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SALTWATER FISHING
SHOW™ EDITION



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RIVER STRIPERS**

PLUS: **STEPHEN J. MEDEIROS
FISHING AREA DEDICATION**

ISSUE: 296 • January / February 2024
www.RISAA.org • 401-826-2121

EVENTS & MEETINGS

January 29th
Monthly Seminar
Membership Rig Tying Event

February 17th
RISAA Annual Banquet
Quonset Officers Club
5 PM

February 26th
Monthly Seminar
Power of Positive Fishing with
author Michael Tougias

March 8, 9, & 10
20th Annual New England
Saltwater Fishing Show™

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IS WORTH

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The Official Newsletter of the
Rhode Island Saltwater
Anglers Association
Published Monthly

RISAA, PO BOX 1467, Coventry, RI 02816

FROM THE HELM



New Years

New Years is one of those pivotal opportunities to stop, reflect upon the past, and set the course for a brighter future. In starting our journey together in 2024 I would like to revisit the purpose of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers:

Article 2 of our By-Laws reads “The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association is a nonprofit organization, created to provide a forum for recreational saltwater anglers; to provide education to its members and the public concerning fishing techniques, improved catches, and overall enjoyment of fishing; to foster sportsmanship; to support marine conservation and sound management of fisheries resources; and provide a unified voice to preserve and protect the rights, traditions and the future of recreational fishing in Rhode Island.”

There’s a lot in that statement. I have said many times before the strength of RISAA isn’t the name, it’s the membership. In setting our goals for the new year, along with the personal and professional goals we all have, do you have a goal in mind that goes with any of the items mentioned in our by-laws? Might you assist with the youth fishing camp this year? Maybe you might consider joining the legislative committee and the debate on shore access or another issue? Perhaps you might make a donation to the Foundation which helps in so many ways. The new year is just beginning, so please consider making a positive step to help RISAA accomplish our goals in any way that you are able.

This year RISAA also has a lot planned for our membership. Personally, I am looking forward to the charter trips. Meeting and fishing with people, some I know already, some I will meet that day, and whether the fishing is good, bad, or somewhere in between I can always count on the fun we have on these trips.

The tournaments committee has added some new categories for the annual tournament this year. There will be a new catch and release category to include slot-limited fish with submissions based on nose to fork length. I am looking forward to participating and hopefully entering more and bigger fish than last year!

Our seminars this year will be more informative than ever with some great new presenters and return visits by some of our more popular presenters. Like you, I am always looking for new information, tips, and advice to help me become a better angler.

Let’s not forget the 2024 New England Saltwater Fishing Show we have coming up on March 8-10. The show is our big event every year. This will be our 20th annual show! We have a wide range of exhibitors coming to the show this year and we hope to have all our members attend to show support for RISAA and to check out the latest and greatest gear, apparel, and everything else saltwater angling related!

With all this to look forward to this is bound to be one of RISAA’s best years. I wish each and every member the best and brightest new year for 2024.

Scott TRAVERS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



RI SALTWATER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
Legislative Committee

REDUCED HARVESTS PROPOSED FOR SCUP AND FLUKE FOR 2024

As winter is here, so it is the time for RIDEM to formulate fishing regulations for our 2024 saltwater fishing season. RISAA has been actively discussing options with RIDEM for various species. As you may know, some of our most important species are managed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC). The MAFMC manages fluke, scup, black sea bass, bluefish and others, but since RI is not a Mid-Atlantic state, we do not have a seat on the MAFMC. The MAFMC has asked RI and other coastal states to reduce the harvest of scup by 10% and fluke by 28% in 2024. It is up to RI to propose 2024 regulations that will result in these required reductions. Thanks to the good relationship that RISAA has with RIDEM they have turned to RISAA for help in deciding what options may be most acceptable to recreational fishers here. By the way, it looks like black sea bass will not require a reduction in harvest for 2024.

These required reductions are estimated by plugging various options into something called the “Recreational Demand Model”. This model then estimates the % reduction in harvest by each of the changes made to regulations. This type of modeling is the only way to estimate recreational harvest in advance of the season. Unlike commercial fishing where pounds of harvest are measured at the time of landing, recreational harvest is only “known” after the fact when Catch and Effort is estimated by data collected through the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) and harvest is calculated.

By the time you read this the decision may be made, but right now here is what we know from model runs:

For scup, an increase of ½ inch across the board (generally 10.5” to 11”) will get nearly 10% reduction (around 9%). The rest will likely require a delay in the opening of scup from May 1 to some date later in May.

For fluke we will likely see an increase in minimum size by at least 1/2” but possibly by a full 1” from 18” to either 18.5” or 19”. RISAA would like to keep the minimum size below 19” because when we had a 19” minimum it was very difficult to find any keepers and too many fish were discarded.

In addition to a size increase we are likely to see a season reduction for fluke.

The most significant reductions come from increasing minimum size - going to 18.5” gives 18% reduction

I haven’t seen the computer results for a 19” minimum size, but I guess that might get us most of the way to 28%

Bag from 4 to 3 fish gives another 2% (total 20%)

Opening on May 15 gives another 2% (total 22%)

To get to 28% with a 18.5” minimum at bag limit of 3 we need to cut the season to June 3 to August 31.

Since this last season option eliminates Memorial Day and Labor Day I think this is unacceptable so we need to evaluate 19” minimum size more closely. Just prior to submitting this article I have the computer output for changing the minimum size to 19” – this would project a 35% decrease in harvest, which is more than necessary. With this result my last-minute guess is that RIDEM is likely to be forced to a 19” minimum size but will be able to keep the bag limit and season more liberal. On one hand this gives us a size fish that we are not likely to find, but on the other hand if you do find a pocket of larger fish you will have a longer season when you would be allowed to harvest a few fish for dinner.

My opinion on these reductions is that we need to reduce harvest on fluke and we should have been reducing harvest over the last few years when regulations were actually liberalized. The 28% reduction seems a bit steep, but if that is what the science tells us, then we need to implement it to protect the stock. It will be painful, but necessary. I have advocated for some change in management that would allow harvest of shorter fluke to avoid harvesting large female breeders exclusively. This idea is in the works, but the current system has no way to allow this change.

In the case of scup, I do not see why recreational fishing should be required to reduce harvest when the scup biomass is far above both threshold and target levels. It also seems unnecessary because the total allowable harvest is never exceeded for scup. This is because commercial harvest never reaches the available quota.

This must be decided and submitted to MAFMC as a proposal by January 17, so there is not even enough time to wait for the normal public hearing process in RI. We will continue to stay on top of this issue and keep our members posted on all developments.

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 February 22 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

MEMBER PHOTOS



Vladimir Paul-Blanc with a nice tog caught from shore.



Carol Mello with a mean-looking tog.



