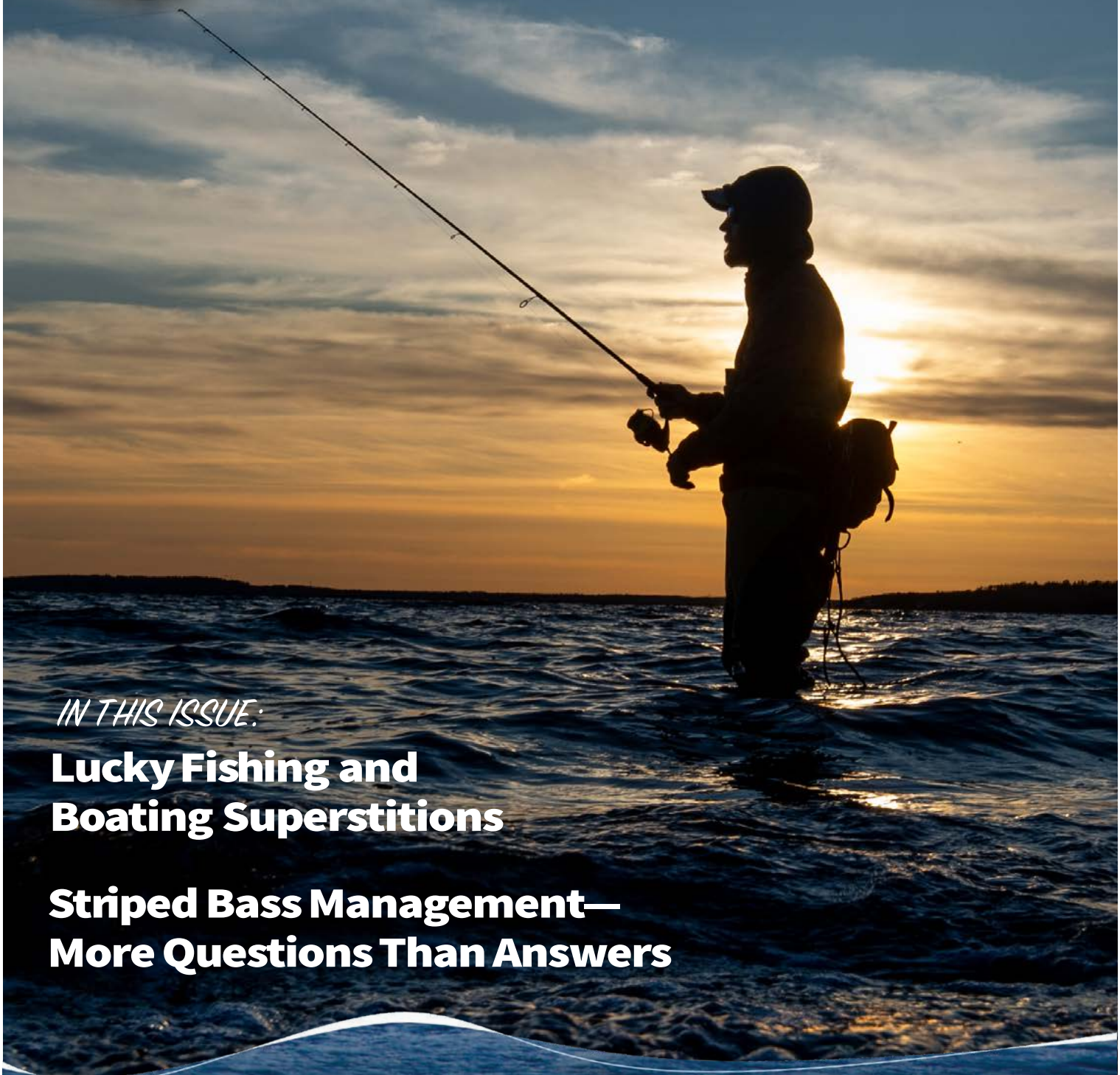




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*IN THIS ISSUE:*

**Lucky Fishing and  
Boating Superstitions**

**Striped Bass Management—  
More Questions Than Answers**

*PLUS:* **CRMC REFORM**

ISSUE: 313 • March/April 2026  
[www.RISAA.org](http://www.RISAA.org) • 401-826-2121

## EVENTS & MEETINGS

### Saturday, April 25

Annual Baquet at the Officers Club at Quonset Point  
See RISAA website for details and to sign up

### April 27

Seminar:  
**Early Spring Striped Bass** with Captain Dave Monti

## 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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## FROM THE HELM



# WHAT A WONDERFUL SEASON WE HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

In the wake of the 2026 NE Saltwater Fishing Show I want to thank all our show partners as well as all our amazing volunteers who worked so hard both behind the scenes and in front of the crowd before, during, and after the show. As I am always quick to point out, it takes a team to make an event of that size successful, and as always, RISAA members came together to make it all happen.

As we put away our snow shovels and turn our attention to sunnier days and warmer weather ahead, I'd like to take this opportunity to share some great things that we have planned for RISAA for the 2026 season!

First up, I am very proud to announce that on Sunday April 19th, thanks to our Collegiate Committee which was formed in 2025, we will be partnering with the RI Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Cast for Kids Foundation ([www.castforkids.org](http://www.castforkids.org)) to host the first ever Cast for Kids event in the State of Rhode Island, hosting a fishing event to provide children with special needs a quality outdoor recreational experience.


On Saturday April 25th, we will be hosting our Annual RISAA Banquet at the Quonset O Club. This event will honor those who placed in the 2025 annual tournament. There will also be other award presented as well as a fantastic array of items up for auction in both our silent and live auctions! This is a great opportunity to meet other RISAA members and cheer for our fellow members who were successful in taking the top spots in the 2025 annual tournament.

Speaking of tournaments, our annual tournament is always open and ready for submissions. We have a new Tournament Chair this year, Member Dave Leandro, so if you have any ideas or would like to be a part of the Tournament Committee, let me know. We will also be having our special tournaments throughout the year including Bluefish, Fluke, junior member tournament (no, we will not be fishing for junior members, the tournament is for junior members to participate in!), Black Sea Bass, and Tautog Tournaments.

Our annual Youth Fishing Camp will be held June 23-25 this year. Another group of 50 lucky youths from RI will get the experience of a lifetime learning the basics of saltwater angling from some of the best recreational anglers representing RISAA and a number of partnering organizations that help to make the program possible each year.

Throughout the year we will also have 5 membership charter trips targeting Squid, Fluke (2 trips), Black Sea Bass, and Tautog. These full day trips are subsidized by RISAA and are offered to all RISAA members in good standing at approximately half the price of what anglers would normally pay.

In addition to all this, we will be participating in various programs with local parks and recreation departments, RI Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the US Fish and Wildlife, as well as advocating at various levels for recreational marine fisheries regulations, shore access, advancing our artificial reefs program, and so much more. On a monthly basis we will continue to offer in person seminars that are free to RISAA members (\$10 donation for non-members) covering all topics to help make us better anglers. The seminars are also available to watch online on the RISAA website under the members home tab.

With such an aggressive schedule you bet the RISAA staff will be hard at work providing great opportunities for all RISAA members to participate in for 2026! If you would like to volunteer for an event, are interested in participating in a program, or would just like to help make RISAA better for everyone, please reach out to me. Let's make this the best season we have ever had! I will see you all on the water. 

