



RHODE ISLAND
SALTWATER *Anglers*

Representing
OVER 7,500
Recreational Anglers

WINTER
EDITION

IN THIS ISSUE:
**RISAA:
PAST,
PRESENT
& FUTURE**

PLUS:
**LEARN MORE ABOUT
RISAA AND HOW YOU
CAN GET INVOLVED**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

ISSUE: 295 • November/December 2023
www.RISAA.org • 401-826-2121

EVENTS & MEETINGS

NOVEMBER

27 Seminar: Saltwater Fly Fishing with Sue Estabrook & Peter Jenkins

DECEMBER

18 Seminar: DEM Fisheries Update with John Lake, Principal Biologist for DEM Division of Marine Fisheries

18 Members' Meeting following Seminar: Election of Officers
Must be present to vote!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SURFCASTERS SCHEDULE

See Page 11

2023 RISAA FLY FISHING COMMITTEE OUTING SCHEDULE

See Page 18

2023 RISAA KAYAK COMMITTEE OUTINGS

See Page 17

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

RISAA Magazine WINTER EDITION



As we take a brief pause to reflect on the season behind us and start preparing with great anticipation for the next, we'd like to focus on our Association—the many activities and benefits it offers members and its important accomplishments in promoting the interests of recreational anglers.

Some of our committees are activity-oriented such as our Kayak, Fly Fishing and Surf Casting committees. These groups enhance our enjoyment, social connections, safety and skills through the outings, meetings and get-togethers they organize. Other committees operate behind the scenes to do the important work that makes the Association the force that it is. The Fishing Show, Education, Scholarship, Legislative and other committees work to keep the club strong and make sure our voices are heard.

Please take a few moments to learn more about some of our committees. Whether you want to find a group that fits your fishing passion or you want to add your voice for conservation, you will find your niche in RISAA.

By-Laws Committee Update:

The by-laws committee proposed several amendments to RISAA's by-laws which have been approved by the Board of Directors and will be subject to a vote of the members present at our December 18th business meeting, immediately following that evening's seminar. Members may find the proposed amendments in the "Board News" section of the RISAA website under the "About RISAA" section once they have logged in. These proposed changes will be sent out to the membership via constant contact as well, so look for them in your email.

FROM THE HELM

RISAA: Past, Present & Future



RISAA has a rich history. It's origins date back to 1997 when our founder, the late Steve Madeiros, brought together members of the saltwater angling community and formed what would become the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association. With members as far away as Alaska, and affiliations with over 35 clubs, bait and tackle shops, and other organizations in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, it has become a well known and influential part of the recreational saltwater fishing world. Our Foundation and Political Action Committee (PAC) continue to educate, inform, and advocate for recreational anglers and sustainable marine fisheries in the region. We should all be proud to be part of that legacy.

As we come to the close of the 2023 fishing season and we reflect on all the good work we have done in the past and continue to do today, we also look to the future and ensuring that RISAA remains relevant, continues to provide benefits to our membership, and helps guide recreational marine fisheries management and environmental conservation and stewardship going forward.

In order to accomplish all these things we encourage all our members to become more involved with the Association. For instance, were you aware there are 24 various committees within RISAA? If you are interested in learning more about our committees or joining one, they are listed on the website under the "About RISAA" tab. If your free time is limited then perhaps you might consider a donation to either the Foundation or the PAC to help us continue to help others.

RISAA is our association. The strongest and greatest part of RISAA is our membership. Each one of us can help RISAA move forward into the future by being active in whatever way we can. Think of all that RISAA has accomplished thus far and what we could accomplish together going forward. Let's all help to continue making RISAA the voice for Southern New England Fishermen.

Scott TRAVERS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE WATCH

Reported by: Fred DeFinis, SECRETARY

The RISAA Legislative Committee consists of fifteen to twenty active members led by RISAA Second VP Rich Hittinger. The committee has regularly scheduled quarterly meetings via Zoom as well as interim meetings as necessary to deal with breaking issues.

The purpose of the Committee is to monitor, analyze and where necessary intervene on regulations, policies or legislation that might affect the rights and abilities of recreational saltwater anglers to pursue our sport. Our involvement could range from submitting letters, testifying at public hearings and open meetings, sponsoring legislation and where needed, engaging legal counsel on behalf of our interests.

A few of the areas in which the Committee is involved:

- Regulations—Making sure the interests of the recreational saltwater angling community are given fair consideration so there are more fish for us to catch, whether we choose to release or keep them.
- Access—Shore access is a key concern for many of our members and the Committee is actively engaged in several contentious battles to keep our shore access points open to anglers.
- Conservation—Making sure our marine resources are protected.

RI SALTWATER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
Legislative Committee

This could include advocacy for protecting forage fish such as Menhaden or working to have dams dismantled or artificial reefs constructed.

-Protection of our waterways—Making sure that competing uses such as aquaculture and offshore wind installations are sited and constructed in a way that is sensitive to the needs of saltwater anglers.

