



RHODE ISLAND  
**SALTWATER** *Anglers*

Representing  
**OVER 7,500**  
Recreational Anglers

*IN THIS ISSUE:*

**WHERE DO  
STRIPED BASS  
COME FROM?**

**FISHING THE  
DOG DAYS OF  
SUMMER**



**PLUS:**  
2023 TEAM FLUKE TOURNAMENT WINNERS

ISSUE: 292 • August 2023

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

## EVENTS & MEETINGS

### 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!

#### SURFCASTERS SCHEDULE

See Page 10

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

See Page 22

#### FULL 2023 RISAA KAYAK COMMITTEE OUTINGS

See Page 29

#### RECREATIONAL FISHING IS WORTH

## \$419 MILLION

TO THE RHODE ISLAND  
ECONOMY AND OVER

## 4,000 JOBS!

The Official Newsletter of the  
Rhode Island Saltwater  
Anglers Association

Published Monthly

RISAA, PO BOX 1467, Coventry, RI 02816

## FROM THE HELM



### What Makes the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association great?

Someone recently asked me what makes the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association great. I thought to myself that is a very good question. One might think first about everything we do to support recreational saltwater fishing in Rhode Island and surrounding states by advocating for things such as some of our recent efforts supporting legislation to improve the RI Coastal Resources Management Council, working with the Marine Fisheries Council regarding potential changes to commercial marine fisheries regulations that would affect the ecological systems we all rely on, and fighting for everyone's rights to shore access. One might think about our monthly seminars, which are free to all of our members, so that we might learn from professionals and experienced, well known saltwater anglers from Rhode Island how to be more successful catching specific species of fish, or learning something new, like kayak fishing. One might also think about the discounted charter trips which are offered several times each year offering various fishing opportunities to members at deeply discounted prices. Perhaps one might consider the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation which is a non-profit organization created to preserve our marine fisheries, sponsor education, public awareness programs, and much more. Maybe one would even think about the youth fishing camp, or the scholarships we offer to aspiring young leaders every year.

With all of these things that would be fantastic answers to that question, there is something even better about the Association that makes it great, our members. We have such a diverse group of members who enjoy saltwater angling in so many different ways yet we all come together and share this association which truly belongs to all of us, the members. I think that is amazing. So, this month I am asking members to send me pictures and short videos of our brightest and best moments on the water, maybe even a few of those not so brightest and best moments that we can all find humor in, or find a teachable lesson in, to be posted online on our Facebook and Instagram sites. All submissions must be of members and with permission of all persons involved for us to use the images on our social media sites.

Send your submissions to me at [travers@risaa.org](mailto:travers@risaa.org) and I will take care of the rest. Please include a little information with your submission such as a title, caption, or comment for the picture or video, and maybe the names or nicknames of the people featured. So let's get out there, have some great adventures, make some memorable moments, and send me some fun stuff to let everyone know how great we are.

Scott TRAVERS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RI SALTWATER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION  
Legislative Committee

## THE WATCH

Reported by: Richard **Hittinger**, CHAIRMAN

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### PUBLIC ACCESS CLARIFIED

Yes, now that the new Public Access definitions are signed into law it is clear where we all have the right to walk, wade, fish, swim, surf, clam, etc. along the Rhode Island shoreline. In brief, we all have the right to access the shoreline up to 10 feet shoreward of the recognizable high tide line. This gives a place to rest your bait bucket, tackle box, etc. just out of reach of the rising water while you wade into the water to fish or clam.

The "recognizable high tide line" is defined by the recently passed law as:

"a line or mark left upon tidal flats, beaches, or along shore objects that indicates the intersection of the land with the water's surface level at the maximum height reached by a rising tide. The recognizable high tide line may be determined by a line of seaweed, oil or scum along shore objects, a more or less continuous deposit of fine shell or debris on the foreshore or berm, other physical markings or characteristics, or other suitable means that delineate the general height reached by the water's surface level at a rising tide. If there is more than one line of seaweed, oil, scum, fine shell, or debris, then the recognizable high tide line means the most seaward line. In the absence of residue seaweed or other evidence, the recognizable high tide line means the wet line on a sandy or rocky beach. The line encompasses the water's surface level at spring high tides and other high tides that occur with periodic frequency, but does not include the water's surface level at storm surges in which there is a departure from the normal or predicted reach of the water's surface level due to the piling up of water against a coast by strong winds, such as those accompanying a hurricane or other intense storms."

This recent law is so important because it clarifies for property owners, shore wanderers and enforcement where access is allowed.

Public access to the shore in Rhode Island has been a right of all people since the 1663 Rhode Island Charter from King Charles II where it stated:

"Our express will and pleasure is, and we do, by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, ordain and appoint that these presents, shall not in any manner, hinder any of our loving subjects, whatsoever, from using and exercising the trade of fishing upon the coast of New England, in America, but that they, and every or any of them, shall have full and free power and liberty to continue

and use the trade of fishing upon the said coast, in any of the seas thereunto adjoining, or any arms of the seas, or salt water, rivers and creeks, where they have been accustomed to fish, and to build and set upon the waste land belonging to the said Colony and Plantations, such wharves, stages and workhouses as shall be necessary for the salting, drying and keeping of their fish, to be taken or gotten upon that coast."

Various times recently the right to shoreline access has been reinforced including the 1986 Constitutional Convention when this was added to the RI Constitution:

"Section 17. The people shall continue to enjoy and freely exercise all the rights of fishery, and the privileges of the shore, to which they have been heretofore entitled under the charter and usages of this state, including but not limited to fishing from the shore, the gathering of seaweed, leaving the shore to swim in the sea and passage along the shore; and they shall be secure in their rights to use and enjoyment of the natural resources of the state with due regard for the preservation of their values; and it is the duty of the general assembly to provide for the conservation of the air, land, water, plant, animal, mineral and other natural resources of the state, and to adopt all means necessary and proper by law to protect the natural environment of the people of the state by providing adequate resource planning for the control and regulation of the use of the natural resources of the state and for the preservation, regeneration, and restoration of the natural environment of the state."

As I referenced in previous discussions on this topic, the location of the right to public access was complicated by a RI Supreme Court decision in 1982 that acknowledged that it was acting in the absence of guidance from the general assembly, when they allowed a definition of the public's rights to the shore by a very technical measure of the mean high water (MHW) line. This MHW is derived from an arithmetic average of high-water heights measured over an 18.6-year metonic cycle. Since this is an elevation, the location on a sandy beach can change dramatically with erosion or deposition of sand resulting in no public access at all in some locations. Also, since the 18.6-year average elevation can not be seen by anyone without a detailed survey, even police who were tasked with enforcing trespass claims along the shoreline had no way to determine if trespass had actually occurred or not. This new law helps to clarify all of these questions

(Continued on page 6)



# THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filliatreault Wood, CHAIR

## Welcome NEW Members!

- Vlad Paul-Blanc - Lincoln, RI\*
- Michael Watersc - Gristwold, CT
- Mark Clintonc - Jerusalem, RI
- Robert Antaya - Warwick, RI
- Zachary Lerner - Hope Valley, RI
- Alexandra Taylo - North Stonington, CT
- Victoria Thomas - Portsmouth, RI
- Madison Boucher - Westbrook, ME
- Kathryn Lee - Bothwell, MA
- Piotr Szymanski - Sherborn, MA
- Norman Jalbert - Smithfield, RI
- Philip Hammarskjold - North Palm Beach, FL
- Jeffrey Perry - Charlestown, RI
- Bill Macuga - Lancaster, MA
- Richard Falcone - Bristol, RI
- Brayden Bennet - Saunderstown, RI
- Robert D'Andrea - Cranston, RI
- Diane Goppold - West Greenwich, RI
- Michael Davis - Woonsocket, RI
- Jake Davis - Woonsocket, RI
- Robert Fredricks - Tucson, AZ
- Ronald Wilson Jr. - Stetson, ME
- Vincent Simko - Shelton, CT

\*LIFE MEMBER

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



RISAA member Bob Antos with a nice striper aboard Teezer Charters.



RISAA member Chuck Norsigian with an early season striper in Bristol Harbor.

## SEND US YOUR PICS!

If you have a memorable outing, send your member photos to the editor [definis@risaa.org](mailto:definis@risaa.org)

## IMPORTANT UPDATES

Our new mailing address is  
RISAA - PO BOX 1467, Coventry, RI 02816

For Association business such as membership, Fishing Show, and advertising contact Scott Travers at [Travers@risaa.org](mailto:Travers@risaa.org) or 401-826-2121

To submit photos or content for the monthly magazine Fred DeFinis at [definis@risaa.org](mailto:definis@risaa.org)

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# COOKING YOUR CATCH

By: Paula Smalec



## SCUP CEVICHE WITH SUMMER CORN AND TOMATOES

Ceviche, a dish that originates in South Africa, is fresh fish cured and cooked in lime juice. It is often served alongside corn and sweet potatoes. In this Vineyard version, the corn is added to the ceviche along with fresh tomatoes and basil. This appetizer works for a hot August night when no cooking is required. Use local fluke or striped bass if scup is unavailable.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 6 scup fillets, cut into a ¼ inch dice (about 2 cups diced fish)
- ½ cup freshly squeezed lime juice (reserve 1 tablespoon)
- ½ cup seeded and diced tomatoes (¼ inch dice)
- ½ cup fresh corn (kernels removed from 1 corn cob)
- 1+1/2 tablespoons olive oil
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne or smoked sweet paprika, or to taste salt to taste
- 12 fresh basil leaves, sliced razor thin, plus some for garnish
- tortilla chips for serving

### DIRECTIONS:

Place the diced fish into a glass or ceramic bowl. Reserve 1 tablespoon of the lime juice and pour the rest over the fish and mix well. Place in the refrigerator for 4 hours before serving, stirring occasionally. When the fish turns from translucent to opaque (white), it is ready.

