

By: Todd Corayer

Dennis Zambrotta, known for his years of surfcasting success, respected for his knowledge and fishing wisdom, famous for his first book, *Surfcasting Around the Block* and appreciated for being a total gentleman, has released a sequel and it is fantastic. His decades of working boulder fields, rock piles and short sandy stretches clear through to dawn also helped him build a network of angling friends who shared his love of the island and the peace of off season quiet and strong fishing. Fall and often early winter lured anglers from all over to cast needlefish and jointed swimmers for giant striped bass. Fishing Block Island with Dennis Zambrotta was a crew of heavyweights who fished hard, stayed all night and returned each year to have a stretch of North Rip or Lewis Point all to themselves. *Surfcasting Around the Block II* gathers stories and counsel from many of these characters, combines them with his personal anecdotes then ferries readers to Aquidneck Island for similar beaches and potentials.

"When I go out there, I just burn myself out," Dennis said, referring to a recent late season visit to the island. He spoke of a feeling of contentment, of success and satisfaction from being back on those shores, catching fish. If you don't yet know Dennis, he's a bucket list kind of character to meet. Those of us who spend long nights in fishery regulatory meetings, all know the droll of people who talk to hear their own voice. Eye rolls and sunken heads. When Dennis speaks to a subject, like losing public access, people turn their heads to see him, they listen, shake their heads in agreement and take notes. He has that level of credibility. He's earned it. Dennis acknowledges that fish are somewhat smaller these years but also that new slot sized fish, from 28" to 35", remain plentiful and fun to chase. "Anything from say, twelve to around twenty pounds, today that's big fish," he said. What you gain from reading a book like this, from



Dennis Zambrotta with a Block Island striped bass.

fishing Block Island with Dennis Zambrotta, is a deep dive into his deep knowledge. It's true, fishing on the island is not like it used to be but forgive me, what is these days?

You will learn about how migration and bait patterns are changing and how fish hit certain plugs at certain magical times not because of a university computer model but because fishermen like Dennis, Steve Winters, Paul Lemma and the late Tim Coleman put in their time, watched, considered, preplanned

and understood. In his own right, Dennis has much to offer and we should absorb it all but he is also wise to share other's wisdom. His friend's often went to the island just to discover what was there, buying eels, loading rods and sandwiches into whatever vehicle could survive an expedition to Black Rock, The Church or the soft sands of The North Rip and praying for fish.

"That biomass is just not around anymore. The giant fish are just not there," Dennis said, but his words are here forever, to help you find those slot fish, those high bluff turns that shade moon and crowds, where we all know, some very big bass still lurk, feeding on schools of wary menhaden or squid. They might be at the end of a long dark path and in *Surfcasting Around the Block II*, Dennis Zambrotta will lead you to the beach.

Dennis has fished for years with passion and joy, both of which are quite often experienced with others, alone, at sunset and in such absolute absence of light. He has hiked and cast in a self-imposed vacuum, absorbing all that nature provides, if you are accepting, and the peace that comes with a suspicion, temptation, connection, battle and release, all without anyone with a flashbulb or instant anything. He is the last guy to tell you how many he caught, unless you press, and the first to express his gratitude for all those miles of dunes, driftwood piles and rolling cobbles played by tides.

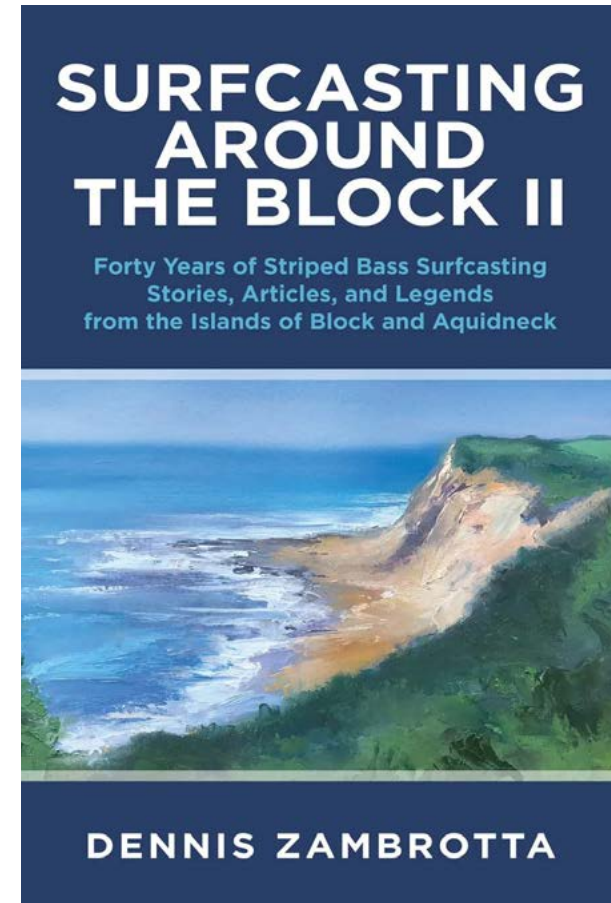
"I don't see anybody out there anymore," Dennis said. "It's weird, it's just how the whole dynamic has changed." The Island's demographics are abruptly different. The fishermen,

carpenters, electricians and plumbers who worked all day and fished many nights, often to send a few fish back to the mainland in wooden boxes, are no longer there on the beaches. Many peaceful stretches of beach are lit through the night by

Jersey transplants who are less likely to be out all night casting into the darkness for big striped bass. "When I go out there, the only other fishermen I see are either other visiting fishermen, of which there are very few, or Max or Steve Winters occasionally, but Steve works during the day so I know he's not going to be burning the midnight oil," Dennis said.

Readers can take note of changes to people and fish, to access points and bait patterns, then dig into Dennis' plentiful recommendations for how to fill a plug bag, find access and enjoy time on a special part of our world. What *Surfcasting Around the Block II* is not, is a rainy Sunday review of days gone by with a bourbon and one ice cube to salve the aches of too many nights on the rocks or too much regret that waters and fisheries are changing. *Surfcasting Around the Block II* will rouse you; it's a fine assortment of top-tier anglers who earned their pages in Dennis's collection.

What all great stories require is heart and Dennis offers you his. He loves the island, he loves finding the perfect plug and he dearly loves to go fishing. *Surfcasting Around the Block II* is a must have for every angler and a welcomed gift for the holiday list, is available at local tackle stores, bookstores, as an E-book and at Amazon.com.