-Legislation—Where needed, working with the legislature to promote legislation to benefit our sport. Recently, RISAA has been influential in helping pass legislation to expand shore access, as well as crafting and sponsoring the bill to name an area at Black Point after our founder, Steve Medeiros. We have recently submitted legislation to allow crabbing at night like our neighboring states.

The Legislative Committee has been successful in a variety of important efforts in recent years from shore access to protecting our fisheries. The work of the Committee is broad and ever-changing. By joining, you will gain greater insight into the issues that affect us as anglers and as citizens of Rhode Island. Further, you will have the knowledge to educate others and speak on behalf of our sport. We hope you will join and add your voice for RISAA.

MEMBER PHOTOS



Dave Pollack with an albie caught on a fly off North Carolina.



Jeff Perry with his catch on a fly off Watch Hill.



Albie tagged for research—The Albie Project—caught off North Carolina by Fred DeFinis.

SEND US YOUR PICS!

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

THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filliatreault Wood, CHAIR



Welcome NEW Members!

ADULT / SENIOR MEMBERS

- Matthew Kamien - White Plains, NY
- Glenn Pape - Stamford, CT
- Shane Duval - Gardner, MA
- Paul Tomberi - Fisher's Island, NY
- Carol Smith - Bristol, RI
- Pat Vetere - Katonah, NY
- Thomas Eagan - North Kingstown, RI
- Anthony Diaz - Bradford, MA
- Greg Averbuch - Nashville, TN
- Courtney Nicolson - Providence, RI
- Steven Booth - Newport, RI
- Sean Endres - New London, CT
- Ed Choiniere - North Kingstown, RI
- Philip Belleville - Putnam, CT

JUNIOR MEMBERS

- Kody Messina - East Greenwich, RI
- Alexander Averbuch - Nashville, TN

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.

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

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COOKING YOUR CATCH

By: Paula Smalec

TAUTOG BAKED IN HERB BUTTER

In conjunction with his September seminar "Tips for Tautog Success", RISAA's very own Richie Reich shared one of his favorite tautog recipes with me. The recipe appeared in this same "Cooking Your Catch" column back in November 2016 and even earlier in 2004. It's time to publish it again. It is quick and easy to make and very tasty. Thanks for sharing, Richie!

Ingredients:

- 1 pound fresh tautog fillet(s)
- ¼ cup butter
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons fresh chives, chopped (or 1 tablespoon, dried)
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped
- 3 tablespoons fresh dill, chopped (or 1½ teaspoons, dried)
- dash cayenne pepper, to taste (optional)
- salt, to taste
- paprika

Directions:

Place fillets in salt water and allow to soak for 30 minutes. Wash well, then rinse and pat dry with paper towels.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.



In a small saucepan, melt butter and stir in lemon juice, parsley, chives, dill, cayenne (if desired) and salt.

Cut fillets into serving-size pieces and place them in a lightly oiled baking dish.

Pour butter and herb mixture over the fillets. Sprinkle with paprika.

Place baking dish with fish into a preheated oven and bake, uncovered, for 8-10 minutes, (possibly more, depending on the thickness of the fillets), until the fish begins to flake.

Transfer fish to a serving platter or individual plates and cover tightly with foil to keep warm.

Boil pan juices until reduced to about ¼ cup and pour over warm fish.

HELP WANTED - Must Love Fishing to Qualify!

CHARTER TRIPS COMMITTEE CHAIR

What's Involved:

- Communicate with RISAA member Charter Boat Captains and ask them if they would plan a trip, for members, in exchange for free advertising and an article to be written about the trip in the RISAA Magazine
- Staff the Charter Trips table at the Spring monthly meetings when there are trips being raffled off.
- Collect phone numbers, email addresses & credit card information from the raffle winners and hand out the procedures for the trip to the winners.



- Give the group leader printed instructions.
- After the winners go on the trip, follow-up with the trip's group leader to collect the story and photos for the magazine.

Hal Gibson, the current Charter Trips Chair, is willing to work with the new Chair to get them up and running.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE CHAIR

What's Involved:

- Staff the raffle table at each monthly seminar, selling tickets then drawing numbers/tickets at the end of the evening.

