



# RHODE ISLAND **SALTWATER** *Anglers*

Representing  
**OVER 7,500**  
Recreational  
Anglers

*IN THIS ISSUE:*

**SHORE FISH  
THE SAKONNET  
RIVER**

**CATCH  
MORE  
FLUKE**



**PLUS:**  
RISAA VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATE IN EARTH DAY

ISSUE: 290 • June 2023

[www.RISAA.org](http://www.RISAA.org) • 401-826-2121



## EVENTS & MEETINGS

### 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 - Bonito &  
False Albacore

### 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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Rhode Island Saltwater  
Anglers Association

Published Monthly

RISAA, PO BOX 299, Tiverton, RI 02878

## FROM THE HELM



# "YOU CAN'T FISH FROM A PARKING LOT."

These were the words I spoke recently when testifying on behalf of RISAA Members in support of House Bill 5174 before the RI State Legislature. My comments were in reference to why Rhode Island fishermen care about the shoreline access bill being considered this legislative session. Along with my voice supporting House Rep Terri Cortvriend's bill were RISAA Reps Dan King and Captain David Monti.

Shoreline access does and should matter to all fishermen, even those of us who currently fish more from a boat than from shore. The path to a lifelong fishing passion almost always begins with or involves fishing from shore, whether from a beach, a dock or a jetty. For some, our passion never leaves the shore, for others it spreads to being on a boat, but its origin can be traced back to the shoreline. If we cut off that opportunity to learn, explore and get comfortable with fishing, then we will reduce the number of new anglers coming into our sport. Over time this will take its toll as folks look elsewhere for sport and recreation. Thankfully RISAA has the ability to continue to advocate for our members and recreational fishing as a whole.

Let's get to fishing. Spring is turning into summer and most of our favorite fish should either be here or arriving shortly. I hope that everyone finds the time to get out into the salt air and cast a line for whatever fish is on their wish list. I

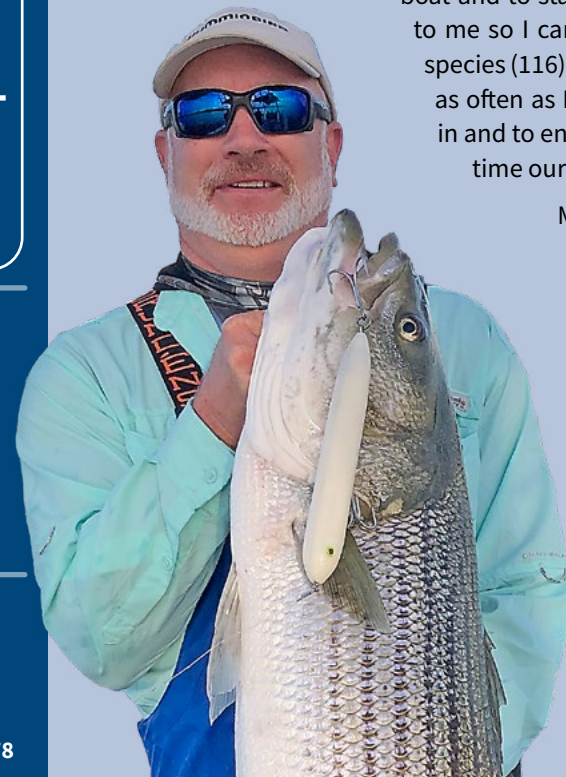
know as always I will be doing my best to both bring something into my boat that prefers to stay out of my boat and to stay on the lookout for something new to me so I can add it to my slowly growing list of species (116) now caught. I will also remind myself as often as I can what a wonderful place we live in and to enjoy the feeling we get each and every time our line comes tight.

Make time this year to fish with family and friends as often as you can or find a quiet spot where it's just you and the odd seagull or two to pass the time. Either way stay safe, and please accept my best wishes for a successful season.

It was truly a pleasure to share a tide or two with you all.

Catch 'em up.

Greg **VESPE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RI SALTWATER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION  
Legislative Committee

## THE WATCH

Reported by: Richard **Hittinger**, CHAIRMAN

# NEW STRIPED BASS RULES

At their May meeting the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) passed an emergency action to reduce striped bass harvest by the recreational fishing sector. The Board implemented a 31-inch maximum size limit for striped bass recreational fisheries, effective immediately for 180 days (through October 28, 2023). This action is in response to the estimated magnitude of 2022 recreational harvest. Since striped bass fishing is largely catch and release and because this action will reduce striped bass mortality RISAA is supportive of this action.

In addition to this Emergency Action the Board initiated Addendum II to Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan to consider measures designed to reduce fishing mortality to the target. The Draft Addendum II process will include a public comment period and public hearings, likely later

this year, regarding options for 2024 management measures. This process will likely formalize some modification to the recreational slot limits for striped bass. This more formal process may actually establish the 28" to 31" slot or some other slot designed to reduce mortality and ensure rebuilding.

In a memo to the Board, the Striped Bass Technical Committee (TC) identified that 2022 overall recreational removals of striped bass increased 40% compared to 2021 and since striped bass rebuilding was based on fishing activity in 2021 and earlier years, if the new 2022 estimates were used, the likelihood of rebuilding would decrease. The TC provided a table showing that if projections of removals were updated to use the 2022 estimated removals the likelihood of reaching the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) target drops from 97.5% to 15% even though the likelihood of reaching the SSB threshold drops from over 99% to 94%. To put it simply, if the removals of striped bass continue at the rate that was estimated by MRIP in 2022 for the next 9 years we would still make progress increasing SSB but we would not be likely to reach the SSB target.



“We do not want to see another disaster like we experienced in the late 1980s, so we need to do whatever is necessary to protect stripers and be sure they are here for the next generation.”

Since this is a conservation measure and it still allows fishing for and limited harvest of striped bass RISAA supports this action. There are some things to consider however when thinking about this action:

How accurate are the 2022 estimates of removal using MRIP? I have always been skeptical of the accuracy of MRIP estimates based on the methods that are used to interview a very few anglers and then do large scale up from there based on estimates of fishing overall effort.

(Continued on page 10)



# THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filliatreault Wood, CHAIR



## Welcome NEW Members!

Robert Ruckdeschel - Brockton, MA  
 Ray Francis - Narragansett, RI  
 Ryan Martin - Narragansett, RI  
 Donna Millette - North Smithfield, RI  
 Felix Hagen - Providence, RI  
 Chris - Rowbottom - Melrose, MA  
 Jason Kang - Canton, MA  
 Mark Hagianis - West Warwick, RI  
 Richard Carolan - Barrington, RI  
 Sam Messina - East Greenwich, RI  
 Gwen Messina - East Greenwich, RI  
 Christy King - Townsend, MA  
 Henry Mello Jr. - Barrington, RI  
 Hadley Waters - Barrington, RI  
 Luke Waters - Barrington, RI  
 Ryan Smith - North Kingston, RI  
 Peter McNally - Providence, RI  
 Peter Borges - Swansea, MA  
 Robert Carkhuff - Belchertown, MA  
 Peter Gleason - Exeter, RI  
 John Hacunda - Charleston, RI

Stephen Jodat - Seekonk, MA  
 Robert Paul - Warwick, RI  
 Jeff Anthony - Union, CT  
 Addison Anthony - Union, CT  
 Marissa Anthony - Union, CT  
 Jason Riffkin - Harrisville, RI  
 Cara Wardley - Waterford, CT  
 Thomas Beaulieu - Foster, RI  
 Tom Calef - Bridgewater, MA  
 Christopher Keen - Newport, RI  
 Julian Marco - West Warwick, RI  
 Lewis James - Bristol, RI  
 Margaret Bosket - Westerly, RI  
 Max Namba - Mansfield, CT  
 Stan Bednarski - Westerly, RI  
 Jason Andro - Litchfield, CT  
 John Mansolillo - Richmond, RI  
 Bradford Speck - Coventry, RI  
 Scott Travers - Coventry, RI  
 Ronnie Tipple - North Sitate, RI

Jeff LoGioco - Jamestown, RI  
 Christian Van Stolk - Middletown, RI  
 Georges Marjault - Worcester, MA  
 Michael Staab - Warren, RI  
 Judy Wilson - Hampton, CT  
 Julie Bianco - Barrington, RI  
 Terry Connell - Little Compton, RI  
 Layla Fay - Dartmouth, MA  
 Grahm Casler - Bel Air, MD  
 Dennis Gallagher - Warwick, RI  
 Frank Flynn - Narragansett, RI  
 John Lombardi - Charlestown, RI  
 Ferman Duclos - Pawtucket, RI  
 Jake Farrell - Jamestown, RI  
 Kathy Graves - No. Attleboro, MA  
 Tim Healy - Jamestown, RI  
 Jeffrey Richard - Smithfield, RI  
 Allen Peters - Warwick, RI\*

\*LIFE MEMBERS

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

## MEMBER PHOTOS



Fiona Yidiaris (4 years old) with a 34 inch bluefish that weighed over 11 pounds! Caught in Narragansett Bay.



Dan testifying at statehouse on Access Bill with Representative Court.

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# COOKING YOUR CATCH

By: Paula Smalec

## EASY MEDITERRANEAN BAKED FISH

Recipe is adapted from its original version found on [www.midwestfoodieblog.com](http://www.midwestfoodieblog.com)

This is one of the easiest methods I know of to prepare an impressive and delicious fish dinner. It's hard to believe that something so simple can turn out so tasty, but it's true! You can use cod, had-dock, striped bass, black sea bass, or fluke fillets for this recipe. The baking time will vary for each species, based on the thickness of the fillets used. Roughly speaking, you'll bake this for 20 minutes, plus or minus a few minutes. Test for doneness by pressing on the surface of the thickest part of the fillet. When it starts to flake, it's done.

