



RHODE ISLAND **SALTWATER** *Anglers*

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Recreational
Anglers

IN THIS ISSUE:

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FOR SPRING
SCHOOLIES**

**NEW REGS
FOR 2023**

**SPRING
TOG &
SQUID**

PLUS:
YEARLONG TOURNAMENT CHANGES

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www.RISAA.org • 401-826-2121

EVENTS & MEETINGS

FEBRUARY

27 RISAA Monthly Meeting Seminar - Getting The Most Out Of A Small Boat with Greg Vespe

MARCH

10-12 19th Annual New England Saltwater Fishing Show
27 Seminar - Capt. Brian Bacon of Big Game Fishing - Offshore Pelagics

APRIL

24 Seminar - David Fewster & Brandon Hagopian Squid Fishing

JUNE

28-30 Kids Camp
30-JULY 9 Team Fluke 10 Day Tournament

AUGUST

4-13 Youth/Adult Tag Team 10 Day Tournament

SEPTEMBER

30-OCT 9 Team Sea Bass 10 Day Tournament

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The Official Newsletter of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association
Published Monthly

RISAA, PO BOX 299, Tiverton, RI 02878

FROM THE HELM



NOW IS THE TIME FOR RISAA TO GROW

This coming season offers the best opportunity for RISAA growth in many years. Throughout Southern NE, whether through direct membership or adding regional affiliate clubs, or preferably both, we have much we can point to when demonstrating our value to potential members; but why grow at all and why now?

Growth. All fish from the day they are born seem to follow a “grow to survive” instinct. In many ways its pure math, the larger they grow the fewer predators that can eat them. Overall this concept serves fish well but at times it can also be their undoing. In the rush to grow big fast, they often try to eat anything they can fit in their mouths and fail to consider the consequences. Fishermen have long taken advantage of this and many a fish in its rush to grow big has failed to inspect the offering closely enough to verify it’s a healthy decision.

Sometimes it’s a mistake the fish can learn from; sometimes it’s a bit more permanent. Our club has to navigate some of the same risks. Is a new member right for us, does a new affiliate club match our philosophy enough to make them a good addition? Growth when done thoughtfully and with a plan helps ensure our health and ability to continue to offer the activities and events our members enjoy. Likewise, a growing membership increases our ability to push for sound management of our fish and recreational fishing in Southern NE.

As I review things, I believe now is the right time to push to add new members and add clubs to our affiliate base. As we enjoy the upcoming Fishing Show with our friends and during the season to come it’s time to encourage nonmembers to take a second look at us.

When promoting our club to potential members we have much we can directly point to over the past year that clearly demonstrates RISAA’s continued ability to effectively promote and represent recreational fishermen. We have played a direct hand in opening Black Sea Bass early in RI (even when at the same time all NE states were forced to a take a cut). We have been largely responsible for the creation and implementation of the Trophy Tautog regs, in both MA and RI. Additionally our current legislation pushes are to support RI’s Shoreline access bill, avoid use of the Sakonnet River for powerline transmission cables and to continue influencing turbine placement on Coxes ledge. Looking to the future we continue to support our affiliate clubs with amendment 7 (Striped bass) and stand with the Cape Cod Salties in their fight to prevent release of Radioactive water into Cape Cod Bay.

More tangible for some anglers is our ongoing monthly fishing seminar series (can be viewed both live and recorded), as well as our timely Magazine. Our Members Only head boat trips remain my favorites as do the tournaments we hold throughout the fishing season. For anglers with specific interests RISAA has free surf, kayak and fly fishing committees they can join that focus on these activities. Now is our time to shine!

Catch’em Up!

Greg **VESPE**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RI SALTWATER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
Legislative Committee

THE WATCH

Reported by: Richard **Hittinger**, CHAIRMAN

“THE VOICE OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND FISHERMEN”

RISAA does so many things in support of anglers in southern New England that it is hard to mention everything in one discussion. From running the New England Saltwater Fishing Show in March to running Fishing Camp for kids in June to sponsoring 4 party boat fishing trips for members and families, to publishing this magazine and hosting 2 major websites, monthly in-person fishing seminars, the online fishing forum – SNESA for up to date fishing results, a series of RISAA tournaments, free member charter boat raffles, an annual banquet, a Political Action Committee, the list goes on..... But what do we mean when we say we are the “Voice of Southern New England Fishermen”?

That starts with the “Legislative” Committee. I’m not sure if the name actually gives one the right idea of what we do or not. Possibly it should be the “Policy” committee, but Legislative is fine with me as long as we continue to do everything that we can to provide a voice for private recreational fishermen and women in the realm of fisheries management, laws, and regulations. As 1st Vice President of RISAA, I serve as the Chair for the Legislative Committee and I follow some excellent recent Legislative chairs including Dave Monti, the late George Allen, and Doug MacPherson, all of whom have set a high bar for “Legislative” achievements.



RISAA’s Legislative Committee advocates for anglers at the local, state, regional and federal levels.
Photo of RI State House by Jeff Heilman.

We currently have 54 members on the Legislative Committee, including many RISAA members at large as well as representatives from our Affiliate Clubs. The representation that we conduct before fisheries agencies is one of the key reasons that some of our Affiliate Clubs join with RISAA; we have more clout when we all

join together on issues. This committee keeps a close eye on proposed legislation at the RI Statehouse and local cities and towns that could impact anglers in any way. We also work very closely with RIDEM Division of Marine Fisheries on a weekly basis to help plan saltwater fishing regulations that benefit both recreational anglers and benefit the fish stocks. We have regular meetings with RI Coastal Resource Management Council (CRMC) because so many of their decisions impact anglers in some way. In addition, we monitor activities at the regional councils (New England Fisheries Management Council and Mid Atlantic Fisheries Management Council) as well as the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and other Federal fisheries management agencies. We constantly work to keep Public Access points open to anglers and all users including our Adopt-an-Access and Adopt-a-Ramp programs and we watch any developments that may impact fishing including development of Offshore Wind Energy projects and their cables coming ashore. We have representation on the RI Sea Grant Advisory Board as well as the CRMC Fisheries Advisory Board.

As a committee we decide on policies and actions at the State, Regional and Federal levels that we believe will make fish stocks stronger in the long run and help recreational anglers as much as possible. Most of our discussions are through our email group, with on-line quarterly meetings or special meetings when necessary for particularly important or urgent topics. We then make recommendations to the RISAA Board of Directors and if approved we draft and submit comment letters, emails or in-person testimony on behalf of RISAA and our affiliate clubs. That is what we do to live up to the term “The Voice of Southern New England Fishermen”.

Here are some examples of what we are working on now:

Tautog Regulations – After successfully working with the RIDEM Division of Marine Fisheries to pass regulations in 2022 that protect large breeder tautog in RI waters we then supported similar regulations in MA that will be regulation in 2023. These regulations only allow one fish per angler over 21” while still allowing anglers to fish and harvest the same number of tautog as previous regulations as long as they are under 21” total length. We now hope that we can convince CT to pass similar regulations to protect these fish that have become so important to recreational anglers, especially in the Fall.

(Continued on page 10)

THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filliatreault Wood, CHAIR



Welcome NEW Members!

- Richard Emond - Bristol, RI
- Jacob Raymond - Harrisville, RI
- Dennis Vieira - Swansea, MA
- Paul Belham - Foxborough, MA
- Jim Salomon - Providence, RI
- Anderson Moore - tamford, CT
- David Richardson - Cranston, RI
- Doug Cooke - Ipswich, MA
- Jacqueline Ballback - Brunswick, ME
- Michael Ringo - Coventry, CT
- Christopher Tremblay - West Warwick, RI

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

RISAA MAGAZINE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

RISAA is looking for volunteers to help develop their magazine which publishes nine times a year. Writers, proof readers, advertising coordinators and associate editors are needed. Put in as much or as little time as you want. Will work with a motivated team of volunteers, staff and consultants that enhanced content and developed a new format last year that has made the magazine more popular than ever.

Contact Greg Vespe, RISAA Executive Director and Magazine Editor at vespe@risaa.org or call Greg at 401.826.2121

MEMBER PHOTOS



RISAA Fish Camper with a tight line off Warwick Neck 6-30-22.



A Happy Camper from RISAA Fish Camp with a nice double header scup on 6-30-22.

IT'S BACK!

The 19th Annual

New England Saltwater Fishing Show

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Seminar Schedule & Updates: www.NESaltwaterShow.com

COOKING YOUR CATCH

By: Paula Smalec

BAKED COD WITH GARLIC & HERB RITZ CRUMBS

I've substituted both tautog and striped bass for the cod in this recipe and it is just as delicious. This is a recipe from Ina Garten and appears in her cookbook Modern Comfort Food.

If you would like to see Ina prepare this recipe, watch the video that is embedded in the recipe on the Food Network website. Go to: <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/ina-garten/baked-cod-with-garlic-and-herb-ritz-crumbs-11982578> (or go to www.foodnetwork.com and type the name of this recipe into the search bar) to see the video and recipe.