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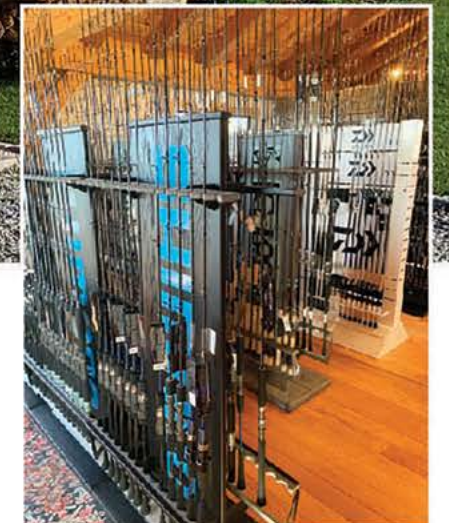
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ON THE ROCKS CHARTERS FISHING REPORT

By: Paula Smalec

After four postponements of this charter due to inclement weather, the fifth time proved to be a charm. The forecast for October 18 was for mostly sunny skies with light wind throughout the day, so we were finally good to go! John Kim and I met **Captain Rene Letourneau of On The Rocks Charters** at the boat ramp just before sunrise at Fort Adams State Park in Newport, and we headed out for what would be a very successful and memorable fishing charter. We had the option of fly fishing or casting light tackle, and John and I both chose the latter. Each of us brought our own tackle to use and were happy to have that option.



Captain Rene knows the water off of Newport and Jamestown like the back of his hand, and he skillfully maneuvered his 21 foot Mako through the boulder-infested fishing grounds. He made several stops at some boulder fields and reefs that he is familiar with, not spending too much time at any one in particular if our effort was unproductive. John was casting an SP Minnow and I opted to throw a Yozuri Hydro Minnow. Shortly into our outing, John hooked and brought in the first fish of the day, and to our surprise, it was a large black sea bass. That was an eye-opener because neither of us had ever caught a black sea bass in the past on an SP Minnow! As we continued along the southern coast of Newport, we started to see birds circling overhead with fish breaking underneath. We both swapped our lures for Albie Snax and tossed them into the swirling water. Within seconds, both John and I each hooked and reeled in two nice schoolies. The subsequent action seemed to be non-stop, with both of us hooking up and reeling in fish on almost every cast. After each fish was safely released, we quickly casted back into the numerous schools of feeding fish. The only pause in the action came while Captain Rene moved closer to the breaking water, and he did this skillfully without spooking the fish below. For the next two hours, we were on the fish which never seemed to stop feeding, and fortunately did not migrate off of the reefs, ledges, and rocks off of Land's End. It was truly "lock and load" for the remainder of the charter. Throughout that time, John and I caught and released over fifty stripers, ranging in size from 25 inch schoolies, to John's 40 plus inch beauty. The average-sized fish was either "in the slot" or just short of it. I don't think we could have had a more productive or fun day on the water, and thanks to Captain Rene and his expertise, we shared an outstanding experience that neither of us will ever forget. If you'd like more information on Captain Rene Letourneau and **On The Rocks Charters**, go to www.ontherockscharters.com, call him at 401-359-3625, or email him at contactus@ontherockscharters.com. He is an Orvis endorsed guide, specializing in fly fishing and light tackle, with over 30 years of experience on Rhode Island waters.

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

OUR SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

- Black Hall Outfitters - Old Lyme & Westbrook, CT
- Bristol Bait & Tackle - Bristol, RI
- Breachway Bait & Tackle - Charlestown, RI
- Crafty One Customs - Portsmouth, RI
- Fin & Feather - North Kingstown, RI
- Frances Fleet - Galilee, RI
- Hooked Up Bait & Tackle - Warwick, 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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MEMBER

SPOTLIGHT: The RISAA Foundation



The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation, Inc. (RISAF) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, created to preserve our marine fisheries, sponsor educational, public awareness programs, environmental protection, restoration projects, and youth activity programs that foster recreational fishing, marine safety and conservation for the recreational fishing community in southern New England. The Foundation is funded by donations from member as well as the general public.

Everything you love about the work of the foundation is made possible by the generosity of our community. People like you – members, our board of directors, and friends – you all help make the work of the foundation possible! RISAF depends on your donations to provide funds for our many projects, activities, scholarships and symposia. We count on you and we appreciate your support. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to RISAF today on our website: <https://risaa.org/the-foundation/risa-foundation-donation/>

THE STEPHEN J. MEDEIROS MEMORIAL FISHING PARK AT BLACK POINT

RISAF has partnered with RI DEM to revitalize the fishing park at Black Point in honor of our founder, Stephen Medeiros and the new facility will be dedicated this December. Our work has included all of the following:

- Adding informational “Fish Signs” to help visitors identify fish that they may encounter at the area
- Adding interpretive signage about the history of the park area and about Steve
- Addition of a second parking area south of the existing one at the end of Clarke Road
- Adding signage to this second parking area
- Improvements to the parking areas and trails
- Adding benches to the trail areas near the water

EVENTS

RISAF sponsors RISAA’s annual Fishing Camp in partnership with RI DEM. Fish Camp serves up to 50 children ages 7 to 12 from across the state and includes land-based instruction on knot tying, US Coast Guard safety instruction, demonstration of different types of rod and reels, instruction on how to cast a spinning rod, shore fishing, and culminates in two days of salt water fishing with member volunteers.

