



RHODE ISLAND
SALTWATER *Anglers*

Representing
OVER 7,500
Recreational Anglers

IN THIS ISSUE:

**LEARNING
MORE ABOUT
FALSE ALBACORE**

**FALL TAUTOG
TIPS FROM
THE EXPERTS**



PLUS:
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT AND MORE!

ISSUE: 293 • September 2023
www.RISAA.org • 401-826-2121

EVENTS & MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER

- 25 Monthly Meeting/Seminar
Tips for Tog Success with
Richie Reich
- 30-Oct 9 Team Sea Bass
10 Day Tournament

OCTOBER

- 13-15 Surfcasters Fall Challenge
Tournament
- 28 RISAA Tautog Trip
7am - 4pm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SURFCASTERS SCHEDULE

See Page 10

2023 RISAA FLY FISHING COMMITTEE OUTING SCHEDULE

See Page 22

2023 RISAA KAYAK COMMITTEE OUTINGS

See Page 23

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



DIY.

Happy September to all our members! Have you noticed that sometimes when we find a way of doing something that works we can fall into a pattern of doing things the same way and stray very little from that? For example, when bottom fishing for fluke or black sea bass using a bucktail rig, do you use a stinger hook on the bucktail? If so, do you attach the stinger hook to the bucktail so that it can swing freely or do you attach it so that it has as little movement as possible? What about the color of your bucktail or the teaser? There are so many variations it can be tough to just pick out components when putting together a rig.

I recently visited several of our affiliated bait and tackle shops and spoke with people both in front of and behind the counter. The staff at these shops provided a ton of insight into why people are using certain jigs over others, tying bucktail rigs differently based on their own experiences, and using colors I would have thought would repel fish rather than attract them. In each bait and tackle shop I heard about additional information that either added to the information from the previous location or took me in a different direction.

Which is correct? Which will catch more fish? The answer is both easy and complex. As we all know, what worked yesterday can have very little to do with what works today. While we still have time left in the season I suggest we do a little experimentation. Let's try something a little different. If you have bought rigs in the past, try making some yourself. You may find that what you made is more productive. If you make your own rigs, try mixing it up a bit. Use some different colors, experiment a little. I have always found it is more satisfying an experience when you catch a fish with something you created yourself. If your rig isn't as successful as what you have been using then at least you know what works and what doesn't. If your rig is more successful than what you have been using, how amazing would that be...



Scott TRAVERS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RI SALTWATER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
Legislative Committee

THE WATCH

Reported by: Richard Hittinger, CHAIRMAN

MRIP RECALIBRATION AGAIN

Yes, it looks like NOAA National Marine Fisheries will be recalibrating the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) estimates of recreational fishing catch and effort AGAIN. According to a recent report by American Saltwater Guides Association, NOAA is now indicating that estimates of recreational catch and effort are overestimating recreational harvest by 30% to 40%. The details of this recent work by NOAA to evaluate MRIP can be found in this NOAA document: <https://saltwaterguidesassociation.com/noaa-update-with-major-fisheries-implications/>

I'm sure some of you remember when NOAA recalibrated MRIP following implementation of the Fishing Effort Survey (FES) in 2015. They completed a retrospective analysis of recreational data going back many years and then predicted that recreational catch was being underestimated by MRIP by nearly 50%. This led to NOAA providing new, significantly increased recreational harvest estimates. These new harvest estimates led the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to conclude that stocks of many important recreational and commercial species were much higher than previously thought. These higher stock estimates then led to higher commercial quotas by as much as a 65% increase over previous commercial quotas. Recreational quotas were not increased because recreational harvest estimates were already much higher due to the recalibration. Commercial and Recreational regulations are currently managed under these recalibrated numbers.

The NOAA document linked above presents a detailed evaluation of possible errors built into the survey procedures including "recall error" where respondents are more likely to over-report fishing activity when the reference period is limited to a single month. Respondents "telescope" earlier, out-of-scope trips into the reference period which NOAA defines as "telescoping error". Basically respondents (anglers) are anxious to report the good trips that they remember and they are more likely to include these good trips in the time period that is being surveyed. I certainly understand that - I remember the good trips and want to talk about them more than the trips where we don't catch!

This evaluation of the program will certainly result in changes being made to the survey going forward and the NOAA document includes some changes that will be implemented to reduce the sampling errors going forward. But my big question is: will NOAA go back and again change the historic recreational catch estimates and if so will that then lead to a new reduced estimate of stocks and then result in a decrease in commercial quota the same way that the statistical work 8 years ago led to an increased commercial

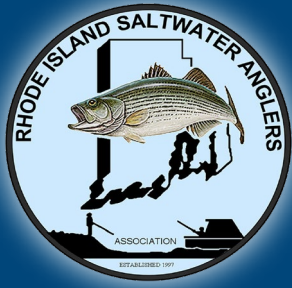
quotas? It certainly should in order to be consistent with what was done 7 years ago. Also, are these recent overestimates applicable to all species in the MRIP program or will they effect some species estimates greater than other species? No matter, we can expect changes to MRIP and changes to recreational estimates for 2024 as well as an adjustment to historic recreational information.

I understand that it is important to know how many fish recreational anglers are killing in the marine environment so that stocks can be properly managed. Unlike commercial harvest which can be measured by what is sold in pounds at the wholesale or retail market, recreational harvest goes to millions of private homes with no way to measure. We want abundant stocks so that when we go fishing there is a reasonable chance of catching fish so I am certainly for responsible management and protective regulations. However, I do think that there should be some room in the management process to listen to anglers' feedback. Fisheries managers should also use the data available through apps like AnglerCatch that RISAA has been working on with RIDEM and Harbor Light Software. And there should be more consideration of stock status including local and regional stock status and trends in stock abundance. As example, we all know that black sea bass are very abundant in recent years in our waters while fluke are becoming harder to find and their numbers are dramatically reduced from levels that were present 15 years ago. Why then are recent regulations allowing increased harvest of fluke and decreased harvest of sea bass? I know the answer - historic catch -, but these management decisions rely on MRIP data and it is clear that this program leads to an ESTIMATE of recreational catch and effort, not an actual measurement of such.

