



# RHODE ISLAND **SALTWATER** *Anglers*

Representing  
**OVER 7,500**  
Recreational  
Anglers

*IN THIS ISSUE:*

## **HEAD BOAT ADVENTURES**

## **JIG FOR SEA BASS**

## **SHORE FISHING POINT JUDITH**

Out bound at sunrise, hope springs eternal on board RI's head boat fleet.

**PLUS:**  
DIY: BUILD A MARKER BUOY

ISSUE: 289 • April / May 2023  
[www.RISAA.org](http://www.RISAA.org) • 401-826-2121



## EVENTS & MEETINGS

### APRIL

21 RISAA/DEM Joint Clean Up  
Tiverton Basin

24 Seminar - Eddy Stahowiak  
Photography & Fishing

### MAY

22 Seminar - Fluke

### JUNE

26 Seminar - Surf Fishing  
"RISAA Surf Team"

28-30 Kids Camp

30-July 9 Team Fluke  
10 Day Tournament

### JULY

31 Seminar - Offshore Basics  
Marc Lamson

### AUGUST

4-13 Youth/Adult Tag Team  
10 Day Tournament

28 Seminar - Hard Tail

### SEPTEMBER

30-Oct 9 Team Sea Bass  
10 Day Tournament

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

#### FULL 2023 RISAA FLY FISHING COMMITTEE OUTING SCHEDULE

See Page 27

#### FULL 2023 RISAA KAYAK COMMITTEE OUTINGS

See Page 31

#### RECREATIONAL FISHING IS WORTH

## \$419 MILLION

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ECONOMY AND OVER

## 4,000 JOBS!

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Rhode Island Saltwater  
Anglers Association

Published Monthly

RISAA, PO BOX 299, Tiverton, RI 02878

## FROM THE HELM



# ANTICIPATION.

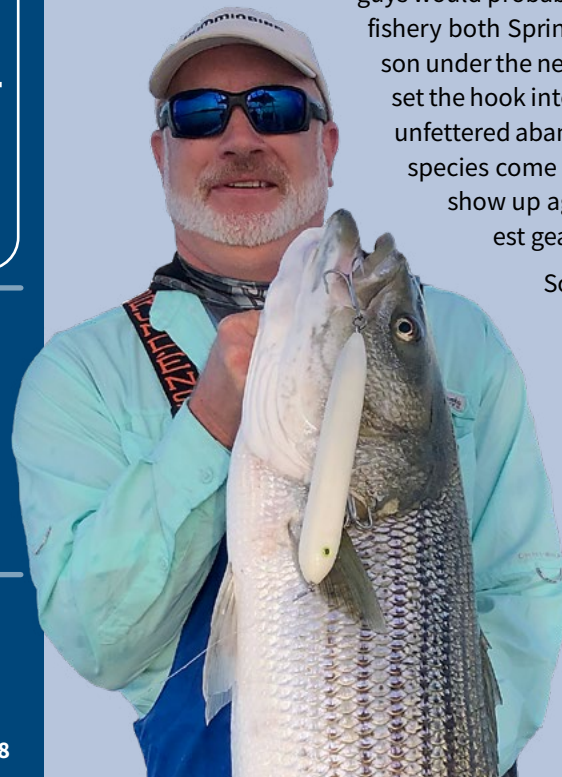
As this hits the press both RISAA's annual banquet and the 2023 fishing show will be in the rear view mirror. I know the Banquet turned out pretty decent and my enduring hope is the show did as well. Hopefully any successes can be built upon and any failures corrected. Meanwhile we should also be past most all of the spring fisheries meetings and any need for adjustments to size, seasons and bag limits should also have taken place. Assuming all that is done we can now turn our sights to what really matters to the vast majority of our members – the 2023 Fishing season. I know I for one am more than ready to ditch the administrative and legislative focus I have had and replace it with a fishing focus. Anticipation of a season that is really just days away from starting for most of us has been growing in me ever since the day our Fishing show ended. The first trip of the year always holds such a special place. Like the return of the swallows at Capistrano, it signifies a rebirth of sorts and an entire season of opportunity that lays ahead. Whether it's to try a new technique, rod or lure you picked up at the fishing show, or just being with a few of your most cherished friends again doesn't matter – what does matter is that you are back out on the water breathing in salt air and fishing again.

Where the season will take us is hard to say, but take us somewhere it will. Soon enough we will know if the stripers will continue to build on what was a mostly stellar year in 2022 – albeit many of the surf guys would probably argue that point a bit. Will the Tog fishery both Spring and Fall benefit from another season under the new regs? Will our buddies continue to set the hook into snags and fight rocks with the same unfettered abandon they showed last year? Will new species come into the area? Will the giant Bluefins show up again to lay waste to all but the heaviest gear and best Captains?

So many questions yet most all of us will have our answers by the Fall. How great is that? Best wishes to everyone in RISAA for your best season yet.

Catch'em up!

Greg **VESPE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RI SALTWATER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION  
Legislative Committee

## THE WATCH

Reported by: Richard **Hittinger**, CHAIRMAN

# THE STEPHEN J. MEDEIROS FISHING AREA AT BLACK POINT

Happy Spring everyone! I have my garden plants growing under lights already and will be planting outside in mid-May. My fishing gear was cleaned and reasonably organized a couple months ago. I bought more things that I need and some that I didn't really need at the RISAA Fishing Show, and now I am ready to go fishing. Hopefully the stripers and fluke will be here soon.

We have been busy this Winter as usual. There is a Bill in the RI House and Senate to change the name of Black Point to the: "Stephen J. Medeiros Fishing Area at Black Point". We expect that this will be approved and once some of the new signage is complete we will have a ceremony honoring Steve at the park. We have been working with RIDEM to finalize some new signs, including one about Steve and RISAA plus one about the history of Black Point and another to help with fish identification. The sign about Steve is shown below. RIDEM, The Nature Conservancy, and their contractor, Narragansett Dock Works have recently completed some improvements to the trails and steps leading down to the water

in several locations. If you haven't been to Black Point you really should take a drive over there and walk the beautiful trails and see a true gem of the Rhode Island coast. I will try to give plenty of notice regarding any ceremony so that many RISAA members can attend.

Other Bills that we are tracking include several related to CRMC improvements, all 3 of which we support:

#### House Bill No. 5966

BY: Handy, Potter, Cortvriend, Chippendale, Marszalkowski, Knight, Hull, Speakman

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (Creates the position of a full-time staff attorney for the CRMC. The staff attorney reports directly to the executive director and is not permitted to

(Continued on page 10)

## STEPHEN J. MEDEIROS FISHING AREA AT BLACK POINT

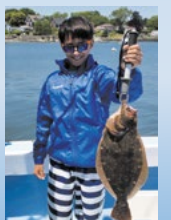


An outspoken advocate for the recreational fishing in the Ocean State, Steve Medeiros was an original founder of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association. Through RISAA his leadership brought the state's recreational fishing community together as an influential voice. His unfounded dedication to the sport he represented the interests of recreational anglers in all aspects of education, access, preservation, and regulation.

His legacy includes the creation of quality fishing opportunities for current and future generations including the Rocky Point Youth Fishing Camp, Take a Kid Fishing Days and the Rhode Island Saltwater Fishing Expo. His approach was always the same – straightforward, well informed, kind, and respectful. That made him super effective, widely admired, and certainly influential. One of his deep passions was public access and so fitting is as to be memorialized at the state's premier fishing access sites at Black Point, Narragansett.

The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association and the Department of Environmental Management host a free Youth Fishing Camp annually. Campers learn about fish identification, conservation, marine biology, and boating safety. Taught by RISAA fisherman and RIDEM staff, highlights of the camp include learning how to cast and a chance to catch fish from boats skippered by volunteers and private charter boat captains.

The annual "Take-A-Kid Fishing Day" is a chance for children to learn about Narragansett Bay and the environment, experience the thrill of catching a fish, ride on a boat in saltwater and a chance to start building a lifetime of fishing memories.



The mission of RI Division of Marine Fisheries is to manage and enhance Rhode Island's marine resources and habitats through sound science, informed management decisions, and education. In doing so, the DMF looks to strengthen the role that marine life serves in supporting Rhode Island's ecology, economy, and heritage. One of the main goals of the Division is to foster interest and participation in recreational fishing, to maintain and improve access to the shore, and to enhance opportunities for the public to connect with the coastal and marine environment.



A special thanks to the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association for funding this sign and other improvements to the Stephen J. Medeiros Fishing Area at Black Point. Please follow fishing laws and regulations.





# THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filliatreault Wood, CHAIR



## Welcome NEW Members!

Paul Belham - Foxborough, MA  
David Richardson - Cranston, RI  
Jacqueline Ballback - Brunswick, ME  
Michael Ringo - Coventry, CT  
Jon Greene - Charlestown, RI  
James Coleman - North Kingstown, RI  
Fred Amaral - Kingston, RI  
Gretchen Stiers - Eastham, MA  
Robert Petrillo - Medford, MA  
John Oliveira - Newport, RI  
Myles Bashore - Lebanon, PA  
Ava Bashore - Lebanon, PA  
Jonathan Chalon - Pawcatuck, CT  
Robert Boardman - Fall River, MA  
Brendan McDonald - Portsmouth, RI  
Steven Parks - Middletown, RI  
Paul Stroup - Naragansett, RI  
Robert Tavis - Dunbarton, NH  
Joseph Benevides - Bristol, RI  
Joshua Comerford - Richmond, RI  
Michael Faulise - Saunderstown, RI  
Will Faulise - Saunderstown, RI  
Mike Roper - Portsmouth, RI  
Jerry Greenwald - Flushing, NY  
Steve Dumond - Columbia, CT  
Patrick Campeau - Providence, RI  
Tom Dee - Rehoboth, MA  
Gary Zegel - Sanford, NC  
Dean Darling - Charlestown, RI  
Chris Natareno - Cranston, RI  
Ryan Fedo - Coventry, RI  
Jose Lanza - Providence, RI  
Ralph Eugene - North Smithfield, RI  
Bernard Nugent - North Kingstown, RI  
Robert Pos - Westerly, RI

Steve Morrissette - East Greenwich, RI  
David Boyle - Lincoln, RI  
David Clark - Portsmouth, RI  
Francis Farraye - Jacksonville, FL  
Joshua Simmons - Barrington, MA  
Spencer Bode - North Kingstown, RI  
Matthew Greely - Cumberland, RI  
Augustine Comella - Cranston, RI  
Carl Heise - Warwick, RI  
Steven White - Lakeville, MA  
Steven Kennedy - Jamestown, RI  
Joseph Gliottone - Newbury, MA  
Colleen Salguero - Wrentham, MA  
Rhett Nanson - Warren, RI  
Ivan Nanson - Warren, RI  
Yuri Nanson - Warren, RI  
Wayne Burkett Sr. - Smithfield, RI  
Brock Carnevale - Smithfield, RI  
Grant Carnevale - Smithfield, RI  
Douglas Stevens - Westerly, RI  
Ralph Nonnenmacher - Coventry, RI  
Raleigh Jenkins - Warwick, RI  
Finleigh Jenkins - Warwick, RI  
Robert Bailey - Pawtucket, RI

### \*LIFE MEMBERS

Anthony Colangelo - Cromwell, CT\*  
Anthony Pingeton - Westerly, RI\*  
Michael Matigian - Chepachet, RI\*  
Steven Kennedy - Jamestown, RI\*

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

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# COOKING YOUR CATCH

By: Paula Smalec

## PORTUGUESE LITLENECKS

(2 servings)

This recipe is an appetizer on the menu at Brick Alley Pub & Restaurant in Newport.