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# 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.



## 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..... 3.22 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. Greg Vespe ..... 7.78 lbs
  3. Ronald Lynch..... 4.38 lbs

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. No Entry

- SHORE DIVISION - ADULT**
1. Michael Tilelli..... 4.91 lbs

- SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. No Entry



## COD

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**
1. Paul Boutiette ..... 7.78 lbs
  2. Robert Marco ..... 4.78 lbs
  3. Capt. Chris Clarke ..... 4.14 lbs

- 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. Capt. TJ Harris..... 8.35 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. Michael Tilelli ..... 16.00 lbs
  2. No Entry
  3. No Entry

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



## TAUTOG

- BOAT DIVISION - ADULT**
1. Dariusz Kolodziejczak ..... 11.10 lbs
  2. Phillip Duckett ..... 10.74 lbs
  3. Capt. Mark Pachico..... 10.53 lbs

- BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR**
1. Domenic Bianco ..... 4.76 lbs
  2. Tucker Jansen ..... 3.44 lbs
  3. Hayes Jansen ..... 3.44 lbs

- SHORE DIVISION - ADULT**
1. John Migliori..... 8.35 lbs
  2. Richard Reich ..... 5.88 lbs
  3. Normand Morrisette ..... 5.28 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. Michael Tilelli ..... 1.09 lbs
  3. No Entry

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



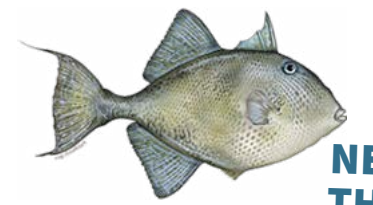
## SEA ROBIN

- 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. Robert Matteson..... 3.44 lbs
  2. Bill Hubert..... 2.76 lbs
  3. 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

ENTER YOUR CATCHES AT:  
[www.risaa.org/tournament-entry](http://www.risaa.org/tournament-entry)

MOST UP-TO-DATE STANDINGS:  
[risaa.org/tournament-standings](http://risaa.org/tournament-standings)

# 2022 FALL SURFCASTERS CHALLENGE

The Surfcaster's Committee of RISAA recently held its annual Fall Surf Fishing Club Challenge. The tournament began on Friday, October 14 at 6:00pm and ran until Sunday, October 16 at 7:00am. The weather was beautiful for fall fishing and the temperatures were comfortable.



**Hartford Surf Fishing Club members enjoying the beautiful weather**  
Photo courtesy of Steve Higgins - HSFC

Six clubs entered the Striped Bass/Bluefish tournament:

- Hartford Surf Fishing Club
- Massachusetts Striped Bass Association
- Narragansett Surfcasters Club
- Pioneer Valley Boat and Surf Club
- RI Mobile Sportfishermen (RIMS)
- RISAA Surfcasters Committee

While the results were being tallied over 50 people enjoyed the traditional Fisherman's Breakfast at the Andrea Seaside Restaurant in Westerly. Lots of camaraderie and social time – catching up with old friends and making new ones.



There were many generous donations of raffle prizes by the participating clubs. R.I.M.S. donated \$350 from their annual Saturday morning breakfast!!!

### THE RESULTS WERE:

#### Biggest Blue Fish

George Carlson – Hartford Surf Fishing Club – \$25 gift card.  
George's prize winning bluefish tipped the scale at 1.43 pounds

#### Biggest Striper

Christopher Emanuele – Hartford Surf Fishing Club –  
34 1/4" – 14.21 pounds

#### Team Trophy

Rhode Island Mobile Sportfishermen fishermen  
with a total weight of 26.85 pounds



RISAA Surfcasters Committee Chairman Ron Barnes presents the largest striper plaque to Christopher Emanuele of the Hartford Surf Fishing Club.



RISAA Surfcasters Committee Chairman Ron Barnes present the proceeds of \$1532 from the Fall Surfcaster's Challenge to Maddie Mildrum (intern), Alicia Monnes (Finance Director), Kyla Shea (Health and Nutrition Educator) and Maghnee Gomes (Community Outreach Specialist).

## SOME FACTS AND FIGURES...

- There was 1 Bluefish weighed in totaling 1.43 pounds!
- There were 7 Striped Bass weighed in totaling 70.38 pounds – doubling last year's total.
- The difference between first and second place (Hartford Surf Fishing Club) for the team trophy was 2.96 pounds.
- The difference between second and third place (Mass. Striped Bass Association) for the team trophy was 2.82 pounds.



RISAA Surfcasters Committee Chairman Ron Barnes presents the Fall Surf Club Challenge trophy to Justin Poole of RIMS.

Thanks to the generosity of the 6 participating clubs and their members, we donated the proceeds of \$1523 to the Jonnycake Center of Peacedale!!!! The mission of the Jonnycake Center of Peacedale is "to provide basic needs, resources, and hope to our community members. Our vision is a community without hunger and poverty where everyone can reach their full potential and improve their quality of life". Congratulations to the winners and again a thank you to all who participated. 🐟

Ron Barnes  
Chairman  
RISAA Surfcasters Committee

# YOU HAVE CHANGED... SO HAVE FISHING RODS

By: Fred DeFinis



Big Game 2 fishing rods at Crafty One Customs, Portsmouth, RI

With the holiday season in full swing, many anglers might be dreaming of a shiny new rod to add to their collection. To help RISAA members understand more about modern rods and how to select and care for one that will last for years, we talked to two members who have many years' experience in the field. Peter Jenkins is Board Chair of the American Saltwater Guides Association and owner of Saltwater Edge, a well-known tackle shop in Middletown, RI. Peter shares his expertise in rods for shore and surf. Ralph Craft has been building custom rods for seventeen years and has owned his shop, Crafty One Customs for nine years, selling both custom and factory made rods. Ralph's custom rods are used by many charter captains as well as dedicated amateurs. We asked Ralph to focus on rods for the Bay and inshore fishing.