Serve this with anything that will be complimented by the lemon, butter, garlic, and caper sauce such as spinach, broccoli, asparagus, Swiss chard, rice, and/or couscous.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound fish fillet(s)
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted
- ¼ cup olive oil
- ½ teaspoon ground coriander
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- 1 large lemon, zested and ⅔ of it sliced (reserve the remaining ⅓ for its juice)
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons capers
- kosher salt
- freshly ground black pepper
- fresh lemon juice, chopped fresh cilantro - for garnish



### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Place fish in a baking dish. Whisk oil into melted butter and pour mixture over the fish. Season the fish with coriander, paprika, lemon zest, a large pinch of kosher salt, and freshly ground black pepper. Top the fillet with sliced garlic, lemon slices and capers. Bake for approximately 20 minutes, plus or minus a few minutes. After 15 minutes, test for doneness - remove the pan from the oven and press on the thickest part of the fillet. When it starts to flake, it is done. If it holds together without flaking, baste it with the buttery sauce and return it to the oven. Check again for doneness every few minutes. Before serving, squeeze the remaining juice from the reserved ⅓ lemon over the top of the fillet, and garnish it with chopped cilantro. Transfer a serving of fish onto a plate and spoon sauce from the dish over the top. Spoon the remaining sauce over the accompanying vegetables.

## RISAA WELCOMES ITS LATEST AFFILIATE

At the end of January, 2023 RISAA welcomed its newest affiliate—the **Hartford Surf Fishing Club**.

The Hartford club was established in 1952, a whopping seventy-plus years ago. Since its founding, The Hartford Surf Fishing Club has endeavored to promote and preserve the fine tradition of salt and fresh water angling on Connecticut's shoreline and tidal estuaries such as the Connecticut, Thames, and Housatonic River systems.

The club holds monthly meetings at the Rockville Fish and Game Club in Tolland CT. Meetings usually feature an informational

seminar much like our RISAA monthly meetings/seminars. The club also hosts an ongoing fishing tournament in which members compete among themselves and with neighboring clubs.

As with all RISAA affiliated clubs, the Hartford Surf Fishing Club will have a seat on the RISAA Legislative Committee and may request assistance with issues such as recreational fishing regulations and shore access. We welcome the Hartford Surf Fishing Club!



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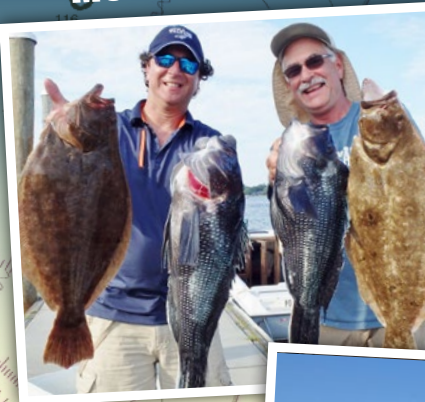
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MEMBER



# RISAA INTERVENES TO PROTECT MENHADEN


During its April 3, 2023 meeting, the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council voted to recommend a modification to Marine Fisheries regulations that would allow commercial fishing vessels to harvest 50,000 lbs of Menhaden per week in the Menhaden Management Area (MMA), regardless of whether the MMA is open based on biomass estimates. This change could have had a very negative impact on recreational fishing in the Bay as well as on the ecology of the Bay itself.

Immediately after the meeting, RISAA Executive Director Greg Vespe began calling some of our affiliated organizations to gain support for opposing this potentially harmful change. He was able to secure the support of **Save the Bay** and the **RI Party & Charter Boat Association**. In the meantime, the RISAA Board of Directors met and voted to submit a letter of opposition to this change in regulations. The letter was drafted by First Vice President Rich Hittinger and quickly approved and sent to Terrance Gray, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

In the letter, Hittinger added some historical perspective on how we came to the current regulations:

"As you know, current Menhaden regulations are the result of extensive work by RIDEM several years ago and these regulations stopped the "Pogy Wars" in the Bay in the early 2000s. RIDEM staff collaborated with scientists, commercial and recreational fishing interests, and other stakeholders to develop this set of regulations. In addition to their commercial value, Menhaden provide important ecological functions, serving as the foundation of the local food chain and filtering nutrients in the Bay."

In keeping with the traditions set by our Founder, RISAA opposition was polite but firmly on the side of the fish and those who pursue them. Mr. Gray, RIDEM Director, saw the value in our point of view and overruled the Council on this issue. Every RISAA member can be proud of belonging to a club that works in a respectful but effective manner to advance the interests of recreational anglers and protect our marine environment. 🐟



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- 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
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MEMBER

# RISAA'S 100<sup>TH</sup> LIFE MEMBER

**HONORING**  
**Robert L. "Skip" Stritzinger**



An anonymous donor purchased the 100<sup>th</sup> RISAA Lifetime Membership in honor of the late Skip Stritzinger who was his mentor. Unfortunately, Skip passed away peacefully on July 25, 2022 surrounded by his loving family but we are sure he would have appreciated the kind gesture.

Skip was an accomplished Captain, commercial fisherman, sailor, and early member of the RI Saltwater Anglers Association. Skip was an inspiration and teacher to many on the water as well. The 100<sup>th</sup> Lifetime Membership was commemorated with a special coin struck just for the occasion featuring the RISAA logo with its iconic striped bass. 🐟

RI SALTWATER Anglers | PAGE 9





Is the primary reason for increased removal just that the stocks are beginning to rebound so that the SSB is actually higher than current estimates? This could be possible because recent measures such as the existing slot are allowing rebound of striped bass SSB.

Are the predictions of 9% release mortality good enough to use over the entire range of striped bass and over the entire fishing season when we know that striped bass released without removal from the water into cold early season water are much more likely to survive than those fought for an extended time in warm water?

Commercial harvest still has a MINIMUM size of 34" in several states, so the commercial and recreational regulations do not coordinate. If management desires to protect large spawning striped bass then commercial harvest should be modified to ensure that these large individuals are protected.

At the same time that the Board passed this Emergency Action to limit recreational harvest they allowed quota transfers between states for commercial striped bass. This action will increase commercial harvest since some states have not used their entire commercial harvest in the past.

The bottom line to me is that striped bass is the most important fish for recreational fishing in the Northeast. Avid anglers can catch stripers from shore and from small boats near shore. They can be found somewhere in RI from May to early December and some are remaining here all winter. There is no need for a large vessel to steam out to the tuna grounds. If you work at it everyone has a chance to catch one of these beautiful beasts. We do not want to see another disaster like we experienced in the late 1980s, so we need to do whatever is necessary to protect stripers and be sure they are here for the next generation. RISAA will help to educate anglers to encourage better catch and release practices and we will protect forage fish such as herring and menhaden whenever possible.

### 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 August 24 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

# RECREATIONAL SALTWATER FISHING REGULATIONS

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

SPECIES	Rhode Island	Connecticut	Massachusetts	New York
American Eel (Party /Charter)	9" Min.: 25 Fish Max. 50 Fish Per Day	9" Min.: 25 Fish	9" Min.: 25 Fish	9" Min.: 25 Fish Max. 50 Fish Per Day
Black Sea Bass (Recreational) (Party /Charter)	16.5" Min. May 22 to Aug. 26 : 2 Fish Aug. 27 to Dec. 31: 3 fish June 18 to Aug. 31: 2 Fish Sept. 1 to Dec. 31: 6 Fish	16" Min. May 19 to June 23: 5 Fish July 8 to Dec.1: 5 Fish May 19 to Aug. 31: 5 Fish Sept. 1 to Dec. 31: 7 Fish	16.5" Min. May 20 to Sept. 7: 4 Fish	16" Min. PENDING
Bluefish (Party /Charter)	No Size Min.: 3 Fish No Closed Season No Size Min.: 5 Fish	No Size Min.: 3 Fish No Closed Season	No Size Min.: 3 Fish No Closed Season No Size Min.: 5 Fish	No Size Min.: 3 Fish No Closed Season No Size Min.: 5 Fish
Cod	23" Min. 28" Max.: 5 Fish Aug 1 to May 1	22" to 28" slot Aug. 1 to April 30: 5 Fish Federal Waters - RI, CT, & MA - Aug. 1 to May 1: 5 fish - 22" to 28"	22" Min. 28" Max.: 5 Fish No Closed Season South & East of Cape Cod Apr. 1 to Apr. 14: 1 Fish Sept. 1 to Sept. 30: 1 Fish	21" Min.: 10 Fish No Closed Season
Haddock	18" Min.: No Limit No Closed Season	18" Min.: No Limit No Closed Season	18" Min.: 15 Fish No Closed Season	18" Min.: No Limit No Closed Season
Pollock	19" Min.: No Limit No Closed Season	19" Min.: No Limit No Closed Season	19" Min.: No Limit No Closed Season	19" Min.: No Limit No Closed Season
Scup/Porgy (Recreational)	10.5" Min.: 30 fish May 1 to Dec. 31	10.5" Min.: 30 fish May 1 to Dec. 31	10.5" Min.: 30 fish May 1 to Dec. 31	Not Published Yet
Special Shore Designation (Party /Charter)	9.5" Min.: 30 fish May 1 to Dec. 31 10.5" Min. May 1 to Aug. 31: 30 Fish Sept. 1 to Oct. 31: 40 Fish Nov. 1 to Dec. 31: 30 Fish	9.5" Min.: 30 fish May 1 to Dec. 31 10.5" Min. May 1 to Aug. 31: 30 Fish Sept. 1 to Oct. 31: 40 Fish Nov. 1 to Dec. 31: 30 Fish	9.5" Min.: 30 fish May 1 to Dec. 31 10.5" Min. May 1 to June 30: 40 Fish July 1 to Dec. 31: 30 Fish	Not Published Yet
Striped Bass <i>In line Circle Hook only if using bait all NE States</i>	SLOT: 28" to under 31": 1 Fish No closed season	SLOT: 28" to under 31": 1 Fish No closed season	SLOT: 28" to under 31": 1 Fish No closed season	SLOT: 28" to under 35": 1 Fish No closed season <i>*NY has special regulations for Hudson River North of GWB</i>
Summer Flounder	18" Min. May 3 to Dec. 31: 4 Fish At special shore areas in RI 2 of the 4 fluke may be 17"	18.5" Min. May 1 to Oct. 9: 4 Fish At special shore areas in CT fluke may be 17"	16.5" Min. May 21 to Sept. 29: 5 Fish	18.5" Min. May 1 to Oct. 9: 4 Fish
Tautog (Recreational) <small>Visit your State's Federal Regulations website for Charter Regulations</small>	16" Min. Only 1 Fish Over 21" per angler Apr. 1 to May 31: 3 Fish June 1 to July 31: Closed Aug. 1 to Oct. 14: 3 Fish Oct. 15 to Dec. 31: 5 Fish Max. Rec. Vessel Limit: 10 Fish	16" Min. Apr. 1 to Apr. 30: 2 Fish May 1 to June 30: Closed July 1 to Aug. 31: 2 Fish Sept. 1 to Oct. 9: Closed Oct. 10 to Nov. 28: 3 Fish	16" Min. Jan. 1 to Mar. 31 - Closed Apr. 1 to May 31: 3 Fish June 1 to July 31: 1 Fish Aug. 1 to Oct. 14: 3 Fish Oct. 15 to Dec. 31: 5 Fish	16" Min. Jan. 1 to Mar. 30 - Closed Apr. 1 to Apr. 30: 2 Fish May 1 to Oct. 10: Closed Oct. 11 to Oct. 9: 3 Fish (LI Sound) Oct. 15 to Dec. 22: 4 Fish (NY Bight)
Weakfish (Squeteague)	16" Min.: 1 Fish No Closed Season	16" Min.: 1 Fish No Closed Season	16" Min.: 1 Fish No Closed Season	16" Min.: 1 Fish No Closed Season
Winter Flounder	12" Min. Mar. 1 to Dec. 31: 2 Fish RI Narragansett Bay Potter and Point Judith ponds and Harbor of Refuge are all closed to winter Flounder fishing	12" Min. Apr. 1 to Dec. 31: 2 Fish	North of Cape Cod: 12" Min. - 8 Fish - No Close South of Cape Cod: 12" Min. - 2 Fish - Mar. 1 to Dec. 31	12" Min. Apr. 1 to Dec. 31: 2 Fish