Serve this with a crusty bread for dipping into the spicy broth.

I use red and orange peppers when I make this recipe, and you can certainly substitute any color pepper that you prefer. Also, don't hesitate to use a large onion - it may look like a lot of raw onion from the start, but the slices will cook down quite a bit during the preparation.

### INGREDIENTS:

- ¼ cup olive oil
- ½ pound chorizo, casing removed, coarsely crumbled
- 1 large white onion, halved, thinly cut cross-wise into ½ inch slices
- 1 large green bell pepper, cut into ½ inch thick slices
- 1 8oz. bottle clam juice
- ½ cup dry white wine
- ⅛ teaspoon dried crushed red pepper (more or less to taste)
- 16 littleneck clams, scrubbed
- ¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro, divided
- ½ red pepper, finely chopped
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges



### DIRECTIONS:

In a large pot, sauté the chorizo, onion, and green pepper in the oil until the vegetables are tender and the chorizo is brown, approximately 10 minutes.

Add the clam juice, wine and crushed red pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduced heat to medium and simmer for 3 minutes.

Add clams. Cover and cook until clams open, about 8 minutes. Discard any clams that do not open. Stir in half of the cilantro.

Transfer contents of pot to a large bowl. Top with remaining cilantro and chopped red pepper. Garnish with lemon wedges.

Source: *The TV Maitre D' Cookbook*  
by Joe Zito and Linda Beaulieu

## JIGGING for BLACK SEA BASS

By: Dave Anderson - Saltwater Edge



Sea-bassing has caught fire in Rhode Island waters and they have quickly become a favorite target of kayak and center console anglers. They have a lot going for them, first off, they are extremely abundant. They also make exceptional table fare and can be substituted into most recipes that call for a white-fleshed fish. Perhaps the best thing they have going for them, as a species to target, is that they are aggressive and usually easy to catch. To get some tips, we consulted Captain Jack Sprengel, outdoor writer, John Lee, and the Saltwater Edge's Michael Hachey.

### Used to be a Bottom Fish

It wasn't that long ago that sea bass were thought of as more of a 'bottom species' that was really only targeted with bait, and those methods still work. But over the past decade or so, there has been a noticeable shift to using artificials for sea bass and I think this has been the main contributor to their explosion in popularity. A lot of fishermen, especially more modern-day fishermen, don't want to deal with bait, and knives, and smelly rags and Arc DeHookers... many of today's anglers consider themselves to be

purists, students of the jig or the plug or the plastic. Find them a fish they can target with a lure and they're going to geek out on learning how.

### Targeting Sea Bass

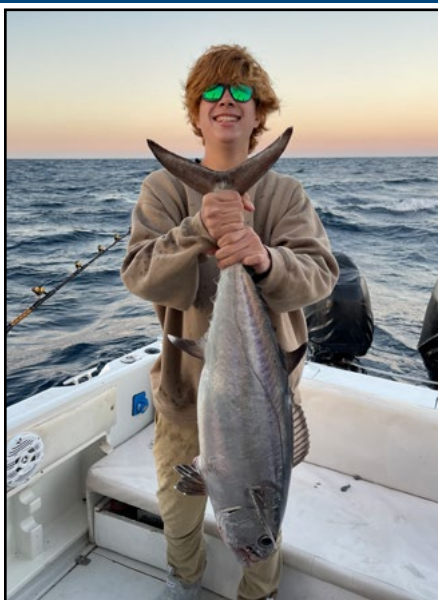
Sea bass spend most of their time down on the bottom, they might be 8 feet down or 48 or 108... but that simple fact makes them a perfect species to target with a jig. The Shimano Flat-Fall Jig is quickly rising to the top of the pack. These jigs utilize a keeled design to achieve this horizontal, slower sink. The keel positions the jig in a way that allows maximum water resistance, so the jig—in essence—magic-carpet down, shimmying slightly, which gives it a very realistic appearance. One of the main keys is that the jig must be allowed to sink with the line completely slack, otherwise, the resistance of the line will throw off that horizontal sink.

When targeting sea bass you're basically trying to replicate a baitfish emerging from (and then returning to) bottom structure. You want to get the jig all the way to the bottom and then crank it quickly up 10 or 15 feet before allowing it to settle back to the bottom again. Another nice side effect is that these jigs will catch a wide variety of other inshore species as well, from stripers and blues to fluke and blackfish to bonito. For a while the whole line of Butterfly Jigs was thought of as something people only used for tuna and other pelagic species, but the stigma has lifted.

### Rigging For Black Sea Bass

The nice thing about these jigs is that you can fish them on pretty light tackle. Three great rods that are well suited for the job are the Shimano Grappler, the Daiwa Harrier (Harrier Spinning), and the Tsunami Slow Pitch. Conventional setups are more popular for this style of jigging, but spinning setups will work just as well as long as you can keep the line slack when allowing the jig to freefall. For reels the Shimano Tranx 200 or 300 or the Daiwa Lexa

(Continued on page 9)



## SEND US YOUR PICS!

RISAA Jr. Member Max Namba with a beautiful Dog Tooth Tuna caught in the Red Sea this winter.



In case you missed it, talented baker, Lindsay Taylor Castergini-Littlefield of CC's Cakes and Confections, made this fluke cake for the 2023 RISAA Banquet this past January.



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Continued from Page 7 - JIGGING FOR SEA BASS

HD will make great choices on the conventional side of things, for spinning a Daiwa Saltist 4000 or a Shimano Stradic 5000 will fit the bill nicely. Most anglers will tell you that braid is the way to go with this style of fishing—old school Power Pro in 20- to 40-pound test is probably the most popular choice. These rigs all have immense crossover potential for other fisheries as well, for instance, they will all make great rigs for tog jigs.

### Jig Options

When speaking to the guys about how they rigged up for sea bass I found out that Mike likes to tie to the solid ring that connects the assist hooks to the jig, this gives the jig more flutter on the retrieve and helps keep the hooks out of the rocks. He also said he likes to have a mix of natural colors and bright 'obnoxious' colors, saying



that some days the fish seem to key in on the natural look, while other days the standout nature of the bright jigs seems to draw more strikes. Jack said he likes to swim the Flat Falls and therefore he ties to the other end of the jig, this elicits a more subdued action and keeps the bulk of the weight of the jig in the rear which gives more control. Both of these guys know what they're talking about, so it's safe to say that both methods work well and are worth trying. John said he saves the more expensive Shimano jigs for the fall when you can sometimes catch bonito and codfish from the same grounds. His trick is to use a Diamond Jig and highly recommends using a teaser tied on an 8-inch dropper loop about 20 inches above the jig. He likes to use stiff mono to help keep the teaser out and away from the leader and he likes to use something inexpensive like a Cocohoe Minnow or a small Red Gill Rascal. He says there are days when the teaser is out-catching the jigs by a large margin.



### Black Sea Bass In The Kitchen

As noted above, sea bass are considered by many to be the top-tier inshore species to throw in the cooler. John is a bit of an expert when it comes to caring for and cooking your catch. He suggests bleeding your sea bass and getting them on ice right away. He prefers not to cut the fish until the next morning saying that the cold flesh is easier to cut and there is less waste. For cooking sea bass, he likes to keep it very simple. He says drying the fillets thoroughly with a paper towel is the key to getting a good crust. He then generously coats both sides of the fillets with salt and pepper and adds a little onion powder as well which he said helps build a crust, "almost like a rub" he said. Then he lets the fillets sit on the cutting board for 30 or 40 minutes to come up to room temperature, this helps achieve an even cook. His cooking method is very simple, "use a cast iron skillet," he said, "and get it ripping hot! Add a little bit of olive oil and then some butter—when you add the butter lower the heat to medium high. The butter will brown pretty quickly, then swirl it around the pan. Lay the fillets on the oiled pan and cook for two minutes per side. And that's it." He likes to try and make the whole meal local when he cooks fresh-caught fish and will usually fire up some beans from the garden and a light local salad with a simple vinaigrette.

Sea bass like structure and will relate to wrecks, underwater reefs, humps, bumps and rockpiles. Most people target structure instead of looking for marks on the fishfinder. If you spend just a few minutes trying for sea bass in these areas using the methods described, you're almost guaranteed to have success. These abundant and aggressive fish can make any day on the water even better. You'll see. 🐟

*Special thanks to Capt. Jack Sprengel for providing top notch images for this story!*

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engage in the practice of law. The staff attorney may not represent the council.)

**House Bill No. 5779**

BY: Knight, Speakman, Cortvriend

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (Requires the executive director of the coastal resources management council to hire a hearing officer if the position is vacant for more than sixty (60) days after the effective date of this act.)

**House Bill No. 6034**

BY: Tanzi, Cortvriend, Handy, Spears, Henries, Boylan, Fogarty, Kislak, Bennett

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO WATERS AND NAVIGATION -- COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (Replaces the coastal resources management council with a state department of coastal resources and transfers all of the powers and duties between the two (2) authorities.)

