



RHODE ISLAND

# SALTWATER *Anglers*

Representing  
**OVER 7,500**  
Recreational Anglers



*IN THIS ISSUE:*

## **2026 RISAA KIDS CAMP**

*PLUS:* **AI IN THE FISHING WORLD**

ISSUE: 314 • August 2026

[www.RISAA.org](http://www.RISAA.org) • 401-826-2121

EVENTS & MEETINGS

**Monday, August 31**  
SEMINAR  
Author **Michael Tougias** talking about his latest book *“In Deep Water: A True Story of Sharks, Survival, and Courage”*

**Monday, September 28**  
SEMINAR  
**Al Gag** talking about bottom fishing success

**Monday, October 26**  
SEMINAR  
**Mike Aiello** talking about spearfishing in RI Waters

**Monday, November 30**  
SEMINAR  
**RI DEM Enforcement Division** providing a regulations update, enforcement update, and some entertaining stories about being in enforcement

**Monday, December 28**  
**4th Annual Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Event** featuring rigs, knot tying, and other do it yourself items to make the upcoming season more successful.

[www.RISAA.org](http://www.RISAA.org)

RECREATIONAL FISHING  
IS WORTH  
**\$419 MILLION**  
TO THE RHODE ISLAND  
ECONOMY AND OVER  
**4,000 JOBS!**

The Official Magazine of the  
Rhode Island Saltwater  
Anglers Association  
Published Monthly  
RISAA  
PO BOX 1467  
Coventry, RI 02816

FROM THE HELM



TAKE THE TIME

It seems like every year we have more things to do and less time to do them. Whether it’s an increase in work responsibilities or a new addition to the family (Congratulations Laura and Chris), time is always at a premium. This concept is referenced in one of our region’s top tackle shop’s motto, “... where the only thing you can’t get is more time on the water”.

I recommend each of us check our calendars, make some calls, and plan some trips. We are extremely fortunate to have Narragansett Bay and the offshore waters right here. What an amazing resource. Everything is just waiting for us to visit and explore. Whether you are at a breachway, thigh deep in a river, or drifting in a secret spot, there is so much to see and do out on the water. It is the ultimate escape from the pressures of modern life. All the while we are creating memories, allowing our minds to unwind a little, and maybe even bring something healthy and delicious home to eat.

To further entice everyone, Let’s look at our RISAA tournaments this season. We just wrapped up our first tournament, the bluefish tournament. Still to come we have the fluke tournament (06-19-2026 to 06-28-2026, the juniors only tournament 07-31-2026 to 08-09-2026, the black sea bass tournament 09-26-2026 to 10-04-2026, and the tautog tournament 10-23-2026 to 11-01-2026. Each of these tournaments comes with a \$100 gift certificate for first place! We also have the RISAA annual tournament with awards presented to the first, second, and third place winners as well as the possibility of being entered into the RISAA Hall of Fame for having the largest catch ever recorded by a RISAA member. There were two new inductees last year. Please see official rules on the RISAA website.

If that isn’t enough, let’s look at the RISAA charter trips planned for this season. The 2026 squid trip has already passed however we still have the fluke trip 06-27-2026, the Nantucket Shoals Fluke Trip (sold out, but taking names for the waiting list) 08-08-2026, the black sea bass trip 10-04-2026, and the tautog trip 10-25-2026. Remember, these are all full day trips

and RISAA picks up half the cost of your ticket as well as providing tips for the mates.



With so much to offer, I invite everyone to come and spend some quality time out on the water. There is a saying; “if we never take the time, how do we ever have the time?”

I’ll see you out there. 

Scott **TRAVERS**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE WATCH

Reported by: Richard **Hittinger**, CHAIRMAN

RI SALTWATER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION  
Legislative Committee



RIVER HERRING – AN IMPORTANT FORAGE FISH

RISAA has been working to protect forage fish since we were founded more than 25 years ago and that work continues today. Forage fish are, as the name indicates, fish that provide food for our most important gamefish like stripers, bluefish, cod, tuna and at some point, most of the fish that you and I try to catch. They are also very important food for sea birds, marine mammals and other animals. In our area forage fish include sand eels, anchovies, silver sides, herring, mackerel, menhaden and others. These fish are important because they consume small phytoplankton and zooplankton thereby converting them into fish protein that supports much of the food web. All of us who fish for striped bass know that if you find the bait, you find the fish! Who hasn’t snagged a pogy (menhaden) and used it to catch a striper or bluefish?

RISAA sits on many committees including the Herring Coalition, the River Herring Forum and the Atlantic Menhaden Coalition. We help draft and we sign letters on behalf of all of our members to urge fisheries managers to consider the forage value of the species listed above when making management decisions regarding commercial harvest of any forage fish. One significant disappointment over the last 25 years has been the decline of river herring (alewife and blueback herring). Conservation groups, including RISAA have worked hard and invested millions of dollars to remove obstructions such as dams and have improved fish ladders. Despite all this work and a 20 plus year moratorium on catching any river herring, the runs have not significantly improved in southern New England. We are seeing some improvement in the last 2 years because the commercial fishery for Atlantic herring has collapsed due to over fishing and they have been virtually shut down. This brings me to my primary point – river herring and shad returns to Southern New England rivers will only recover if the commercial by-catch of these fish is significantly reduced!

Recent data regarding abundance of river herring and shad show that in northern New England rivers, primarily in Maine these fish runs have been recovering very well. In fact, in Maine fishermen are once again allowed to harvest herring from the rivers. So, what is the big difference? It appears to be the harvest closures in the commercial Atlantic Herring fishery along the Maine coast at the time when river herring are coming together in schools

getting ready to move into the rivers. These closures in what is known as Area 1A in winter months protect Atlantic herring that are spawning as well as river herring that are preparing to enter the Maine rivers to spawn in late winter. The Herring Coalition is advocating for similar commercial harvest closures in Southern New England waters to reduce the by-catch of river herring and shad here.

In response to some of this information RISAA and other groups have been asking the New England Fisheries Management Council (NEFMC) (the agency that regulates Atlantic herring harvest) to pass regulations to close Atlantic herring harvest in Southern New England during winter months to reduce the likelihood of capture of river herring by-catch. We have had some success and the Atlantic Herring Management Board asked their scientist to develop some information in preparation for possible regulations. At a recent meeting of the NEFMC Atlantic Herring Plan Development Team (PDT) Dr. Eric Palkovacs, a herring researcher from California presented data that show where river herring in the commercial by-catch were born. In this work the team analyzed genetics from thousands of samples of river herring that were caught by Atlantic herring commercial fishing operations. They were able to trace the fish by matching certain genetic markers that were found in herring sampled from each of the herring runs in New England. This study: Spatial and temporal genetic stock composition of river herring bycatch in southern New England Atlantic herring and mackerel fisheries was published in the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences in February 2023 and is available as open access at: <https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/10.1139/cjfas-2022-0144> This article indicates that in all areas sampled the highest proportions of alewife were from Block Island Sound (34%) and Long Island Sound (22%). This shows that the commercial Atlantic herring fishing vessels are catching huge numbers of river herring off our area and that these fish are making up a significant fraction of their catch. In addition, the authors estimated that during the period that their research was conducted, the commercial by-catch of alewife totaled about 4.6 million fish and 1.2 million fish for blueback herring. These are staggering numbers when fish counts in many river systems in CT and RI currently number less

(Continued on page 9)

## MEMBER PHOTOS



**47-inch Striper!** (est. 45lbs.) caught by RISAA member Scott Divona aboard the DAMJAM II, owned by RISAA member David Miele. Successfully released after this quick photo opportunity.