## TODAY'S RODS - DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

One of the big changes in rod design in recent years is the movement from fiberglass and graphite blanks to carbon fiber blanks. Fiberglass is strong but heavy while graphite is light but relatively fragile. Carbon fiber marries the best of both worlds being both lightweight and strong. As an example of the advances in technology, Ralph mentioned a rig he was building for a striped fisherman that weighs in at a mere fourteen ounces for rod, reel and line! Peter agrees that today's rods are lighter and with more power. The rods recover faster and can store and transmit more power when casting. Think of the rod blank as a long conical shape with a round cross section. When the rod bends to cast the lure or fight a fish, the forces on the rod cause the round cross section to distort towards an oval shape. In the extreme, the oval becomes a flat and the blank breaks. This concept is called "ovalization". You can demonstrate this to yourself by rolling a piece of paper into a conical shape and then stressing it—you will see that it collapses when you apply enough force. The blank's ability to resist these forces is called "hoop strength" and a blank

with more hoop strength will recover faster and cast farther and also apply more force when fighting the fish. This is an important way in which newer rods may offer a nice advantage over your "old faithful" model.

Jenkins adds that advances in manufacturing have allowed what was once expensive cutting-edge technology to be incorporated into mid-priced rods. Of course, price will also determine the quality of the other components—grips, guides, reel seats and so forth.

## CHOOSING A ROD

Both Peter and Ralph stress that it is important for the angler to get their hands on the rod she/he is considering. Sometimes it may be helpful if the angler brings in a rod he/she is comfortable with as a starting point. For fluke and stripers, Ralph suggests a rod with more of a parabolic bend while tog anglers will want something stiffer to pull the tog quickly out of the rocky structure. One point he stressed is that a rod with a good degree of "bend" will apply constant pressure to the fish and not allow it to rest, thus bringing it to the boat quicker. This is important for reducing release mortality among striped bass as well as for landing the fish successfully. Some anglers will try to get a feel for the flex profile of the rod by bending it against a soft surface. Obviously, avoid damaging the rod when doing this.

For shore fishing, Peter notes that the terrain and lures will be critical for rod choice. If the angler is fishing rocky areas such as out front in Newport, a longer ten to eleven foot rod will help get the lure out where it needs to go and also provide leverage for maneuvering the fish around the rocks. For fishing sandy shores, an eight or nine foot rod is good for tossing the light lures that attract albies and schoolies and there is less need to guide the fish as there are no obstructions. Longer distance casting with heavier lures or plugs will again favor the longer rod.

Another variable to consider is the angler's skill level. A rod with a faster action requires more skill to cast accurately. In Peter's opinion, today's rods have more capability than the anglers using them.

Although they are both in business to sell tackle, Peter and Ralph say you don't need a large selection of rods to enjoy and be successful in our Bay and near shore fishing. In Ralph's words, "There's nothing in the Bay or out front that you can't handle with one good spinning rod and one conventional rod".

## MAKING SENSE OF THE NUMBERS

Most rods will be marked with the range of line weights, lure weights and some description of the action e.g. "fast", "medium" etc.. **It is important to note that there are no industry standards for these descriptions.** In many cases, manufacturers may over promise in their descriptions to attract more customers. The best remedy is to talk with someone knowledgeable and discuss your fishing goals—what do you plan to do with the rod, what kind of action are you looking for, what lures or jigs will you be using and so forth. As an extreme example, imagine a rod listed for sixty-pound braid. Do you really think you could apply that amount of pressure to the rod without breaking it?

Peter adds that a shorter rod will have a smaller range of lures that can be cast effectively because there is less flex in the rod. It is not realistic that a short rod can cast a very wide range of lure weights, certainly not as wide a range as a longer rod.

## CARING FOR YOUR TACKLE

According to Peter, a rod with a manufacturing defect will fail the first few times it encounters a load. If a rod breaks sometime after that, it is usually a result of "high sticking" (i.e. holding the rod so high that all the load is near the end) or some unseen handling damage that compromises the rod's integrity. The rod may get nicked by a lure or damaged in transport without the angler's knowledge. Then, when it is stressed, it breaks at the damaged spot.

One piece of advice Ralph stresses is learning the correct knots for joining braided line to mono or fluorocarbon leader instead of using swivels. The swivels can damage guides and tips or even cause the rod to snap if it gets caught on a guide. Winter is the perfect time to perfect your knot tying skills. Another helpful tip is cleaning your rods and reels with a gentle flow of water—don't blast them with a hose with a nozzle on the end as you will be forcing salt and grit into the reel and small spaces in the rod such as under the reel seat. Gentle is better. At the end of the season, clean your gear thoroughly and store rods and reels indoors in a warm location such as a basement or closet. Don't leave them out in the cold. Off season is also a good time to inspect guides for micro-fissures and get any problem guides replaced. Ralph says; "With the proper care, you can double the life of your gear."

A couple of good rods matched for your fishing goals and conditions are all you need to be successful from shore or boat. Both our experts agree that their goal is to make sure their customers enjoy their time on/in the water. Thanks to Ralph Craft and Peter Jenkins for their contributions to this article.

## 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 an integral part of RI recreational fishing.

### OUR SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

- Black Hall Outfitters - Old Lyme & Westbrook, CT
- Bristol Bait & Tackle - Bristol, RI
- Breachway Bait & Tackle - Charlestown, RI
- Crafty One Customs - Portsmouth, RI
- Fin & Feather - North Kingstown, RI
- Frances Fleet - Galilee, RI
- Lucky Bait & Tackle - Warren, RI
- Meridee Bait & Tackle - Narragansett, RI
- Ocean State Tackle - Providence, RI
- Pete's Bait & Tackle - Woonsocket, RI
- Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle - North Kingstown, RI
- Quonny Bait & Tackle - Charlestown, RI
- Riverside Marine Bait & Tackle - Tiverton, RI
- Saltwater Edge - Middletown, RI
- Sams' Bait & Tackle - Middletown, RI
- Snug Harbor - Wakefield, RI
- Tackle Box - Warwick, RI
- Weakapauge Bait & Tackle - Westerly, RI

## Narrow River Fall Clean Up 2022



### Thanks to the RISAA FlyFishing Committee!

Pictured above: Kenny Glover, Nick Califano, Don Goodroe, Paul Sledzik, Ed Lombardo, Greg Houde, Roger Earle, Geno Rapa, Josh Helfrich, Jeffrey Crawford • Missing from picture: Jim Jacques, Brian O'Connor, Susan Estabrook, Smokin' Joe, Two friends of the Narrow River, Rebecca Russell (Program Director for NRPA)

## UPCOMING SEMINAR

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



# DECEMBER 26 @ 7PM

## BOTTOM FISHING PANEL!

with Captains TJ Harris, John Lee, BJ Silvia & Daphne Forster

If you are one of the many anglers that pound the bottom in search of a tasty meal or a good fight, be it for tog, sea bass, fluke or cod, then this December's panel is right up your alley. We have brought together a team of well respected bottom fishermen to have a wide ranging conversation on bottom fishing in New England. From their views on how they approach different situations to what rigs and gear, adjustments on the fly and even party boat tactics. Whether you think Cod is King, Togzilla Rules or Doormats are the game in bottom fishing we think there will be a little something for everyone attending this one.



