



RHODE ISLAND
SALTWATER *Anglers*

Representing
OVER 7,500
Recreational Anglers

IN THIS ISSUE:

SHARKS!
TAGGING & CONSERVATION

**LATE-SEASON
KAYAK SAFETY
TIPS**

PLUS:
**HELP HONOR
STEVE MEDEIROS**

PLUS:
THE NEXT GENERATION AND MORE!

ISSUE: 294 • October 2023
www.RISAA.org • 401-826-2121

EVENTS & MEETINGS

OCTOBER

- 13-15 Surfcasters Fall Challenge Tournament
- 21 Dedication of Steve Medieros Black Point Fishing Area... Be there!
- 28 RISAA Tautog Trip 7am - 4pm
- 30 Seminar—Kayak Light Tackle Fishing with Dustin Stevens

NOVEMBER

- 27 Seminar: Saltwater Fly Fishing with Sue Estabrook

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

FROM THE HELM



RISAA... The Next Generation!

As the Executive Director for the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association I have a lot of contact with our members. As with many fishing clubs and other organizations focused on outdoor activities our membership has a large number of people who are middle aged and maybe a little more than that. That means we have members with all types of experience whether we are talking about surfcasting, inshore fishing from a boat, offshore fishing, kayak fishing, even shell fishing! Some of our members have traveled to catch species not found in New England waters and others have fished here their entire lives and are more than happy with all the opportunities we have right here.

Anyone can go online and learn how to tie a surgeon's knot. However, some things simply cannot be experienced or learned by clicking on a mouse. Our membership knowledge includes and goes beyond how to tie knots or how to cast a rod. It includes personal knowledge of local places, secret spots, tips, and things you only share with your closest friends, or maybe not!

At one point or another we all cast a rod for the first time, we all tried, and missed, when setting a hook, and have made mistakes over the years. In my experience it was always easier for me to learn how to do something or how to improve my performance doing something by watching others who had more experience than I did, or by having a mentor show me and guide me in the right direction.

While we still have some excellent fishing ahead of us this season, let's consider taking someone with us, a friend, relative, co-worker, etc. It's especially important to include those who are younger than us. Let's share some of this wealth of knowledge that we all have. Sometimes it can be tough for someone who has never gone fishing to know where to start, or to be successful when they really don't know what they are doing. Again, we have all been there. You can make the difference by helping to get someone started.

This is the best way to help the next generation of saltwater anglers get out there, be successful, and pass along that knowledge to the next generation after them. The better we are able to accomplish this the more engagement this next generation will have with saltwater fishing, the marine environment, and the environmental issues that are so important to all of us.

Scott TRAVERS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RI SALTWATER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

Legislative Committee

THE WATCH

Reported by: Richard Hittinger, CHAIRMAN

For this month I am publishing my letter of resignation from the RI CRMC Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB). It was a very difficult decision for me to resign from this important position representing the interests of recreational anglers for CRMC on issues such as reviewing permit applications for offshore wind projects, but as you will understand from reading the letter below, I became convinced that my input was not considered, not valued and basically not wanted so it was time to stop beating my head against the proverbial wall. Instead of meaningful evaluation of how best to understand the needs of all stakeholders and how to follow the guidance set forward by CRMC's own rules established in the Ocean Special Area Management Plan (OSAMP) it is clear that the CRMC Council wishes only to push forward with permitting of all new offshore wind projects no matter what the impacts may be.

My letter (PAGE 10) exactly as I submitted it to CRMC. I think it is important for RISAA members to understand how I feel about this issue. By the way, I think it is quite telling that now 3 weeks after I sent my letter of resignation I have not received a call or even an email from CRMC thanking me for many years of volunteer service on the FAB. No contact whatsoever after I volunteered thousands of hours of my time reviewing documents, talking with recreational fishermen, and providing feedback to CRMC regarding these permit applications. The current CRMC management clearly sees fishermen as just an obstacle in the way of offshore development.

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.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There will be a Members' Meeting held following the seminar on December 18th, 2023. The annual election of officers and directors will be held during this meeting. The slate of officers and directors is as follows:

President - Dawn Filliatreault Wood
First Vice President - Rich Hittinger
Second Vice President - Fred DeFinis
Secretary - Susan Lema
Treasurer - Steve Skenyon CPA
Sergeant-At-Arms - David Michel

Board Members

Gary W. Johnson
Karlis Kaugars
Bob Marco
Bob Murray
Richard Reich
Kraig Ruth

**IN ORDER TO VOTE, MEMBERS MUST
BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING.**

THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filliatreault Wood, CHAIR



Welcome NEW Members!

Dean Travis - West Warwick, RI
Earle Travis - North Stonington, CT
Robert Cascio - New London, CT
Eugene O'Brien - Westfield, MA
Bill Ogara - Westerly, 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.

MEMBER PHOTOS



Mitch Wilsie with a nice black seabass aboard Skipjack.



Lucas Blagburn brings in a healthy striper.



Mike Clini and Bob Andrade show off a fluke.

SEND US YOUR PICS!

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

IMPORTANT UPDATES

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

For Association business such as membership, Fishing Show, and advertising contact Scott Travers at Travers@risaa.org 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

RITZ CRACKER CRUSTED BLUEFISH CAKES

(4 servings)

Ingredients:

- 8 oz. russet potatoes, peeled and cut into large cubes
- 2 tablespoons butter
- ½ cup finely chopped yellow onion
- ½ cup finely chopped red or green pepper
- 1 pound bluefish fillets, skinned
- 4 tablespoons finely chopped parsley
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- kosher salt and ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 2 large eggs, well beaten
- 2 cups RITZ cracker crumbs
- 4 tablespoons vegetable oil
- fresh lemon wedges

Place the potato cubes into a saucepan and add enough salted water to cover them. Bring the water to a boil and cook the potatoes until softened, about 12-15 minutes. Drain the water and mash the potatoes until smooth.

In a large skillet, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the onion and pepper and sauté until softened. Transfer the mixture to a large bowl. Wipe the skillet clean.

Place the bluefish fillet into the skillet. Add enough water to come halfway up the fish. Return the skillet to the burner and bring the water to a boil. Turn the heat down so the water simmers, cover, and cook for about 5 minutes or until the fish is cooked through. Carefully transfer the cooked fish onto a plate. When the fish is cool enough to handle, use the tines of a fork to flake the fish into large chunks.



Add the fish flakes to the bowl with the onion and pepper. Stir in the mashed potato, parsley, and mustard. Season the fish mixture with salt and black pepper and shape it into 4 large patties (6 ounces, about palm size) or 8 smaller ones (3 ounces).

Sprinkle flour onto a small plate. In a separate shallow dish, add the beaten eggs. On a separate plate, add the cracker crumbs. Gently coat the patties with the flour, dusting off any excess, and then dip them in the eggs. Finally, dip the patties in the cracker crumbs, flipping to coat both sides. Place the patties on a baking sheet and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. When the oil shimmers, add the patties and fry gently, about 5 minutes per side. Carefully remove the cakes from the skillet and let drain on paper towels. Serve immediately with fresh lemon wedges on the side.