Jim Lundy with a schoolie in Nannaquaket Pond.

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!

- Ernest Almonte - Greenville, RI
- George Cooper - Troutman, NC
- John Betar - Stonington, CT
- Robert Self - Warwick, RI
- Chris Levenseller - North Attleboro, MA
- Paul Bilodeau - 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.

RISAA WELCOMES CROSSROADS ANGLERS AS LATEST AFFILIATE CLUB



Our newest affiliate club is Crossroads Anglers. Crossroads Anglers is a flyfishing club that meets every fourth Tuesday from September to May at 6:30 PM at the South Foxboro Community Center, Foxboro MA for fly tying and good fishing conversation.

The purpose of the club is to promote fly tying and fly fishing for fresh or saltwater gamefish. members share techniques and approaches to tying, selecting fly materials, gear selection along with where and how to apply this knowledge.

Several times a year the club has a guest presenter. Some notable presenters have included Lefty Kreh, Bob Clouser, Bob Popovics, Paul Jacobs, Dave Porreca, Ed Lombardo, Paul Pezza, Dr. David Ross and Ray Stachelek.

Welcome, Crossroads Anglers!

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COOKING YOUR CATCH

By: Paula Smalec

RHODE ISLAND STYLE CALAMARI

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Ingredients:

- 1 lb. calamari rings & tentacles
- ¾ cup flour
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- black pepper, to taste
- corn oil
- pickled hot cherry peppers, sliced
- pepperoncini rings, sliced
- 1 tbsp. pepperoncini juice
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped

Directions:

Coat a heavy skillet with about ¼ inch of corn oil and begin heating over medium-high heat.

Mix flour, garlic powder, and pepper in a plastic bag. Add calamari into the bag and shake to coat evenly. Remove coated calamari from bag and place in a mesh strainer, then shake off excess flour.

When oil is very hot, add half of the calamari to the oil. Cook until crisp and brown, approximately 60-90 seconds. Remove from oil and place on paper towels. Repeat with remaining calamari.

Sauté fresh chopped garlic in oil. Add all peppers and tablespoon pepperoncini juice and heat to lightly cook. Add calamari and toss to coat. Serve and enjoy! 🐙



Source: *The Town Dock Calamari Cookbook*,
3rd edition, Narragansett, RI

For more info on calamari and additional recipes, go to
<https://www.towndock.com/recipes>

You can even download their free cookbook.

Watch this recipe prepared:

<https://www.towndock.com/recipes/recipe-ri-at-home>

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Saturday: 9am-7pm

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Seminar Schedule & Updates: www.NESaltwaterShow.com

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GEAR UP AT THE 2024 FISHING SHOW



Let the New England Saltwater Fishing Show™, March 8 to March 10, help you gear-up for the fishing season. The Show, the largest saltwater fishing show of its type in the Northeast, features tackle, rods, reels, lures, electronics, charter guides, boats, motors, accessories, clothes and much more.

“From what we hear so far you won’t want to miss the show specials offered by exhibitors and the great ‘how to’ seminars being offered by some of our area’s top fishers.” said Scott Travers, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, Show sponsors.

“At two months out we expect over 400 brands and manufacturers represented at the show. However, we still have booths available so do not hesitate to give us a call.” said Travers. *“Our seminar committee has refocused on ‘How to’ seminars on strategies and tactics to target species we as anglers love to catch, eat or release... striped bass, summer flounder, tautog and a host of others. We have a focus on species that are in abundance in our area due to warming water. Seminars and gear on how to target black sea bass but new abundant species too like false albacore and bluefin tuna that are closer to shore than ever before with anglers who have not targeted them before starting to fish for them.”*

Seminar topics will include everything from offshore tactics to inshore tips and tricks for summer flounder. Accomplished charter captains, authors and local sharpies are all pitching in to cover topics of interest.

The New England Saltwater Fishing Show™, March 8-10 at the Rhode Island Convention Center, will feature about 300 booths and free seminars.

Visit RISAA’s Facebook page or the show website at <https://www.nesaltwatershow.com> for updates on seminar topics, vendors and details on speakers as the schedule gets fleshed out.

By taking a little time to plan your show visit you can make sure you are at the show for the presentations you want to see and visit the booths that have products you want to check out and buy

The New England Saltwater Fishing Show™ is being held at the Rhode Island Convention Center Friday, March 8, 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 9, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday, March 10, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

General admission is \$15 at the door. Children 11 and under admitted free and can visit the Kids Casting Area. Ladies admitted free on Sunday.

Friday is Military Appreciation Day. In conjunction with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the first 250 Veterans and Active Duty personnel that arrive on Friday will be admitted free. 🇺🇸

The New England Saltwater Fishing Show™ 2024 SEMINAR SPEAKERS

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

- 2 PM Brian Bacon (Big Game Sport Fishing) Jigging and Chunking for bluefin and yellowfin tuna
- 3 PM Captain Dave Monti Tips from the experts on how to catch larger fluke
- 4 PM Connor MacLeod (Tall Tailz Charters) Jig and pop tuna tactics on the slow boat
- 5 PM Jerry Sparks (DOA Lures - Game On!)
- 6 PM John Skinner Fluke and Blackfish Jigging

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

- 10 AM Vince Caturano (All Pro National) Flutter Spoons for Doormat Fluke & Big Bass: Tips & Techniques
- 11 AM Dustin Stevens (RI Kayak Adventures) False Albacore from a Kayak
- 12 PM East End Eddie Doherty Surfcaster’s Paradise – Cape Cod Canal Striped Bass
- 1 PM Jason Colby (Little Sister Charters) Becoming a Better Fisherman
- 2 PM Connor MacLeod (Tall Tailz Charters) Tautog Fishing 101: Understanding different bite signals
- 3 PM John Skinner What Underwater Video Shows
- 4 PM Brian Bacon (Big Game Sport Fishing) Targeting Block I Striped Bass w/ live bait/jigs/soft plastics
- 5 PM Ryan Collins Fishing Cape Cod in 2024

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

- 11 AM Captain Dave Monti Tips from the experts and how to catch larger fluke
- 12 PM Dustin Stevens (RI Kayak Adventures) Bottom Fishing From a Kayak
- 1 PM Jason Colby (Little Sister Charters) Becoming a Better Fisherman
- 2 PM Vince Caturano (All Pro National) Flutter Spoons for Doormat Fluke & Big Bass: Tips & Techniques
- 3 PM Ryan Collins Fishing Cape Cod in 2024

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RHODE ISLAND RECREATIONAL SALTWATER FISHING: BY THE NUMBERS

In 2010 Rhode Island instituted the recreational saltwater license program as required by federal law. RISAA, under the leadership of Founder Steve Medeiros, played an important role in structuring the license program to be sure it was fair and affordable and that it reflected the needs of recreational anglers. Today, we have nearly fifty thousand licensed saltwater anglers in Rhode Island, including many from other states who hold full year or seven day licenses while vacationing here.