We also have provided support for a Bill in the House and Senate to restrict new aquaculture leases within 1000 feet of shore in the Sakonnet:

**House Bill No. 5037 and Senate Bill No. 198**

RISAA has been working to better define the right of public access to the shoreline. The definition of Mean High Water line (MHW) has been variable over time and we are in favor of House Bill No. 5174 that defines the "recognizable high tide line" as the weed line left behind with the previous receding tide and allows public rights and privileges within 6 feet above such a line. You can use the link above to read the exact definition within the proposed legislation.

**Offshore Wind Developments**

Construction of turbine bases and cable routes has begun for both the Vineyard Wind project and South Fork Wind. Although there may be significant impact to recreational fishing, because there

is no good set of data showing where recreational anglers fish, there will be very little money set aside to provide compensation or compensatory projects for recreational fishing interests. This is one reason that RISAA has been participating in surveys of recreational anglers to determine where people fish. One key survey is being conducted by RISAA and the Coastal Resource Center at URI. They were obtaining input at our recent Fishing Show, but if you didn't get to provide information to them at the show you can contact Greg Vespe (vespe.risaa@gmail.com) or Abbey Green (abbey\_green@uri.edu).

We continue to be involved with the CRMC Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB) but "experts" from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, have indicated that these projects will have no significant impact on recreational fishing, so no mitigation from wind energy developers is necessary. 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 have also been reviewing the proposal to run export cables from South Shore Wind (Mayflower Wind) and potentially other OWE projects up the Sakonnet River to reach the former Brayton Point Power Station grid tie-in. 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.

**JOIN RISAA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

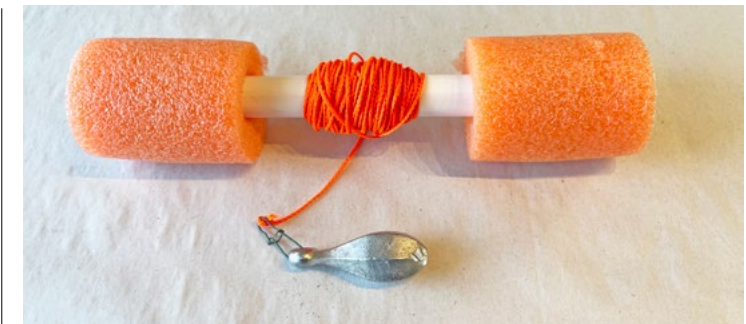
All RISAA members are welcome to join the RISAA Legislative Committee. If you are interested send an email to me at [hittinger@risaa.org](mailto:hittinger@risaa.org) and we will send you the link (via email) to the next Legislative meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for May 25 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

# MAKING A SELF-ADJUSTING MARKER BUOY FOR FISHING STRUCTURE

By: Fred DeFinis

When targeting Tog, anglers know it is important to position the boat over structure. Even a few feet one way or the other can make a big difference in your success. If you have thousands of dollars to spare, you can mount a trolling motor with position-holding capability but what happens if you can't or don't want to try that approach?

For just a few dollars, you can make a **marker buoy that adjusts to the depth of the structure** to aid you in anchoring in your desired spot.



**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- 1 ten inch length of 1/2" (inside diameter) PVC tubing (measures about 7/8 inches outside diameter)
- 1 one to two ounce egg sinker sawn in half lengthwise.
- 2 three inch sections of two inch diameter pool noodle with center hole. Use a visible color.
- Desired length of high-visibility masonry string.
- Electrical tape or similar tape
- Flexible glue or sealant
- Snap clip (optional)
- Sinker of your choice—we use six ounces for fishing in 30-40 feet of water.

**DIRECTIONS:**

After cutting all the materials to the desired lengths, tape the egg sinker halves to the PVC tubing as shown, keeping them in line with one another.

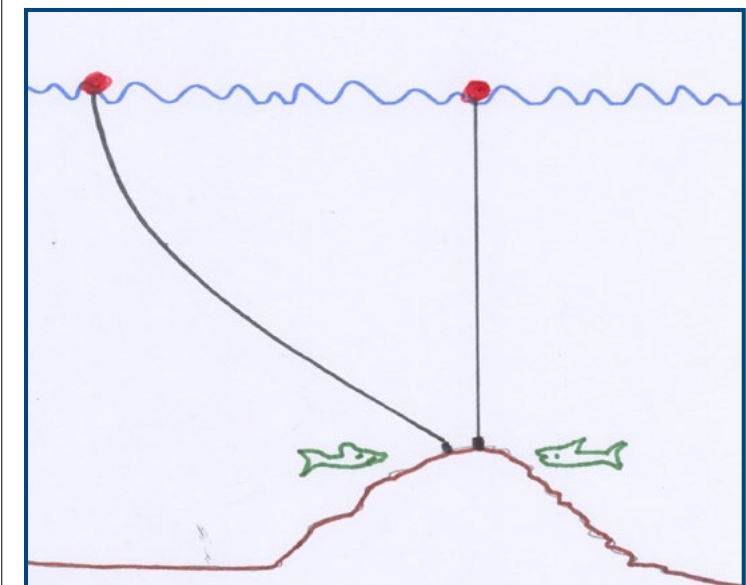


Smear a bit of whatever adhesive or sealant you have handy on each end of the tubing and slide the pool noodle pieces in place. Let dry overnight.

Attach the length of string to the PVC tube and wind on. Attach the snap clip to the free end of the line and your sinker to the snap clip.

**TO USE:**

Locate your desired spot using your GPS, depth-finder and other aids. When you pass over a likely spot, drop the marker buoy overboard. **The sinker will draw line as it falls to the structure below but the lead weights will stop the spinning when the sinker hits bottom, thus positioning the buoy directly over the structure.** This feature provides the correct amount of line going from the sinker to the marker buoy to insure that you will be close to your desired spot.



Bring your boat up current or upwind (depending on which is dominant) and let it drift back towards the buoy. You may need to try this a couple of times before deploying your anchor or grapnel. Once you know what your drift will be, repeat while deploying your anchor.

My fishing friends and I have used this quite successfully on different boats and in different conditions. If you buy an eight-foot length of PVC and one pool noodle, you can make a bunch of these for a few dollars each. You can experiment with different components to make something that works best for your conditions. Good luck!

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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

## 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.

## 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

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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](mailto:michel@risaa.org)
- Go to [www.risaa.org](http://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**

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By: Captain Ken Cooper

# MY TEN FAVORITE LURES FOR STRIPED BASS

It's a rainy afternoon here in the Nation's Capitol, just hours before the start of Super Bowl LVII, and I was reading an old article on the Stripers Online website ([www.stripersonline.com](http://www.stripersonline.com)) titled, "The Twenty-five Best Striper Lures." As you would expect, the article was followed by many postings agreeing, disagreeing, and suggesting additions, deletions, and substitutions. Some lures were on the article's 25 Best list not because they have always caught the most fish, but rather because they represented a first of its kind or a major advance in lure making technology or material.

Anyway, that got me thinking about my own choice of lures when fishing for striped bass in my local Rhode Island and southeastern Connecticut waters. I decided to draw up a list of my favorites.

First, I decided that twenty-five lures were too many to consider, and so I dropped down to focus on my ten favorites. Next, I had to decide what criteria to use to determine which lures made the cut and got on the list. Should I consider the season—Spring, Summer, Fall? Or should the criteria be shore versus boat? Or should it be category—spook, popper, swimmer, metal, soft plastic? How about current favorites versus old time favorites? This was starting to get really complex. Eventually, I decided to list the ten striper lures that I have been using the most in the last three years. The first two got top billing because I strongly favor soft plastic lures.

You should know that most of my fishing is from a boat, but I do flyfish some shore spots around Narragansett Bay at night in May and early June, and I often walk the SoCo beaches surfcasting in the fall. Almost all of these lures are available at local tackle shops such as The Saltwater Edge in Middletown, RI, Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle in North Kingston, RI, and Watch Hill Outfitters in Westerly, RI. For the lone exception, BKD, I provided their website. Here's my list:

## Slug-go

Of course it's at the top of my list. I wrote an article for a prior issue of this magazine announcing my love for Slug-gos. I fish the 7.5-inch, 9 inch and 12-inch models, but mostly the 9 inch bait in Albino color on an unweighted swimbait hook. In June if there are large squid around, I'll favor the 12-inch size in Albino or Bubble Gum (pink). After dark, from boat or beach, I like to cast the 9-inch Slug-go in black, unweighted.



Top: 9 inch Slug-go, Middle: BKD Boss, Bottom: Super Snax

## BKD Boss

Bass Kandy Delight (BKD) soft plastic lures are produced by a small manufacturer in Maryland, [www.bkdLures.com](http://www.bkdLures.com). The Boss model is 10 inches long, and I fish them in white, pink and chartreuse on unweighted swimbait hooks or with a one-ounce jighead. These

lures are top-notch striper baits on and around the Chesapeake Bay, and I find that they work just as well on our New England bass. Indeed, they are so effective that I hardly ever fish any of my Reverse Atom plug knockoffs that used to be my go-to lures during the spring squid run. If I run out of BKDs, then because they are not sold in my local tackle shops, I will opt for a 9.5 inch Super Snax in white or pink.

## Jumpin' Minnow

Unless the bait is adult bunker (menhaden) or large squid, the first top water lure I throw will likely be a 4.5-inch, bone colored Rebel Jumpin' Minnow. I upgrade the split rings and substitute sturdy inline single hooks (barbless, of course) for the woefully inadequate hardware and hooks that the manufacturer provides. The chrome version is a good second choice, especially when targeting bluefish. This plug is really good. It's fun to fish and has hooked albies and black seabass as well as stripers and blues.



Top: 9 inch Doc, Bottom: 7 inch Baby Doc

## Doc and Baby Doc

When the bait is big, it's hard to beat the effectiveness of the 9 inch Doc and the 7 inch Baby Doc. I have them in bone color, and I switched out the treble hooks for barbless inline single hooks. Unless I am exclusively fly fishing, there's almost always a seven-foot, heavy action spin rod on the boat that's armed with a Doc or Baby Doc. These spook-type plugs drive bass bonkers and stimulate some ferocious strikes.