Two things that I do differently from Ina when I prepare this recipe is I use less salt when I season the fish and also when I add it to the topping. Also, I place my fish fillets into small individual baking dishes rather than all in a single dish. This makes serving the fish and the sauce much easier.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 center cut boneless, skinless cod fillets (6 to 8 oz. each)
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- ½ cup Ritz cracker crumbs (15 crackers)
- ⅓ cup Panko bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic (2 cloves)
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- ¼ cup dry white wine
- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- lemon wedges, for serving



DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.

Pour 2 tablespoons olive oil in a 9" X 9" baking dish and tilt the dish to coat the bottom with oil.

Place the fish fillets in the dish and turn to coat both sides with the oil. Season the fish with salt and pepper and bake for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, combine the cracker crumbs, panko, parsley, garlic, lemon zest, and ½ teaspoon salt (or less) in a small bowl. Add the melted butter and stir until evenly moistened. Set aside.

Remove the fish from the oven and pour the wine and lemon juice directly on the filets. Pat the crumb mixture evenly onto the fillets, pressing gently to help them adhere. (Don't worry if some crumbs get into the sauce).

Return the pan to the oven for 12 minutes, until the fillets are just cooked through in the center, depending on the thickness of the fish. Serve hot with the pan juices and lemon wedges.

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FISHING SHOW ALREADY A RECORD BREAKER

By: Captain Dave Monti

At press time, the New England Saltwater Fishing Show being held March 10-12 at the Rhode Island Convention Center is already a record breaker with booth sales revenue the highest it has ever been. The show is the largest saltwater fishing show of its type in the Northeast, featuring tackle, rods, reels, lures, electronics, charter guides, boats, motors, accessories, clothes and much more.

"We have over 300 booths sold at this point and have experienced an increase in large displays for boats too," said Greg Vespe, Executive director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (Show sponsors). "We do have some booths still available. You can feel it in the air. Exhibitors are excited and stepping up with some great Show Specials and anglers can't wait to get ready for a great season of fishing with the latest products and some new fishing strategies and tactics they learn from show seminars."

Seminar topics will include everything from offshore Canyon tactics to inshore tips and tricks for black sea bass. Speakers will cover locations from Boston Harbor to the Connecticut River and everywhere in between. Accomplished charter captains, authors and local sharpies are all pitching in to cover topics of interest.

Visit www.nesaltwatershow.com or RISAA's Facebook page for

updates on seminar topics and speakers. By taking a little time to plan your show visit you can make sure you are at the show for the presentations you want to see and visit the booths that have products you want to check out and buy.

The New England Saltwater Fishing Show is being held at the Rhode Island Convention Center Friday, March 10, 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 11, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday, March 12, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Children 11 and under admitted free and on Sunday, March 12, Family Day, all women are admitted free. Visit the Kids Casting Area on Saturday and Sunday for casting and other games.

All adults who enter the show can register to win a Free Fishing Charter Trip with Archangel Fishing Charters with Capt. Mike Littlefield. Tickets in advance at www.ticketmaster.com or at the door for \$12. Friday is Military Appreciation Day. In conjunction with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the first 200 Veterans and Active Duty personnel that arrive on Friday will be admitted free.

Parking is available at the Convention Center Parking Garage with less expensive parking at Providence Place Mall with a longer walk.

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Public Access - As always, 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 in 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 scuba diving group to complete some repairs on the Fort Wetherill ramp.

“We are working with RI Senators and Representatives to introduce and push forward Bills that will... strengthen CRMC’s mission to protect and preserve the marine environment...”

Offshore Wind Energy -We continue to be involved with the CRMC Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB). The FAB has been in active negotiations with CRMC and Orsted, developer of Revolution Wind regarding the 100 wind turbines that are to be located on Cox Ledge and to the north and west of Cox Ledge. We are trying to reduce the fishing impacts of that project as much as possible. We have also been reviewing the idea of 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 with overhead power lines or 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.

RI Statehouse - We are working with RI Senators and Representatives to introduce and push forward Bills that will:

- lessen the impact of new aquaculture development, such as H5037;
- strengthen CRMC’s mission to protect and preserve the marine environment;
- define the high tide line as something that is visible on the shore - the weed line;
- re-name the Black Point Fishing Access to honor Stephen Me-deiros, RISAA Founder; and
- give control of crabbing regulations back to RIDEM rather than legislatively mandated.

Regional Council Actions - 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, 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. Under the new harvest control rule the stock status would have a higher consideration when setting new regulations.

JOIN RISAA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

All RISAA members are welcome to join the RISAA Legislative Committee. If you are interested send an email to me at hittinger@risaa.org and we will send you the link (via email) to the next Legislative meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for May 25 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

GO LOCAL FOR SPRING STRIPERS

By: Todd Corayer



This month, we all lean a little west, looking for dark grey fins, small swirls or flocks of black tipped gulls tipping us off to striped bass movements east and north. Before an age old game of telephone tag begins, alerting all of New England that someone heard that someone heard that someone maybe caught that first fish, we should have prepared our gear and loaded our bags with plugs and tricks. Locals have their favorite spots so why not use their favorite lures?

Stripers will run high on cloudy days or after a few sunny ones warm the surface. This is where you work pencils and poppers. Klondike Customs’ Matt Thayer creates a brilliant line of fresh and saltwater lures and a personal favorite is his blue and white pencil popper version. Perfectly balanced and rugged enough to catch well over time, tie them directly. They float nicely on a steady retrieve, resembling a tired wounded fish with an attractive wake sure to draw in bass. Matt Thayer takes tremendous pride in his art so they are finished with strong clear coats and are just plain beautiful.


If you can find one, Mike Yarworth of the Narragansett Surfcasters fishing club turns some highly fantastic wood poppers. Spring bass and bluefish poppers are similar in design and often are best retrieved on a three count, with a pause after three handle turns. Even a missed strike is exciting when it gets tail slapped then you see a wake and you get shaky watching it turn away then come back and you reel a little more quickly, then the whole ocean explodes with a strike and a splash and you’re in the fight and your hand is still shaking after decades of fishing. If you can find a Yarworth popper in someone’s tackle bag, especially a white or blue over yellow pattern, ask to borrow it, for a long time.

I firmly believe fish key in on certain colors on particular days

and skies but more importantly, I believe shape is more critical than color, especially in the middle of the water column. Those old timers surely caught loads of bass off the beach with simple wood lures because form was the ticket. When bass are lurking, hunting behind boulders or cruising a sandy stretch, that instant instinct to attack relates to shape. They see a fish, they attack. For midwater fishing, Cape Cod’s Fish Snax Lures’ Albie Snax in pearl white and blurple are pure gold because they have a simple shape that works in many conditions. I’ve had good luck rigging them with Massachusetts’s Joe D’Agostino’s Joe Baggs jig heads. The 5/16 ounce model is long enough to secure most plastics and



(Continued on page 12)




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**Klondike
Pencil**

they resist a tough saltwater environment. Rig Albie Snax with ¼ ounce jigs then long cast for larger, wiser fish on the outside of the school. Albie Snax are available in a variety of colors, from Lemon Meringue to Bubble Gum and are four season striper lures. If you know fish are in but can't buy a strike, try a Gravity Tackle GT 91/2" eel. They come in a variety of colors and if bass are still not knocking at your door, cut the tail back an inch or so to add some flutter. Something so simple as having a 5" Albie Snax or 9.5" Gravity on a steady retrieve, one solid and one tricked out with a split tail can make all the difference.

Taking another page from the Klondike Customs catalog, I have absolutely loved fishing Matt's double blade spinner bait for winter holdover bass. Based on his successful largemouth design, it has an Indiana blade setup with stainless parts to finish a well-balanced striper lure that can absolutely be retrieved slowly in icy waters. You'll need a rod with a little muscle in the tip to keep them straight while they hit all the marks: flash, vibration, and wiggle. All good things in life come with a good wiggle. There's real truth in Matt's nickname as the "Spinnerbait Man of South County."