Recipe by Taste of the South at <https://www.tasteofthesouthmagazine.com/southern-stories-ricky-moore/>

NOAA FISHERIES NEEDS OUR SUPPORT

OPINION by: Dave Monti

The U.S. House Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2024 will have a devastating impact on fish and habitat as it reduces funding by 14 percent for NOAA Fisheries, a cut of \$900 million. Yet our nation's fisheries support 1.7 million jobs and over \$117 billion in value added impact to providing food and recreation.

I support full funding for NOAA Fisheries and ask that anglers alert their US Representative to reject the funding cuts in the House Bill.

I urge you to email or call your US Congressperson and ask them to request full funding for NOAA so it can continue its important fisheries related work.

To find out your Congressperson's name, contact information and how to send them an email visit [Find Your Representative | house.gov](https://www.house.gov).

Please Help RISAA Honor Steve Medeiros at Black Point

RISAA leadership has been working with RIDEM and the Rhode Island Legislature to create a lasting memory of Steve Medeiros, RISAA Founder and leader for decades. We soon will be honoring Steve with the dedication of the Stephen J. Medeiros Fishing Area at Black Point. The dedication is planned for October 2023 with a tentative date of October 21. As RISAA members you are all invited to attend and honor Steve and his legacy. Watch your email for a final announcement from Scott within the next 2 weeks.

Steve Medeiros was certainly one of a kind. He had an unmatched vision for how recreational saltwater anglers could band together and make a positive change. Much more than having a vision, Steve made this vision a reality by founding the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) and growing RISAA into "The Voice of Southern New England Fishermen".

Steve did so much including establishing the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation, Take a Kid Fishing Day, Kids Fishing Camp, the New England Saltwater Fishing Show, the RISAA Magazine, and many more activities which now continue to serve saltwater fishers. To honor Steve and all that he did for us, RISAA and the RI Department of Environmental Management will oversee this dedication and ongoing improvements to the area.

We have selected the beautiful fishing area at Black Point as the location for this Memorial. The RI House and Senate approved renaming of the area. Some things that have either been started

already or are in discussion include:

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

As you can imagine, some of these ideas will take considerable money and time to complete, so we invite you to make a tax deductible contribution to the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation in Steve's honor. We can imagine an area where all RISAA members feel ownership and where we all feel at home.

I ask that if you are interested in helping please get in touch with Rich Hittinger at hittinger@risaa.org and let us know how you can help. If you are interested in helping with a tax-deductible donation to the RISAA Foundation please either contact Scott Travers at travers@risaa.org.

STEPHEN J. MEDEIROS FISHING AREA AT BLACK POINT



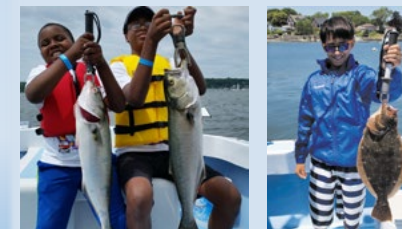
An outspoken advocate for recreational fishing in the Ocean State, Stephen J. Medeiros was an original founder of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association. Through RISAA, his leadership brought our recreational fishing community together as an influential voice. With his unprecedented dedication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

His legacy includes the creation of quality fishing opportunities for current and future generations including the Rocky Point Youth Fishing Camp, Take-A-Kid Fishing Days and the Rhode Island Saltwater Fishing Show.

Steve's approach was always the same: straightforward, well informed, kind, and respectful, which made him effective, widely admired, and certainly influential. One of his deepest passions was protecting and increasing public access to the sea so it is fitting to be memorialized at one of the state's premiere fishing access sites at Black Point, Narragansett.

Take-A-Kid Fishing Day

The annual "Take-A-Kid Fishing Day" is a chance for children to learn about Narragansett Bay and its environment, experience the thrills of catching fish, enjoy riding on a boat in saltwater and having an important opportunity to begin building a lifetime of fishing memories.



Youth Fishing Camp



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



Seven Tips for Safe Late-Season Kayak Fishing

By: Todd Corayer

Successful and safe late season fishing starts with preparation. Weather will be fickle, and plans can change in a heartbeat, especially if you fish from a kayak. As waters chill, flipping is a reality anglers need to prepare for to handle confusion calmly. Fishing from a small boat or kayak in fall and winter months can be totally safe with some planning so to help keep everyone prepared, here's seven tips to enjoy a long, late season of fishing.

1. PADDLE CHORD: Secure your paddle to your PFD. There are options for factory made rigs with snaps and buckles or you can be thrifty and rig up a bungee chord. Either way, if you experience an unplanned exit that paddle might be a lifesaver. You can wave it to attract attention, rest on it as floatation and use it to grab something, like your semi-submerged boat which might be leaving with a tide. If you have it tethered to the kayak, then it's of no use.



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

2. LIGHTS: If you plan to fish well into the cold months, you will have less daylight and if something should go sideways, you'll need to be seen. I'm a big fan of APALS, (All Purpose Adhesive Light Strips) made by Massachusetts' Brite-Strike Technologies. APALS are waterproof, crushproof, affordable, reliable, have 200 hours of runtime and are easily applied with adhesive backing. Their innovative light system allows you to be seen up to a mile away. Use them on your vest, stick a few on your boat and keep an extra few in a pocket.

3. "IF FOUND" STICKER: These orange stickers should be adhered to any small boat. If you become separated from your kayak, the sticker will let someone know your name and way to contact you. They are free from local Coast Guard flotillas.

4. VHF: I keep a portable Standard Horizon HX210 attached to my PFD. It can be a bit cumbersome as it hangs from my vest but for those late nights chasing bass around Narragansett, I like knowing channel 16 is a click away and when wet, it automatically turns on a white light. When I'm in fresh water or close to a beach and don't anticipate requiring a helicopter response, the FM radio lets me listen to the Red Sox while I fish. Perfect.

5. VELCRO: You do not want winter water in pants or boots; it adds cold weight and inhibits your ability to get back in the boat or swim to safety. A shot of Velcro around your pant leg might save your life because hypothermia is no joke. According to the University of Minnesota, Duluth, someone falling into freezing cold water, "will lose the ability to make coordinated hand and finger movements in less than 2 minutes. They will be exhausted and unconscious in less than 15 minutes and will drown if they are not pulled out quickly or if they are not wearing flotation gear." So if you're planning to chase white perch in the heart of winter, be prepared to stay dry.

6. LEASH: An avid and very successful kayak fisherman friend of mine went overboard this summer. He was trying to help another angler who had rolled in some near-shore surf and then was pitched himself. He survived just fine in warm waters but lost a lot of rods, reels, and gear. After dropping a favorite rod a few years back, I attached bungees to everything on my Eddyline kayak, except for the rod I'm using. It takes a few extra moments to unclip and clip, which can be a bear in cold air, but if something goes wrong, at least the gear will stay with your boat. And the routine of carefully exchanging rods or swapping tackle boxes should erase the urge to lurch or twist quickly for something, which might put you in peril. Rolling over happens in an instant.

