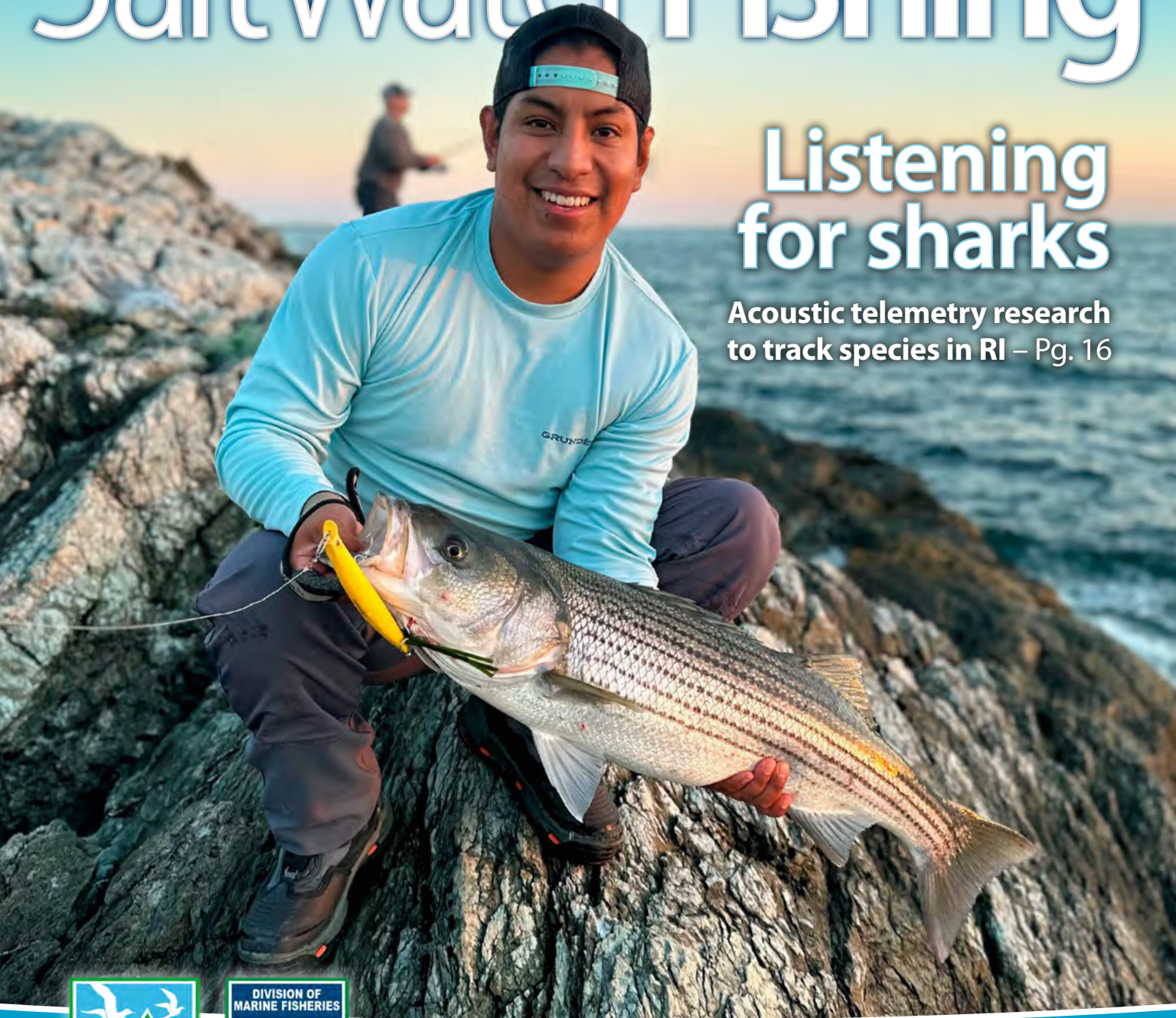


2024 RHODE ISLAND RECREATIONAL

Saltwater Fishing

Listening for sharks

Acoustic telemetry research to track species in RI – Pg. 16



The official regulations provided by the
Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management



Notable Catches

Want a chance to see your notable catch featured here? Follow us on Facebook @RhodeIslandDEM or Instagram @rhodeisland.dem and look out for our annual photo contest announcement, or email DEM.MarineFisheries@dem.ri.gov for more information.



Samantha Paliotta

landed this striper while fishing with her dad in Ninigret Pond.



Tom Houde

with a large grey triggerfish he caught while fishing from his kayak off Wickford.



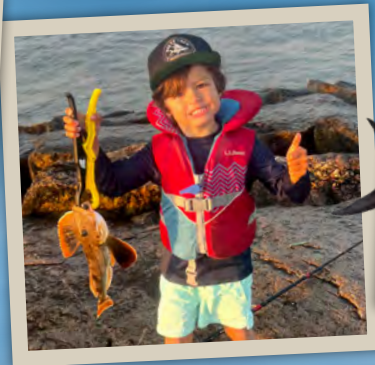
Isaiah Pierce

caught this nice black sea bass while fishing with his dad Kenny and sister Luciana off Black Point in Narragansett.



Keri Doire

caught a 27"+ fluke while fishing in Block Island Sound on an overcast day.



Rex Clifton

caught this large striped searobin while fishing from a jetty in Westerly.



Jason Santos

is all smiles after battling this beautiful bluefin tuna.



Melissa Tucker

shows off a trophy 24" tautog caught off Point Judith in October.