Scott TRAVERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## THE WATCH

Reported by: Richard Hittinger, CHAIRMAN

# MOVING REEFS TO PROTECT BEACHES THE NEXT STEP FORWARD

RISAA has been promoting the concept of installing manmade reefs to protect shoreline assets, including beaches for some time now. We have held a Webinar with CRMC, State Legislators and other guests in attendance and we have provided testimony before the RI House Commission to Study Beach Erosion. In the last month the RISA Foundation took the next step and applied for Congressionally Directed Funding to the offices of Senator Reed, Senator Whitehouse and Representative Magaziner. This funding would provide over \$500,000 required for preliminary design and to establish the preferred location for a demonstration reef project. We have had a very good response to our request from the Congressional offices and received letters of support from RI CRMC, The Nature Conservancy, RI Sea Grant, many RI State Representatives and Senators as well as many private citizens. This shows that the work that RISAA has done through our Legislative Committee and Political Action Committee over the years have made RI leaders comfortable with RISAA and what we do.

Although the funding would primarily support the engineering work to be performed at the University of Rhode Island Ocean Engineering department, the RISA Foundation will provide services to communicate to interested organizations and communities regarding the progress of design and get feedback from the RI community at large regarding the reefs as the design moves forward. Our Foundation would hold in person public meetings, webinars, create written and electronic documents for distribution, provide feedback to the design team and generally coordinate between the public and the engineers.

This particular project design would create a reef that is considered "nature-based" because in addition to natural fouling by marine growth, we want to include planting kelp on the hard structure to improve the habitat and improve the ability of the constructed reef to reduce erosion caused by both storm generated impacts and average annual erosion. This is much the same as how tropical beaches are protected from erosion by the complex structures of coral reefs. We are interested in including kelp because many "old timers" have told us about how there was much more kelp along the south coast of RI 70 to 100 years ago than there is today. It is also well understood that kelp provides

a great habitat for both juvenile and adult fish of many species. If this reef can be shown to provide protection and improved habitat at the same time it can become a model for similar structures along the RI coast and other similar areas where rising sea level and storms are eroding beaches and threatening critical infrastructure. We see this reef as a habitat, a fishing location, and a potential site for recreational diving and snorkeling depending on the selected location.

*“ RISAA has been promoting the concept of installing manmade reefs to protect shoreline assets, including beaches for some time now. ”*

There are only two criticisms of this technology that we have heard:

Surfers don't want to reduce the wave action. We welcome discussions with surfers and we will explain that these systems are expensive and take a long time to be designed, permitted, and built. They will cover only a small portion of the possible beaches where surfing is conducted and we will coordinate with them to avoid placing these structures in areas where they identify as important to protect for surfing.

These structures can slow the lateral transport of sediment along expanses of beach, thereby "starving" a beach that is

*(Continued on page 9)*



RI SALTWATER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION  
Legislative Committee

## MEMBER PHOTOS



Doubled up! Member Anthony Besaw taking selfies with Eddy Stahowiak on a tin boat adventure.



Member Mike "Wicked" Wec with a couple nice tog.

## Scenes from another great NEW ENGLAND SALTWATER FISHING SHOW™



## See You Next Year!

### 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 Fred DeFinis at [definis@risaa.org](mailto:definis@risaa.org)

## Exciting Times to Come!

Keep watching your email, the RISAA website, social media and this magazine for opportunities to enjoy your many RISAA benefits.

- Annual Banquet April 25
- Members Squid Trip late May
- Our charter raffles will be starting soon at our monthly seminars
- Schedules for our Surfcasters, Kayak and other Committees
- 2026 Final Saltwater Regulations coming in May from DEM

**DON'T MISS OUT!**



## THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filiatreault Wood, CHAIR

### Welcome NEW Members!

#### JANUARY

Kirk Fitzsimmons - Pawtucket, RI  
Derek Johnson - East Greenwich, RI  
Jay Marchant - East Greenwich, RI  
Thomas McQuesten - Exeter, RI  
Josh Wiczorek - Southiington, CT

#### FEBRUARY

Ken Arnold - Chepachet, RI  
Anthony Besaw - Mashpee, MA  
Michael Byrne - East Greenwich, RI  
Jeffrey Creighton - Warren, RI  
Kyle Douton - Niantic, CT  
Captain Ken Foret - Upton, MA  
Pawel Kasica - Lincoln, RI  
Roger Lema - Charlestown, RI  
David Loren - Warren, RI  
Mark Paparelli - Lincoln, RI

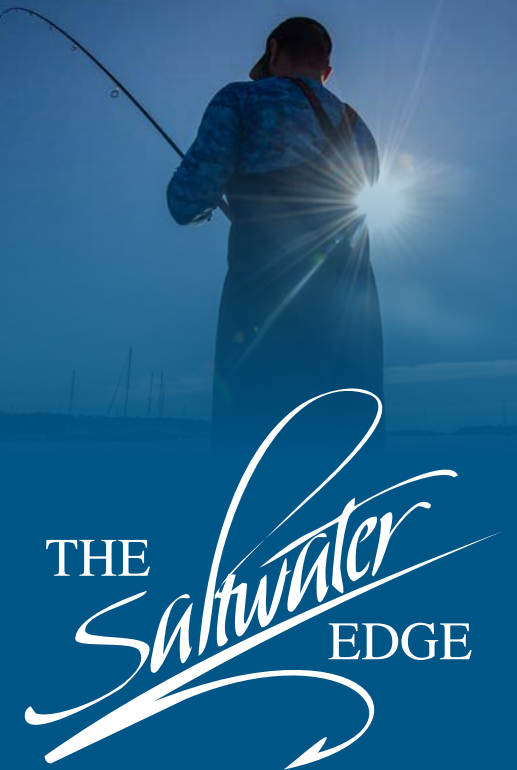
#### MARCH

Matthew Baryshyan - Stormville, NY  
Scott Brown - Lincoln, RI  
Henry Butler - Chelsea, MA  
Lydia Caruso - East Greenwich, RI  
William Cornejo - Providence, RI  
Jack Crimmins - Newport, RI  
Ron DeSantis - Cranston, RI  
Michael Fass - South Salem, NY  
Harold Felder - Providence, RI  
Christopher Glassanos - Bolton, MA  
Raymond Hathaway - Little Compton, RI  
Carl Hazen - Ansonia, CT  
Joseph Hughes - Pascoag, RI  
Stephen Keating - Shrewsbury, MA  
Herman Langham - Riverside, RI  
Michael Maley - South Grafton, MA  
Andrew McCauley - Providence, RI  
Kevin Monroe - North Kingston, RI  
Joseph Pacheco - Swansea, MA  
Israel Perez - Charlestown, RI  
Paul Piedade - Foxboro, MA  
Steven Roth - Cohasset, MA  
Jim StGermain - Charlestown, 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.*

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# Striped Bass Management— More Questions Than Answers

By Fred DeFinis

*“The recreational striped bass fishery is the single most important salt water recreational fishery to be found anywhere in the United States which, given that no other nation hosts as large a recreational fishery as the U.S. does, means that it’s the most important salt water recreational fishery in the entire world.”—Charlie Witek: One Angler’s Voyage.*

## Background

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has been charged by law to rebuild the striped bass stock spawning biomass (SSB) to target level by 2029. For the past two years, the probability of achieving this goal has been below fifty percent, yet ASMFC did not institute any regulatory changes for the 2025 season, thus making the task more difficult in that an already doubtful goal would now need to be achieved in a shorter time frame. For the coming 2026 season, ASMFC contemplated a 12% reduction in removals, likely via “no harvest” closures for a portion of the season. Yet again, ASMFC decided not to act.