7. TALKING LOG BOOK BLUES: Tell someone where you will be fishing, especially if you're going it alone. No partner wants the exchange, "Where you going fishing? In the ocean..." Tell someone so they can tell someone else if they have to. And keep a log book. Good notes from late season fishing will save you time in the following years as we chase fish later and later. A little extra knowledge just might save your life. 🐟

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- 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

RE: Resignation as Recreational Fishing Representative on FAB

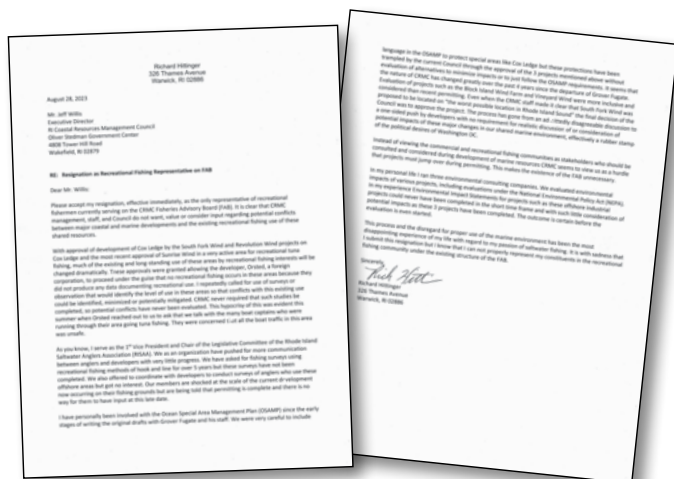
Dear Mr. Willis:

Please accept my resignation, effective immediately, as the only representative of recreational fishermen currently serving on the CRMC Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB). It is clear that CRMC management, staff, and Council do not want, value or consider input regarding potential conflicts between major coastal and marine developments and the existing recreational fishing use of these shared resources.

With approval of development of Cox Ledge by the South Fork Wind and Revolution Wind projects on Cox Ledge and the most recent approval of Sunrise Wind in a very active area for recreational tuna fishing, much of the existing and long-standing use of these areas by recreational fishing interests will be changed dramatically. These approvals were granted allowing the developer, Orsted, a foreign corporation, to proceed under the guise that no recreational fishing occurs in these areas because they did not produce any data documenting recreational use. I repeatedly called for use of surveys or observation that would identify the level of use in these areas so that conflicts with this existing use could be identified, minimized or potentially mitigated. CRMC never required that such studies be completed, so potential conflicts have never been evaluated. This hypocrisy of this was evident this summer when Orsted reached out to us to ask that we talk with the many boat captains who were running through their area going tuna fishing. They were concerned that all the boat traffic in this area was unsafe.

As you know, I serve as the 1st Vice President and Chair of the Legislative Committee of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA). We as an organization have pushed for more communication between anglers and developers with very little progress. We have asked for fishing surveys using recreational fishing methods of hook and line for over 5 years but these surveys have not been completed. We also offered to coordinate with developers to conduct surveys of anglers who use these offshore areas but got no interest. Our members are shocked at the scale of the current development now occurring on their fishing grounds but are being told that permitting is complete and there is no way for them to have input at this late date.

I have personally been involved with the Ocean Special Area Management Plan (OSAMP) since the early stages of writing the original drafts with Grover Fugate and his staff. We were very careful to include language in the OSAMP to protect special areas like Cox Ledge but these protections have been trampled by the current Council through the approval of the 3 projects mentioned above without evaluation of alternatives to minimize impacts or to just follow the OSAMP requirements. It seems that the nature of CRMC has changed greatly over the past 4 years since the departure of Grover Fugate. Evaluation of projects such as the Block Island Wind Farm and Vineyard Wind were more inclusive and considered



Actual letter exactly as I submitted it to CRMC

than recent permitting. Even when the CRMC staff made it clear that South Fork Wind was proposed to be located on "the worst possible location in Rhode Island Sound" the final decision of the Council was to approve the project. The process has gone from an admittedly disagreeable discussion to a one-sided push by developers with no requirement for realistic discussion of or consideration of potential impacts of these major changes in our shared marine environment, effectively a rubber stamp of the political desires of Washington DC.

Instead of viewing the commercial and recreational fishing communities as stakeholders who should be consulted and considered during development of marine resources CRMC seems to view us as a hurdle that projects must jump over during permitting. This makes the existence of the FAB unnecessary.

In my personal life I ran three environmental consulting companies. We evaluated environmental impacts of various projects, including evaluations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In my experience Environmental Impact Statements for projects such as these offshore industrial projects could never have been completed in the short time frame and with such little consideration of potential impacts as these 3 projects have been completed. The outcome is certain before the evaluation is even started.

This process and the disregard for proper use of the marine environment has been the most disappointing experience of my life with regard to my passion of saltwater fishing. It is with sadness that I submit this resignation but I know that I can not properly represent my constituents in the recreational fishing community under the existing structure of the FAB.

Sincerely,

Richard Hittinger
326 Thames Avenue
Warwick, RI 02886

What is SNESA?

RISAA sponsors a free email forum where you can share recent fishing news - Southern New England Saltwater Anglers (SNESA). You can join by simply sending a blank email to: SNESA+subscribe@groups.io

This email group has some very active anglers who help keep others in the group apprised of what they are catching, where they are catching and what techniques they are using. It is already October, but there is still plenty of great Fall fishing ahead of us, so take advantage of this service provided by RISAA. If you are not on the group and you would like some fishing information get on it now. One thing that we ask is that you PLEASE help make the group a success by sharing information with others. The more we share, the more useful the group is to everyone!

Recent conversations on SNESA have included a discussion of how the tuna bite in the Tuna Ridge area southeast of Block Island has advanced from initially a trolling bite to a jigging bite and now is more of a chunking bite. I expect there will be more discussion soon about what water depth is working best for tautog and where can we still get some bigger black sea bass. It seems that this time of year, just as the fluke move offshore, the bigger sea bass also move a bit deeper. How long will the albies stay here and where are they this week?

Finally, don't worry about discussions regarding offshore wind anymore because there is a new email group for discussion of fishing and offshore wind issues created to keep those non-fishing discussions off SNESA. A few of you may have dropped off SNESA because of the wind discussions. You can now join SNESA again and hopefully not be bothered by non-fishing discussions. If you would like to join the New England Windfarm and Fishing NEWS group just send a blank email to: NEWNEWS+subscribe@groups.io This new group is not being sponsored by RISAA, but we hope it successfully removes some non-fishing discussions from SNESA.

From our most recent member survey, members told us that the number one reason that they joined RISAA was to become more successful anglers. Part of that is getting information about where, when and how to fish. SNESA addresses that desire for many members.—ed.