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## RISAA VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATE IN EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP IN TIVERTON

On Friday, May 21, a group of about nineteen enthusiastic folks from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and RISAA teamed up to take on the trash at the old railroad bridge abutment in Tiverton. For those unfamiliar with the area, it is the remnants of the old railroad line leading up to a bridge over the Sakonnet. The bridge is long since gone, but this remains a very popular shore fishing location, especially on weekends when there might be twenty or more people fishing off the rocky structure. Unfortunately, not everyone who fishes there obeys the rules on conservation and littering.

The joint RISAA/DEM team picked up bag after bag of trash which included everything from the usual cans and bottles to discarded diapers and nests of tangled fishing line. In total, the volunteers picked up enough waste to fill a full-sized pickup truck four times! DEM provided a dumpster into which the bags of trash could be offloaded for future removal to the landfill.

This effort underscores the ways in which DEM and RISAA work together to make things better for anglers and also for the communities in which they fish. The DEM summed up the effort on their social media feed as follows:

“Earth Day serves as a reminder that we are all stewards of our state’s natural places. Public lands are more than just recreational opportunities – they’re central to our environment, way of life,



and economy. Keeping them clean is everyone’s responsibility. Remember to #leavenotrace and carry in-carry out your belongings – especially trash. Do the right thing and please help us keep wildlife habitat and public land trash-free.”

RISAA Executive Director Greg Vespe added; “The DEM has limited personnel—they can’t do it alone. That is why those of us who can need to pitch in from time to time and support these efforts”.

For anglers, every day is Earth Day—let’s remember to leave nothing behind except our footprints and take only what we will use.

## AFFILIATED CLUBS PITCH-IN ON EARTH DAY CLEAN UPS

Another good deed was done on Earth Day by Narragansett Pier Sportfishing Association and the Narragansett Surfcasters, both RISAA affiliates. Continuing a tradition that goes back many years, these clubs joined forces to clean up a number of their favorite fishing spots from the Narrow River in Narragansett all the way down to Point Judith in the South. The volunteers were joined by RISAA Board Member and Secretary Sue Lema who has also been a past officer in the Narragansett Pier group. According to Sue, the group had a good turnout and removed large amounts of trash as evidenced by the accompanying photo(s). 🗑️



# Locally Owned Locally Operated Locally Priced



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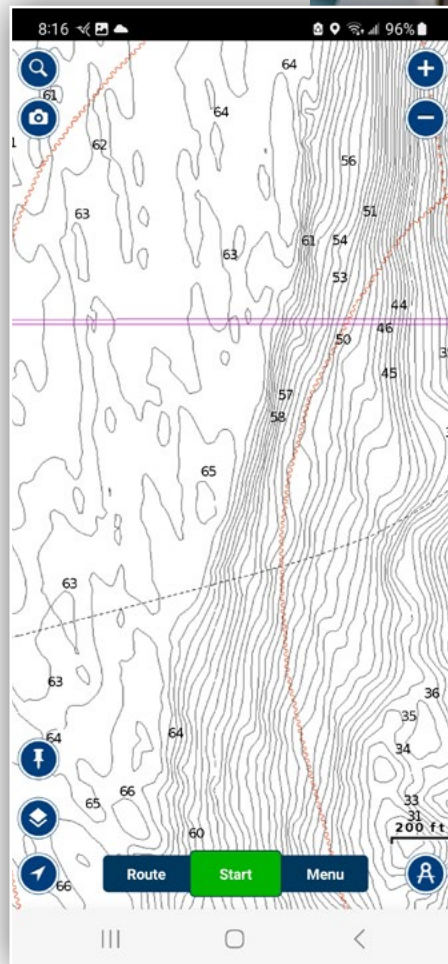
# SUCCESSFUL FLUKE FISHING

By: Mike "Wicked" Wec

To be a successful fluke fisherman there are a lot of things to consider, even before you launch your boat or leave the dock. Pregame preparation can be just as important as having the correct tackle. During the off season, take some time to study a depth chart. My personal favorite is Navionics because not only can you pregame at home, you can also use your maps on your cell phone while out on the water. Using this, in conjunction with your boat electronics, you'll be able to pinpoint specific areas.

## What To Look For?

There are four key elements I like to use when predicting good fluke spots. Structure, depth, water temperature, and bait. Sure, there are the go-to locations that everyone is willing to share, or which can easily be found online or on YouTube these days. However, there is no greater reward than a fluke fest when you are the only person fishing that area. Structures, such as a single rock, reefs, wrecks, and lobster pots can, and will hold fish. Fish the edges of reefs and around these solo obstacles and you may be surprised at how many more fish you can catch. Sandy bottoms are great, but do not always offer a great ambush point for a bigger and smarter doormat. Drop offs and water temperature are just as important. Fluke also use drop offs as ambush points. Depending on the conditions and temperature, they can be on top of the drop off to warm up, or even at the bottom to stay cool. Lastly, baits. If you are on a boat and mark bait, such as squid, bunker, or sandeels, odds

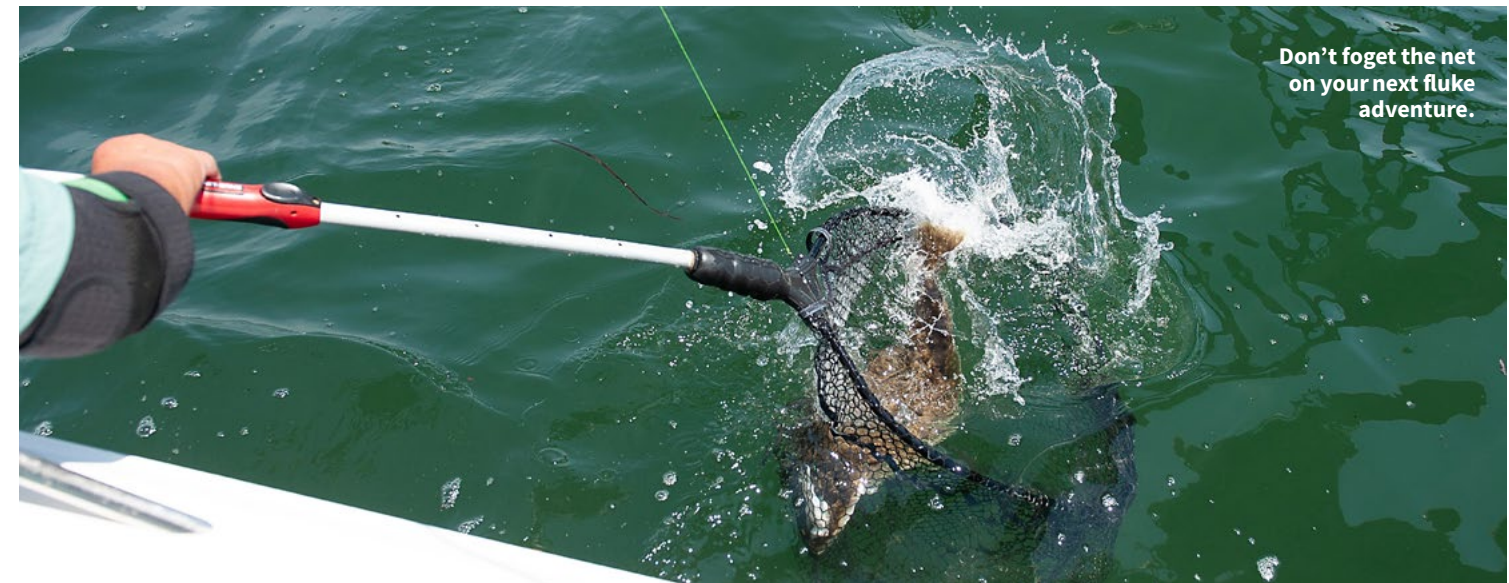


RISAA member Mike "Wicked" Wec showing off what's for dinner.

are if the depth or structure is also there, fluke will be as well.