**Question**—Was this decision based on science or politics?

**Answer**—Perhaps some of each. Read the official statement from ASMFC below:

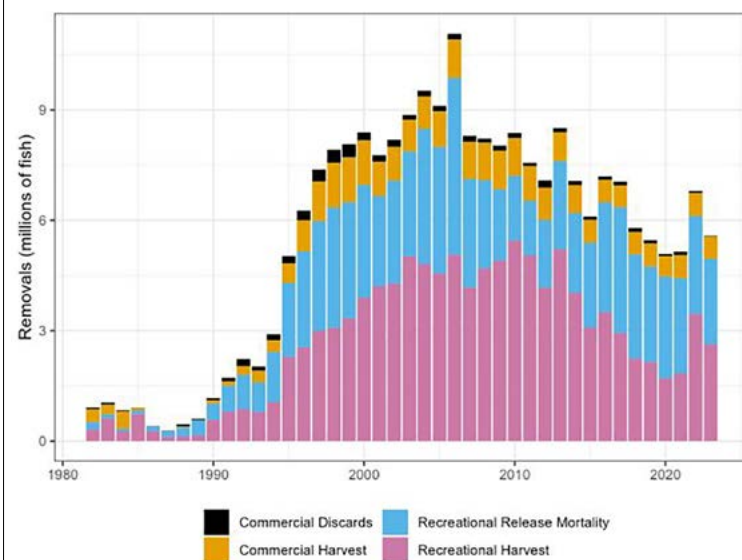
“The Board decided to not move forward with the proposed 12% reduction in fishery removals after lengthy deliberation. The Board reviewed the preliminary estimates of 2025 recreational catch through June, which were lower than anticipated and suggested that the projections may have underestimated the probability of rebuilding by 2029 and overestimated the reductions necessary to rebuild. The Board noted that the over 4,000 public comments they received on the draft addendum were sharply divided on the issue, as was the Board itself. Ultimately, the Board maintained current recreational measures and commercial quotas, noting the severe economic consequences of the proposed reduction, the low fishing mortality rate in 2024, and preliminary indications of lower catch in 2025. However, the Board continued to express concern about the seven consecutive years of low recruitment in Chesapeake Bay and the impact on the stock as those weak year-classes become the majority of the spawning stock biomass after 2029. To address this, the Board approved the establishment of a Work Group to consider these upcoming stock and management challenges beyond 2029. The Board will further discuss the specific tasks and timing of this Work Group at subsequent Board meetings.”

The Board cites lower fishing mortality and fewer trips targeting striped bass as reasons for optimism. An alternate view might suggest that anglers are not targeting and/or catching as many striped bass because there are fewer to catch. We know that when

stocks of a species are down, anglers turn their attention to other efforts. As an estimated 90% of striped bass are released, I am not sure “severe economic consequences” would result from a brief closure as stated by the Board.

**Question**—How does the recent study regarding release mortality (see November-December 2025 issue of RISAA magazine) factor into this?

**Answer**—It doesn’t yet factor into the calculations. ASMFC still uses the historical nine percent estimate of recreational release mortality. As you can see from the chart below, using a nine percent estimate, recreational release mortality accounts for about forty percent of all removals.



**Question**—Could there be problems with the fisheries data?

**Answer**—Perhaps. Let’s look at the different variables that factor into these calculations:

--Commercial landings—these are reported (by law) and should be relatively accurate.

-Party and Charter boat landings—In RI these are required to be reported also and likely to be accurate as well.

-Recruitment data—these studies have been conducted for over a half century in the same areas and at the same times of year. The recruitment numbers have been borne out by the abundance (or lack thereof) of mature fish in subsequent years.

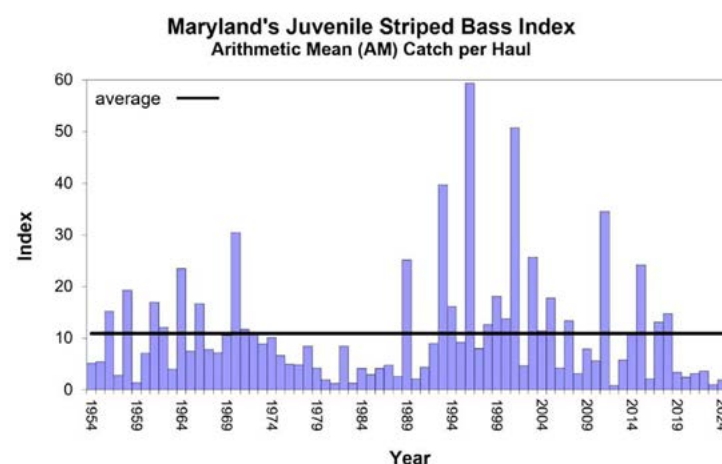
-Abundance or Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). —While there is a modest range of error surrounding the SSB estimates, these calculations also have a long track record and are conducted by experienced, educated professionals in their fields.

-Recreational harvest and release mortality—This could be the variable most prone to error. Currently, NOAA is revising the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) methodology as they believe MRIP has overstated recreational harvest across a variety of species. These adjustments are supposed to be implemented by 2026 according to the latest information.

When the saltwater licensing system was authorized under the Moss Magnuson act in 2010, it was promoted to anglers as a way to develop a database to provide more sound data for fisheries managers. Some of the initial efforts were totally invalid, and we still struggle to get sound information sixteen years later. Many experienced anglers in the charter and private angling community lack trust in the system. The MRIP system is currently undergoing some significant changes and will be rebranded.

**Question**—If recreational effort/catch and release mortality have been overstated, and the SSB is on the upswing, why don’t we have more fish?

**Answer**—The major problem we face going forward is the lack of



spawning success in the Chesapeake Bay region, which accounts for the majority of our striped bass. We have now experienced seven consecutive years of well below average spawning success which will mean many fewer slot sized fish over the coming years. The fish that will be in the 28 inches and up class this year will be from the first of the poor recruitment years.

I obtained forty-two years of SSB and recruitment data from ASMFC and correlated the two and found that the relationship is not particularly strong. SSB abundance only accounts for about 26% of the spawning success variation. This has been reported before by fisheries researchers.

A review of the literature indicates that weather plays an important role in spawning success. A 2010 study from the University of Maryland identified key factors in spawning success:

**Winter Temperature** - Warm winters consistently correlate with poor recruitment; research shows cold winters increase the chance of a match between striped bass larvae and high concentrations of their zooplankton prey by delaying copepod development

**Spring Water Flow** - Low freshwater discharge from Bay tributaries in spring consistently results in poor recruitment; the strongest year classes occurred in years of high freshwater flow, with a cool winter and wet spring in 2011 producing one of the largest year classes, while opposite conditions in 2012 produced the lowest on record

**Match-Mismatch with Prey** - First-feeding larvae fed successfully 91% of the time in a high-flow year (2003) versus only 35% in a drier year (2001), showing the critical importance of spatial and temporal overlap between larvae and zooplankton prey

Keep in mind that regulators can only influence harvest. They are not responsible for weather, pollution, invasive species, poaching or other extraneous variables that could affect the striped bass population.

**Question**—What can recreational anglers do to help?

**Answer**—If you care about the future of striped bass fishing, please consider some of the following:

-Don’t generalize or spread misinformation. There are a lot of social media posts from expert amateurs or professional captains spreading the message that there are plenty of stripers and that the regulators don’t know what they are doing. If it’s your job to catch fish, you should be catching them—that doesn’t mean the fishery is in good shape.

-Participate in MRIP surveys when asked. You may get a mail survey or be met at the dock or launch ramp by an interviewer. By participating, you increase the sample size and the probability of better data. The MRIP refusal rate is higher than it should be (opinion, mine). Who doesn’t want to talk about fishing?

If you are fishing catch and release consider:

- crushing the barbs on your hooks
- replacing your trebles with single, in line hooks
- reducing the number of hooks on your plugs from three to two or one
- using adequate tackle to land the fish quickly, especially in warmer water

All of these are proven to reduce release mortality.