Fisheries management needs to rely on all available data and needs to manage for abundant stocks. At the same time managers should give credit to the recreational fishing sector for the economic value of our industry when deciding recreational versus commercial allocation for the species that are important to the recreational fishing sector. 🐟

JOIN RISAA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

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



THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filliatreault Wood, CHAIR

Welcome NEW Members!

- Ronald Wilson Jr. - Stetson, ME
- Vincent Simko - Shelton, CT
- Frank Flynn - Narragansett, RI
- Thomas Cody - Tiverton, RI
- John Malloy Jr. - Hingham, MA
- George Rooke - Longmeadow, MA
- Donald Cook - Warwick, RI

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



RISAA Legislative Committee member Kenny Mendez with a striper caught on a fly

MEMBER PHOTOS



RISAA President Dawn Filliatreault Wood with a nice tog



RISAA member Paul Phillips with his 10.8 pound fluke—currently the leading entry in the year-long contest.

SEND US YOUR PICS!

If you have a memorable outing, send your member photos to the editor definis@risaa.org

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COOKING YOUR CATCH

By: Paula Smalec

PAN-SEARED COD IN WHITE WINE TOMATO BASIL SAUCE

4 servings

To watch the video of this author preparing this recipe, go to YouTube.com and type, in the search bar, the exact name of this recipe as it appears above. Look for the video of the recipe posted by Ashley Manila so that you see the version of the recipe listed below. You won't believe how quick and easy this recipe is to prepare!

For the White Wine Tomato Basil Sauce:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 3 large cloves garlic, finely minced
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, sliced in half
- ¼ cup dry white wine
- ½ cup fresh basil, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon fresh lemon zest
- ½ teaspoon salt (more to taste)
- 1 teaspoon granulated sugar
- ¼ teaspoon fresh ground black pepper (more to taste)

For the Cod:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1+½ pounds fresh cod, cut into 4 fillets (or four 6 oz. fillets)
- salt and pepper



For the White Wine Tomato Basil Sauce:

1. Heat oil in a large sauté pan over medium heat. Add crushed red pepper flakes and garlic and sauté for 1 minute, or until garlic is fragrant. Add the cherry tomatoes and cook, stirring occasionally, until they're soft and blistering, but still hold their shape, 9 - 12 minutes. Add in the white wine, stir, and allow the mixture to come to a gentle simmer. Stir in the basil, lemon juice, lemon zest, salt, sugar, and pepper and cook for 2 minutes. Transfer the sauce into a bowl and set aside until needed.

For the Cod:

Heat oil in a large sauté pan over medium heat. Pat the cod dry with paper towels. Then season both sides of cod with salt and pepper.

Place cod in the oil and cook until golden brown, about 3 minutes. Carefully flip the cod over and continue cooking for another 3-4 minutes, OR until it's cooked through.

Pour the white wine tomato basil sauce over the cod, let the sauce warm up for a minute, then remove from heat and serve at once.

Recipe by Ashley Manila at Baker by Nature: <https://bakerbynature.com/pan-seared-cod-in-white-wine-tomato-basil-sauce/>

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 or 401-826-2121

To submit photos or content for the monthly magazine
Fred DeFinis at definis@risaa.org

RISAA MAGAZINE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

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

Vamos a Pescar!

Vamos a pescar! Most of our members have probably heard this phrase or calls for volunteers to assist with this program however many might not be aware of what this program is all about. Vamos a pescar, or "let's go fishing", is a program which offers fishing programs to Hispanic audiences which are some of the most underserved and fastest growing populations in the United States.

The program is funded by a grant offered through the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation. State agencies, such as the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), can't procure these funds directly however they can partner with other groups, such as the Providence Parks Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, and the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) to offer fishing programs to residents of urban areas. Providence Parks Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership wrote the grant to get the program into Rhode Island 4 years ago.

The Rhode Island program is unique from other states as it is based on stepping stones for engagement, a philosophy from the USFWS in which people are introduced to and become comfortable with an activity in nearby, familiar areas within their comfort zones, such as freshwater fishing at Roger Williams Park. The Providence Police often participate at these "Cops and bobbers" freshwater fishing events assisting participants in learning the basics of fishing. Once people are comfortable they are more likely to go to other areas, further away, less familiar, and outside of their com-



fort zones to engage in similar activities such as saltwater fishing. At Rocky Point state park in Warwick additional programs are held introducing activities like surf casting and quoaahogging. The final event for the program each summer is a fishing trip aboard a charter boat from Narragansett.

Participants are also invited to participate in other events throughout the summer to include National Parks Fishing Day and Take Me Fishing Day at Sachuest Point to help expand their ability to engage in diverse fishing opportunities. During all these programs participants have the opportunity to see fishing as a fun, worthwhile family activity and is also a local sustainable food source.

(Continued on page 10)

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RISAA Members Take Honors at Block Island Inshore Tournament

When it comes to success in fishing tournaments, RISAA members always show that our members are some of the most knowledgeable anglers around. In the Block Island Inshore Tournament, the trend continued.

Team 'Grateful 5' tied for first place for the second year in a row. The five-member team was comprised of **RISAA members Rick Black and Dustin Jansen and Junior RISAA members Flynn Jansen (12), Hayes Jansen (10) and Tucker Jansen (7)**. Flynn had the winning blue fish for the junior category measuring 36" / 15.9 lbs. and Tucker had the winning fluke for the junior category measuring 20".

The winning striped bass overall in the tournament measured 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**.




SUPPORT LOCAL BAIT SHOPS THAT SUPPORT RISAA!

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

OUR SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

- Black Hall Outfitters - Old Lyme & Westbrook, CT
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- Crafty One Customs - Portsmouth, RI
- 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
- Watch Hill Outfitters - Westerly, RI
- Weakapaug Bait & Tackle - Westerly, RI

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According to Kim Sullivan, the Aquatic Resource Education Coordinator for the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife, over 170 people have participated in these programs and this year, 2023, the programs had more returning families than ever before. The key to the success of the program is the partnerships between all the groups that come together to make these programs possible.