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

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

ALL OUTINGS SUBJECT TO
COVID GUIDELINES AND WEATHER

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



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WESTPORT POINT MIXED BAG CHARTER

By Johnny Meserve

August 7th dawned cloudy and cool as Roger Cichri, Phil Duckett, Randy Jamison, and myself, Johnny Meserve, met up at the public boat launch in Westport, Mass. for a day of groundfishing with Capt. Jim Turner, the owner of **Westport Point Fishing Charters**. The paved ramp allows dual launching, and a pay box for the paperwork and the \$5.00 daily fee is a real deal. The immediate lot is for truck/trailer parking, but an overflow lot 100 yards away for the same \$5.00 fee allows daily truck and car parking if not launching a boat.

Captain Jim arrived shortly, piloting his 28-foot Cape Horn Center Console from the East Branch of the Westport River, then a quick loading and introductions with Jim and his two mates for the day. Captain Jim has lived and fished the Buzzards Bay fishing grounds for over 50 years, and he outlined his plan for a run to Brown's Ledge for a shot at a variety of groundfish. It's about 11 miles to the ledge, but his goal was to drift some humps he knew about 15 miles out. The twin 225 Mercury Optimax engines got us there quickly, and only 1 other boat was in sight as we set up for the 1st drift in 100- 120 feet of water.



We all set up with our own rods and reels. He provides all gear, bait, and terminal tackle for his charters, but we had chosen to bring our own conventional and spinning combo's. Phil scored the first fish over the rails, and all of us soon followed suit. Over the next few hours we threw a whole mix of baits, including hi/low bait rigs, flutter spoons, and epoxy jigs. Baits included a mix of squid, mackerel, whiting, and Gulp. Over the long drifts we caught 12 different species, highlighted by keeper cod, tautog, and seabass. It was surprising how much whiting we caught, but we were really pumped with the "brown bombers" and the summer 'tog!!

The weather front from the west started to look ominous, and we wanted to beat the heavier winds and rain that were expected. We flew back towards the dock, and Captain Jim talked about the outstanding spring seabass fishery, and the nearshore fall tautog fishing on the rocks and reefs. He remarked that once he motors past the point in the spring and fall, you can be fishing within 10 minutes. He told us that they also chase the stripers and blues during the summer, so any type of trip is available from May through the fall.

We said our goodbyes at the dock before the weather front got us. Captain Jim and his help really put us on all kinds of fish, and anyone looking for some spring Buzzard's Bay biscuits, summer mixed bag, or fall 'tog can't go wrong with Westport Point's Graceful Drifter 28-foot center console!!

UPCOMING SEMINAR

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



OCTOBER 30 @7PM KAYAK LIGHT TACKLE FISHING

with *Dustin Stevens*

Dustin is an experienced saltwater fishing guide specializing in light tackle fishing from kayaks. He is the owner of Rhode Island Kayak Adventures and is on the water whenever the weather permits. His stories have been featured in The Fisherman magazine and On The Water and his seminar at the 2023 New England Saltwater Fishing Show™ drew a standing-room crowd.

In this seminar Dustin will cover everything from safety and equipment to techniques for catching fish on light tackle. He will share tips for both topwater fishing—blues, stripers and albies, as well as for the common bottom species—fluke, black sea bass and tautog. Many of his tips are relevant to boat and shore anglers also so you don't have to be a dedicated kayak angler to benefit from this seminar.



SPECIAL NOTICE!

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

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'THE SHARK JUMPED CLEAR OUT OF THE WATER'

By: Captain Dave Monti

"When the shark surfaced its tail slapped the water into a froth a few times," said Greg Vespe, former RI Saltwater Anglers Association executive director, who is in awe of thresher sharks.

This is the second thresher he caught this year on his 19 foot center console he custom built. Vespe of Tiverton caught a couple of threshers last year too, one was 325 pounds and eleven feet, four inches long.

"These fish are majestic. Just so beautiful. They do not normally come up to your boat like other sharks do when fishing. So, to see them up close you have to catch one. And each one is different. The fish we caught this week was down deep and it stayed down for the first 15 minutes. Then it leaped into the air clear out of the water," said Vespe.

All of the thresher sharks caught by Vespe came from the same general location. Southeast of Newport and the mouth of the Sakonnet River in sight of land.



Greg Vespe of Tiverton, brings a thresher shark to the boat, caught with a bluefish fillet.



Dave Dube, Greg Vespe, Phil Duckett Jr. and Todd Corayer caught this 11' 4" thresher shark when fishing southeast of Newport last summer.

"We caught and successfully released this fish due to the good work of the crew. My father Ric Vespe was at the helm, my son Shawn Hayes Costello and cousin Stephano Leoni here visiting from Italy were on the reel. They did a great job," said Vespe.

Angling for any fish can be dangerous, particularly sharks. Anglers should be fully trained on how to catch, handle and release these fish once they get to the boat. Recreational fishermen must have an Atlantic HMS permit to harvest Atlantic common thresher



Greg Vespe at the stern with his father Ric Vespe at the helm, as cousin Stephano Leoni reels in a thresher shark. Greg's son Shawn Hayes Costello was also part of the crew.



Shawn Hayes Costello reels in a thresher shark on his father's (Greg Vespe) boat southeast of the Sakonnet River.

sharks in federal waters. To receive a shark endorsement on that permit anglers must watch a shark identification video and pass a brief online test.

Vespe said, "What you must be careful of is getting bitten, after all it is a shark. But what you really must watch is the thresher's tail (they are also known as Whiptail sharks). They use their tail as a weapon to stun prey. When the shark we caught came to the boat it whacked the engine housing with its tail, if that tail swung higher it could have cleared anyone on the stern right off the boat."

Vespe has a couple of thresher fishing tips. "First, I prefer smaller one to two pound baits. Butterflied mackerel and jumbo squid work well. And I tend to chum less than most. I don't think chum brings in threshers like most sharks, they just have to kind of find your bait."

And, according to Vespe, "Threshers are delicious and taste very much like swordfish. Needless to say, my family eats well when we catch and decide to keep a thresher."

Many sharks in our area are not legal to catch as they are overfished with overfishing occurring. This is not the case with thresher sharks. According to NOAA, "U.S. wild-caught Atlantic common thresher shark is a smart seafood choice because it is sustainably managed and responsibly harvested under U.S. regulations."

Congratulations Greg and crew, and thanks for the great fish story.