PROJECTS

Over the years, the RISAF has supported a variety of projects in keeping with our mission. Recent examples include:

- Sponsoring academic research in conjunction with URI to better understand the False Albacore fishery.
- Helping to build the Artificial reef at Sabin Point where 64 reef balls were placed to provide new habitat for many species of fish including juvenile black sea bass, tautog and scup.
- Providing grants to open up hundreds of acres of ponds and streams to returning river herring in many areas from Wakefield to North Kingstown and East Providence, RI.
- Sponsoring salt marsh restoration in the Narrow River area and helped with lighthouse restoration.
- Providing funding for research into the causes of mycobacterium infections in striped bass and sponsored a research program at Roger Williams University into the heavy metal concentrations in scup caught in RI waters.

SCHOLARSHIPS

RISAF funds both the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation Fisheries and Marine Sciences Scholarship and the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation Continuing Education scholarship. These \$500 scholarships are awarded on a nationally competitive basis for students who will be attending or are currently enrolled at either the University of Rhode Island or Roger Williams University in a marine sciences program.

SYMPOSIA

RIASF has also sponsored a bi-annual Symposium (except for pandemic years) dedicated to marine fisheries issues including:

- Exploring Ecosystem Management
- How NOAA estimates Recreational Catch
- The effects of Climate Change on Fisheries
- The Magnuson Stevens Act
- Development and Implementation of the National Recreational Fishing Policy

Your tax-deductible donations make these and many other accomplishments possible. Please consider the Foundation in your year-end charitable gift giving. 🐟

Surfcasters Committee 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

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

ALL OUTINGS SUBJECT TO
COVID GUIDELINES AND WEATHER

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



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SPOTLIGHT: TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE



The tournaments committee decides on our member tournament structure, frequency and prizes. The committee makes decisions and rulings should any tournament have disputed entries or need clarification around the rules. Our overriding goal is to have a series of opportunities for members to go out, have fun, and gain bragging rights - particularly so for the angler of the year award.

Please join us if you have ideas on how to make our tournaments more engaging and enjoyable for our membership, and if you are unable to join but have ideas on how we can improve, please share them with any member of the committee. 🐟

Members

Karlis Kaugars - Chair
Lawrence Audio
Robert Andrade
Roman Dudus
Eric Jachym
Scott Travers
Robert Viens
Dawn Wood

UPCOMING SEMINAR

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



NOVEMBER 27 @7PM

A CONVERSATION ABOUT SALTWATER FLY FISHING IN RHODE ISLAND

*with Susan Estabrook
& Peter Jenkins*

The Seminar will cover:

“HOW” fly fishing differs from other types of fishing and the basics of fly rods and fly lines as well as basic casting dynamics.

“WHEN” to fly fishing including conditions and baits for fly selection.

“WHERE” to saltwater fly fish in Rhode Island.

“WHO” a brief history of saltwater fly fishing in Rhode Island.

“WHAT” your basic gear should include and some tips on what to get the aspiring fly angler in your life for Christmas or just because.

Susan Estabrook is an enthusiastic saltwater fly angler who fishes from the rips of Monomoy MA to the salt ponds of the South Shore and beyond. She is a member of the RISAA Fly Fishing and Kayak Committees as well as a member of Rhody Fly Rodders, Trout Unlimited and United Fly Tyers of Rhode Island. Susan completed the casting and instructor’s course at The Wulff School of Fly Fishing this past Spring. She organizes and instructs programs for beginning fly anglers and has been instrumental in getting many women involved in this rewarding sport. Susan will be joined by Peter Jenkins who is well known for promoting fly and light tackle angling in our region. Peter is owner of Saltwater Edge and also serves as President of the American Saltwater Guides Association (ASGA), an important voice for conservation of our precious game fish.



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.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Bob Marco

A Special RISAA Volunteer

A native Rhode Islander, born in Providence, Bob Marco left home at the age of nineteen when He joined the Marines for three and a half years to serve his country. He also was a member of the Rhode Island Army National Guard in Quonset Pt. for eighteen years and retired in 1999, with a total of twenty-two years’ service.

Bob joined RISAA in 2007 and soon joined the surfcaster group and is still an active member of that group. The surfcasters welcomed him warmly and he recalls trips covering many miles searching for fish. One event that he remembers fondly was weekend trip to Cuttyhunk MA with members of the surfcasters. Along the way, he built many friendships within RISAA that he cherishes.

Through his tenure with the club Bob has always been willing to pitch in where needed. He has helped cook during the Take a Kid Fishing Day and volunteers for the Kid’s Camp in the summer at Rocky Point in Warwick. He is also a steady presence at the New England Saltwater Fishing Show™. At the show he is usually working at the membership table or the kid’s casting area which gives him the time to talk to people about our club and especially the benefits of having a family join the club.

AS a member who does not own a boat, he loves to fish whenever possible on the head boats. (Seven B’s, Francis Fleet and Helen H.) or with any members or friends who ask him to fish with them on their boat. He also likes going to Block looking for stripers in the evening. His favorite fish are fluke and sea bass and he makes all his own rigs during the winter months. He likes to be prepared for the upcoming season. Bob and his family live in West Warwick.