## Super Strike Little Neck Popper

This is my go-to surface lure from the beach in the fall when there are peanut bunker or mullet around. I change out the treble hooks for barbless inline singles, and I dress the rear hook with bucktail or feathers. I have it in white and yellow in the sinking version. This plug is one of the farthest casting poppers I've ever owned.



Top two: Tsunami Talking Poppers, Bottom: Super Strike Popper

## Tsunami Talking Popper

This is the popper I use on the boat. I prefer the 6-inch model in bone, but my yellow plug works well, too. I changed out the treble hooks for inline singles (barbless) and dressed the tail hook with bucktail.



Top two: Mag Darters, Bottom two: Yo-Zuri Hydra Pencils

(Continued on page 16)





Top two: Yo-Zuri Mag Darters, Bottom three: Daiwa SP Minnows

### Daiwa Salt Pro (SP) Minnow

I did not realize how many of these lures I had accumulated through purchase and treasure hunting (meaning finding them washed up on the beach) until I decided to change out all of the treble hooks for barbless single inline hooks. I admit to owning more than a dozen in a variety of colors, all floating models. My favorite colors are bone, sand eel and hot pink, but I'm not sure that mottled pink color is still available. The SP is my go-to swimming plug, so much so that my many Bombers are gathering dust. I added a bucktail flag on most of my SPs, but I put feathers that I mottled with a marking pen on the pink SPs that I throw when there are squid about.

### Yo-Zuri Mag Darter

What's not to love about a Mag Darter? If the SP is not producing, I throw the Mag, especially in the evening, and particularly in Black Purple. But bone works just about any time. I don't add a flag, but I have changed out trebles for barbless inline single hooks.

### Yo-Zuri Hydro Pencil

I first used this lure in 2021, but it really rocked for me this past season, from July to November. I have it in bone, as well as silver over black, and as with my other plugs, I switched the treble hooks for barbless inline singles. It was perhaps my hottest hard plastic lure for slot and above slot stripers when there were peanut bunker or snapper blues around.



Top: Spro jig with curly tail, Bottom: Smilin' Bill style jig with curly tail

### Bucktail Jig

I have always enjoyed bucktailing, and I fish a variety of styles and weights, dressed with hair or feathers, or both, but always with a trailer of some sort affixed. Most often, I slide a five- or six-inch white plastic curly tail on the hook. For the fall surf, I usually opt for a Spro jig with lots of hair, plus the curly tail. On the reefs in spring when squid are showing, I prefer the Smilin' Bill style with at least a six-inch curly tail.

That's my list. So many lures to choose from. What's on your top ten list? 🐟

# FREE TRIPS TO BE WON AT APRIL 24 & MAY 22 MEETINGS

By: Hal Gibson

### We will be offering FREE Charters during both the April and May 2023 Meetings:

The April meeting will feature a fly and/or light tackle trip for two lucky anglers in Late May/early June with Capt. Rene LeTourneau and On the Rocks Charters. This trip will leave from the Newport area and the lower East Bay. This trip departs at 6:00 AM. This is always an exciting trip.

For May we have two trips to raffle—First trip is on the Over Easy with Capt. Al Passerelli, on his 35' Egg Harbor. This charter will leave from Skip's Dock in Narragansett, RI mid-week. You will be targeting fluke on the south shore and are sure to have a good time.

Our second May charter raffle is on Westport Point Charters with Capt. Jimmy Turner. This trip will be for 4 anglers and leave from the Westport River state launch at 6:00 AM in Mid-June. You will be targeting anything that is biting in the Westport to Gooseberry to Buzzards Bay area.

**How do you get a chance at a trip?** Come to our monthly meetings and sign up at the Charter Trip Table at the back of the room. We will give you a form with that night's trips listed on it. The form will list the available trips, the boat and the Captain, the type and location of the trip, and the time and date. Fill out the form listing your preference for each trip.

During the seminar we will draw the winners (and a list of alternates) and announce them at the end of the meeting. If you are a winner, we will give you a list of your fellow trip members and more details of the trip.

We will also ask you for a \$50 deposit (Check or Credit Card only - No Cash) to insure that each winner makes every effort to make the trip. If you go on the trip, we won't use your deposit.

The only cost to you will be the customary tip to the Captain and/or Mate of 15% to 20% of what the trip would normally cost if you had chartered the trip privately.

One member of each trip will be designated as the "group leader", and they will be responsible to keep in contact with the Captain and be the liaison between him and the other group members. The group leader will also be responsible to take some pictures and write a story for the RISAA Newsletter about the trip.

Remember, to win one of these trips you must be a RISAA member in good standing (dues must be paid up to date), and you have to be present at the end of the meeting. So if you haven't joined yet, there is an application form in this newsletter, or just come to the monthly meeting and sign up for a membership and then for the free charter trip drawing. You can also join online at: [www.risaa.org](http://www.risaa.org).

2023 Charter Trip Committee: T. J. Harris - Chairman, Hal Gibson, Gary Perschau, Rene Blanchette, Peter Obiso and Sue Lema,

## EXPECTED 2023 RECREATIONAL BLACK SEA BASS & SCUP MEASURES FOR MASSACHUSETTS

On March 21, the Division of Marine Fisheries and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission reviewed potential recreational fishing limits for scup and black sea bass for 2023. It was determined that DMF would move forward with the following anticipated limits:

	Fishing Mode	Open Season	Possession Limit	Minimum Size
Black Sea Bass	Shore, Private Vessel & For-hire Vessel	May 20-September 7	4 fish	16.5"
	Shore	May 1-December 31	30 fish	9.5"
Scup	Private Vessel	May 1-December 31	30 fish (150 fish/vessel maximum)	10.5"
	For-hire Vessel	May 1-June 30	40 fish	10.5"
		July 1-December 31	30 fish	

Overview: Black sea bass and scup are managed under the interstate fishery management plan of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and federal fishery management plan of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Recreational measures along the Atlantic coast are set annually to achieve but not exceed each species' established harvest limit; these limits are calculated to prevent overfishing by the recreational sector. For 2023, it was determined that 10% coastwide recreational harvest reductions were needed for both black sea bass and scup. These rule changes reflect Massachusetts' contribution to achieving the coastwide harvest reduction and sustaining the high biomasses of these natural resources.

**Black Sea Bass:** To achieve a state-specific 10% harvest reduction, Massachusetts' black sea bass recreational minimum size will increase ½" to 16.5" for 2023. This is projected to achieve slightly more than the required reduction, so the season will be extended by four days, including opening on a Saturday. The possession limit will remain unchanged at 4 fish per angler.

**Scup:** To achieve a regional 10% harvest reduction for 2023, the states of Massachusetts through New York agreed to increase the scup minimum size limit for anglers fishing from vessels (private and for-hire) by ½" to 10.5", close the fishery from January-April, and decrease the possession limit during the for-hire vessel "bonus season" (May-June in Massachusetts) to 40 fish. This is projected to achieve slightly more than the required reduction, so the minimum size limit for anglers fishing from shore, where larger scup are less available, will be decreased by ½" to 9.5". Except for the for-hire bonus season, the possession limit remains unchanged at 30 fish per angler (with a cap of 150 fish per private vessel).

Refer to the DMF website for a full list of 2023 recreational saltwater fishing regulations.

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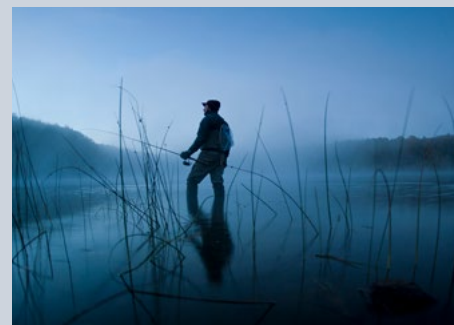
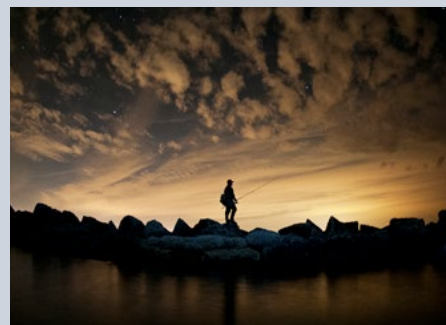
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# APRIL 24 @ 7PM PHOTOGRAPHY & FISHING

with **Eddy Stahowiak**

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### 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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# AQUACULTURE IN PUBLIC TRUST WATERS

By: **Todd Corayer**



Concerns have been raised for years about increasing numbers of aquaculture businesses being sited in public trust salt ponds and rivers. This expansion is applying pressure on historically recreational areas and affecting the way people are then allowed to use them. Groups like RISAA have long commented on new applications and expansions but a few recent cases have brought into question the effectiveness of the state system for balancing uses. Many taxpayers might know nothing about a new business being sited in their front yard or over a beloved fishing spot because the system does a poor job of informing more than those who ask. The question now is, do the relatively small financial gains of shellfish growing businesses outweigh the losses they present to other, pre-existing users, like recreational anglers in salt ponds?

Shellfish leases are first and foremost, businesses requiring capital, labor, equipment, cleaning, working hours, sales and storage. Aquaculture in Rhode Island is ultimately permitted by the Coastal Resources Management Council. Typically sighted in Class A waters clean enough to allow for their harvest, the concept of raising shellfish, typically oysters, clams and bay scallops, is relatively benign as shellfish do filter seawater and a few types of gear do provide submerged habitat. Now technology is moving some lease holders away from traditional rack and bag systems, where shellfish are grown on or close to the substrate, thus largely out of sight. Applicants and lease holders are requesting floating gear, which keep shellfish near the surface where waves help to chip away mantles, promoting thicker shells, substantial visual impacts and difficulties of access while providing space for birds to perch and preen

CRMC offers an email based list serve to announce new applications and solicit comments but it requires anyone who might be affected by a lease to find the service, which has contributed to calls for reform. It's often not necessary for CRMC to inform a local town about lease application in state waters even when privates homes about the proposed business. Try folding that anger into your next property tax envelope. CRMC has come under major scrutiny recently for their decision making process and RISAA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Rich Hittinger was recently part of a House committee considering potential changes to the Council. Executive Director Greg Vespe has been more than influential in expressing the Association's concerns to the Council.