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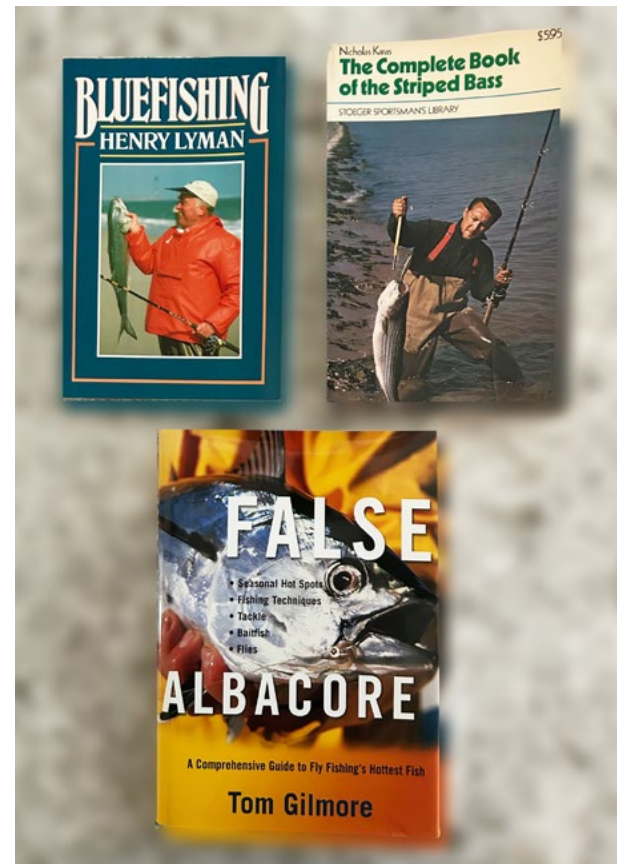
THE NAME GAME

By: Captain Ken Cooper

“Shirley, Shirley, Bo Birley, Banana Fana Fo Firley . . .,” the old Shirley Ellis rock song titled “The Name Game” is what came to mind when I was writing my recent article about Atlantic Menhaden because that wonderful baitfish is also known as Bunker, Mossbunker and Pogie (or Pogy). Many common names for just one fish. Then I thought about some of the other fish I have persued that were called by different names depending on where I was geographically. For example, in Maryland and Virginia, our beloved Striped Bass is called Rockfish or Rock; and in those same two states as well as Delaware, what we call Tautog the locals call Blackfish.

Shakespeare wrote that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, and I suppose that, similarly prepared, a Blackfish filet would taste as sweet as a Tautog filet. So why does a fish have more than one common name? The answer is somewhat complex, but a good starting point for my research was the online NOAA Species Directory, www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species. Go to the site and select “Fish and Sharks” as the Category, and then select “New England-Mid-Atlantic” as the Region, and you will find a lengthy series of inshore and offshore fish listed alphabetically by what I suppose are their proper or official names. Click on a name and the site will provide a page with a picture of the fish, its scientific classification (genus and species, in Latin), and common names. The page will include a brief description (“About the Species”), as well as detailed information about the fish's appearance, biology, range, habitat and other data. Unfortunately, the site does not tell you where any of the common names originated nor where, geographically, they are used.

I started to dig deeper and found there are some NOAA Technical Memoranda, including for example, NMFS-NE-118 dealing with Tautog, that states that the name comes from “Narragansett



Indians.” That paper also says that Tautog are called “White Chin” in Canada.

I considered searching for similar Technical Memoranda regarding other local species, typed “Little Tunny” into the search area, and got overwhelmed with hundreds of references—way too much information for me to sift through for this article. So, I'll just focus on the common names of the fish we target as set out in the NOAA Species Directory and add what I know about other common names and where they are used.

Atlantic Cod: Also known as (Aka) Cod, Codling, Scrod cod, Markets, Streakers.

Atlantic Mackerel: Aka Mackerel, Common mackerel, Boston mackerel, Cabella.

(Continued on page 18)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Mike Warner A Special RISAA Volunteer

Mike was born in Germany as his father was stationed there in the military at the time and his family moved to Warwick when he was four. His fishing career started early, with his father taking him fishing in the local ponds as well as the old fishing pier at Rocky Point and off the rocks at Fort Wetherill. When he was old enough to be on his own, he'd ride his bike to the local ponds to go fishing. Mike got excited about saltwater fishing later when his uncle took him to catch bluefish on his boat out of Cranston.

After high school Mike joined the army where he served for six years. Following that, he served in the Air National Guard for twenty-four years until injuries forced him to retire. He bought his first boat in 1989 and has been busy since.

As a boater and angler, Mike had been very concerned about the safety hazards posed by fish traps, especially as some were not well marked. He happened to be in a South County tackle shop when he noticed the RISAA newsletter promoting a meeting to discuss the fish trap issue. Mike attended the meeting where he won a Penn rod/reel combo and learned more about RISAA and the club's involvement in regulatory issues. He joined the club and became active in the Legislative Committee, especially with the fish trap and menhaden issues which were contentious at the time.

In addition to his Legislative Committee activities, Mike has served on the Board of Directors, Scholarship Committee, and as Chair of both the Fishing Show Committee and the RISAA Foundation. His main passion is for activities for youth and he has participated in Take a Kid Fishing, Fishing Camp and many other youth-oriented programs. Mike spearheaded the kid's casting area and game at the Fishing Show which is always a crowd favorite and raises funds for the RISAA Foundation. Mike has always enjoyed having his daughter and son involved in outdoor and club activities and you can hear the passion in his voice when he talks about those experiences.

Mike has a boat in Westerly and enjoys fishing in western RI and eastern CT. He fishes around Watch Hill with the occasional trip to



Montauk or The Race. He generally enjoys bottom fishing for fluke but has recently become addicted to chasing albies as have many of us.

Thanks Mike, for your service to our Country and 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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RISAA KAYAK COMMITTEE SUMMARY 2023 OUTINGS

Date	Time	Location	Address	Target	Leader
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

Atlantic Mahi Mahi: Aka Mahimahi, Dolphinfish, Dolphin, Dorado.

Mahi Mahi is the Hawaiian name. Dolphin is the common name in Florida, and it was customary to explain to newcomers that it was a fish and “not Flipper,” the dolphin that starred in a popular TV series. In Spanish speaking locales, the fish is almost always called Dorado.

Atlantic Pollack: Aka Suithe, Coalfish, Coley, Green Cod and Boston Bluefish.

Atlantic Skipjack Tuna: Aka Tuna, Ocean bonito, Lessertuna, Aku

Atlantic Spiny Dogfish: Aka Dogfish shark, Cape dogfish, Cape shark, Spring dogfish, Spiked dogfish, Gray fish, Spur dog, Piked dogfish.

Atlantic Striped Bass: Aka Bass, Rockfish, Striper, Linesider.

In his 1974 classic treatise, *The Complete Book of the Striped Bass*, author Nicholas Karas included a section labeled “Classification” in which he wrote that Striped Bass are called Rock or Rockfish south of New Jersey, but that they are again called Striped Bass in the Carolinas. He noted that “Indians of New England” called the fish “missuckeke.” (My copy of the 2016 paperback revised edition does not have a “Classification” section.)

Black Sea Bass: Aka Sea Bass, Blackfish, Rock Bass, Black Bass and Tallywag.

Bluefish: Aka Tailor, Snapper, Baby Blues, Choppers, Elf.

In his 1987 book, *Bluefishing*, author Henry Lyman wrote that snappers are “young bluefish weighing less than a pound,” and that bluefish “between a pound and two pounds in many areas are called tailors, or tailor blues.” Lyman also notes that bluefish are uniformly called tailors in Australia, while Elf is the common name

in Argentina. He stated that “Hatteras Blues” is the local name for fish exceeding five pounds, that snappers are called skipjack in Rhode Island, and that “Summer Blues” is the moniker for two to three pound fish off the coast of Maryland and Virginia. From personal experience, there's often a brief blitz of small bluefish around sunset in June along the Menemsha shoreline of Martha's Vineyard, the so-called “Menemsha Blues.” Lyman mentioned Racers (long and lean bluefish of the early spring run), Jumbos and Slammers, but did not assign any specific weight differences to those fish. On Sheepshead Bay, New York, party boats, Slammer Blues were ten pounds and Alligator Blues (‘Gators) were those over fifteen pounds.