Cook the corn in a bit of boiling water for 1-2 minutes. Drain and cool with cold water.

When ready to serve drain the lime juice from the fish. Mix in a bowl with the fresh tomatoes, corn, olive oil, 1 tablespoon reserved lime juice, cayenne, and salt to taste. Mix in the thinly sliced basil. Test on a tortilla chip and make any needed adjustments. Keep chilled until ready to serve.

To serve: top tortilla chips with a dollop of the ceviche or serve in individual appetizer-size glasses with a bowl of chips. 🍴

This recipe was originally published in the article "What's Scup?". It was provided by Catherine Walthers and appeared the *Martha's Vineyard Magazine* on August 1, 2015.

### Continued from Page 3 - THE WATCH

by defining our rights using something that can be seen at the water's edge.

RISAA is proud to have been part of the team that worked to push passage of this law and we thank all of the legislators who voted to pass this into law. In an amazing show of unity EVERY Representative who voted on this Bill voted YES. It was UNANIMOUS! That doesn't happen very often. We also give special thanks to Save the Bay and Backwoods Hunters and Anglers who lead much of the coalition to pass this important law.

So now if you are fishing from shore or clamming or walking or even collecting seaweed for your garden as I do most years, you can be clear regarding where you have the right to access. If you are below or within 10 feet above the recognizable high tide line you don't need to pay attention to the signs that say "private property - keep off" or someone who is yelling that you are trespassing. Please be considerate when you do use our precious waterfront resources. Take out any trash that you bring in and even pick up

trash if you have space to carry it. Consider that sounds carry further along the shoreline and keep it quiet, especially at night. Enjoy our right to access the shoreline!!!

Stephen J. Medeiros Fishing Area at Black Point

Now that the name change is official we are working closely with RIDEM to finalize signage and other improvements as soon as possible. We hope to have a ceremony at the Stephen J. Medeiros Fishing Area this Fall. Keep an eye out for further information in this magazine or via email regarding when this dedication ceremony will occur. 🍴

### 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.

# FISHING THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

By: Captain Dave Monti

### Warm water both good and bad for August fishing

Two things happen when the water warms in August. Pelagic fish such as tuna, mahi, bonito, Wahoo and shark species come close enough to shore for anglers to target offshore. This is particularly true for the past three years in which an abundance of giant tuna and sharks were caught off Narragansett and Newport just two to three miles offshore. The warm water has brought robust bait profiles that these animals love to eat close to shore.

And second, warming water in our bays, coves and estuaries can chase bait and fin fish away to cooler deeper water. So, when water warms in August to 76 degrees (even warmer in coves and estuaries) your fishing strategy needs to change too.

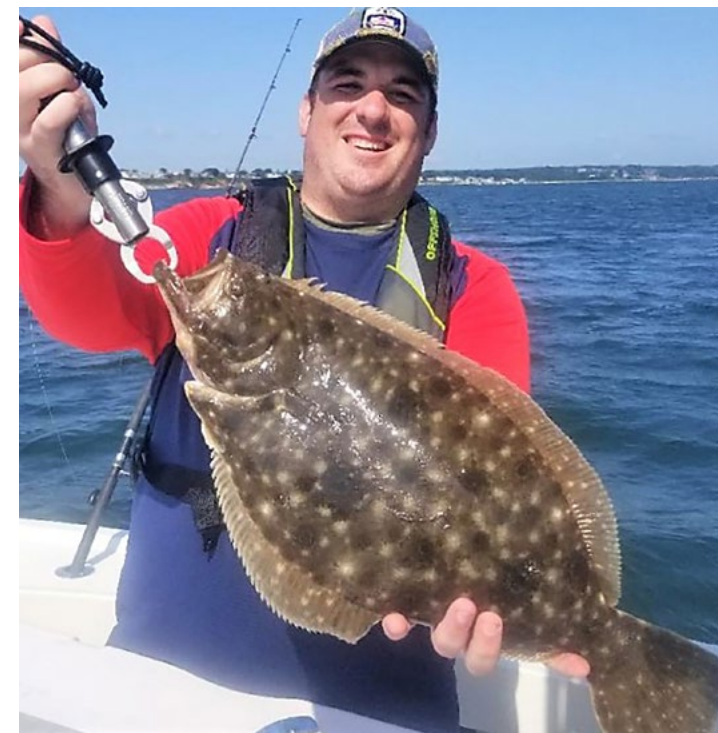
August offers southern New England anglers a broad variety of fish to target. In addition to pelagic fish noted above ground fish such as summer flounder, black sea bass and scup as well as striped bass, bluefish, tautog and cod are caught in August.

### Fishing the dog days of summer

On Thursday, July 20, 2023, the water temperature in Buzzards Bay was 73.9 degrees Fahrenheit with a ten-year July average of



**Fluke bite on: Paul Philips of North Kingstown with the nine pound summer flounder he caught in deep water last month on ArchAngel Charters in 100 to 120 feet of water off Newport.**



**Jake Howard of Minnesota with his first ever summer flounder, a 22" fluke caught at Austin Hollow, Jamestown, last August drifting down the bank in 65' of water.**

70.3 degrees, in ocean waters around Cape Cod the temperature was 72.70 degrees compared to a ten-year average of 67.8 degrees. And, in Rhode Island, Narragansett Bay was 75.8 degrees compared to the ten-year July average of 71.2 degrees. So, no doubt the water is warm, much warmer than in the past.

Often bait fish leave a bay or estuary along with fish we like to catch and eat when there is warm water and extreme heat. This can be complicated further by high nutrient levels and low oxygen levels due to heavy rain conditions. Bait and fish leave the area for cooler, deeper water that is better mixed and oxygenated. Fish such as black sea bass, scup, summer flounder, even bluefish and striped bass may be hard to find in Bays and estuaries.

So, how do you catch fish when it seems like there are no fish to be found? As a charter captain I have often had to find fish for customers, family and friends even though the water was warm.

(Continued on page 9)



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**Shaina Boyle and her father Gary Vandemoortele (RISAA member) both of Smithfield, RI with the 27" summer flounder Shaina caught fishing the deep water around the Newport Bridge in 90 feet of water.**

**Fish where the fish are**

The key to fishing the dog days of summer is water movement... bays and estuary water is hot so you have to fish an area that gets flushed often and has structure or edges where water movement is brisk and often deeper. This includes structures such as channel pads, under or near bridges, rock clusters, jetties, pylons, outcrops, points, ledges or peninsulas on land and wrecks.

For example, the Cape Cod Canal pushes water, bait and fish, at high velocity often up to five knots. Also, the shipping channel in the East Passage of the Narragansett Bay from the southern tip of Prudence Island to Providence serves as a "fish highway" flushing that side of the Bay bringing bait and fish into the Bay. Places such as Warwick Neck; Providence Point, Sandy Point and the T-Wharf on Prudence Island; Poppasquash Point, Bristol; and Sally's Rock, Greenwich Cove; as well as Quonset Point, North Kingstown all serve as natural structure that can whip water around them along with bait fish and the fish we like to catch. The Jamestown, Mt. Hope and Newport Bridges serve as manmade fish magnets, funneling water, bait and fish.

So when the water is warm you have to take advantage of structure and fish where the fish are.

**Where to fish in all this heat?**

This time of year I fish where the water flows and its deeper and cooler. The Cape Cod Canal and bridges in Rhode Island such as the Mt. Hope, Newport and Jamestown bridges are all good fishing spots. Just as fishing ledges that have high volume of water pushed over them, like the southwest ledge off Block Island or ledges in Buzzards Bay and off Newport. Another option for the dog days of summer, if you are a Bay angler, try poking out into the ocean a bit if weather permits, and fish where the water is cooler, deeper and movement is greater. 🐟



**SUPPORT LOCAL BAIT SHOPS THAT SUPPORT RISAA!**

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

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- Fin & Feather - North Kingstown, RI
- Frances Fleet - Galilee, RI
- Lucky Bait & Tackle - Warren, RI
- Maridee Bait & Tackle - Narragansett, RI
- Ocean State Tackle - Providence, RI
- Pete's Bait & Tackle - Woonsocket, RI
- Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle - North Kingstown, RI
- Quonnie Bait & Tackle - Charlestown, RI
- Riverside Marine Bait & Tackle - Tiverton, RI
- Saltwater Edge - Middletown, RI
- Sams' Bait & Tackle - Middletown, RI
- Snug Harbor - Wakefield, RI
- Tackle Box - Warwick, RI
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## OVER EASY FISHING TRIP

By: Rene' Blanchette

After several weather-related delays, on July 12, 2023, Douglas Sturgis, David Ricks, Mike Roy and I finally caught a great day for fishing. We met up with Captain Al Passerelli in Matunuck in front of Skips dock at 10:00am. He generously provided parking placards for the adjacent lot so that we could park easily. We then followed Captain Al to his 36' Hatteras. His boat was a "WOW"-- it even had a full -size couch in the inside cabin. After the safety speech he started the engines and we left port. We went 3 miles out to Nebraska Shoals. Squid was cut up for bait, hooks were baited and our lines were dropped in. The bites were a little slow at first. Later we caught many shorts along with a few keepers which included,

Sea bass, Fluke and a 33" Bluefish. Around 12:30 Captain Al moved the boat to the south side of the breakwater at the entrance to Galilee. Again, we caught a few shorts. At 1:30 we left the fishing grounds and headed for the dock. We each took one fish while the captain kept the Bluefish. Captain Al said it was one of the easiest trips he's had. We all were experienced fishermen and brought our own poles and gear. We fished while he watched us from the crow's nest. We would like to thank Captain Al for a great trip. Although he no longer does charter trips, he occasionally volunteers for the club. He is a great guy and a good time was had by all. 🐟

## Surfcasters Committee Schedule of Events 2023

The RISAA Surfcasters Committee offers a variety of outings ranging from fishing sandy beaches to rock jetties such as the West Wall. Fishing from shore is a great way to see new places, make new friends and learn about new techniques and equipment. As with any form of angling, it's always more fun and safer to fish with others. To learn more about the RISAA Surfcasting Committee and outings, contact Chairman Ron Barnes [barnes@risaa.org](mailto:barnes@risaa.org)

ALL OUTINGS SUBJECT TO COVID GUIDELINES AND WEATHER

Additional outings may be announced from time to time. Suggestions are welcomed.