While some groups provide equipment such as fishing rods, others assist with planning, administration, and other resources. In the past RISAA has assisted by providing funds for meals for the participants and through the donation of volunteer hours. Volunteers, especially those who are knowledgeable and experienced anglers, are critical to the success of the program. All of the partnering groups have limited staff numbers so the only way these programs can be successful, is with a strong group of volunteers. Volunteers do not need to speak a second language to help with the program. Bilingual youth leaders within the program assist by translating to help volunteers teach participants how to fish.

This summer RISAA members assisted with the program both at Rocky Point assisting with surfcasting and quahogging and assisting participants fishing aboard a charter boat. Please contact me at travers@risaa.org if you are interested in becoming a volunteer to help build our saltwater fishing community, provide social support, and spread the word about the resources we have in Rhode Island. 🐟



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

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

2023 Governor's Bay Day

By: Scott Travers



Governor McKee signs
Bay Day proclamation
others look on.

On Monday July 24th RISAA leadership was present with legislative and local leaders as well as other state agency officials at Rocky Point State Park in Warwick while Governor Dan McKee signed an executive order establishing July 30, 2023 Governor's Bay Day.

In a quote the Governor stated "Bay Day is about having fun and I invite all Rhode Islanders to take advantage of the opportunities we're offering to have fun here in the Ocean State". The Governor continued in his statement "But it's also a reminder of how lucky we are to have Narragansett Bay as our state's most iconic natural resource - and how important it is that we protect it".

Bay Day is an event that began in 1989 to raise awareness of the ecological importance of Narragansett Bay and coastal waters. 🐟



RISAA Executive Director Scott Travers
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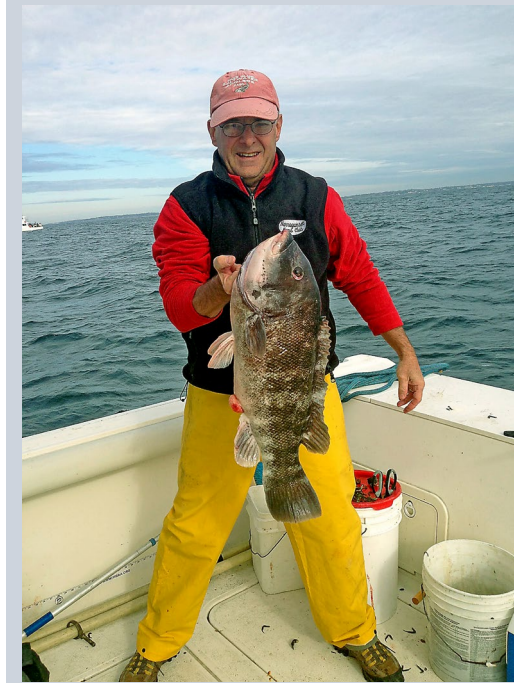
RECREATIONAL SALTWATER FISHING REGULATIONS

(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, & 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 & 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) <i>Visit your State's Federal Regulations website for Charter Regulations</i>	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

UPCOMING SEMINAR

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



SEPTEMBER 25 @7PM

TIPS FOR TAUTOG SUCCESS

with Richie Reich

Most RISAA members know Richie Reich as our Kids Fishing Camp Director but did you also know that he is considered one of the top Tautog anglers in our area? Richie grew up fishing with his dad in eastern Long Island and now lives in Narragansett where he fishes on his 19 foot North Coast named "The Office".

In this seminar Richie will teach you his secrets on how to prepare, what tackle you need and how to find, hook and land these wonderful fish. The Rhode Island Tautog fishery is unique and everyone should try her/his hand at catching the elusive "Tog". We can't promise that Richie will give away his secret spots but he will teach you everything you need to know to make your own memories.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

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

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RISAA MAGAZINE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

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

OUR GREAT (MOSTLY) VEGAN BAITFISH

By: Captain Ken Cooper

The Atlantic Menhaden, a member of the herring family, is a filter feeder that eats plankton, primarily photoplankton but also some zooplankton. If you are not familiar with Menhaden, perhaps you are better acquainted with this valuable fish by one of its more common names: Bunker, Mossbunker, Pogy, and incorrectly, Alewife and Shad. In my corner of SoCo Rhode Island, “Bunker” is the common moniker, and the juvenile Menhaden are called Peanut Bunker, or just plain Peanuts.

Atlantic Menhaden are often called the most important fish in the ocean because of their positive effect on their environment by filtering the water and their dominant place in the food chain for such desirable predators as Striped Bass, Bluefish and Tuna. They are a schooling fish, with schools ranging from hundreds to many thousands of individuals. Atlantic Menhaden are found from the Gulf of Saint Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico, but the largest concentrations will be found around major estuaries such as the Chesapeake Bay and Narragansett Bay. Indeed, juvenile Menhaden spend their first half year in estuaries, migrating out and heading south from August to November. The average lifespan of an Atlantic Menhaden is four years, but there have been specimens determined to be ten years old.



One very significant reason why Menhaden are deemed such a valuable fish is that they are oily, very oily, and that oil is high in Omega 3. Consequently, there is an extensive commercial enterprise harvesting Menhaden to use that oil in a variety of products from cosmetics to health supplements. Fortunately for we fishermen, as well as for the Stripers, Blues and Tuna, over the past ten years commercial netting of Menhaden has been dramatically restricted, both geographically (for example, no netting in Narragansett Bay) and by maximum allowable pounds taken. The result has been a significant increase in Menhaden numbers and a much healthier population of individual fish.



Adult Bunker tend to show up in our waters in late May into June, invading Narragansett Bay and providing sustenance for the Striped Bass and Bluefish arriving from their respective migrations. These Bunker are hefty baits, over ten inches long and many weighing in excess of a pound. As the maxim goes, big baits attract big fish. A twenty-inch schoolie Striper can't swallow a one-pound Bunker, but a twenty pound Striper has no problem gulping down a bait that size. That other relevant maxim, find the bait and you will find the fish, applies to the spring Striped Bass fishery in Narragansett Bay. The Bass will be around the schools of Bunker. To catch the Stripers fishermen use live Bunker or lures. The live baits are obtained by netting (throwing a castnet) or by snagging. In either case, the captured bunker **must** be pinned on a circle hook (not offset) to be used as bait.