Bob has recently stepped up to be our new Merchandising Chairman--if you are looking for something special go see him. He has also agreed to be a candidate for election to the RISAA Board of Directors in December.

Thanks, Bob for your dedication to RISAA. 🐟



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

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2023 FALL SURFCASTERS CHALLENGE

By: Ron Barnes, Chairman
RISAA Surfcasters Committee

The Surfcaster's Committee of RISAA recently held its annual Fall Surf Fishing Club Challenge. The tournament began on Friday, October 13 at 6:00 pm and ran until Sunday, October 15 at 7:00 am. The weather was beautiful for fall fishing and the temperatures were comfortable. A little rain Saturday night didn't deter the participating anglers. The tournament was changed to Catch & Release for Striped Bass and preferred Catch & Release for Bluefish. A special thank you goes to RISAA's website guru, Karlis Kaugars for designing an easy-to-use catch submission form.

Eight clubs entered the Striped Bass/Bluefish tournament:

- Connecticut Surfcasters Association
- Hartford Surf Fishing Club
- Massachusetts Striped Bass Association
- Narragansett Pier Sportfishing Association
- Narragansett Surfcasters Club
- Pioneer Valley Boat and Surf Club
- RI Mobile Sportfishermen (RIMS)
- RISAA Surfcasters Committee



RISAA Surfcasters Committee Chairman Ron Barnes presents the largest striper plaque to Carl DiRocco of the Massachusetts Striped Bass Association.



The traditional Fisherman's Breakfast was held at the Andrea. Some 56 people enjoyed camaraderie and many fish stories were told.

SOME TOURNAMENT FACTS & FIGURES:

There was 1 Bluefish submitted for 23.00 inches.

There were 26 Striped Bass submitted for a total of 832 inches or 69 1/3 feet. The average size submitted was 32 inches.

In total there were 71 1/4' feet of fish submitted.



RISAA Surfcasters Committee Chairman Ron Barnes presents the team trophy to the Pioneer Valley Boat and Surf Club.



There were many generous donations of raffle prizes by the participating clubs. R.I.M.S. donated \$223 from their annual Saturday morning breakfast!!!

Thanks to the generosity of the 8 participating clubs and their members, we donated the proceeds of \$1500 to the Three Angels Fund!!!! From their website:

Friends and family coming together to fight cancer. It is our mission as the Three Angels Fund to help those in the Aquidneck Island community with cancer.

Founded in 2010 the Three Angels Fund comes together each year to honor the memory of Eileen Bulk, Nan Bulk, and Ann Pine. Money raised goes to fund our Community Giving Program and allows us to make a donation each year to the Lifespan Cancer Institute at Newport Hospital. Our donation to the Newport Hospital is earmarked so that it directly impacts cancer patient care; while money distributed through our Community Giving Program allows us to help those in the community who may not be receiving treatment at the hospital to be helped by the Three Angels Fund.

Congratulations to the winners and again a thank you to all who participated.

THE RESULTS:

Biggest Blue Fish – Eric Jachym – Pioneer Valley Boat and Surf Club – \$25 gift card. Eric's prize-winning bluefish bent the ruler at 23 inches.

Biggest Striper – Carl DiRocco – Massachusetts Striped Bass Association – stretched the tape measure to 44.5 inches. Shout out to Hunter Blackmar – Rhode Island Mobile Sportfisherman – who landed the only other plus-forty inch fish at an even 42 inches.

Team trophy – Pioneer Valley Boat and Surf Club. Their three biggest stripers and that one bluefish gave them a total length of 113.50 inches. Second place belonged to the Hartford Surf Fishing Club who was beaten by a nose at 113.00 inches. Third place went to the Rhode Island Mobile Sportfishermen at 112.00 inches. A mere inch and a half separated first to third places! Shout to Rhode Island Mobile Sportfishermen who submitted a total of 295.75 inches of Striped Bass.

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UPCOMING SEMINAR

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



DECEMBER 18 @7PM DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, FISHERIES UPDATE

with John Lake



In this seminar, John Lake will inform members about the work done by the Department of Marine Fisheries in DEM. Among other things, you will learn about the status of recreational fishing in RI, including the trends in the number of licensed anglers, the monies collected through those licenses and how the DEM leverages those funds for additional grants to enhance our fishing knowledge and opportunities. John will talk about current regulations and possible changes and why these regulations are important to our fish stocks. There will be an extensive Question and Answer period following the presentation so come to get your questions answered.

John Lake is a supervisor within the RI Division of Marine Fisheries. John coordinates the recreational angler program, the public meetings process, and the commercial licensing program as well as several special programs for aggregate commercial fishing.

