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IN THIS ISSUE:

**Fluke
Tournament
Results**

**DMF
Fluke
Tagging**

PLUS...

**2025
RISAA
YOUTH
FISHING
CAMP**

Mike "Wicked" Wec
with a nice 9 pound
doormat

PLUS: **2025 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

ISSUE: 309 • July / August 2025
www.RISAA.org • 401-826-2121

EVENTS & MEETINGS

August 25
Seminar: Shark Tagging Off
Block Island & Shark Conservation
with Treasurer Steve Skenyon,
& Executive Director Scott Travers

WANTED...

Merchandise Committee Chair
Bob Marco will continue to serve as the chair for a few more months so this would be a great opportunity for someone to learn what the position is all about and have Bob to help get up and running.

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Rhode Island Saltwater
Anglers Association
Published Monthly
RISAA
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FROM THE HELM

MIDSEASON UPDATE!

It’s hard to believe we are in the middle of the season already. Where does the time go? In the RISAA seasonal timeline, we already have two species specific tournaments done with and our next tournament is just around the corner. We also have had two RISAA sponsored charter trips already, with a third fully booked and on the horizon.

Since we are near the halfway point in the season, I wanted to touch base with the membership on some things that everyone may not be aware of and provide a tip that might help us all with the remaining months we have ahead on the water.

First up, the Fluke Tournament which just ended, had two female anglers in the top 5 winners circle, one in the team division and one in the individual division. That hasn’t happened since I have taken on an administrative role within RISAA 3 years ago (speaking of time flying by!). To add to this, one is a junior member who caught her award-winning fish after participating in the Youth Fishing Camp this year! You can’t ask for a better result for a participant or for a clearer sign for all the volunteers and donors who give so much to make the Youth Fishing Camp happen every year that all their efforts make such a difference and mean so much.

Last year, based on a suggestion by a member, we offered a Cod trip to George’s Bank. The trip was a bit more expensive than the normal trips we offer and was open to fewer people due to the nature of the trip. The response from the membership was moderate and we ended up partnering with the Cape Cod Salties to fill the remaining open seats. However, following the trip, everyone who participated gave overwhelmingly positive feedback. This year, we were going to try the same trip, however, the Cod fishery is closed. We came up with a substitute trip, a fluke trip to Nantucket Shoals. In a record setting 3 minutes, we had to shut the website down because of the overwhelming response and start building a waiting list. So, in terms of charter trips, apparently we found something RISAA members have a tremendous interest in. Please let me know at travers@risaa.org if you have a charter trip or other idea you would be interested in RISAA organizing.

Lastly, I wanted to share something that happened on a recent trip with a friend of mine. We hit the water and were doing a little bottom fishing near a certain celebrity’s mansion, no names mentioned. Despite all efforts we were less than successful for a majority of the trip when I started searching the bottom of my tackle box for those items that I always bring but never use when I came across a diamond jig that was tan on one



side and white on the other. Once that jig hit the bottom I couldn’t keep the fish off it, catching the biggest scup of the day, black sea bass of various sizes, and the only fluke of the day. So, I guess the lesson learned is to try those lesser used items you seem to always have with you. They may be the best things you have in your tackle box, you just don’t know it yet.

Scott TRAVERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THE WATCH

Reported by: Richard Hittinger, CHAIRMAN

COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS

We at RISAA have generally stayed away from commenting on commercial regulation changes unless the proposed changes affect recreational fishing. The thought is that commercial fishing has quotas established by the National Marine Fisheries; then the State agencies such as the Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries publish regulations on how the commercial fishers can land fish within the quotas established. The commercial catch is weighed and reported so as soon as quotas are reached, that species is closed for harvest and commercial fishing for that species stops.

It all sounds simple and straight forward, but as you might expect, it is not so simple. For example, RISAA has opposed reversing the long-standing rule that striped bass may not be harvested commercially by gill nets. A proposal to allow gill net harvest of stripers was raised by gill net representatives again this year and RISAA again opposed it for fear that this action may increase the commercial harvest. We believe it would incentivize gill net permit holders who have not been using their permits to become active and set nets to target stripers. Another reason for RISAA to be interested in commercial fishing regulations is that several commercial quotas have not been filled in recent years. This is because the fish haven’t been available or the market is not good enough to make harvest profitable. Any proposed regulation changes that would make it more likely that commercial quotas are reached would then reduce the amount of that species available to recreational anglers.

The topic that I would like to discuss in more detail here is something called the “Aggregate” program. This is a concept established by RIDEM that allows commercial fishing operations to land many days’ worth of quota in one landing. For example, as I write this column, we are in what RIDEM calls the “Summer/ Fall Aggregate Program” period and commercial fishermen are allowed to land 150 pounds of black sea bass (BSB) per day but if they opt into the Aggregate program they can land 1050 pounds on any day of that week. Also, fluke limits are set at 100 pounds per day but the Aggregate is 700 pounds on any one day. This program effectively makes it profitable for large vessels such as draggers to target fluke or sea bass one day whereas for just 100 or 150 pounds it may not be profitable to target these species. This program was historically a winter program for fluke but now has been expanded into this Summer/ Fall version. The reasoning behind the Winter Aggregate Program was that in the winter fluke are found well offshore, sometimes 50 miles or more, and it is time consuming

RI SALTWATER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
Legislative Committee



and dangerous to travel in those waters for a small quota. For that reason, a Winter Aggregate program was established many years ago which allowed vessels to land 3000 or 4000 pounds of fluke on a single trip or multiple trips within a 2-week period during the Winter. If a vessel landed the entire 4000 pounds then they landed as much fluke as allowed for that 2-week period and had to fish for something else or wait until the 2-week period was over. In the past few years RIDEM created this Summer/ Fall program at the request of some commercial fishermen, but is it a good program for the fish or just easier for RIDEM to manage?

I question many things associated with this program and I wonder if the RISAA Legislative Committee should speak up in opposition to at least some aspects of this Aggregate program. First, does it make sense to encourage larger vessels to fish commercially for fluke and BSB in the summer when these fish are in close to shore and are a key favorite of recreational anglers? On one hand, once the commercial harvest is reached all commercial harvest is closed so it doesn’t matter if they are harvested in batches of 100 pounds or 700 pounds. But, the large boats (mostly draggers) are more likely to have dead discards of all species including smaller fluke. This is true because if the vessel has more than the allowable 700 pounds onboard and needs to discard some fluke they will discard the smaller ones that are less profitable to sell. Regarding discards, there have been at least 2 episodes that I know about this year where inshore draggers discarded many, many dead striped bass; one in the Bay this week and one near Point Judith a few weeks ago. I don’t know for sure, but I suspect that these vessels were dragging for fluke and/ or BSB under the Aggregate program and picked up these striped bass. In one case I was told that deck hands were cutting the bellies of the stripers so that they would sink and not be seen by so many boaters in the area. This impacts recreational anglers. Second, why is this program necessary in the Summer? It doesn’t seem warranted for safety reasons and it tilts the playing field in favor of larger commercial vessels. The lower daily limits were established when I was on the RI Fisheries Management Council to give the small boat commercial fleet something to catch and sell during the summer when the number of active commercial licenses increases by more than a factor of ten compared to the winter. This Summer rod and reel commercial fishery is a cleaner fishery in that there are fewer dead discards than there are with draggers or gill net fishing. This also could affect recreational anglers. My third question is why is the

(Continued on page 8)



THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filliatreault Wood, CHAIR

Welcome *NEW* Members!