There are some lures that have proven to be most effective for fooling large Stripers that are feeding on adult Bunker. Two very different types, in the accompanying photos, are the Doc hard plastic lures and the Ben Parker and Tsunami flutter spoons. The Doc and its smaller cousin the Little Doc are spook-type plugs that are best cast to the edge of a Bunker school and then manipulated in a “walk the dog” fashion. Flutter spoons are allowed to settle to the bottom from a boat drifting near schooled Bunker, then repeatedly jiggged up three to four feet and allowed to flutter back

to the bottom. You can watch a virtual tutorial on the rigging and use of flutter spoons by checking out Mike Smedley's Old School Fishing videos on YouTube.

As the water of Narragansett Bay and other local estuaries warms in July and August, both adult and juvenile Menhaden will migrate out to the cooler water of the ocean front. When Striped Bass or Bluefish find these schools, the result can be a major blitz. Menhaden tend to school with similar sized individuals, and the predators will often be keyed in on baits of the size in that particular school. For the fisherman using artificials, that means “match the hatch” by casting lures of similar size and profile.



Flutter Spoons



Assorted Flies



There are seemingly endless options, from plugs to metal spoons to soft plastics, many depicted in the accompanying photos.

By September the fall migration of bait and predators is underway, with Atlantic Bonito and False Albacore possibly showing up to munch on the Peanut Bunker (in addition to their more common prey of Silversides and Bay Anchovies). In my local waters, the schools of adult Bunker and Peanut Bunker flushing out of the Pawcatuck River often appear dense enough to walk on. By October, the Menhaden are typically migrating south along the shore, bringing pursuing Striped Bass and Bluefish within easy reach of surfcasters. Blitzes litter the shore with thousands of Bunker that beach themselves to escape the jaws of a Bass or Blue. By then, the Peanuts are likely four to six inches long, and so larger artificials, including spoons, poppers and swimmers, can be most effective.

I love to flyfish for Striped Bass and Bluefish (as well as Atlantic Bonito and False Albacore) when they are chasing Bunker, and especially when the dominant bait is Peanut Bunker. The smaller bait means that I don't have to cast big (ten to twelve inch) flies on heavy lines with 10 or 11 weight flyrods; rather, I can use an 8 or 9 weight outfit with a floating line. There's no end of fly patterns that imitate Peanut Bunker, and some of my favorites are depicted.

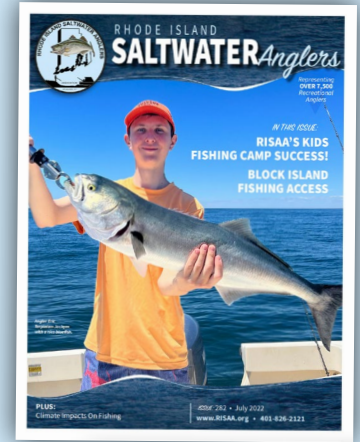
Be thankful for the Atlantic Menhaden, and for the astute managers that have taken effective measures to assure an abundance of this critically important forage fish. 🐟



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for 2023 rates and more information.



LEARNING MORE ABOUT FALSE ALBACORE TO GROW THE FISHERY

By: Captain Dave Monti



False albacore that was captured, tagged and released by the SIMMS crew as part of The Albie Project. Photo courtesy of the ASGA.

False albacore have grown in stature as a highly targeted recreational sport fish. These speedsters have thrilled shore and boat anglers and have become a valuable addition to the recreational community with about a half million angler trips annually. The bait or forage profile for false albacore are here in greater abundance due to climate change and warming water and have brought a greater abundance of these fish to the northeast region.

However, not much is known about false albacore as it is a data poor stock. Often recreational species that are traditionally not commercially harvested have taken a back seat to commercially harvested species with little research being done or explored by fish managers and supporting scientists.

"In 2021 some of our members in North Carolina and Florida informed us of concerning and expanding sources of landings of unreported and unregulated bait markets for false albacore," said Peter Jenkins, Chairman of the Board of the American Saltwater Guides Association (ASGA), owner of the Saltwater Edge and active RISAA member. "So, our initial response was developing precautionary guardrails for albie fisheries to protect the communities dependent on them and the species' long-term sustainability. We then moved to develop The Albie Project launching both a tagging study and a genetics study on this data poor and important recreational species." Visit The Albie Project – American Saltwater Guides Association for a short video on the project.

During the 2022 University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography Baird Symposium on 'Climate impacts on recreational fishing and boating', anglers, charter captains and scientists alike participating as panelists pointed to false albacore