**September 10 @ Sunrise**  
Black Point, Narragansett

**Target Species:** Bonito/albacore  
High Tide: 5:17 AM

**Notes:** Studded boots are advised - get there early!

**October 13 @ 6:00 PM**  
Narrow River to Napatree Point

**Target Species:** Striped Bass & Bluefish  
**Notes:** Fall Surf Fishing Club Challenge

**October 15 @ 7:00 AM**  
Andrea Hotel - Misquamicut  
**Notes:** Breakfast

**October 28 @ First Light**  
Charlestown Breachway  
**Target Species:** Stripers  
High Tide: 7:51 AM

**December 11 @ 6:30 PM**  
Greggs Resturant, North Kingstown  
**Notes:** Annual Surfcasters meeting

# BLOCK ISLAND INSHORE FISHING TOURNAMENT BIG SUCCESS

The Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament ended Sunday, July 23 with a winning striped bass measuring 48" caught by team 'Frayed Knot' led by **RISAA member Capt. Richard Lipsitz** of North Kingstown with the Best Scenic Photo in the Block Island Wind Farm going to **RISAA member Dariusz Kolodziejczak**.

Twenty-five teams participated in the two day event. Capt. Chris Willi of Block Island Fishworks, tournament host, said, "In an environment where many tournaments are having trouble we increased participation by a third for a total of 122 anglers and with a gift from Capt. Nick's Rock & Roll Bar, we were able to make a \$6,000 contribution to the Block Island Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department." Capt. Willi said, "Thanks to Ørsted (owners of the Block Island Wind Farm) and their sponsorship of the Tournament



**Ross Pearsall, Jon Mansolillo and Claire Hodson of Ørsted (owners of the Block Island Wind Farm) and Capt. Chris Willi of Block Island Fish Works present the Block Island Fire & Rescue Department with a \$6,000 donation check from the Block Island Inshore Fishing Tournament held July 22 and 23, 2023.**



**Best Team Photo was awarded to team 'Defiant' for this photo taken in the BI Wind Farm. Some nice fluke caught by youth anglers.**

we were able to donate 100 percent of Tournament fees to the Fire & Rescue Department."

Over \$10,000 in prizes, gift cards and tournament swag were awarded at the 'After Party' which took place at Capt. Nick's Rock & Roll Bar, Block Island on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

The Tournament included shore, fly fishing, youth and boat divisions. Striped bass and bluefish for all divisions plus black sea bass and fluke for boat and youth divisions. Also a team prize with photo division prizes taken with the Block Island Wind Farm in background were awarded for best fish, best scenic and best team photos.

Tournament co-sponsors were Whalers Brewing, South Kingstown; Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle, North Kingstown; The Saltwater Edge, Middletown; Ocean State Tackle, Providence; Snug Harbor Marina, South Kingstown; and Watch Hill Outfitters, Westerly.

Visit [www.SandyPointCo.com/bi-inshore-tourney](http://www.SandyPointCo.com/bi-inshore-tourney) for full Tournament results once they become available. 🐟

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# 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 <i>Federal Waters - RI, CT, &amp; MA - Aug. 1 to May 1: 5 fish - 22" to 28"</i>	22"to 28"slot Aug. 1 to April 30: 5 Fish	22" Min. 28" Max.: 5 Fish <i>No Closed Season South &amp; East of Cape Cod</i> Apr. 1 to Apr. 14: 1 Fish Sept. 1 to Sept. 30: 1 Fish	21" Min.: 10 Fish No Closed Season
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 <i>At special shore areas in RI 2 of the 4 fluke may be 17"</i>	18.5" Min. May 1 to Oct. 9: 4 Fish <i>At special shore areas in CT fluke may be 17"</i>	16.5" Min. May 21 to Sept. 29: 5 Fish	18.5" Min. May 1 to Oct. 9: 4 Fish
Tautog (Recreational) <small>Visit your State's Federal Regulations website for Charter Regulations</small>	16" Min. <i>Only 1 Fish Over 21" per angler</i> Apr. 1 to May 31: 3 Fish June 1 to July 31: Closed Aug. 1 to Oct. 14: 3 Fish Oct. 15 to Dec. 31: 5 Fish <i>Max. Rec. Vessel Limit: 10 Fish</i>	16" Min. Apr. 1 to Apr. 30: 2 Fish May 1 to June 30: Closed July 1 to Aug. 31: 2 Fish Sept. 1 to Oct 9: Closed Oct. 10 to Nov. 28: 3 Fish	16" Min. Jan. 1 to Mar. 31 - Closed Apr. 1 to May 31: 3 Fish June 1 to July 31: 1 Fish Aug. 1 to Oct. 14: 3 Fish Oct. 15 to Dec. 31: 5 Fish	16" Min. Jan. 1 to Mar. 30 - Closed Apr. 1 to Apr. 30: 2 Fish May 1 to Oct. 10: Closed Oct. 11 to Dec. 9: 3 Fish ( <i>LI Sound</i> ) Oct. 15 to Dec. 22: 4 Fish ( <i>NY Bight</i> )
Weakfish (Squeteague)	16" Min.: 1 Fish No Closed Season	16" Min.: 1 Fish No Closed Season	16" Min.: 1 Fish No Closed Season	16" Min.: 1 Fish No Closed Season
Winter Flounder	12" Min. Mar. 1 to Dec. 31: 2 Fish <i>RI Narragansett Bay Potter and Point Judith ponds and Harbor of Refuge are all closed to winter Flounder fishing</i>	12" Min. Apr. 1 to Dec. 31: 2 Fish	<i>North of Cape Cod:</i> 12" Min. - 8 Fish - No Close <i>South of Cape Cod:</i> 12" Min. - 2 Fish - Mar. 1 to Dec. 31	12" Min. Apr. 1 to Dec. 31: 2 Fish



# SUMMER OF THE SAND EEL

By: Fred DeFinis

If you have landed any stripers or blues so far this season, chances are they have spit up some sand eels on your deck or your shoes. The gamefish have also been feeding on adult menhaden and “peanut bunker” but the most common forage has been the tiny sand eel. While sand eels have attracted an abundance of sport fish to target, they have served up an equal measure of frustration as anglers try to entice the fish to forgo the sand eels and focus on our offerings. Let’s explore a bit more about this tiny but important creature.

The sand lance, often referred to as a sand eel, is a zooplanktivorous fish (fancy way of saying that it eats tiny marine animals at the base of the food chain). Sand lance are small and have a long, slender body form that allows them to “dive” into sandy bottoms. The sand lance depends on the presence of clean, sandy bottom in relatively shallow depths. They like sand that is coarse enough to allow water to circulate for their respiration but fine and soft enough that they can penetrate quickly and easily to escape predators. The small, wiggly fish spend their days feeding on zooplankton in the water column and bury themselves in the sand to hide from predators at night. Sand eels will often emerge from the sand near dusk and dawn which partially explains why fishing can be so productive at those times of day. Sand lance form dense schools that appear to fluctuate widely in abundance and distribution seasonally and annually—sometimes you find them, sometimes you don’t! Sand eels spawn from late November to about March over sandy bottoms such as the ones mentioned above. When the larvae transform into juvenile sand eels, they begin their habit of burrowing into the sand.

Besides providing forage for our inshore species, the slender fish with a skinny snout is a favorite food of humpback whales, sharks, seals, seabirds, and many other ocean predators including the Bluefin Tuna. Predators like to eat the sand eels because they form dense schools and are easy to swallow for fish, marine mammals and sea birds alike. Perhaps you have seen schools of stripers swimming along with their mouths open appearing to almost “vacuum” up the sand eels when feeding? There is speculation that warmer waters have caused a northward shift in the abundance of zooplankton—the diet of the sand eel—which may account for the apparent increase in sand eels in our area over the past few years.

Targeting fish that are feeding on sand eels can be frustrating at times, especially for anglers used to tossing larger lures and plugs. Although a contrasting offering might work at times—e.g. a large plug such as the “Doc” might stand out, but often you need to find something that more closely mimics the sand eel in size and shape. Captain Ken Cooper, a RISAA member and longtime contributor to this magazine likes a five or seven inch Slug-Go rigged on a small lead head jig or an unweighted swim bait hook for his home waters around Watch Hill. He recommends Arkansas Shiner, Albino and pink as his go-to colors. Declan O’Donnell at Breachway Bait and Tackle on the South Coast says his customers have used Joe Baggs Sand Eel Soft plastic, casting eggs with sand eel fly patterns and narrow epoxy jigs(Hogy or Joe Baggs).