A recent application near Tiverton's Sapowet Marsh and a six year-long battle to stop a business from increasing acreage in South Kingstown's Potter Pond are strong examples of how the system fails existing users and remains tone deaf to the multitude of arguments against the business plans. I first met Ken and Liz

Mendez when they asked for help raising awareness of a potential shellfish business precisely where Ken loves to fish at the marsh's outlet. It's the main reason they live where they do. The marsh is fishy and they love it and they were visibly upset an application had proceeded so far with spartan public notice. There is an existing and popular RIDEM parking lot for access there which RI taxpayers support so why was the State considering allowing a business to open where so many people swim, kayak, hunt and fish? This is precisely what RISAA watches, to protect shoreline and access to water.

RISAA members might easily appreciate Ken and Liz's frustrations but they are not as easily understood by everyone. There are some environmental benefits from aquaculture and in many situations, shellfish husbandry is not the issue, it's the siting. When someone wants to open a business, and that's what these are, they ask for permits in appropriate areas because towns have zoning and planners. That process also offers help determining best possible locations to grow their business. When targeting salt ponds or rivers, regulators rely on a magical 5% density rule but that is a placeholder substituted for meaningful debates on use in a given water body which recently has shown barely takes into account public sentiment or historical use.

Recreational fishing in RI was directly responsible for \$419 million in 2021 revenue while aquaculture earned just shy of \$7M and leased 368 acres. Considerations are being discussed to push new leases back 1000' from public access points and there often are suggestions to suspend all new applications until CRMC, RIDEM, the legislature and users have agreed the best way to share public trust waters. There may be only slight political will for the latter because there exists some strange sex appeal for elected officials riding in boats and photos of glistening shells in glossy magazines or airport hallways. Meanwhile, hunters in duck blinds, people fishing from boats, swimmers diving off them and laughing kids tubing behind them are not basking in any media glow because in the Ocean State, that's just what we do. We've done it for generations.

Conversations about lease expansion should center on rights. Whose rights are more valuable, the business person's or the tourist, an applicant or resident? How is history weighted in establishing that value? What is your role in the conversation? You can sign up for the CRMC list serve, offer comments and attend meetings. Salt ponds and rivers will support many users and shellfish businesses have a right to them but the permitting system should always first consider the people who are entitled to continue using public trust waters, not continuing to lose them.





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# Get Your Gear Ready For An Early Season

By: Captain Dave Monti

Spring is here and fishing has already started. We hardly had a winter and the water is very warm.

How warm is the water? The temperature at Narragansett Pier was 41.7 degrees Fahrenheit on Thursday, February 23. The average sea temperature for February over the past several years there has been 37.9 degrees Fahrenheit. Water temperatures in the area February 23 included 40.8 degrees at Horseneck Beach, 39.9 degrees at Westport, and Block Island was the warmest at 43.7 degrees.

For the past three years the warm water has brought new abundant bait profiles. We have had a variety of mackerel, herring, Atlantic menhaden and peanut bunker, sand eels, silversides, squid and more in our waters here together in great abundance. This abundance of bait has driven the fish we like to catch, eat and/or release closer to shore including tuna, mahi, sharks, striped bass as well as a variety porpoise, humpback and right whales.

Last year we had giant bluefin tuna close to shore. Thirty of them caught just two to three miles off Narragansett Beach and Newport on Sunday, September 11, 2022. Sharks have been close to shore too, as well as humpback and right whales. For the past three years, expert kayak anglers like Todd Corayer have been catching stiped bass to 35 inches in our salt ponds all winter long. And, the first week of March, 2023 a pod of dolphins were spotted off Sabin Point in the upper reahes of the Providence River.

So, with all this bait around, get your gear ready as the season is starting early. Here are some tips I like to share about getting my gear ready.

## REEL MAINTENANCE

Give your reels a good cleaning, particularly when the line is off and spool exposed. Grease where directed by manufacturer, often times, the reel is marked where to do this. If instructions are long gone do not hesitate to stop by your local bait or tackle shop to ask where to grease. Do not grease the drag, it is not meant to be greased, if you do, it will not work.

Every other year (or as needed) I have my reels thoroughly cleaned by a bait & tackle shop or by a rod and reel repair expert. The reels are taken apart, cleaned, parts that are broken or worn are replaced and then everything gets put back together. I use Dave Morton of Beavertail Rod & Reel ([www.beavertailrodandreel.com](http://www.beavertailrodandreel.com)) who has been repairing reels for almost twenty years.

## LINE

Each year, replace used line. This is a judgment call as to what is meant by "used". Braid line may still be OK to leave on the reel, however, I usually take off line at the beginning of the reel that

shows signs of wear. Experts say to cross braid line when spooling onto conventional reels to prevent the line from digging into the spool when a big fish is on.

I often fish with lead core line that is designed to sink in the water column when trolling for striped bass and bluefish in 20 to 35 feet of water in Narragansett Bay. I re-spool the lead core line putting the used portion on the reel first, this way you use line that is new as most anglers rarely use more than three to four colors (90' to 120') of line.

Replace all monofilament line on reels at the start of the season. Monofilament line has memory so it creates bird nest tangles when it is old or has been sitting in the cold for a while. Also stretch the line, the first 100 feet (of monofilament line) to relax its memory and avoid tangles.

When you change any type of line it is important to spool tight or the line may slip on the spool. To prevent braided line from slipping on the reel, first spool some monofilament backing to the reel as it will not slip, tie braid line to the monofilament, then spool the braided line onto the reel.

*“Often hooks that come with lures are not quality hooks so I replace them with stronger hooks.”*

## RODS

Examine the rods for cracks and stress marks. Closely examine the eyes for chips or cuts on the ceramic rings inside the eyes. These cracks could cause line to snag, rub or break. Do not place hooks on the eyes or they will eventually create cracks that will cut line as it passes through. Place all lures at the base of the reel as those hooked to an eye brace will bang on the rod and may cause microscopic cracks in the rod blank that could lead to a broken rod.

## TACKLE

I get tackle ready in chronological order when certain species are fished... in this region that means starting with tautog, then striped bass, bluefish, fluke, sea bass, etc. Make sure you have enough rigs to fish the species. Hooks should be clean and sharp (no rust), and strong enough for the size fish you are going after. Often hooks that come with lures are not quality hooks so I replace them with stronger hooks.

## LEADERS/HOOKS

Use wire leaders for bluefish and monofilament or fluorocarbon for striped bass, fluke, sea bass, etc. Blues won't bite though the wire and other species will find it harder to see the monofilament or fluorocarbon leaders. As a rule I replace all used leaders at the beginning of the season. During the season make sure leaders have no nicks or stress marks from fish pulling. If they do, replace them.

I switched most of my hooks to in line circle or wide gap hooks, I did this so I can safely catch and release undersized or unwanted fish. In-line circle hooks now required when fishing for striped bass with bait. Circle hooks are designed to hook the fish at the corner of the mouth and not down in the belly.

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## 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](mailto:vespe@risaa.org) or call Greg at 401.826.2121



# THE JOY OF PARTY BOAT FISHING

By: Captain Ken Cooper & Greg Vespe

For many folks, their first saltwater fishing experience came aboard a party boat, or head boat. The terms are interchangeable and define a Coast Guard inspected vessel that is licensed to carry more than six paying passengers who either show up at the boat and purchase their admission prior to boarding or make their reservations for a spot on the boat individually and not as part of a group taking over the entire boat.

## A Little History

Party boat fishing became popular in the 1950's as America got back to work after World War II. People had sufficient income to afford some leisure time activities, and saltwater fishing—often called “deep sea fishing” back then—was a popular diversion. Private boat ownership was still far beyond the reach of most, but the price of one day's fishing on a party boat was a reasonable expenditure. The Long Island Railroad ran pre-dawn trains called the “fisherman's special” that carried anglers from New York City to Montauk, arriving just in time for the passengers to walk to the dock and board any of the increasing number of boats awaiting their arrival. Most of these folks did not own their own tackle, and so one of the prime benefits of the party boat was the opportunity to rent appropriate tackle for the duration of the trip at a very modest fee.

Montauk was not the only port where party boats lured fishermen. In New York, Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn and City Island in The Bronx became home to virtual fleets of party boats, as did many locations along the New Jersey shore, from Point Pleasant all the way south to Avalon. Competition kept prices reasonable



and stimulated improvements in the boats, the crews and the tackle.

Over time, party boat fishing began to include more specialized trips, such as Half Day, Full Day and Night (or even Overnight) trips. Typically, the longer the trip, the farther offshore the boat ventured. Night trips were popular with folks who could not get time off to fish during the day, and pretty much assured that the participants would be fighting exhaustion at work the next day.

## Party Boat Fishing Today

Contemporary party boat fishing is not so very different from past years. For most trips, you can still show up prior to departure without an advance reservation, pay the fare and take any available spot at the rail (first come, first served), rent the use of tackle aboard and be provided with bait. The tradition of having a pool for the biggest fish also carries on, but on some boats the angler can weigh and release the fish while maintaining that catch in the pool.

What's different is the quality of the vessels, the skill of the crew, and the sophisticated electronics aboard, including radar, chart plotter and state of the art sonar. Better boats, highly experienced captains and mates, and the latest technology for finding fish are now fairly standard.

In Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association (RIPCBA) membership includes the Frances Fleet (*Lady Frances*, *Gail Frances* and *Admiral Frances*) (401) 783-4988, [www.FrancesFleet.com](http://www.FrancesFleet.com) and the *Seven Bs* (401) 789-9250, [www.SevenBs.com](http://www.SevenBs.com), operating out of the port of Galilee in Narragansett, RI. The *Island Current* (917) 417-7557, [www.IslandCurrent.com](http://www.IslandCurrent.com) is based at City Island, NY, but operates out of Snug Harbor in Wakefield, RI, during the winter season. These operators stress conservation of the resource and try to educate their patrons about the fishing as well as the fishery in general.

If you are new to party boat fishing, before you head for the dock, go to the boat's website and see what kind of fishing is available, what gear is recommended or available on board, and review the posted recent fishing reports. Call the boat's office and ask about the fish and the fishing and the accommodations aboard. You can also ask around at local tackle shops and often get reliable information from folks who have recently fished from that boat. Go online and check out YouTube videos depicting a variety of party boat fishing trips, perhaps including one or more videos of fishing from the boat you are considering boarding. “On The Water” magazine, [www.onthewater.com](http://www.onthewater.com), has started a series of “At the Rail” videos depicting a variety of trips on New England party boats. You can find the shows on the website as well as on the magazine's YouTube channel.