The sale of licenses generates almost a quarter of a million dollars annually. Some key facts to know:

- Revenues from license sales MUST be used for the benefit of recreational angling. The funds cannot be diverted to the General Fund or to any other uses.
- Funds can be carried from year to year—there is no “use it or lose it” provision. This enables RIDEM to accumulate larger sums for expensive projects such as repairing boat ramps.
- RIDEM leverages these dollars for federal matching grants, usually at a 3:1 ratio so our license dollars are multiplied for the benefit of recreational fishing.

License	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Resident Full Year	28,605	31,576	30,155	37,664	33,888	29,501	30,503
Non-Resident Full Year	8,378	8,762	8,721	9,815	9,934	9,399	9,640
Resident 7-Day	158	167	135	185	237	147	145
Non-Resident 7 Day	3,221	3,436	3,430	3,395	2,948	3,285	2,746
Resident Over 65	5,613	5,879	5,489	5,858	6,154	5,782	6,067
Active RI Military	971	975	807	815	708	643	686
Totals	46,946	50,944	48,737	57,732	53,869	48,757	49,787

In 2024, RIDEM has budgeted to spend nearly \$150,000 for improving fishing access and another thirty thousand dollars for angling education and outreach. These figures will be multiplied three to four times via federal matching funds. Some of the projects that will be funded include:

- Improving access to the Quonochontaug Pond boat ramp
- Restoring the paths at Black Point
- Improving the Narrow River boat ramp
- Continuing to fund Kids Fish Camp

In addition to these projects, RIDEM is engaged in improving data collection efforts so that we have better information upon which to base fisheries management decisions. The better data we have, the better our fisheries can be managed to the benefit of all. When you buy your 2024 saltwater license and renew your RISAA membership, be proud of the important contributions made by your club in making the license program responsive to the needs of the saltwater angler.

“RIDEM is engaged in improving data collection efforts so that we have better information upon which to base fisheries management decisions.”

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- Hooked Up Bait & Tackle - Warwick, RI
- Lucky Bait & Tackle - Warren, RI
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- 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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JANUARY 29 @ 7 PM MEMBERSHIP RIG TYING EVENT

This month we will have several RISAA members share their top secret fishing rigs with the membership. Not only will we be sharing them, we will be teaching everyone how to tie them. Everyone will have the opportunity to sit down with each presenter, learn about their specific rig, tie one for themselves, and take home a rig that they have tied from each of the presenters, along with the instructions so they can make more for this upcoming season.

The list of instructors and their rigs for the seminar includes:

Bob Murray, a member of the RISAA Board of Directors as well as being part of the RISAA Legislative Committee, who will be celebrating 20 years of being a member in February, 2024. Bob will be tying his standard fluke rig which has a dropper for a bucktail and a trailer with a squid skirt

Rich Hittinger, 1st Vice President of RISAA also the Chair of the Legislative and Artificial Reefs Committees as well as a member of the Policial Action and Youth Fishing Camp Committees. Rich will be tying a double dropper loop rig.

David Michel, RISAA Sergeant-at-Arms, member of the RISAA Board of Directors, also Chair of our Scholarship Committee as well as member of both the Education Committee and Legislative Committee will be showing members to tie both the Palomar knot and uni knot for tying braid to mono which can be used with any rig.



Richard Reich, member of the RISAA Board of Directors, Vice Chair of the Surfcasters Committee and member of both the Legislative Committee and Youth Fishing Camp Committee will be tying his world famous Snafu Rig for tautog.

Scott Travers, RISAA Executive Director, will be tying a "reduced snag" single hook tautog rig.

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.

IMPORTANT UPDATES

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

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

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

RISAA MAGAZINE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

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

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Travis Barao

A Special RISAA Volunteer

Travis Barao grew up in Riverside and began fishing with his dad at an early age. They would often go to Ninigret Pond for clams or fish outside Point Judith for fluke. As he got older he and his dad were fishing partners all through high school and college while he attended URI to get his degree in ocean engineering. His dad would trailer the boat to the campus, pick up Travis and drop him off after a day's fishing.

One evening, Travis and his dad went to a Providence Bruins hockey game and there was some confusion about the seating. It turned out that the seats belonged to Steve Medeiros who had season tickets. They sat alongside Steve and noticed his RISAA jacket and started talking about fishing and the club. According to Travis; "The next thing you know, we were RISAA members"

Travis has been a very active volunteer with RISAA, serving four years on the Board of Directors, as Dockmaster in Take a Kid Fishing Day and helping to organize the seminars at our fishing show. He also joined the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC) together with Dave Monti, as one of the members representing recreational anglers. He is jus completing his second term after eight years in this important role.

Today, Travis works as an engineer at Electric Boat and has three children but still takes time to go fishing with his dad and children out of Barrington. It's a bit of a ride from there to Newport or Block Island but he still enjoys those days on the water.

Thank you, Travis for your contributions to RISAA and recreational angling.



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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STEPHEN J. MEDEIROS FISHING AREA DEDICATION

By: Rich Hittinger



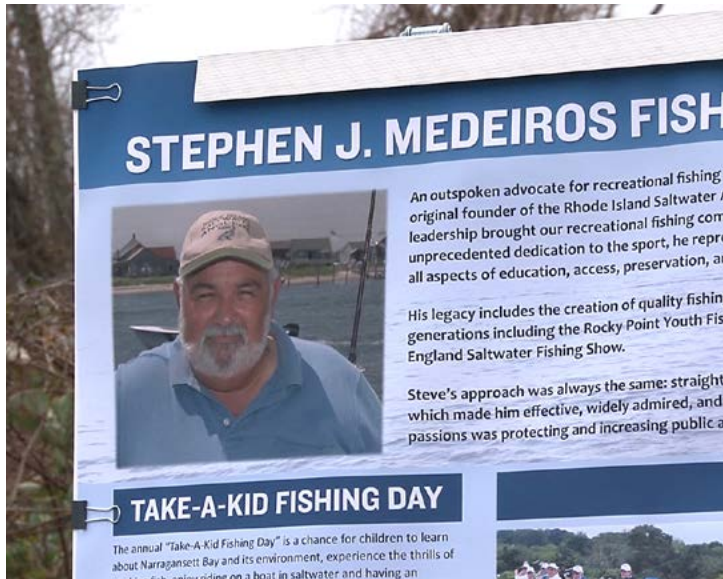
It was a cool and cloudy day with very light wind on Saturday, December 2, 2023. Just the kind of day that Steve Medeiros would love for his favorite fishing – Tautog. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to share days on the water with Steve but we will continue to remember him. This Saturday morning about 100 people gathered in the parking area of the newly named “Stephen J Medeiros Fishing Area at Black Point”. We were all there to honor Steve and the legacy that he has left with us in the body of RISAA and all of the programs that he started, making recreational saltwater fishing more enjoyable for all participants. US Representative Seth Magaziner spoke on behalf of the Federal delegation to honor Steve, Jason McNamee remembered Steve on behalf of RIDEM, Steve’s daughter, Audra spoke on behalf of Steve’s family, John Torgan spoke on behalf of The Nature Conservancy and other non-profit local partners and I was honored to say a few words in remembrance of Steve on behalf of the RISAA Board.