Andrew, manager at Riverside Bait and Tackle says his customers are doing well with three quarter ounce Joe Baggs resin jigs in olive color. Also, Albie Snax, again in olive/pearl and the smaller Ron-Z in “sand eel” color. Bill at Saltwater Edge showed me a number of flies that are good sand eel imitations. If you are not a fly angler you can rig these behind a casting egg to get some distance from the shore or boat. He also mentioned customers have been stocking up on small Slug-Go (white) and smaller Ron-Z lures.

There are plenty of choices. Just be patient until you find something that works for you in your conditions. We like to think that we outsmart the fish, but at best, we are just matching wits. 🐟



Slug-Go, rigged on a leadhead jig, or rigged unweighted on a swimbait hook. I generally use 5 or 7.5 inch Slug-gos to match sandeels, and colors include Arkansas Shiner, Albino, Rainbow Trout and pink.

# 2023 TEAM FLUKE TOURNAMENT WINNERS

**The results are in for our 2023 Team Fluke Tournament!**  
**Here are the final standings for our top 10 teams:**

1. Team Diesel Fumes: Richard Hittinger / Robert Murray
2. Team Fluke It: Dariusz Kolodziejczak / Ronnie Tipple
3. Team High Flyer: Robert Matteson / Philip Matteson
4. Team Second Chance: TJ Jarris / Jack Harris
5. Team Jim and Jim: Jim Kaczynski Sr. / Jr.
6. Team Fluke to Fluke: Robert Fischbach / William Manzi
7. Team Cool Hand Fluke: Matthew Davidson / Tom Malone
8. Team Rampage: Robert Coupe / Luca Razza
9. Team The Office: Richard Reich / Richard Cournoyer
10. Team Chasin' Tailz: Michael Lynch / Ronald Lynch

Team Diesel Fumes pulled into the top spot on the last day of the tournament and also brought in the largest fluke of the tournament at 8.4 pounds. I caught up with Team Diesel Fumes recently to find out what tips and top-secret information we could get from this 15-year, two-time tournament winning partnership between Rich Hittinger and Bob Murray.

Let's take a look at the top five list of successful tips and tactics on catching fluke from Team Diesel Fumes.

## NUMBER 1: Choose the right partner

The number one tip I learned from them was to find a partner who is on the same level as you in terms of dedication, available time, and amount of effort you both want to put into the tournament. We have all experienced times when we have gone out with partners who either wanted to head back too soon or seemingly never want to head back at all. The same is true for those who spend a lot of time planning and doing research in advance while others prefer to just head out, try a few spots, and see how it goes. It is also important to find a partner that you get along with. In speaking with both Rich and Bob separately, Rich was quick to point out that Bob would be the one with all the words of wisdom for us to know on how to improve our fluke game while Bob noted that Rich was the one who knew how to find the fish and added that Rich had an outstanding artistic ability in creating beautiful, highly effective fluorescent orange bucktails. The key is to have great comradery between you and your partner, as well as with the other teams to keep the tournament fun.



**Second Place Team of Dariusz Kolodziejczak and Ronnie Tipple.**

## NUMBER 2: Planning and preparation

A close number 2 on this list is planning and preparation. The preferred drift speed for this team is between 1 and 2 knots and the best way to make that happen is to fish when both the wind and current are both heading in the same direction. The only way to know that is to do your research ahead of time and find out that specific information for where you are planning to fish. When fishing, watch others if you know they are being successful. Remember to be ethical and not fish too close or interfere with what they are doing but learn from what they are doing to make you more successful on your next outing. Another consideration is to find out where the charter boats are going. Larger charter boats log their trips on sites such as marinetraffic.com which as both a free and subscription version. These charter boats wouldn't stay in business if their customers didn't catch fish, so you can count on fish being in locations where these boats go. You can also ask others at bait and tackle shops, marinas, etc. Don't be afraid to exchange information and help others just as others help you.

Another consideration is to rig all your rods the night before you go. It is better to rig everything in advance than to rig rods when the fish are hitting and you should be fishing.

## NUMBER 3: Stick to the plan

Once you have a plan in place, don't deviate from it. If everything looks right, your drift is at the right speed, and they aren't biting, leave and come back a short time later. It's better to thoroughly stick to one area than to spend the day motoring around from place to place. It's important also to keep a log of the conditions, where you went, what you did, and what the results were so you can know what worked from one year to the next.

## NUMBER 4: Location, location, location

When targeting fluke look for changes in depth and the presence of sand eels or squid. A sand to gravel bottom type near some sort of structure, such as a rock pile, is ideal. Fluke will often be found where the current runs up or down a slope which disorients bait and makes it easier for fluke to eat. Also, early in the season fluke are more likely to be in relatively shallow water, close to 50 feet. As the season progresses and the water gets warmer they move to deeper water, closer to 75 feet.



**Rich Hittinger with one of his winning fluke.**



**Bob Murray of Team Diesel Fumes with a doormat.**

## NUMBER 5: Bait and tackle

While I am sworn to secrecy on some specifics, I can tell you Team Diesel Fumes uses squid as well as sea robin, scup, menhaden, chub, and Boston mackerel in strips. Oily fish are preferred because they attract fluke well. When buying squid whole, clean them, mix with kosher salt, put in a cooler with ice, bag it, then put it in the freezer. The salt will prevent the squid from freezing solid and help to preserve it better for when you use it. Also, large squid are preferred over medium.

In terms of tackle, many people use gear that is too heavy. With lighter tackle you can hold the bottom with less weight. A 10# test suffix braided line should be sufficient.

Here we have the top 5 tips from our 2023 Fluke Tournament champions. Together they have also finished within the top 3 spots in the Fluke Tournament at least 6 times. In speaking with Rich and Bob it was evident they had a vast amount of time and experience fishing and boating together as well as individually. There is no doubt that experience contributed to their success. There is still plenty of time left in the season to head out, catch some great fish, and improve our fluke skills for next year. We wish the best of luck to all our teams and look forward to another successful tournament in 2024. 🐟



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# WHERE DO STRIPED BASS COME FROM?

*It's not the ocean as you might think*

The Striped Bass (*morone saxatilis*), is the most sought-after saltwater sportfish in Rhode Island. The "striper" is also RI's State Fish. The Striped Bass is anadromous. Anadromous means living its adult life in saltwater but migrating to freshwater to reproduce ("spawn"), and in most cases returning to saltwater to repeat this cycle. The striped bass must reproduce in an abundance of quality fresh water. Some anadromous species of fish typically expire (die) in freshwater after completing the spawning activity, but the striper not so much.

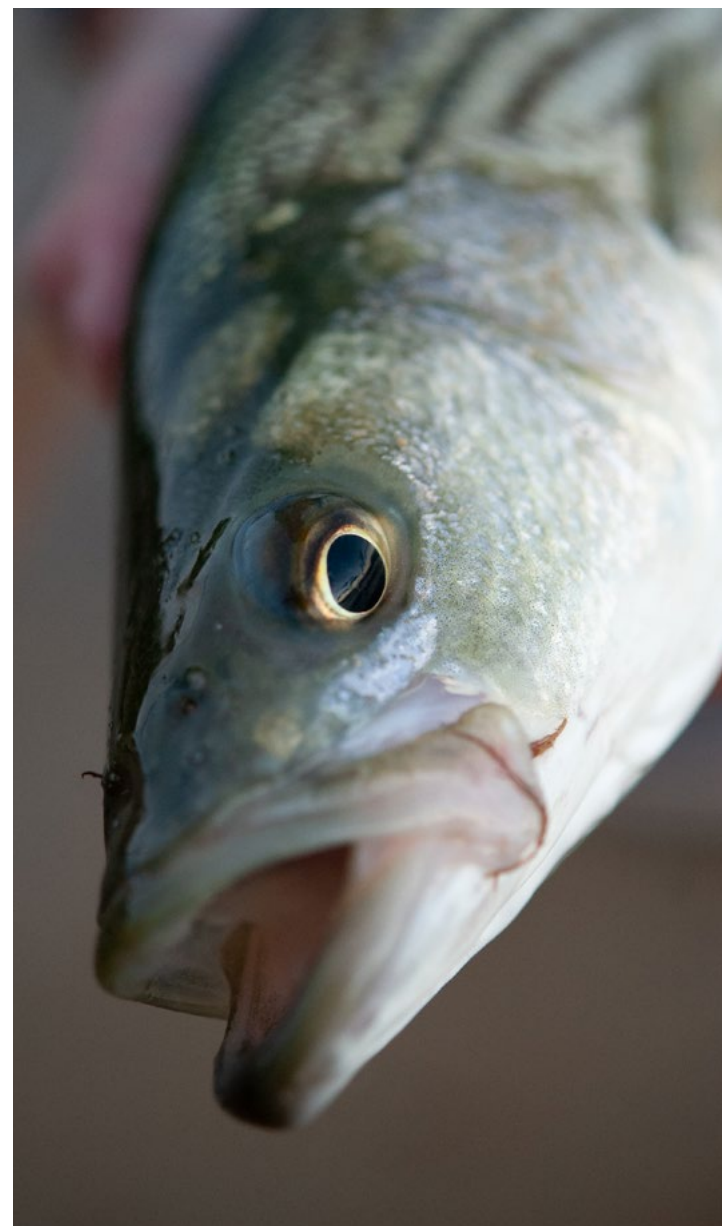
The striped bass, also called Atlantic striped bass, striper, linesider, pimplefish, rock, or rockfish, is an anadromous Perciforme fish of the Moronidae family found primarily along the Atlantic coast of North America. The striper is a land-oriented fish and habitates relatively shallow water.

The striped bass is also the state fish of Maryland and South Carolina, and the state saltwater (marine) fish of New York, New Jersey, Virginia, and New Hampshire. The striper is a wildly popular game fish, is a terrific fighter, is easily handled and can be caught on a number of rod and reel methods, from shore and boat as well.