Each party boat tends to develop a reputation that attracts a cadre of regular patrons. Much of this has to do with the attitude



RISAA Lady Francis Trip fluke.

of the captain and the mate or mates aboard, how helpful and friendly they are to patrons, and whether they are family friendly, accommodating women and kids. But sometimes it is the captain's skill, the boat's speed and the fish finding electronics aboard that attract certain anglers, particularly the party boat sharpies. It's fair to say that party boat regulars form a kind of unique sub-culture that includes “old salts” as well as savvy younger fishermen. They are distinct not only from the novices but also from the more experienced but infrequent customers. If you are not an experienced fisherman, pay close attention to these guys (as well as the mates). And don't be afraid to ask why they do what they do. It's the rarest sharpie who won't share his knowledge with a fellow fisherman. Watch and learn, and you will most likely be rewarded with favorable results.

Overnight and multi-night party boat trips are somewhat unique. Usually these trips target tuna, or perhaps tilefish, and so the fishing grounds could be at the canyons on the edge of the continental shelf, 100 miles or more from port. Advance reservations are required since these trips take a limited number of passengers to assure adequate space for each fisherman. If it's true that “one from the beach is worth ten from the boat,” then when it comes to landing a tuna, surely one from the rail of a party boat must be worth at least twice the challenge of one from a private or charter boat.

## Some Party Boat Do's and Don'ts

Party boat fishing is really about more than just catching fish. Sure, it would be great to catch the biggest fish, win the pool, and claim bragging rights. But having a fun experience on the ocean among a diverse group of folks who have the sport of fishing in common is quite special and rewarding in and of itself. To help assure a good experience, here are some guideposts:

Bring clothing and tackle that's appropriate. It's generally colder on the sea than on land, so dress accordingly. Bring a rain jacket even if there's just a hint that it might rain. As for tackle, a party boat is not the place to try to set a line class record. Rods and reels provided by the boat will be sturdy, and if you bring your own gear, that should likewise be up to the job.



RISAA 7'B Sea Bass trip.

Occasional tangles with other anglers' lines are to be expected. Maintain your cool and ask for the mate's help. They are skilled at fixing the problem quickly to get the involved patrons back in business. Likewise, snags on the bottom sometimes play havoc with terminal tackle. Bring extra or be prepared to purchase what you need on board.

Bring a suitably sized cooler with ice to keep your catch fresh. Storage space on deck is usually limited, so pack accordingly.

Bring cash if you intend to purchase food or tackle on board.

Treat the mate or mates with respect and tip them fairly, even generously. Their job is not easy and they earn every penny.

## Final Thoughts

Our Rhode Island party boats justifiably hold a special place in the recreational fishing community. They provide a unique and valuable experience for the full spectrum of recreational fishermen, young and old, novice and sharpie. If you have never fished on a party boat, or have not done so recently, give it a try. 🐟



# SHORE FISHING POINT JUDITH

By: Captain Ken Cooper



The start of the West Wall

The Point Judith Harbor of Refuge and the adjacent beaches and breachway comprise one of Rhode Island's premier locations for accessible and productive fishing on foot. Over the course of the season, the shore bound angler can catch Striped Bass, Bluefish, False Albacore, Atlantic Bonito, Fluke, Tautog (Blackfish), Black Sea Bass and Scup.

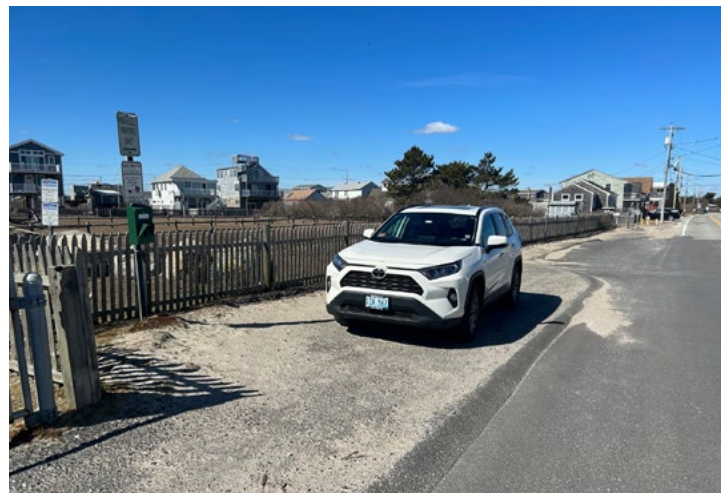
## Geography

The Harbor is protected by three walls (breakwaters), aptly named East, West and Center. The East Wall is reached from the ample parking area adjacent to the Point Judith Lighthouse, a short hop from the southern terminus of R I Route 108 in the Galilee section of Narragansett. The West Wall is accessible from the end of Succotash Road in the hamlet of Jerusalem, where parking is quite limited. The Center Wall does not touch land and must be reached by boat. A breachway separates Jerusalem from Galilee and is the conduit between the protected Harbor waters and Point Judith Pond (also known as the Great Salt Pond). Before you go, look over the area on Google Earth and also on NOAA Chart 13219. There are also some fine videos of the Point Judith area that were shot from drones that you can find on YouTube.



Prime striper habitat from the East Wall on past the Lighthouse

The stretch of beach running west from the foot of the West Wall includes East Matunuck State Beach with its large, unpaved parking lot. Similarly, the shore running west from the foot of the East Wall terminates at Salty Brine State Beach (limited paved parking) and the "short wall" that extends south from the east side of the breachway. Heading east from the foot of the East Wall you encounter the rocky shore at the base of the Lighthouse that continues north behind Rose Nullman Park. The parking area at Rose Nullman remains closed, but there is adjacent roadside parking available that gives access to the narrow path to the shore that runs along the fence on the western border of the Lighthouse property.



Roadside parking across from Jim's Dock Restaurant near the West Wall

## Safety First

Fishing from the flat, sandy beaches in and around the Harbor of Refuge is generally safe, provided that one honors the rule of never turning your back on the ocean if the sea conditions are other than perfectly flat and calm. Fishing from the walls is different. At a minimum, you need Korkers or similar studded footwear to provide traction on the slick rocks and waterproof jacket and bibs or similar outer gear to keep you from getting soaked by waves crashing against the boulders. If you don't have a long handled



The narrow path to the shore in front of the Point Judith Lighthouse.

net, you need to determine a safe and readily accessible place to land your fish.

Point Judith is fully exposed to the sea on three sides. When the wind kicks up, and especially when the wind is against the tide (think southeast blow and an outgoing tide), fishing from the walls can be nothing short of treacherous. Sure, fish can really turn on the feed at the outset of a storm, but you need to exercise sound, conservative judgment and walk off the wall well before it gets so nasty that you get swept off by the unforgiving ocean.

## The West Wall

This wall is by far the longest of the three breakwaters. It is well known as one of the very first places to hook a schoolie striped bass at the outset of the spring migration. The West Wall typically lights up with 15 to 20 inch stripers within a week on either side of April 10. Most of the newcomers will be caught on light spin tackle using 3/8 ounce lead-head jigs that have been sweetened with a soft plastic Cocaho Minnow or a curly tail. Fly fishers do well with size 1/0 Clouser Minnow flies in white or white and chartreuse fished on an intermediate line. The bass will usually be found on the shallower west side of the Wall, often just behind the surf line.

Around the same time of the year, Tautog begin to take up residence along the deeper end and east side of the Wall that includes the channel giving access to the breachway. By the time Tautog

season closes at the end of May, scup will be plentiful and remain eager to bite well into October.

In August, Atlantic Bonito might show, and if they do, the far end of the wall can get crowded with both fly and spin anglers trying to tempt one of these tasty speedsters. If there's a good run of false albacore in September, then the West Wall offers one of the best locales for the shore bound fisherman to get a shot at hooking one of these mini-tunas. Albies will often chase baitfish into the breachway proper, and so casting from either the Galilee or the Jerusalem side can be just as productive—or just as frustrating.

September and October often provide excellent fishing for striped bass and bluefish. While daytime blitzes can erupt anywhere along the Wall, the striper fishing will be better at night. Then the sharpies will be slinging eels or working large swimming plugs and soft plastic lures in search of trophy bass.



The East Wall

## The East Wall

This breakwater took a direct hit from Hurricane Bob in 1985. Prior to that storm, it was a relatively easy walk over flat and dry boulders out to the prime fishing spot at the very end. But Bob's force tossed many of those boulders aside, creating some significant gaps in the Wall that demanded that an angler possess near acrobatic skills to traverse. Thankfully, a few years ago, the State and the DEM undertook a major project that repaired the Wall and greatly improved the Camp Cronin public parking area at the base of the Wall.

The repair project did not address one issue, however: The build-up of sand on the west side of the Wall. The author has extensive personal experience fishing and spearfishing at the East Wall since the early 1960s, and has watched as the water depth on that side got progressively more shallow. Consequently, most of the fishing is done facing east or south, casting into deeper water. And most of the summer sunbathing is done on the flat sandy beach abutting the west side of the Wall, meaning that fishermen

(Continued on page 26)

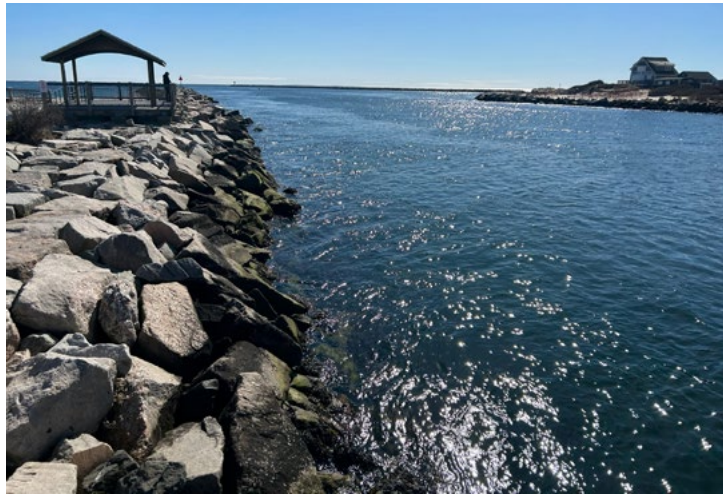


would be competing with children splashing about in that shallow, warm water.