Ralph Eugene - North Smithfield, RI
Matthew Livingstone - Bristol, RI
Ted Grillo - North Kingstown, RI
Matthew Baryshyan - Warwick, RI
Adrienne Heimbold - Saunderstown, RI
Anthony Diiorio - Johnston, RI
Derek Ashcroft - West Dighton, MA
Greg Devoy - Tiverton, RI
Robert Wambolt - East Providence, RI
Roger Grandchamp - East Wallingford, VT
Elizabeth Burlingame - East Greenwich, RI
Melissa Guarnaccia - Minneapolis, MN
Stephen Andrusko - Misquamicut, RI
Sean Kelly - Naples, FL
Ed Lombardo - Greenville, RI
Benjamin Tavares - West Greenwich, RI
Michael Hachey - South Kingstown, RI
Rafael Cabrera - Lawrence, MA
Gary Root - Newport, RI
Duane Golomb - Foster, RI
Donald Hourahan - Saunderstown, RI
Dennis Thibault - Cranston, RI
Karen Siciliano - Narragansett, RI
Freeman Deware - North Scituate, RI
Matt Kirchoff - Greenville, RI
James Gault - Lincoln, RI
Christopher Selera - Coventry, RI
Madeline Flinn - Cranston, RI
Ruby-Love Carter - Warwick, RI
Sophia Kay - Uxbridge, MA
Kaitlyn Muller - Toms River, NJ
Nathan Riello - Point Pleasant, NJ
Mateo Cintron - Springfield, MA
Gabrila Borja - Torrington, CT
Matthew Kasenga - East Greenwich, 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



Bob Marco on the Frances Fleet.



Dave Ricks with an early season striper.

SEND US YOUR PICS!

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

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2025 RISAA YOUTH FISHING CAMP

The annual RISAA Youth Fishing Camp was scheduled this year for June 24th to June 26th, 2025. Unfortunately for our participants, the forecasted temperatures for the first day of the camp, Tuesday June 24th, were predicted to be over 100 degrees with light winds. Out of caution and concern for the safety of our participants, and our volunteers, the first day had to be cancelled.



However, the camp resumed with enthusiasm and excitement on Wednesday, June 25th with our 2025 participants meeting at Rocky Point in the early morning hours to board the URI coach to be transported to State Street in Narragansett to board the Lady Frances for a half day charter trip! Participants caught a wide variety of fish on the trip including dogfish, scup, black sea bass, and fluke. Having personally participated in previous Youth Fishing Camps, this was the first time that I can remember not a single participant experienced motion sickness! As usual,



once fish started coming over the rail it was a frenzy of activity with participants trying to “out catch” their friends. RI DEM Enforcement as well as Division of Marine Fisheries staff were on board to help the new anglers along with the mates from Frances Fleet. RI Division of Marine Fisheries Biologist Katherine “Katie” Rodrigue was also on hand assisting with tagging fluke as part of a Division of Marine Fisheries Program to study fluke populations in RI. After an adventurous day at sea all the participants were safely returned to shore with a successful fishing experience for them to remember.



The third day of the camp brought about more underway wonders as the all-volunteer RISAA membership fleet assembled at Safe Harbor Greenwich Bay for a second day of fishing on the water. Special thanks go out to Safe Harbor Greenwich Bay for being a long-time supporter of the program and providing necessary dock space to allow the safe boarding and unboarding of all our camp participants and the beginning and end of the day. During the day most boats stayed in the area of Warwick Point where many participants caught their first fish and / or their largest fish! Again, a great variety of species were reported as having been caught from the various member boats including scup, sea robins, fluke, black sea bass, and dogfish. Along with the other dedicated RISAA members who volunteered their time and their boats this year, I partnered with my long-time friends Bill Hubert and Bob Andrade on board the Salt Shaker, with two young men who were on the fish for a majority of the trip. Many lessons were learned, including when to set the hook, patience in waiting for the fish to bite, and always wear your baseball type hat backwards when the boat is underway!



After a second day at sea, nearing the deadline to return back to the dock, several boats remained off Warwick Point as long as possible to catch the last few fish of the camp. While the participants urged us to stay for “5 more minutes” we ultimately had to head back to Safe Harbor to return our newly seasoned saltwater anglers back to the dock. Once back at the Youth Fishing Camp base, Rocky Point State Park in Warwick, RI, the participants

had the opportunity to meet some of our Enforcement Officers from the Department of Environmental Management. Some participants also took the opportunity to learn some surf casting basics from our volunteers. After saying goodbye to their new friends and receiving their gift bags loaded with donated items from RISAA affiliates and On The Water Magazine, the 2025 participants headed home to their families to tell them about their new adventures, the fish they caught, and the ones that got away.



I want to thank each and every volunteer who assisted with this program, including those who worked behind the scenes in preparation for the event, those who were able to attend in person and help guide and teach these new saltwater anglers how to catch fish, and those who helped out afterwards with all the loose ends that need to be attended to. It takes a lot of dedicated volunteers to make a program like this, with 50 participants each year, possible. It would be difficult to name everyone involved; however it is the leadership of Richie Reich over the years that ensures the program’s success every summer. I would also like to recognize all those RISAA affiliated groups that have donated items, services, and support to make this program happen including Cassie’s Cans, Taylor Rental Warwick, Bass Pro Shop Foxboro, Professional Security, Meal Works, Safe Harbor Greenwich Bay, RI DEM Parks and Recreation, Warwick Parks and Recreation, RI DEM Environmental Officers, and the Warwick Fire Department among many others.

Aggregate amount equal to 7 times the daily limit? It seems only logical that there is likely to be at least one bad weather day in 7 that would keep even bigger boats at the dock, plus the advantage of being allowed to sell a week's worth of fish from one great trip should come with some reduction of the weekly total. My last question that I will mention here is: does the Aggregate program encourage aggressive harvest of one body of fish? If so, this could lead to localized depletion of fluke because several vessels fishing the Aggregate program targeted a body of fish that were moving into a particular area from offshore. For example, this could be all of the fish that were headed to Narragansett Bay or those headed to the South County beaches.

Commercial fishing regulations are very complex and we at RISAA have enough to do worrying about the recreational regulations so I don't think we want to get involved with the myriad of commercial regulations, but when they affect recreational anglers possibly we should reconsider. If you have an opinion about this please send an email to me at hittinger@risaa.org.

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 August 21 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

2025 RISAA MEMBERSHIP FLUKE TRIP

On Sunday, June 29, 2025, at 5:30 AM RISAA members with rods, tackle boxes, and coffees in hand were already angling for the perfect spot aboard the Lady Frances in anticipation of the 2025 RISAA Membership Fluke Trip. This was also the final day for the RISAA Membership Fluke Tournament, so some trip participants were getting ready for their final attempts to catch a door mat to submit for RISAA tournament glory.

The weather cooperated with partly cloudy skies, seasonably warm conditions, light wind, and calm seas which made for a pleasant trip. The catching was steady throughout the trip, however only a few keeper fluke were found. One new RISAA member on board the trip caught an unexpected tautog which surprised everyone, including Cole, the Captain.