For deeper waters, a Point Jude Lure Company Po-Jee with a spinner and single hook will work the bottom with shine and glitter like small bait. Po-Jee's also produce a bit of vibration which will strike right at a striper's lateral line. At 1 ½ ounces, you'll easily cast past the crowd but keep the profile real. No early angler



Gravity Tackle



**Klondike
Customs
Spinnerbait**

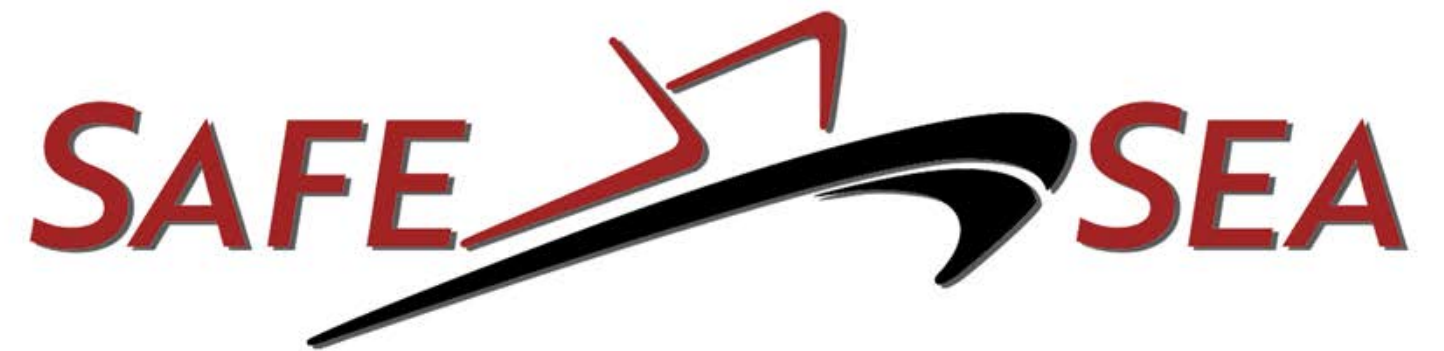
**Gravity
Tackle**

worth her salt would leave without a perennial North East favorite, the bucktail. Rosie Clifton of Rosie's Bait and Tackle ties them by hand, incorporating hollow deer hair with fine threads built to last. "We always start with a quality jig head and then tie in the bucktail toward the rear of the jig body, allowing enough room to add a paddle tail or similar soft plastic if desired. White seems to be the go-to color for stripers, but we have had success with pinks, greens, and reds," Rosie said.

Local's tip: where people seem to be hammering fish is not always the only place schools are focused so bounce them off those sandy Charlestown Breachway sides while the masses walk that brief and weird breakwall rotation. Try her Clouser pattern flies as teasers ahead of egg and squid strip setups. At just eight years old, Rosie catches with her own creations and there's no better way to go local for spring stripers than by supporting a young angler. Rosie's Bait and Tackle can be found on Instagram and at www.rosiesbaitandtackle.com.

The best local tip may be to change trebles for singles when possible. Trebles, especially up forward, can damage young fish, tear soft tissue, become lodged in throats and worse, snag gill plates when fish fight back. And please release fish as gently as possible. Rough reentries decrease their chances of survival and we should all know by now how catch and release keeps stocks healthy, anglers happy and tackle companies busy. All that local knowledge will prepare you for a successful Spring chasing striped bass. 🐟

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2023 College Scholarships Programs

We encourage the participants of every member by helping us to raise awareness of our scholarship program. Please let your family and friends know about this program and tell them to spread the word.



Scholarships Committee
David Michel, CHAIRMAN

Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association Member Scholarships

- Any RISAA member in good standing or their immediate family, specifically their children or stepchildren, grandchildren, brother or sister, or stepbrother or stepsister, who is currently a high school senior and will attend ANY college or university within one year, may apply for the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association Member Scholarship.
- The student does NOT have to pursue a marine science degree. Any degree program at any college is acceptable.
- \$600 scholarships are awarded.
- Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis.

Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers FOUNDATION AWARDS

Fisheries & Marine Sciences Scholarships

Awarded to any Rhode Island high school senior who will be attending either the University of Rhode Island or Roger Williams University, in a Fisheries or Marine Sciences program within one year.

Three \$500 Scholarships are awarded, and the recipient does not have to be connected with RISAA in any way.

Fisheries & Marine Sciences Continuing Education Scholarship

Awarded to any student currently enrolled at either the University of Rhode Island or Roger Williams University, and entering his/her second year in a marine science program.

\$500 Scholarships are awarded to the one student at each university.

Stephen J. Therrien Memorial Scholarship

The Stephen J. Therrien Memorial Scholarship is RISAA's most prestigious merit-based award and recognizes students who show outstanding achievement and commitment. Therrien Scholarships are intellectually curious and have demonstrated passion, experiences, or achievements beyond the usual. They are, in other words, not just top students, but extraordinary people. All qualified candidates who apply for either the Rhode Island Saltwater Angler's Foundation's "Fisheries or Marine Sciences Scholarship" or the "Marine Sciences Continuing Education Scholarship" will be considered for this award. These are \$500 Scholarships.



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How To Apply

if you have a child who is a high school senior, or know someone who is eligible to apply, let them know about our scholarship programs. Applications and information is available:

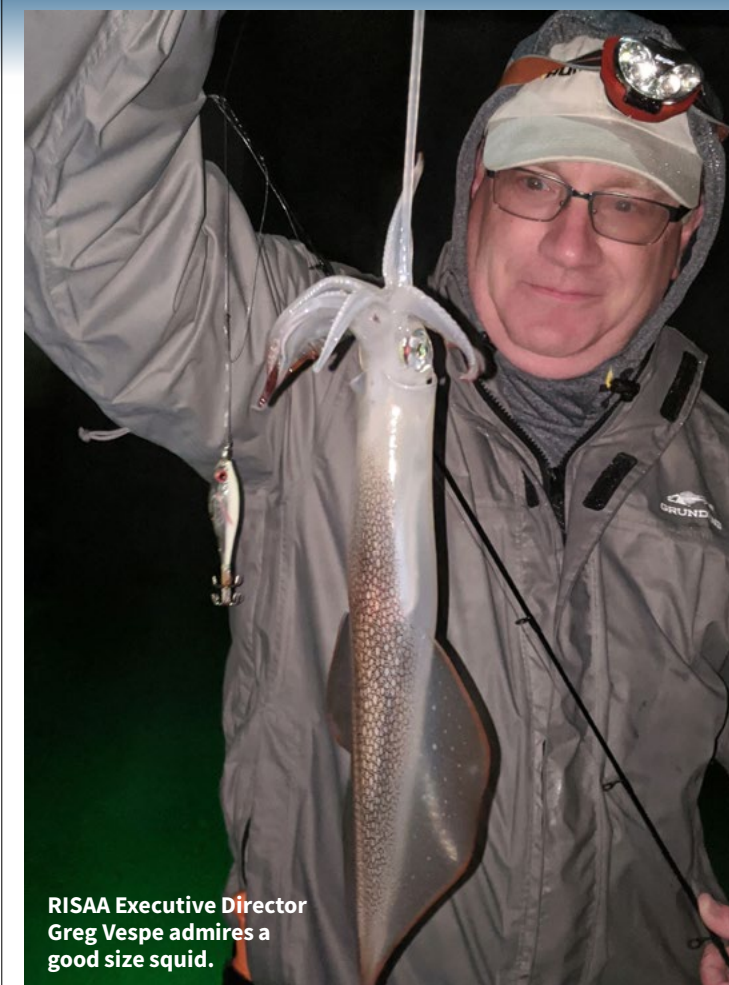
- Email to michel@risaa.org
- Go to www.risaa.org and click on the "Scholarships" button
- Call the RISAA office at 401-826-2121
- **Applications must be post marked or received by May 5, 2023**

SPRING SQUID

By: Greg Vespe

Spring's arrival brings many things to eager anglers here in New England. Increasingly the opportunity to catch squid is on that list. What was once an afterthought at best by most New England anglers has risen in popularity and is now an annual rite of spring for many. Gone are the days when anglers flocked each spring to the docks and back bays in hopes of catching tasty Black Backs (aka winter flounder). Early morning trips and chum pots have now been replaced by a crew that arrives at dusk and brings with them lanterns, buckets and boxes of squid jigs.

For most New Englanders the squid season will start somewhere around mid-April and run usually through May. In RI the squid tend to arrive a bit later than the Cape but stay longer. Once the stripers arrive the squid do tend to get a bit more antsy and this can disrupt fishing for them, but with a bit of searching you can usually still find them in catchable numbers. Where I fish the squid will stay until the bluefish arrive in enough numbers to finally push them out of the bay and beyond my reach.



RISAA Executive Director Greg Vespe admires a good size squid.



RISAA member Karlis Kaugars with a nice catch.

What makes these 10 tentacled cephalopods so fun to target? I think it's a combination of a few factors, taste being one. While there are many species of squid (most all of whom are highly edible) New England is blessed with what is arguably the best tasting of all the squids, the Loligo or Long Finned squid.

If one can simply accept the fact that they will at some point during the night get blasted by a combination of squid ink and seawater... then you can get about thoroughly enjoying the adventure. Regionally squid are one of the last unregulated fisheries easily accessible to recreational anglers. Translated: there currently is no size or bag limit on recreationally caught squid - if it can find the hook it can meet the cook! That being said squid which can be kept for food or bait are a gift to be appreciated and not wasted.

Improvements in clothing have also helped make nighttime on the water in April and May much more comfortable than once upon

(Continued on page 16)

a time. Anglers can now stay pretty warm with minimal effort. The lanterns of the past have mostly given way to battery powered LED and 12 volt systems so the need for carrying fuel, kerosene etc. in lamps to your favorite spot has diminished. If you spend enough time on the docks however...you will still see the occasional old school lantern being lowered down to the water's edge.