TJ Harris

John Lee

BJ Silvia

Daphne Forster

### 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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Contact Greg Vespe: vespe.risaa@gmail.com



# BATTLING A GRAY SEAL ON THE CAPE COD CANAL

By: Joe McCoy

I headed to the Cape Cod Canal mid October 2022 before sunrise to find a stable place to stand between uneven rocks and piles of seaweed. Yes, unstable place to fish for an old guy.

Started off great! After casting a few times, a striper hit the topwater plug in the canal current. Anyone who has fished the canal knows you cannot tell how big the fish on the line is because of the 4 or 5 knot current that gives the angler the wrong

impression on the size. What feels like a 50-inch striper, may only be a 32-inch fish. Well, I thought I had my personal best on the line. My Tsunami 11'2" heavy surf rod was bent, and I was holding on with two hands while the big girl calmed down a little so I could start reeling her in. Believe me it was fun. I landed a 40-inch striper, took a quick picture, and got her back in the water quickly for a safe release.

What happened next is crazy to me. The topwater action seemed to be over quickly so I tossed a 4 oz soft plastic jig and immediately had a hit. The fish seemed to be about the same size as the first fish. My fishing rod was bent, and I was holding on with two hands waiting for the big girl to calm down. Suddenly, the tip of my rod was almost in the water, and I was in a crouching tiger stance. I did not know what was going on there and I thought I was going to get pulled into the ditch (canal) or lose my fishing pole. Next, the line snapped, and I fell back about three feet into the rocks, the piles of seaweed and my fishing bag.

I yelled to the guy on my right that the fish snapped my line. He said, the fish did not snap your line, a gray seal with your fish in his mouth snapped it. The gray seal and my fish were only 10 or 20 feet in front of him, he had a full view of this event.

Of course, I was trying to figure out what just happened while the big gray seal swam right in front of me from east to west. It was huge. Unfortunately, I did not think fast enough to take his picture to help complete my story but, it was right there in front of me, thanking me for breakfast. 🐟



### NOTES:

The East End of the canal joins the Cape Cod Bay across from Provincetown where there are many great white sightings.

Gray Seals: Weight - 550 to 880 pounds, Length - 7.5 to 10 feet.

# ANGLER INPUT SOUGHT ON NATIONAL RECREATIONAL FISHING POLICY

NOAA Fisheries is asking the recreational fishing community for their guidance to revise the 2015 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy. With the perspectives shared during the 2022 National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit, NOAA Fisheries requests your input on revising the Policy.

The purpose of the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy is to provide guidance for Agency consideration in its deliberations pertaining to development and maintenance of enduring and sustainable high quality saltwater recreational fisheries. This policy identifies goals and guiding principles to be integrated into NOAA Fisheries' planning, budgeting, decision-making, and activities, and includes examples of implementation concepts and strategies supported by NOAA Fisheries.

With climate impacts on fishing, stock movement, multiuse of our oceans (fishing, aquaculture, offshore wind energy) the new policy is very timely. The policy will guide NOAA Fisheries through important climate ready fisheries decisions.

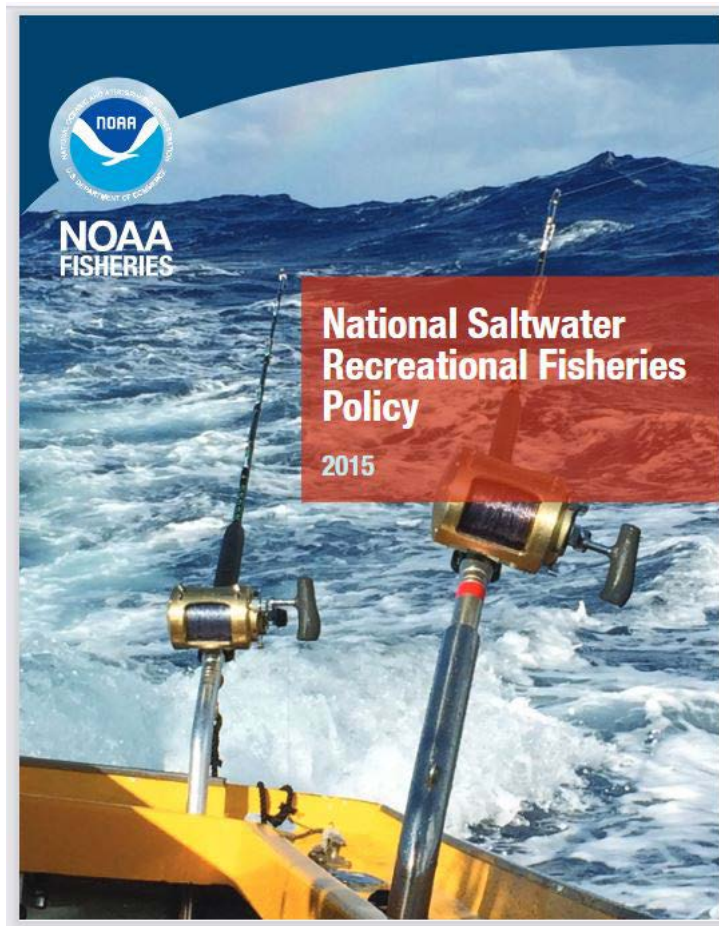
The new Policy provides a great opportunity for the recreational fishing community to weigh in on important issues that will directly impact their fishing today and in the future, particularly making recreational fishing climate ready.

For more information about the policy, NOAA's work to date to update it, and to provide comments, please follow this link at [www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-fisheries-invites-comments-update-recreational-fisheries-policy](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-fisheries-invites-comments-update-recreational-fisheries-policy).

The public comment period and electronic comment portal will remain open through December 31, 2022.