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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SPOTLIGHT: RISAA COMMITTEES



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee meets annually in May to review scholarship applications for RISAA member scholarships. These \$600 Steven Medeiros Memorial Scholarships are awarded to as many as ten children or grandchildren of members who will be enrolling in their first year of college the following fall.

This committee also awards two \$500 Marine Sciences and Fisheries scholarships on a nationally competitive basis to graduating seniors who will be attending either the University of Rhode Island or Roger Williams University and majoring in the marine sciences, fisheries management, or related fields on behalf of the RISAA Foundation. Similarly, the committee awards two Continuing Education scholarships to rising sophomores who are attending either the University of Rhode Island or Roger Williams University and majoring in the marine sciences, fisheries management, or related fields on behalf of the RISAA Foundation. The committee will designate the most outstanding foundation scholarship winner as the year's Therrian Scholar, which is an endowed scholarship made possible by a gift from the Therrian family.

The Scholarship Committee's work begins in May, once we have received all of the scholarship applications. The committee reviews these applications and meets to determine the winners. While the committee business is conducted remotely, reading and reviewing the applications requires lengthy preparation. We also meet by email once each fall to establish our budget and elect the following year's slate of officers.

The committee would welcome one or two new members who would like to volunteer their time and energy in support of the membership at large and on behalf of the RISAA Foundation.

David Michel, *Chairman*

Members:
Domenic Ricci
Gary Lepore (*Secretary*)
Dawn Wood
Mike Warner
Scott Travers (*ad hoc*)



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Education Committee is to plan seminars for our monthly meetings. This usually requires about two Zoom meetings a year, usually in October and November. Our goal is to provide quality educational seminars to our members every month. The Education Committee works on one of the most popular aspects of our club and the building block of where we began many years ago.

If this sounds interesting to you, the Committee needs help finding presenters for our monthly seminars and our fishing show. Being a part of this Committee brings you to the forefront of the fishing and learning experience.

Dawn Wood, *Chair*

Members:
Tom Wood
David Michel
Rich Hittinger
John Meserve
Scott Travers
Marc LAmson



If you want more information on any of the RISAAA committees or want to join, contact Dawn at wood@risaa.org

DEM/ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE ARREST & CITATION LOG

SEPTEMBER 2023

MEDEIROS, Manuel G., 82, of Fall River, MA, for Possession of Undersized Black Sea Bass, Possession of Undersized Scup, and Exceeding the Daily Limit of Black Sea Bass

AMBROSIA, Andrew P., 81, of Wakefield, RI, for Party and Charter Boat License Required, Illegal Sewage Discharge from Boat, No Discharge Certificate Decal Required on Vessel, and Exceeding Daily Limit of Black Sea Bass

BLIGE, Jerry S. Jr., 54, of New Britain, CT, for Exceeding the Daily Limit of Scup

MCCABE, Ryan P., 39, of Milford, CT, for Commercial Fishing Without a License and Failure to Declare Vessel

FISCHER, Jarrod M., 52, of Massapequa, NY, for Commercial Fishing Without a License and Failure to Declare Vessel

LEBRUN, Bernard, 56, of Hartford, CT, for Possession of Undersized Black Sea Bass, Possession of Undersized Scup, and Exceeding Daily Limit of Black Sea Bass

RHEIN, Scott J., 51, of Shoreham, NY, for Commercial Fishing Without a License and Failure to Declare Vessel

ANDREWS, Jeffrey D. Jr., 47, of Coventry, RI, for Possession of Oversized Striped Bass

PLATT, Ryan R., 27, of Wakefield, RI, for Boating Safety Certificate Required – 1st Offense – PWC

VO, Bing C., 44, of Worcester, MA, Possession of undersized Scup, Possession of Undersized Summer Flounder, and Possession of Undersized Black Sea Bass

RAMIREZ, Jose, 55, of Worcester, MA, for Non-Resident Taking of Shellfish Without License and Taking Shellfish from Polluted Area – 1st Offense

ABARCA, Jose M., 65, of Clinton, MA, for Non-Resident Taking of Shellfish Without License and Taking Shellfish from Polluted Area – 1st Offense

GONZALEZ COTTO, Neftali, 53, of Norwich, CT, for Non-Resident Taking of Blue Crabs and Possession of Undersized Blue Crabs

KIM, Michael, 48, of Lawrence, MA, for Possession of Undersized Black Sea Bass and Possession of Undersized Scup

GALDAMEZ, William, 39, of Revere, MA, for Possession of Undersized Tautog

OCHOA, Emerson, 38, of Central Falls, RI, for Possession of Undersized Black Sea Bass and Possession of Undersized Tautog

OCTOBER 2023

THEBERGE, Michael A., 30, of Warwick, RI, for Exceeding the Daily Limit of Striped Bass, Possession of Oversized Striped Bass, and Possession of Undersized Striped Bass

GARCIA PALACIOS, Cesar, 58, of Randolph, MA, for Possession of Undersized Scup and Possession of Undersized Tautog