-If you are fishing for the table:

-Think about your needs. Do you really need to take all that you are legally allowed?

-Consider sharing a fish now and then—one filet for each angler

Thank you for doing your part and hopefully, we can report more positive news on this fishery in the not-too-distant future. 🐟

*Fred DeFinis is Second Vice President and Secretary of the Legislative Committee*

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## RISAA ANGLING Hall of Fame

The RISAA Angler Hall of Fame lists the largest tournament entry of each approved species. Any angler who enters a catch that surpasses an Angler Hall of Fame record shall, upon verification of the catch, become the new record holder for that species. In addition, the angler shall receive 5 points toward **Angler of the Year**.

### BOAT DIVISION

Species	Angler	Weight	Year
Black Sea Bass	Raymond Morrocco	7.20 lbs.	2012
Bluefish	Robert Matteson	20.46 lbs.	2017
Bonito	Micheal Neto	12.20 lbs.	2004
Cod	Robert Morel	49.10 lbs.	2001
False Albacore	Charles Bradbury	16.2 lbs.	2004
Fluke	Kyle Blount	15.65 lbs.	2006
Haddock	Nicholas Blount	7.85 lbs.	2004
Mahi Mahi	Jack Sprengel, Jr.	37.80 lbs.	2001
Pollock	Harry Templeton	27.70 lbs.	2001
Scup	Jack Sprengel, Jr.	3.74 lbs.	2014
Sea Robin	Bill Hubert	2.95 lbs.	2025
Shad	Kyle Paparelli	3.80 lbs.	2009
Squeteague	Robert Roy	10.50 lbs.	2006
Striped Bass	Peter Vican	77.40 lbs.	2011
Tautog	Joseph Blecziński	18.90 lbs.	2015
Tuna - Albacore	Harley Benton	55.00 lbs.	1999
Tuna - Bluefin	Jack Sprengel, Jr.	193.88 lbs.	2009
Tuna - Yellowfin	Randy Pereschino	112.00 lbs.	2001
Winter Flounder	Michael Lanni	4.40 lbs.	1998

### SHORE DIVISION

Species	Angler	Weight	Year
Black Sea Bass	Paul Chapman	4.9 lbs.	2025
Bluefish	Gilbert Bell	16.90 lbs.	2016
Bonito	Jack Sprengel, Jr.	9.99 lbs.	2007
False Albacore	Michael Tilelli	12.62 lbs.	2025
Fluke	Michael Tilelli	6.60 lbs.	2018
Scup	Charles Underhill	2.69 lbs.	2012
Shad	Jonathan Pickering	1.75 lbs.	2008
Squeteague	Robert Moeller	16.54 lbs.	2007
Striped Bass	Richard Reich	51.66 lbs.	2013
Tautog	Richard Gallipeau	11.20 lbs.	2009
Winter Flounder	Dick Geldard	4.40 lbs.	2009

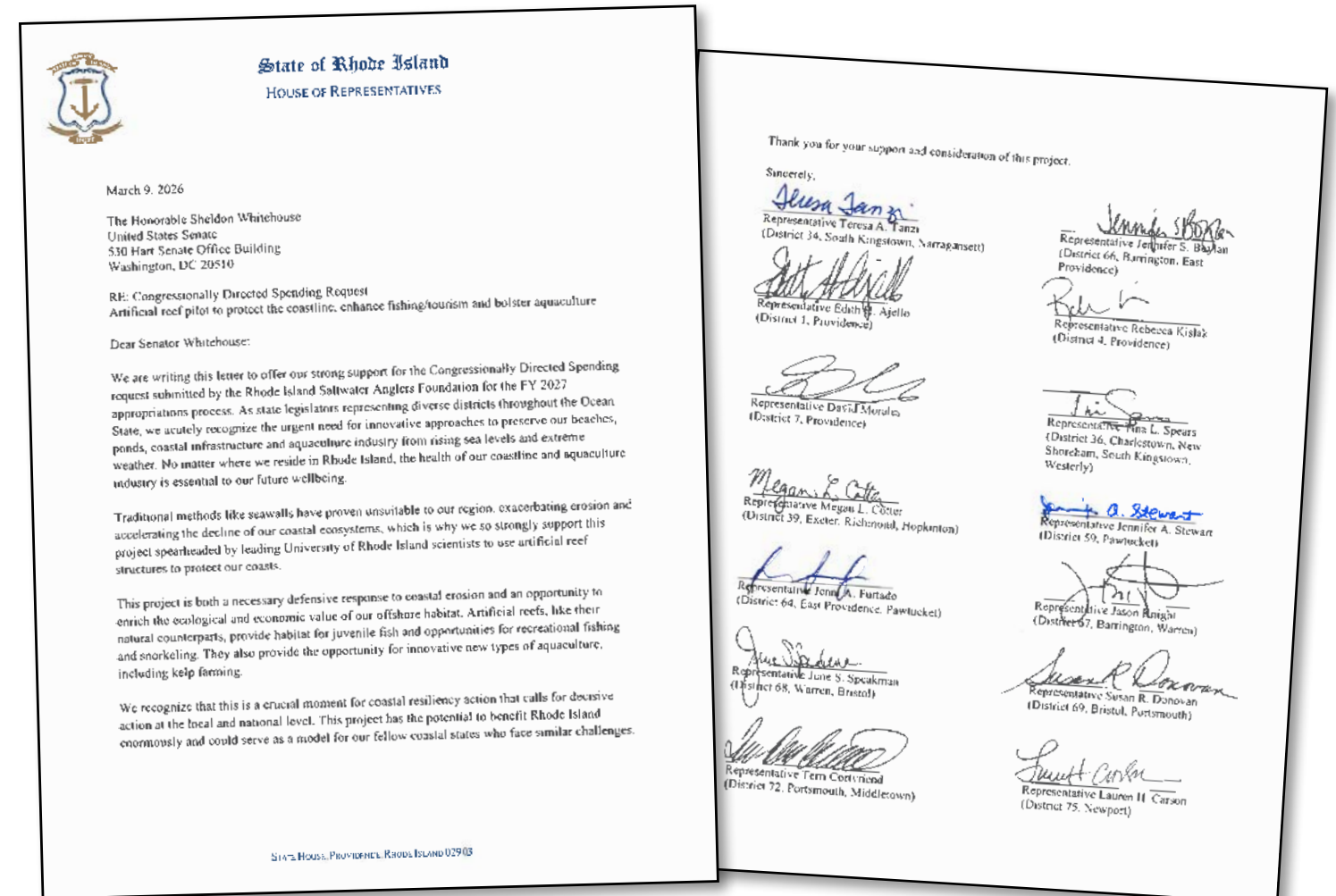
Recent Hall of Famers shown in red

Continued from Page 3 - THE WATCH

“down-transport” of the beach being protected. RISAA and the Ocean Engineering group are aware of this issue and we will be sure to assess the potential for slowing lateral transport as part of the modeling and site selection process. This is one reason that we think Easton Beach (also known as First Beach) in Middletown is potentially a good location for a pilot project. That beach is bracketed by rocky landmasses rather than being part of a long chain of sandy beaches. Easton Beach is also very important because, in addition to being a major tourist attraction, it protects a major road and the City of Newport water supply on the other side of the road.

It turns out that Rhode Island is uniquely positioned to become a leader in this technology that can be used around the world to protect shoreline assets. Why? Because we have one of the

world's leading teams of experts at the URI Ocean Engineering Department studying how these reefs need to be designed and constructed to best avoid beach erosion. The team of Dr. Stephan Grilli, Dr. Annette Grilli and Dr. Che-Wei Chang along with their graduate students have created a model that will examine the exact conditions at a particular beach with actual wind and wave projections. They can then place reefs of varying sizes and locations to determine the best size, construction, height above the bottom, etc. to reduce erosion of the shorefront. They have presented at conferences around the world and are conferring with other scientists and engineers on this technology. It only makes perfect sense that Rhode Island, the Ocean State should be a leader in developing this technology and now is the time for RISAA including our Foundation to help advance it.



## IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING, 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](mailto:hittinger@risaa.org) and we will send you the link (via email) to the next Legislative meeting. The next meeting is scheduled on May 21, 2026 via Zoom next meeting will be scheduled in February 2026 via Zoom.

# COOKING YOUR CATCH

By: Paula Smalec

## BAKED SALMON WITH GARLIC PARMESAN BREADCRUMB TOPPING



Now that we are well into winter, most of the fish that we caught last season and froze for future use has been eaten. Also, those of you who dig clams throughout the winter have been limited by the prolonged freezing temperatures and iced over ponds. Therefore, if you're in the mood for seafood, a quick trip to a local market might be the only way to satisfy that craving. Don't hesitate to purchase and prepare salmon and try this quick and easy main dish. Pair it with rice and some steamed vegetables for a delicious meal.

### Ingredients:

- 4 salmon fillets (6 oz. each)
- 1 cup panko breadcrumbs
- ½ cup grated parmesan cheese
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped
- salt and pepper to taste

### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit.  
Place salmon fillets skin-side down on a parchment-lined baking sheet and season with salt and pepper.  
In a bowl, combine panko breadcrumbs, grated parmesan melted butter, minced garlic, and fresh parsley. Stir to blend these ingredients together thoroughly and until the butter has moistened the mixture well. This is critical for even browning and maximum crispiness.  
Press the garlic-parmesan breadcrumb mixture firmly on top of each salmon fillet.  
Bake uncovered for 15-18 minutes (longer for thicker pieces) until the breadcrumb topping is golden and crispy and the salmon reaches an internal temperature of 145 degrees.

Adapted from this recipe online at [www.myfishrecipes.com](http://www.myfishrecipes.com)

**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](mailto: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..

## UPCOMING SEMINARS

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



MONDAY APRIL 27, 2026

## Spring Striped Bass & How To Catch Them Up

with Captain Dave Monti



Capt. Dave Monti fishing writer for the Providence Journal and thirteen other publications and blogs in Massachusetts and Rhode Island will be our April quest speaker on 'Spring striped bass and how to catch them up.' He is owner and operator of No Fluke Fishing charters.

Capt. Dave said, "Everyone has their favorite ways to catch spring striped bass from shore, boat, kayak and with light tackle and on the fly rod too. So, I thought I would share what area experts have to say about their favorite ways to catch striped bass in the spring and more."

The spring striped bass run is upon us. "Lean proven strategies and tactics anglers have used for years and newer strategies that have met with success the past couple of years. Gear, tackle and where to catch them in our Bays and along our coastal shore be covered in this seminar," said Capt. Dave.

**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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# START YOUR SEASON OFF RIGHT WITH THESE LUCKY FISHING AND BOATING SUPERSTITIONS

There are plenty of authors who you will provide advice for anglers on their opinions regarding which knot is the best, which rig catches the most fish, which colors to use to catch the biggest fish, and so on. But this article is sure to be the one that will guarantee your success this season, because it focuses on the most important aspect of fishing, your luck!

There is a saying in many arenas that applies to just about everything in life, "I'd rather be lucky than good!". For as many stories as you can find about an angler, or anyone in life, who prepared in advance, studied, dedicated time and resources, and was successful, you can also find a story about someone who just showed up one day without any preparation or advanced knowledge, and was successful. For example, I know many an angler who has brought someone new, perhaps a spouse, child, or other relative, on a trip and that person caught more or larger fish. These are great examples of "first time good luck". Let's take a look at 9 (my favorite number) things that we may or may not know about to help us improve our luck on the water this year.

## #1. Bananas on a boat

This is a very well-known superstition. I have been told by many people not to bring bananas on a boat because it is bad luck. The history of this superstition makes sense. Apparently this began back in the 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries when transporting bananas via boat carried an inherent risk of accidentally bringing along some stowaways in the form of spiders, snakes, and poisonous frogs which could infiltrate the ship and harm / scare crewmembers. On the other side of the banana prohibition, I have heard that carrying a pineapple, especially one that is secured to the bow of the boat, is supposed to be good luck. I will have to let you know about this next year.

## #2. The first cast curse

This one is a little less known. If you catch a keeper or trophy size fish on your first cast of the day, this is said to be a bad omen. In my personal fishing experience I have only had one trip in which my first cast resulted in a fantastic catch. This was on the RISAA Cod Trip in 2024. My first cast of the trip resulted in two keeper cod fish, one of which was the biggest cod I have ever caught. Someone told me about the "first cast curse" however it didn't hold true that



day, for the most part. Throughout the day those on the trip, your author included, caught great fish at multiple locations. However, my final cast of the day bent my rod in half and was clearly my the largest fish of day. As I was cranking on my reel I began hearing excited shouting from the stern making it's way to me on the bow that a shark, which had been following the boat, was headed my way alongside the charter boat. Before I could get my prize to the surface, boom! The shark hit it and took it away. So maybe there is something to "the first cast curse" after all.

## #3. Never step over a rod

For those who fish from boats, especially those in the 25' and smaller range, you already know that space can be a valuable commodity when you are on the water. Tripping over buckets, tackle boxes, etc. can all cause injury or property damage and ruin your day regardless of luck. However, another superstition

that I have heard is to never step over a rod or it will stop the fish from biting. While I don't have any specific origin for this, I might imagine it came from a dad, or grandfather, that didn't want their little fishing buddy to accidentally trip, fall, and get hurt or potentially step on and snap a new or expensive rod. Either of those scenarios would have resulted in an "unlucky day" when I was a kid.

## #4. Lucky hat, shirt, socks, or charms

One doesn't have to be an angler to adhere to this superstition. Many people will wear a lucky tie for a job interview, lucky jersey to a sporting event, or lucky socks or other garment when participating in a sport. The same holds true for medallions, coins, jewelry, hats, and even gear when we go fishing. How many people have a lucky fishing rod or lucky jig? While I don't have any hard evidence that one piece of clothing over another guarantees my fishing success, I can tell you that certain rods do seem to be more successful for me than others. However, I think that has more to do with the action of the rod and my style of fishing as opposed to any inherent "lucky" ingredients added at the time of manufacture. The same holds true for lure colors, sizes, exact distances between dropper loops, etc. I think many anglers have experienced days when fish would hit anything you offer them as well as days when only a certain color would work only to find the next day in the exact same location the fish were not interested in the same color / shape / size set up as the previous day. As many people have said "that's why they call it fishing, not catching."

## #5. Music

I have heard anglers on both sides of the music issue. Some anglers will say music scares the fish away while others say that music attracts the fish. I suppose this depends on the type of music and the volume at which it is being played. I have heard music from other boats as far away as a mile and thought, wow, that is truly terrible, and it has kept me away, never mind the fish!

## #6. Positive attitude

Here is another superstition that I believe was created by a parent or a grandparent. I can see this scenario unfolding in my mind. An adult role model trying to encourage a young person to be patient while the young person is becoming increasingly fidgety, distracted, or otherwise in need of something to happen and becoming discouraged. The younger person would inevitably say something like "are there any fish here", "can we try somewhere else", or the classic "we're never going to catch any fish today" followed up by the adult responding with something like "we have to keep a positive attitude". While I could not find any information on studies regarding fish and their abilities to empathize with human adult role models on the water encouraging success

on behalf of other humans, as a citizen scientist I would have to think there is little correlation between angler attitude and fish willingness to get into the boat with me. However, overall, I would have to admit I do seem to have more enjoyable trips and adventures when I wake up excited to go with a positive attitude rather than cursing at the alarm clock and reviewing plausible excuses in my mind for why I should go back to bed.