**Paul Phillips with a nice tog, safely released.**



**Chuck Norsigian and a nice catch.**

## SEND US YOUR PICS!

If you have a memorable outing, send your member photos to the editor [travers@risaa.org](mailto:travers@risaa.org)

## RISAA RECEIVES 2026 AMBASSADOR AWARD



On Tuesday May 19, 2026, RISAA was presented with the 2026 Ambassador Award presented by Go PVD, for hosting the 2025 NE Saltwater Fishing Show. Go PVD is an organization focused on events and tourism in the Providence, RI area. In 2025 RISAA reached out to Go PVD regarding advertising and made them aware of the NE Saltwater Fishing Show and its significance in the region as being the largest saltwater fishing show and its many attributes including over 200 vendors and exhibitors comprised of local vendors, up and coming manufacturers and products, international tourism groups, and trusted industry leaders.

All these attractions bring a crowd of just under 10,000 people to Providence every year to attend the show in addition to the over 1,000 staff the various vendors / exhibitors bring to staff the show. When we consider all these people stay in hotel rooms, eat locally, and make purchases, we have a very important economic event which we bring to the State of RI every year. This award was presented to RISAA in recognition of the NE Saltwater Fishing Show and its impact on the State of RI.

Congratulations to everyone within RISAA, especially those who work to make the NE Saltwater Fishing Show successful every year and the Board of Directors for providing leadership for our association. 🐟



## THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dawn Filliatreault Wood, CHAIR

### Welcome *NEW* Members!

#### APRIL

John Macaluso - Barrington, RI  
Robert Mueller - East Canaan, CT  
Edwino Rodrigues - Mansfield, MA  
Kenneth Ryvicker - Narragansett, RI  
Craig Sams - Bellingham, MA  
Joseph Scichilone - Johnston, RI  
Russ Shannon - East Harwick, MA  
Paul A Squarcia - Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Arthur Viens - North Sandwich, NH  
Rod Weaver - East Greenwich, RI

#### MAY

Jesse Alvanas - Middletown, RI  
Laura Forsberg - West Warwick, RI  
Byron Heath - Bristol, CT  
John Hobby - Franklin, MA  
Craig Horrocks - North Kingston, RI  
Cameron Hughes - West Warwick, RI  
Diana Kim - East Greenwich, RI  
Ivan Polozov - North Kingston, RI

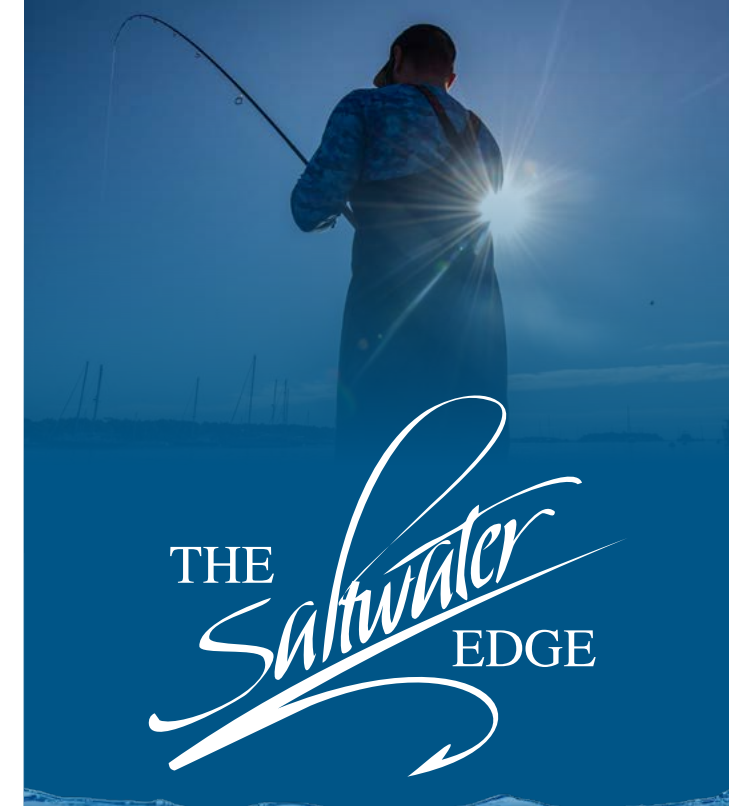
#### JUNE

Ryan Bogli - Bristol, CT  
Kevin Brown - Randolph, MA  
Isabelle Colvin - Columbia, CT  
Lindsey Connuas - Middletown, RI  
John DiMarco - Wakefield, RI  
Louisa Hain - Fairfield, CT  
Alyssa Johnson - Middletown, RI  
Amanda Lloyd - Suwanee, GA  
Cathryn McQuesten - Exeter, RI  
Madeline Powell - Westport, MA  
Gillian Prisco - East Greenwich, RI  
John Romano - Branford, CT  
Timothy Spooner - Portsmouth, RI  
Edward Strickland - Groton, CT  
Molly Toro - Portsmouth, RI  
Peter Wolejko - Pawtucket, RI  
Fin Z - Westerly, RI

*The purpose of the Welcome Committee is to contact new members, welcome them to the Association and answer any questions they may have about RISAA and its activities.*

# IF YOU'RE DOING IT, WE'RE DOING IT

FLY | SURF | JIGGING  
INSHORE | OFFSHORE



SERVING ANGLERS FOR  
OVER 30 YEARS

SIGN UP FOR  
EMAIL & SMS GET  
**15% OFF**



**FAST  
SAME DAY  
SHIPPING!**

401.842.0062 | [SaltwaterEdge.com](http://SaltwaterEdge.com)  
WEST MAIN ROAD • MIDDLETOWN, RHODE ISLAND

FOLLOW US!

# CAMP AIMS TO HOOK CHILDREN ON FISHING

*Sponsored by the RI Saltwater Anglers Association & RI Department of Environmental Management*

By **Richard Reich** — RISAA Fish Camp Director & Member of the Board of Directors

This year, camp was scheduled for Tuesday, June 23 to Thursday, June 25, 2026. As usual, the forecast for Tuesday did not look good. Rain and possible thunderstorms were forecast. We decided to wait until Tuesday at 6AM to make the call. After many weather apps we decided to open camp and use our 20 by 60 foot tent to stay dry.

Tuesday, June 23 – 9:00AM - Symbolic cast to open camp with campers. Warwick Mayor Frank Picozzi, DEM Director Terrence Gray, Scott Travers, RI Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA), Executive Director, Dawn Filliatreault Wood, RISAA Board President, and Richard Reich, RISAA Camp Director were all present. The Camp runs daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Rocky Point State Park, Warwick RI at the beach closest to front entrance of the park.



The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) and the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) are sponsoring the youth fishing camp with funding from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services. The camp was held at Rocky Point State Park, Warwick for children 7 to 12 years old. Safe Harbor Greenwich Bay Marina donated the use of their slips for RISAA vessels taking kids fishing.

Topics covered over day 1 include fish identification, conservation, use of spinning and conventional gear and tackle, basic marine biology, how and why to use different baits and lures, boating safety, casting from shore and fishing from private boats and party boats. And, new for the past two years, campers will be introduced to fly tying. We were joined this year by 12 year old Baily Miller to demonstrate fly tying to her contemporaries, always a special event. Unfortunately, fly casting had to be canceled due to the weather and the conditions on the grass field after a night

of rain. However, RIDEM was able to do fish identification and seining for fish, along with knot tying by Capt David Michel.

Scott Travers, Executive Director, of RISAA, said, “Our experience is that children love to fish so we provide essential instruction on strategy, tactics and safety and then intentionally build in optimum fishing time from the shore at Rocky Point Park.