“ It is a wonderful location to emphasize how Steve worked to improve shore access for all saltwater anglers. ”

This beautiful coastal park has trails and many great fishing spots along the rocky Narragansett coast. It is a wonderful location to emphasize how Steve worked to improve shore access for all saltwater anglers. We are so fortunate that RIDEM put this location up for this project to remember all of the good that Steve did for recreational fishing in RI. The RISAA Foundation is partnering with RIDEM to install some interpretive signage in this park to remind visitors of Steve’s hard work over many years on their behalf. Other signs will describe the history of this area and one will show the various fish species that may likely be caught from shore at the Stephen J Medeiros Fishing Area. Volunteers also renovated the kiosk and the parking area and we plan to make additional improvements in coordination with RIDEM over the next few years.

I certainly hope that the SJM Fishing Area will become a focus for much coordination between RIDEM and RISAA in the future and we will continue to work in Steve’s honor to improve the experience of all recreational anglers in RI.



Photos Provided By: Don Coyne

2023 YEARLONG TOURNAMENT Notable Catches & 1st Place Winners!



FLYNN JANSEN
Winning Tuna Junior Boat Division

BLACK SEA BASS

BOAT DIVISION – Adult	
John Pidlipchak.....	4.67 lbs
BOAT DIVISION - Junior	
Hayes Jansen	2.62 lbs
SHORE DIVISION – Adult	
Michael Tilelli.....	2.04 lbs
KAYAK DIVISION – Adult	
Kraig Ruth.....	2.66 lbs

BLUEFISH

BOAT DIVISION – Adult	
David Cunningham.....	15.69 lbs
BOAT DIVISION - Junior	
Flynn Jansen	15.9 lbs
SHORE DIVISION – Adult	
Michael Lynch.....	11.82 lbs
KAYAK DIVISION – Adult	
Thomas Houde.....	12.43 #

BONITO

BOAT DIVISION – Adult	
Ronald Lynch.....	3.66 lbs
SHORE DIVISION – Adult	
Michael Tilelli.....	6.18 lbs

COD

BOAT DIVISION – Adult	
Bill Hubert.....	5.64 lbs



JOHN PIDLIPCHAK
Winning Sea Bass Boat Division

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT DIVISION – Adult	
Ronald Lynch.....	4.92 lbs
BOAT DIVISION - Junior	
Luke Lamson	8.125 lbs
SHORE DIVISION – Adult	
Michael Tilelli.....	9.1 lbs

FLUKE

BOAT DIVISION – Adult	
Paul Phillips.....	10.85 lbs
BOAT DIVISION - Junior	
Jack Harris.....	5.31 lbs

GRAY TRIGGERFISH

BOAT DIVISION – Adult	
Barbara Audino	2.78 lbs

MAHI MAHI

BOAT DIVISION - Junior	
Flynn Jansen	1.12 lbs

POLLUCK

BOAT DIVISION – Adult	
Michael Tilelli.....	11.6 lbs

SCUP

BOAT DIVISION – Adult	
Captain TJ Harris.....	2.31 lbs
BOAT DIVISION - Junior	
Tucker Jansen	1.68 lbs
SHORE DIVISION – Adult	
John Migliori.....	1.74 lbs

SEA ROBIN

BOAT DIVISION – Adult	
Barbara Audino	1.74 lbs
BOAT DIVISION - Junior	
Jack Harris.....	1.54 lbs
SHORE DIVISION – Adult	
John Migliori.....	3.16 lbs

TAUTOG

BOAT DIVISION – Adult	
Captain TJ Harris.....	12.16 lbs
BOAT DIVISION - Junior	
Jack Harris.....	8.39 lbs
SHORE DIVISION – Adult	
John Migliori.....	8.75 lbs

TUNA - BLUEFIN

BOAT DIVISION - Junior	
Luke Lamson	82.02 lbs

TUNA - YELLOWFIN

BOAT DIVISION – Adult	
Justin Serbent	45.18 lbs
BOAT DIVISION - Junior	
Flynn Jansen	52.76 lbs

UPCOMING SEMINAR

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



FEBRUARY 26 @7PM

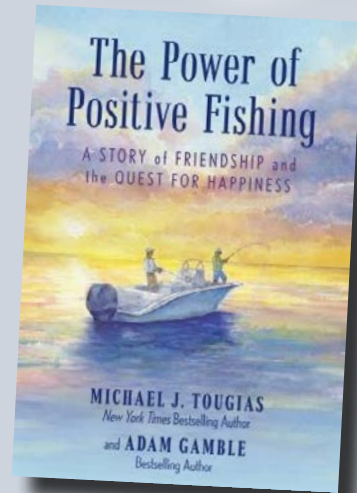
THE POWER OF POSITIVE FISHING

Join us as New York Times Bestselling Author Michael J. Tougias

discusses his new book *The Power of Positive Fishing--A Story of Friendship and a Quest for Happiness*. This book is based on the author's thirty years of striped bass fishing with his best friend as they navigate the choppy waters of midlife while on the ocean. The second part of the program features a slide program U-boats So Close To Home: A True Story of An American Family's Fight for Survival in WWII. Author Michael Tougias is an excellent storyteller. He has captivated RISAA audiences many times in the past so this is sure to be an entertaining evening that you will not want to miss.

According to reviews, "*The Power of Positive Fishing* is an emotional journey interspersed with humor on how two individuals finally began tapping their full potentials, while hooking some great fish along the way."

Fishing, friendship and happiness—sounds like something we can all use—ed.



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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PURA VIDA OFFSHORE CHARTER



Most of the charters that are raffled at the RISAA monthly meeting/seminars tend to be inshore or near shore excursions. This year, thanks to the generosity of Captain Jonathan Lewie of **Pura Vida Charters**, some lucky anglers had the chance to go offshore in search of tuna. It turned out to be quite an adventure!

On August 17th, the weather finally aligned for our trip with Capt. Jonathan Lewie with Pura Vida Charters. The trip had been re-scheduled a few times due to weather but we had stayed in constant contact with Capt. Lewie over the next 2 weeks waiting for a break in his schedule and a break in the weather. His communication was second to none and we could tell that our trip was going to be a success.