As usual, with the help of Johnny Meserve, we held a pool on the trip for the largest fluke. The pool winner for the trip was Heather Low, with her first ever charter trip pool win with a nice 23 3/4" 4.24 # fluke which she caught early in the day.

New for this trip, and for the Tournament Committee, the new RISAA tournament scale was used to weigh fish for tournament purposes at the end of the trip on the way back to the dock.

Several RISAA Membership charter trips remain for the 2025 season, including the Nantucket Shoals Fluke Trip August 24, 2025 (currently sold out), Black Sea Bass Trip October 5, 2025, and Tautog Trip October 26, 2025.

The RISAA Membership charter trips are for RISAA members in good standing only as the trips are subsidized by RISAA, which costs participants roughly half what the trips would normally cost.



THE CURIOUS CASE OF THE CHIMERA FLUKE

By Heather Low

Every now and then, one of our members hauls in a fluke that turns more heads than usual — not for its size, but for its look. Ever seen a fluke with two different color patterns, or a face that looks split down the middle? You might've spotted a chimera.

In biology, a chimera is an organism made up of two sets of DNA. In fluke, this happens when two embryos fuse early in development, creating one fish with dual genetic codes. It's extremely rare — but when it does happen, it can result in striking features: mismatched markings, asymmetrical pigmentation, or even half-and-half body patterns.

These fluke swim and feed like any other, but their appearance tells a deeper genetic story. And while scientists believe chimerism may occur more often than we see, it usually goes unnoticed unless there's a visible difference.

If you catch one, take clear photos and note the location. RISAA would love to document it for our records — and maybe even feature it in a future issue!

Have a "weird catch" story? Send it to us at travers@risaa.org.

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COOKING YOUR CATCH

By: Paula Smalec

BAKED LEMON PEPPER FLUKE

This recipe is perfect for a quick weeknight meal. Fluke fillets are baked with a mixture of melted butter, lemon pepper seasoning, garlic powder, and a pinch of salt for an easy weeknight meal that the whole family will love. *(This recipe can be prepared with black sea bass, tautog, or any other mild tasting white fish.)*

Ingredients:

- 1 pound fluke fillets
- drizzle of olive oil
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted
- 2 teaspoons lemon pepper seasoning
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- fresh chopped parsley or dill, for garnish

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Lightly oil a baking dish with olive oil.

Pat the fillets dry with a paper towel and place in a single layer in the baking dish.

Pour the melted butter into a small bowl. Stir in the lemon pepper, garlic powder, and salt.

Drizzle the flavored butter over the fillets, covering them completely.

Bake, uncovered, for 15-20 minutes or until the fish flakes easily when pierced with a fork.

Transfer fillets onto a plate and pour the butter sauce from the baking dish over the fish.


Sprinkle the chopped parsley or dill over the fillets and serve.

Recipe is adapted from the original - <https://morethanmeatandpotatoes.com/lemon-pepper-flounder/>




Attention Members! Do you have a favorite seafood recipe to share with the membership in our magazine? If so, please submit the recipe with a photo of the finished dish to definis@risaa.org

Where possible, try for recipes that use local or commonly available ingredients and fish of the season—e.g. tog recipes in fall, clams and shellfish in summer, etc..



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The RISAA Foundation Announces the 2025 Continuing Education Scholarship Winners

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



Mateo Cintron

Mateo is a first-year Marine Biology student at Roger Williams University who is already making impressive strides in his academic and professional journey. What makes Mateo truly unique is his vision to combine two passions—marine biology and film production—to make science more accessible and engaging. He wants to teach people how “cool the ocean is,” whether it’s to academics, schoolchildren, or audiences online.

Mateo has backed this passion with action. He currently serves as both an Aquarium Educator at Save the Bay and a Research Assistant in his university’s aquaculture lab. In these roles, he teaches guests of all ages about Narragansett Bay ecology, manages marine life care, and contributes to aquarium system maintenance. He also earned his Open Water SCUBA certification and was elected Treasurer of the SCUBA Club—all within his first year.

This fall, Mateo will study coral reef ecosystems in Bermuda, where he’ll snorkel, dive, and conduct field-based marine research culminating in a formal presentation. These experiences are helping him build the skills to become not only a marine biologist, but also a compelling science communicator.

Mateo is known for his professionalism, leadership, and ability to connect with learners of all ages. With his motivation, creativity, and strong academic foundation, Mateo is poised to inspire a new generation of ocean stewards.



Nathan Riello

Our second recipient, Nathan Riello, is entering his second year at the University of Rhode Island, where he’s pursuing a degree in Marine Biology with a minor in Aquaculture and Fisheries. His intellect, work ethic, and curiosity are matched only by his ability to communicate science concepts effectively. His passion

for marine ecosystems runs deep—literally and figuratively. Growing up by the sea, Nathan has committed himself to a future protecting and studying our oceans. What truly sets Nathan apart is his leadership and initiative. He was selected to participate in two semesters of research with URI’s renowned Dr. Wetherbee, studying the habitat and dive behaviors of Smooth Hammerhead Sharks. Nathan Riello is an excellent student and a change maker. His dedication, insight, and advocacy for marine life already make a difference.



Kaitlyn Muller

Our third recipient, Kaitlyn Muller, recently completed her first year as a Marine Biology major at the University of Rhode Island, and she has already distinguished herself through academic excellence, research experience, and leadership in the URI community. She is known for her curiosity, focus, and strong field skills. Whether conducting quadrat surveys or leading her peers

in chaotic trawl data collection, Kaitlyn brings order, clarity, and enthusiasm to every setting.

Her passion for marine ecosystems began in Barnegat Bay, New Jersey, where she attended a marine biology high school and conducted community-based research on lagoon development and water quality. She’s carried that dedication into her college career—working with Save Barnegat Bay, participating in outreach and education, and excelling in field methods, data analysis, and science communication. As a peer mentor and member of the Marine Science Society and College Ambassador Program, she supports first-year and prospective students with warmth and insight.

She’s currently preparing for salt marsh ecology coursework and SCUBA certification, all while eyeing graduate studies focused on coastal conservation and public engagement. Kaitlyn’s future in marine science is bright, and I can say with confidence that she will continue to make meaningful contributions to both research and environmental education.

Stephen Therrien Memorial Scholarship for Fisheries and Marine Sciences

Our last award tonight is the Stephen Therrien Memorial Scholarship for Fisheries and Marine Sciences. This scholarship was established in 2017 by Kerry Therrien, in memory of her husband. Ms. Therrien thoughtfully designed this scholarship to provide funding for future generations of marine scientists who share Stephen’s dedication to understanding and preserving our fisheries and marine environment.

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



Sophia Kay

Sophie Kay’s passion for marine life began early—sparked by a fascination with dolphins that quickly grew into a deep love for entire ocean ecosystems. From childhood, she sought out every opportunity to learn, from aquariums and books to conversations with fellow enthusiasts. Though she sometimes stepped into new spaces with nervousness, Sophie consistently

transformed those moments into meaningful growth, driven by a quiet determination and unwavering curiosity.

Now a Marine Biology major at Roger Williams University, Sophie is thriving. Her professors describe her as a top student with exceptional academic potential. She maintains a perfect GPA, participates regularly in class discussions, and approaches her work with diligence, clarity, and commitment.