Squid fishing gear itself has improved as well - many squid jigs are now works of art although the basic colors, pink, white and green, remain popular, along with my favorite color blue. For those that want to refine things further, there are now jigs with many different sink rates and anglers often stack the jigs in a daisy chain style presentation to ensure at least one or more jigs remain in the targeted zone when jigging. Current and depth as well as level of aggressiveness all are factors a squid sharpie must deal with, and traditional sized jigs can now be swapped out with "micro" jigs when the bite softens, often with good success.

Fishing rods are now more sensitive and lighter than ever making a large squid quite the challenge to bring in adding to the fun. My gear of choice for squid is basically what I would refer to as freshwater reservoir trout and/or walleye gear. I run 8 to 12 lb test mono, (braid tangles at night are not worth the hassle to me) on a medium action, fairly soft rod.

Lastly, with the explosion in popularity of cooking and improved culinary skills amongst "average" fishermen, squid is one of the



An evenings catch about to be processed.

most universal "fish" and can be presented in numerous ways with an unlimited number of recipes available to try, as seeming every culture that has a coast line has developed ways to prepare squid to eat. Whether grilled, stuffed, fried or sautéed, there is no end to the options available.

My suggestion this April and May: get a light that can shine into the water... grab a rod and a few of the new squid jigs, and head down to the dock or up into the bay for some new adventure.

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with Capt. Brian Bacon

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Covering when the season starts to what's been trending, this seminar is a great starting spot to learn more about the RI offshore fishery and some of the hardest fighting fish that can be encountered here off the RI Coast.



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, RISAA Executive Director and Magazine Editor at vespe@risaa.org or call Greg at 401.826.2121



HOW ARE FISHING REGULATIONS SHAPING UP FOR 2023

By: Captain Dave Monti



Paula Smalec, Rene' Blanchette and Tom Houde all RISAA members with BSB and fluke caught off Newport last summer. Fluke regulations are expected to stay the same four fish/person/day at 18".

Rhode Island's 2023 recreational fishing regulations were discussed with options explored at a January 31, 2023 Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council workshop. Connor McManus, Chief of Marine Fisheries for the RI Department of Environment Management said, "We expect to finalize regulations in April with rules in place by May 1."

The aim of the January 31 workshop was to review stock status and obtain input from stakeholders on developed and new specie regulation options. The next step in the process will be a public hearing, scheduled for March 6, where all weigh in on options and then proposed regulation options with a Division of Marine Affairs recommendation and all the public input comes before the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council on April 3.

The Council recommends both recreational and commercial fishing regulations to Terrance Gray, Director of the Department of Environmental Management. The Director makes the final ruling on all fishing regulations which are expected to be in place for the season by May 1.

Here are highlights of the workshop and how regulations might shape up for Rhode Island.

Atlantic menhaden. The stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. However, Rhode Island has a Special Management Area in Narragansett Bay were bio mass is assed regularly by spotter airplane surveys to make sure enough menhaden are left in the Bay as forage for striped bass, bluefish and other species.

A number of industry proposals were presented that eliminated the weekly 120,000 pound vessel limit regardless of the special Menhaden Management Area status along with eliminating aerial surveys, removal of Saturday and Sunday closures, allow access to menhaden control areas i.e. including allowing fishing north of Conimicut Point and in Greenwich Bay. Industry proposals

also included having the season start and end when the quota is reached. In essence the proposals would do away with the special Menhaden Management Area in Narragansett Bay.

Commercial menhaden harvesters at the meeting related the proposals were made based on a healthy stock assessment that shows Atlantic menhaden are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring which lead to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to increase total allowable catch (TAC) by 20 percent coastwide with an increase in Rhode Island allocation of .81 percent (RI's State landings have historically been low compared to other states so our increase is substantially less than increases in other states).

Anglers at the meeting, with comment by Greg Vespe, Executive Director of the RI Saltwater Anglers Associaton, said, "The recreational fishing community worked hard with DEM and industry to put this model special Atlantic menhaden Management Area plan in place in the Bay to make sure we have enough Atlantic menhaden in the Bay for forage for striped bass, bluefish and other species. Anglers would be opposed to dismantling this model program as it has worked well for years."

Summer flounder. The stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, recruitment is down but the spawning stock biomass has increased. No reduction for summer flounder is required in 2023 so DEM has recommended status quo, keeping recreational regulations the same this year. Four fish/person/day, 18" minimum size, May 3 to Dec. 31. In 'special' shore locations two

(Continued on page 21)

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FISHING CAMP STILL HOOKING YOUTH

By: Captain Dave Monti

The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) and the Department of Environmental Management's (DEM) plan to hold their annual youth fishing camp this year for about 55 children from Tuesday, June 27 to Thursday, June 29, 2023. Funding for the three day camp is provided by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services. The camp is free for participants and will be held at Rocky Point State Park, Warwick for children 7 to 12 years old.



Fishing camp first cast: camper Kayden King, (foreground); Terrance Gray, DEM Director; Mayor Frank Picozzi, Warwick; and in background Greg Vespe, Executive Director, RISAA.

Greg Vespe, RISAA Executive Director, said, "Last year camp was a big success. We added additional fishing time with a tour of the Rocky Point Fishing Pier to introduce youth to this very available mode of fishing for family. While at the Pier black sea bass and scup (nice deeper size scup) were caught in abundance. So we have added this to the camper fishing experience." said Greg Vespe, RISAA Executive Director. "Our partnership with DEM's Aquatic Education Program, led by Kim Sullivan, Program Coordinator and Principle Fisheries Biologist, continues to work out great."

Richard Reich, RISAA board member and camp director, said, "Fishing teaches us patience and how to take care of the environment, but most of all it appeals to our sense of adventure and is a whole lot of fun. We have optimized fishing time from shore, on private vessels and one day we plan to travel to Pt. Judith to fish on a party boat as in the past."

Topics covered over the three-day camp include fish identification, conservation, use of spinning and conventional gear and tackle, basic marine biology, how and why to use different baits and lures, boating safety, casting from shore and fishing from private boats as well as a party/charter boat.

Visit www.risaa.org for announcements on camp sign-up next month. Space is limited so apply early.

Continued from Page 19 - **FISHING REGULATIONS FOR 2023**

fish of the allowed limit can be 17". Visit www.dem.ri.gov for a list of 'special' areas.

Black sea bass. The species is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, however, spawning stock biomass continues to decline. Coastwide recreational harvest limits are to take a ten percent reduction and DEM asked anglers on how to achieve reductions. The proposal that received most traction was increasing the minimum size to 16 1/2" (up from the 2022 minimum of 16"). Season dates and possession limits are similar to last year two fish/person/day May 22 through August 31 and three fish/person/day September 1 through December 31. The party/charter boat season starts later June 18 to August 31 with two fish/person/day and from September 1 to December 31 a six fish/person/day limit. The Rhode Island Party & Charter Boat Association is advocating for the above regulation with a charter/party boat minimum size of 16" as this change will have minimum impact on reductions form a 11.75 percent estimated reduction to an 11.36 percent estimated reduction.

Scup. The stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, however, both spawning stock biomass and recruitment continue to decline. Coastwide a ten percent reduction is required. A regulation recommendation that received favorable comments at the workshop include increasing the private and party/charter boat minimum size to 10.5" (from 10") and making all shore fishing have a 9" minimum size which was the minimum size in Special Shore Areas last year (this would eliminate the need for a special shore area as all shore fishing would have a 9" minimum size).

The private angler season would run from May 1 to December 31 with a 30 fish/person/day limit. The party/charter season would run May 1 to August 31 with a 30 fish/person/day limit and a bonus season from September 1 to October 31 with a 40 fish/person/day (this is a ten fish reduction to dovetail with new federal water requirements), and from November 1 to December 31 the limit goes back to 30 fish/person/day. All shore fishing would be 9" and would run May 1 to December 31 with a 20 fish/person/day limit.

Other options presented raise the shore minimum size to 10" and or maintain Special Shore Areas raising the minimum size to 9.5" with a 30 fish/person/day limit. If this is confusing it is, visit www.dem.ri.gov for option charts in the presentation used at the Workshop.

Bluefish. The stock is overfished but overfishing is not occurring. The regulation once again this year will likely be three fish/person/day for private anglers, and five fish/angler/day for party and charter boats. No minimum sizes, allows for a snapper blue fishery, however, it is still three fish per angler even for snapper blues.

Tautog. 2021 update stock assessment shows tautog is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The new 'trophy fish' slot limit was put in place last year in Rhode Island was so successful that Massachusetts plans to adopt the same regulation for 2023.



Tom Sadler, Deputy Director of the Marine Fish Conservation Network, a RISAA partner organization, with a Newport black sea bass. Size limit in 2023 will likely increase to 16 1/2".

Maximum of ten fish/vessel/day (does not apply to charter boats). Min size 16", April 1 to May 31, three fish/person/day; June 1 to July 31, closed season during spawning; August 1 to October 14, three fish/person/day; October 15 to December 31, five fish/person/day. **Only one fish may be above 21".** The Division is recommending status quo, the same regulations for 2023 management.