The species and methods at the East Wall are akin to what is set forth above regarding the West Wall, except that this Wall does not border the breachway and does not seem to attract a similar invasion of schoolie stripers in April or “hardtails” (albies and bonito) as consistently as the West Wall. On the other hand, the shore heading east and north from the foot of the Wall is one of the most beautiful and productive surfcasting locations in all of New England. Here you cast with the iconic Lighthouse at your back, Block Island visible ahead in the distance, and boulder fields at your feet.

## The Breachway

Apart from berthing the traditional and high speed ferries to Block Island at the State Pier, Galilee is home to a sizable fleet of commercial and private fishing vessels. The docks host large trawlers and draggers, as well as the Frances Fleet and Seven B's party fishing boats. There is a large marina at the north end of the Point Judith Pond, and many private residences with boats in the six or seven miles from there south to Galilee, and so even though the Jerusalem shore has fewer docks, there is plenty of boating activity throughout the Harbor of Refuge, particularly in the breachway, and especially during the summer season. For the shore bound



Looking south along the Short Wall bordering the breachway.

fisherman who is targeting striped bass, that bustling activity virtually mandates fishing at night when both boat traffic and foot traffic are dramatically reduced. Caution is advised because the breachway current is fast on both the ebb and flood tides, and particularly around the prime fishing attending the new moon and full moon. A slip or fall from a dock or the rock wall on either side of the breachway into swift, cold water in the dead of night is sure to end in tragedy. Short of that, the visible and subsurface structures give large fish a decided advantage with so many convenient rocks and pilings on which to scrape off a lure or sever a line or



Additional parking at the State Pier in Jerusalem

leader. That makes for fishing that's like riding a bucking bronco—you might hook up, but you're likely on for a short time before the beast cuts you off. At the current price of lures and eels, that could be an expensive brief thrill.

## Conclusion

If you have never fished Point Judith, then first study the area online or on paper (chart), as recommended. Make your first visit at low tide and scope out the likely safe and best spots to fish. Observe what the regulars are doing, and don't hesitate to ask for advice and guidance, but do so without crowding or interrupting their fishing.

Be prepared. You pretty much need to be fully self-sufficient when fishing. The nearest tackle shop, Maridee Canvas-Bait & Tackle, 304 Point Judith Road, Narragansett, RI, 401-789-5190, is a few miles north on Route 108 and has limited hours and stock. There are a couple of seasonal restaurants within walking distance of the West Wall, but none within a mile of the East Wall. On the other hand, a short drive north from the West Wall you'll find Cap'n Jack's on one side of the road and The Matunuck Oyster Bar on the opposite side. Likewise, a short drive from the East Wall, you can dine at Iggy's, Aunt Carrie's, Champlins, George's of Galilee and several other established eateries. 🍷



## 2023 RISAA FLY FISHING COMMITTEE OUTING SCHEDULE

(High tide times in parentheses)

### APRIL

- 13 Spring Meeting—Gregg's N. Kingstown - 6:30pm
- TBD Narrow River Cleanup (Date not yet available)

### MAY

- 2 Narrow River - 7am (6:30 AM) [with RFR]
- 2 Cinder Worm Fly Tying—Kettle Pond Nature Center (6:30pm)
- 9 Cinder Worm Fly Tying—Kettle Pond Nature Center (6:30pm)
- 18 Greenwich Bay (Goddard Park) - 5pm (7:45pm)
- 20 Ninigret Cinder Worm Program (4pm)
- 25 Potter's Pond - 11am (1:35pm)

### JUNE

- 2 King's Park/Fort Adams / Potters Cove - 4:30pm (7:09pm)
- 8 Chepiwanoxet - 8am (10:05am)
- 13 King's Park/Fort Adms/Potter's Cove - 2pm (4:53pm)
- 22 Charlestown Breachway - 9AM (11:30am)
- 27 Joint Outing w/ RFR (TBD)

### JULY & AUGUST

Boat Outings

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 Colt State Park - 12:30pm (12:30pm)
- 12 Quonny - 4pm (6:30pm)
- 22 Narrow River - 1:30pm (1:31pm)
- 26 Barrington Beach - 6pm (8:24pm)

### OCTOBER

- 3 Blue Shutters - 9am (11:16am)
- 10 Narrow River - 5:30pm (5:55pm)
- 17 Bristol Narrows - 5pm (10:09pm)
- 24 Charlestown Breachway - 12:01pm (3:24pm)
- 27 Colt State Park - 5pm (7:15pm)

### NOVEMBER

- 1 Narrow River - 10:30am (10:49am)
- 7 Charlestown Breachway - 12:01pm (2:19pm)
- 9 Annual Meeting Gregg's N. Kingstown - 6:30pm



## SUPPORT LOCAL BAIT SHOPS THAT SUPPORT RISAA!

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

### OUR SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

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



## Saucy Side Planer

WWW.sputterbird.com

Side Planing Spreader Bar, wide separation.  
No outriggers required, dual direction.



# 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



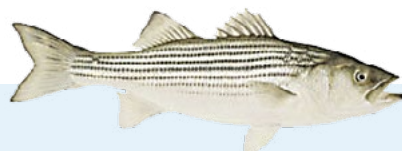
## HADDOCK

### 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

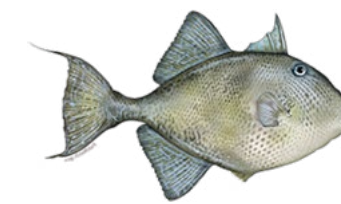
1. No Entry
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

### 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

See Tournament Rule Changes for 2023 on Page 30.

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

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

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 1<sup>st</sup> earns three points, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> earns two points and placing 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> and ending 5 pm Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 30<sup>th</sup> ending Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup>, \$125 2<sup>nd</sup>, \$100, 3<sup>rd</sup>, \$75 4<sup>th</sup>, \$50 5<sup>th</sup>, \$25 6<sup>th</sup>, \$20 7<sup>th</sup>, \$15 8<sup>th</sup>, \$10 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. \$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**

# RISAA KAYAK COMMITTEE SUMMARY 2023 OUTINGS

Date	Time	Location	Address	Target	Leader
Apr 3	6:30pm	Spring Meeting at Greggs N. Kingstown	4120 Quaker Lane, North Kingstown	n/a	Kraig Ruth
Apr 29	10am	Goddard Park State Park Boat Ramp	1095 Ives Road, East Greenwich	Meet and Greet/Weakfish	Kraig Ruth
May 6	8am	Walker Farm 100 Acre Cove, Barrington	509 County Road, Barrington	Bass	Warren Prell
May 15	5pm	Narrows Fishing Area, Bristol	148 Narrows Road, Bristol	Bass, Weakfish, Tautog	Harry Livingston
May 20	6amAM	Kettle Point, East Providence	1 Kettle Point Ave, East Providence	Bass on Pogies	Warren Prell
May 30	5pm	Point Judith Pond, South Kingstown	214 Salt Pond Rd, South Kingstown	Bass	Jeffrey Richard
June 3	4pm	Potter Pond, South Kingstown	1030 Matunuck Beach Road, S. Kingstown	Bass	Kraig Ruth
June 7	5pm	Newport Harbor, Newport	80 Fort Adams Drive, Newport	Bass on Sand Eels	Kraig Ruth
June 10	5pm	Narrow River, South Kingstown	41 Mitchell Avenue, South Kingstown	Bass	Kirk Kamien
Jun 14	6pm	Weaver Cove, Portsmouth	Burma Road, Portsmouth	Bass/Blues	Kraig Ruth
July 8	5am	King's Beach, Newport	Ocean Avenue, Newport	Bass	Kraig Ruth
July 15	6:30am	Fort Wetherill, Jamestown	3 Fort Wetherill Rd, Jamestown	Bass/Fluke	Jeff Hall
July 29	6am	URI Bay Campus, Narragansett	South Ferry Road, Narragansett	Bottom fishing	Kirk Kamien
Aug 14	5pm	King's Beach, Newport	Ocean Avenue, Newport	Bass/Blues	Charlie Reilly
Sept 9	8am	Barrington Beach, Barrington	87 Bay Road, Barrington	Bass/Blues	Warren Prell
Sept 16	9am	Camp Cronin, Narragansett	Ocean Road, Narragansett	Albies/Bass/Tautog	Kirk Kamien
Sept 30	8am	Fogland Beach, Tiverton	12 Point View Drive, Tiverton	Bass/Tautog	Kraig Ruth
Oct 14	9am	Battery Park (Newport Bridge), Newport	Washington Street, Newport	Tautog/Bass	Charlie Reilly
Nov 13	6:30pm	Annual Meeting at Greggs North Kingstown	4120 Quaker Lane, North Kingstown	n/a	Kraig Ruth

## Great Recipes for Hungry Fishermen!

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

The cookbook includes highly acclaimed recipes from some of Rhode Island's top restaurants and their executive chefs including; 22 Bowens, The Black Pearl, Bouchard's, Castle Hill Inn & Resort and The Spring House, BI - to name a few.