Capt. Lewie met us at 3am in Galilee that day and we quickly departed in his 25' Parker after a review of safety protocol and precautions aboard his boat. Our mate for the day was Vin Mastino. Capt. Lewie explained the current fishing conditions to us as we idled out through Pt. Judith Pond. The past few weeks had very solid fishing but the couple days leading up to the trip had been among the slowest days all summer since the bite materialized. He explained that the fleet and the weather were going to be challenging today but he fully expected us to have some success in the end, if we put in our time. He said that a few fish were being caught randomly on the troll but we were going to concentrate on the jig and pop bite. Specifically, he said we would be jigging most of the day, which was completely new to both of us.

We continued out of the Pt Judith breakwater and were immediately met with a brisk, cold East wind of 10-15 kts and a solid head on chop of 3 ft. Our ride to the grounds was approximately 2 hours through a dense fog but we were comfortable inside his cabin, which was fully enclosed. As we arrived on the grounds at grey light, we were greeted by a few whales and a small fleet of boats. The captain worked this area for a few drifts but didn't like what he saw so we made a run 10-15 miles to the South to another area. That area had 2 boats and a little bit of porpoise and whale life. We hooked up on the first drift with a dead stuck RonZ and immediately chafed off the fish. The captain told us that it was

most likely a dusky shark. We didn't make too many drifts until the captain said we were moving again. We picked up and headed West approximately 15 miles to a third spot. The chatter on the radio was pretty light and there weren't many boats with a bite on the radio.

The day was not looking too promising but a boat in the upcoming spot had just put a tuna on ice so we were upbeat about our prospects. Unfortunately, we were a few minutes too late and missed the couple bites in our third spot. We continued to work that area for awhile as it had looked the most promising all morning with a couple whales and constant bait markings on the sonar. Our day didn't look like luck was going to be on our side until Capt. Lewie received a message from a friend who had heard of a decent bite to the west, but it was a long ride. Capt. Lewie thought about it a bit and then made the tough decision to head west about 37 miles. We reeled in the rods and started heading West through the chop. After a 90 minute run, we arrived to a 5-6 boat fleet. Although it was a long ride, the move ended up being the right strategy. A dead-sticked pink RonZ resulted in a tuna bite almost immediately. We fought that fish for 10 minutes and pulled the hook. The captain re-set the drift and mate Vin hooked up on a jig. We lost that fish after a short fight due to another pulled hook! Capt. Lewie re-set the drift and we hooked up again on a RonZ. We passed the rod back and forth through the course of the fight. The tuna fought amazingly hard and seemingly would not tire! After at least a 15 minute fight, we guided the tuna to gaff and the captain hauled in our catch. The fish measured 56" and weighed north of 100lbs! This was our first tuna ever and we were beyond excited. We continued to fish that area and our action continued with a bite on every drift but we struggled to land any additional tuna before we had to depart back to Point Judith. We had a great ride back where mate Vin filleted and bagged our tuna loins.

Capt. Lewie runs a solid operation and has nothing but the finest gear aboard his boat. You can contact him via email at puravidacharters@gmail.com, through his web site rhodeislandtuna.com, or call him at 401-601-5499 if you are interested in a jig and pop tuna trip.

**JIG
RHODE ISLAND
TUNA
OFFSHORE**

**PURAVIDA
CHARTERS**

captain | Jonathan Lewie
phone | 401.601.5499
email | puravidacharters@gmail.com
web | rhodeislandtuna.com

SHAD FISHING ON THE POTOMAC RIVER

By: Keneth Mendez

In Washinton, DC; the real action unfolds on the Potomac River starting in March, when avid anglers fish the annual shad run. For those seeking to blend a unique fishing experience with non-fishing activities, consider a visit to Washington, DC (the District). The run provides anglers with the thrill of catching these spirited fish just 15 minutes from the White House.

Travel to the national Capitol is convenient and affordable on Southwest Airlines, an hour-long direct flight from Providence's TF Green to Reagan National Airports. No need to rent a car. It is easy to explore the District on foot or use the subway system. If you stay in Georgetown, you can hike along the C&O canal to fishing spots.

Shad Species

The Potomac River has a rich history of shad. George Washington had a shad fishery near Mt. Vernon. Shad played a crucial role in early America, credited with feeding the Continental Army at Valley Forge. Despite peak commercial harvests of nearly 17.5 million pounds in the late 1800s, the fishery declined because of pollution, habitat loss, and overfishing. In response, Maryland closed the shad fishery in 1980, followed by Virginia in 1990.



Conservation and restoration efforts coupled with benefits from the Clean Water Act of 1972 contributed to the revival of the Potomac's Shad fishery. Dams were altered to facilitate shad migration. Maryland and Virginia initiated stocking programs.

By 2012, the Potomac River American shad population was officially declared recovered and sustainable. Today, anglers regularly fishing the Potomac report reliable and productive fishing for shad. At the height of the run, anglers can hook a fish on every cast.

When, Where, and How

Prime fishing falls between March and May during the upstream spawning migration. The Potomac is home to several species of shad, including American and Hickory shad. Americans, are known for their size and fighting ability while Hickories are smaller in size, and aggressively attack lures and flies. Hickories begin arriving when water temperatures reach 50 degrees. Americans follow at water temperatures of 60 degrees. Anglers focus on the tidal waters of the Potomac, roughly from Chain Bridge to downriver about 1.8 miles.

Fishing for Hickories and Americans is strictly catch-and-release. A required DC fishing license costs non-residents \$13 for the season. Purchase the license online at doe.dc.gov/service/get-fishing-license.

Locals use light to medium spinning or fly-fishing tackle, with 6 to 8-pound test lines and brightly colored lures. Techniques include using shad darts triggering a strike reaction from the fish. A highly effective rig uses two darts, one heavy and one light attached to a three-way swivel. Fly fishing enthusiasts find success with shad flies.

Anglers congregate at the historic Fletcher's Boathouse, the epicenter of trading fish stories, buying shad darts and renting wooden dory rowboats. Renting a handmade boat is a unique part of the fishing experience. The dories hold up to three adult anglers. They are equipped with oars and a heavy river stone for an anchor. Conventional anchors become easily snagged on the Potomac's rocky bottom. That's why Fletcher's uses rocks that can be easily sacrificed when snagged. Selecting a boat with a rock heavy enough to keep the boat anchored is another good tip. Visit boatingindc.com/rentals to make an online reservation for a boat by the hour or day.

Understanding the tidal patterns of the Potomac River is crucial. Fishing during a moving tide significantly improves catch rates. It's important to monitor river flows, water temperature, and water clarity levels. Rowing a boat upstream can be challenging,



especially on an outgoing tide. In certain conditions, it can be impossible to row from the boathouse into the main current of the Potomac because of decades of siltation caused by man-made changes to the shoreline. Heavy spring rains can shut down the fishery for days. Visit friendsoffletcherscove.com to learn more about the history and current threats to access. The site has a map with reliable fishing locations and links to a USGS stream gauge for river flows.