## RISAA LETTER AND AFFILIATE COMMENTS

Last month RISAA sent a letter to NOAA with the Association's input on the National Recreational Policy and I verbalized comments at the November 16 public comment Zoom meeting. Jack Creighton, Past President of the Cape Cod Salties, and George Baldwin, President of the Connecticut Surfcasters Association, both RISAA affiliates, provided verbal comments at the NOAA meeting.



NOAA is asking anglers for input to update the 2015 National Recreational Fishing Policy.

Greg Vespe, RISAA Executive Director, said in a letter to NOAA, that there were six overarching issues that should be addressed throughout the policy. They include:

- Climate resiliency addressed or considered in each goal and principle
- The importance of maintaining sustainably
- Improvements to data collection both with MRIP and enhanced/supplemental rec data to provide a more robust picture of what is happening in the recreational fishing community
- Innovative solutions and science-based management that increase understanding, exploring the use of new programs and pilot new approaches
- The development of a strategic plan with metrics to measure progress during implementation
- Provide access, particularly in light of climate impacts being mindful of equitable access and social environmental justice

Please log into the policy website (noted above) and make verbal comments on line, feel free to use some of the above overarching themes RISAA used in their letter. 🐟

## RISAA MEMBERS ASK NOAA TO MOVE FASTER ON CLIMATE READY FISHERIES

Last month RISAA members had two opinion articles published. The first, on seafood month and her appreciation for fish, was published in the Providence Journal by RISAA member and *Cook What You Catch* RISAA magazine columnist Paula Smalec of Portsmouth, RI.

A second opinion article asking NOAA to move faster on climate ready fisheries was written by Greg Vespe, RISAA Executive Director, which appeared in the East Bay Newspapers (see links to articles below).

Both of these opinion articles raised concerns about climate impacts on recreational fishing growing exponentially as climate impacts grow exponentially. They related that NOAA needs to act faster to maintain recreational fishery sustainability so we can grow fish to abundance so there are more fish in the water for us to catch, eat and/or release. With water warming so fast, stocks moving geographically shifting and expanding ranges, sea level rise and ocean acidity all are impacting the fish we love to catch and eat. NOAA needs to act faster with climate research, enhanced stock assessments, etc. so we can have climate ready fisheries.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO PAULA & GREG!

**We Need Climate Ready fisheries Now** by Greg Vespe, RISAA Executive Director. Published in the East Bay Newspapers 11.21.22. In Rhode Island, fisheries play a huge role in our economy and our way of life, but lately, we are seeing some concerning trends in our local fisheries.

Visit <https://eastbayri.com/stories/op-ed-we-need-climate-ready-fisheries-now,108631?>

**Fishing must not become a casualty of climate change** by RISAA member, and *Cooking Your Catch*, RISAA magazine columnist. Published 11.5.22 in the Providence Journal. Visit [https://providencejournal-ri.newsmemory.com/?publink=08afd219d\\_13486d5](https://providencejournal-ri.newsmemory.com/?publink=08afd219d_13486d5)



## RISAA ANGLING Hall of Fame

The RISAA Angler Hall of Fame lists the largest tournament entry of each approved species. Any angler who enters a catch that surpasses an Angler Hall of Fame record shall, upon verification of the catch, become the new record holder for that species. In addition, the angler shall receive 5 points toward **Angler of the Year**.

### BOAT DIVISION

Species	Angler	Weight	Year
Black Sea Bass	Raymond Morrocco	7.20lbs.	2012
Bluefish	Robert Matteson	20.46	2017
Bonito	Micheal Neto	12.20	2004
Cod	Robert Morel	49.10	2001
False Albacore	Charles Bradbury	16.20	2004
Fluke	Kyle Blount	15.65	2006
Haddock	Nicholas Blount	7.85	2004
Mahi Mahi	Jack Sprengel, Jr.	37.80	2001
Pollock	Harry Templeton	27.70	2001
Scup	Jack Sprengel, Jr.	3.74	2014
Shad	Kyle Paparelli	3.80	2009
Squeteague	Robert Roy	10.50	2006
Striped Bass	Peter Vican	77.40	2011
Tautog	Joseph Bleczynski	18.90	2015
Tuna - Albacore	Harley Benton	55.00	1999
Tuna - Bluefin	Jack Sprengel, Jr.	193.88	2009
Tuna - Yellowfin	Randy Pereschino	112.00	2001
Winter Flounder	Michael Lanni	4.40	1998

### SHORE DIVISION

Species	Angler	Weight	Year
Black Sea Bass	Joseph Pearson	3.85	2009
Bluefish	Gilbert Bell	16.90	2016
Bonito	Jack Sprengel, Jr.	9.99	2007
False Albacore	Jack Sprengel, Jr.	12.22	2007
Fluke	Michael Tilelli	6.60	2018
Scup	Charles Underhill	2.69	2012
Shad	Jonathan Pickering	1.75	2008
Squeteague	Robert Moeller	16.54	2007
Striped Bass	Richard Reich	51.66	2013
Tautog	Richard Gallipeau	11.20	2009
Winter Flounder	Dick Geldard	4.40	2009



9<sup>th</sup> Annual

# SURF DAY 2023



## Used & New Fishing Equipment Sale Rods, Reels, Custom Plugs, Tackle, and More!



### Saturday, January 14, 2023

9am to 1pm

Narragansett Community Center- 53 Mumford Road, Narragansett, RI 02882

Contact for vendor table information: [brucebain123@hotmail.com](mailto:brucebain123@hotmail.com)

# K&M COASTAL CHARTER TRIP!

By: Paul Phillips



that he lowered off the bow to get a chum slick going. He also cut some green crabs and tossed them overboard.

It didn't take long for the action to start. Bob was the first to hook up with a short tog. I followed with a short soon after. Shortly after that I was rewarded with my best tog of the season (so far) at 23" and about 8 pounds on a T.J.'s Tog Jig tipped with a half of a green crab. Captain K noted that was the largest tog on his boat this season, but that honor did not last long. Jeff landed a 25" tog estimated at 11-12 pounds a few minutes later. Jeff was using a jig, but he was also using an assist hook which seemed to increase his hook up ratio throughout the day.

We had steady action and everyone was catching tog of various sizes, except for John. John only had one short sea bass for his efforts on that first drop. Things changed quickly for John though. We moved out front and he was on fire as soon as we dropped anchor. It seemed every time I looked he was hooked up. John was using a jig but had a high hook as well. It seemed many of the fish he was catching were on the high hook. We made one more move out front but there was no action at the new spot. There were some swells out front and given the slow action we decided to finish the day back in the bay. Once again, everyone was catching. The current had picked up quite a bit and jig fishing was difficult so I and a few others switched to bait rigs until we were done for the day. The sun had finally made its way out and the Temps were in the low 70s by the time we wrapped it up at about 3:00.