Haddock: Aka Scrod.

There is no listing for **Little Tunny**, perhaps because this fish has little or no food value and is not marketed. We know this fish by its more popular name, false albacore. As author Tom Gillmore observed in his 2002 book, *False Albacore*, the fish are often referred to as albies or Fat Alberts. In Florida, he writes, they are “misleadingly” called Bonito.

North Atlantic Albacore Tuna: Aka Northern albacore, Longfin tuna, Germon.

Scup: Aka Porgy, Maiden, Fair maiden, Ironsider, Northern porgy.

Summer Flounder: Aka Flounder, Fluke, Northern flounder, Hirame.

Fluke are flounder from Virginia on down the coast.

This has been but a brief survey. No doubt you could play the Name Game and add to the list of names for our local fishes. 🐟

2023 RISAA FLY FISHING COMMITTEE OUTING SCHEDULE

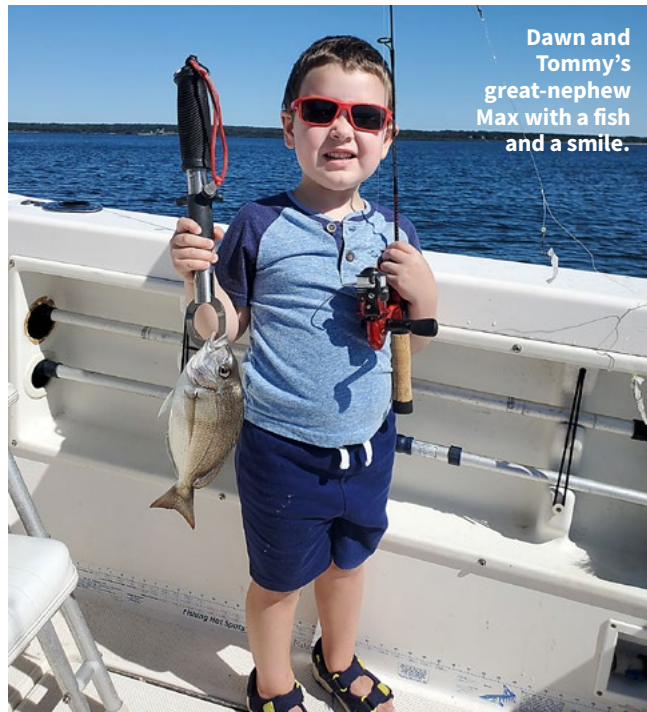
(High tide times in parentheses)

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



Dawn and Tommy's great-nephew Max with a fish and a smile.

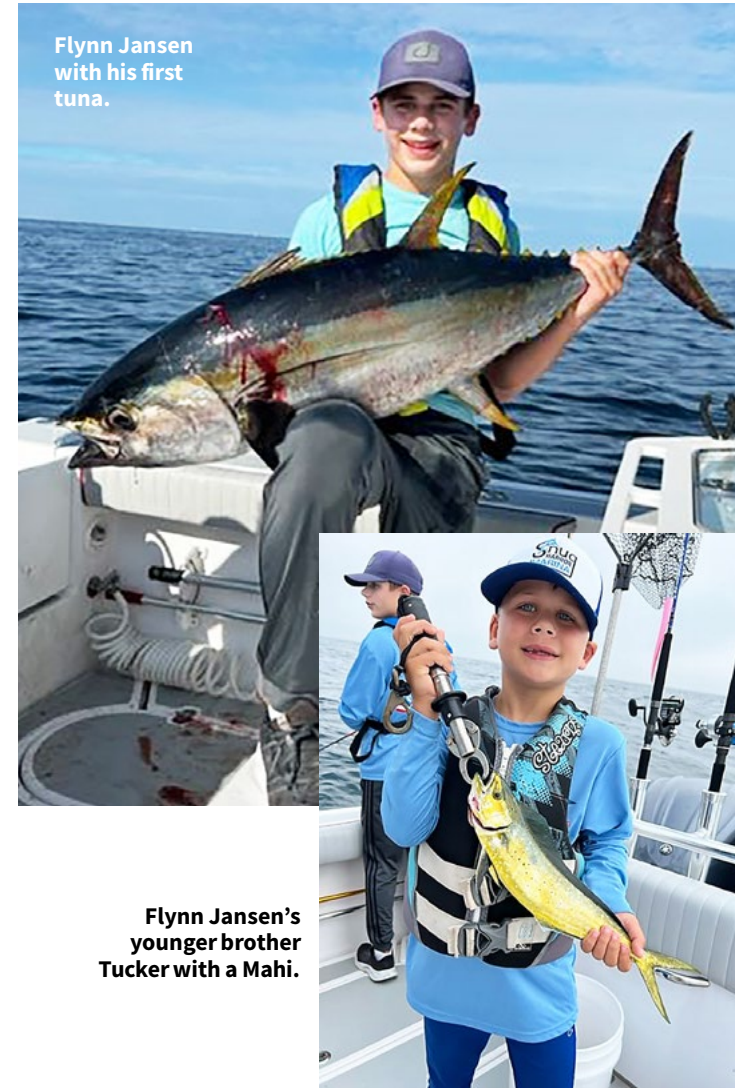
NEXT GENERATION

First Tuna

By: Rick Black

On Thursday, August 24, 2023 we started fishing the west end of Tuna Ridge at first light, which is southeast of Block Island. We were aboard our NorthCoast 285HT. The fleet of boats in pursuit of tuna easily exceeded fifty and was probably closer to one hundred. We moved along the ridge to the east marking fish, but did not get any hits. Despite being surrounded by many whales and a few dolphins, we did not see anyone land any fish. The majority of the fleet were jigging with about 25% trolling. Seas were calm and the wind was about five knots. We decided to break away from the crowd and move over to the Suffolk and continue jigging, along with dead sticking a fourth rod with a 12”, pink Ronz fluttering ten feet off the bottom. We were marking a few fish, lamenting the fact that we had not even gotten a hit, and contemplating switching to trolling when our grandson grabbed the bent dead stick out of the rod holder and began the fight of his life for the next 40 minutes. The fish gave our grandson deep runs, surface runs, and large circles around the boat that eventually became smaller as Flynn was able to regain line as both fish and angler tired. I was finally able to gaff the Yellowfin, which was 46” long and weighed in at 52.76 pounds, which was entered into the year-long RISAA Tournament.

Flynn Jansen (13) is our oldest grandson and a RISAA Junior member. This was his first tuna and by far the largest fish he has caught. He was accompanied by his grandfather and father, RISAA members as well; both of whom had no luck fishing on this trip. 🐟



Flynn Jansen with his first tuna.

Flynn Jansen's younger brother Tucker with a Mahi.