## How Fast?

I personally like a faster drift, but find that 1-2.2 knots is perfect. I prefer 2 knots because bites at this speed almost always produce better hookups with fish that are hungry and willing to chase down your presentation. If you miss a hook set, let back down ASAP and be ready for follow up bites. It's no secret that when the wind and tide are working together, your drift will be far more productive. If the drift is a bit fast, deploying a drift sock will save the day. If you target fluke off of a boat, invest in a good drift sock. The polar opposite can be slack tide and/



or no drift at all. Using your boat's engine to power drift can be a task, but man, can it be super rewarding when no one else is producing.

## What To Use?

I like to tell everyone getting into fluke fishing that fluking is a lot like freshwater bass fishing. Having an array of different styles of baits, different colors, sizes, and a few rods to present these baits correctly can be the difference between a good day on the water and a day you will never forget. When the drift is slow, a solo jig with just enough weight to hold bottom, paired with 15lb or 20lb braid tied to a 10' mono leader of 20 lb test is perfect, especially



when paired up with a softer rod- like the Diawa Harrier jiggging rod. When fishing a faster drift or deeper water, a stouter rod with 30lb braid and 25lb mono leader will do the trick. Jigs such as the spro, small spoons like the Als Goldfish Wicked Wec Hi-Lo rig, larger spoons, such as the M3 tackle 5.5" fully rigged spoons, and even homemade popcorn rigs in pinks, greens, white, and natural colors, are just a few I will never leave home without. There are many choices out there, and having as many different varieties and colors as possible to help dial in a bite, especially when fishing with a few people working together, is a game plan worth its weight in gold. Adding some stink to your rigs with squid strips, fluke bellies, and artificials such as Gulp, or Stinky Balls, is always recommended.

## Tips & Tricks

There are a few other tips and tricks you can do to make a trip a bit less stressful. Having a big, wide net with an extendable handle is one of them. Keep that fluke's head in the water and off of the surface, as this is where many fluke are lost back into the abyss, never to be seen again. Never pump your rod when reeling in a fluke. Slow and steady is the name of the game. You also do not want a vicious hook set. A firm lift of the rod is all you need. Watch your fish finder. I cannot count how many times I am able to predict a bite while taking a peek at the fish finder. If you start seeing marks just off of the bottom, you can almost count down to when your baits will drift over the feeding fish for a hookup.

Fluke fishing can be a great way to spend a beautiful summer day, but it can be frustrating at times, so having an idea as to where to fish with multiple options is huge. Having the right tackle, bait, and proper boat control can be the difference from a single fluke sandwich to a family fry fest. Get out there, be prepared to try a bunch of rigs and colors until you find one that is working well enough for you, and remember, have fun! 🐟



You can follow Mike @wicked\_wec  



# SIXTEEN SHORE FISHING SPOTS ON THE SAKONNET RIVER

By: Fred DeFinis



The pier in Tiverton

The Sakonnet River is a tidal straight that connects Mount Hope Bay in the north to the oceanfront in the south, a distance of about fifteen miles. The shores on both sides have little commercial development and are sparsely populated, especially as one travels farther south. Both the east and western shores offer a variety of shore fishing opportunities.

## Eastern Shore—North

Near the top of the Sakonnet there is an accessible **fishing pier** at the end of Schooner Drive in Tiverton, adjacent to the famous Boat House Restaurant. There is adequate parking and the pier has enough light that it can be fished day or evening. Most of the fishing here is for bottom-dwelling species, especially scup although squid can be caught under the right conditions.

A bit further south, off Riverside Drive there are the remains of the **old railroad bridge** (no longer there) abutment. This spot has somewhat precarious footing and can be quite crowded on weekends. At this spot, the Sakonnet is constricted and the current flows quite quickly at peak flood and ebb. Most of the fishing here is for bottom-dwelling species although blues and stripers will cruise through the current as well. With the currents here, you will need plenty of weight to hold bottom.

A few yards farther south there is a **public fishing pier** adjacent to the Sakonnet Harbor Boat Ramp. Like the bridge abutment, this spot can be pretty crowded on weekends and parking is at a premium. Most anglers here target scup.

Continuing south on Main Road Tiverton, we come to **Grinnell's Beach** at the site of the Old Stone Bridge. The bridge was last destroyed by hurricane Carol in 1954 but a section has been restored, providing parking and good access to the water. There is a fee to park during the summer beachgoing months but access is free from Labor Day to Memorial Day. The current roars by this point and the rocky bottom can hold scup, black sea bass, and tog. On the surface, you may see blues, stripers, albies, bonito and



Grinnell's Beach

mackerel depending on the season and conditions. There is quite a variety of fish here.

Heading south on Main Road another three-quarters of a mile, there is an intersection on the right with Nanaquaket Road. **Nanaquaket Road** has a small bridge over the inlet to Nanaquaket Pond and there are a few parking spaces on the right side, just after the bridge. You can fish from the bridge for scup and can also move along the shore and sometimes find stripers in casting distance.

## East Shore--South

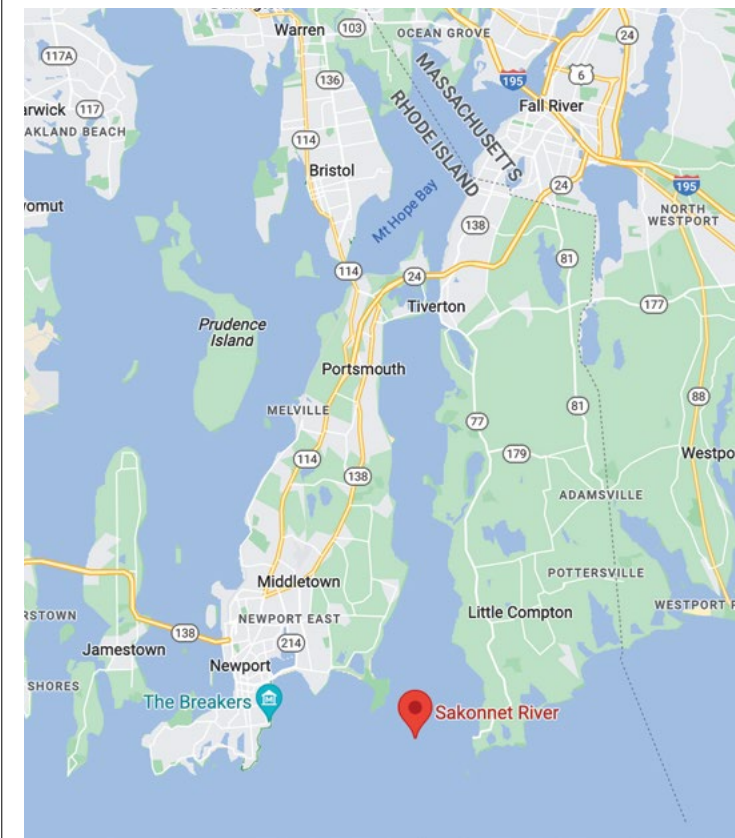
About five miles south of Route 24 we have the **Sapowet Wildlife Management Area** which is managed by the RI Department of Environmental Management. It is located on Seapowet Avenue in Tiverton. The area features free parking and is a popular spot for anglers, beachgoers and shellfish enthusiasts. This is a popular spot for fly and spinning fishing and stripers and blues will come within casting distance of the shore, especially when the tide is ebbing and carrying bait out of the marsh to the feeding fish outside. At high tide, stripers and blues will chase the bait up into the marsh which is accessible on both sides on foot.



Sapowet Wildlife Management Area

Continuing south, the next fishing stop is **Fogland Beach** on 3 Rod Way in Tiverton. This is a town beach and there is a parking fee during the beach season but access is free on nights and in the off season. Fogland Beach is a scenic, sandy beach with a southern exposure. Here you can target blitzing stripers and blues and sometimes the occasional albie. At the western end of the beach there is a south-facing rock formation that is a popular tog spot in the fall season. Space on the rocks is somewhat limited so don't be discouraged if you find the area taken by other anglers.

A less well known and out-of-the-way spot is **Town Way**. At the western end of Town Way, off West Main and Old Main roads, there is room for about 10 cars to park and a short path down to a cobble beach on the Sakonnet River. At low tide, it is possible to walk along the cobble beach to the mouth of Almy's Creek, and from there, partway into Donovan's Marsh, a well-preserved tidal creek and unditched salt marsh. When the tide ebbs from the marsh/



creek, fish will wait to ambush bait near the shore. The smooth beach is ideal for fly or spin fishing.

At the very southern end of Route 77, we have **Sakonnet Harbor** with a breakwater that protects the harbor within. Be sure to park in the appropriate areas as parking is restricted in the Sakonnet Harbor area. You can fish the wall for bottom-dwelling species and you may also be treated to a blitz of stripers, blues or even albies in season. It is not unknown for some of the first albies of the season to be hooked near the wall. In fishing this type of terrain, wear appropriate footwear and practice safety first.

## West Shore—North

Our first stop on the West Shore is **Teddy's Beach** off Point Road in Portsmouth. This beach is formed by the remains of the Old Stone Bridge on the west side. As with Grinnell's Beach, you may find a variety of species depending on the season and conditions. Parking on the street is free but somewhat limited.