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

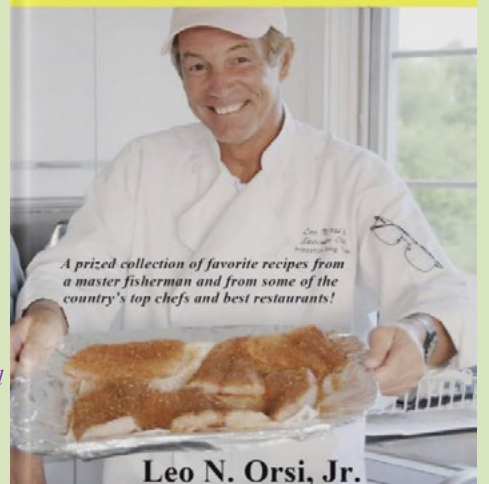
*"Leo has captured the essence of many local dishes. They're presented with colorful pictures and easy to understand instructions. I am honored to keep this in my cookbook collection"*

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

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

—Kevin Blinkoff, Editor, On The Water Magazine

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# WHO'S WHO

in the Rhode Island Saltwater's Anglers Association

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Greg Vespe - vespe@risaa.org

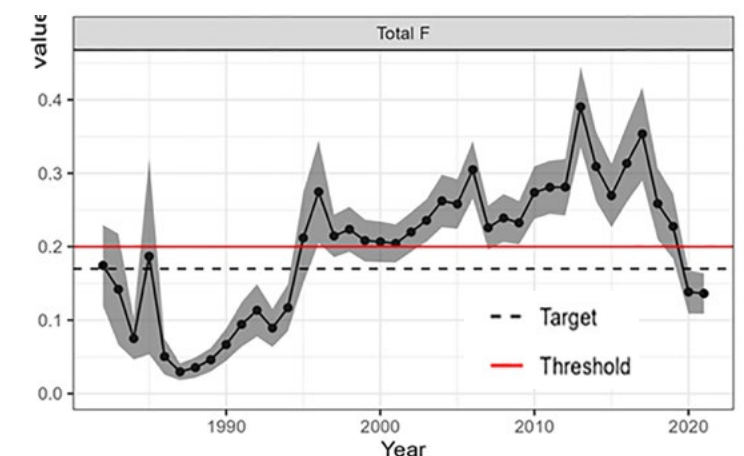
**MAGAZINE DESIGN & LAYOUT:** Eddy Stahowiak - lbeddy9@gmail.com

# PRELIMINARY HARVEST DATA FOR STRIPED BASS 2022 SEASON

- American Saltwater Guides Association

Editor's note; The following article is reprinted with permission from the American Saltwater Guides Association. RISAA does not necessarily endorse a particular viewpoint on this issue at this time but we feel this is important information of interest to our members and readers. Ed.

The last striped bass blog detailed our concerns about whether the stock will rebuild by 2029. The rebuilding plan was based on low fishing mortality numbers (how many fish die from fishing in a given year).



2020 and 2021 were the only harvest numbers that could be used to determine rebuilding probabilities because that is when the slot limit started (this dealt with a technical selectivity block used by the stock assessment team). Just understand that there was heavy weighting on those two years, which also had the lowest fishing mortality values since the stock was rebuilt in 1995. There were serious concerns from our team that this rebuilding plan was a house of cards ready to tumble. But we were between a rock and a hard place. ASGA believes in and supports science. We had to wait for the 2022 numbers to come out to see if the hunch was right.

We are no longer between a rock and a hard place. Striped bass harvests exploded in 2022.

If you look at pounds of fish harvested in 2020 and 2021, there were 14,858,983 and 15,781,509 lbs. harvested respectively. In 2022, there were 35,271,130 lbs. harvested.

Estimate Status	Year	Common Name	Harvest (A+B1) Total Weight (lb)	PSE	Landings (no.) without Size Information	** Contribution of Imputed Data to Total Harvest Rate
FINAL	2020	STRIPED BASS	14,858,983	10.9	0	41%
FINAL	2021	STRIPED BASS	15,781,509	9.3	0	0%
PRELIMINARY	2022	STRIPED BASS	35,271,130	8.7	0	0%

In numbers of fish, 2020 and 2021 saw 1,709,973 and 1,841,901 fish harvested. 2022 saw 3,521,066 fish harvested. Harvest doubled folks.

Estimate Status	Year	Common Name	Total Harvest (A+B1)	PSE	** Contribution of Imputed Data to Total Harvest Rate
FINAL	2020	STRIPED BASS	1,709,973	8.5	29%
FINAL	2021	STRIPED BASS	1,841,901	8.2	0%
PRELIMINARY	2022	STRIPED BASS	3,521,066	7.9	0%

Catch and release mortality stayed about even.

Estimate Status	Year	Common Name	Released Alive (B2)	PSE	** Contribution of Imputed Data to Released Alive Rate
FINAL	2020	STRIPED BASS	30,669,234	6.6	15%
FINAL	2021	STRIPED BASS	28,687,920	8.7	0%
PRELIMINARY	2022	STRIPED BASS	29,458,293	7.8	0%

Here's the deal, there is no way on Earth we are rebuilding by 2029. There must be action taken at the ASMFC Spring Meeting this May to reverse this course. Not next year, it must happen in May. Why? The 2015-year class (a prolific spawning class that we are relying on for rebuilding) is stuck in the slot. These numbers will continue to be over the fishing mortality needed to rebuild. We haven't had a good spawn in the Chesapeake since 2018. The bullpen is empty. We are out of options. There will be push back to initiate action. The most likely excuse will be to wait for the stock assessment update next year. We cannot accept this. Striped bass are being painted into a corner. There are no good year classes entering the system. Striped bass don't have the luxury of waiting another year. We must act now to rebuild the stock.

Enough is enough. Enough with the commercial quota transfers. Enough with the stalling. Enough with the rebuilding plans that are built on numbers that could never hold up until 2029. These numbers are the best available science, and the writing is on the wall. Stay tuned to coming blogs to find out how to help.

Thanks to the American Saltwater Guides Association for allowing us to reprint this content. 🐟



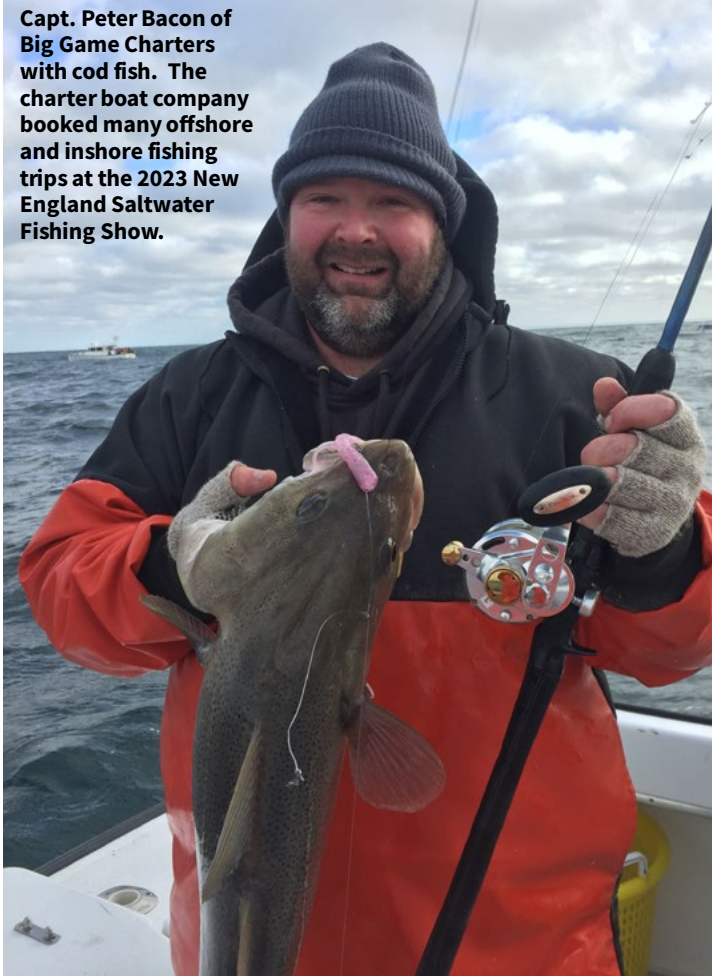
# FISHING SHOW BIG SUCCESS, GREAT LEAD INTO SEASON

By: Captain Dave Monti

The excitement was building outside the New England Saltwater Fishing Show exhibition hall at the RI Convention Center as hundreds of anglers waited in line for the show to open.

Once the doors opened at 12:30 p.m. the traffic was non-stop for quite a while. I worked the Saltwater Anglers Foundation booth at show opening next to Rhode Island Kayak Fishing Adventures' booth and the action was nonstop.

Dustin Stevens owner of RI Kayak Fishing Adventures and a Kayak Centre of RI (North Kingstown) pro guide said, "The traffic was pretty good from the start. Both Kayak Fishing Adventures and the Kayak Centre of RI had great shows. We had a lot of interest at the booth with folks inquiring about booking us and the seminars we gave on kayak fishing were well attended and received."



Capt. Peter Bacon of Big Game Charters with cod fish. The charter boat company booked many offshore and inshore fishing trips at the 2023 New England Saltwater Fishing Show.



Big Game Fishing Charters, ready to do business at the New England Saltwater Fishing Show.

“The Show was a great success, over 1,000 more attendees than last year with happy venders and attendees. What more can you ask for.”

- Greg Vespe, RISAA Executive Director



Dustin Stevens, owner of RI Kayak Fishing Adventures and pro staff member at the Kayak Centre of RI, North Kingstown, said interest in kayaks and kayak fishing are at an all-time high.



Elisa Cahill and her brother Matt Conti of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown. Elisa said traffic at the show was outstanding.

Elisa Cahill of Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown, said Friday, "Traffic has been very good with lots of people in our booth, things are going well."

Greg Vespe, Executive Director of the RI Saltwater Anglers Association and show director said, "What a great start to the fishing season for all. If the Show is any indication it is going to be a great fishing season. We had over 10,000 people attend about 1,000 more than last year, and last year was our first year back after COVID."

"We were nonstop in the booth and just about sold out of offshore charters from those wanting to target tuna. And, we did really well booking inshore charters too. The seminars we hosted were packed, so it was a very, very good show. We attend shows in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey and this Show here in Rhode Island is always the best of them all," said Capt. Brian Bacon of Big Game Fishing Charters, South Kingstown, RI.

Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown, experienced a very busy show too. "We sold a lot of everything we brought. Rods, reels and lures were all selling well," said Nick Krajewski of Quaker Lane.

"This Show is amazing I cannot believe all the people that came out to support us and all the other venders. It's the number one Show in New England. So, if you are not here you are losing out," said Bill Trudell of Feindell Custom Lures.

Al Gags of Al Gags Lures said, "It's a great organization that puts this together. I am so proud to be a part of it."

"It was very gratifying to have our old venders back who may have missed a year or two due to COVID. And, see a host of new venders too. About 35 more booths than last year for a total of over 300 booths. We signed a bunch of venders up for next year too. To me this is a great complement to have venders or those attending the show say I'll be back next year," said Greg Vespe.



# 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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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.

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*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!



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### Political Action Committee

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



# COALITION PARTNERS

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



# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



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

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

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First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

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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

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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