Ken Cooper's grandchildren Rayna and Noah (ABOVE) with some fine fish caught near Watch Hill.



Member David Miele's great niece and great nephew with fish they caught on his boat DAMJAM in early August.

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. 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. 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.
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. Michael Tilelli..... 6.42 lbs.
2. Ronald Lynch 4.92 lbs.
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. Thomas Houde 12.43 lbs.
2. Kraig Ruth 9.41 lbs.
3. No Entry



BONITO

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Ronald Lynch 3.66 lbs.
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. Michael Tilelli..... 6.18 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



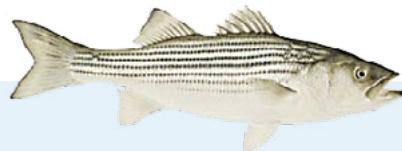
HADDOCK

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



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. Capt. TJ Harris..... 10.17 lbs.
2. William Doyle..... 8.84 lbs.
3. Bill Hubert..... 8.58 lbs.

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Jack Harris 4.29 lbs.
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. Capt. TJ Harris..... 2.31 lbs.
2. Bill Hubert..... 2.10 lbs.
3. Ronald Lynch 1.88 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.
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 1.54 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



COD

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Robert Jachym 4.16 lbs.
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. No Entry



GRAY TRIGGERFISH

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT 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. No Entry
3. No Entry

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

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www.risaa.org/tournament-entry

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

INSHORE RECREATIONAL ANGLER SHARK TAGGING

By: Steve Skenyon

This article provides an overview of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) shark tagging program and the approach to effectively tag sharks for scientific research. Recreational sport fishing for sharks has lost a lot of appeal due to the restrictions on harvesting species that are considered excellent food sources. Specifically, it has been over a year since regulations restrict keeping Shortfin Mako sharks and the less flavorful Thresher shark is limited to one per boat with a minimum fork length of 54 inches. Even with the high likelihood of not coming home with anything for the dinner table, I still enjoy the excitement of hooking and reeling in these powerful and interesting animals. Joining the NMFS Cooperative Shark Tagging Program has added an additional purpose to my shark fishing adventures.

The NMFS Cooperative Shark Tagging Program (CSTP) is a collaborative effort between recreational anglers, commercial fishermen and the NMFS to study the life history of Atlantic sharks. The CSTP started in 1962 with an initial group of less than 100 participants and has grown to include over a thousand volunteers along the Atlantic and Gulf coast with some participants located in Europe. CSTP participants have tagged more than 295,000 sharks representing 52 species and more than 17,500 sharks have been recaptured providing data from 33 species. The overall objectives of the CSTP are to provide scientists with relevant information about shark distribution, migration patterns, population abundance, age and growth rates, and mortality.



RISAA Treasurer and Outer Limit Captain on Chum Bucket duty. Note chum bucket design.



Tagged Mako at boatside ready for hook removal.

To participate as a CSTP volunteer, a tagging kit needs to be obtained, which can be requested by emailing tagging@noaa.gov or by calling (800) 437-3936. Each tagging kit includes detailed instructions on shark tagging best practices, shark handling procedures and tagging equipment guidance. The kit also includes five M type shark tags with the reporting postcard and a stainless-steel tagging needle to mount on your tagging stick. CSTP volunteers agree to use a tag stick to effectively insert a CSTP provided tag into a hooked shark adjacent to the dorsal fin and mail in the corresponding tag postcard completed with relevant information about the tagged shark. The postcard fields include Tagged Location, Species, Size, Sex, and Condition, along with angler information. The tag includes a small capsule with the word OPEN in five different languages (English, Spanish, French, Norwegian, and Japanese). The capsule can be opened with a flat head screwdriver and includes capture reporting instructions inside. If a tagged shark is caught and the reporting information is sent in, the CSTP Volunteer will receive the coveted CSTP hat with a T on the front.



M tag mounted on a tagging stick and CSTP reporting postcard.

In order to participate in the CSTP and legally fish for sharks, a Highly Migratory Species (HMS) federal vessel permit with a shark fishing endorsement is required. Access the following link to apply for this HMS federal vessel permit: <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov>. The HMS permit which is assigned to the boat and not the angler, lasts for one year and requires an annual \$26 fee. The HMS shark endorsement requires watching a brief video covering shark identification and regulations, as well as, passing a five-question test. The test sometimes asks questions that are not covered in

the video so reviewing/having on hand the documentation provided with your CSTP tags or other shark fishing regulatory information is a good idea before taking the test.

The Rhode Island inshore shark fishing season starts during July and continues through late September. For this article, I am defining inshore as 10 to 35 miles off the Rhode Island coast. The typical shark species encountered include Blue, Mako, Thresher, Dusky, Hammerhead and the recent arrival of the Brown Sandbar. The CSTP shark tagging kit provides a well-organized color chart depicting these sharks and the way to correctly identify them.



RISAA Director, Scott Travers, on the Outer Limit fights a large Brown Sandbar shark while new RISAA Member, Paul Tomberl, looks for color. Note the fighting belt set up.

Ideal conditions for inshore shark tagging from a 20 - 25 foot recreational boat are flat to two-foot seas, clear water and temperatures between 65F° and 70F° degrees. Sharks tend to follow drop offs, depth changing contours and they also hang around wrecks. The Rhode Island inshore locations and wrecks that have a high likelihood to be productive for shark tagging are:

- Coxes Ledge** (N 41° 05.307 W71° 10.269);
- North End of the Mud Hole** (N 41° 08.300 W71° 17.500);
- Gully** (N 41° 02.700 W71° 22.950);
- Sharks Ledge** (N 41° 04.000 W71° 28.385);
- Acid Barge** (N 41° 02.498 W71° 29.669); and
- USS Bass** (N 41° 01.440 W71° 32.950).

Rhode Island's near shore coastal fishing locations may hold Threshers since they have a tendency to follow schooling fish like bunker, squid and mackerel into shallower water.

After arriving at your selected location determine your drift to figure out which way your chum slick will be moving. If my drift is south, then I want to position my chum slick north of the desired target wreck or structure. To distribute my chum, I use a five-gallon bucket with 5/16" holes drilled in the sides and bottom that are about one to two inches apart. A line as a handle secures the bucket to the boat when dragging it to set up the slick. I purchase four gallons of ground bluefish, mackerel or bunker chum from Watch Hill Outfitters and let it thaw out overnight before using it. Dumping the four gallons of semi frozen chum in the bucket without a lot of it landing on the deck is an acquired skill. The bucket lid should be snapped on and secured with a two-foot bungee cord (bend the bungee cord hooks to fit in the holes on each side of bucket). Menhaden oil and blood can also be included in the bucket. Pierce a small plastic juice/soda bottle several times with a knife after filling with oil/blood and place it in the bucket to enhance the chum slick. I drag one chum bucket a little over a mile at 3 knots to establish a curtain of scent through the water column. Revving the engine(s) and briefly putting the boat in forward then reverse at the end of the slick provides an added audio attraction for sharks. Some sharks interpret this as the 'dinner bell' sound of a dragger slowing down to sort and discard by-catch. Lastly, I sometimes use a ChumBuddy device to use up bait scraps and enhance the chum slick. The ChumBuddy (www.pacifiedgetackle.com) is a PVC tube with holes that is filled with sliced fish/scraps, hangs from a stern cleat and a manual butter churner like plunger is used to effectively crush and distributes small snowflake like particles of fish into the chum slick.