Striped bass. The 2022 stock assessment update indicates that the stock is overfished and overfishing is not occurring which would lead one to believe that recent year conservation measures are working. The Division is recommending status quo regulation for 2023 that are coastwide, a slot of one fish/person/day between 28" to less than 35". Additional provisions recommended include removal of the right pectoral fin at time of harvest on fish 34" or greater, the use of circle hooks when fishing recreationally with bait, striped bass caught on any unapproved method must be returned to the water immediately without unnecessary injury, and new this year gaffs prohibited when fishing for striped bass recreationally.

Director Gray is expected to announce final regulations in April so they are in place for May 1. Visit www.dem.ri.gov for final regulation posting.

WHALE STRANDINGS DISTURBING, WHAT'S THE CAUSE?

By: Captain Dave Monti

In the past two months since press time over ten large whale strandings have occurred in the New York/New Jersey area. Some claim it is the sonar from the offshore wind survey vessels that confuses whales and has them running into ships, causing ship strikes, whale mortality and then they wash ashore dead. I believe it is not sonar causing whale strikes but rather it is more likely a climate change impact.

According to a NOAA humpback whale study on strandings (www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-life-distress/2016-2023-humpback-whale-unusual-mortality-event-along-atlantic-coast) there have been 178 humpback deaths which is an elevated rate. However, the NOAA study shows a larger number of strandings taking place in states from 2016 to 2019 when less survey work was being done.

Capt. John McMurray, a New York charter captain and president of the American Saltwater Guides Association, wrote an article titled 'Offshore wind and dead whales' that appeared February, 2, 2023 in Salt Water Sportsman at www.saltwatersportsman.com/news/offshore-wind-and-dead-whales/. McMurray said, "The sonar power used by offshore-wind survey crews is not even close to the same as the Navy's. It's a completely different technology designed specifically to avoid adverse effects on marine life. And it's been used all over the world without any significant harm to marine mammals. The folks at NOAA have been quick to point out that wind energy surveyors are prohibited from using levels of sonar loud enough to be fatal to marine life... currently no information that would support the contention that any of the data collection equipment being used could lead to the death of a whale."

On NOAA's website in a Frequently Asked Questions on Off-shore Wind and Whales they say, "There is no evidence to support speculation that noise resulting from wind development-related site characterization surveys could potentially cause mortality of whales. There are no specific links between recent large whale mortalities and currently ongoing surveys for offshore wind development." Visit www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/marine-life-distress/frequent-questions-offshore-wind-and-whales#is-u.s.-offshore-wind-development-linked-to-any-whale-deaths?

Capt. McMurray said for the past three years there has been an abundance of Atlantic menhaden close to shore that is bringing whales close to shore where there is more vessels traffic and therefore more vessel strikes.

Capt. Paul Eidman of New Jersey also fishes coastal waters with his charter customers. Eidman said in a January 16 article in the New Jersey Star Ledger, "As a professional captain and owner-operator of a recreational fishing charter business in New Jersey, my clients and I are often lucky to come across whales,



Researchers perform a necropsy (autopsy) in Brigantine, NJ on a female humpback whale January 15, 2023. Photo by Michael McKenna of the Marine Mammal Stranding Center.

dolphins, turtles, and other marine life... We know climate change and warming waters are worsening the whales' ecosystems. These changes in forage prey abundance and location in our region, unfortunately, intersect with shipping lanes leading into one of the busiest ports in the world."

Capt. Chris Willi of Block Island Fish Works, RI, a fishing tackle shop and charter, said, "We have experienced a change in bait profiles around Block Island. We now have an abundance of all types of baits all at the same time... a variety of herring and mackerel, sand ells, squid, peanut bunker, etc. all here in our waters and along the northeast coastline. They are here bringing fish and mammals close to shore including tuna, mahi, whales of all types, porpoise and more."

The University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography Baird Symposium this summer focused on "Climate im-

(Continued on page 24)

Spring Fly Fishing In Narragansett Bay

By: Captain Ken Cooper

With four hundred miles of coastline that includes islands, bays, coves, river mouths, estuaries, deep channels, sand bars, mud flats, sandy beaches and sheer cliffs, how does one begin to write about springtime fly fishing in Narragansett Bay? My way is to focus on fishing for striped bass and bluefish, to separate shore fishing from boat fishing, and to consult an expert authority regarding each mode. (While fly fishing the worm "hatch" is a spring time event, that subject was covered in my article that appeared in the April 2022 issue of this Magazine, and so will not be addressed here.)

SHORE FISHING

My authoritative shore fishing source is J. Kenney Abrames, a Rhode Island fly fishing legend and noted author of *Striper Moon* and *A Perfect Fish*. Years ago, I hired Ken to guide and teach me where and how to fly fish for striped bass from shore around Narragansett Bay. We spent two successive twelve-hour sessions together, from dusk to dawn, in mid-May, driving from spot to spot in his truck. We covered the Bay from Narragansett to Tiverton. I had a then-current, spiral bound AAA *Rhode Island Street Map*, and I marked each location and made notes about when and how to fish each place. Within a few days, I reviewed my source material and put together a two-page "Guide to Spring Fly Fishing Locations." I printed a copy to keep with the AAA Street Map for my own personal use. Since then I seem to have forgotten in which file on which computer I saved the original text, but I still have that copy of the Guide tucked in that same Street Map under lock and key in my truck.

Although there are holdover stripers that can be caught on fly in March and early April, fishing really gets underway when migrating fish invade the Bay. The first migrating stripers typically show up at the West Wall of the Point Judith Harbor of Refuge within a week of April 10, and by May 1 just about the entire Bay has seen an influx of migrating bass. Typically these fish are schoolies in the 16 to 24 inch range, and they are hungry. By mid-May, there will be a fair distribution of slot-size bass; that is, 28 to 35 inch fish, with a few over-slot cows mixed in.

Early in the season bait may be scarce. Certainly there will be shrimp and perhaps some silversides and mumichogs. Bass will be looking for these critters to flush out of rivers and ponds that



Captain Rene Letourneau with a Narragansett Bay spring striped bass.

open to the Bay. Consider fishing places like the Narrow River, Wickford Harbor, Bristol Harbor, Colt State Park and Sapowet. You can catch stripers during the daytime at these locations, but you will do better at night.

I opt for a 7 or 8 weight rod with a floating line because these early spring shore locations are generally not very deep. And, as Ken Abrames recommends, I start fishing with a multi-fly rig of two or three flies, (You can find detailed instructions for fabricating a multi-fly rig on Steve Coulton's website, www.currentseams.com.) Early in the season, a combination of a small shrimp fly, a small baitfish imitation (e.g., a Ray's Fly) and a cinder worm or clam worm pattern would be appropriate. Later in the spring, after squid have made their appearance in the Bay, you might substitute a squid pattern for the shrimp fly and also increase the size of the baitfish patterns. The fish will tell you which pattern they prefer, and then you can adjust your fly selection accordingly.

Presentation is important. You are not likely to find large schools of blitzing bass accessible from shore in the early spring. It's more likely that the stripers you encounter will be holding in current breaks or current seams waiting for food to come to them. In such case, you generally can't just cast, rapidly strip your fly and expect a jarring strike. You will do better by casting somewhat up

(Continued on page 25)



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Continued from Page 22 - **WHALE STRANDING**

pacts of recreational fishing and boating.”

Overwhelming anglers, charter captains and scientists such as Dr. Jon Hare, NOAA Fisheries top scientist, related that warming water has brought new and abundant bait profiles into the region. They said these abundant bait profiles have brought fish and mammals closer to shore. For example 30 giant bluefin tuna were caught off the coast of Newport and Narragansett, RI two miles from shore on one day... September 11, 2022. We are seeing a greater abundance of warm water fish like black sea bass, scup, even exotic warm water fish like cobia being caught in our waters with cold water fish like American lobster leaving for deeper/colder water.

On January 18, 2023, 30 right whales were spotted feeding on high concentrations of zooplankton on the surface in Cape Cod Bay, which has not occurred in winter before forcing the State of MA to engage a mandatory speed zone in the area early.

I believe the food is closer to shore and many different species are chasing that food. This includes humpback whales, more food, more whales, and more ship strikes.

Thanks to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), they regulate offshore wind farm development, and NOAA, sonar used by the offshore wind industry is designed and implemented to avoid harm to mammals. Additionally, they are required to have look-outs on the survey vessels to protect large mammals and if a whale comes too close, survey work is halted.

I am not a scientist but do believe if a whale was under a survey vessel it could get pinged with the sonar. However, I equate it to standing in front of a speaker at a rock concert, once the speaker comes on you move away to a place that is more comfortable. The impact, if any, is only temporary.

We always need to be diligent and safeguard natural resources so no unintended harm occurs to fish, mammals and habitat. Offshore wind farms need to be developed responsibly with fish, mammal and habitat research conducted before, during and after construction to measure any negative or positive impacts. Key leanings should be applied to future developments.