Moving south the next access is **McCorrie Lane Fishing Area**. This area will hold stripers and blues when conditions are right but parking is an issue. McCorrie Lane is opposite Sapowet Marsh on the western shore.

The next point going south is **Sandy Point** which is the town beach for the Town of Portsmouth. There is a fee to park during the beach season but access is free nights and off season. Stripers, blues and albies will come within casting distance of the shore when conditions are favorable.

(Continued on page 18)



## West Shore--South

An interesting venue further south is **Pebble Beach** which is located off Indian Avenue in Middletown opposite the junction of Indian Ave and Peckham Ave. Parking is limited to five designated spaces and they are usually filled on weekends. From the parking area, you walk a gravel path to the rock formations below. This is an area that requires caution as the footing is difficult—definitely NOT a place to bring your kids. People fish off the rock formations for BSB, scup and tog and I have also seen blues and stripers cruising in casting distance of the rocks. Scenic spot but exercise caution here.

Also off of Indian Avenue is fishing access at **Taggart's Ferry**. The entrance is not well marked but it is just south of the intersection of Indian Ave and Vaucluse Ave. There is parking for about ten cars here and the waterfront is just beyond the parking area. The waterfront is very rocky and can be slippery so exercise caution. The bottom holds tog and black sea bass in season and I have also seen the occasional blitz of stripers and blues here.

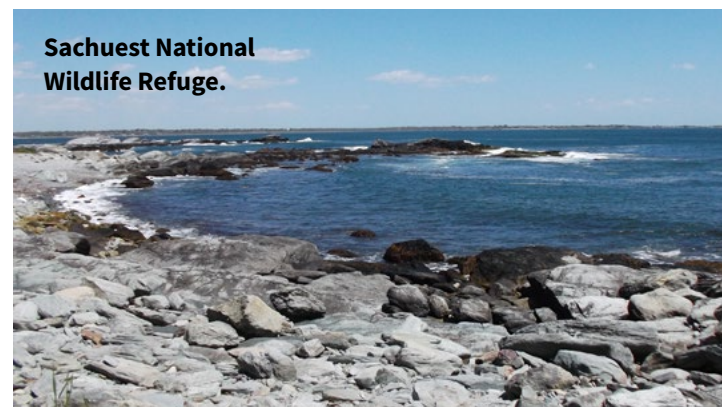
Second to last stop on our trip south is **Third Beach** in Middletown located on Third Beach Road. Third beach is restricted to Middletown residents daytimes during beach season but is free to park after six pm and in the off season. This is a popular casting spot for nighttime angling as the stripers will come into the sandy



Taggart's Ferry

cove to feed. Most anglers use surface plugs here to avoid the eel grass under the surface.

Our last, and perhaps most scenic stop on the Sakonnet is the **Sachuest National Wildlife Refuge** located at the southern end of Sachuest Point Road in Middletown. This spot was once farmland and later a military shooting range and even the landfill for Newport County. Today, it is a wonderful refuge with scenic walking trails and abundant wildlife, including many deer as well as the elusive snowy owl in winter. Parking is free although it may be tough on summer weekends. Flint Point at the northeast corner (follow Flint Point Trail) is a popular place for bottom fishing. A bit to the south in the same area, there is a sheltered section formed by the rock formations off shore. When conditions are right, blues and stripers will feed in this somewhat enclosed area and are well within casting distance of shore. There are trails all around the perimeter of the refuge and you can try any spot that looks "fishy" to you. Large stripers and blues often patrol the western shore facing Second Beach. Be careful on the rocky shore. If you wish to fish after dark, you must obtain a parking permit. An annual permit is \$20.00 and a one night permit is \$5.00. You can obtain your permit here <https://rhodeislandpermits.recaccess.com/>



There we have sixteen different shore fishing opportunities on this interesting and pristine waterway. Whether you like to toss out a bit of squid for some scup or try your luck with the stripers or blues, the Sakonnet offers something for every style of shore fishing. 🐟

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# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Dan King Fighting for Public Access to the Shore

Dan King grew up in the Apponaug Cove section of Warwick and he and his father used to trailer their small boat to launch it in neighboring areas. After a twenty-four year stint in the United States Coast Guard, Dan settled in Westerly. He has been a RISAA member since 2003 and has volunteered for a number of activities including running the AV at the Fishing Show seminars, Kid's Fishing Camp, and his favorite; Take a Kid Fishing Day. Dan is also a member of the Legislative Committee and is very visible in the Public Access sub-committee.

Dan's interest in public access began when he was a boy as he and his father often faced opposition when trying to launch their little skiff on the nearby shores. His father told him that there were those who would try to keep folks off their property and away from the shore. Now, many years later, the situation hasn't changed much as Dan says many property owners continue to chip away at public access. He describes this process as a "subtle creep" as property owners encroach on rights of way. According to Dan, the biggest challenge to public access comes from groups called "Fire Districts" some of which constantly challenge the public rights of way. Elected officials in the small towns affected are anxious to avoid conflict and costly litigation while these groups have deep pockets and continue to their push their agendas.

Dan's fight takes him to a variety of local and statewide meetings and hearings. Most recently, he has testified before the Rhode Island Legislature on House Bill H5174 to define lateral beach access to six feet above the wrack line or wet sand; and H5700 to impose a \$500 fine for "signage that deters the public from using a public right-of-way."

Despite all the obstacles, Dan feels a sense of optimism as he sees citizens getting more engaged on public access issues by testifying at public meetings and rallying for this cause. His advice to us—"Keep pushing CRMC to do their job!"

Thanks Dan for your contributions to RISAA. 🐟



*This is the first in a series of articles highlighting some of the work done by our RISAA volunteers, often behind the scenes. None of our major events such as the Fishing Show would happen without dedicated volunteers. Likewise, there are dozens of other activities that take place out of public view that all combine to make RISAA the voice of the saltwater angler in Rhode Island and New England. Ed.*

**If you would like to learn more about the Legislative Committee or Public Access sub-committee, contact Rich Hittinger at [hittinger@risaa.org](mailto:hittinger@risaa.org).**



## UPCOMING SEMINAR

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



# JUNE 26 @ 7 PM SURFCASTING RHODE ISLAND

With **RISAA Surfcasting Committee**

Members of our very own RISAA Surfcasters Committee will present a lively panel discussion on the exciting sport of surfcasting. You will learn what equipment to use, the types of places to go and how to get the most out of each trip. Even if you regularly fish other methods such as boat or kayak, surfcasting can be a great change of pace and brings you closer to nature, and the fish. Join us for this entertaining and informative seminar.

### SPECIAL NOTICE!

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

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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 Scott Travers at: [Travers@risaa.org](mailto:Travers@risaa.org)  
or call Scott at: (401) 500-2634

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## RISAA'S MAGAZINE CAN BOOST YOUR SALES!

*Thank you for  
supporting the  
RISAA Magazine.*



As you likely know we changed the RISAA magazine format with a new look, feel and voice this year after garnering member and advertiser input during the first quarter of 2022. The input also allowed us to develop a new look and feel to our website at [www.risaa.org](http://www.risaa.org).

When you advertise in our magazine you support not only the monthly publication but also all the other programs that RISAA sponsors.

According to NOAA Fisheries, in Rhode Island recreational fishing contributes over \$419-million in sales impact to the economy annually, \$931-million in Massachusetts and \$606-million in Connecticut. Our primary market, this tristate area, offers advertisers great impact. You can get your share by advertising in our magazine.

### THE MAGAZINE IS:

- Directly delivered monthly to over 1,600 RISAA members and posted on our website
- Available to 7,500 affiliated members
- Delivered to legislators, regulators and other policy and opinion leaders

RISAA members and affiliated members are dedicated and involved, and they need what you are offering. In the survey we conducted this year we found that:

- 76% of RISAA members fish at least once a week
- About one third of members own their own boat
- 87% of RISAA members fish from a boat, 48% fish from shore and 17% fish from a kayak and many fish all three modes

In addition to a new graphic look we refocused the editorial content of the magazine. Change highlights included:

- A more enriching/informative publication with less repetitive content—**YOUR AD WILL BE SEEN REGARDLESS OF PLACEMENT**
- We listened to our members via survey and will be including more of the content they want—gear, how-to and newer developments in recreational angling.
- Our ad rates are a better value today than in the past and all ads are in four-color

Let us know if you will be advertising with us in 2023, what size ad and for which months. Also please provide the ad or content if you want us to design it. We are publishing a total of nine issues a year as follows: January/February, Special New England Saltwater Fishing Show March Issue, April/May, June, July, August, September, October and a November/December issue.

Thanks for the consideration!

Sincerely,  
Greg Vespe  
RISAA Executive Director

**To find out how you can build your sales by advertising in the RISAA Magazine, for a 2023 rate card visit our website or and contact: Scott Travers at [Travers@risaa.org](mailto:Travers@risaa.org) or call 401-500-2634**



# OFFSHORE WIND PERMITTING PROCESS IGNORES PRIVATE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS OPINION

Opinion By: Richard Hittinger

Offshore Wind Energy (OWE) developers are being allowed to ignore potential impacts of their projects on private recreational anglers. The Federal agency responsible for permitting these projects outside State waters, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and State agencies like RI Coastal Resources Management Agency (CRMC) are allowing major industrial scale wind projects to be developed on key fishing grounds such as Cox Ledge with little to no consideration for impacts to private recreational fishing. As an example, South Fork Wind was given authorization to proceed by both BOEM and CRMC in early 2021 even though CRMC's own staff recommendation states "...the location of the SFW project on Cox Ledge, an area known for its biological diversity, is in our view one of the worst possible locations within Rhode Island Sound for this project." Their report identifies that the project is not in compliance with enforceable policies of the Ocean SAMP but yet political pressure assured that the project was approved.