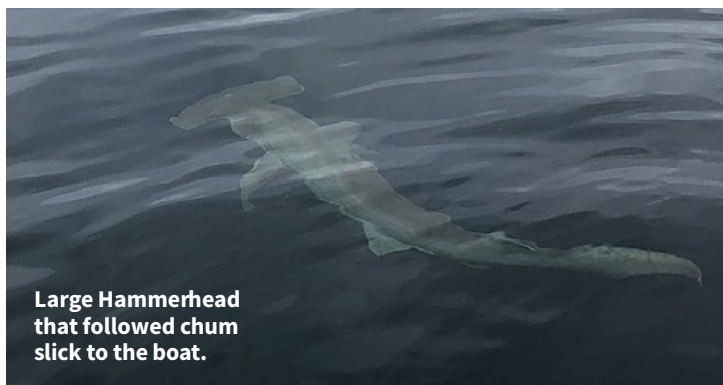
Dragging Chum bucket at 3 knots to establish slick

After establishing a one-mile chum slick it is time to set up the rods for fishing. I have found that having two rods fishing and one on the boat ready to pitch a fresh bait to a shark that may follow the slick right up to the boat is a good strategy. The fishing tack-



Great one two pictures of Charlie Donilon cutting the circle hook bend in half on this Sandbar shark.

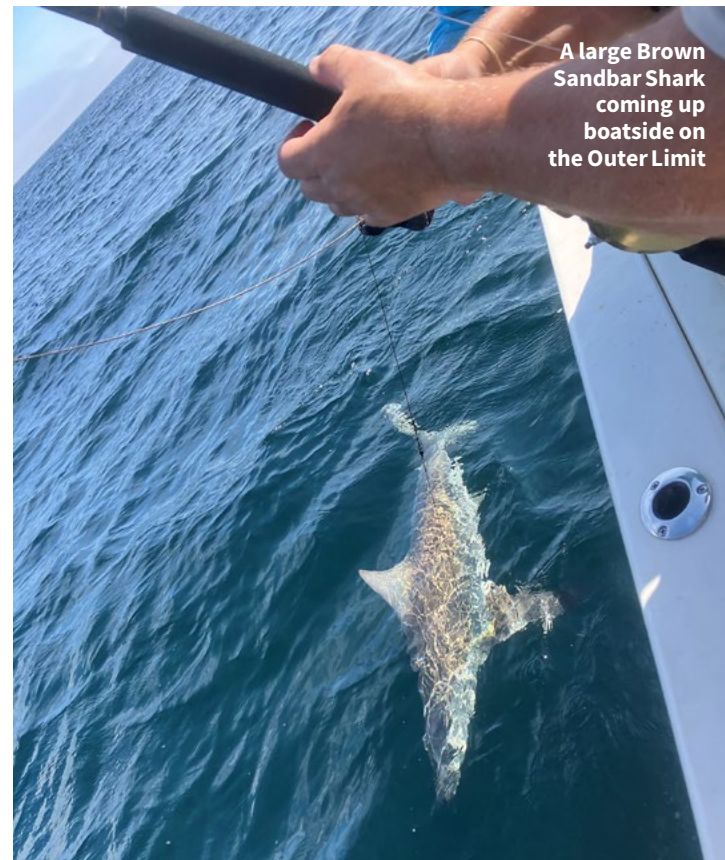
le is as follows: Penn 50 reels, Star Tuna Rods, 80lb smoke color mono, Styrofoam shark float (held on with several rubber bands and electrician tape to keep the bait at selected depth), shark rattle on the line above swivel and a heavy duty 400lb ball bearing snap swivel. The shark fishing rig is a barrel swivel haywire twisted to 8 feet of 19-gauge wire haywire twisted to a 20/0 Circle hook. Depending on the current, I attach a 6 – 8 oz sinker to the ball bearing swivel with a rubber band. I typically use a ten-inch slice of bluefish side as bait, but a whole/split mackerel or squid are also effective. Here is a tip that the old timers may not be aware of since they only needed to use J hooks (now illegal). The bait tends to slide down and bunch up on the circle hook covering the point. Use rigging wire or a tiny cable tie through the hook eye then through the bait to pull the bait up keeping the presentation straight and hook point exposed. One more tip, since sharks have an exceptional sense of smell, avoid getting sun protection, bug spray or tobacco scent on your baits.



Large Hammerhead that followed chum slick to the boat.

I position the two baits about 30 and 15 yards behind the boat in the chum slick at depths of 75 and 50 feet respectively. The reel clickers are flipped on, and the drags are set on strike so you can pull line off with a firm effort. While waiting for a grey suit to bump into and follow the chum scent curtain, I place the tag on the tag-

ging stick, assign the first angler, fit the fighting belt, assign the line handler and provide wire gloves and get organized with hook remover and bolt cutters to ensure they are readily available. If available, slicing up 1" pieces of bunker and including them in your slick along with a periodic splash of Menhaden oil is always a good idea while waiting for a bite.



A large Brown Sandbar Shark coming up boatside on the Outer Limit



Perfectly placed tag on a Brown Sandbar shark



RISAA Member, David Quaglieri, relaxes after tagging a Blue shark with a homemade tagging stick. (Note the shark rig set up in background.)

When a shark takes the bait, tighten the drag to set the circle hook and the fight is on. The strategy is to get a tired shark boatside and insert the tag with a quick in and out jabbing motion. Sharks always roll at boatside so make sure the insertion is accurate and adjacent to the dorsal fin. A lot is going on when a shark is boatside, so always look for claspers to identify male sharks, estimate length and assess overall condition to ensure tagging postcard is as correct as possible.

The final step of shark tagging is the hook removal. The pig tail hook removers work, but with large sharks I have found that bolt cutters work the best. Using the bolt cutters, cut the hook right at the bend and the shark is free. Now to re-rig and get ready for the next shark tagging.

Over the past six years I have refined my shark tagging effectiveness with on water experiences and guidance from four individuals that I consider experts. Specifically, the following individuals: Captain Bill Brown of Billfish Charters; Captain Charlie Donilon of SNAPPA Fishing Charters; Captain Joe Pagano of STUFF IT Charters and Mike Wade owner of Watch Hill Outfitters. A lot of their comments and suggestions are included in this article. Thanks Bill, Charlie, Joe and Mike!

Besides being an active participant in the shark tagging effort, Steve Skenyon serves as the Treasurer of RISAA as well as a member of the Board of Directors.

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

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

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

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Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation

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

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The Rhode Island's Saltwater Anglers Association's

Political Action Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!

To be effective, we must participate in the system.

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

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!



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

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to

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



COALITION PARTNERS

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



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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

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

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