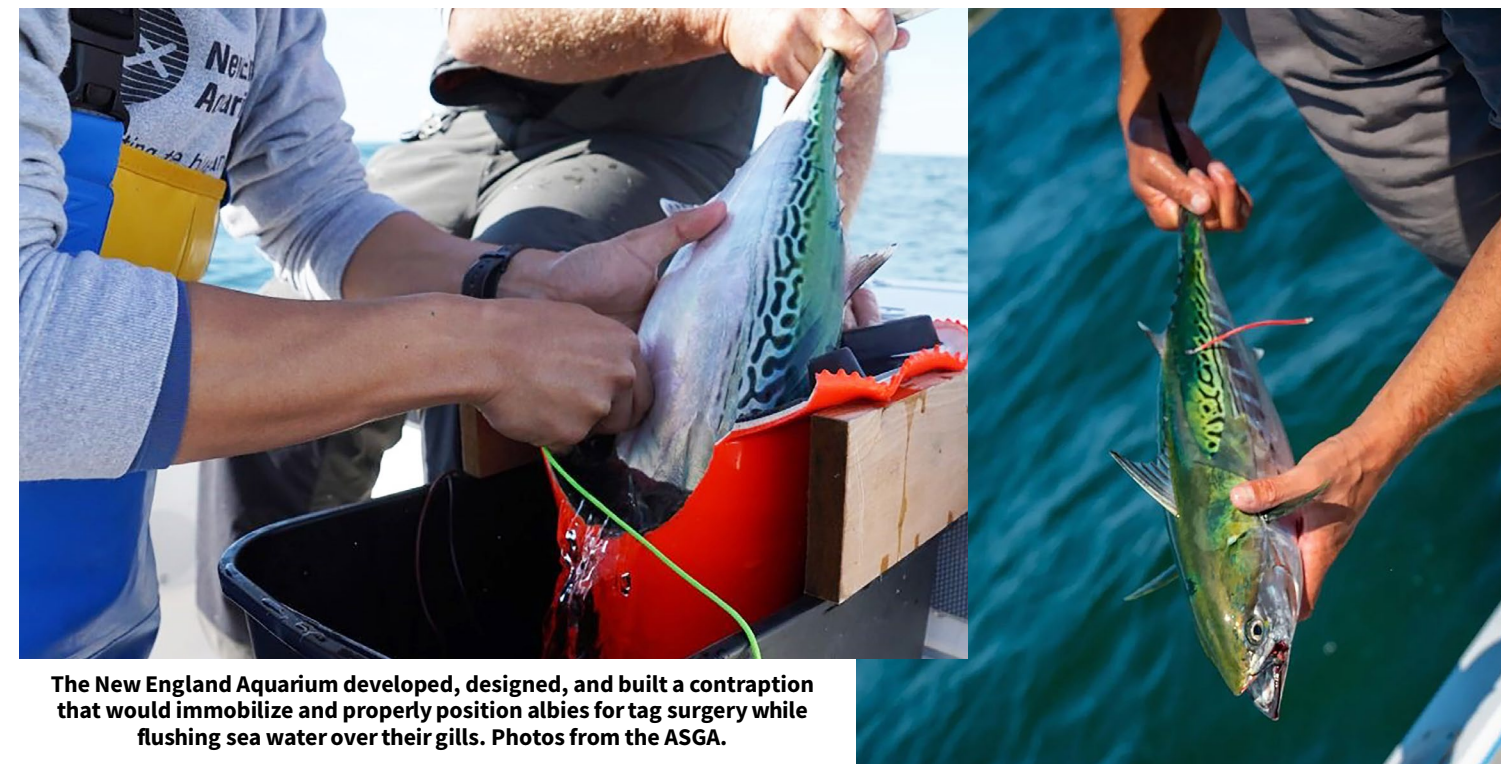
“We had 57 fish, about 90 percent survive and start sending us data.”

as a data poor recreational fish. Supporting sponsors of the Symposium, Ørsted, wind farm developer and owner of the Bock Island Wind Farm, stepped up to help with initial research funding with a six figure grant for The Albie Project.

Last year the ASGA, also a Baird Symposium participant, deployed 63 acoustic tags into false albacore that were caught and released on Nantucket Sound. The aim of the study was to learn more about false albacore movement and mortality.

"In July of 2023 we received word that multiple spaghetti-tagged albies that were tagged and released off Cape Cod, MA in Fall 2022 were recently recaptured off the coast of Jupiter, FL. While we are anxious to receive a full report on the data downloads from the receiver arrays along the coast, our partners at the New England aquarium have also let us know that our tagged albies swam from the islands off Massachusetts all the way to the Carolinas and even Key West, FL," said Peter Jenkins.

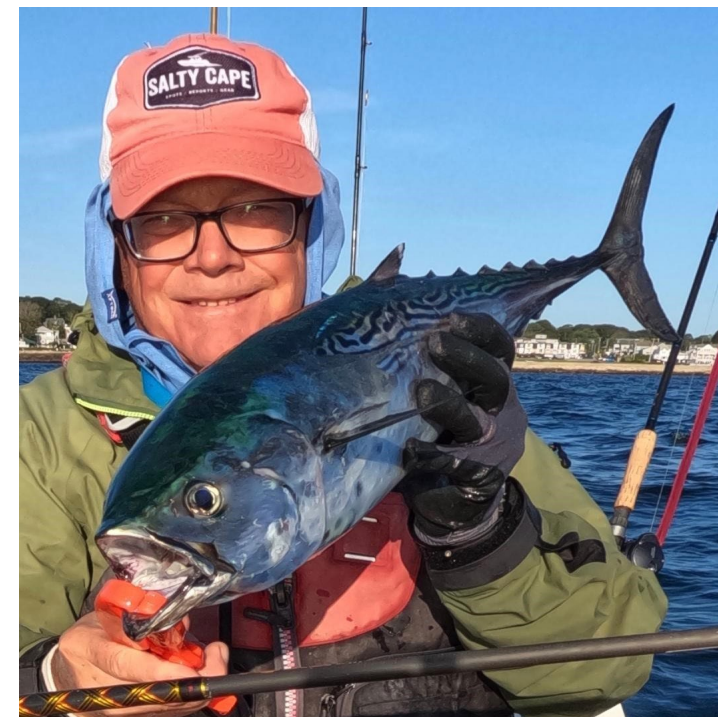
The tagging study is spearheaded by Dr. Jeffrey Kneebone of the New England Aquarium who has conducted acoustic tag studies on sharks, bluefin tuna, yellowfin tuna and several other species.



The New England Aquarium developed, designed, and built a contraption that would immobilize and properly position albies for tag surgery while flushing sea water over their gills. Photos from the ASGA.

Tony Friedrich, Vice President and Policy Director of the ASGA said, "A quarter of a million-dollar project comes with a great deal of responsibility. The folks at the New England Aquarium had to develop, design, and build a contraption that would immobilize and properly position the albies for tag surgery while flushing sea water over their gills."

In addition to Ørsted, wind farm developer Vineyard Wind and fishing gear and tackle manufacturers/businesses such as Costa, Old Maine Outfitters, Cheeky, Hogy, Simms, Van Stall, The



Tom Hood with a false albacore caught off Narragansett from his kayak this fall. False albacore have grown in stature in the recreational fishing community. They are a data poor stock.

Saltwater Edge and the New England Aquarium became study sponsors.

Dr. Jeff Kneebone said, "We had 57 fish, about 90 percent survive and start sending us data. The project focusing on Nantucket Sound worked well allowing us to place receivers throughout the Sound. Even though some were miles apart, fish were sending us a lot of data. These fish are truly energizer bunnies, they keep moving. So, in addition to proving these fish can be successfully tagged with acoustic telemetry tags, we were able to see just how much they move around."

Friedrich said, "In one two week period in September, 50 separate fish had a total of 4,935 detections. We had as many as 601 detections from one fish. The preliminary results were so robust we aligned study sponsors for another year in the fall of 2023."