Non-Fishing Activities

Countless activities can complement time not on the water, such as walking around the National Mall from the Lincoln Memorial to the US Capitol Building. The FDR, Martin Luther King, Vietnam, Korean, and World War II memorials are along the way. Favorite museums include the Air and Space, National History, American History, and National Gallery. Entrance to these museums is free. There are free concerts at the Kennedy Center for the Arts, tours of the Capitol and White House. Georgetown offers shopping and a lively Potomac River waterfront. In late March, you can take in the beautiful cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin. DC's diverse food scene, ranging from Michelin starred restaurants to moderately priced neighborhood eateries, is a culinary delight. Finding a place to stay in Northwest DC around Georgetown or the West End is the most convenient location, offering easy access to the waterfront Potomac and a short Uber ride to Fletcher's Boathouse.

Fishing the shad run on the Potomac isn't just about reeling in slippery silver treasures on every cast; it's a rendezvous with a unique blend of history, urban excitement and fishing. Your catch-of-the-day photo could be you with the Lincoln Memorial as a backdrop. So, pack your gear and political wit. When the spring migration brings these spirited fish upstream, you'll experience the region's rich fishing heritage and create lasting memories along the shores of the Potomac.

Kenneth Mendez is an active member of the RISAA Legislative Committee and fly fishing enthusiast. He divides his time between the DC area and his summer home in Tiverton, RI.

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CONNECTICUT RIVER SPRING STRIPED BASS

By: Captain Ken Cooper

The charming town of Old Saybrook sits on the west bank of the lower Connecticut River. Unlike Bridgeport, Westport and New London, Old Saybrook is not an established commercial “port” because the Connecticut River is not consistently deep enough to accommodate large vessels. On the other hand, the River definitely accommodates striped bass, and does so all the way up to Hartford and beyond.



Top: 9 inch Doc, Bottom: 7 inch Baby Doc

While a reliable population of holdover stripers in the upper reaches of the River stretches the fishing season to year round, the lower Connecticut River is best known for the influx of large bass in the spring from about early May to late June. Migrating stripers enter the River to gorge themselves, first on herring (blueback and alewives) and later on Atlantic menhaden (bunker). As usual, find the bait and you will likely find the bass. Also, as is usually the case with striped bass, dawn, dusk and low light conditions are best.

In May and early June, the stripers will be feeding on post-spawn herring that are dropping back down the River. By mid to late June, bunker have invaded the lower River and become the stripers' primary prey. In either case, these are typically large baits that will attract large bass, and you should fish accordingly.

That means rods and reels capable of throwing big lures and fighting fifteen to thirty pound fish. For spin fishing, a seven foot, medium/heavy rod with a 4000 size reel loaded with 20 pound test braided line and a 30 pound test leader will do the job. For fly fishing, leave the 8-weight at home and stick with a 9- or even 10-weight rod, matched with a large arbor reel and a floating or slow sinking line.

Catching big stripers on topwater lures and flies is great fun, and these Connecticut River striped bass certainly provide the opportunity. Popular surface plugs include the 9 inch Doc, the 7 inch Little Doc, the saltwater Super Spook and similar lures. Switch out the treble hooks for inline single barbless hooks because stripers that exceed the current slot limitation must be



Top: 9 inch Slug-go, Middle: BKD Boss, Bottom: Super Snax

promptly released. Large soft plastic lures are also very effective for tempting these striped bass, and the popular baits include the 9 inch Slug-go, the 10 inch Super Snax and the 10 inch Fin S Fish, each rigged with an 8/0 or 9/0 swim bait hook such as the Owner Beast hook. As for color, you can stick with bone or white during the day and black at night.

For the fly fisherman, this is the time for casting big poppers, sliders and your biggest herring and bunker imitations, like the Beast fly or large hollow fly patterns.

You really need a boat to get onto these stripers, but you don't need a very big boat. Much of the fishing will be on flats, such as the one on the east side of the River south of the I-95 bridge and the railroad bridge, in water about three feet deep, and so an

aluminum skiff, for example, will suffice. Side scan sonar can be a real advantage for targeting fish in the shallows. And stealth is also important when fishing the flats as bass feeding there tend to be quite skittish. There is a large and well-maintained public launch ramp on the west bank of the River directly under the I-95 bridge at 220 Ferry Road.

After mid-June, as the River warms, striped bass can be found dining on adult bunker in the cooler water of Long Island Sound along the nearby coast as well as at such hot spots as Bartlett Reef. Fishing Bartlett can be great, but it can also be treacherous. If you are new to this kind of fishing, hire a guide.

Speaking of guides, here are two that are highly recommended if you want to catch big stripers on the lower Connecticut River:

Joe Diorio Guide Service, (860) 214-3437
www.joediorioguideservice.com

Reel Cast Charters, (203) 710-5116
www.reelcastcharters.com

Want to learn more before you go? Check out some great YouTube videos featuring Captains Joe Diorio and Mike Roy, as well as others, having their way with some heavy weight stripers in the lower Connecticut River. On the Water Media has some excellent videos depicting this fishing, as well as a series of informative articles that you can read online. Likewise, The Fisherman Magazine has featured articles by Captain Tom Migdalski (May 2019) and Nick Kanaras (May 2020) that are chock full of information about pursuing Connecticut River striped bass. 🐟

19th Annual
MEMBERS BANQUET
Join Us To Celebrate RISAA
& A Season Well Fished!



Mark Your
Calendar!

February 17, 2024
5pm-9pm

Location Quonset O Club
North Kingstown RI

Food • Awards • Special Prizes • Raffles

For 25 plus years, RISAA has continued to lead the way for Recreational fishermen in New England.

Now it's time to celebrate another season well fished! Guests are welcome to join in the fun and let's get RISAA off to a great start in 2024!

SIGN-UP on the RISAA web site (members section) or contact: Scott Travers at vespe.risaa@gmail.com

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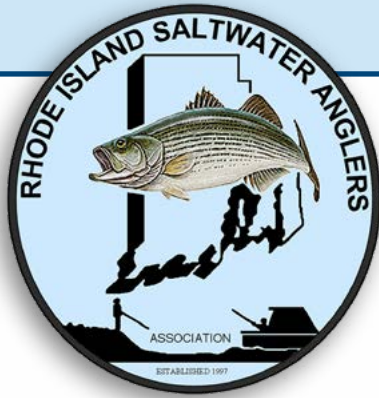
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MAGAZINE DESIGN & LAYOUT: Eddy Stahowiak - LBEddy9@gmail.com

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!