## SPAWNING

Mature females (age six and older) produce large quantities of eggs, which are fertilized by mature males (age two and older) as they are released into fresh water riverine spawning areas. While developing, the fertilized eggs drift with the downstream currents and eventually hatch into larvae. After their arrival in the nursery areas, located in salt water river deltas and the inland portions of coastal sounds and estuaries, they mature into juveniles. They remain in coastal sounds and estuaries for two to four years and then join the coastal migratory population in the Atlantic Ocean. In the ocean, fish tend to move north during the summer and south during the winter. Important wintering grounds for the mixed stocks are located from offshore New Jersey to North Carolina. With warming water temperatures in the spring, the mature adult fish migrate to riverine spawning areas to complete their life cycle.

Four important bodies of water with breeding stocks of striped bass are: Chesapeake Bay, Massachusetts Bay/Cape Cod, Hudson River, and the Delaware River. Many of the rivers and tributaries that emptied into the Atlantic, had at one time, breeding stock of striped bass. This occurred until the 1860s. One of the largest breeding areas is the Chesapeake Bay, where populations from Chesapeake and Delaware bays have intermingled.



## STOCKED STRIPERS THROUGHOUT THE INTERIOR US

Believe it or not, there are successful spawning populations of striped bass in *freshwater* such as Lake Texoma, Lake Weiss (Coosa River), the Colorado River and its reservoirs downstream from and including Lake Powell and Lake Mead, and the Arkansas River. Striped bass have also been implanted throughout the Tennessee River, and in impoundments throughout the midwest.

## SANTEE COOPER DISCOVERY

Lake Marion, (South Carolina) is a reservoir created by damming the Santee and Cooper Rivers in the 1940s. When built, this reservoir retained a population of stripers. These fish had migrated scores of miles upstream from the Atlantic near Charleston. To the amazement of witnesses, these fish proliferated as a landlocked breeding population in this new reservoir. It is now believed that these fish were genetically inclined all along as lifelong breeding freshwater striped bass.

Other freshwater striped bass fisheries must be restocked with hatchery-produced fish annually. Stocking of striped bass was discontinued at Lake Mead in 1973 once natural reproduction was verified.

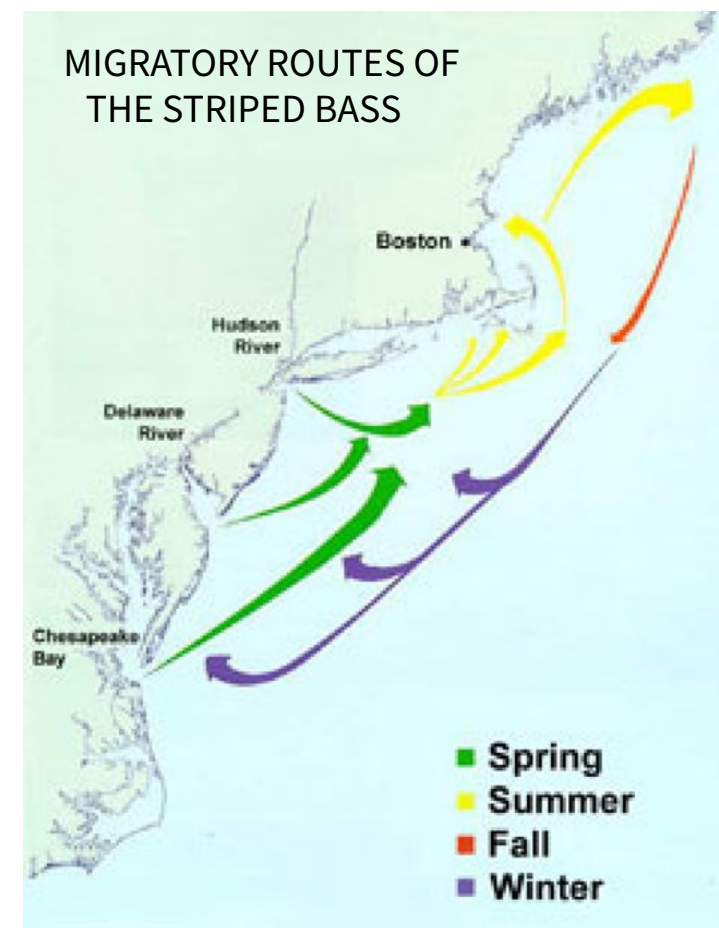
## BIGGEST BASS EVER

The largest striped bass ever taken by angling was an 81.88-lb specimen taken from a boat in Long Island Sound, near the Outer Southwest Reef, off the coast of Westbrook, Connecticut. This all-tackle world record fish was taken by Gregory Myerson on the night of August 4, 2011. The fish took a drifted live eel bait and fought for 20 minutes before being boated by Myerson. A second hook and leader was discovered in the fish's mouth when it was boated, indicating it had been previously hooked by another angler. The fish measured 54 inches in length and had a girth of 36 in. The International Game Fish Association declared Myerson's catch the new all-tackle world record striped bass on October 19, 2011. In addition to now holding the All-Tackle record, Meyerson's catch also landed him the new IGFA men's (80-lb) line class record for striped bass, which previously stood at 70 lb.

The largest striper ever taken in fresh water habitat was a 70.6-lb landlocked bass caught in February 2013 by James Bramlett on the Warrior River in Alabama, a current world record. This fish had a length of 44 inches and a girth of 37.75 inches.

## HEALTH OF THE POPULATION

Though the population of striped bass was growing and



“Four important bodies of water with breeding stocks of striped bass are: Chesapeake Bay, Massachusetts Bay/Cape Cod, Hudson River, and the Delaware River.”

repopulating in the late 1980s and throughout the 1990s, a study executed by the Wildlife and Fisheries Program of the West Virginia University found that the rapid growth of the striped bass population was exerting a tremendous pressure on its anadromous prey (alewives, shad, and blueback herring). This pressure on their food source was putting their own population at risk due to the population of prey naturally not coming back to the same spawning areas.

So it appears as though the strength of the striped bass population is largely dependent on:

- Availability of forage-alewives, shad, blueback herring- all of which are also anadromous
- Availability of quality spawning/freshwater habitat
- Sound population management

In the United States, the striped bass was designated as a protected game fish in 2007, and agencies were directed to use existing legal authorities to prohibit the sale of striped bass caught in federal waters in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico

In Canada, the province of Quebec designated the striped bass population of the Saint Lawrence as wiped out in 1996. Analysis of available data implicated overfishing and dredging in the disappearance. In 2002, a reintroduction program was successful.

What is a point to be made here? **Quality fresh water entering the ocean equals striped bass.**

So support your local fresh water restoration organizations!



Submitted by Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council Chariman Robert J. Nero.

## UPCOMING SEMINAR

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### SPECIAL NOTICE!

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

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Contact Scott Travers at: [Travers@risaa.org](mailto:Travers@risaa.org)  
or call Scott at: (401) 826-2121

# The RISAA Foundation Announces its 2023 Marine Sciences Scholarship Winners

*These nationally competitive \$500 scholarships are awarded to first and second year students who are majoring in the marine sciences and related fields at either the University of Rhode Island or Roger Williams University. These are given by the RISAA Foundation, which is committed to securing the future of our fisheries through its scholarship programs.*



### Madison Boucher Marine Fisheries and Sciences Scholar

Growing up in Southern Maine, Madison spent the winters longing for the warmer months when she could return to the ocean. Her interest in marine biology began with a grade school trip to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. A scuba diving trip in the Caribbean further solidified her passion. Graduating at the top of her class with a clear focus on marine sciences, Madison's teachers describe

her as "smart, inquisitive, driven and passionate." As part of her

coursework, Maddie led a citizen-science project collecting and uploading data on invasive Green Crabs. She is committed to community service and has won several awards for her volunteer work as part of the Girl Scouts. After completing her degree at URI, Madison hopes to work at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, helping to heal the Gulf of Maine, one of the fastest-warming areas in the ocean. She is dedicated to using her degree to spread information and increase awareness of oceanographic concerns to both current and future generations.

The RISAA Foundation Announces it's 2023 Stephen Therrien Memorial Scholarship for Fisheries and Marine Sciences Winner



### Kathryn Lee Therrien Scholar

The Stephen Therrien Memorial Scholarship for Fisheries and Marine Sciences was established in 2017 by his wife, Kerry Therrien, in memory of her husband. Ms. Therrien thoughtfully designed this scholarship to provide funding for future generations of marine scientists who share Stephen's dedication to understanding and preserving our fisheries and marine environment.

This is RISAA's most prestigious merit-based award and recognizes students who show outstanding academic achievement and commitment. Therrien Scholars are intellectually curious and have demonstrated passion, experiences, or achievements beyond the usual. They are, in other words, not just top students, they are extraordinary people.

This year's Therrien Scholar is already an accomplished scholar. Kathryn has been a member of the National Honors society for the past three years and has dedicated her studies to the sciences, taking the most advanced AP and honors level coursework in Biology, Chemistry, Biosystems, Genetic research, and Marine Biology. Having grown up on the west coast, she fell

in love with her local marine life including orcas, harbor seals, and sea lions. As a 5th grader she created a presentation on sea star wasting syndrome. Once in high school Kathryn became a Seattle Aquarium Youth Ocean Advocate where she engaged with aquarium guests through exhibit interpretations, discussing conservation and various marine species. She further developed her expertise through field trips to improve local habitats and research-based experiences such as plankton tows and lab study. Coincidentally, she used her prior knowledge to remove diseased sea stars from the aquarium's enclosures to prevent the spread of this sickness to other species. She shares her love of the water with younger children as a swim instructor as well.