Dr. Kneebone concluded, "We plan to add accelerators into the mix in 2023 so we can tell just how fast the fish move and to make sure they are alive and not dead in the belly of a shark or some other fish. We also plan to extend our study as last year when we stopped the study at the end of October, we still had quite a few false albacore in the region."

Hats off to the American Saltwater Guides Association for doing The Albie Project. It has and will continue to demonstrate the value of doing research on data poor recreational species helping us grow this species to abundance.

Join the Albie Tag Team and support ASGA's efforts to learn more about and protect false albacore for generations to come. Sponsorship supports one of the acoustic telemetry tags attached to a little tunny – deployed by ASGA in partnership with the New England Aquarium. All Tag Teams sponsors will receive an exclusive Albie Project "Tag Team" hooded tech shirt produced by SIMMS. 🐟

FALL TAUTOG TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

We rounded up some tips for tog success from a collection of RISAA members, charter captains, and other experts. You may know some of these tips and hopefully might find a new way or two of doing things.



Many anglers release the female fish they catch. This is not just a good theory but also good science. Research provided by John Lake, Biologist at Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management Division of Marine Fisheries, indicates that a twenty inch female produces twenty-four to eighty-six times the number of eggs as a female half that size. The study's authors conclude that large females are key in sustaining the tautog population. Please release them when you can.

FINDING WHERE TO FISH

Captain TJ Harris strongly recommends the use of the Navionics app to find fish-holding structure. He says, "First, use Navionics, specifically the premium version. It's \$25 per year, but well worth it. Use the sonar chart and relief shading to locate nice humps and good bottom. Beauty of it is you can do this from your living room, the night before dropping pins on spots worth checking out"

One theme repeated by many experts is **FIND YOUR OWN SPOT**. The goal is to locate a bump or rock pile or other structure that is not heavily fished. Many anglers have a tendency to fish the well-known wrecks or reefs that may not hold the best fish. Experienced anglers will mark their own promising spots as they discover them, often when fishing for other species. Find YOURS.

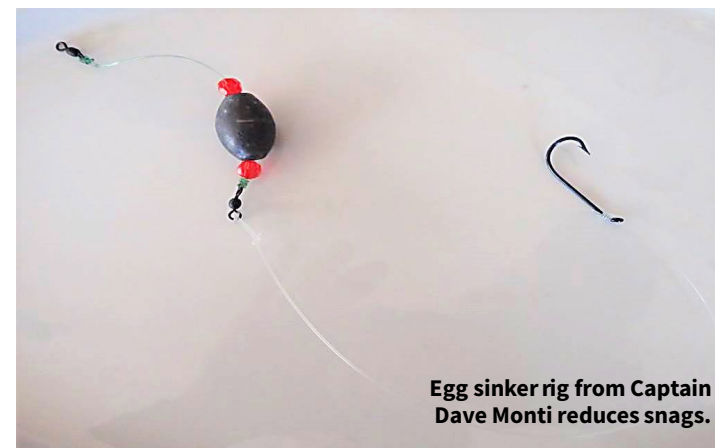
GETTING OVER THE FISH

If you can accommodate and afford a "spot lock" type of motor, these are a game changer for fishing tautog. If not, don't despair—the traditional ways still work. You can use a marker buoy to mark your spot and then adjust your anchor(s) to get as close as possible. Many experienced anglers recommend using two anchors to position the boat more precisely. Once anchored, don't be afraid to move—change your position within the boat, take in or let out line to move the boat a bit. If fishing from shore, move a few feet in either direction. Sometimes all it takes is moving three or four feet or to the other side of the boat to change your luck.

Be sure to use an anchor rigged so that you can extract it from the rocky bottom. A grapnel type is best for this. Breaking, bending, or losing your good anchor will ruin your day.

TO CHUM OR NOT?

Not all of our experts chum for tautog but the majority recommend it. Use crushed mussels or periwinkles or legs from your crabs for an effective chum. A chum pot will help you get the chum close to where your baits will be especially if the current is moving. Another trick is to put a stone in a paper lunch bag, load it with chum and tie it to a string, allowing you to lower it to the bottom. A quick jerk or two on the string will break the bag and release the chum close to where your baits will be.



Egg sinker rig from Captain Dave Monti reduces snags.

TERMINAL TACKLE

Tackle could occupy an entire article or even the whole magazine but here are a few key tips:

- Check the **October, 2022 RISAA Magazine** for an article titled "To Jig or To Rig" by Greg Vespe. This gives an excellent, in-depth analysis of when and where to use each technique.
- Sharp, high-quality hooks are a must. Noted tautog master Richie Reich and others recommend Gamakatsu hooks. Richie likes the 4/0 octopus style.
- Tackle for rigs should be low-visibility. If you have shiny sinkers or other components, let them weather or paint them. Also, use fluorocarbon or low visibility leader material.
- A single hook rig will minimize the chances of getting snagged and losing a fish. Likewise, attach your sinkers with a breakaway line of lower tensile strength so that if the sinker snags while you have a fish on, you can still land the fish. Some experts like Captain Dave Monti use an egg sinker to minimize snags as well.



Use dull or dark terminal tackle, nothing shiny

RI Tog Regs

August 1 - October 14 - Three fish

October 15- December 31 - Five fish per angler or ten per boat, whichever is fewest. Only one fish over 21 inches all season

TECHNIQUES

- If you have never fished for tautog, they are notorious bait-stealers. RISAA VP Captain Rich Hittinger says that if you feel two taps or bites with no hook-up it's time to reel in and rebait.
- Change the bait frequently—when the "juicy" part is gone. Richie Reich says don't be one of those people who uses the same crab for thirty minutes and complains about not catching fish.
- If you don't catch fish immediately, you can work at "Building the Bite". This involves getting some bait in the area you are fishing by using chum and/or multiple rigs to get the fish active in your spot. If you have three or four anglers on the boat, you can often get it going pretty quickly.
- When you hook a tautog, get your rod up high immediately while taking a few cranks on the reel. The fish will be trying to get back into the structure so if you drop the rod tip or give the tautog any opportunity, it will lodge itself into the rocks or wreck with surprising speed. Rod builder Ralph Craft suggests that if you are using a lighter rod for jigging, select one with a more parabolic action to reduce the chances of breaking when lifting the rod at a high angle.
- If your hooked fish manages to wedge itself into the structure, you can often get it to come out by giving some slack and waiting for the fish to swim out. This requires a LOT of patience—something not all anglers have.