Beyond academics, Sophie has found a clear direction: aquatic veterinary medicine. Her goal is to care for marine animals in need—uniting her passion for science with a lifelong desire to nurture and support. Her professors note her natural ability to foster collaboration among peers, elevate group engagement, and lead by example.

Sophie’s motivation, academic excellence, and compassionate approach to marine science make her a standout student and future leader in the field. With the support of this scholarship, she will continue her journey to protect and care for the very creatures that first inspired her dreams. Respected by all who know her, we congratulate our 2025 Therrien Scholar, Sophia Kay. 🐟



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RISAA Announces 2025 Scholarship Winners

On behalf of the RISAA Scholarship Committee, I am pleased to present the Stephen Medeiros Memorial Scholarships. RISAA is committed to supporting our members’ immediate families as they pursue a college education. Through the Scholarship Committee, our Association awards as many as ten \$600 scholarships. This was a highly competitive year and we are impressed by the many accomplishments of this year’s winners. Due to scheduling conflict not all of our recipients are able to be with us tonight. Thanks to the members of the scholarship committee, Gary Lepore, Dominic Ricci, Mike Warner, Scott Travers, and Dawn Wood, for their thoughtful work and the careful consideration they give to our scholarship applicants every year.



Ruby-Love Carter

Our first Stephen Medeiros Memorial Scholarship recipient is a talented scholar, a gifted artist, and is dedicated to helping others. She has consistently demonstrated excellence in academics, leadership, and service. She is a proud member of the National Honor Society and earned the Commissioner’s Seal in recognition of her academic achievements. As a senior, she took on the challenge of the Running Start program at CCRI, earning college credits throughout her senior year—a path that required her to complete all high school requirements ahead of schedule.

Her accomplishments extend well beyond the classroom. She served on the Executive Committee for the Class of 2025 and managed the class’s social media presence throughout the year. She brings a strong and consistent work ethic to everything she does. Since her sophomore year, she has held multiple part-time jobs—including over two years at Safe Harbor Marina, where she was recently promoted to a leadership role overseeing dockhand operations. Her dedication and reliability were evident to many of us just last Thursday, as she expertly guided our boats into their slips for fish camp.

What may be most inspiring is Ruby’s unwavering commitment to her family. Since her freshman year, she has helped care for her Nana, who faced significant health challenges. That experience speaks to Ruby’s compassion, resilience, and inner strength, and ultimately inspired her to pursue a career in nursing.

This fall, she will begin that journey at Keene State College. Congratulations to member David Carter’s granddaughter, Ruby-Love Carter.



Madeline Flinn

Our second Stephen Medeiros Memorial Scholarships recipient is an exceptional young woman whose dedication to academic excellence, leadership, and service truly sets her apart. She has consistently pursued the most rigorous courses available, always striving for intellectual and academic growth. Her hard work has earned her induction into the National Honor Society, along with prestigious honors such as the Pell Medal for U.S. History and the Brown University Book Award—both recognizing her academic achievement and deep curiosity.

She is also a standout student-athlete. As captain of both the Cranston East lacrosse and soccer teams, she leads with encouragement rather than ego. Her coaches and teammates respect her for her skills, work ethic, and her ability to lift others up. When a coaching change brought uncertainty to the soccer team, she stepped up—organizing team-bonding events and initiating honest conversations that helped transform tension into unity and a successful season.

Service has always been her compass. She mentors elementary students, volunteers at a local food pantry, gives tours to prospective students, and helps raise mental health awareness. She does all of this while also holding part-time jobs, refereeing youth soccer, and interning in local classrooms.

Her calling is in healthcare. Inspired by the care her grandfather received after a stroke, she is dedicated to pursuing a career in occupational therapy. Through her work in her school’s Partners program—supporting students with severe disabilities—she has already witnessed the transformative power of adaptive care and continues to grow her passion for helping others regain strength and independence. She will begin her studies at Boston College this fall. Congratulations to member Brian Flinn’s daughter, Madeline Flinn. 🐟

2025 RISAA Membership Fluke Tournament

The 2025 RISAA Membership Fluke Tournament was June 20, 2025 to June 29, 2025. The RISAA Membership Fluke Trip with the Frances Fleet sailed on June 28, 2025, allowing those who were participating in the tournament a chance to fish from a charter boat in areas they otherwise might not have had an opportunity to try.

This tournament was a hotly contested event with many anglers who don’t normally participate in tournaments submitting entries. There were some notable results in this tournament that haven’t been seen in at least the past 3 years. This tournament saw not one, but two female anglers in the top 5 winners circle. Not only that, but one of the female anglers is a junior member! To make things even more interesting, our female junior angler caught her prize winning catch after participating in the Youth Fishing Camp this year! It just goes to show that the volunteers from RISAA and all those who help to make the Youth Fishing Camp a success every year are truly making a difference.

Below are the standings for the 2025 RISAA Membership Fluke Tournament:

TEAM DIVISION

- 1st Place - Fluke-it**
Dariusz Kołodziejczak, Ronnie Tipple - 20.79 lbs
- 2nd Place - Waiting On Dawn**
Thomas Wood, Dawn Filliatreault Wood - 18.85 lbs
- 3rd Place- Jim & Jim**
James Kaczynski Sr., James Kaczynski Jr. - 9.34 lbs
- 4th Place - Salt Shaker**
Bill Hubert, Scott Travers Admin - 8.65 lbs.
- 5th Place - Silver Alert Crew**
Capt. Richard Hittinger, Robert Murray - 6.00 lbs



INDIVIDUAL DIVISION

- 1st - Mathew Haczynski** - 11.69lbs
- 2nd - Peter O’Biso** - 9.80lbs
- 3rd - John Kim** - 9.01 lbs
- 4th - Arabella Kim** - 8.45 lbs
- 5th - David Ricks** - 7.69 lbs

If you have never participated in a RISAA species specific tournament, or the RISAA annual tournament, and would like to participate, entering a fish is a relatively easy process. Once you catch your prize winning entry, take the fish to any RISAA approved bait and tackle shop to be weighed. A list of the RISAA approved bait and tackle shops can be found on our website (www.risaa.org). The bait and tackle shops should have RISAA Tournament slips for you to complete. However, I recommend RISAA members carry a few tournament slips with them in their tackle boxes just in case. The current version of the RISAA tournament slips will be available on the tournament entries page of the RISAA website shortly. If you would like an electronic copy of the most current tournament slip you can request it by sending an email to travers@risaa.org. Once you have completed the slip, and the representative of the bait and tackle shop has completed their part, simply submit a picture of the fish along with a picture of the slip to the RISAA website on the Tournament Entries page which is located in the MEMBERS AREA.