Kathryn will be attending URI this fall, majoring in marine biology. A fluent French speaker, she is already planning to continue her post graduate education at the Sorbonne University Marine

Biological Resources master's program. Kathryn's ultimate goal is a career focused around marine species conservation and her dream job is working directly with sharks around the world.

Respected by all who know her for her drive, motivation, maturity, curiosity, and passion, we congratulate our 2023 Therrien Scholar, Kathryn Lee. 🐟

# How Wind Impacts the Bait at Your Striper Spots

By Jerry Audet (Courtesy of Saltwater Edge)

There are many controversial topics in fishing and many things that get fishermen fired up. When it comes to striper fishing, wind is one of those things- especially for surf fishermen. It seems every angler has their own strong opinions on the influence wind speed and direction has on the bite, how important wind is in general, and what the best wind is for each situation. The confusing part is that two anglers who fish the same general area- for example, Vineyard Sound or the North Shore of Long Island- can say that two opposite wind conditions (direction and/or speed) are the best: and both can be right. How is that possible?

The simplest explanation is that the best direction and speed is entirely spot-specific. One of my biggest pet-peeves is hearing anglers say things like “a North wind is always good” or “East is least” or “you have to fish with wind in your face.” Those things might be true for you in one spot, or several, but they could be very, very wrong for me at every spot. Plus, I don’t like rules like that, as they create serious bias, and if you think you “know” a few “rules”, I encourage you to erase them from your mind and start over. Sure, there are certain things that do apply broadly- 5-days of 50-knot onshore winds is probably going to blow out the beach. Yes, dead-calm wind under a bright moon in the middle of summer most likely isn’t going to be ideal striper conditions. But to assume rules like “a South wind is best for the entire state of Rhode Island” or “there are no spots that fish well on a Northeast wind in Maine” is just silly.

What wind is best is due to many factors, and to cover them all would take 150,000 words minimum. However, one factor that often gets overlooked is understanding how wind impacts the behavior of the bait that you’re targeting. Many anglers don’t understand how different species respond to wind, and therefore miss out on opportunities to catch more fish, larger fish, and more fish in more different situations. Understanding the biology of the bait and how it responds to wind is very important. Let me explain.

Can you answer the questions: What are the most important bait species in each one of my spots? What does each direction of

wind do to these bait species in my spots? What happens to each species of bait when the wind increases by 5-knot intervals (e.g., 5 to 10 knots, 10 to 15, 15 to 20, etc.)?

These questions, highlighted in bold, are pretty simple on their face- but they actually are relatively complex to answer. In very much the same way an angler might say “I heard a darter is good in current” and then use it blindly even if it’s a terrible choice, I’ve also heard many anglers say things like “I heard wind in your face is good” and then fish that blindly as well. The problem is, if you don’t know how the bait “menu” at your spot interacts with the wind- at the specific time of year- fishing wind in your face (or at your back, or from the side, etc.) could be a horrible mistake. Even if it’s not a total mistake, if you don’t understand how bait is responding to the wind, you’re almost certainly missing something, and probably missing a lot. Put into a single (long) sentence, understanding how the common baits in your spot respond to flat, moderate, and windy conditions with wind at your back, in your face, and cross winds is crucial for also understanding how to best fish that spot.

How bait responds to wind will dictate how active (movement, feeding, spawning, etc.) it is in flat or windy conditions and where it ends up in those same conditions. Some bait is easily disrupted and pushed around by waves, so it’ll move with the wind until it gets trapped or is able to escape. Other bait is almost unaffected and won’t move except in extreme conditions. Some bait loves to feed in windy conditions- and so looks for shorelines more impacted and prone to wind- while other species run and hide at the lightest breeze. This should start to suggest to you that you shouldn’t always fish every spot the same, or even fish a single spot the same each night. Instead, you should be identifying what the best targets are for the striper given those wind conditions, and then adjust your tactics and techniques appropriately. Let’s dig into some examples.

I generally treat large baits that occupy rocky shoreline as being more adept at handling wind, versus bait that is smaller and/or occupies estuaries or sandy flats. Tautog, black fish, pollock scup

(porgy), lobsters, eels, mummichogs, and bergals are all baits that are surprisingly good at handling wind and waves, and you might need substantially more speed (waves, current) to pry them out of their homes where stripers can feed on them. Tautog, pollock, and lobsters in particular can function just fine in pretty wild conditions. On the flip side, spearing, smaller crabs, worms, shrimp, many young-of-the-year juvenile baits (like peanuts or river herring), and other back-water species are easily pushed around, trapped, and beaten up by the wind. But there are many exceptions. Sand eels and small squid are pretty damn good at handling big surf in windy conditions, and both are small and often found on open sandy beaches. I’ve also been surprised how well tinker mackerel can cut right through pounding waves driven by wind in my face, as they love to chow-down on sand eels. On the opposite side of that, bunker, adult shad, and mullet are big bait fish that either aren’t very good at surviving in big water conditions, or just really hate it. In fact, you often will only find these species in waves and turbulent waters right at the onset of a storm or come down after, but that’s it. Again, not always the case, but to assume these big baits can “handle” hard winds- because of their size and strength- can be a mistake.

But it’s more complicated than these general guidelines. Consider this scenario: a boulder field in the fall, on an outgoing tide that pushes right to left. Let’s assume the stripers are focused on spearing. In this case, you might want a low or moderate wind that either moves perpendicular to the tide- probably towards shore- or even against the tidal sweep, left to right. Why? If the fish are on spearing- which are small and pushed around easily- you don’t want the bait getting pushed away from shore, or out of the area quickly. While the first few hours of a strong wind moving with the tide might be good- when the bait is getting beat up and tossed around- it can quickly push the spearing completely out of the area, where it’ll accumulate elsewhere. If stripers are really focused on that spearing- and there isn’t anything else to keep them in your spot- the stripers will just leave, following the bait. Therefore, I’m probably looking for calm or moderate conditions if I’m targeting spearing in that spot, or I’m trying to figure out where they end up. In that case- trying to figure out where they end up- I would love an intersection of tide and wind, where the bait gets pulled out of safety by the tide, delivered along the shore like a conveyor belt by the wind, and then trapped and pinned.

This is just a very basic example but consider: you’re picking away at slot fish and 20-pounders all week feasting on spearing in moderate (10- to 15-knot) cross winds on teasers and Redfins. You see a Nor’easter coming, and you’re really excited because you heard that’s great for fishing- you assume giants will move in. So, you take a couple nights off to rest up, “knowing” the fishing will get better. Then you go out into the storm, fish three nights at that spot for a total of 15-hours and get skunked. You kick yourself for taking the time off. You wonder what happened- you “know” wind is good for stripers, and stripers had been there every night for a week! I would immediately assume you downplayed the importance of spearing and didn’t understand that they would get scattered with the winds from the storm. You may have wanted to

wait for dead-calm conditions and might have been surprised by the fish that showed up to feast on the smaller bait- it’s all about the bait!

Now consider this same spot, the same scenario, but the fish are feeding on large baits like scup and tautog. In that scenario, I want the wind and tide moving together, or the wind directly onshore, and I likely want the speed of the wind to be fierce. I’m hoping that wind- and associated waves- will push, pull, and tumble those larger species out of their hiding spots. Having wind and tide together can supercharge the current, which both pushes weak bait out of hiding, but also helps stripers flush out bait; if the striper is prowling around the rock, and a blackfish panics and bolts, it’s tough for it to get back to safety quickly in a stronger current. Having a wind that works with the current, but also pins these big baits closer to shore, can be huge for the surfcaster in particular (but boat guys should be paying attention, too).

Going back, let’s say you’re fishing those same conditions as I detailed above, with the spearing, and you’re totally ignoring the bigger baits. The wind is up now, but you don’t bring big metal lips, bottle plugs, and divers because “the fish have only been on spearing.” You just keep trying to throw swimmers and bucktails because that’s always what worked. Meanwhile, the stripers may not have left- in fact there may be more of them. You just aren’t paying attention to what the wind is doing for the stripers advantage, and what bait has now come into play because of the stronger wind.

Essentially, you need to know how every species in your area reacts to wind, and how to target the stripers feeding on them. That’s really all I’m saying, but let’s look at one more example. Take an open beach spot in fall with a wind at your back one day, and a wind in your face the next. You know fish are in the area- the reports are good, and social media is on fire- and you’ve heard there’re bunker and sand eels everywhere. You want to fish both days, but you’re not sure what to pack for the beach. If it was me, I would want to target bunker with larger plugs when the wind is at my back and they come in close- which is how that species responds to that wind direction. The next day when the wind turns around and is in my face, I’ll bring some plugs or flies to target sand eels that are getting churned up off the bottom by waves, assuming the bunker will move off as the water dirties up. These two baits are mimicked by entirely different plugs and flies, and hence understanding which will be present when is important in deciding what plugs to pack and throw. Even if you crushed stripers on bunker yesterday, continuing to try and fish “bunker plugs” when the wind (and associated water conditions) has totally changed is, frankly, foolish.

To sum up, if you’re trying to figure out what wind is best at your individual spots, ask yourself first what bait is likely present and how it’s affected. Then work on how it interacts with the structure, and any other advantages it’ll give the striper. 🐟

*Thanks to Saltwater Edge and RISAA member Peter Jenkins for supplying this content.*



## 2023 RISAA FLY FISHING COMMITTEE OUTING SCHEDULE

(High tide times in parentheses)

### 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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ON THE WATER

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## A LONG HISTORY OF RISAA VOLUNTEER SERVICE

### ROGER TELLIER

Members who have come to our monthly seminars have undoubtedly seen one of Roger Tellier's presentations on quahogging which is his passion. He is a lifetime member with over twenty years of RISAA experiences in his wake.