2024 VOLUNTEER Sign-Up Sheet

Please complete this form to volunteer.

Thank you in advance for agreeing to volunteer at the Show. Your good work is appreciated and will help make our Fishing Show and RISAA a big success. And, volunteers get to attend the show **FREE**. Every single shift is important. We can use help at each.

PLEASE PRINT

Name

Phone

Email

Please indicate the shifts you are willing to volunteer for:

Thursday, March 7

Setup: 5pm - 10pm

Friday, March 8

Setup: 7am - 1pm

Shift 2: 12:30pm - 4pm

Shift 3: 4pm - 8pm/close

Saturday, March 9

Shift 1: 8:30am - 12:30pm

Shift 2: 12:15pm - 3:30pm

Shift 3: 3:30pm - 7pm/close

Sunday, March 10

Shift 1: 10am - 1pm

Shift 2: 1pm - 5pm/close

Move Out: 4:45pm - 6:35pm

THANK YOU!

PLEASE SEND THE COMPLETED FORM TO: RISAA, PO Box 1467, Coventry, RI 02816, you can email Scott Travers, Executive Director at travers.risaa@gmail.com or call the RISAA office at 401.826.2121. THANK YOU.

ENHANCE YOUR FISHING EXPERIENCE WITH THE RISAA TAGGING PROGRAM

With increasing size and possession restrictions on some of our favorite species, all of us are releasing more fish than ever before. Did you ever wonder about what happened to that big fish you released? Through the **free** RISAA Tagging Program, members can make releasing fish a more memorable and meaningful experience and perhaps find out where that fish went. The program was started in the early 2000's and is led by Committee Chair Bob Murray. RISAA purchases tags, mail-in postcards and tagging needles in bulk through the American Littoral Society (ALS) and makes them available to interested members at no cost. If you were to join the tagging program at ALS on your own, the cost would be \$40-60 per year while the RISAA program costs are covered by our Foundation.

The requirements for participation are simple and each applicant will receive a detailed brochure on the guidelines and how to tag fish with minimal harm.

- Participants must be adult members *in good standing*
- Five (5) tags, five (5) tag cards, and one (1) tagging needle (first set of tags only) is provided at no charge
- Completed tagging cards must be returned to RISAA
- Additional 5-tag kits will be available at no charge once all five completed tag cards are returned to RISAA

The tagging cards are returned to RISAA instead of directly to ALS so that the Committee Chair can track the tagging activities of the club. According to Bob Murray, the goal is to have many members tagging several fish instead of a few members tagging lots of fish. This provides a more diverse sample and encourages broader participation.

Mark Pachico

Longtime member Mark Pachico has been tagging for over fifteen years and has tagged hundreds of fish, primarily striped bass, although he tags some blues and tautog as well. Mark considers himself a conservation-minded angler and said; *"If I couldn't keep the fish, I wanted to know where they were going and what happened to them"*. Mark has had over twenty "returns"—tagged fish that have been reported by others—including a striped bass he released off Newport that was later caught off the coast of New Jersey. He advises participants to have everything ready for tagging and handle the fish carefully to give it the best chance of survival.

Susan Lema

Susan Lema is RISAA Secretary and a well-known saltwater angler. Sue learned to tag fish from the late Captain Al Anderson,



a pioneer in tagging fish in New England. She has been tagging fish for over fifteen years and focuses almost exclusively on striped bass. Sue likes to tag fish in the cooler months as she feels the fish has a better chance of survival. She stresses the importance of having everything ready to go so the fish is not out of the water too long. She suggests having a wet towel to lay the fish on and another wet cloth to cover the eyes, keeping the fish calm. To Sue, this is a real difference maker in making the operation go smoothly and quickly. Because of her relationship with Captain Anderson, she includes his name on her postcards as a tribute. Her view of tagging is *"Not only are you helping research but it's like putting a note in a bottle"*.

RISAA Member Ed Kearney and His Record

RISAA member Ed Kearney has the ALS record for the released striped bass longest at liberty. On July 27, 2004 he tagged and released a thirty-one inch striped bass estimated at fifteen pounds off Newport, RI. His fish was caught and re-released on October 20, 2017 after it had grown to forty-eight inches and estimated twenty-one years old. In between Ed's catch/release and the fish's subsequent release, it spent over thirteen years at liberty with Ed's tag.

Great Way to Get New Anglers Involved

Our experienced taggers agree that tagging is a great way to get new anglers, especially youngsters more involved in fishing. Imagine if your child or grandchild got a return on a fish she/he landed, tagged and released. Guaranteed to be a lifelong fishing enthusiast. Perhaps you might like to follow Sue Lema's example and dedicate your postcards/tags to a fishing mentor, family member or friend close to you? To order your tagging kit and instructions, please contact Bob Murray murray@risaa.org or call 401-826-2121. 🐟

DEM/ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE ARREST & CITATION LOG



December 2023

FRATTARELLI, LOUIS E., Jr., 53, of Bristol, RI, for Possession of Undersized Conch

REPOSA, Peter A., 65, of Narragansett, RI, for Dealer Purchase or Possession of Illegally Taken Finfish

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

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

VIOLATION CITATIONS ISSUED

State Property Violations	10
(Parking, Alcohol, Disorderly Conduct, Dumping/Littering, etc.)	
Motor Vehicle	0
Boating Violations	2
ATV Violations	4
Freshwater Fishing Violations	0
Saltwater Fishing Violations	0
CRMC Beach Violations	0
Hunting Violations.....	17
Total	33

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE THROUGH OUR DISPATCH CENTER: 1,616

WARNINGS ISSUED: Verbal or Written Warnings issued to first-time offenders for a de minimis violation. Corrective action was taken at the scene and/or the occurrence was utilized as an educational opportunity in lieu of a summons. **TOTAL: 110**

**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.*

LISTEN UP! (TO SALTWATER FISHING PODCASTS)

By: Captain Ken Cooper

On my frequent seven-hour drives between Washington, DC and Westerly, RI, I enjoyed listening to audio books to pass the time. My local library in each location carried a substantial collection of recorded books on compact discs (CDs), including both fiction and non-fiction titles. When I purchased a late model car with all of the latest hi-tech electronic bells and whistles last year, I was surprised to discover that there was no CD player. What was I going to do to fend off driver boredom?

I found the answer in the world of podcasts, and in particular podcasts focused on saltwater fishing in our local New England waters. Now, even on shorter drives, I listen to podcasts via Apple Car Play. I have been working my way through nearly thirty episodes created by the folks at On the Water Magazine and a like number hosted by Peter Jenkins, owner of the Saltwater Edge tackle shop in Middletown, RI. There are also some 65 episodes in William Mitchell's podcast titled Seven Stripes Fishing.