Good luck to all my fellow RISAA members in the annual tournament and upcoming species specific tournaments! 🐟

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IN REMEMBRANCE Eric M. Tarpinian-Jachym

This summer, we lost an outstanding young man and RISAA member—Eric Tarpinian-Jachym. Eric was not only a dedicated angler but was an outstanding student and made significant contributions to society despite his young age. Among his many accomplishments, Eric was a past winner of a RISAA Member Scholarship. Here is a brief summary of his fishing activities:



Eric started fishing when he was a toddler on the R.I. waters with his siblings, grandpa and parents. He would crab, fish, and when he got older loved clamming with his friends and family. Eric was a member of Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association along with his father. He frequently competed in tournaments, free dives to remove marine debris and has supported RISAA's initiatives before the Rhode Island Fisheries Commissions. He also belonged to Pioneer Valley Boat & Surf in Agawam, MA, where he was on the Board of Directors and the youngest board member ever. Eric met so many wonderful people at this club. He was in all their fishing tournaments, sold raffle tickets at the Sportsmen's Show and met

many nice mentors at this club who honed in on how Eric cared about the environment and fishing while encouraging younger and older generations to participate in fishing. He has mentored people on the R.I. shores. Eric and his best fishing buddy, David Boggs entered the Rhode Island Surfcasting classic. Fishing Clubs from RI, CT, and MA participate, and this competition is held in the Fall. Eric winning the Trophy for the Pioneer Valley Boat and Surf made Eric and the Club so happy, especially David, his fishing buddy, during the tournament. He also loved ice fishing with his father and brother.

Eric's presence was marked by a bright mind, quiet determination, and a quick wit.

We ask that you remember Eric for his kind heart, intelligence, his sense of justice, love of nature, and his unwavering curiosity. Eric was a humble old soul. He leaves behind his family, close friends, a university, and intern community that will feel his absence deeply. 🐟

Eric's full obituary can be found here: <https://www.forastiere.com/obituaries/Eric-M-Tarpinian-Jachym?obId=43571409>

Donations in Eric's memory may be made to the RISAA Foundation to continue funding for Kids Fishing Camp. RISAA at: www.risaa.org/the-foundation/ or by mail to RISAA P.O. Box 1467, Coventry, RI 02816

UPCOMING SEMINAR **LIVE** the **ELKS LODGE** - 60 Clyde Street, West Warwick, RI

AUGUST 25 @ 7 PM

Shark Tagging Off Block Island & Shark Conservation

with Treasurer Steve Skenyon & Executive Director Scott Travers



Come and learn about the exciting world of offshore shark tagging with Captain Steve Skenyon. Steve will show members where to go, what baits and equipment to use and most importantly, how to safely participate in this wild sport. Steve will be aided by Executive Director Scott Travers. Together, they will share their experiences in tagging large sharks through narrative and photos.

Captain Steve Skenyon is an experienced offshore angler and is part-time captain of the Snappa charter boat. He serves on the RISAA Board of Directors and also as the association's Treasurer.



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.

2025 RISAA Membership Bluefish Tournament

It's official! The first RISAA membership tournament of the year, the Bluefish Tournament, is in the net, so to speak. This year the bluefish tournament ran from May 29, 2025 to June 8, 2025. While some anglers found it difficult to locate bluefish during the beginning of the fishing season this year, others had no trouble locating them and turned in some great fish to be weighed at the various RISAA affiliated bait and tackle shops. Here is a breakdown of the winners in both the team and individual divisions:

TEAM DIVISION

1st - Highflyer - Robert Matteson/Philip Matteson - 27.04 lbs

2nd - Chasin'Tailz - Michael Lynch/Ronald Lynch - 8.86 lbs

INDIVIDUAL DIVISION

1st - Paul Phlllips - 18.8 lbs

2nd - John Migliori - 10.8 lbs

3rd - Capt. Stephen Skenyon - 6.5 lbs

4th - Michael Tilelli - 4.25 lbs

As always, those who place in the top 5 positions for both team and individual divisions receive gift certificates to their favorite RISAA affiliated bait and tackle shops in the region. For a full list of affiliated bait and tackle shops check the RISAA website (www.risaa.org).



This was the first of several species specific tournaments open to all RISAA members in good standing this year. At the time of the publishing of this article the Fluke Tournament will also be completed. Upcoming tournaments include the Juniors Tournament (August 1, 2025 to August 10, 2025) which focuses on the number of species caught, not the size of the fish, the Black Sea Bass Tournament (September 26, 2025 to October 4, 2025), and the Tautog Tournament (October 24, 2025 to November 2, 2025). 🐟

2025 South Kingstown Fishing Derby Success!!



It was a seasonably warm evening with mostly cloudy skies on Wednesday June 4th when RISAA members Susan Lema, Pete O'Biso, Orlando Savastano, and Scott Travers met with South Kingstown Parks and Recreation Supervisor Taylor Lynch at Indian Run Reservoir for their annual Youth Fishing Derby. The Fishing Derby is held every year and affords the opportunity for many youth to participate in their first fishing derby. This year the program saw an amazing turnout by participants and their parents. All 50 openings were filled through pre-registration while several more anxious youths showed up with rods in hand without having previously signed up.

Everyone was allowed to participate and some great fish were caught by the junior anglers including brook trout, catfish, and

bluegills. RI DEM's Division of Fish and Wildlife provided rods and equipment for the youth to use as well as provided stocked fish for the pond in advance of the event. Elisa Conti from Snug Harbor assisted at the event as well as provided both bait and prizes for the participants. RISAA members assisted the participants, helped weigh fish, repair rods, and replace gear during the event.

As in past years, the event ended at 7:00 PM with an informal awards ceremony and prizes distributed to the participants who caught the largest fish. However, junior anglers were still fishing with their own gear up to an hour after the event ended while RISAA members and others cleaned up and stowed gear. The passion for fishing was successfully passed on to another generation! 🐟

DEM/ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE ARREST & CITATION LOG

MAY 2025

HOANG, Tien M., 60, of Worcester, MA, for Taking Shellfish from Polluted Area – 1st Offense and Non-Resident Taking of Shellfish Without License

PARENTE, Stephen, 69, of Little Compton, RI, for Gill Net Tags Required, Pingers Required on All Gillnets, Weak Link Required on All Gillnets, Burying Anchor Required on Gill Net, Improper Buoying of Gill Nets, and Improperly Marked Gillnet Buoy (Administrative Process)

LUCIER, Douglas, 42, of North Kingstown, RI, for Trap Tag Required and Failure to Mark a Trap (Administrative Process)

DA SILVA, Armando S., 42, of Brockton, MA, for Exceeding Daily Limit of Tautog and Possession of Undersized Tautog

PIRES, Joao, 65, of Brockton, MA, for Exceeding Daily Limit of Tautog and Possession of Undersized Tautog

ZHANG, Rong H., 49, of West Bridgewater, MA, Taking Shellfish from Polluted Area – 1st Offense and Non-Resident Taking of Shellfish Without License

JUNE 2025

PIMENTEL, Luis, 32, of East Providence, RI, for Failure to Mark a Trap, Whelk Pot Trap Tag Required, and Wet Storage of Gear

LINH, Sina, 38 of Lowell, MA, for Taking Shellfish from Polluted Area – 1st Offense and Non-Resident taking Shellfish Without License

ROACH, Ethan N., 23, of Jamestown, RI, for Unmarked Traps (3 Counts)

LUJAN, Valeriu, 42, of West Springfield, MA, for Possession of Undersized Tautog and Exceeding Daily Limit of Tautog

STOICA, Alexei, 60, of Agawam, MA, for Possession of Undersized Tautog and Exceeding Daily Limit of Tautog, and Possession of Undersized Black Sea Bass

ANDRADE ALVES FERNANDES, Gelson, 29, of Brockton, MA, for Possession of Undersized Tautog and Exceeding Daily Limit of Tautog

GONCALVES, Nilton C., 25, of Brockton, MA, for Possession of Undersized Tautog, Exceeding Daily Limit of Tautog, Possession of Undersized Black Sea Bass, Exceeding Daily Limit of Black Sea Bass, and Possession of Undersized Flounder.