Day 2 - on the Frances Fleet party boat, we had good weather but poor fishing. Kids all learned to use a boat rod with few back lashes and many tangles. Crew and RISAA volunteers and RIDEM assisted with all tangles. Only one Fluke was tagged and released. Lunch was supplied by Belmont Market and the only complaints were that the sandwiches were too big!

Day 3 - fishing was on 20 member vessels. Rich Hittinger is in charge of this operation. Scheduling the dock space at Safe Harbor and assigning kids to boats was no easy task with 5 cancelations of boats. Boats were supplied with tackle, water and sandwiches. Kids were on boats from 9am to 2pm. This is my favorite part of the camp.

Third day is also graduation. The campers each received a certificate and RIDEM Law enforcement also had a presentation for



the kids. All campers were sent home with a bag full of magazines, whistles, lures, posters and a Bass Pro combo fishing rod and reel.

The program helps fulfill the educational tenet of our mission and builds a sense of environmental stewardship among future fishers.

Personally, I would like to thank all the volunteers, RISAA members, RIDEM, RI DEM Police and all the captains and mates that supply their boat’s time.

Terrence Gray, Director of the Department of Environmental Management, said, “We are excited to partner with RISAA on their annual Youth Fishing Camp at Rocky Point. The camp provides hands-on opportunities for children to get outdoors and experience the thrill of casting a line and reeling in that first fish on our beautiful Narragansett Bay. It is through efforts like this that we forge the next generation of environmental stewards.”

The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association is a non-profit organization, created in 1997 to provide a forum for recreational saltwater anglers; to provide education to members concerning fishing techniques, improved catches, and overall enjoyment of fishing; to foster sportsmanship; to support marine conservation and sound management of fisheries resources; and provide a unified voice to preserve and protect the rights, traditions and the future of recreational fishing in Rhode Island.

# SARA★STAR FISHING CHARTERS

*Celebrating 30 Years of  
Newport Fishing Charters!*



## FISH WITH TWO PROS!

Captain Joseph Aiello and Captain Coral Aiello are a highly experienced father daughter team. Joe has been fishing in New England for 43 years, both as a commercial fisherman and private charter captain. Captain Coral, widely followed on social for her fishing skill, has been showing newcomers and veterans alike how to catch the big ones for more than a decade!

They provide fishing trips of a lifetime, that families, friends, and business partners will never forget. Established in 1995, Sara Star Charters is the leader in the industry for the best fishing along Rhode Island's spectacular coastline.



**Father & Daughter Duo!**  
Captain Joe Aiello & Captain Coral Aiello

401-623-1121  
Captjoeaiello@yahoo.com  
[sarastarcharters.com](http://sarastarcharters.com)



## 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 Blecinski   | 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

than 1000 fish per year returning.

At the same PDT meeting Dr. Micah Dean from MA Division of Marine Fisheries presented data that show where river herring and shad are likely to be caught as by-catch if Atlantic herring fishing occurs. Dr. Dean presented a series of maps of the coast of New England and the Mid-Atlantic states showing the probability of encountering river herring and shad. There was a map for each month of the year. These maps showed that in December through February there is a high likelihood of encountering river herring in Long Island Sound and within 20 miles of the coast of RI (see illustration below). The next step that needs to be completed is to draft regulations that close these areas during the critical months to reduce river herring by-catch. Our working group is preparing

to draft regulations that would close the appropriate areas during the necessary months to protect these returning fish. We expect that the PDT will create some form of proposed temporal/ spatial closures that would provide this protection but we need to be prepared to comment on their draft areas and dates.

The battle to try to protect these various forage fish from commercial harvest will not likely ever end, but in this case we have hope that the current effort by the NEFMC will result in area closures off Southern New England that will greatly reduce the river herring by-catch in the Atlantic herring fishery. I would love to see our runs fill back up with herring in the Spring and be able to once again catch and use "striper candy" as bait for those great linesiders in RI. 🐟

## 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.



## 2026 CAPE COD SALTIES SPORTFISHING EXPO

Following on the fins of the 2026 NE Saltwater Fishing Show, our affiliate the Cape Cod Salties held their Sportfishing Expo in West Yarmouth, Massachusetts on Saturday March 28, 2026. This intimate event was well attended and featured seminars by local fishing guides, staff from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, and others. RISAA staff members including President Dawn Fillatreault Wood, her husband Tommy Wood, and Executive Director Scott Travers attended the event staffing a RISAA table. A one year membership to the RI Saltwater Anglers Association was donated as part of the raffle at the event and the lucky winner was Russ Shannon from East Harwich, MA. Congratulations to Russ and welcome to RISAA! 🐟

## RISAA KAYAK COMMITTEE 2026 OUTING SCHEDULE

| Aug 1   | Sat  | 6:30 AM | Jamestown Fort Wetherill               | 3 Fort Wetherill Road, Jamestown 02835                  | Bass Tautog        | Kraig Ruth              |
|---------|------|---------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Aug 14  | Fri  | 6:00 AM | Sakonnet Harbor, Little Compton        | 25 Nevada Road, Little Compton 02837                    | Albies/Bass/Tautog | Jon Avery/Nick Califano |
| Aug 29  | Sat  | 6:00 AM | Camp Cronin, Narragansett              | Camp Cronin Fishing Area Ocean Road, Narragansett 02882 | Albies/Bass/Tautog | Dave Leandro            |
| Sept 10 | Thur | 6:30 AM | Bass River Yarmouth, Falmouth, Hyannis | TBD based on fishing reports                            | Albies/Bonito      | Jeffrey Richard         |
| Sept 26 | Sat  | 6:00 AM | Aspray Boat House, Warwick             | 2 E View St, Warwick 02888                              | Bass               | Dane Buell              |
| Oct 3   | Sat  | 8:00 AM | Fogland Beach, Tiverton                | 12 Point View Drive, Tiverton 02878                     | Bass/Tautog        | Rick Sullivan           |
| Oct 9   | Fri  | 6:00 AM | Monahan's Dock, Narragansett           | State Pier No. 5, Narragansett 02882                    | Bass               | Kirk Kamien             |
| Oct 17  | Sat  | 7:00 AM | Mackerel Cove, Jamestown               | 1 Beavertail Road, Jamestown 02835                      | Bass Tautog        | Dane Buell              |
| Oct 30  | Fri  | 8:00 PM | Battery Park (Newport Bridge), Newport | 107 Washington Street, Newport 02840                    | Squid              | Carl Tiska              |
| Nov 16  | Mon  | 6:30 PM | Annual Meeting Location TBD            |                                                         | n/a                | Kraig Ruth              |

# COOKING YOUR CATCH By: Paula Smalec

## CALAMARI PUTTANESCA

### Ingredients:

- 1 lb. calamari, cleaned and cut into rings (tentacles included, if desired)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ½ teaspoon red chili flakes (optional)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 cup canned crushed tomatoes
- ½ cup pitted Kalamata olives
- 2 tablespoons capers, drained
- 2 anchovy fillets, finely minced (optional)
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon red chili flakes (optional)
- ½ teaspoon sugar
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped, for garnish
- salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 12 oz. spaghetti, linguine, or penne pasta
- crusty bread, for dipping
- grated Parmesan cheese

### Instructions:

Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the minced garlic and red chili flakes and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute.

Add the calamari rings to the skillet and sauté for 2-3 minutes, or until they turn opaque and are just cooked through. Don't overcook or the calamari will become tough and rubbery.

Remove the calamari from the skillet and set aside.

In the same skillet, heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil over medium heat. Add the chopped onion and sauté until softened and translucent, about 5 minutes.

Add the minced garlic and cook for another minute until fragrant.

Stir in the crushed tomatoes, olives, capers, and anchovies. Add the oregano, red chili flakes, and sugar. Stir well to combine.