To mitigate potential negative impacts that could not otherwise be avoided during construction of the South Fork Wind project, commercial fishing was provided with a fund in the amount of \$12 million. By contrast, no funds were allocated to private recreational fishing. Developers identify in the Environmental

Impact Statement (EIS) that there will be "likely injury to finfish greater than 2 grams in size out to a radius of 39,265 feet from each monopile during installation." This is a diameter of 12.9 nautical miles.

But the EIS does not consider potential impacts to recreational fishing because the developers argue that there is no proof that recreational fishing occurs in this area. Both commercial and charter fishing vessels have records of where they fish. Things like Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs) have been filed with State and Federal agencies for years by commercial and charter vessels, but since there are no similar data for private recreational fishing the wind developers are allowed to conclude that recreational fishing does not exist in those areas so it does not need to be considered. No agency has required the developers to conduct a study that would determine how much recreational fishing occurs in these areas.

RISAA has long been active trying to correct some of the shortcomings during the planning and impact avoidance of these projects. In February 2021 RISAA submitted a comment letter to BOEM on the South Fork Wind Draft EIS. That comment letter (at: <https://risaa.org/2021/01/04/offshore-wind-program-manager-letter/>) has gone unanswered. In that letter we pointed out that:

"Simply because there is little data available for Private Recreational Fishing is not a reason that it should not be considered. The DEIS is flawed by not including an analysis of potential impacts to Private Recreational Fishing and therefore needs to be rewritten. BOEM, NOAA, OWE Developers and angler groups need to immediately launch a study to determine the level of recreational fishing in each of the OWE areas including SFWF. This study would give an indication of the number and type of fishing trips to each OWE area so that NOAA economic data can be used to estimate the value of that activity. The American Saltwater Guides Association, the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association and other industry groups would be willing to participate in and contribute to this type of study."

Despite our concerns, we still have not been contacted to determine the level of recreational fishing in these areas.

*"Why do we have one of the first industrial scale offshore wind projects being built on Cox Ledge? Why not start in a less critical area and take time to study the effects?"*

## WE NEED TO HEED THE CONCERNS OF OTHER USERS SUCH AS RECREATIONAL ANGLERS.

As recreational anglers we see changes in the fish species in our waters caused by a warming ocean. Sea level is rising. Reduction in winter flounder abundance and other changes may be due to climate change, so we would love to see a solution to climate change. No one cares more about our marine environment than those who use it for recreation and/or their livelihood but we can't disrupt or destroy one part of our environment to hopefully benefit another. A more holistic approach is needed that weighs the benefits of OWE and other alternatives against our need to preserve and protect our waterways and benthic environment, but is offshore wind energy the answer? Recent estimates calculate that it will take 8 to 12 years of operation just to offset the amount of CO2 emissions produced during construction of the Revolution Wind project. In addition, we will be promoting reliance on countries such as China where new coal power plants are being built to provide power to mine and purify materials used in the construction of offshore wind projects.

Other solutions such as switching existing coal plants in

US to natural gas would be far more effective at reducing our CO2 emissions. Converting coal plants in the US to natural gas could save 500,000,000 metric tons of CO2 every year, 100 times the amount of CO2 that Revolution Wind will save during its entire projected 20-year lifespan. This conversion would be relatively quick and easy compared to construction of offshore wind farms and would not impact new, pristine areas of our precious ocean. In addition, maintenance of industrial scale wind power generating plants at sea is expensive and cable losses are significant. The capital cost of construction is very high due to the location of the turbines and the expense of cable installation.

## NEW TURBINES ARE DIFFERENT THAN THE BLOCK ISLAND WIND FARM.

OWE developers and proponents often cite studies done on the Block Island Wind Farm (BIWF) to say that the new projects will have little impact on fish and fishing. The problem is that the new projects will be dramatically different than the BIWF. First, the scale is very different - there are 5 turbines in the BIWF and they were built 10 years ago. The new development will include construction of hundreds of turbines year after year for likely more than a decade. Also, the BIWF is a jacketed foundation type - basically four legs "nailed" to the sea floor with piles driven through the center of each leg. The new projects will be on monopiles which are singular poles more than 35 feet in diameter that must be pounded into the sea floor with such force that the escaping noise will be enough to disrupt or destroy most sea life for a radius of up to twelve nautical miles around each pile. In addition, the monopiles provide very minimal structure for potential fish habitat. So, the new turbine bases will have a much greater negative impact during installation and a much-reduced benefit after construction.

The bottom line question to me is: Why do we have one of the first industrial scale offshore wind projects being built on Cox Ledge? Why not start in a less critical area and take time to study the effects? Cox Ledge is Critical Habitat to dozens of fish species including many that are important to recreational fishing as target species and as forage. Not only are these important fishing grounds for recreational anglers, they are basically our only place to go for a day trip to fish for cod. The importance of these grounds to recreational fishers is extreme and if this industrialization of these offshore grounds turns out poorly it could ruin an entire recreational fishing industry. Will cod and other fish return after these turbines are installed and electrified? I don't know. Will an extended period of disruption lead to a permanent change in the migration and behavior of some of these species? I don't know.

We need to steer clear of extreme "Green" rhetoric that causes us to act in haste without considering the potential impact on recreational anglers and all other users of our precious marine resources. This rhetoric will only cause much more damage in the long run. We must take time to properly evaluate potential impacts to the environment and all other users before we push ahead. Industrialization of our pristine offshore fishing grounds is not the answer to impacts caused by the Industrial Revolution.





# BLOCK ISLAND INSHORE FISHING TOURNAMENT - JULY 22 & 23

“The Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament was a big success last year. We doubled the number of participants and added a fly fishing shore and boat division.” said Capt. Chris Willi of Block Island Fish Works, a bait & tackle shop and charter fishing business located on Block Island, Rhode Island.

The tournament will start at 5:30 a.m., Saturday, July 22 and end Sunday, July 23, 12 noon. There will be an ‘After Party’ at Capt. Nick’s Rock & Roll Bar, Block Island on Sunday, July 23 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a brief Tournament awards ceremony.

“This is a length only Tournament. When registering online participants download our Tournament app on their smartphone. When they want to make a Tournament entry they take a photo of their catch up against the Tournament supplied ruler and send their entry into the Tournament electronically.” said Capt. Willi. “So it is not necessary to attend the ‘After Party’ to receive your Tournament prize. Winners will be posted online. Limited dockage may be available after the tournament for four to five hours in Old Harbor at the Town Dock. Contact the Dockmaster on Ch12. Those attending the ‘after party’ will get a chance to win one of twenty-five \$100 tackle shop gift cards.”

Tournament entry fees are \$150 per boat for up to four anglers, \$35/person for additional anglers; and \$35/shore angler. Capt. Willi said, “Thanks to the Block Island Wind Farm and Ørsted as well as Whalers Brewing Company of Rhode Island, a new supporting sponsor, we are able to donate 100% of Tournament entry fees to the Block Island Fire Department and Rescue.”



**The Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament will include fluke, black sea bass, striped bass, bluefish, boat, shore, fly fishing, youth, team and wind farm photo contest divisions.**

Tournament highlights include: cash cards/swag/and sponsor prizes totally \$10,000; fluke, black sea bass, striped bass and bluefish with boat, shore, fly fishing, youth, team and photo divisions; take a photo with the Block Island Wind Farm shown and you can enter three photo categories each with \$200 prize... most scenic, best fish photo and best team photo; pick up participant bags at one of six locations including Block Island Fish Works, Block Island; Ocean State Tackle, Providence; The Saltwater Edge, Middletown; Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown; Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown; and Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly.

Register online at  
BI Inshore Tourney | bi-fishworks  
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For additional information contact  
Block Island Fish Works at  
bifishworks@gmail.com  
or 401.742.3992



Fish within the three mile limit around Block Island at the Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament Saturday, July 22 and Sunday, July 23.

# TWO FREE TRIPS TO BE WON AT THE JUNE 26 MEETING

By: Hal Gibson, Charter Trip Committee Chair

Our June 26th meeting will feature a drawing for two free charter trips. The first trip is Westport Point Charters with Capt. Jimmy Turner. This trip will be for 4 anglers and leave from the Westport River state launch.. You will be targeting anything that is biting in the Westport to Gooseberry to Buzzards Bay area. Yu never know what you might catch in this area known for its variety and abundance of fish.

The second trip is with Pura Vida Charters with Captain Jonathan Lewis. This is an approximately ten hour trip for two anglers targeting tuna. The launch point is the Galilee Boat Ramp. Captain Lewis has been fishing since he was six years old and has won numerous awards. He strives to make every outing a learning experience for the anglers aboard. This is truly a unique opportunity to do some serious offshore fishing.

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. The raffle is FREE TO ENTER.