MEJIA, Socrate, 48, of Worcester, MA, for Exceeding the Daily Limit of Striped Bass and Possession of Oversized Striped Bass

ARIAS, Ricardo, 55, of Worcester, MA, for Exceeding the Daily Limit of Striped Bass and Possession of Oversized Striped Bass

AMKHAMAVONG, Viengamphay, 51, of Sterling, MA, for Possession of Undersized Black Sea Bass and possession of Undersized Tautog

LIU, Tongye, 47, of Flushing, NY, for Possession of Undersized Tautog

JIN, Jun, 41, of Manlius, NY, for Possession of Undersized Tautog and Exceeding the Daily Limit of Tautog

PIAO, Yunhe, 53, of Palisades Park, NJ, for Possession of Undersized Tautog and Exceeding the Daily Limit of Tautog

NIAN, Zhang, 41, of Flushing, NY, for Possession of undersized Tautog, Exceeding the Daily Limit of Tautog, Obstructing Officer in Execution of Duty, and Refuse to Move or Stop on an Oral Command or Order of DEM Officer

ANDRADE, Antonio F., 68, of Pawtucket, RI, for Possession of Undersized Striped Bass (7 Counts), Exceeding the Daily Limit of Striped Bass (6 Counts), and Possession of Oversized Striped Bass. (1 Count)

AINSWORTH, John M., 50, of West Kingston, RI, for Exceeding the Daily Limit of Summer Flounder with Exemption Certificate (ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS)

LAM, Phep V., 70, of Worcester, MA, for Exceeding the Daily Limit of Tautog

LE, Tan H., 73, of Worcester, MA, Exceeding the Daily Limit of Tautog

VENTO, John, 58, of Bristol, RI, for Take, Sale of, or Possession of Non-Complying Shellfish – 1st Offense and Take and/or Possess Undersized Shellfish <500

GONCALO, Derek, 34, of Fall River, MA, for Possession of Undersized Tautog, Possession of Undersized Black Sea Bass, and Exceeding the Daily Limit of Bluefish

GILMARTIN, Joseph A., 59, of Narragansett, RI, for Possession of Undersized Tautog - Commercial and Possession of Undersized Black Sea Bass – Commercial (ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS)

RAZZA, William F., 68, of Warwick, RI, Exceeding the Daily Limit of Striped Bass and Possession of Oversized Striped Bass

CAVACO, Richard A., 67, of West Kingston, RI, For Whelk Buoys, No Whelk Pot Tags, and Unmarked Traps (ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS)

HYON, Jacob, 58, of Little Neck, NY, for Possession of Undersized Tautog

CHEN, Mao W., 52, of Quincy, MA, for Undersized Tautog and Exceeding the Daily Limit of Tautog

LIN, Pi L., 53, of Quincy, MA, for Undersized Tautog and Exceeding the Daily Limit of Tautog

*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.

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. Jason Ruffkin..... 4.10 lbs.
3. Dr. Lawrence Audino 3.94 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. Michael Tilelli..... 2.04 lbs.
2. Michael Lynch..... 1.42 lbs.



FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Ronald Lynch..... 8.49 lbs.
2. Capt. TJ Harris..... 8.48 lbs.
3. Thomas Houde..... 8.01 lbs.

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Luke Lamson 8.13 lbs.

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. Michael Tilelli..... 9.10 lbs.
2. Ronald Lynch 4.92 lbs.



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.

NEW KAYAK Division

1. Thomas Houde 12.43 lbs.
2. Kraig Ruth 9.41 lbs.



BONITO

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Ronald Lynch 3.66 lbs.

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. Michael Tilelli..... 6.18 lbs.



Fluke

Boat Division - Adult

1. Paul Phillips 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.



MAHI MAHI

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Flynn Jansen..... 1.12 lbs.
2. Hayes Jansen..... 1.10 lbs.
3. Luke Lamson 1.07 lbs.



TAUTOG

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Capt. TJ Harris..... 12.16 lbs.
2. David Windoloski..... 10.47 lbs.
3. Robert Murray..... 10.10 lbs.

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Jack Harris 4.29 lbs.
2. Flynn Jansen..... 3.38 lbs.
3. Tucker Jansen..... 2.40 lbs.

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. John Migliori..... 8.75 lbs.
2. Normand Morrissette 8.60 lbs.
3. Heather Low..... 4.16 lbs.



SCUP

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Capt. TJ Harris..... 2.31 lbs.
2. Bill Hubert..... 2.10 lbs.
3. Barbara Audino..... 2.08 lbs.

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.



SEA ROBIN

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Barbara Audino..... 1.74 lbs.

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Jack Harris..... 1.54 lbs.
2. Flynn Jansen..... 1.30 lbs.

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. John Migliori..... 3.16 lbs.



COD

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Bill Hubert 5.64 lbs.
2. Michael Roy..... 4.56 lbs.
3. Robert Jachym 4.16 lbs.