Simmer the sauce for 10-15 minutes, stirring occasionally, until it thickens slightly.

Taste and adjust seasoning with salt (if necessary) and black pepper.

Return the cooked calamari to the skillet with the sauce. Gently toss to coat the calamari in the sauce. Simmer for 2-3 minutes to allow the calamari to absorb the flavors of the sauce.

Cook and drain the pasta. Toss it with the calamari and Puttanesca sauce. Sprinkle with parsley and Parmesan cheese. Alternatively, serve the calamari and sauce with crusty bread for dipping.



Source: <https://mysavorytwist.com/calamari-puttanesca/>

**Attention Members!** Do you have a favorite seafood recipe to share with the membership in our magazine? Please submit the recipe with a photo of the finished dish to [travers@risaa.org](mailto:travers@risaa.org)

## UPCOMING SEMINARS

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



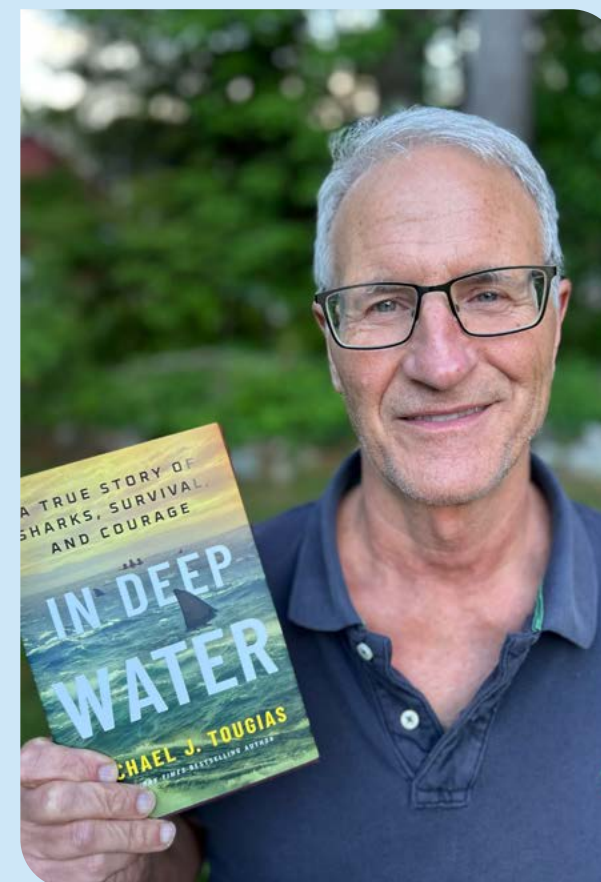
**MONDAY, AUG. 31**

Author **Michael Tougias** talks about his latest book *"In Deep Water: A True Story of Sharks, Survival, and Courage"*

New York Times Bestselling author and co-author of 30 books for adults and 9 for young adults. Books include *Extreme Survival*, *THE FINEST HOURS* (a Disney movie), *TEN HOURS UNTIL DAWN*, *FATAL FORECAST*, *OVERBOARD*, and *A STORM TOO SOON*, *THE WATERS BETWEEN US*, *KING PHILIPS WAR*, and *THERE'S A PORCUPINE IN MY outhouse!*

This book tells the true story of 3 friends 12 miles out in the Gulf of Mexico who must survive for 28 hours in open water facing 8 foot waves, jellyfish stings, hypothermia, and circling sharks. This is their story.

[www.michaeltougias.com](http://www.michaeltougias.com)



**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.

## RISAA MAGAZINE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

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

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.

**www.donsmarineri.com**

**DON'S MARINE**  
INCORPORATED

2503 Main Road  
Tiverton, RI  
401-624-3464

**Parker**  
**ROBALO**  
BOATS  
**YAMAHA**

**Pamela May CHARTERS**

AN EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER

Light Tackle, Fly Fishing & Bottom Fishing

Striped Bass • Bluefish • False Albacore  
Bonito • Summer Flounder  
Tautog • Black Sea Bass

**BOOK TODAY!**

**Captain Jason Howell**  
(401) 742-2383  
[pamelamaycharters@gmail.com](mailto:pamelamaycharters@gmail.com)  
Departs From Narragansett, RI

LICENSED & INSURED

**ocean house marina**

YOUR LOCAL YAMAHA REPOWER EXPERTS FOR OVER 35 YEARS

60 Town Dock Road  
Charlestown, RI 02813  
401-364-6040  
[oceanhousemarina.com](http://oceanhousemarina.com)

**YAMAHA**

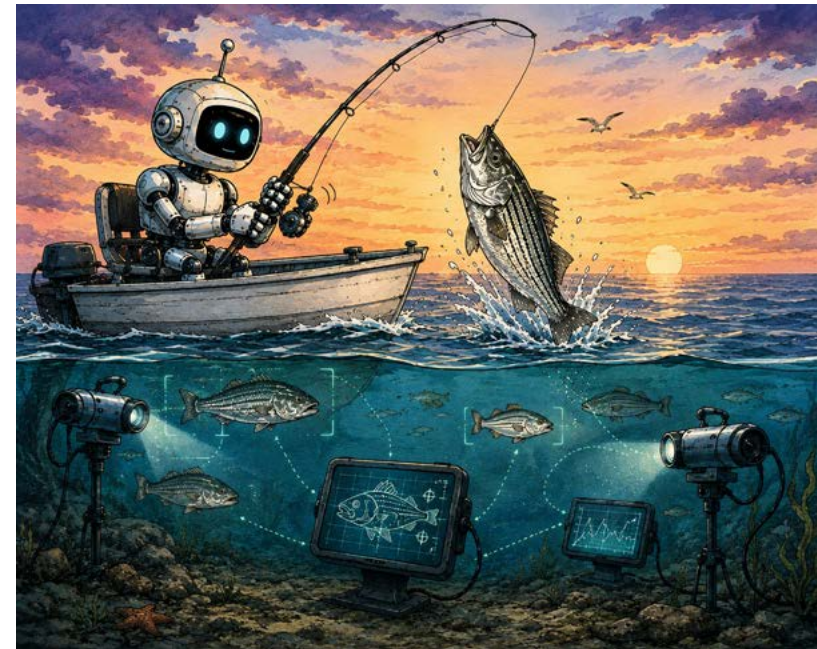
**JIG RHODE ISLAND TUNA OFFSHORE**

**PURA VIDA CHARTERS**

captain | Jonathan Lewie  
phone | 401.601.5499  
email | [puravidacharters@gmail.com](mailto:puravidacharters@gmail.com)  
web | [rhodeislandtuna.com](http://rhodeislandtuna.com)

# ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN THE FISHING WORLD

By Heather Low



Artificial intelligence is often portrayed as something dangerous, disruptive, or impersonal. In the modern age, when many people think about AI, images from popular movies often come to mind — machines becoming self-aware in *The Terminator*, intelligent systems controlling humanity in *The Matrix*, advanced robotics in *I, Robot*, or the unsettling realism of *Ex Machina*. Popular culture has frequently framed artificial intelligence as something to fear, creating understandable uncertainty about rapidly advancing technology.

Yet outside of Hollywood, artificial intelligence is increasingly becoming one of the most valuable tools available for science, conservation, and environmental protection. In fisheries science and marine conservation, AI is not replacing people or “taking over.” Instead, it is helping scientists, conservation groups, and fisheries managers process information faster, identify patterns humans might miss, and better understand complex marine ecosystems that are changing rapidly due to climate change and human activity.

Across Southern New England and throughout the United States, artificial intelligence is already helping researchers monitor fish populations, restore migratory species, analyze ocean conditions, and improve conservation efforts in ways that were nearly impossible only a decade ago. Rather than replacing marine scientists, AI is helping conservationists work more efficiently, gather better information, and make more informed decisions to protect marine wildlife and fisheries for future generations.