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

## RISAA Political Action Committee (PAC) Update

We are in that season – the weather is warming and RI Legislators are back in session on Smith Hill. Several of us (mostly Greg and I but with some help from Dave Monti and others) have been attending hearings on proposed Bills and we have been attending political fundraisers so that the State Senators and Representatives get to know us and understand what issues are important to us as recreational anglers. We have attended hearings on the Bill to rename Black Point to honor Steve Medeiros, on permitting the Revolution Wind project and on the Bill to clarify where the Public can Access the shore. In addition to those that we contributed but were not able to attend, we have gone to fundraising events for:

- Senate President Dominick Ruggerio

- Senate Environment Committee Member David Tikoian
- Representative Teresa Tanzi
- House Environment Committee Member Jennifer Boylan
- Senate Environment Committee Member Matthew LaMountain
- Senate Environment Committee Chairwoman Alana DiMario
- House Environment Committee Member Kathleen Fogarty
- House Environment Committee Member Carol McEntee

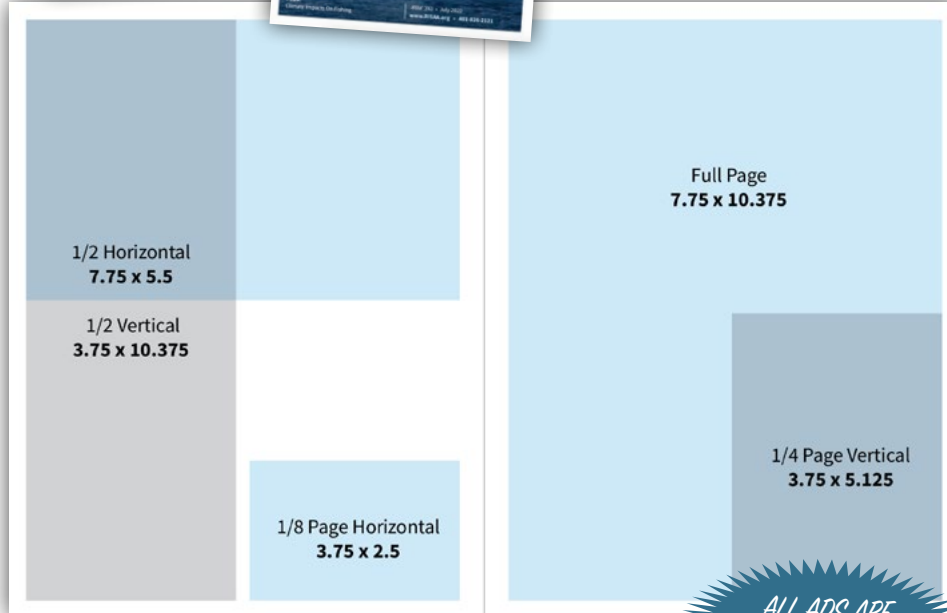
Thank you to all who have contributed to the RISAA PAC. We are making progress getting the RISAA message out there and I think our message is resonating with many of our legislators.



# Advertise with RISAA

## HELP YOUR BUSINESS, RISAA & THE FISH!

Below are the ad rates for 2023 as well as size specifications and other information. Contact RISAA at 401-826-2121 if you have further questions.



AD SIZE	NON-MEMBER	MEMBER
Full Page	\$470	<b>\$360</b>
1/2 Page	\$290	<b>\$240</b>
1/4 Page	\$195	<b>\$150</b>
1/8 Page	\$140	<b>\$105</b>

SAVE 5% 3+ Months / SAVE 10% 12 Months

### AD DIMENSIONS

Full Page.....	7.75 x 10.375
1/2 Hor .....	7.75 x 5.5
1/2 Vert .....	3.75 x 10.375
1/4 Page .....	3.75 x 5.125
1/8 Page .....	3.75 x 2.5

### ACCEPTED FILE FORMATS

JPG, PDF, TIFF, EPS

ALL ADS ARE FULL COLOR!

Need your ad built from scratch? WE CAN HELP!

Complete & mail the form below and email your ad to: Travers@risaa.org



## THANK YOU! The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Size  Full Page  1/2 Page  1/4 Page  1/8 age  
 Length  One Issue  3 Months  6 Months  1 Year

Payment  Check Enclosed  Send Bill Monthly Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

If you want to PAY BY CREDIT CARD, please call Greg Vespe directly at (401) 662-5573.

I am interested in participating in the New England Saltwater Fishing Show  
 I am interested in doing a seminar at a RISAA monthly meeting. Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Deadline: 15th of preceding month

ATTACH A BUSINESS CARD!

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



## 2023 RISAA FLY FISHING COMMITTEE OUTING SCHEDULE

(High tide times in parentheses)

### 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

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401-359-3625

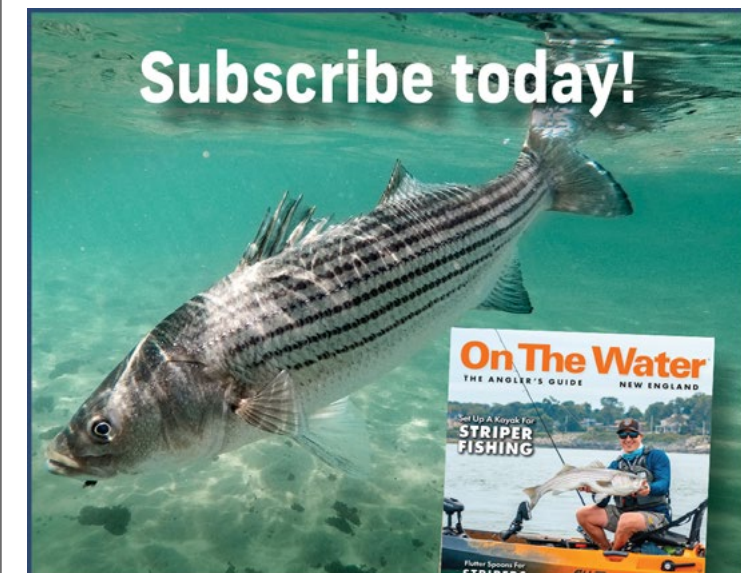
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ON THE WATER



# 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. Fiona Yidiaris ..... 11.06 lbs.
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

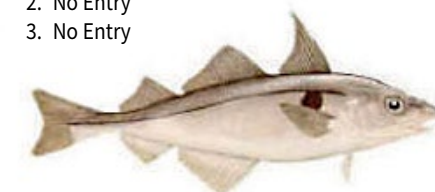
1. No Entry
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

### SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

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

### SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



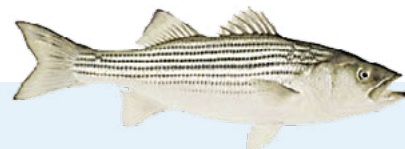
## HADDOCK

### 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. John Migliori ..... 8.75 lbs.
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

### SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



## SCUP

### BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Bill Hubert ..... 2.10 lbs.
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

### BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

### SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. John Migliori ..... 1.10 lbs.
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

### SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



## SEA ROBIN

### BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

### BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

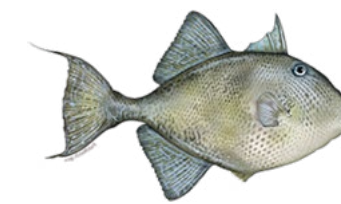
1. No Entry
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

### SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. John Migliori ..... 2.86 lbs.
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

### SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



## GRAY TRIGGERFISH

### BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

### BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

### SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

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

### SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



## TUNA - BLUEFIN

### BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

### BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



## TUNA - YELLOWFIN

### BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

### BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

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

Questions? Contact Scott Travers • Travers@risaa.org • 401-500-2634

## 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.

# RISAA KAYAK COMMITTEE SUMMARY 2023 OUTINGS

Date	Time	Location	Address	Target	Leader
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.

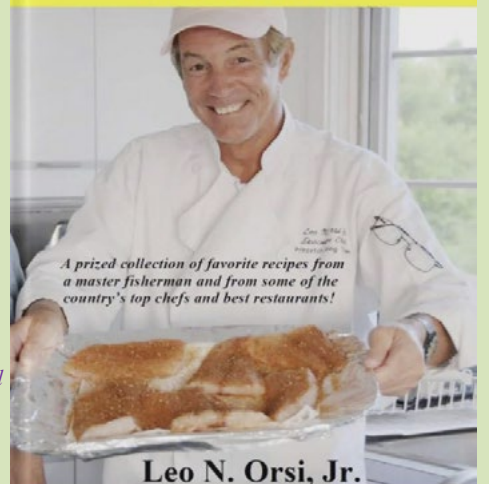
"Leo has captured the essence of many local dishes. They're presented with colorful pictures and easy to understand instructions. I am honored to keep this in my cookbook collection"

—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

### The Fisherman's Kitchen



Watch One of the Recipes on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/x4i2miSN23A>



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# DEM/ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE ARREST & CITATION LOG

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

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

*\*All persons arrested are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*



## MARCH 2023

- DECKER, Michael J. II, 45, of East Hampton, NY, for Landing Black Sea Bass Without A Restricted Finfish License
- HORNUNG, Michael H., 68, of Narragansett, RI for Exceeding Weekly Limit of Black Sea Bass
- SANDERLIN, Jeffrey A., 50, of Mt. Sinai, NY, for Landing Black Sea Bass Without A Restricted Finfish License
- HORNUNG, Michael H., 68, of Narragansett, RI for Exceeding Aggregate Possession Limit of Summer Flounder
- PIMENTEL, Luis S., 30, of East Providence, RI, for Untagged Whelk Pot, Failure to Mark Whelk Pot, and Failure to Mark Whelk Buoy
- MCGOWAN, Mason R., 35, of Engelhard, NC, for Landing Restricted Finfish (Summer Flounder) Without a License and Landing Restricted Finfish (Black Sea Bass) Without a License

## APRIL 2023

- NGO, Duy M., 40, of Worcester, MA for Possession of Undersized Tautog and Exceeding the Daily Limit of Tautog
- PACHECO, Joao M., 75, of Bristol, RI, for Possession of Undersized Shellfish and Possession of Non-Complying Shellfish
- TENREIRO, Richard B., 55, of Charlestown, RI, for Failure to Tag Tautog
- DO, Charles, 19, of Brockton, MA, for Possession of Undersized Tautog and Failure to Tag Tautog

### The following is a breakdown of the citations issued for the period of: March- April 2023

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

#### VIOLATION CITATIONS ISSUED

State Property Violations .....	19
(Parking, Alcohol, Disorderly Conduct, Dumping/Littering, etc.)	
Motor Vehicle .....	13
Boating Violations .....	14
ATV Violations .....	5
Freshwater Fishing Violations .....	5
Saltwater Fishing Violations .....	6
CRMC Beach Violations .....	1
Hunting Violations.....	18

**Total .....81**

#### TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE THROUGH OUR DISPATCH CENTER: 3,871

WARNINGS ISSUED: Verbal or Written  
Warnings issued to first-time offenders for a de minimis violation. Corrective action was taken at the scene and/or the occurrence was utilized as an educational opportunity in lieu of a summons. **TOTAL: 156**

# SIT-ON-TOP VS. SIT INSIDE KAYAKS: CHOOSING WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU

By: Matt Stone, Blackhall Outfitters

If you're new to paddling and looking to invest in a kayak, one of the first decisions you'll need to make is whether to choose a sit-on-top kayak (SOT) or a sit-inside kayak (SIS). The simple answer is that they're both effective, have pros and cons, and have been enjoyed by recreational and serious paddlers and anglers for years. However, there are some distinct differences you'll want to consider when picking one for yourself.