It's not offshore wind industry survey vessels creating whale strikes and strandings, it's a climate change impact. 🌊

and across the flow and mending your line as necessary to achieve a more natural and realistic presentation. If you are new to this kind of fishing, then read about, or watch YouTube videos about, these topics: Mending, wet fly swing, greased line swing and dead drifting. Also, when fishing at night, be mindful of the shadow line, especially when fishing around bridges or lighted piers. Bass will often hold in the dark, waiting to pick off bait that has been attracted to the light. You certainly want your fly to come from the light toward the dark.

As for bluefish, they tend to show up later in the spring when there are more baitfish available as prey. Also, since they are generally more accessible from a boat, more about bluefish below.

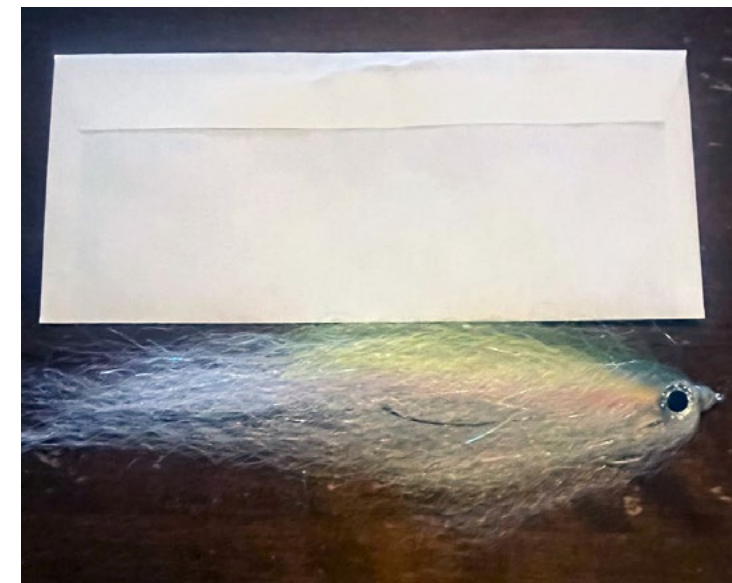
BOAT FISHING

My authoritative source for springtime boat fishing around Narragansett Bay is Captain Rene Letourneau, owner and operator of On The Rocks Charters (401) 359-3625, www.ontherockscharters.com. Rene is an Orvis endorsed guide who specializes in fly and light tackle fishing all around the Bay, as well as along the Rhode Island ocean shore. He's a long time member and supporter of RISAA. I have fished with Rene from his center console boat, and I can assure you that he knows his stuff when it comes to fly fishing around the Bay.

Ospreys arrive around the upper Bay when adult herring come in to spawn sometime in March, and Rene's fishing season gets into full swing in late April or early May when the resulting juvenile herring leave the rivers and head for the open water of the Bay. Striped bass are drawn to the feast, and there can be some very intense surface blitzes for a two to three week period. While most of the bass will be schoolies, there will be slot fish included. Rene recommends using an 8 or 9 weight fly rod with a sinking line, such as the Orvis Depth Charge, in 200 to 350 grain weight. Smallish, sparsely tied Clouser Deep Minnow and Deceiver flies get the job done. Prime locations include the Providence River, East Greenwich Bay and similar bays, as well as Bristol Harbor and river mouths that tend to warm earlier than the main body of Narragansett Bay. When juvenile herring are absent, Rene finds plenty of hungry stripers in those same areas, but then shrimp patterns and cinder worm imitations are effective along with the baitfish flies.

By mid-May, adult bunker (menhaden) arrive, and Rene says the game changes accordingly. It's a matter of finding the bunker schools and casting large flies on 10 or 11 weight rods. For Rene, "large" means foot-long patterns such as the one pictured, tied in the style of the Sedoti Slammer. It's also time to use the popular "bait and switch" technique, where Rene uses spin tackle to cast a large hookless plug to tease up a cow bass, then yanks the plug away just as his client casts a large fly to the striper. Many a client has scored his personal best striper this way.

The entire Narragansett Bay shoreline, including the shores of all of the Bay's islands, are Rene's turf. When he is not chasing after bunker schools, Rene finds stripers pursuing bait such as squid and silversides, or holding on structure and at ambush points



Large bunker fly in comparison to a No. 10 envelope.

along Narragansett Bay's rocky shoreline. As spring progresses, surface blitzes of bass and bluefish can erupt anywhere on the Bay. For this fishing, Rene prefers an 8 or 9 weight rod with a sinking line to get the fly down to the stripers' feeding zone. That's because in Rene's experience, most of the bass—and especially the larger specimens—will be chasing prey below the surface.

While bluefish can show anywhere in the Bay where there are concentrations of silversides or other baitfish, Rene says that there are some locations, such as East Greenwich Bay, that seem to hold blues all season, starting in early May. As Rene recalls, in years past, there were massive bluefish blitzes from Prudence Island to the Newport Bridge. Perhaps we are witnessing a down cycle for blues, and this phenomenon no longer occurs. Nevertheless, using his on-board electronics, he often finds bluefish mixed in with stripers, feeding along the Bay's shore from Providence to Rocky Point. Last season, Rene targeted tailing blues that were chomping very small bait around East Greenwich Bay. The bite lasted about a week, focused on the morning flood tide. Rene and his clients agree that it's hard to beat the fun and excitement of catching bluefish on the fly.

LEARN MORE

This has been a very brief review of some spring locations and tactics for fly fishing on and along the shores of Narragansett Bay. Sure, it's a big body of water, but you don't have to fish it all at once. Choose a shore spot and try it out, or hire a guide and get to know the the Bay from a boat. If you want to read up on the subject, here are three books that I can recommend: *Striper Moon*, by J. Kenney Abrames; *Stripers and Streamers*, by Ray Bondorew; and *Inshore Fly Fishing*, by Lou Tabory. Each book is written by a local Rhode Island fly fisherman and features a variety of flies that are proven to catch striped bass in and around Narragansett Bay. All three books are available on Amazon.com. 🌊

SPRING FISHING ON THE CAPE

By: Jonathan Ungerland, President, and his Cape Cod Salties

It's the dead of winter along the storied and stormy shores of Cape Cod. The waters of the Cape coastlines are well into their annual outbursts and episodes of angrier 'moods' – colder, rougher, and less welcoming than the well-known warm Cape Codder disposition of summer days. Yet, while many ride out the bitter cold and less bountiful waters of winter indoors, many Cape Cod Salties are busy fixing guides, re-lining spools, mending reels, chipping away at much needed repairs on hibernating boats.

Salties begin to notice the breaking of gray skies and start to turn eyes and minds toward spring. Eager anglers and active stewards of the fishery start to think about Striped Bass, Seabass, and more daylight creeping into the fishery for increased enjoyment with each passing day!

Veteran Cape Cod Salty and seasoned angler Ed Callaghan of Yarmouth, MA, shares his thoughts on sportfishing and enjoying the outdoors on Cape Cod during this transition from late winter to spring.

We know as soon as the dandelions have poked up the sea bass and schoolies are more than probably in. Not long after that in early June the blues will start to appear on the flats in a good year. The bigger stripers are on their way up the coast as are the many bait fish.

The early spring is the siren's call to us all to get out on the water. Whether it be fishing from the shore or onboard a boat there is plenty of quarry to pursue. The mixed blessing of the spring in these parts is that the weather can be iffy and totally unpredictable. You get those picture-perfect days that are irresistible followed the subsequent day offering freezing rain and/or a good blow.

The strategies at this time of the year meld quite nicely with the itch to just get out. The schoolies are found primarily in the estuaries/rivers and are eager to eat. I theorize that the estuaries offerings include many small critters to eat and the water warms exponentially more quickly than the Sound.

I find a water temperature of 50 degrees is what is needed to trigger the bite and be successful. Many holdovers and newly arrived fish are hungry and will take many different offerings. I like to match my gear to these smallish fish to make it a bit more interesting. I use a wimpy six-foot rod matched with a 2500 series reel and 10 lb braid. These fish are not too picky. The lures I've used range from a small soft plastic paddle tail to a Ron-Z lure. I've also used small metals and have used live mummichogs, sea-worms, etc.

Using a fly rod with a deceiver or clouser works very well too. Fishing the bottom works best. Almost any reasonably realistic presentation works well this time of year.

Concurrently, the sea bass fishery offers another excellent opportunity at this time of year. For this I would offer that a boat is the best way to access the fishery. The past couple of years have

been chuck full of hungry sea bass from Buzzards Bay to the whole southern coast of Cape Cod. I have much success on the early part of the season's opening in waters that depths range from 18 to 30 feet. The more varied the bottom depth in a small area the more success I've had. The later part of the spring I look for 30 to 50 feet of depth to remain on the bite. That is the way it has been over the last couple of years. For this I usually step up my equipment to a 7 foot rod coupled with a 5000 class spinning reel although I'm sure you could step it down slightly. Again, like the schoolies the offerings to be successful are varied. Live bait works well as does jigs, soft plastics, and metals. It appears to me that they like color. Sometimes the uglier the better. These are hungry fish and are not to discriminating.