At its core, artificial intelligence is simply a computer system designed to recognize patterns and process large amounts of information quickly. In fisheries science, that means AI can analyze underwater video footage, identify species, count fish, detect migration patterns, process acoustic recordings, and even analyze environmental changes across entire ecosystems. Tasks that once required thousands of hours of manual labor can now be completed far more efficiently, allowing scientists to spend more time interpreting data and developing conservation strategies.

One of the most visible examples in Southern New England involves river herring restoration. Each spring, alewives and blueback herring migrate from the Atlantic Ocean into freshwater rivers and streams to spawn. These fish are critically important to the marine food chain, serving as prey for striped bass, bluefish, tuna, cod, ospreys, seals, whales, and many other species. However, river herring populations declined dramatically throughout much of New England during the 20th century due

to dams, pollution, overfishing, and habitat destruction. In recent years, restoration projects have helped improve fish passage and reconnect spawning habitat throughout Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Now, artificial intelligence is helping researchers better understand and protect those recovering populations. A recent *Providence Journal* article highlighted how conservationists are training AI systems to automatically count migrating herring using underwater cameras installed at fish ladders and river monitoring sites. Instead of relying entirely on volunteers or manual fish counts, AI-powered systems can monitor rivers continuously, day and night, while collecting far more detailed information about migration timing, fish behavior, and environmental conditions. This technology could significantly improve long-term monitoring while reducing the enormous amount of labor historically required for fish counting efforts.

Researchers at MIT Sea Grant and other organizations are also developing advanced computer vision systems capable of recognizing individual fish species from underwater imagery with remarkable accuracy. These deep-learning systems allow scientists to process enormous amounts of footage that would otherwise take months to analyze manually. In many ways, AI is allowing conservation groups to monitor ecosystems at a scale that simply was not practical in the past.

Artificial intelligence is also helping scientists study marine mammals and protected species throughout the Northeast. NOAA Fisheries now uses machine learning tools to analyze

underwater acoustic recordings and identify whale vocalizations, dolphin activity, and other marine wildlife sounds. AI systems can rapidly detect patterns within massive audio datasets that human researchers could never realistically process alone. This allows scientists to better understand migration routes and seasonal habitat use while supporting efforts to reduce ship strikes, minimize accidental entanglements, and better protect endangered species.

Climate change research is another area where AI is becoming increasingly important. Southern New England waters are warming faster than many marine ecosystems in the world, causing major shifts in fish distribution and migration patterns. Species such as black sea bass and squid are becoming more common in northern waters, while traditional cold-water species are shifting farther offshore or northward. AI systems can combine satellite imagery, water temperature data, fishery surveys, and oceanographic models to help scientists better predict these ecosystem changes. These tools may eventually improve fisheries management decisions and help coastal communities adapt to changing marine conditions.

Artificial intelligence is even helping recreational anglers become better conservation partners. Fishing applications are increasingly using AI-driven tools to help fishermen identify species, log catches, track environmental conditions, and contribute valuable data to fisheries research. One example is the Got One App, which allows anglers to record catches, share fishing information, and contribute to fisheries data collection efforts. These types of platforms help bridge the gap between recreational fishermen and fisheries science while encouraging responsible angling practices and improved catch reporting.

One word of caution for fishermen who love posting hero shots online: artificial intelligence is becoming so advanced that some systems can actually identify individual fish by their markings, scars, fin shapes, and body patterns. In some cases, AI can determine whether two separate photos are actually showing the same fish caught more than once. While this technology is extremely useful for conservation studies and catch-and-release research, it also means the days of exaggerating “new” catches online may be numbered.

Many modern fishing technologies already rely on forms of artificial intelligence without anglers even realizing it. Advanced sonar systems, fish finders, weather prediction tools, navigation software, and satellite-based ocean analysis all use algorithms that process massive amounts of data in real time. These systems help fishermen operate more safely, locate productive fishing areas more efficiently, and reduce unnecessary fuel usage and search time on the water.

Commercial fisheries are also benefiting from AI-assisted monitoring systems. Electronic monitoring programs equipped with artificial intelligence can review onboard camera footage and automatically identify species caught during fishing operations. This technology improves fisheries data collection while reducing costs and helping regulators better track bycatch and stock health.



NOAA Fisheries believes these systems could become increasingly important in supporting sustainable fisheries management nationwide.

Importantly, AI is not replacing marine biologists, fishermen, conservation groups, or fisheries managers. Human expertise remains central to every conservation effort. Scientists still design studies, interpret findings, and make management recommendations. Fishermen continue providing valuable firsthand observations from the water. Volunteers still restore habitats, monitor fish runs, and advocate for healthy ecosystems. Artificial intelligence simply gives these groups better tools and more information to work with.

In many ways, the growing use of AI in conservation represents a positive example of technology being used responsibly and constructively. Instead of creating division or replacing human connection, these systems are helping protect wildlife, improve environmental stewardship, and deepen scientific understanding of the ocean ecosystems that define Southern New England.

As public conversations about artificial intelligence continue to evolve, it is important to recognize that AI itself is not inherently good or bad. Like any tool, its impact depends entirely on how people choose to use it. In the world of marine conservation, researchers and environmental organizations are demonstrating how artificial intelligence can serve both science and society by helping preserve fisheries, protect marine wildlife, and better understand the rapidly changing ocean environment. For anglers, scientists, and coastal communities alike, AI may become one of the most important conservation tools of the modern era. 🐟

## References

*The Providence Journal*. “Training Artificial Intelligence to Count Herring Could Be a Key Piece in Helping RI Conservationists.” 2026.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Reviving River Herring

MIT Sea Grant – Computer Vision for Fish Monitoring

NOAA Fisheries – Using Artificial Intelligence to Study Protected Species

NOAA Fisheries – Electronic Monitoring

Got One App

Heather Low is RISAA Elections Committee Chair and member of the Fisheries Advisory Board (FAB) representing recreational anglers on offshore development issues. She holds a degree in Environmental Sciences.

# In Deep Water, A True Story of Sharks, Survival and Courage

By Michael Tougias | Interview by Todd Corayer

With the release of his newest book, I had the pleasure of asking author Michael Tougias a few questions about this tale of sudden and shared desperation, of shock and a will to live. Mr. Tougias recounts a harrowing and real story of three friends, a new boat on a bluebird day and everything falling apart. It's a reality for some, especially for anyone who has a boat, who fishes or sails home waters where they feel safe and confident and excited to be on the water. Just a few miles into the Gulf of Mexico, everything goes very wrong very quickly for them and luckily, Mr. Tougias has collected their words and emotions to share with us. We can pack and plan or say we would have done something differently but sometimes, a situation will change in a heartbeat, which is how these fishermen went from laughing and chasing red snapper to clinging to a cooler with a few small bottles of water, fighting off torso-sized jellyfish and fearing circling shark shadows hunting beneath their feet.

I have also had the pleasure of reading and reviewing a few of Mr. Tougias' books. They are all gripping and almost scary for the accuracy with which he writes about so many death defying adventures. Mr. Tougias is also a solid striper fisherman. How he gets on a boat after writing stories such as this, I do not know.