The larger fish were all safely released as were some scup and a few choggies but throughout the day we kept some of the smaller legal sized tog and one sea bass. Everyone had a nice bag of fillets to take home. All in all we had a great day. Captain Rivard's Parker was fast and comfortable to fish from. I learned some new tricks that I'm sure will come in handy in the future. If you're looking for a charter I wouldn't hesitate to recommend K&M Coastal Charters with Captain Kurt Rivard, you won't be disappointed!

RISAA members Russ McGill, Bob Baute, John Lewis, and myself were the lucky winners of a tautog trip with Captain Kurt Rivard of K&M Coastal Charters. Kurt was one of the speakers at the RISAA meeting the night the drawing took place so we were able to hammer out plans for our tog trip right after the seminar. We decided to target a weekday to avoid the inevitable weekend crowds on the Newport tog grounds. We also decided to wait until after October 15<sup>th</sup> when the limit increased from 3 to 5 fish per person.

Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> was our target date. Unfortunately, as that date approached the marine forecast was not favorable. With predicted winds of over 15 MPH and 5 foot seas, we decided to postpone to October 26<sup>th</sup> with a backup date of October 28<sup>th</sup> in case the weather continued to be uncooperative. Fortunately, with the exception of some light showers, October 26<sup>th</sup> turned out to be a great day to be on the water and the trip was on.

We met Captain Rivard and first mate Jeff at Fort Adams at 9am. High tide in Newport was at 8:51 that morning so we would be fishing the outgoing tide. We boarded Captain Rivard's 25 foot Parker. Winds were calm and the bay was flat and we quickly made our way to our first spot on Narragansett Bay.

Captain K dropped anchor near a rocky shoreline in about 25 feet of water. He then stomped on a pile of mussels in a mesh bag



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**BOOKING NOW FOR 2023!**



# 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.*



- MOSCOSO RIVERA, David**, 25, of Framingham, MA, for Exceeding Daily Limit of Striped Bass and Possession of Undersize Striped Bass
- RODRIGUEZ CRUZ, Julio R.**, 42, of Central Falls, RI, for Possession of Undersize Striped Bass and Exceeding Daily Limit of Striped Bass
- LIANG, Zenghan**, 54, of Quincy, MA, for Possession of Undersize Tautog
- CHEN, She Ji**, 32, of Boston, MA, for Possession of Undersize Tautog
- HUANG, Huanxing**, 57, of Malden, MA, for Possession of Undersize Black Sea Bass and Exceeding Daily Limit of Black Sea Bass
- DASILVA, Erkrays S.**, 45, of Dorchester, MA, Exceeding Daily Vessel Limit of Tautog, Possession of Undersize Tautog, and Possession of Undersize Black Sea Bass
- HUSS, Sun Y.**, 64, of Haverhill, MA, for Possession of Undersize Tautog and Exceeding Daily Limit of Tautog
- LONG, Sambath**, 67, of Providence, RI, for Possession of Undersize Tautog
- WRIGHT, Winston**, 62, of Hartford, CT, for Coastal Resources Port Violation
- HYON, Jacob**, 57, of Little Neck, NY, for Exceeding Daily Limit of Tautog and Possession of Undersize Tautog
- ROSA, Many J.**, 26, of Johnston, RI, for Possession of Undersize Striped Bass and Exceeding Daily Limit of Striped Bass
- MESITI, Franco**, 27, of Johnston, RI, for Exceeding Daily Limit of Striped Bass and Possession of Undersize Striped Bass
- LIN, Yi Cai**, 67, of Coventry, RI, for Possession of Undersize Tautog
- HYON, Thomas**, 87, of Kensburg, NJ, for Possession of Undersize Tautog
- HYON, Tammy**, 82, of Kensburg, NJ, for Possession of Undersize Tautog
- KHOUNTHY, Phouvieng**, 51, of Southbridge, MA, for Exceeding Daily Limit of Tautog and Possession of Undersize Tautog
- SALAZAR, Robert**, 56, of Cranston, RI, for Possession of Undersize Tautog

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

**VIOLATION CITATIONS ISSUED**

State Property Violations .....	7
(Parking, Alcohol, Disorderly Conduct, Dumping/Littering, etc.)	
Motor Vehicle.....	10
Boating Violations.....	5
ATV Violations.....	0
Freshwater Fishing Violations .....	1
Saltwater Fishing Violations .....	6
CRMC Beach Violations .....	0
Hunting Violations .....	4
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>33</b>

**TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE THROUGH OUR DISPATCH CENTER: 1,969**

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: 98**

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

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# WHO'S WHO

in the Rhode Island Saltwater's Anglers Association

## 2022 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## RISAA CONTACTS

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### New England Saltwater Fishing Show:

www.nesaltwatershow.com

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### *Menhaden Subcommittee*

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### *Public Access Subcommittee*

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### WELCOME COMMITTEE

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

# THANKFUL FOR THE FISH

By: Captain Dave Monti

It's the Holidays. Time to be thankful for the fish, take stock and assess the fishing for the year as we look forward to 2023.

First, I am thankful for the privilege to fish and take people fishing, get paid for it as a charter captain and then write about it. For me it does not get any better.

And, this year, like most years, some fish species were hot and others were not.

The fall tautog bite was outstanding again this year just as it has been good for the past three years. Not only was the tautog fishing good with anglers catching their limit, but the fish were very large too.

Scup fishing was good too. With 15" fish and larger being caught in our Bays, along the coast and offshore just about anywhere there was structure and water movement. And, the striped bass bite was good this year just about everywhere for school baas, slot fish (28" to <35"), and above slot size fish. Cape Cod Canal striper fishing continued to be good again this year with multiple bait profiles, striped bass of all sizes and a great bluefish bite.

As late as October we still had plenty of baitfish in the Cape Cod Canal with sustained blitzes for miles. The striped bass bite was on for hours with a mix of bluefish, shorts, slots and some bigger caught on jigs, swimmers and surface lures of all types.