In general, each podcast runs for about an hour to an hour and a half, and each features a comprehensive interview/discussion/conversation with a prominent and knowledgeable fishing guide, author, equipment manufacturer or other personality who is deeply involved in our favorite sport. There's a wealth of knowledge here and it's all free.

One obvious caveat: Listening to a podcast is not the same as watching a YouTube video or reading a book or a magazine article about fishing. If, for example, the guest speaker is describing a particular rig or a particular location, you will have to rely on your mind's eye to imagine the object or location, and that conception may not be very precise.

You will also find that some episodes are more entertaining than informative. Some of the interviewees and guests may carry on more of a chummy conversation than delivering an informative lecture. I'm not discouraged by that since even pleasant, folksy banter among experienced fishermen helps pass the time on my 374 mile ride.

As I have been working my way through podcasts offered by The Saltwater Edge, On the Water and Seven Stripes Fishing, I have particularly enjoyed episodes featuring Joe Diorio, Dennis Zambrotta, Jerry Audet, Rob Taylor, Joe Baggs, Dave Peros and Mike Hogan talking about fishing for striped bass, as well as episodes featuring Kenney Abrames and Steve Culton talking about fly fishing and fly tying for trout and stripers. Of course, these are but three collections of saltwater fishing podcasts. You will discover many more by doing a search on your smartphone's podcast app. 🐟

HAVE SOME FUN AT THE 20TH NEW ENGLAND SALTWATER FISHING SHOW™

Each year, the New England Saltwater Fishing Show™ hosts about ten thousand anglers at the Convention Center in Providence. For those who fish and those who supply them, it is the perfect start to the new season. The vendors range from those “tried and true” products that have exhibited at the show for years to those emerging companies who have the “latest and greatest” in fishing gear and technology. With hundreds of exhibitors, you’ll want to cover the whole show but here are a few key stops.

Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association—RISAA. Booth 1321 +. RISAA is the show sponsor and organizer. If you are not a member, stop by and find out all that RISAA has to offer. If you are already a RISAA member, you can renew your membership, buy a raffle ticket for a custom rod from Crafty One, or update your fishing wardrobe with a variety of RISAA-themed merchandise. It is also a great place to renew old acquaintances.



Worm Bar Booth 934. Do you remember buying penny candy as a kid and filling your little bag with a variety of colors and flavors? The Worm Bar is just like that except that instead of candy you fill your bag with a variety of soft plastics that are available in a dizzying array of shapes, sizes, colors, weights, etc.. Maybe you will find the lucky shape, size and color combination that will land you a trophy fish in 2024. At the very least, you’ll have fun choosing from the endless selection.

Big Game Sportfishing Booth 921. Brian Bacon and his team are well known to RISAA members. They have presented at our monthly seminars and contributed to articles in our member magazine. They will also be seminar presenters at the show. This year, they will raffle a charter for some lucky winner. Visiting them at the show in March is also an excellent way to book a charter with them before their schedule fills up.



Kayak Centre Booth 1308 Kayak fishing is becoming one of the most popular ways to get on the water. The RISAA Kayak Committee has over one hundred members and is growing every year. Fishing kayaks are evolving rapidly in performance, comfort, technology and safety. In recent years, kayaks have added new propulsion systems—manual and electric—as well as fish finding, catching and holding features. Stop at booth 1308 and see what is new in the exciting sport of kayak fishing.

Joe Baggs Outdoors Booth 807 With the show featuring over 300 vendors, you can imagine there are dozens, if not hundreds of folks offering lures. One of the companies that has gotten a lot of attention in the past few years is Joe Baggs Outdoors. A New England company, they offer a variety of soft plastic, epoxy and plug lures, with emphasis on striper fishing. If you visit, you are likely to meet Joe himself who will be glad to tell you about the “why” and “how” of using his lures.



Coastal Resources Center Booth 1303 One of the most important things we can do as anglers is to protect our shores and waterways—especially our favorite fishing spots—from commercial development. The Coastal Resources Center (CRC) has developed mapping software that shows where Rhode Island anglers fish and this data is important in guiding marine development, especially aquaculture. Stop at their booth and enter your data to protect your fishing rights. It only takes five minutes and is time well spent. 🐟



SEE YOU THERE!

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
- Scott Rhein
- Giuseppe Suppa
- Robert Fredericks
- Steve Andras
- RI Mobile Sport Fishermen
- Darlene Smith/Kaman Corp
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- Capt. Dave Monti
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- Kenneth Anderson
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- Justin Serbert & Christine Bollmann

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- James Tollefson
- Ben Aceto
- Richard Falcone
- Robert Burrell
- Richard Schenk
- Judy Wilson
- Timothy Fleming

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- John Meyer
- Thomas Freeman
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- Richard Edmond
- Norman Cabana
- Denis Vieira
- Capt. Bob Murgio
- Blackbaud Giving Fund
- Garth Fondo
- Dale Hartman*
- William Sosnicki
- John Pope
- * Bryon Stevens
- Mary Tomaselli
in celebration of Rob Viens 60th Birthday

COPPER (UP TO \$49)

- Howie Bristow
- Emily Carlson
in honor of Robert Viens
- John Turchetti
- Wade Diehl
- Steven Booth
- Captain Frank Blount
- Robert Maietta
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- Daniel King
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MAKE A DONATION ONLINE: WWW.RISAA.ORG/THE-FOUNDATION

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



PLEASE PRINT

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

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to

The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation

THANK YOU!

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

Donation Made In The Name Of: _____

MAIL TO:

RISA Foundation
P.O. Box 1467
Coventry, RI 02816



The Rhode Island's Saltwater Anglers Association's

Political Action Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!

To be effective, we must participate in the system.

2023 PAC DONORS

GOLD (\$200+)

Kenneth Cooper
Kenneth Mendez
Garth Fondo

SILVER (\$100+)

Carl Tiska
John Turchetti
Thomas Freeman

BRONZE (\$50+)

Dale Hartman

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

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!



PLEASE PRINT

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

Political Action Committee

THANK YOU!

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

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

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

MAIL TO:

RISAA PAC
P.O. Box 1467
Coventry, RI 02816



AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

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



COALITION PARTNERS

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



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



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

Complete the form below and mail to: RISAA, P.O. Box 1467, Coventry, RI 02816 or REGISTER ONLINE at www.risaa.org/register to

Membership application form fields: 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, Occupation, Employed At, Children (up to 17 yrs), Register them as Junior Members.

Information section: Prefer to Fish From (check all that apply), Own Boat, How did you hear about RISAA?

Type of Membership section: Regular Adult, Senior, Life Member, Student, Junior Member, Junior's Name, Age, Date of Birth, RISAA Sponsor.

Payment section: PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION, Enclosed is my check for \$, To pay by credit card, visit: www.risaa.org/register, 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

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