Roger grew up in Central Falls RI and fished in freshwater ponds as a youngster as many of us did. It wasn't until later that he had an opportunity to fish from a boat in saltwater, an experience which changed his outlook on fishing. He says; "I thought that was the greatest thing since sliced bread—being able to move the boat around in search of the fish instead of waiting for them to come to you." He bought his first boat in 1974 and has had one ever since. Today, he lives in North Kingstown and launches his boat in nearby Allen Harbor.

Roger belonged to another fishing club but attended one of the early RISAA meetings at the Rhode Island Yacht Club in Cranston and immediately saw that RISAA was a different type of organization. While other clubs of the day were more of a social "night out" RISAA had a schedule of informative seminars. Roger said; "I liked the idea of learning something and saw that there were many seminars I wanted to attend so I figured I would join the club" which he did in 1999.

Since being recruited by Steve Medeiros, he has served on the Board of Directors and as Secretary of the Board for over twelve years. He has also volunteered at Fish Camp and Take a Kid Fishing Day, using his boat to take the youngsters fishing. He is also a regular volunteer at our fishing show. Today, he serves on the RISAA Legislative Committee and as a representative of rod and reel anglers to the State Shellfish Commission which he has done for over five years. Of course, he still presents the aforementioned quahogging seminars too.

When rod and reel fishing, Roger likes to target Fluke, Black Sea Bass and Tog in the spring and fall in the Bay. However, if given his choice, he says he would prefer to go quahogging, his first choice. Roger, thanks for your contributions to RISAA and keep digging! 🐟



*This is 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 many volunteer opportunities at RISAA or you have a skill, talent or interest which can help the association, please contact Scott Travers [travers@risaa.org](mailto:travers@risaa.org)*

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# YEARLONG TOURNAMENT

The Yearlong Tournament is a continuing tournament that runs from January 1 to December 15 each year. All RISAA members are eligible to participate, and there are no fees. Official Weight Slips are available at each monthly meeting and at all sanctioned bait shops. Only authorized weigh-in stations with certified digital scales may be used. Meeting or exceeding State minimal sizes required is eligible.



## BLACK SEA BASS

### BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Dr. Lawrence Audino ..... 3.94 lbs.
2. John Pidlipchak..... 3.79 lbs.
3. Robert Jachym ..... 3.17 lbs.

### BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Hayes Jansen..... 2.62 lbs.
2. Flynn Jansen..... 2.54 lbs.
3. Jack Harris ..... 2.16 lbs.

### 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



## Bluefish

### Boat Division - Adult

1. David Dunningham ..... 15.69 lbs.
2. Capt. Stephen Skenyon... 14.94 lbs.
3. Michael O'Connell ..... 13.88 lbs.

### Boat Division - Junior

1. Flynn Jansen..... 15.90 lbs.
2. Kate Tracy ..... 12.81 lbs.
3. Fiona Yidiaris ..... 11.06 lbs.

### Shore Division - Adult

1. Michael Lynch ..... 11.82 lbs.
2. Michael Tilelli..... 11.38 lbs.
3. No Entry

### Shore Division - Junior

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

### NEW KAYAK DIVISION

1. Craig Ruth ..... 9.41 lbs.
2. Thomas Houde ..... 9.02 lbs.
3. No Entry



## Fluke

### Boat Division - Adult

1. Ronnie Tipple ..... 10.67 lbs.
2. Dariusz Kolodziejczak ..... 10.17 lbs.
3. Paul Phillips ..... 8.46 lbs.

### Boat Division - Junior

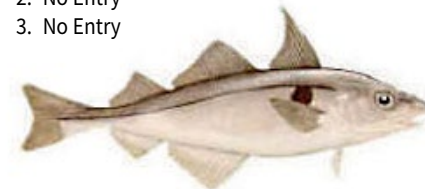
1. Jack Harris ..... 5.31 lbs.
2. Hayes Jansen..... 5.22 lbs.
3. Flynn Jansen..... 2.92 lbs.

### Shore Division - Adult

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

### Shore Division - Junior

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



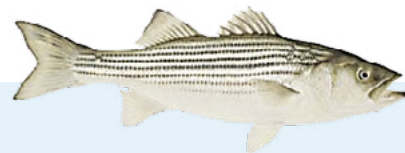
## HADDOCK

### 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. Rick Black..... 3.42 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..... 8.75 lbs.
2. Normand Morrissette ..... 8.60 lbs.
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. Ronald Lynch ..... 1.88 lbs.
3. No Entry

### BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Tucker Jansen..... 1.68 lbs.
2. Flynn Jansen..... 1.52 lbs.
3. Bodie Phifer ..... 1.16 lbs.

### SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. John Migliori..... 1.74 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. Barbara Audino..... 1.74 lbs.
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

### BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Flynn Jansen..... 1.30 lbs.
2. Jack Harris ..... 1.03 lbs.
3. No Entry

### SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. John Migliori..... 3.16 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. Luke Lamson ..... 82.02 lbs.
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 26.*

# RISAA Fishing Tournament Update & Schedule For 2023

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

## YEARLONG INDIVIDUAL SPECIES CHANGES

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

## CHANGES TO ANGLER OF THE YEAR

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

## TEAM TOURNAMENTS

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

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

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

**YOUTH/ADULT TAG TEAM TOURNAMENT:** Beginning August 4<sup>th</sup> and ending August 13<sup>th</sup>. All teams must pre-register, and the adult member may "sponsor" more than one youth member. This is a catch and release tournament, with the Junior catching the most different species winning, with some special prizes tossed into the mix. Only our Junior members are eligible for prizes for this special event.

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

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

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

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

Questions? Contact: Karlis Kaugars at [kaugars@risaa.org](mailto:kaugars@risaa.org)

# ALL THIS AND DOLPHINS TOO Charter Raffle Trip on Teezer Charters

Sometimes the stars just align, the universe picks your number, and you have had one of those days where everything went right. A few months ago, another member, Bob Antos, and I won a half day charter trip with Teezer Charters and Captain Eric Thomas out of Newport. We scheduled the trip for the back half of July which we figured would give us a good chance to catch some decent fish. When the day arrived, we launched out of Fort Adams in Newport at 6 AM. The weather was fantastic, the wind wasn't too bad, and the sea state was just on the high side of normal. While I am trying not to give too many of Captain Eric Thomas' secrets away, I can say we stayed relatively close to Newport and Middletown for the duration of the trip. Bob had mentioned to me just prior to the trip that he doesn't often catch fish. Something told me today would be his day. Captain Eric made the trip what it was for both Bob and me. Eric is an extremely versatile captain, able to launch and recover his boat at the ramp with lightning speed, with a keen knowledge of the local waters in and around every hazard known to boaters familiar with that area. In several cases, to help keep Bob and me on fish with our modest casting abilities, Captain Thomas brought his boat a little closer to structure in the water than I would have brought my boat if I owned one of similar size. With one hand steady on the controls and another always free to assist Bob and me, he showed great skill and ability to maneuver in areas I don't think many other charter captains would have bothered with, and it made all the difference.

Bob hooked up first, using a top water lure and brought in a 31" bluefish. After a few quick pictures Bob admitted that was the biggest fish he had ever caught. That was the beginning of our morning. As the morning progressed Captain Eric provided casting tips, pointed out areas where the fish would be, and gave some great guidance on how to properly fish top water with lightweight gear which I had not had a lot of experience doing. Three fantastic bluefish later, including one 35" weighing 15 lbs., Bob and I began losing a little steam. So, we switched gears and did a little bottom fishing with rigs that Captain Eric makes himself. Again, Bob struck first bringing in a small black sea bass. Several small black sea bass later, Bob and I got a second wind and it was back to top water fishing again. Captain Eric took us to another location and instructed us to cast directly into the waves that were crashing over another underwater obstruction in a different area. If you have never tried top water fishing for blues or stripers I would highly recommend it. After getting a few photos of a striper or two that were just shy of the minimum slot limit, Bob finally had to put the brakes on Captain Eric and I who told him at least 5 times each that we were only going to make "one more pass". We ended the trip and started our way back. It was an amazing morning full of action and surprisingly large bluefish so close to Newport.



On the way back to Fort Adams Bob told me that aside from catching the biggest fish he had ever caught, he also caught more fish in a single trip than he had ever caught before. I was glad to have been a part of it and had been able to document some of the bigger fish he had brought in. I thought what could possibly make this trip any more interesting, and of course, right at that moment, Captain Eric pointed out a small pod of dolphins, three or four, that were breaking the surface on our starboard side which was very unusual to see that close to Newport this early in the season. A perfect ending to a perfect morning.

Bob and I would absolutely recommend Teezer Charters and Captain Eric Thomas to anyone looking to get out and experience some serious top water action. It was a whirlwind of activity in the spots we hit and it was hard to believe we were only out there for half a day. Before closing I have to give credit as well to Crafty One Custom Rods. Teezer Charters doesn't provide low end, heavily used gear for people. The rods we used were top notch. All were Crafty Custom Rods, a local company out of Portsmouth, RI, and they handled the large fish we were catching with ease. Lightweight and nimble, they were a pleasure to cast and use for both top water action for stripers and blues as well as fishing the bottom pursuing fluke or black sea bass.

For those who are interested you can reach Teezer Charters at (401-524-7239) and Crafty One Custom Rods at (401-293-0477).