GRAY TRIGGERFISH

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Barbara Audino..... 2.78 lbs.
2. Jeffrey Cournoyer..... 2.14 lbs.
3. Thomas Houde 1.91 lbs.



POLLOCK

BShore Division - Adult

1. Michael Tilelli..... 7.21 lbs.



TUNA - BLUEFIN

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Luke Lamson 82.02 lbs.



TUNA - YELLOWFIN

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Justin Serbent 45.18 lbs.

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Flynn Jansen..... 52.76 lbs.

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



RISAA Member OCTOBER TAUTOG TRIP 2023

On Saturday, October 28th 2023 at 07:00 AM RISAA Members left the dock aboard the Seven B's V White and Green Fishing Machine for a full day of tautog fishing. With several club trips cancelled previously in the year, members were happy to have a forecast of seasonally mild temperatures, light winds, and no rain in the forecast during this summer of unusually wet weekend weather.

While the weather held out and spirits were high among the participants and crew it was just one of those days out on the water. Undersized tautog, black sea bass, and scup were present however only a few members were able to locate keeper tautog with at least one keeper scup also making a boat ride back to the pier.

The most notable part of the trip for me was the upbeat, positive, and cheerful attitude of our members. That is something hard to find when on a charter trip and the fish aren't biting. As we all have heard at one time or another "A bad day of fishing is better than a good day at work". Our members took that to heart as some members were heard singing parody song lyrics on the bow and many people making new friends with others they had not met before.

After a full day's worth of valiant effort being put forth by all anglers present, we headed back to the pier. We all made a few friends, told a few jokes, and enjoyed a fantastic day on the water in terms of weather for this time of the season. Some of us even brought home a fish or two for dinner. The moral of this story, it's all about the fishing trip, not the fish you caught. 🐟



SPOTLIGHT: KAYAK COMMITTEE

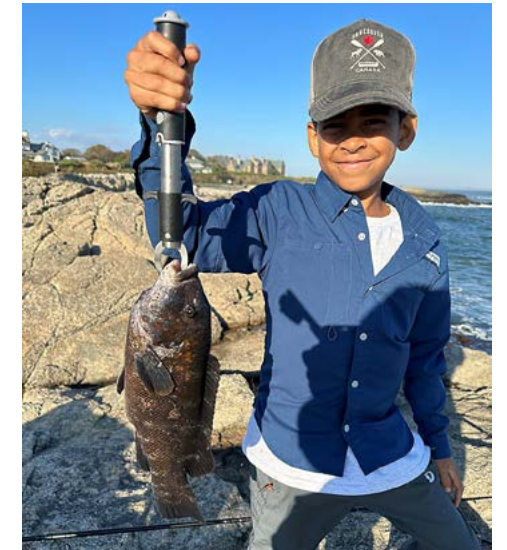
Kraig Ruth, CHAIR

The Kayak Committee is a diverse group of anglers from young to "seasoned" with a wide range of kayak fishing experience. The group scheduled 18 outings in 2023 plus a few impromptu outings based on fishing conditions. Kayakers meet at various saltwater locations throughout the state from April to October. The group's goal is to enjoy each other's company while kayak fishing along the beautiful Rhode Island coastline with a bonus of catching fish.

The RISAA Kayak Committee boasts 105 MEMBERS!

The Kayak Committee offers the opportunity to meet a great group of people with a passion for fishing. Members learn from others and become a successful kayak anglers, as well as passing tips along to new or less experienced members in the club. According to Committee Chair Kraig Ruth; "We are always looking for volunteers to lead kayak outings so we can learn about more great places to fish in RI. We also need members to volunteer at the New England Saltwater Fishing show to discuss our committee and encourage others to join RISAA" 🐟

MEMBER PHOTOS



Young Ezekiel Paul-Blanc with a nice tog caught from shore. Great catch, young man!



Florida member Richard Epstein traveled to RI to catch TWO black sea bass on a single hook!



Steve Venizelos with a nice blue caught in Massachusetts waters.

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

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in the Rhode Island Saltwater's Anglers Association

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travers@risaa.org

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Dawn Filliatreault Wood
wood@risaa.org

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Capt. Richard Hittinger
hittinger@risaa.org

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definis@risaa.org

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Susan Lema • lema@risaa.org

TREASURER

Steve Skenyon, CPA • skenyon@risaa.org

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

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

DEALER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

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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

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Contact: travers@risaa.org

KAYAK COMMITTEE

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

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Artificial Reefs Subcommittee
Richard Hittinger, Chair
hittinger@risaa.org • 401-739-1875

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monti@risaa.org • 401-480-3444

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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+)

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



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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:

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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. Therefor, 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.



RISAA

P.O. BOX 1467
Coventry, RI 02816

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WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN US!

RHODE ISLAND
SALTWATER *Anglers*
The VOICE of Southern New England Fishermen



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