At this time of the year being there is more than half of it! Trying different methods, depths and offering is key. If you're not successful here, go there eventually you will get dialed in. I promise.

Another seasoned and active "Salty", Ken Whiting of Yarmouth, MA, shares some history and perspective on these springtime rituals and early explorations into the waters around Cape Cod.

Recreational fishing on Cape Cod in the spring has changed con-



Jon Ungerland finding holdovers and schoolies on the estuaries and inshore waters of Cape Cod, early spring (April, 2022).

siderably over the last 75 years. During the 1950's it was not uncommon to catch large, 5 pound plus, winter flounder off the outer Cape shoreline of Nauset Beach in Orleans and Eastham. Legal size striped bass could be caught in the Nauset marsh in Eastham. Cod were also caught from the shore in the spring.

Today overfishing of all three of these species along with the impact of predators and climate change has reduced the opportunity of the recreational shore fisherman to bring home fish for dinner without hiring a charter captain or investing in seaworthy vessels to travel away from the land.

Today during the spring as the water temperature increases from the winter low 40's to the 50's and 60's in mid-May, other fish species have moved into the Cape Cod region. Most notably is the Black Sea Bass. Black Sea Bass were once centrally located in the mid-Atlantic region, but due to warming water temperatures, has relocated further north to the New York and southern New England region.

Sea bass tend to move inshore to shallow waters during the spring to spawn, and can be found in areas of rocky bottom, along Buzzards Bay and the Southern shore areas of Cape Cod. Nantucket Sound, along the southern region of Cape Cod is predominately sandy bottom, without much structure for sea bass to congregate.

Recently two artificial reefs have been revitalized or created, utilizing granite and concrete debris in Yarmouth and Harwich, to improve the existing habitat for sea bass, scup, summer flounder, tautog, lobsters, winter flounder, etc. The Yarmouth reef was created back in 1978 and is an area of 125 acres two miles South of Bass River. The Harwich reef created in 2016 is 10 acres in area, located approximately 2 miles south of Saquatucket Harbor in Harwich. Outdated navigational buoy anchors have also been deployed by the United States Coast Guard for reef structure.



Cape Cod Salties Trustee, Jack Creighton, lands black sea bass at the Yarmouth Artificial Reef. The Cape Cod Salties participate in MA DMF deployment of acres of new materials (sourced by Cape Cod Salties) to the artificial reef site.



Cape Cod Salties President, Jon Ungerland, unhooks an early season black sea bass at the Yarmouth Artificial Reef.

Sea bass are aggressive fish, which can be caught utilizing small shiny or painted jigs in the 2 to 6 ounce size, and jigged close to the ocean bottom. Adding a teaser tied to a dropper loop above the jig will most often improve your productivity. The teaser can be either a streamer type fly or soft plastic bait.

Fishing a couple hours either side of slack tide on a high or low tide is most productive when the jig and teaser will remain in a vertical position and not scope out, staying in the catch zone near the ocean bottom. Voids in artificial reefs will consume jigs so it is good to try and keep the jig just above the reef debris when possible, or fish adjacent to the edge of the reef.

So, whether you're just looking forward to a change in the weather and a pleasant escape to the coastline of Cape Cod, or interested in 'hooking up' with a Salty for a springtime excursion for stripers or seabass, may your late winter preparations be productive and enjoyable as you make ready for another great year of angling in and stewarding of our special fishery and its treasured resources! 🐟

The Cape Cod Salties Sportfishing Club was founded in 1959 and is a RISAA affiliate. The Club is open to all people who like to or want to learn how to fish in the waters of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Visit them at www.capecodsalties.org.

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. Meeting or exceeding State minimal sizes required is eligible.



BLACK SEA BASS

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

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

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

NEW KAYAK DIVISION

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



FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

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

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



BLUEFISH

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

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

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

NEW KAYAK DIVISION

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



BONITO

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

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

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



FLUKE

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

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

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



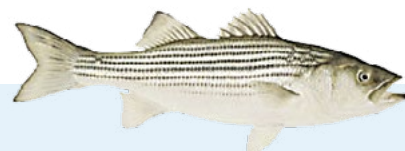
HADDOCK

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. No Entry
2. No Entry
3. 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 2023 Tournament Season.



MAHI MAHI

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



POLLOCK

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



TAUTOG

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

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

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



SCUP

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

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

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



SEA ROBIN

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

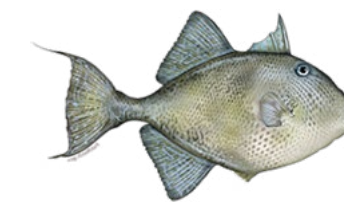
1. No Entry
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

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

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



GRAY TRIGGERFISH

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

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

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



TUNA - BLUEFIN

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



TUNA - YELLOWFIN

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

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

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

See Tournament Rule Changes
for 2023 on Page 30.

RISAA Fishing Tournament Update & Schedule For 2023

Consistent with last year any fish caught during any RISAA Tourments special or otherwise is eligible to be entered in the yearlong tourments as long as the angler is complying with all recreational fishing regulations at the time of the catch and is not being sold as part of a commercial hook and line catch.

YEARLONG INDIVIDUAL SPECIES CHANGES

- Remove cod (due to slot size regulations)
- Remove albacore (not enough being caught/entered)
- Make new trial species from last year (sea robin and triggerfish) permanent
- Added trial of two species for Kayak division (sea bass & bluefish)
- Make Legal size limit to retain each species of fish the minimal size needed to enter a fish (i.e. eliminate a second higher size requirement imposed by the club — if it's big enough to win, it's big enough to win.
- Continue with the new direct entry system on the web site launched in 2022.

CHANGES TO ANGLER OF THE YEAR

Begin new point system for every category. Winning 1st earns three points, placing 2nd earns two points and placing 3rd gains one point for each species per shore and boat division. The angler who accumulates the most points at the end of the season is the **Angler of the Year**. In event of a tie, the angler with the most first place fish wins. If still tied, the angler with the most 2 place fish wins.

TEAM TOURNAMENTS

RISAA will hold (three) 10 day tournaments for two person teams.

TEAM FLUKE: Beginning Friday, June 30th and ending 5 pm Sunday, July 9th. Final weigh-ins must take place July 9th.

(Total weight top four fish over the 10 days, plus top doormat prize)

YOUTH/ADULT TAG TEAM TOURNAMENT: Beginning August 4th and ending August 13th. Final weigh-ins must take place August 13th.

One RISAA Adult, one youth - team that tags and releases the most different species wins.

TEAM SEA BASS: Beginning Saturday, September 30th ending Monday, October 9th. Final weigh-ins must take place October 9th.

(Two RISAA anglers, total weight top four fish over the 10 days plus top knot head prize.)

Prizes to top 10 teams will be in the form of checks written out to the RISAA bait/tackle shop of their choice from RISAA with the payouts as follows: per team member - \$150 1st, \$125 2nd, \$100, 3rd, \$75 4th, \$50 5th, \$25 6th, \$20 7th, \$15 8th, \$10 9th & 10th. \$100 to team with largest sea bass.

Each team tournament has been scheduled to include two weekends and a holiday to allow maximum participation for all RISAA members. Signups will be via web site as trialed last year. Rules for the team tournament remain unchanged from last year with fish to be weighed in daily and all fish to be weighed prior to end of the tournament.

Questions? Contact Greg Vespe at vespe@risaa.org • 401-826-2121

TAP, TAP, TAP... SPRING TAUTOG FISHING HAS BEEN GREAT!

By: Captain Dave Monti

On April 10th last spring the water temperature at Narragansett Beach was only 45 degrees. Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence, said, "The water is too cold for tautog. The temperature has to be around 50 degrees for the spring tautog bite to turn on. Let's hope the water warms a bit this week."

"I generally start fishing in the spring for tautog in mid-April when the water temperature hits 52 to 58 degrees. I will start in 30 to 40 feet of water but as the water warms I will move to lower water, as low as six to fifteen feet." said Jeff Sullivan, a tautog sharpie who mates for Capt. Kurt Rivard and is an associate at Lucky Bait & Tackle, Warren.

"If you like fall tautog fishing you have to give spring tautog fishing a try. Particularly with the new one trophy fish regulation, large size tautog can be caught in the spring easier than ever before. So what's not to like. They are the first and last species I target each season." said Sullivan.

"It's refreshing to see Massachusetts take steps to join RI in being proactive in protecting these slow growing fish that are quickly becoming the backbone of the New England fall fishery."

REGULATIONS

There will be new regulations for tautog fishing this year in Massachusetts, similar to the Rhode Island 2022 regulations. "I think the new more conservative tautog regulations worked well in Rhode Island last year. We have had a positive response from members and with RISAA's leadership we were able to get similar regulations in Massachusetts." said Greg Vespe, RISAA Executive Direc-



Jeff Sullivan with a 10 pound tautog he caught off Bristol. The spring tautog bite was good last year.

tor. "It's refreshing to see Massachusetts take steps to join RI in being proactive in protecting these slow growing fish that are quickly becoming the backbone of the New England fall fishery. With no change to the bag limit and everyone still allowed to catch a trophy and set their own, club or state record it's hard to find a negative with this change. It's responsible management at its best."