OTHER ASSORTED SUGGESTIONS

- Have a hook-out device handy and use it. It will save your gear and also get the fish released quicker and you back into the action sooner.
- Use soft baits in the spring—clam worms or grass shrimp—and hard baits in the fall—green crabs or Asian crabs.
- Try catching your own crabs with a crab trap. It's always fun to catch a fish on bait that you gathered yourself. A tautog carcass makes great crab bait.

If all else fails, follow the advice of Captain David Michel "Fish with Dawn. Do what Dawn does. Don't pay attention to Tommy." (This is intended as humor). 🐟

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. John Pidlipchak..... 4.67 lbs.
2. Dr. Lawrence Audino 3.94 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



FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

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

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



Bluefish

Boat Division - Adult

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



BONITO

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. Michael Tilelli..... 2.75 lbs.
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



Fluke

Boat Division - Adult

1. Ronnie Tipple 10.85 lbs.
2. Ronnie Tipple 10.67 lbs.
3. Dariusz Kolodziejczak 10.17 lbs.

Boat Division - Junior

1. Jack Harris 5.31 lbs.
2. Hayes Jansen..... 5.22 lbs.
3. Domenic Bianco 3.25 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



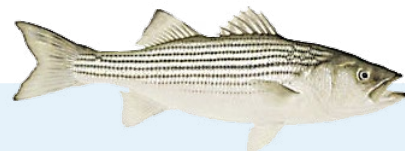
HADDOCK

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. Richard Reich..... 6.80 lbs.
3. Rick Black..... 3.42 lbs.

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. Jack Harris 1.30 lbs.
2. Flynn Jansen..... 1.30 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. Justin Serbent 45.18 lbs.
2. Justin Serbent 45.18 lbs.
3. No Entry

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Flynn Jansen..... 52.76 lbs.
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

See Tournament Rule Changes for 2023 on Page 24.

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

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

See Tournament Rule Changes
for 2023 on Page 24.



2023 RISAA FLY FISHING COMMITTEE OUTING SCHEDULE

(High tide times in parentheses)

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 Shuttles - 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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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

12pm to 6pm • Marine Park, Falmouth, MA



On The Water

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

PETER O'BISO

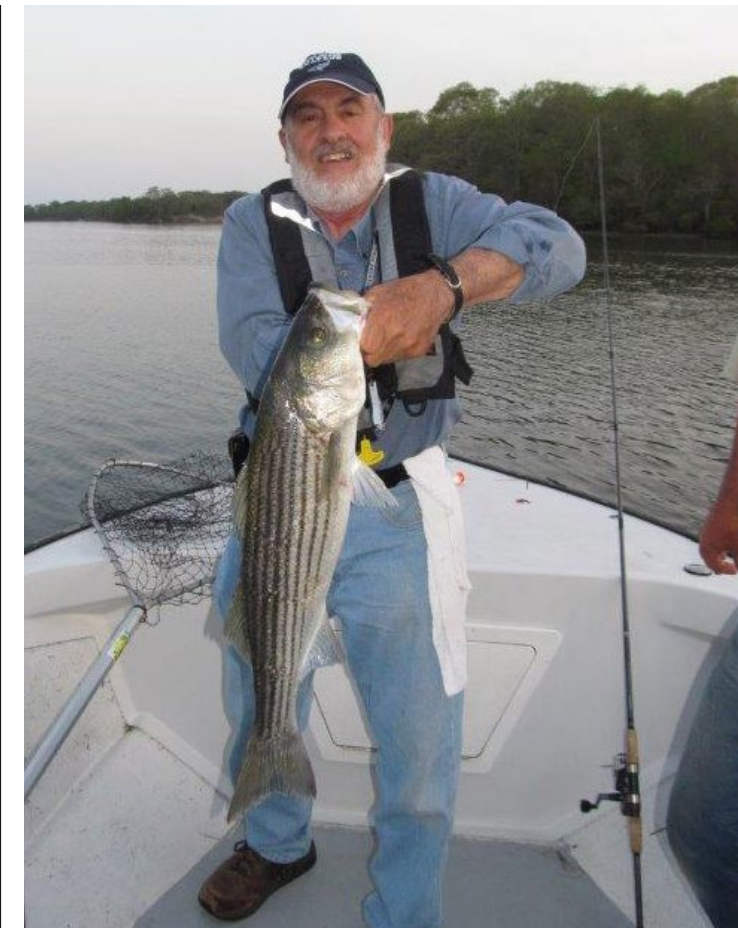
There is hardly a RISAA member who doesn't know Peter O'Biso, if not personally, then certainly by name. Peter grew up in northern New Jersey and every Friday evening in the summer he and his brothers would make a four-hour drive to their aunt's house in Great Bay. From the lagoon behind her house, they would venture out into the Bay and fish for fluke and bluefish. He still has fond memories of those trips.

Peter moved to Rhode Island in 2002 where he worked as a civil engineer, supervising several large municipal wastewater construction projects. Of course, during that time he was still pursuing fish as well. On the advice of some friends, he decided to keep his boat in a marina near the mouth of the Pawcatuck River where it is still berthed today. Peter heard about RISAA through the newsletter and joined the club in 2004 and served as the Charter Committee Chair for eight years.

In 2013 he became the club's Treasurer and had one year of overlap with his charter duties before concentrating fully on his Treasurer role. Peter served as the club Treasurer from 2013 to 2021. Following Stever Medeiros' untimely passing, Peter took over the financial responsibilities of the organization as he was the one with the most familiarity with the procedures. He certainly stepped in and helped get RISAA through a difficult time, as did many others.

Peter is still active in club activities as a member of the Fly Fishing and Surfcasters committees. He also lends a hand when needed such as participating in every Take A Kid Fishing Day as well as serving as the unofficial assistant Fishing Camp director. He is also a fixture at our Saltwater Fishing Show.