## Sit-Inside Kayaks

When you hear the word "kayak," a SIS is probably what comes to mind. The bathtub shape, pointed bow, single-seated yak of yore has been around forever, and despite years of advancements in the paddling world it still maintains most of the original characteristics which paddlers have come to love. A SIS offers a protected shell, often containing a seat, foot braces, and pretty much nothing else. SIS kayaks have been the predominant recreational paddling kayak for years, and with good reason: they're simple to operate, easy to maintain, and affordable.

One of the main factors that leads to paddlers choosing a SIS is that you'll likely stay dry the whole time you're on the water. The tub-like shape offers protection from waves and paddle splashes, and somewhere in that shell you'll likely be able to put a bag with your water, snacks, phone, and sunscreen without fear of anything getting wet. My first ever kayak was a SIS, and I packed that thing to the gills with a couple fishing rods, tackle boxes, and even a clamp-on fish-finder! It was snug, but it got the job done.

A negative to SIS kayaks is that they're tough to get in and out of, especially if you flip and go in the drink. A SIS is easiest to get into in shallow water, where you can stand firmly on the ground and lower yourself inside. When getting into any kayak, but particularly a SIS, maintaining 3 points of contact with the boat or ground will help you stay balanced. Getting into SIS yaks from a dock or from a bigger boat can be tough, since putting a foot inside it will begin pushing it away from you, and you'll need some core strength to keep it nearby or you're going swimming.

Perhaps the biggest flaw of a SIS kayak is that it is not self-bailing like a sit-on-top. If your SIS flips, it's going to be very challenging to drain the water from inside it and then to re-enter the kayak itself. So yes, you may keep your stuff dry from minor splashes by having a shell to sit in, but if you go over, all that stuff ends up in Davey Jones' locker anyways.

Modern hull designs and kayaks in general are really tough to flip. Typically, this worry is in the forefront of a new paddler's mind, but that fear is soon soothed after a few trips. A good rule of thumb for all kayaks is that your body goes where your head goes,



so if you keep your head inline with the center of the kayak, your body will stay there too and you'll be all set. Overall, I'd recommend sit-inside kayaks for paddlers who don't intend to fish, and who will have easy, calm waters from which to launch and land.

## Sit-On-Top Kayaks

Sit-on-top kayaks are quickly becoming the most popular kayak for recreational and fishing use. The biggest differences are first, the obvious- you sit on top of this kayak. There is no shell in which you'll be seated. The second biggest difference is that the mold for these kayaks contain scupper holes. Essentially, they're a series of holes running straight through the kayak, from deck to water. They function as drains: when water splashes over the edge of the SOT, it will find its way to a scupper hole and drain out the bottom of the kayak. It's a helpful feature and makes these kayaks easier to enjoy in choppy water or rain.

It's often said that a disadvantage of SOT kayaks is that you will get wet by being on top, but I'd argue against that. While you are protected by the shell of a SIS kayak, you're further from the water itself when perched on a SOT kayak. I think your chances of getting wet are more influenced by the condition of the waves and your ability as a paddler to keep paddle splashes away when navigating.

(Continued on page 34)



Another big advantage of a SOT kayak is that there will often be built-in storage hatches to keep your items dry, just like they would be in a SIS kayak. Some more simple SOT yaks won't have dry hatches, but their addition is quickly becoming a standard feature for manufacturers. Additionally, I believe SOT kayaks are easier to store and transport, because they are more rigid and flat, and therefore easier to strap down or stack up when traveling or not in use.



Arguably the most important feature of a SOT kayak is that if you flip, it's much easier to right the boat and climb back onto. This is part of the reason why pretty much every serious fishing kayak is a SOT. If you flip, there are a couple of ways to turn the boat right side up, and it's much easier to crawl back on top of than a SIS is to climb back inside of. Plus, once you get the boat flipped, the water will drain right out of the scupper holes and you'll be back to paddling in no time.

### Final Thoughts

When picking between a SOT or SIS kayak, first ask yourself what you plan on doing the most out on the water. If it's any sort of serious fishing or paddling, I'd recommend a SOT kayak. For those very serious about ocean kayaking, there are unique kayaks for that exact purpose which are typically very long and slim for cutting through waves.

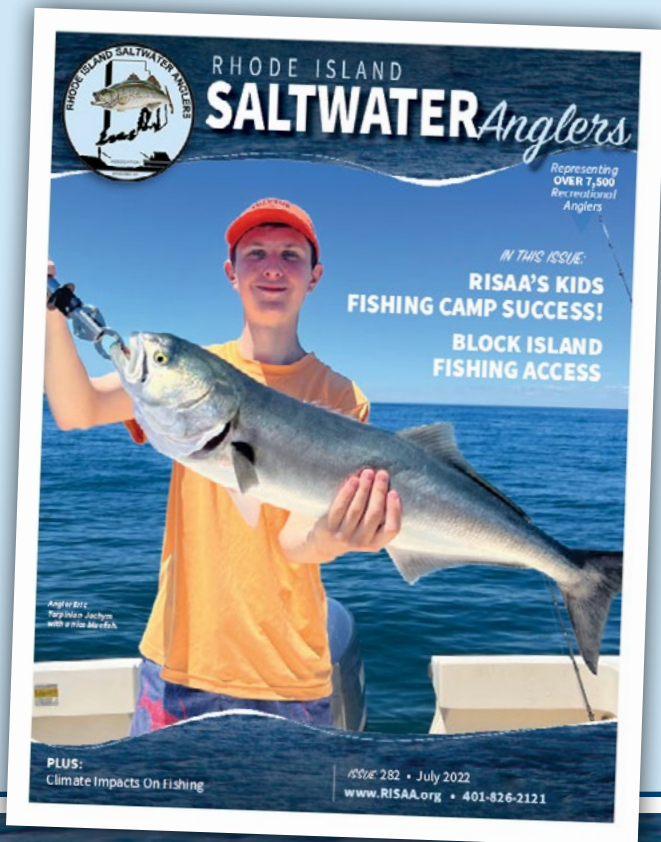
If you just want something for the kids to float around in, and will only be using your kayak in small lakes or ponds and close to shore, then either style of kayak will work. Overall, after kayaking and kayak fishing for nearly 20 years, I very much tend to favor SOT kayaks for the reasons above. If you're really not sure, the best way to figure out which is best is to stop by a dealer and take each style of kayak out for a demo. There's bound to be one that you feel most comfortable in, and soon you'll be out there catching fish, sunsets, and some warm summer rays!

This article contributed by Blackhall Outfitters, one of the fine shops that supports RISAA and our members.

## 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 Scott Travers at [Travers@risaa.org](mailto:Travers@risaa.org) or call Scott at 401-500-2634



# WHO'S WHO

in the Rhode Island Saltwater's Anglers Association

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401-826-2121

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WWW.RISAA.ORG

#### New England Saltwater Fishing Show:

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

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

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MAGAZINE DESIGN & LAYOUT: Eddy Stahowiak - [lbeddy9@gmail.com](mailto:lbeddy9@gmail.com)



# Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation

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



## 2023 FOUNDATION DONATIONS

### PLATINUM (\$500+)

- RI Mobile Sport Fishermen
- Darlene Smith/Kaman Corp
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- Dale Hartman\*
- William Sosnicki
- John Pope
- Bryon Stevens

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

Or fill out the form below and mail to the RISA Foundation.



PLEASE PRINT

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

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to

### The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation

**THANK YOU!**

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

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

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

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

Donation Made In The Name Of: \_\_\_\_\_

#### MAIL TO:

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



The Rhode Island's Saltwater Anglers Association's

# Political Action Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

## DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!

To be effective, we must participate in the system.

### 2023 PAC DONORS TO DATE

#### GOLD (\$200+)

- Kenneth Cooper**
- Kenneth Mendez**
- Garth Fondo**

#### SILVER (\$100+)

- Carl Tiska**
- John Turchetti**
- Thomas Freeman**

#### BRONZE (\$50+)

- Dale Hartman**

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

## STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!



PLEASE PRINT

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

### Political Action Committee

**THANK YOU!**

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### MAIL TO:

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





# AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

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



# COALITION PARTNERS

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



# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



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

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

RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP  NEW MEMBERSHIP

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

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

Date Of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employed At \_\_\_\_\_

Children (up to 17 yrs): \_\_\_\_\_

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

### INFORMATION

Prefer to Fish From (check all that apply):

Rocks & Piers  Charter Boats  Party Boats  Fly Fishing  Surfcasting  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Own Boat: Length: \_\_\_\_\_ ft Maker/Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Boat Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Docked at: \_\_\_\_\_

### How did you hear about RISAA?

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

Saw Advertisement at:  Internet  Magazine  Newspaper  TV  Other \_\_\_\_\_

### TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Regular Adult: \$50/year

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

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

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

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

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

Junior's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Junior's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

RISAA Sponsor (if parent not a member): \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION

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

To pay by credit card, visit: [www.risaa.org/regist](http://www.risaa.org/regist)

### MAIL TO:

RISAA  
P.O. Box 299  
Tiverton, RI 02878

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

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





**RISAA**

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