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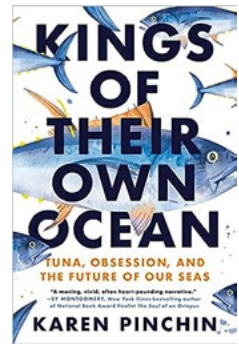
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# “Kings Of Their Own Ocean” by Karen Pinchin

By Todd Corayer

Karen Pinchin has written a remarkable new book, “Kings Of Their Own Ocean, Tuna, Obsession, And The Future Of Our Seas.” It is an investigation, a careful, personal recounting of a search for truth with both main parties already deceased, and a respectful biography of Rhode Island’s own Al Anderson. Each page owes a debt to a single bluefin tuna he tagged in 2004. Marine scientist Molly Lutcavage later tagged and released the same fish, leaving her to migrate, mate and finally perish in a warm Portuguese sea of almadraba nets. “She may have even crossed the Atlantic more than once. Lutcavage eventually gave the fish a name, Amelia, for Amelia Earhart, the iconic woman who had crossed the same ocean on currents of a different kind.”

“I came into this with a very beginners eye: who’s this guy, what’s this fish?” Pinchin told me. Realizing the unusual access afforded by Al’s widow Daryl, she absorbed volumes of his personal notes, manuscripts, dates, and sea logs. “He was not a perfect person and a lot of people really hated him, I mean truly hated him. I realized I had to approach him with care, because Daryl was giving me this incredible access,” Pinchin said. Anderson was a divisive captain and character, forward thinking, frequently rude and regularly ridiculed by anglers for tagging and releasing while they stuffed



Al Anderson and Jason Williams pose with a tagged tuna, which very well have been Amelia.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN PINCHIN

coolers and bank accounts. Captain Al understood the power of his work, unequivocally.

“Kings Of Their Own Ocean” travels from Snug Harbor to Gloucester and Nova Scotia, to Madrid and Spain’s Barbate harbor, with wonderfully detailed histories of our reliance on the sea for food, commerce and currency. Her words guide readers to those Phoenician-designed almadraba nets, deployed for thousands of years and lands where, “High watch towers, used to signal tuna catching fishermen on the region’s beaches, dot the landscape, with the town’s walls and a river sprawling in the distance.” We meet fishermen who for centuries caught and cut fish for their people then watched as exploding Japanese markets consumed their catches within hours. “These were strange and uneasy times, as families found themselves split between ancient culture and profits, between catching and selling as many bluefin as they could to a foreign market while lamenting the loss of those same fish in their own waters.” That line is literary cordage woven through her book, revealing an oft-repeated cycle of greed and depletion with sufficient denial to wash away all the blood.

Pinchin walks us through federal and international regulations meant, on paper anyway, to protect a highly migratory species while money flowed across borders and tables. She introduces fishermen pressured to provide superior quality tuna with harvest methods of nets and knowledge now fused with high voltage luparas. While that five pound bluefin was Pinchin’s inspiration, she met a familiar fate. “Amelia died instantly from a direct shot to the head, her blood lazily billowing through the water as her eyes grew flat and empty.”

“Kings Of Their Own Ocean” is a compendium of sorts, a much needed history of our reliance on fish, masterfully woven with a modicum of compassion and precise citation, a reflection of the author’s investigative journalism expertise. We humans savor moments of victory over other species then shrug when our stories thin from all the taking so Pinchin provides ample science to support population dynamics and pressures, much of which is traceable back to Al Anderson. She delivers those who denied trans-ocean migrations and reasons for falling harvest supported by science and then lobbied against harvest quotas necessary not just to secure cold plates of nigiri, but to save travelling populations of apex predators unconcerned with some red pen chart lines. “Science doesn’t hold abstract authority,” she wrote, “It is a practice and a profession incrementally built by trial and error over generations, and I am always wary when any one person or institution claims power or authority over its gradual, deeply human process.”



Al and Daryle Anderson pose with a Rhode Island caught bluefin tuna in 1978

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN PINCHIN

Al Anderson tagged more than 60,000 fish, including more than 5000 juvenile bluefin tuna. He was resolute in his belief in science, which some seem to be abandoning these days. “When asked if it bothered him that people hated him, I think he used it as his superpower. That’s still a question I think about sometimes. It’s a chicken and the egg thing. Did he incite the conflict and then revel in it or did he just have this skill set that allowed him to cope in this extreme, stressful environment? I think knowing that all these tagged fish were out there in the ocean, gave him a sense of his own power, of his own agency,” Pinchin said.

When I asked about his legacy, she said, “I think the only thing that kept him going, was the recognition from the scientific community, the government scientists who sent these letters, these tag returns; these were some of the highlights of his life. The hopeful part of this story is that you can be a damaged person, you can treat people badly, but you are never beyond hope to contribute to society.”

Karen Pinchin has masterfully provided us with a history, current consideration and future hope for Atlantic bluefin tuna. If you see fish as more than meat in a cooler and can see beyond your own bow to a future of respect for science and abundance in our generation, read her words for a careful, complete voyage alongside tuna as they migrate in ancient cycles through deep, warm corridors learned over millennia, fall to our nets and hooks and feed a world obsessed with their flesh. “Writing this book has been the most fabulous experience for me as a journalist. I just feel very grateful,” Pinchin said. “Kings Of Their Own Ocean” is published by Dutton, an imprint of Penguin Random House and is available now as an ebook and audiobook. 🐟

*Todd Corayer is a lifelong fisherman and occasional hunter who writes about other people’s outdoors adventures while seeing words as puzzle pieces that occasionally all fit together perfectly. You can read more New England fishing reports and stories at [www.fishwrapwriter.com](http://www.fishwrapwriter.com).*

## RISAA KAYAK COMMITTEE SUMMARY 2023 OUTINGS

Date	Time	Location	Address	Target	Leader
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

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# WHO'S WHO

in the Rhode Island Saltwater's Anglers Association

## 2023 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## RISAA CONTACTS

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Scott Travers  
travers@risaa.org

### PRESIDENT

Dawn Filliatreault Wood  
wood@risaa.org

### 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Capt. Richard Hittinger  
hittinger@risaa.org

### 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Fred DeFinis  
definis@risaa.org

### SECRETARY

Susan Lema • lema@risaa.org

### TREASURER

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### SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Capt. David Michel • michel@risaa.org

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Ron Barnes • barnes@risaa.org  
Karlis Kaugars • kaugars@risaa.org  
Bob Murray • murray@risaa.org  
Richard Reich • reich@risaa.org  
Kraig Ruth • ruth@risaa.org

### LEGAL COUNSEL TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mitchell S. Riffkin, Esq

### RISAA OFFICE

P.O. Box 1467, Coventry, RI 02816  
(401) 826-2121 • FAX: (401) 826-3546  
WWW.RISAA.ORG

### New England Saltwater Fishing Show™

www.nesaltwatershow.com

### BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

David Michel, Chair  
michel@risaa.org • 401-952-8697

### CHARTER TRIPS COMMITTEE

Capt. TJ Harris, Chair  
tjharris401@gmail.com • 401-826-2121

### DEALER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

**OPEN - Volunteer Needed**  
Contact: travers@risaa.org

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thomas Wood, Chair  
tomwood@risaa.org • 401-263-3909

### ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Gisele Golembeski, Chair  
gisele@risaa.org • 401-935-0827

### FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Raymond Marchak, CPA  
finance@risaa.org • 401-826-2121

### FLY FISHING COMMITTEE

John W. Edwards II  
edwards@risaa.org • 650-773-4168

### FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

**OPEN - Volunteer Needed**  
Contact: travers@risaa.org

### FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

**OPEN - Volunteer Needed**  
Contact: travers@risaa.org

### KAYAK COMMITTEE

Kraig Ruth, Chair  
ruth@risaa.org • 401-640-3679

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

*Artificial Reefs Subcommittee*  
Richard Hittinger, Chair  
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### *Menhaden Subcommittee*

David Monti, Chair  
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### *Public Access Subcommittee*

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### MERCHANDISE COMMITTEE

Bob Marco  
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### POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Scott Travers  
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### NEWSLETTER

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### SALTWATER FISHING SHOW

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### SURFCASTERS COMMITTEE

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### TAG & RELEASE PROGRAM

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### TOURNAMENTS COMMITTEE

Karlis Kaugars  
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### WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filliatreault Wood, Chair  
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*If you would like more information or would like to join a committee contact:*

**Scott Travers • Travers@risaa.org**

**MAGAZINE DESIGN & LAYOUT:** Eddy Stahowiak - LBEddy9@gmail.com



# 2023 FOUNDATION DONATIONS



## 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.

### PLATINUM (\$500+)

- RI Mobile Sport Fishermen
- Darlene Smith/Kaman Corp
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- Richard Hittinger Family RI Fund
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- David Hellner
- Michael Hagen
- Phil Rizzuto
- Capt Bob Murgo
- Paul Baeder
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### COPPER (UP TO \$49)

- Bill Howard
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- Kenneth Anderson
- Paul Baeder
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- Ella & Michael Tripp
- Justin Serbert & Christine Bollmann
- Patrick Watson
- Luca Razza
- Algerina Perna/ Eugene Steger
- Melinda Kuritzky
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- Marc Lamson
- Kenneth Cooper
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- Jack Hutson
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- Curt & Marianne Caserta
- Jack Hutson
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### BRONZE (\$50+)

- James Tollefson
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- John Meyer
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- William Sosnicki
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### IN MEMORY OF

- Steve Medeiros/ Black Point Fund\*
- Ed Cook\*\*
- Walter Jachna\*\*\*
- Orence Hojnoski\*\*\*\*
- Charles Bradbury\*\*\*\*\*

**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 1467  
Coventry, RI 02816



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 1467  
Coventry, RI 02816



# 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 1467, Coventry, RI 02816 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  
PO BOX 1467  
Coventry, RI 02816

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

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



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