Peter lives in South Kingstown near Charlestown and likes to fish in the waters of western Rhode Island from the Pawcatuck River, East as far as Quonny Breachway and West around the West end of Fisher's Island. He fishes mostly for fluke, scup and black sea bass but always looks forward to the arrival of the albies in the fall and the Worm Hatch in the spring. Thanks, Peter for your many contributions and good luck with those albies. 🐟



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

RISAA KAYAK COMMITTEE SUMMARY 2023 OUTINGS

Date	Time	Location	Address	Target	Leader
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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RISAA Fishing Tournament Update & Schedule For 2023

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

YEARLONG INDIVIDUAL SPECIES CHANGES

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

CHANGES TO ANGLER OF THE YEAR

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

Questions? Contact: Karlis Kaugars at kaugars@risaa.org

TEAM TOURNAMENTS

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

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

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

YOUTH/ADULT TAG TEAM TOURNAMENT: Beginning August 4th and ending August 13th. 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 30th ending Monday, October 9th. Final weigh-ins must take place October 9th.

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

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

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

New Twists on a Familiar Theme

Anglers are always trying to think of new ways to catch their favorite species. Our Rhode Island Tautog fishery is attracting anglers from all over the East Coast and the fishery has spawned (pun intended) an incredible variety of jigs, terminal tackle and accessories. Here are a few that stand out from the crowd.



Tall Tailz White Legger: This is a new shape designed by Captain Connor MacLeod a well-known charter captain out of Newport. It is designed to look like a crab and sit flat while holding the bait off the bottom. As an added bonus, it's made here in the USA.

Rock Bottom Jigs: by Game On. The manufacturer claims that the tapered design helps prevent snags on underwater structure. These jigs feature large, 3-D eyes.

Mr. Crabs: by Lunker City. These jigs are made to mimic a crab, right down to their close-set eyes. The jig sits flat and the hook is elevated to keep the bait in the strike zone.

Fish'n Strips-Crab: by Fishbites. A recent trend is putting a bit of artificial bait with crab scent on the hook before adding the crab. The theory behind this is that if the tog steals the crab, it will come back for a bite of the strip bait which is harder to dislodge.

Stinky Balls: These are used the same way as the strips above—add a ball to the hook prior to baiting with the crab. The balls will dissolve in water and also can be pulled off by the fish so it will be necessary to re-bait fairly often.

If you have success with any of these approaches, we'd love to hear from you and see any photos you care to send. 🐟

DEM/ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE ARREST & CITATION LOG



July 2023

CORREIA, Joao R., 65, of East Providence, RI, for Possession of Undersized Shellfish

MONTEIRO, Joao N., 60, of Pawtucket, RI for Possession of Undersized Striped Bass

VELETZUY, Beassy J., 50, of Framingham, MA, for Possession of Undersized tautog, Exceed Daily Limit of tautog, Possession of Undersized Black Sea Bass, Exceed Daily Limit of Black Sea Bass, and Possession of Undersized Summer Flounder.

The following is a breakdown of the citations issued for the period of: July 2023

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

VIOLATION CITATIONS ISSUED

State Property Violations	65
(Parking, Alcohol, Disorderly Conduct, Dumping/Littering, etc.)	
Motor Vehicle	217
Boating Violations	28
ATV Violations	0
Freshwater Fishing Violations	0
Saltwater Fishing Violations	7
CRMC Beach Violations	0
Hunting Violations.....	0

Total 317

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE THROUGH OUR DISPATCH CENTER: 3,322

WARNINGS ISSUED: Verbal or Written Warnings issued to first-time offenders for a de minimis violation. Corrective action was taken at the scene and/or the occurrence was utilized as an educational opportunity in lieu of a summons. **TOTAL: 127**

*Arrest = Individual charged criminally with violations under the jurisdiction of the Rhode Island District or Superior Court or charged through Administrative Adjudication civil procedures by DEM. Any indication of an arrest does NOT mean the individual identified has been convicted of a crime. All persons arrested are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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WHO'S WHO

in the Rhode Island Saltwater's Anglers Association

2023 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RISAA CONTACTS

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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

Steve Skenyon, CPA • skenyon@risaa.org

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Capt. David Michel • michel@risaa.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Ron Barnes • barnes@risaa.org
Gary W. Johnson • gary@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
hittinger@risaa.org • 401-739-1875

Menhaden Subcommittee

David Monti, Chair
monti@risaa.org • 401-480-3444

Public Access Subcommittee

Peter Jenkins, Chair
jenkins@risaa.org • 401-826-2121

MERCHANDISE COMMITTEE

Bob Marco
marco@risaa.org

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Scott Travers
travers@risaa.org

NEWSLETTER

Scott Travers
travers@risaa.org

SALTWATER FISHING SHOW

Robert Murray
murray@risaa.org • 401-378-5895

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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

SURFCASTERS COMMITTEE

Ron Barnes, Chair
barnes@risaa.org • 508-958-6781

TAG & RELEASE PROGRAM

Robert Murray, Coordinator
murray@risaa.org • 401-378-5895

TOURNAMENTS COMMITTEE

Karlis Kaugars
kaugars@risaa.org

WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filliatreault Wood, Chair
wood@risaa.org • 401-263-3919

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+)

- Robert Fredericks
- Steve Andras
- RI Mobile Sport Fishermen
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- Kenneth Anderson
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- Mitch Rifkin
- Ella & Michael Tripp
- Justin Serbert & Christine Bollmann
- Patrick Watson
- Luca Razza
- Algerina Perna/Eugene Steger
- Melinda Kuritzky
- Capt. David Michel
- Marc Lamson

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

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 \$ _____

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MAIL TO:

RISA Foundation
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Coventry, RI 02816



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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:

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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 to

RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NEW MEMBERSHIP

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date Of Birth _____ Phone # (_____) _____ E-mail _____

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

Occupation _____ Employed At _____

Children (up to 17 yrs): _____

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

INFORMATION

Prefer to Fish From (check all that apply):

Rocks & Piers Charter Boats Party Boats Fly Fishing Surfcasting Other _____

Own Boat: Length: _____ ft Maker/Type: _____ Boat Name: _____ Docked at: _____

How did you hear about RISAA?

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

Saw Advertisement at: Internet Magazine Newspaper TV Other _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Regular Adult: \$50/year

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION

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

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

MAIL TO:
RISAA
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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