Once again climate change is impacted our fishing this year ng our fishing. A climate related impact we have experienced in Rhode Island and Massachusetts for the past three years is an excellent



Kevin Harrington of Portsmouth, RI with the 24", 8.3 pound tautog he caught in November week fishing at the mouth of the Sakonnet River with fellow RISAA member Greg Spier.



Jeff Sullivan caught this 600 pound, 100 inch giant bluefin tuna five miles off the Sakonnet River with fishing partners and friend Capt. Rob Taylor of Newport Sportfishing Charters.

inshore tuna bite. The bait or forage tuna like to eat i.e. mackerel, herring, Atlantic menhaden, squid, bluefish, butterfish, false albacore and a host of others have been in our area in great abundance due in part to warming water. So the bluefin and yellowfin tuna have been here dining on these robust bait profiles along with large pods (hundreds) of porpoise and dolphin this summer.

This year the giant bluefin tuna bite was strong and close to shore.

Expert tuna fisherman and RISAA member Richard Pastore said, "I fished the giant bluefin bite off Scarborough Beach, RI Sunday, September 11 in 100' of water. Set up north of fleet and live lined squid and mackerel with no luck. Boat just south of me pulls in and immediately hooks up. Twenty-four tuna were caught to the point a hold was put on buying them because there were so many."

On September 12, Jeff Sullivan, an associate at Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren, RI (RISAA members) fished for giant bluefin off the Sakonnet River with fishing partners and friend Capt. Rob Taylor of Newport Sportfishing Charters who is a RISAA member. The four-some caught a 600 pound, 100 inch giant bluefin tuna just five miles off the Sakonnet River. Jeff said, "We caught the giant bluefin on a live chub mackerel caught earlier."

The two disappointments this year were black sea bass and summer flounder (fluke). It was difficult to catch keeper black sea bass in the Bays and along the costal shore with a fair bite for large fish offshore. And once again this year, like last year, the summer flounder fishing was sporadic at best.

Looking forward to a great 2023 fishing season.

## UPCOMING SEMINAR

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



JANUARY 30 @ 7PM

# FIND THE PERFECT MATCH MAKING SENSE OF FISHING RODS



This seminar will help RISAA members “crack the code” when it comes to understanding and choosing a fishing rod that has the performance characteristics best suited for each anglers skill level and fishing style. Terms like forgiveness, parabolic action, varying speed classifications, ratings and composite characteristics will be deciphered at this seminar.

### 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.*

## 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 Filliatreault 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](mailto:gisele@risaa.org).**

# AnglerCatch Meets With Success At Tog Classic, New Regs Working

By: Captain Dave **Monti**

Tautog fishing exploded this fall. Fishing was good in our bays, at jetties along our southern coastal shore, off Pt. Judith, Narragansett, Jamestown, Newport and the Sakonnet around rock piles and ledges.

Daniel Miller took first place in the Rhode Island Tog Classic sponsored by Crafty One Customs, Portsmouth with a hefty 15.39 pound tautog. Ralph Craft, Tournament host, said, “The Rhode Island Tog Classic was a big success with great community participation. All proceeds from the Tournament benefited the Three Angels Fund for friends and family coming together to cope with cancer.”

Greg Vespe, RISAA executive director, said, “We had a great season finally for AnglerCatch, the RISAA supported recreational fishing app for smartphones and tablets. Anyone using AnglerCatch during the Tog Classic got a chance to win a \$600 tautog rig.” Chris Cimino of Harbor Light Software, developers of AnglerCatch, said, “We had big numbers of angler downloading the app with over 70 entering the drawing for the tautog rig.”

First place winners for the Tog Classic included Daniel Miller, 15.39 lbs., Boat Division; Matt Murray, 6.67 lbs., Shore Division; Justin Oser, 10.60 lbs., Kayak Division; and Oliver Miller, 8.44 lbs., Youth Division.

There are new regulations for tautog fishing this year initiated by the RI Saltwater Anglers Association with the aim of preserving large females with great spawning potential. 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 the limit then jumps to five fish from October 15 to December 31.

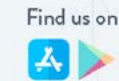


**Daniel Miller with the 15.39 lbs. tautog he caught to take first place in the Rhode Island Tautog Classic. The RISAA sponsored AnglerCatch fishing app successfully partnered with tournament this year.**

In early November RISAA members, the Association itself, as well as RISAA affiliate the Cape Cod Salties, expressed their thoughts on how well the new ‘trophy fish’ regulations worked in RI in 2022 and advocated at a Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries hearing on how similar tautog regulations should be adopted in Massachusetts for 2023. At press time Massachusetts DMF had not yet issued 2023 tautog regulations. 🐟



AnglerCatch



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# RISAA'S TEAM TOURNAMENTS

RISAA's Team tournaments created big fun and lots of winners in 2022. With Teams such as "Last Drift", "Diesel fumes, Secret Sauce", "Driftwood" and "Geezers" in the hunt how could fun not be had by all.

All in all over 50 teams participated the two team events RISAA held this year and besides fun for all, 20 teams walked away with some of the winnings

Prizes this year were actual cash checks made out to the RISAA member Tackle Shop of their choice - gone were the RISAA Bucks of past years.

July featured the RISAA longtime favorite Team fluke contest with over 24 teams entering and thanks to the new weigh in format (daily) the leaderboard changed seemingly with each tide. In the end less than a ¼ lb separated the top three teams with Miss Colleen walking away with top honors.

Next up and new this year was a Team Sea Bass event held in October with again over 20 teams entering. Diesel fumes found the fresh air up front early on with this tournament and left the rest of the field breathing their exhaust, although there was plenty of jockeying for the remainder of the top ten spots.