## #7. Kissing the fish before releasing it

The tradition of kissing a fish before releasing it goes back as far as the ancient Greeks. It is believed this was done as a way of acknowledging the gift of the fish and in some cultures, it is seen as good luck. However, many fish can carry bacteria and parasites, so I might skip this potentially lucky activity, especially if I am looking at a fish with teeth like a bluefish or a mako.

## #8. Throwing salt into the sea before departure for safety

This superstition dates back to at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century when sailors would throw a pinch of salt over their left shoulder into the water before departing on a voyage to keep the devil at bay. As a graduate of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and having sailed successfully around the world for several years, I can say that I have actually seen some people do this prior to starting a voyage. Did it make for a more successful transit? I guess it's all in what you consider successful. You can always find something that went right and something that went wrong in every venture that you undertake. I would refer my readers back to #6.

## #9. Never count your fish before landing

This is a long-standing superstition that I had difficulty in finding an origin for. However, many believe it is a cultural practice and can be interpreted as "claiming" the catch too soon (before returning to port) which might anger the sea spirits or deities whereas waiting until counting the fish once they are safely on land symbolizes the end of the trip and a successful endeavor. However, I can tell you that our friends in the Enforcement Division will certainly reinforce that the opposite is actually true in the modern age. Anglers should ALWAYS measure the fish we catch and ALWAYS keep track of the number of fish we have to ensure we are not exceeding the legal limits of the fish we catch, otherwise we risk being caught ourselves, which is never good luck.

I hope you heed the forementioned advice, with a grain of salt, and pay attention to these important tips for a successful season in 2026! If there are any suspicions or customs that you didn't see listed here (there were a few that didn't make the cut) feel free to email me at (travers@risaa.org) and let me know about them. I can include them in a future article. 🐟



# STEPPING INTO THE DARKNESS

By Paul Chapman

When darkness settles over a rocky shoreline and the tide begins to move, something shifts in the air. The wind hums through the jetty stones, waves detonate against granite, and shadows swallow the coastline whole. This is not beach fishing. This is rock fishing — deliberate, dangerous, and deeply addictive. And when you're holding a live eel, you're stepping into the most intense form of striped bass hunting there is.

Fishing for striped bass from rocks at night is a different world entirely. There are no long sandy casts and gentle wading. Instead, you climb, balance, and position yourself among jagged boulders and slick ledges. Every step matters. Every surge of water reminds you who is in control. But these rocks are exactly where big bass want to be.

Striped bass are structure-oriented predators, especially the mature fish. Rock piles, jetties, and natural ledge systems create ambush lanes. Current wraps around points and compresses bait against hard edges. Whitewater disorients prey. In darkness, big bass push tight to these features — sometimes in water barely covering their backs — using chaos as cover.

And nothing matches that environment better than a live eel.

Eels belong in rocks. They hide in crevices, slip through cracks, and thrive in structure. When you present a live eel along a jetty face or drift it through a narrow boulder cut, you're not offering something foreign. You're offering something completely natural. That realism is why the biggest striped bass often fall to eels after the sun goes down.

Rigging is simple but critical. Most serious surfcasters hook the eel through the lower jaw and out one eye socket, allowing it to swim straight and strong. Around rocks, control is everything. You don't just cast blindly. You cast uptide of a seam or along the shadow line of a rock wall, feeding line carefully so the eel sweeps naturally into the strike zone.

The key is the drift.

You want the eel swimming just off bottom, moving with the current but not tumbling into the rocks. Too tight and it looks un-

natural. Too loose and you risk a snag. Your rod becomes an extension of your fingertips. You feel every kick of the eel, every brush of current, every subtle change in tension.

And then comes that moment.

Fishing from rocks, a striper rarely explodes on the bait. Often the take feels heavy — like your eel has suddenly grown weight. Sometimes it's just a steady pull sideways toward deeper water. The worst mistake you can make is reacting too fast. Big bass frequently mouth an eel before turning it.

Stay calm. Lower the rod tip slightly. Let the fish commit.

Then drive the hook home with authority.

The fight in rocky structure is immediate and unforgiving. A big bass will try to dive straight back into the maze of boulders. This is where preparation and positioning pay off. You must turn her head quickly, applying steady side pressure to pull her away from danger. There's no room for hesitation. The rocks are waiting to claim your leader.

Use the waves to your advantage. When a swell surges, lift and guide. When it recedes, maintain pressure and gain line. The battle feels amplified at night — louder, heavier, more chaotic. Spray hits your face. Your boots grip wet stone. Your drag pulses in the darkness.

Landing a striped bass from rocks is earned, not given. Timing the wash, choosing your footing, and controlling the fish all happen in seconds. But when you finally slide that broad silver body onto a safe ledge, illuminated only by your headlamp, the feeling is electric.

Gear matters more in the rocks than anywhere else. A strong surf rod with backbone gives you leverage. Braided line in the 30- to 40-pound range cuts through current and offers sensitivity. A durable fluorocarbon leader helps withstand abrasion. Your reel must handle spray and sudden pressure. Studded boots or korkers aren't optional — they are essential.

But beyond equipment, rock fishing demands mindset.



You must move deliberately. Study the structure before committing to a spot. Understand how tide direction changes current lanes. Know where waves rebound and where water drains off the ledges. The most productive areas are often the down-current sides of points, the pockets between boulders, and the edges where heavy whitewater meets calmer flow.

Patience is everything. There will be long stretches of darkness where nothing happens. Just waves, wind, and the occasional gull call overhead. But in those quiet hours, confidence grows. You know the fish are there. You know your eel is swimming naturally through prime territory.

And when it finally happens — when a true cow bass commits in the blackness — every second of waiting becomes worth it.

Fishing live eels for striped bass from rocks at night is not casual. It's not comfortable. It demands balance, awareness, and respect for the ocean's power. But it offers something few other forms of fishing can match: raw connections in the wildest conditions.

You stand on stone, waves crashing below, holding a living bait that might tempt a fish older and stronger than you can imagine. The night hides everything except feel and instinct. And when line comes tight and the battle begins, you realize this is why you climbed the rocks in the first place.

Because this is where the giants live. 🐟

*Paul Chapman is an experienced shore angler and Chair of the RISAA Surfcasters Committee. Under Paul's leadership, the Committee has added many new members, not to mention a few trophies in interclub competition.*



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# Number of new CRMC members to come this year: 7. Number of nominees picked by McKee: Zero

## Frustrated coastal advocates renew calls to nix politically appointed council

By: **Nancy Lavin**

Heather Low's application to serve on the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) opens with a letter crediting her grandfather, a retired Navy veteran and avid boater, and childhood summers spent along the Kickemuit River in Warren, for her lifelong love for fishing and conservation.

Low, 51, of Coventry, has a bachelor's degree in environmental science. She's active in the **Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association**, and, since May 2025, has also served on the CRMC's Fishermen's Advisory Board, representing recreational anglers in the agency's negotiations with offshore wind project developers.

Low wants to join the politically appointed full council to share her perspective as a conservationist and angler.

She sent in her application the day before Thanksgiving. Since then?

"I've heard nothing," Low said in an interview Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the March 1 deadline for Gov. Dan McKee to name seven new members for the state coastal resources panel passed without any appointments or even public mention of prospective candidates.

Olivia DaRocha, a spokesperson for McKee's office, said the process is "underway," but did not offer details in an emailed response Wednesday.