Rhode Island is expected to have the same trophy fishing regulations it had last year. Anglers were 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 proposed spring season discussed at the January 31 public workshop in Rhode Island runs from April 1 to May 31 and allows for three fish/person/day, the season reopens August 1 to October 14 with a three fish/person/day limit and then jumps to five fish from October 15 to December 31. At press time Rhode Island has not finalized 2023 regulations.

(Continued on page 32)

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FIND STRUCTURE TO FIND TAUTOG

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

“Generally I fish in boulder fields in the spring or where broken bridges and pilings are in the water. Those spaces are often hard to access and can be dangerous bringing your vessel close to submerged structure unless you know the area well but it is a perfect area to fish from a kayak.” said Jeff Sullivan. “I also like mussel or oyster beds in the spring. They are generally in low water and I like to bounce my jig off the bottom and because they are generally in low water the jig is very productive.”



Tautog jigs come in a variety of colors to match the bait tautog like to eat and they get their attention.

SOFT BAITS GOOD IN SPRING, BUT CRABS ARE STILL PREFERRED BY SOME

Spring tautog baits have historically been soft including clam worms and clams. However, I have found green crabs with their shells broken off to expose the crab meat is a very tempting bait. You end up feeding a lot of fish but once they put on the feed bag the bite increases exponentially.

“My bait of choice in the spring are Asian crabs.” said Jeff Sullivan. “They are kind of soft early in the season so you have to stack more than one on a hook. Don’t get me wrong worms work too, but often times it is hard to get your worm past the scup even in the early season. And, working at a bait shop I know how expensive clam worms are now.”



Jigs outperform any bait rig for Jeff Sullivan. Shown here with at 13 pound tautog caught off Newport.

PREFERRED RIGS OR JIGS

“I jig all the time unless conditions such as deep water, heavy structure, etc. dictate a traditional rig. The jigs I use are generally 1/2 to 3/4 of an ounce with my favorite colors being white and orange. I think that these colors tend to get more attention when down at the bottom of the water column below.” said Sullivan.

As an alternative, when on heavy structure in spring or fall I prefer to use an egg sinker rig that has reduced bottom tie ups by 50 percent. The egg sinker slides on a small piece of monofilament adorned with red and white beads which has a two-way swivel on each end, a pre-snelled lazar sharp hook is attached to the end of the swivel and hangs down about eight inches. The aim is to work the hook and crab right down between rocks and bottom structure.



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Download AnglerCatch FREE at Booth #824

By: Captain Dave Monti

AnglerCatch, the RISAA supported smartphone software application for recreational fishermen, was a big success for anglers last year. Stop by booth #824 at the New England Saltwater Fishing Show and download this free smartphone app while at the Show. The app launched as part of a pilot project with RISAA, the RI Department of Environmental Management and Harbor Light Software, developers of the software application.

The aim of the two year pilot project was to develop a recreational fishing smartphone app that anglers could use to provide fish managers with needed supplemental catch and effort data to compliment NOAA Fisheries data used to develop recreational fishing harvest limits and ultimately regulations. The app serves conservation because it provides fish managers with badly needed information on fish stocks. AnglerCatch is a great fishing log and resource for anglers providing tides, regulations, weather buoy information and more.

Fran Karp, chief executive officer of Harbor Light Software, said, "The goal of the two year project was to serve as a pilot project, constantly receiving angler input and fine tuning AnglerCatch so it works better for anglers." The app was tested by RISAA members and non-member anglers with the aim of improving the app with input. The app was used by anglers last season with the aim of expanding it in years three and four as additional funding becomes available coastwide.

Conor McManus, Chief of Marine Fisheries for RI DEM, said, "The goal of this pilot program is to provide an additional source of data that can be used to complement MRIP data. We are particularly interested in better characterizing recreational discard data on a number of recreationally-significant species. The aim is to have complementary data to help guide management decisions pertaining to State fishing seasons and regulations."

Greg Vespe, RISAA Executive Director, said, "AnglerCatch is providing more accurate data to fish managers while providing a log-book that can help enhance an angler's fishing efforts. The data anglers collect supplements the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) used to estimate recreational fishing catch and effort. So every time the app is used anglers are making a contribution to conservation."

Vespe said, "The angler log book feature of AnglerCatch enhances fishing by providing information on past fishing trips to help develop fishing strategies and tactics to catch more or larger fish on future trips."



Chris Cimino (far left) of Harbor Light Software at the AnglerCatch information table helping anglers send in their catches using the free AnglerCatch fishing app for smartphones.

Reports on species caught in any given month, tide and wind when the bite was on (and off), and the types of baits and lures that seem to work best are only some of the helpful information points that can be logged. You can put a lot of effort into entering log information, or none at all and just report your catch and effort to help fish managers manage better.

Testing marketing strategies and tactics were also a big part of the pilot project. The most effective strategies generating downloads were marketing activities such as email blasts, and digital ads in fishing publications and websites. And, the most effective activities for acquiring users were in person events such as trade shows, seminars, tournaments and meetings.

At the conclusion of the 2022 fishing season (July to November) there were 1,247 downloads and 546 active users. So stop by booth #824 at the New England Saltwater Fishing show and download AnglerCatch.

The company that designed the software, Harbor Light Software, has an outstanding help line if you should run into any difficulties. For information visit www.anglercatchapp.com.

IN DEFENSE OF TAUTOG

By: Captain Greg Vespe

This Spring Mass Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is enacting new Tautog protections to match the regulations put in place last spring by the RI DEM to place some limitations on the harvest of large Trophy Black fish. Starting in April of 2023 two states will now allow angler to continue to maintain same a bag limit as before (3 in spring 5 in fall) but limit each angler to retain and poses only one Tog within the bag limit that exceeds 21". Even more significant to note is that for the first time in anyone's memory these changes were recreational angler driven and made without either state being required to reduce catch rates and harvest by either state or regional regulating bodies.

How did this and why did this happen? And why was RISAA so supportive of this change. First a look back.

As the region's Tog fishery's popularity has soared in recent years it has increasingly played a larger role in NE's fall fishery to the point where one could now argue it is the backbone of the fall recreational fishery. In short if you were a bait & tackle shop owner, a private angler or a charter boat Captain then a healthy Tog fishery increasingly mattered This level of interest and passion was then coupled with the knowledge that Tog have among the slowest of all gamefish growth rates and you had the making of a angler driven initiative that RISAA was able to harness, provide a voice to and submit a formal proposal to address.

RISAA and our members set about partnering with progressive Charter Captains (who were some of the earliest and loudest voices identifying the need to protect these trophy fish.) as well as with multiple area tackle shops to support taking proactive steps to prevent this fishery from crashing. Working through the RI DEM Workshop Process a proposal was crafted and promoted through RISAA's in house members, communications with our 29 affiliate club network as well as through the use of social media to gain momentum and voices at the public hearings that are held annually by each state. The concept was a simple one, ask that a fish be protected proactively while the population was healthy to keep it that way... rather than allow the stock to become imperiled before taking action. Limiting anglers to one large Trophy Blackfish a day still allowed for anyone to break their club, personal or state/world record while also ensuring that many of the large trophy size breeding age fish could continue to both spawn as well as provide all anglers a chance at the trophy fish of a lifetime.

Anglers turned out in mass to the hearings and when the dust settled RI's fishery council voted to support RISAA's proposal



and the rest is history. Now entering its second year on the books in RI (and first for MA) Fishery Managers are eager to assess the results and while not everyone is happy with the new Regs its support has actually grown since its enactment and it remains overwhelmingly popular among RISAA members and many Charter Captains both within RISAA as well as independent captains.

Thanks to everyone that believed in the process and saw it actually work as intended. When you catch the tog of a lifetime this year or beyond; now you know what it took for that fish to be there for you. 🐟



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Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation

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



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- Richard Reich*
- Martha Klimas
- The Cook Family**
- Capt. Dave Monti
- Walter Anderson
- Richard Hittinger Family RI Fund, Richard Durand*

SILVER (\$100+)

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MAKE A DONATION ONLINE:
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Or fill out the form below and mail to the RISAA Foundation.



PLEASE PRINT

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

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 RISAA 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.

2023 PAC DONORS TO DATE

GOLD (\$200+)

Kenneth Cooper
Kenneth Mendez
Garth Fondo

SILVER (\$100+)

Carl Tiska
John Turchetti

BRONZE (\$50+)

Thomas Freeman

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!



PLEASE PRINT

Donations ONLY accepted from individuals. No company or organization check can be accepted. (R.I. Law)

Political Action Committee

THANK YOU!

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:

Please DO NOT Print My Name It's OK to Print My Name:

MAIL TO:
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 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 to

RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NEW MEMBERSHIP

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 Other _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Regular Adult: \$50/year

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION

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

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

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

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

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



RISAA

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