JORGE, Sonia S., 30, of Brockton, MA, for Exceeding Daily Limit of Tautog, Possession of Undersized Black Sea Bass, Exceeding Daily Limit of Black Sea Bass, and Possession of Undersized Flounder.

FLORES, Jose E., 59, of Providence, RI, for Possession of Undersized Tautog, Exceeding Daily Limit of Tautog, Possession of Undersized Black Sea Bass, and Exceeding Daily Limit of Black Sea Bass

HERNANDEZ REYES, Braulio, 55, of Johnston, RI, for Possession of Undersized Black Sea Bass and Exceeding Daily Limit of Black Sea Bass



The following is a breakdown of the citations issued for the period of: May & June 2025

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

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE THROUGH OUR DISPATCH CENTER: 3,873

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: 237

VIOLATION CITATIONS ISSUED

State Property Violations	25
(Parking, Alcohol, Disorderly Conduct, Dumping/Littering, etc.)	
Motor Vehicle	77
Boating Violations	34
ATV Violations	0
Freshwater Fishing Violations.....	0
Saltwater Fishing Violations	20
CRMC Beach Violations	0
Hunting Violations.....	4
Total	160

***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.**

2025 DMF FLUKE TAGGING

BACKGROUND

The Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries is conducting a project that seeks to describe summer flounder stock dynamics in Rhode Island state waters. Results from this effort will support science-based management of the resource, particularly with relation to recent declines in the availability of summer flounder to nearshore recreational anglers.

A major component of this project consists of a mark-recapture study using conventional disc tags. The low cost and relative ease in applying these tags to marine species makes them a desirable tool when looking to achieve a high sample size with a large team of citizen scientists. However, as a mark-recapture tagging technique, movement inference on tagged fish is reliant on the public recapturing the tagged fish and reporting the recaptured fish to scientists. Peterson disc tags, each with their own serial number and the phone number of the project team, will be deployed on sub-adult and adult summer flounder, with a goal of tagging up to 1000 flounder over the course of the study. Tags will be deployed by recreational anglers within the private and for-hire sectors by working with the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) and the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association (RIPCBA).

TAGGING

Participating anglers will be asked to tag and release fish caught below minimum legal size, and any legal sized fish they plan on releasing. Information requested from anglers when tagging the fish will include: serial tag number, date, location (latitude and longitude), size (length, and weight when possible) of the fish, and the depth and water temperature the fish was caught from. Harvesters tagging fish will be asked to email a copy or photo of the completed tagging form, or to have them mailed or dropped off with the project team.

The tagging procedure for disc tags is simple.

- 1. Catch a fluke!
- 2. Measure the fish and record all needed information on datasheet.
- 3. Place a wet rag over the head of the fluke while on the board.
- 4. Slide the ID tag with serial number onto the pin.
- 5. Place the fluke blind (white) side up. Push the pin through the fish at the end of the pectoral fin directly between the lateral line and the top of the fish.



- 6. Flip the fish over to be on the eyed side. Slide the Reward tag onto the top of the pin.
- 7. Snip the pin leaving roughly ~1/2 inch of pin on top on the fish. Fold the top on the pin so that it will retain the tag in place. Do not fold it entirely snug onto the fish so it has room to grow.
- 8. Release the fish

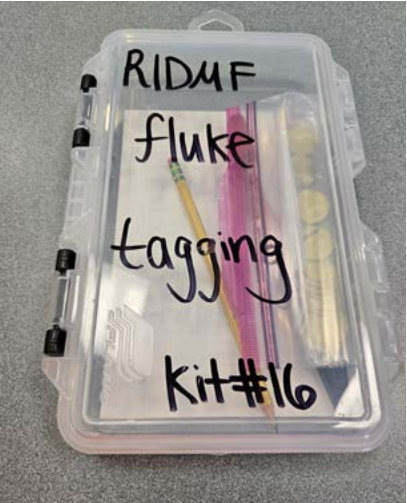
I CAUGHT A TAGGED FLUKE, NOW WHAT?..

Tagged fish are still subject to local regulations and must be released if outside legal size and/or bag limits. Legal size tagged fish may be kept by anglers. Anglers planning on releasing a tagged fish should record the tag’s information and leave the tag in the fish to potentially be caught again and provide even more information. Before releasing the fish, record its length, catch location, catch depth, and set it free.

If the fish is of legal size, and you intend to keep it, then leave the tag in the fish until you get home. Disc tags will contain the phone number of RI Division of Marine Fisheries, where harvesters can call in to report information on recaptured fish. Don’t worry about revealing your secret fishing spot – a general area will suffice if

you prefer. Scientists will use that information to determine how much the fish grew, where it had migrated and how long it was at large.

As an extra incentive, anglers who catch and report a tagged fish will be rewarded with an RI DMF summer flounder hat! So, if you catch a tagged fluke this summer, be sure to let us know so you can show off your support of science-based management and keeping RI fisheries sustainable.



Additional information available on the RI Division of Marine Fisheries website : <https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/marine-fisheries/fisheries-science-research/surveys/tagging>

TURNER DAM FISH LADDER

The James V. Turner Reservoir sits on the boarder of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts State lines between East Providence and Seekonk. At the Southern end of the reservoir, on the Rhode Island Side, one will find a dam and fish ladder which flows into the Ten Mile River, Omega Pond, the Seekonk River, and eventually out to the Bay. The Reservoir is home to a variety of freshwater species including river herring, which are a very important species, especially for all of us saltwater recreational anglers.

The dam was built in 1934, and the fish ladder was later installed, along with two other fish ladders along the Ten Mile River at Omega Dam and Hunt’s Mill Dam to facilitate the passage of river herring to saltwater. The Turner Dam fish ladder’s construction consists of a concrete structure with wooden baffles in slots, much like many other fish ladders. In the 1960’s a majority of fish ladders were built to what is termed “salmon pitch” which is appropriate for the capabilities of salmon, not necessary that of river herring. The current fish ladder at Turner Dam is more appropriate for the capabilities of river herring offering them a great chance of successful passage.

As one can imagine, over time the wooden portions of the fish ladder deteriorate and repairs are needed. I recently spoke with John O’Brien from the Nature Conservancy who stated the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Maintenance Action Team recently conducted repairs to the Turner Dam fish ladder replacing the wooden baffles with sustainably harvested white oak which was harvested from USFWS property. This type of wood was selected because it is much more resilient than red oak or pine. Next year, the fish ladder on Omega Dam will receive the same repairs to help ensure the river herring are able to successfully migrate.

In Rhode Island we have 24 fish passages on coastal streams that service migratory species like river herring. All of them require maintenance and adjustment periodically. Other recent fish ladder projects that have been completed include adjustment of the staging and holding pools at the Indian Lake fish ladder and



adjustment of baffles in another location in Barrington. With the prevalence of obstacles like dams fish ladders are the best way to help fish migrate.

According to John O’Brien, conservation groups such as the Nature Conservancy are learning all the time and fish passages like these provide opportunities to study fish populations. There are a variety of ways fish can be studied including tagging, volunteers counting fish as they cross the fish ladders, and via the use of underwater video cameras that monitor the exit of the ladder 24/7. However, methods like the use of underwater video cameras require volunteers or staff to watch hours of recordings to count the fish that pass the camera view. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) researchers are developing software which will allow Artificial Intelligence (AI) to take over that function, freeing up volunteers and staff members for more research.