A 2025 law mandating new council members aims to bring expertise and fresh blood to the volunteer panel while solving a quorum problem resulting from recurring vacancies. Most of the panel's 10 members do not have professional experience in coastal matters, which has led to criticism when they make decisions that contradict recommendations by the agency's expert staff.

Fed up with the lack of action in revitalizing the council, advocates are reigniting calls to get rid of the appointed council and hand decision-making power to the agency's staff.

"The House' 2025 bill did not fix what was badly broken — the Council," Tophier Hamblett, executive director of Save the Bay, said in a March 5 statement. "Even if the most highly qualified people were appointed, they would be operating in a structure that is inefficient, lacks accountability, and is ill-equipped to deal with the threats and challenges facing Rhode Island's coastal communities. It is time to do away with the Council and all of the politics that go with it."

Joining forces

Save the Bay has thrown its weight behind legislation to merge the CRMC into the state's Department of Environmental Management (DEM).

The bill, introduced in February by Rep. Jay Edwards, a Tiverton Democrat, calls for a separate coastal resources bureau within DEM with its own deputy director and staff, including a designated attorney, a position missing from the agency's existing structure.

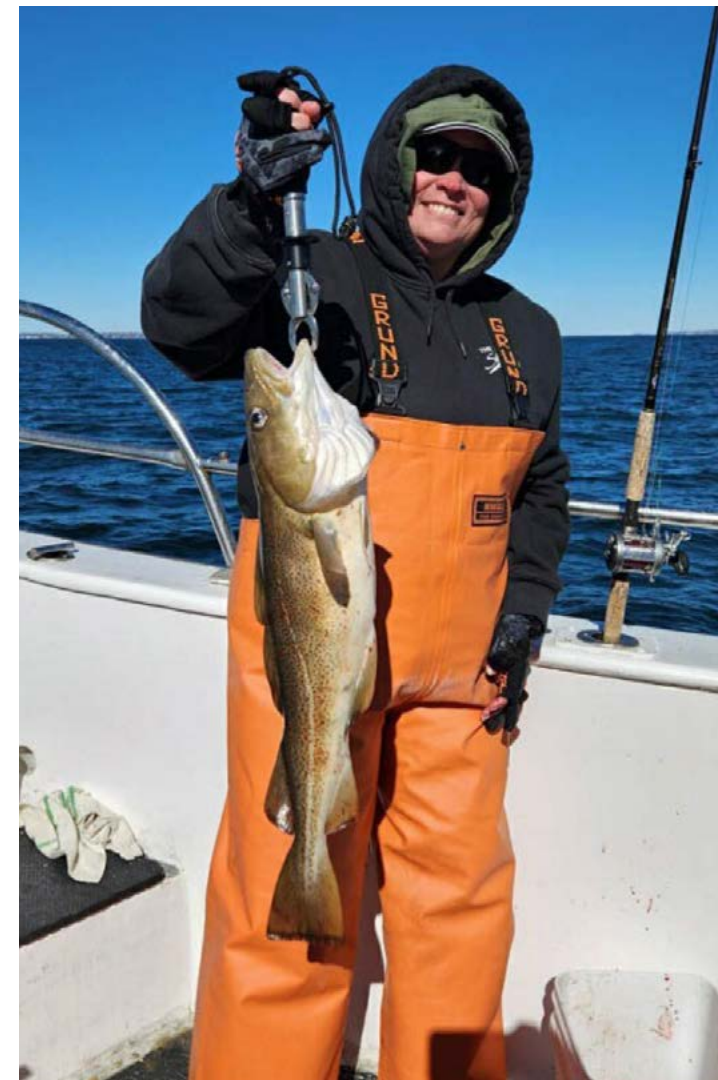
A 10-member community advisory board including local government leaders and public representatives, appointed by the governor, would offer input and public hearings on agency decisions. But unlike the existing, appointed council, it wouldn't have final decision-making power.

"I have enormous respect for the director and his staff," Edwards said in an interview. "I think if we just concentrated on them, and let them do their jobs as professionals, we would have a much better organization."

The appointed council, in contrast, has "a long history of not doing the right thing," Edwards said.

Putting the CRMC under DEM, which is an executive branch, rather than an independent agency, also forces accountability for the entire administration, said Sen. Mark McKenney, a Warwick Democrat who will be sponsoring companion legislation.

"That's really the main thing is we need to have a way to hold



**Heather Low, a Coventry resident, applied to serve on the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council in November. She has not heard back. (Photo courtesy of Heather Low)**

them accountable," McKenney said in an interview.

Among the most high-profile examples: the protracted battle with Quidnessett Country Club over a rock wall built without permission along the North Kingstown country club's shoreline in January 2023. The 600-foot-long rock wall is still standing, despite violating state coastal protections for sensitive waters. Critics say the delayed enforcement — the agency only took legal action in January — reeks of favoritism to wealthy and politically connected property owners, at the expense of environmental protection and public access.

But calls to abolish the council have failed to gain traction on Smith Hill for the last three years.

Edwards introduced similar legislation in 2025, but it failed to advance. Instead, lawmakers passed what supporters viewed as an incremental improvement: replacing the 10-member panel with a seven-member council (also reducing the quorum requirement from six to four people) with required expertise in environmental

and coastal issues. The membership change, signed into law by McKee on June 30, calls for the new appointees to be seated by March 1, 2026, though it lets existing members keep serving until their replacements are named.

Rep. Alex Finkelman, a Jamestown Democrat who sponsored the 2025 legislation, said he was frustrated no new members had been named.

"I've been given no indication by the governor's office that they're not going to make appointments," Finkelman said. "I'd imagine they're going through the vetting process now. If we're dragging this out into summertime, you'll certainly hear me making more noise about it."

The waiting is the hardest part

Jed Thorp, advocacy director for Save the Bay, was not optimistic.

"Adding qualifications was only going to make it harder for them to find people to serve on the council," Thorp said in an interview Wednesday. "It's already hard to find people to serve, as we can see from the vacancies."

The council has had three open seats since March 2025. Thorp said he is aware of several people, including Low, who applied over the last year.

"This is a failure by the governor," Thorp said of the lack of appointment action.

Low said she resubmitted her application last week and contacted her state representative and senator.

Sen. Leonidas Raptakis, a Coventry Democrat, was unaware Low had reached out until he was contacted by Rhode Island Current Wednesday. Rep. Thomas Noret, a Coventry Democrat, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

"I'm frustrated," Low said. "But I am still committed. I want to do it, or at least have somebody with similar credentials to have our community be heard."

McKenney expects to submit his companion to Edwards' bill by the end of the week.

House Speaker K. Joseph Shekarchi and Senate President Valarie Lawson remained noncommittal on pending legislation, awaiting the standard committee vetting process.

Kimberly Keough, a spokesperson for DEM, said in an email Wednesday that the agency was aware of the legislation but did not take a position on it.

Laura Dwyer, a spokesperson for the CRMC, did not respond to requests for comment on the legislation. ■

Nancy Lavin is senior reporter covering state politics, energy and environmental issues for the Rhode Island Current.