**Questions and answers with Michael Tougias about sharks and survival**

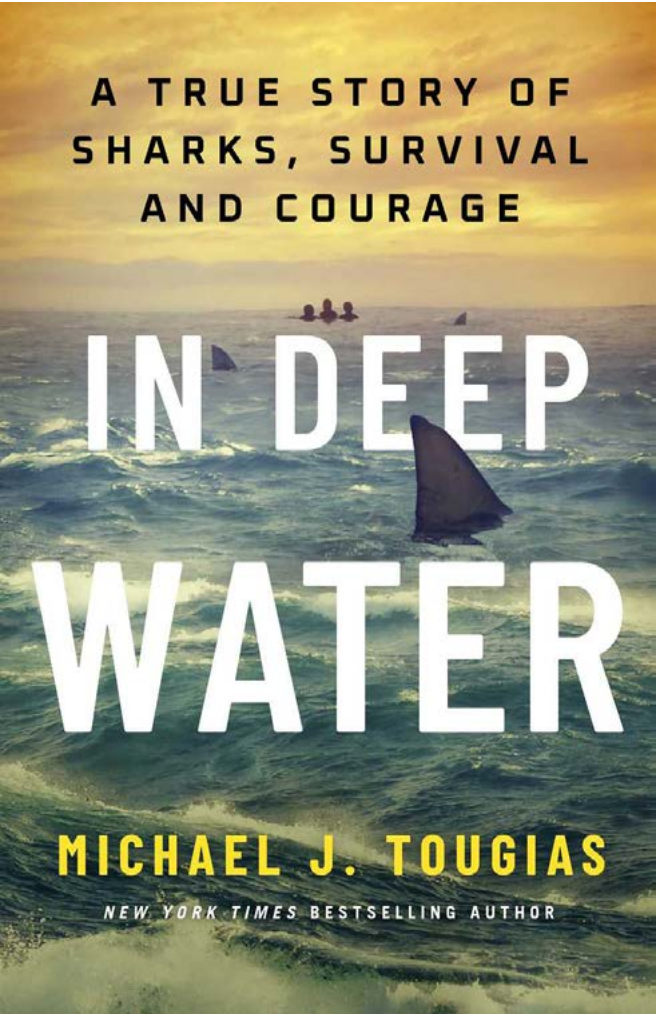
**Q. How long do you research a story before you decide to write about it?** It doesn't take me more than a month because I'm looking for three elements: it must be a multi-day survival ordeal, one that I could never survive, and are their surprises.

**Q. Did your questioning the three survivors make them emotional? Were they emotional reliving their ordeal?** Surprisingly they were not emotional. When I talked with Lu about the shark attack I kept asking are you ok reliving this? And he said yes, "I just want it told accurately"

**Q. How did the three men react when you contacted them about writing their story? Is that a mixed emotion situation?** They were quite willing and extremely helpful. They just wanted the full story to be told. I sent each of them some of my other books to show them the finished product.

**Q. How long does it take you, generally, to write a book like In Deep Water?** About 18 months if I really focus. My mantra when writing is "make the story fast-paced, and no "filler."

**Q. I know you are a fisherman, do you think about stories like this when you go fishing? After so many years of telling survivor's stories and the tales of those who did not make it, does that affect you when you climb over the gunwales?** I have to admit that is true. And I've made some mistakes on the ocean



*In Deep Water, A True Story of Sharks, Survival and Courage* by Michael Tougias is available through St. Martin's Press at your local book seller, who would love to have your business.

where I have felt real fear. I never want to be in one of my own books.

**Q. How complicated is it to get information from the government, like the Coast Guard, to do your homework?** It gets harder every year with more hoops to jump through. But once that is done the men and women of the Coast Guard are so professional and so glad that someone will describe the work they do in detail.

**Q. Is that research more difficult with the new administration?** I'm not sure if it is the administration, but there are more sign-offs I must secure.

**Q. Was there a point in this project where you were just amazed by their resilience, considering what they endured?** Yes, being in the ocean at night would terrify me, but they kept their spirits up with a determination to make it to morning and then they would try to swim to an oil rig three miles away. They knew there were sharks beneath them but they tried to block that out of their mind because it was a factor beyond their control.

**Q. Do you stay in touch with people about whom you have written?** I hear that most writers do not, but because they have opened their hearts to me I make a real effort to stay in touch through out the years. Many have become dear friends.

**Q. What is the next project, can you let us in on what your next book might be about?** I'm taking some much needed time off because I'm 71 years old! Lots of ideas for the future, so I'll do some sample chapters and then see which topic has the best feel. I'll trust my gut!

When you finish this book, save some time to read *The Finest Hours: The True Story of a Heroic Sea Rescue*. We could use some reminders these days not just of bravery, but of the heroic human spirit we might just all have in the right situation.

Mr. Tougias is a *New York Times* bestselling author and coauthor of over thirty books for adults and middle readers. His books include *Fatal Forecast*, *The Finest Hours*, which became a Disney movie, *Ten Hours Until Dawn*, *Overboard!*, *A Storm Too Soon*, *So Close to Home*, *The Waters Between Us*, *Extreme Survival*, *King Phillip War*, *There's A Porcupine In My Outhouse!* (you must read this, it's amazing) and *The Power of Positive Fishing*. He offers slide presentations and an inspiration program titled "Survival Lessons: Decision Making Under Pressure."



Author Michael Tougias



**401-294-9642**

**4019 Quaker Lane**  
**North Kingstown, RI 02852**

Find us on facebook  
"Quaker.Lane"

MEMBER



**Fish Smarter. Catch More. Stay Connected**



- 38 Issues Every Year
- The Regions #1 Source for Multi-Species Anglers
- Digital Access to Our Extensive Online Library
- Detailed Reporting from CT - ME
- Expert Advice & Product Reviews Along with Tips & Tactics from Top Local Anglers
- All for Just \$35 Per Year!

Subscribe today at  
[TheFisherman.com/NewEngland](http://TheFisherman.com/NewEngland)  
Call us at: (631) 345-5200

Surf - Inshore - Offshore  
Freshwater - Kayak & More  
[www.TheFisherman.com](http://www.TheFisherman.com)

Newsletter Signup



# OCEAN STATE SPEARGUNS

In April this author had the distinct honor of spending some time with an up and coming legend in the spear fishing community, Matthew Novakovich, owner and creator of Ocean State Spearguns at his home / workshop in Richmond, RI where he painstakingly crafts custom spearguns for customers all over the world.

Matt has a background in custom woodworking and grew up working with his dad doing framing and trim work in Maryland. He also graduated from Kings Point in 2011 with an engineering degree. With all his experience and education, and a passion for free diving and spearfishing, in 2020 he began making spearguns. He initially started with 3 models that were fairly plain compared to his more recent models. His current models feature custom wood burning designs with abalone inserts that are more like works of art that should be on display in an art gallery, however they are durable, reliable, fully functioning spearguns that perform when you need them the most.

Over the years Matt has refined his designs to include a flared midbody to allow the spearguns to more easily cut through the water, conserving the energy of free divers who use his products. Currently, Matt offers 4 models with a variety of customization options. Each unit is built by Matt himself, in RI, using hand tools with an amazing level of craftsmanship, to match the preferences



of the user.

Matt only uses two types of wood for his products. The first is teak, which is a hardwood valued for its resistance to water and decay which results in a great finish. However, teak can be hard to source as it is native to countries like Myanmar which have tropical monsoon climates and can be subject to political crisis. Matt sometimes is able to source teak from sources locally and repurpose it. The second type of wood is Padauk, which is also a hardwood and has an incredible color which can vary from a pale pinkish orange to a deep brownish red. Padauk typically comes from central and tropical west Africa and can be easier to source.

Matts spearguns have been used by enthusiasts all over the world in places like Africa, Australia, Hawaii, and Mexico. Professional



spearfisher Cameron Kirkconnell uses Matts spearguns and has been instrumental in providing feedback and design suggestions.

While Ocean State Spearguns is still a part time endeavor for Matt, he is reaching the point where this may become a full-time occupation for him as awareness and interest in his top quality custom spearguns spreads. Matt, who enjoys working in the shop, fully credits his wife Kelley who takes care of the business end of the venture making this a local, family run business we can all be proud to have in our community.