Capt. Richard Hittinger



Dave Dube



Carol Mello



Greg Vespe



## CONGRATULATIONS!

### TEAM FLUKE WINNERS

**19.98 - Miss Colleen**  
Greg Vespe & David Dube  
5.46 • 5.18 • 4.84 • 4.50

**19.90 - Bob & Phil**  
Robert Matteson &  
Philip Matteson  
5.72 • 5.44 • 4.98 • 3.76

**19.88 - Persistence**  
Capt. Richard Hittinger &  
Robert Murray  
6.40 • 4.72 • 4.46 • 4.30

**16.54 - Fluke Tales**  
Stephen Mello &  
Capt. Carol Mello  
5.20 • 4.14 • 4.04 • 3.16

**15.34 - Paul & David**  
Paul Phillips & David Ricks  
4.90 • 4.30 • 3.10 • 3.04

**14.75 - Jean Ann**  
Matthew Davidson &  
Thomas Malone, Jr.  
4.35 • 3.96 • 3.31 • 3.13

**14.33 - Bob & Luca**  
Robert Coupe & Luca Razza  
4.11 • 3.78 • 3.39 • 3.05

**13.42 - Fluke B n B**  
Robert Fischbach &  
William Manzi  
4.00 • 3.31 • 3.10 • 3.01

**12.28 - Flukeaholics**  
Dr. Lawrence Audino &  
Barbara Audino  
3.62 • 3.28 • 3.02 • 2.36

**12.18 - Geezers**  
Richard Reich &  
Richard Cournoyer  
3.74 • 3.62 • 2.48 • 2.34

### TEAM SEA BASS WINNERS

**12.28 - Diesel Fumes**  
Capt. Richard Hittinger &  
Robert Murray  
3.60, 3.10, 2.92, 2.66

**12.10 - Chasin' Tailz**  
Michael Lynch & Ronald Lynch  
3.46 • 3.06 • 2.84 • 2.74

**12.90b - Secret Sauce**  
Michael Roy & Robert Marco  
3.22 • 2.88 • 2.48 • 2.32

**10.25 - Bass A Holics**  
Dr. Lawrence Audino &  
Barbara Audino  
2.98 • 2.59 • 2.39 • 2.29

**9.90 - Geezers**  
Richard Reich &  
Richard Cournoyer  
2.80 • 2.58 • 2.38 • 2.14

**9.48 - Team Rampage**  
Robert Coupe & Luca Razza  
3.07 • 2.45 • 1.99 • 1.97

**9.03 - Last Drift**  
Paul Phillips & David Ricks  
2.50 • 2.28 • 2.12 • 2.12

**8.89 - Reel Gill-T**  
Robert Jachym &  
Eric Tarpinian-Jachym  
2.34 • 2.23 • 2.17 • 2.15

**8.44 - Team Matteson**  
Robert Matteson &  
Capt. John Sheriff  
2.38 • 2.08 • 2.00 • 1.98

**6.52 - Driftwood**  
Thomas Wood &  
Dawn Filiatreault Wood  
2.26 • 2.16 • 2.10

**Thanks to all who  
participated and we  
are looking forward to  
even more teams and  
participation next year!**

# RI 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+)

- Gino DeFeudis/  
Fidelity Charities
- John W. Edwards, II
- Kamen Foundation
- Jack Guarnaccia\*
- Rich C. Hittinger
- "Kids Zone - 2022 NE  
Saltwater Fishing Show"
- Lynn Medeiros
- "Mr. Poseidon"
- Scott Pacheco
- David Pollack\*
- The Reich Family\*
- RI DEM Enforcement Officers  
(In Memory of Stephen  
Medeiros)
- 2022 RISA Member  
Fluke Trip\*
- Jorge Torres
- Trout Unlimited\*
- Bradley Waugh
- James Weber
- Peter Vican\*

### SILVER (\$100+)

- The Benevity Fund  
Dell Tech Employees
- Blackbaud Giving Fund
- Christine Bollmann
- Gerard Brien
- Richard Chouinard
- Stuart Cohen
- Capt. Kenneth Cooper
- Fred DeFinis
- John Doyle
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- Fidelity Charitable/  
Richard & Cheryl Ferris\*
- Fidelity Charitable/Michael Piper
- David Green

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- Capt. Sandy Kane
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- Capt. Jason Powell (In Memory  
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- Luca Joseph Razza
- Richard Reich
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& Thomas Wood
- Johnathon Woods
- Gary Zera

\*Steve Medeiros/Black Point Fund

### BRONZE (\$50+)

- Athanasius Anagnostou
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- Edward Desrosiers
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- Michael Sheppard
- Alfred Trombley
- Michael Vanda
- Phyllis Vivari I
- Daniel Watson
- Edward Weikman

### IN MEMORY OF

- Brian Fogg
- O. Hajnoski
- Kids Camp
- Stephen J. Medeiros
- Frank Powell
- Stephen J. Therrien

THANK YOU!



PLEASE  
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#### MAIL TO:

RISA Foundation  
P.O. Box 299  
Tiverton, RI 02878

# The Rhode Island's Saltwater Anglers Association's Political Action Committee

One of the missions of RISAA is to represent the concerns of the recreational community on regulatory and legislative issues. That means that we have to deal with elected officials.

Fortunately, there area number of legislatures who have worked hard on our behalf and others who support RISAA's principles. We need to be sure those officials remain in office.

It is also important that legislatures understand who we are. If we don't advance our own causes, no one will do it for us.

By law, our Association can not contribute funds to any candidate, therefor we have established a **legal, incorporated and registered Political Action Committee** which CAN make contributions on our behalf. It has an independent treasurer and its own bank account.

Only donations specifically made to the RISAA PAC can be used. Under no circumstances can any membership dues money - or any other contributions made to the Association - be used for the PAC. It would be a violation of state election laws for any money from RISAA to be used for PAC purposes.

Also, all money received by the PAC must come from *individual donors*. *No contribution can be accepted from any organization or business interest.*

## DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!

To be effective, we must participate in the system.

### 2022 PAC DONORS TO DATE

#### PLATINUM (\$500+)

**Bradley Waugh**

#### GOLD (\$200+)

**Greg Vespe**

#### SILVER (\$100+)

**Gerard Brien**

**John Turchetti**

**Athanasius Anagnostu**

**Kenneth Cooper**

#### BRONZE (\$50+)

**Richard Reich**

**Cyndee Costello**

**Jean Bowen**

**Douglas Jost**

#### COPPER (UP TO \$49)

**Charles Hill Trust**

With your help, we can continue to work within the political system  
to safeguard the rights and traditions of recreational fishing.

## STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

MAKE A DONATION ONLINE: WWW.RISAA.ORG/THE-FOUNDATION



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accepted from  
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organization check  
can be accepted.  
(R.I. Law)

### Political Action Committee

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Make checks payable to **RISAA PAC**)

Sometimes RISAA acknowledges the names of contributors in our newsletter, do you prefer that:

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THANK YOU!

#### MAIL TO:

RISAA PAC  
P.O. Box 299  
Tiverton, RI 02878



# 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](http://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](http://www.risaa.org/regist)**

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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.



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