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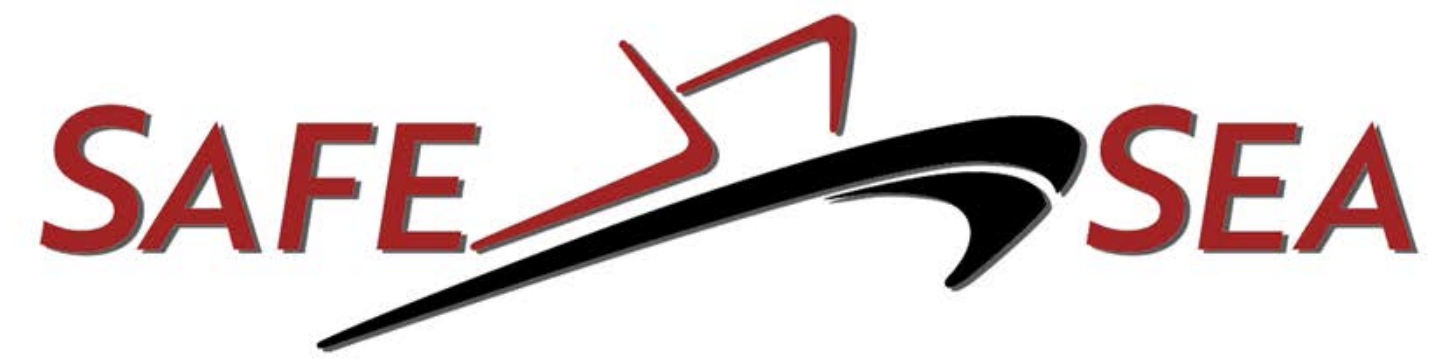
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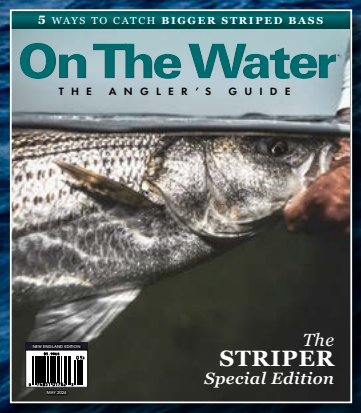



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lurdesiam@hotmail.com

### WELCOME COMMITTEE

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

*If you would like more information or would like to join a committee contact:*

**Scott Travers • Travers@risaa.org**

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



# 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:





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.**

## 2026 PAC DONORS

**PLATINUM (\$500+)**  
**Gino DeFeudis**

**SILVER (\$100+)**  
**Carl Tiska**  
**Captain David Monti**  
**Bill Ogara**  
**Kyle Douton**  
**Jack Hutson**

**BRONZE (\$50+)**  
**Captain David Monti**  
**Bill Ogara**

**COPPER (UP TO \$49)**  
**Roger Lema**

**DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT!**  
*To be effective, we must participate in the system.*

**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!



## 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

PLEASE PRINT

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



# 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](http://www.risaa.org/register) to

RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP  NEW MEMBERSHIP

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date Of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employed At \_\_\_\_\_

Children (up to 17 yrs): \_\_\_\_\_

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

### INFORMATION

Prefer to Fish From (check all that apply):

Rocks & Piers  Charter Boats  Party Boats  Fly Fishing  Surfcasting  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Own Boat: Length: \_\_\_\_\_ ft Maker/Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Boat Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Docked at: \_\_\_\_\_

### How did you hear about RISAA?

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

Saw Advertisement at:  Internet  Magazine  Newspaper  TV  Other \_\_\_\_\_

### TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Regular Adult: \$60/year **Adult Multiple Years** (save \$5/year):  \$100 (2 yrs)  \$165 (3 yrs)  \$220 (4 yrs)

Senior (Age 65+): \$35/year. Requires date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Student (College/Trade School): \$35/year (max .6 yrs). Requires copy of current student ID card

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

Junior's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Junior's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

RISAA Sponsor (if parent not a member): \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

*(Membership dues are subject to change, contact RISAA at 401-826-2121 for current pricing)*

### PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY APPLICATION

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

To pay by credit card, visit: [www.risaa.org/register](http://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.



# 2026 FOUNDATION DONATIONS

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

### PLATINUM (\$500+)

Gino DeFeudis

### SILVER (\$100+)

American Online Giving Foundation  
Andrew Berg  
George Badenheimer  
Norman Beucher  
Joan Bradbury  
Stuart Cohen  
Dave Helliner  
Jack Hutson  
Jack McMath  
No Fluke Fishing, LLC

### BRONZE (\$50+)

John Meyer  
Carl DiRocco  
Michael Curran  
Thomas Featherston  
Donald Goodroe  
Rich Heffernon  
Vincent Lechmani  
John Meyer

Joyce and Bob Pacitti *In memory of Stephen Babigian for youth fish camp*

John Pope  
David Ricks  
Thomas Saucier  
Orlando Savastano *In memory of Lucas Salem*  
William Sosnicki

### COPPER (up to \$49)

George Gremour  
Kirk Kamien  
Ralph Orleck  
Rick Rheinberger  
Jim Salomon  
Douglas Sturgis  
Phyllis Vivari *in memory of John Vivari*  
Donn Barclay  
John Boardman  
William Bradley  
Robert Chew  
Francisco Ferreira  
John Ganter  
Christopher Glasanos

George Gremour  
Lewis James  
Kirk Kamien  
Adam Kaufman  
David Loren  
Kevin Munroe  
Charles Murphy  
Ralph Orleck  
Stewart Pucci  
Rick Rheinberger  
Jim Salomon  
William Skoloski  
Kenneth Spicer  
Brian Strayer  
Douglas Sturgis  
Ronnie Tipple  
Phyllis Vivari *in memory of John Vivari*  
Daniel Watson  
Jim Zito  
Jimi Zito

**MAKE A DONATION ONLINE:**  
[WWW.RISAA.ORG/THE-FOUNDATION](http://WWW.RISAA.ORG/THE-FOUNDATION)

*Or fill out the form below and mail to the RISAA Foundation.*



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:**  
RISAA Foundation  
P.O. Box 1467  
Coventry, RI 02816

PLEASE PRINT

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

# Attention Members... HAVE YOUR PHOTO ON THE COVER AND IN OUR MAGAZINES!



### Some requirements and tips:

**Make it interesting.** A photo of you or your buddy standing facing the camera holding a fish is generally not that interesting. Try a different angle, dramatic lighting, action or some other technique that makes your photo stand out from the ordinary. For some great hints, watch the seminar by Eddy Stahowiak on the RISAA website.

**Proper orientation.** To fit the magazine cover, your photo needs to be in vertical format or what is often called "portrait" format on your printer.

**Be conscious of composition.** When taking the photo, be aware of what is in the frame. You don't want a rod or net sticking out of the top of someone's head or a bunch of clutter in the background.

**Watch the light.** Some shadow and contrast help make a nice photo but you don't want areas that are washed out by the light or shadows so dark that you lose detail.

**We need reasonable resolution.** Cover photos need to be 240 dpi. If the resolution is poor the photo will not reproduce in the large format of our cover.

Submit your photos to the editor. [definis@risaa.org](mailto:definis@risaa.org)  
Please include a description of the photo.

Let's have more cover photos from members like you!



**RISAA**

P.O. BOX 1467  
Coventry, RI 02816

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*If You Aren't a Member Already...*

# JOIN RISAA TODAY!



Representing  
**OVER 7,500**  
Recreational  
Anglers

And Over 30  
Affiliated Clubs

*Conservation · Education · Recreation*

- Informative Monthly Magazine
- Monthly Seminars with Expert Speakers
- Member-Only Tournaments & Fishing Trips
- Discounts at Participating Tackle Shops & Marinas
- Family Events & Activities
- College Scholarships

## **RISAA** Advocates for YOU!

Marine Conservation

Stephen J. Medeiros Fishing Area at Black Point  
Sound Fisheries Management

*Legislation such as:*

Defining Shore Access To 10 Feet Landward  
of the "Weed Line" & CRMC Reform

*And MORE!*

*Sponsor of*

- NEW ENGLAND SALTWATER FISHING SHOW™
- 3-Day Youth Fishing Camp
- Dam Removal Projects



RHODE ISLAND  
**SALTWATER** *Anglers*

*The Voice of Southern New England Fisherman*



RISAA.org  
401.826.2121