Aside from making custom spearguns, being an avid spearfishing enthusiast himself, Matt gives back to the community, working with groups like the Tristate Skindivers, a local spearfishing club with whom he both sponsors and participates in many tournaments and events.

In his spare time, if there is any, Matt is also certified as an instructor with Freediving Instructors International (FII) and teaches free diving classes for those who are interested in getting started in their journey in becoming the next free diving and spearfishing legend.

If you have any questions for Matt or would like more information on his custom spearguns made in RI, you can find him online at [www.oceanstatespearguns.com](http://www.oceanstatespearguns.com) or you can meet Matt in person at the 2027 NE Saltwater Fishing Show March 5-7, 2027.



## SUPPORT LOCAL BAIT SHOPS THAT SUPPORT RISAA!

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

### OUR SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

**Black Hall Outfitters - Old Lyme & Westbrook, CT**

**Breachway Bait & Tackle - Charlestown, RI**

**Fin & Feather - North Kingstown, RI**

**Frances Fleet - Galilee, RI**

**Maridee Bait & Tackle - Narragansett, RI**

**Ocean State Tackle - Providence , RI**

**Pete's Bait& Tackle - Woonsocket, RI**

**Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle - North Kingstown, RI**

**Quonnie Bait & Tackle - Charlestown, RI**

**Riverside Marine Bait & Tackle - Tiverton, RI**

**Saltwater Edge - Middletown, RI**

**Sams' Bait & Tackle - Middletown, RI**

**Snug Harbor - Wakefield, RI**

**Tackle Box - Warwick, RI**

**Watch Hill Outfitters - Westerly, RI**

**Weekapaug Bait & Tackle - Westerly, RI**

**Southern Rhode Island's  
Best Resource for Local Fishing**



**OPEN 7  
DAYS!**

**FRESH  
BAIT!**

Fishing Gear & Tackle  
Line Spooling • Fresh & Saltwater Bait  
Kayak/SUP/Canoe Rentals  
Ice • Propane • Clamming Supplies

166 Charlestown Beach Road, Charlestown  
401-364-6407 • [info@breachwaybait.com](mailto:info@breachwaybait.com)

[www.BREACHWAYBAIT.com](http://www.BREACHWAYBAIT.com)

## Who Fights For Your Angling Rights In Washington?



## RISAA Political Action & Legislative Committees Do!

*Learn how RISAA has fought for  
Atlantic menhaden because whales, striped bass,  
bluefish, tuna, osprey and a host of other  
animals need them to survive.*

Join or donate to our Political Action Committee  
and Legislative Committee. To learn more email  
Rich Hittinger at [hittinger@risaa.org](mailto:hittinger@risaa.org)

Fly Fishing • Light Tackle  
**On The Rocks Charters**

Capt. Rene Letourneau

401-359-3625

[www.ontherockscharters.com](http://www.ontherockscharters.com)



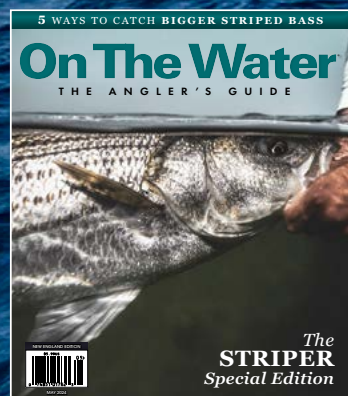
# Locally Owned Locally Operated Locally Priced



# SAFE SEA

**401-295-8711 • [safesea.com](http://safesea.com)**

## YOUR FISHING. YOUR MAGAZINE.



**On The Water**  
covers fishing and boating  
in your backyard like no  
other publication. Each issue  
is jam-packed with useful  
information written by top  
local anglers. Subscribe  
today and stay up-to-date  
with the latest information  
on fishing our local waters.

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**  
1 YEAR ONLY \$29

**On The Water**  
[www.OnTheWater.com](http://www.OnTheWater.com)

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



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

## 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. [travers@risaa.org](mailto:travers@risaa.org)  
Please include a description of the photo.

## RHODE ISLAND SALTWATER ANGLERS ASSOCIATION FLY FISHING COMMITTEE 2026 OUTINGS

Sept. 7 - Bristol Narrows - 5 PM  
Sept. 28 - Quonny - 5:30 PM with Jim Jaques  
Oct. 2 - Charlestown - 3 PM with Jim Jaques  
Oct. 22 - Narrow River - 8 AM with John Edwards  
Oct. 27 - Charlestown - 11 AM with Jim Jaques  
Nov. 9 - Narrow River - 10 AM with John Edwards  
TBD - ANNUAL MEETING



John W. Edwards II • [edwards@risaa.org](mailto:edwards@risaa.org)

## Advertise with RISAA



## HELP YOUR BUSINESS, RISAA & THE FISH!

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

## Seaward Boatworks "Your One Stop Boat Shop"



### ALUMINUM & STAINLESS FABRICATION

T-Tops • Radar • Arches • Hard Tops • Towers • Railings  
Swim Platforms • Rocket Launchers • Leaning Posts

### Canvas Repair • Cushions

Call to discuss your new fabrication project



NOW is the  
time for  
canvas &  
cushion  
repairs!

Captain Rick Cataldi  
401-458-1503

Brokerage Sales



See us at  
Booth 119 at the  
NEW ENGLAND SALTWATER  
FISHING SHOW™ for our  
Show Specials!

[www.SeawardBoatWorks.net](http://www.SeawardBoatWorks.net)

661 West Shore Road, Warwick, RI

Carol J Charters  
401-207-6947  
[CarolJCharters.com](http://CarolJCharters.com)



Safe, affordable, family friendly



Manufacturer of Fine  
Terminal Tackle for the  
Saltwater Fisherman

Snelled Hooks, Top and  
Bottom Rigs, Lures, Tubes,  
Leadheads, Umbrella Rigs  
and more....

P.O. Box 763  
Londonderry, NH 03053  
Tel: 603-434-4689  
Fax: 603-432-3902  
E-mail:  
[seawolfe2000@hotmail.com](mailto:seawolfe2000@hotmail.com)

Check out our web site at  
[www.seawolfetackle.com](http://www.seawolfetackle.com)

Owned and operated by  
The Wolfe Family.



# WHO'S WHO

in the Rhode Island Saltwater's Anglers Association

## 2025 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## RISAA CONTACTS

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Scott Travers  
travers@risaa.org

### PRESIDENT

Dawn Filliatreault Wood  
wood@risaa.org

### 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Capt. Richard Hittinger  
hittinger@risaa.org

### 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Fred DeFinis  
definis@risaa.org

### SECRETARY

Susan Lema • lema@risaa.org

### TREASURER

Steve Skenyon, CPA • skenyon@risaa.org

### SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Capt. David Michel • michel@risaa.org

### BOARD MEMBERS

Gary W. Johnson • gary@risaa.org  
John Kim • Kim@risaa.org  
Bob Marco • marco@risaa.org  
Bob Murray • murray@risaa.org  
Richard Reich • reich@risaa.org  
Kraig Ruth • ruth@risaa.org

### LEGAL COUNSEL TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mitchell S. Riffkin, Esq

### RISAA OFFICE

P.O. Box 1467  
Coventry, RI 02816  
(401) 826-2121  
WWW.RISAA.ORG

### New England Saltwater Fishing Show™

www.nesaltwatershow.com

### BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

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

### CHARTER TRIPS COMMITTEE

John Kim, Chair  
Charters@risaa.org • 401-826-2121

### DEALER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

**OPEN - Volunteer Needed**  
Contact: travers@risaa.org

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thomas Wood, Chair  
tomwood@risaa.org • 401-263-3909

### ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Heather Low, Chair  
low.risaa@gmail.com

### FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Raymond Marchak, CPA  
finance@risaa.org • 401-826-2121

### FLY FISHING COMMITTEE

John W. Edwards II  
edwards@risaa.org • 650-773-4168

### FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

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

### FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

**OPEN - Volunteer Needed**  
Contact: travers@risaa.org

### KAYAK COMMITTEE

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

### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

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

### Menhaden Subcommittee

David Monti, Chair  
monti@risaa.org • 401-480-3444

### Public Access Subcommittee

Peter Jenkins, Chair  
jenkins@risaa.org • 401-826-2121

### MERCHANDISE COMMITTEE

Chris Salera  
salera.risaa@gmail.com

### POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Scott Travers  
travers@risaa.org

### RISAA MAGAZINE

Scott Travers  
travers@risaa.org

### SALTWATER FISHING SHOW

Robert Murray  
murray@risaa.org • 401-378-5895

### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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

### SURFCASTERS COMMITTEE

Paul Chapman, Chair  
risaasurfchair@gmail.com

### TAG & RELEASE PROGRAM

Robert Murray, Coordinator  
murray@risaa.org • 401-378-5895

### TOURNAMENTS COMMITTEE

Dave Leandro, Chair  
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. 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:





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

Garth Fondo

Jack Hutson

Captain David Monti

Bill Ogara

BRONZE (\$50+)

Roger Lema

COPPER (UP TO \$49)

## 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.



## The Voice of Southern NE Fisherman

### SHORE ANGLERS

RISAA has active groups in surf casting and fly fishing, with regularly scheduled outings, inter-club contests and social events.

### KAYAK ANGLERS

RISAA Kayak Committee has over 100 members with a variety of group outings and events. Have more fun and be safer on the water as part of a group.

### FAMILY FISHING

RISAA offers free memberships to juniors and sponsors family fishing trips at discounted prices. There are special “junior” tournaments and prizes too. We also offer college scholarships through the RISAA Foundation.

### HEAD-BOAT ANGLERS

RISAA arranges various head-boat trips throughout the season from squid fishing in the spring to Cod and Tog in the Fall. RISAA subsidizes the cost to keep admission affordable to all.

### HOWEVER YOU FISH

RISAA will help you become a better angler and add your voice in matters of conservation and regulation of our precious fisheries.

- Monthly seminars in person and online.
- Informative monthly magazine
- Advocating for your interests

## Giving Back...

Each year, through The RISAA Foundation  
(a 501-C3 entity) we give back through:

- College scholarships to deserving students
- Sponsoring Youth Fishing Camp for 50 youngsters to attend free of charge.
- Grants for scientific research on fisheries and habitat.
- Grants for artificial reefs and dam removals.
- **And many more!**

**FOLLOW US ONLINE!**  



## DEM/ENVIRONMENTAL POLICE ARREST & CITATION LOG

### MARCH 2026

CHEN, Yuae, 67, of New York, NY, for Non-Resident Taking of Shellfish without License and Exceeding Recreational Daily Limit of Shellfish in a Management Area – Non-Residents

BARBER, Peco, 41, of Ashaway, RI, for Possession of Undersized Striped Bass – Recreational – 1st Offense, Exceeding the Daily Limit of Striped Bass – Recreational – 1st Offense, and Possession of Alewives and/or Blueback Herring Prohibited

NORMAN, Timothy M., 41, of New Bedford, MA, for Possession of Undersized Striped Bass – Recreational – 1st Offense, Exceeding the Daily Limit of Striped Bass – Recreational – 1st Offense, and Possession of Alewives and/or Blueback Herring Prohibited

### APRIL 2026

WORTHINGTON, Oscar L., 40, of Cranston, RI, for Possession of Oversized Striped Bass

### The following is a breakdown of the citations issued for the period of: March & April 2026

\*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: 3,002

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: 229**

### VIOLATION CITATIONS ISSUED

|                                                                 |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| State Property Violations .....                                 | 14        |
| (Parking, Alcohol, Disorderly Conduct, Dumping/Littering, etc.) |           |
| Motor Vehicle .....                                             | 10        |
| Boating Violations .....                                        | 6         |
| ATV Violations .....                                            | 0         |
| Freshwater Fishing Violations .....                             | 3         |
| Saltwater Fishing Violations .....                              | 10        |
| CRMC Beach Violations .....                                     | 0         |
| Hunting Violations .....                                        | 7         |
| <b>Total .....</b>                                              | <b>54</b> |

\*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.



## 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  
RI Mobile Sportfisherman  
(For Youth Fishing Camp)

### SILVER (\$100+)

American Online Giving Foundation  
Kenneth Anderson  
Andrew Berg  
George Badenheimer  
Norman Beucher  
Joan Bradbury  
Curt and Marianne Caserta  
Stuart Cohen  
Garth Fondo  
Dave Helliner  
Jack Hutson  
Marc Lamson  
Jack McMath  
No Fluke Fishing LLC  
Alvin and Laurie Roulette (In Memory of Francis Mello for Youth Fish Camp)  
Leo Swider  
Kyle Terra  
Patrick Watson

### BRONZE (\$50+)

Robert Busenbark  
Carl DiRocco  
Michael Curran  
Thomas Featherston  
Timothy Fleming  
Donald Goodroe  
Dale Hartman (For Youth Fishing Camp)  
Rich Heffernon  
Bill Howard  
Vincent Lechmani  
John Meyer  
Joyce and Bob Pacitti (In Memory of Stephen Babigian for Youth Fish Camp)  
John Pope  
David Rebello (for youth fish camp)  
David Ricks  
Thomas Saucier  
Orlando Savastano (In Memory of Lucas Salem)  
William Sosnicki  
Judy Wilson

### COPPER (up to \$49)

Ben Aceto  
Donn Barclay  
John Boardman  
William Bradley  
Elizabeth Burlingame  
Robert Chew  
Freeman Deware  
Francisco Ferreira  
Roy Francis  
John Ganter  
Christopher Glasanos  
George Gremour  
Lewis James  
Frank Jensen  
Kirk Kamien  
Adam Kaufman  
Martha Klimas  
David Loren  
Timothy Masters  
Kevin Munroe  
Charles Murphy  
Timothy O'Connell  
Ralph Orleck

Stephen Phillips  
Stewart Pucci  
Rick Rheinberger  
Paul Richard  
Johni Robert (In Memory of Francis Mello for Youth Fish Camp)  
Jim Salomon  
Joseph Silva  
William Skoloski  
Kenneth Spicer  
Brian Strayer  
Douglas Sturgis  
Ronnie Tipple  
Jane Venditto  
Phyllis Vivari (In Memory of John Vivari)  
Daniel Watson  
Jim Zito  
Jimi Zito

## MAKE A DONATION ONLINE: WWW.RISAA.ORG/THE-FOUNDATION

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



PLEASE  
PRINT

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

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to  
**The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation**

**THANK YOU!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

☐ Donation Made In The Name Of: \_\_\_\_\_

### MAIL TO:

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



**RISAA**

P.O. BOX 1467  
Coventry, RI 02816

CHANGE SERVICE  
REQUIRED



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Providence, RI  
Permit No.1899

*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

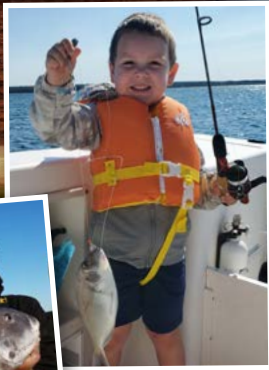
*Legislation such as:*

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**