2025 KAYAK COMMITTEE MEET AND GREET

By **Kraig Ruth**

After the first two kayak outings of 2025 got cancelled due to weather, the RISAA Kayak Committee finally got together on May 17 at Goddard Park in East Greenwich for fishing followed by a Meet and Greet. Twelve RISAA members attended, some as early as 5am while others arrived for the 10am Meet and Greet. Fish were caught by the early crew including a weakfish and an over-the-slot striped bass.

The annual Meet and Greet is a good time for kayak anglers, both experienced and those new to the sport, to discuss whatever topics come up regarding successful kayak fishing. This year, rigging and transport options were discussed. One angler gave a demo on cartopping his kayak by using a pool noodle as a pivot

point for the kayak bow. This allowed for easy loading even with a heavy kayak. Several kayakers showed off what they were using for early season striper success including lures and flies. Another member wasn’t sure how to attach a fish finder to his kayak but saw an example that he liked and will copy that method. Another topic was waterproof socks and several members showed off what type they are using and explained the benefits especially when water temps are in the low 50s.

The kayak committee outings are a great place to meet and learn how to become a better angler. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Kraig Ruth at kruth@rissa.org.

If you would like to know more about river herring, fish passages, or how you can volunteer to participate in fish counting activities, email travers@risaa.org for more information.



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RISAA KAYAK COMMITTEE 2025 OUTING SCHEDULE							
Date	Day	Time	Location	Address	Target	Leader	
Aug 30	Sat	6:00 AM	Camp Cronin, Narragansett	Ocean Road, Narragansett 02882	Albies/Bass/Tautog	Don Goodroe	
Sept 9	Tues	6:30 AM	Bass River Yarmouth, Falmouth, Hyannis	TBD based on fishing reports	Albies/Bonito	Jeffrey Richard	
Sept 27	Sat	8:00 AM	Fogland Beach, Tiverton	12 Point View Drive, Tiverton 02878	Bass/Tautog	Kraig Ruth	
Oct 11	Sat	8:00 AM	Narrow River, South Kingstown	Sprague Bridge, South Kingstown 02879	Bass	Kirk Kamien	
Oct 19	Sun	6:00 AM	Goddard Park State Park Boat Ramp	1095 Ives Road, East Greenwich 02818	Bass	Don Goodroe	
Oct 24	Fri	8:00 PM	Battery Park (Newport Bridge), Newport	Washington Street, Newport 02840	Squid	Dave Leandro	
Nov 17	Mon	6:30 PM	Annual Meeting at Aidan's Pub	5 John Street, Bristol RI 02809	n/a	Kraig Ruth	

RISAA SURFCASTERS TAKE BACK THE TROPHY



Our Surfcasters Committee help the Spring Surf Fishing Club Challenge over the June 6th through 8th weekend. Seven surf clubs from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island were in the mix, all vying for the coveted Challenge Championship trophy that dates back to the year 2004.

Members of the following clubs participated:

- Connecticut Surfcasters Association
- Hartford Surf Fishing Club
- Narragansett Pier Sportfishing Association
- Narragansett Surfcasters Club
- Pioneer Valley Boat and Surf Club
- RI Mobile Sportfishermen
- RI Saltwater Anglers Association

The first lures were cast into the misty fog on Friday night at 6 PM, which proved to be a good strategy for several of the anglers as results started to arrive shortly after dark. The Challenges use a special off-shoot of RISAA's website that is dedicated to these contests. So all an angler with a qualifying fish needs to do is to enter their catch on the website. We wholeheartedly support the catch, photo, release process to get our catches back in the water as soon as possible. That philosophy, along with the capabilities of our website, enabled the Surfcasters to adopt a Catch and Release tournament format several years ago. And that change is widely appreciated by the participating clubs.

The fishing continued through Sunday morning at 7 AM. Saturday night and the wee hours of Sunday morning were a boon

If you would like to join the Surfcasters Committee please contact Paul Chapman at surfcasters@risaa.org.



to some and frustrating bust to some others. While good catches were being made in certain areas of the state, weeds spoiled the fun for many of those along the south coast beaches. But they had their share of success too. By the time the Challenge concluded Sunday morning sixteen qualifying catches were reported, with fifteen striped bass and one bluefish. The minimum striper length is 28 inches. Bluefish of any size qualify.

We wrap up the event with our traditional Fishermen's Breakfast and awards ceremony under the tent at The Andrea in Misquamicut. Two dozen club members were on hand to swap stories of the previous day and a half and to enjoy the always-popular, and filling, breakfast buffet. During this time raffle wranglers Richie and Tommy Reich sold tickets to a very well stocked selection of tackle exhibited on the raffle table. Thanks go out to plug makers, 401 Plugs, Lights Out Lures, NLBN, and all the clubs and individuals who contributed raffle items. The raffle netted several hundred dollars and when combined with the fishing club entry fees, we were able to donate \$880 to the RI Community Food Bank, our chosen charity for the event.

But sandwiched in between the breakfast and the raffle is the much-anticipated awards presentations. It's what everyone wants to know! One club thinking maybe it's their turn to hoist the cup, or an angler wondering if her 39-incher was the top bass, or a fishing family hoping their many overnight catches would push their team over the top.

We started off with the top bluefish category that was taken by Cody Milardo's 21 inch bluefish, the only one landed during the event. And then it was on to the striped bass award. We honor Surfcaster Committee founder Charles Bradbury with a plaque dedicated to his memory. This special award went to Surfcasters Chairman Paul Chapman for his 43 inch giant. Congratulations, Paul.

Last is the announcement of three top teams and the awarding of the RISAA trophy. The Narragansett Surfcasters took the third spot and the Hartford Surf Fishing Club earned second with a very respectable effort of 101 points. None the less, Hartford was edged out by the RISAA team's 123 points. WE WON! RISAA will have its name on the trophy once again! That last happened in 2020.

We all left The Andrea exhausted but pleased with our efforts over the weekend. And some were already talking about the Fall Challenge that takes place in October. 🐟

2025 Vamos A Pescar!

Every year The RI Department of Environmental Management, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Aquatic Resource Education (ARE) Program receives federal funding and support from The US Fish and Wildlife Service to run the Vamos a Pescar Program. Vamos a Pescar, which means "let's go fishing" in Spanish, is a program through which the ARE Coordinator, staff, and volunteers help introduce Spanish speaking members of the urban areas within RI to fishing. The program involves several group activities with up to 100 participants at a time offering them opportunities to fish in both freshwater and saltwater environments.

This year, as in previous years, the RI Saltwater Anglers Association was on hand to help out on Tuesday afternoon, July 15, 2025 at the Larry Mouradjian Fishing Pier located within the Rocky Point State Park in Warwick, RI teaching people how to cast, tie knots, clear tangles, tie rigs, and clear more tangles (yes, tangles were mentioned twice intentionally). RISAA Board of Director's Member Bob "Merch Man" Marco and Executive Director Scott Travers helped get everyone get their lines in the water and keep them fishing throughout the event.



Various fish were caught including black sea bass, puffer fish and a very large eel. The eel was caught by one young, female participant who was very reluctant to touch the eel and declined the opportunity to stand anywhere close enough to it to record the moment with a picture.

While it may sound like an overwhelming task, two RISAA members on the end of a pier trying to teach over 50 people who speak another language how to fish, the Vamos a Pescar program continues to be one of the most rewarding programs to be part of. While Bob and I did our best to keep up with the calls for assistance from the new anglers, one angler, not affiliated with the program, who happened to be fishing on the pier, saw the need for someone to help out. Rather than becoming frustrated with all the inexperienced anglers taking over the fishing pier, he stepped in and began helping program participants as though he was a RIDEM staffer himself. It's that sense of community and people helping each other that I am so proud to be a part of. A friend, Chris Selera, who stopped by the event to say hello, stayed for the duration of the event to also help new people learn how to fish. Chris later decided to join RISAA and become a member based on his experience helping others at the event.

The Vamos a Pescar Program has one more session left for this season, which will be a charter trip with the Frances Fleet. RISAA members will be assisting again helping the participants catch fish that they will be able to take home to help feed their families. 🐟

Please contact Scott Travers at travers@risaa.org If you would like to help out with or learn more about any RISAA Volunteer opportunities.

2025 STANDINGS 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. Bill Hubert..... 4.20 lbs.
2. Michael Lynch..... 3.22 lbs.
3. Richard Reich..... 2.66 lbs.

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Lucas Blagburn..... 3.00 lbs.
2. Domenic Bianco 2.00 lbs.
3. No Entry

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. Michael Lynch..... 2.02 lbs.
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

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

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



Bluefish

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Gilberto Aguilar..... 12.12 lbs.
2. Paul Phillips..... 11.1 lbs.
3. Robert Matteson..... 7.6 lbs.

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. John Migliori..... 10.80 lbs.
2. Michael Tilelli..... 4.25 lbs.
3. No Entry

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

KAYAK DIVISION

1. Thomas Houde 7.21 lbs.



BONITO

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Thomas Houde 4.46 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..... 4.95 lbs.
2. Michael Lynch..... 2.76 lbs.
3. No Entry

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



Fluke

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Charles Murphy..... 11.84 lbs.
2. Robert Murray..... 10.90 lbs.
3. Matthew Haczynski 6.65 lbs.

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Arabella Kim 4.40 lbs.
2. Domenic Bianco 3.10 lbs.
3. No Entry

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

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

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



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



MAHI MAHI

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



POLLOCK

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



GRAY TRIGGERFISH

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



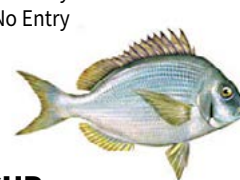
COD

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



SCUP

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Roger Cichy 2.20 lbs.
2. Richard Reich..... 1.78 lbs.
3. Paul Phillips 1.70 lbs.

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Domenic Bianco 1.40 lbs.
2. Lucas Blagburn..... 1.05 lbs.
3. No Entry

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. Michael Tilelli..... 1.48 lbs.
2. John Migliori..... 1.32 lbs.
3. Michael Lynch 1.05 lbs.

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



TAUTOG

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Richard Reich..... 7.24 lbs.
2. Brian Rooney 7.00 lbs.
3. Gilberto Aguilar..... 6.15 lbs.

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Domenic Bianco 4.36 lbs.
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. John Migliori..... 7.64 lbs.
2. Richard Reich..... 4.56 lbs.
3. Michael Lynch 3.42 lbs.

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

KAYAK DIVISION - ADULT

1. Roger Cichy 5.66 lbs.
2. Michael Lynch 4.80 lbs.
3. No Entry



SEA ROBIN

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

1. Bill Hubert..... 2.95 lbs.
2. Richard Reich..... 1.42 lbs.
3. No Entry

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

1. Domenic Bianco 0.90 lbs.
2. No Entry
3. No Entry

SHORE DIVISION - ADULT

1. John Migliori..... 2.42 lbs.
2. Michael Lynch..... 1.28 lbs.
3. No Entry

SHORE DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



TUNA - BLUEFIN

BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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



TUNA - YELLOWFIN

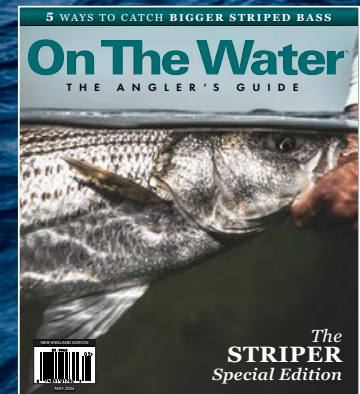
BOAT DIVISION - ADULT

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

BOAT DIVISION - JUNIOR

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

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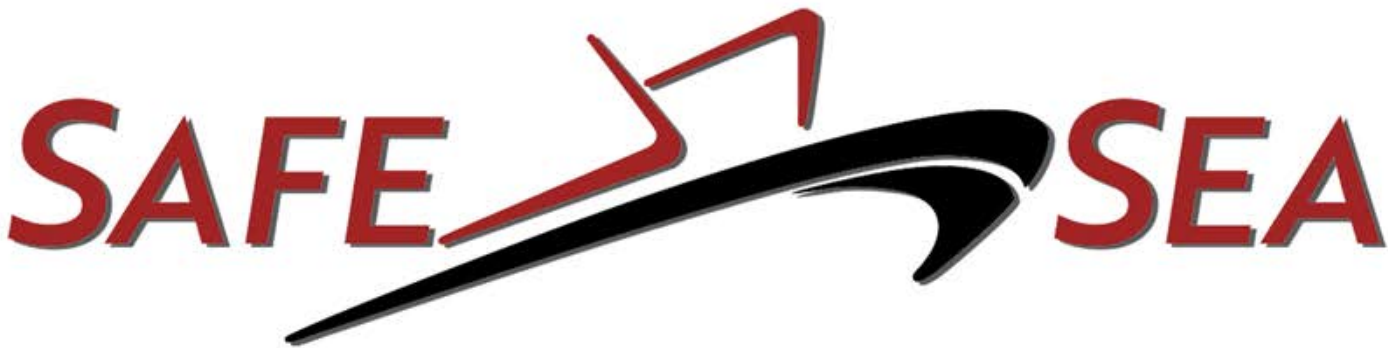
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edwards@risaa.org • 650-773-4168
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definis@risaa.org
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michel@risaa.org • 401-952-8697
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If you would like more information or would like to join a committee contact:
Scott Travers • Travers@risaa.org

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



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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.**

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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Political Action Committee

THANK YOU!

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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. Therefor, RISAA is proud to be **AFFILIATED** with these respected organizations:



COALITION PARTNERS

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



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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

☐ **RENEWAL** MEMBERSHIP ☐ **NEW** MEMBERSHIP

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

Occupation _____ Employed At _____

Children (up to 17 yrs): _____

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

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

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☐ Saw Advertisement at: ☐ Internet ☐ Magazine ☐ Newspaper ☐ TV ☐ Other _____

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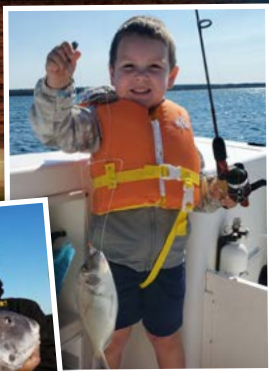
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