Kyle Lyons

took advantage of the albie action and landed this one from shore near Sakonnet Point.



Colin Penta

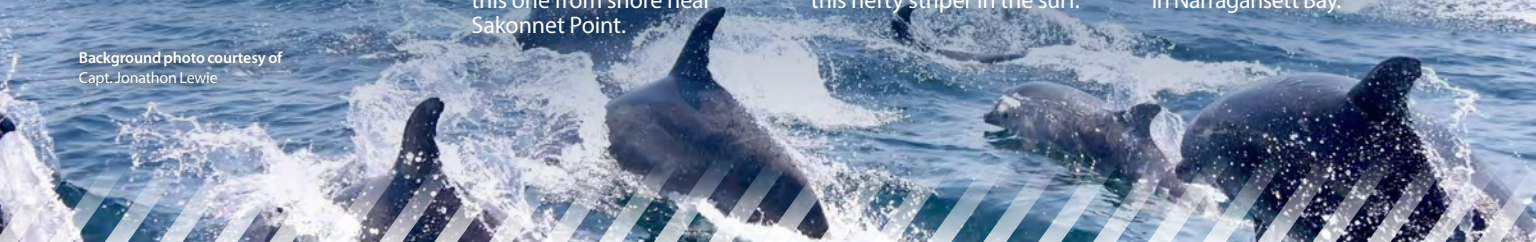
braved the waves during the stormy fall run and caught this hefty striper in the surf.



Jack Harris

had an impressive catch of two 5+ pound fluke caught in Narragansett Bay.

Background photo courtesy of Capt. Jonathon Lewie



Saltwater Fishing



State of Rhode Island
Governor Daniel McKee

RI Department of Environmental Management
Director Terrence Gray

Bureau of Natural Resources
Deputy Director Jason McNamee

Division of Marine Fisheries
Chief Conor McManus
Deputy Chief Scott Olszewski
Deputy Chief Julia Livermore

Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council

Chair
Molly Ogren

Members
David Bethoney, Ph.D.
Jasper Coutu
Patrick Duckworth
Katie Eagan
Mike Roderick
Greg Vespe

Rhode Island Marine Recreational Fisheries Program

Supervising Marine Biologist
John Lake
Principal Marine Biologist
Katie Rodrigue
Principal Marine Biologist
Chris Parkins
Principal Marine Biologist
Rich Balouskus

RI Division of Marine Fisheries
3 Fort Wetherill Rd.
Jamestown, RI 02835
(401) 423-1923
DEM.MarineFisheries@dem.ri.gov

Cover Photo Courtesy:
Diego Vargas



Photo courtesy of Meg Maurice

Table of Contents

| | | | | | |
|----|-------|---|----|-------|---|
| 2 | ..... | Welcome Letter | 16 | ..... | Article – Shark Tracking |
| 4 | ..... | General Information | 18 | ..... | Commonly Caught Species |
| 4 | ..... | Rhode Island Environmental Police – Division of Law Enforcement | 20 | ..... | Access Sites |
| 5 | ..... | Recreational Saltwater Fishing License | 22 | ..... | Lobster/Crab Regulations |
| 5 | ..... | Dive Flag Awareness | 23 | ..... | Equipment Regulations |
| 6 | ..... | Article – Baitfish | 24 | ..... | Proper Shellfish Handling |
| 8 | ..... | Striped Bass Information | 25 | ..... | Shellfish Regulations |
| 9 | ..... | Rhode Island Game Fish Award Program | 26 | ..... | Article – Access Site Improvements |
| 10 | ..... | Fishing Knots | 28 | ..... | Party/Charter Notable Catches |
| 12 | ..... | 2024 Recreational Regulations | 30 | ..... | Party/Charter Boat Directory |
| 13 | ..... | State Records | 32 | ..... | Bait & Tackle Shop Directory |
| 13 | ..... | How to Properly Measure a Fish | | | |
| 15 | ..... | Recipe – Tuna Poke | | | |



Welcome Letter

On behalf of Governor Dan McKee, I am excited to introduce the 12th annual **Rhode Island Saltwater Recreational Fishing Guide**. The Ocean State offers some of the best saltwater recreational fishing anywhere. Whether you fish the waters of Narragansett Bay or the coastal waters stretching from the south shore out to Block Island and beyond, anglers in Rhode Island have many fantastic opportunities to enjoy the diversity and abundance of our local catch.

As part of a larger network of recreational opportunities in the state, fishing plays an important role in connecting people with nature, promoting health, attracting tourism, and supporting a treasured tradition for Rhode Island families. Fishing is an important part of Rhode Island's social and cultural fabric and an important driver for our economy. Recreational fishing contributes more than \$130 million to the economy each year. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, there are approximately 175,000 recreational anglers (age 16+) in Rhode Island. People love to fish in the Ocean State!

This guide is written for both novice and seasoned anglers. I hope you will find it filled with useful information on our efforts to provide superior recreational fishing opportunities in Rhode Island as well as with helpful guidance on fishing regulations. In these pages, you will learn about DEM's collaborative shark tagging project with the Atlantic Shark Institute and the acoustic telemetry network used to "listen" for tagged fish; read about some of the most common baitfish species found in Rhode Island and which recreationally important species prefer to feed on them; hear updates about access-site improvements including the newly dedicated Stephen J. Medeiros fishing site in Narragansett and coastal resiliency projects at Quonochontaug Pond; try a delicious poke recipe perfect for fresh RI caught tuna, and much more!

This is your publication, funded by contributions from saltwater anglers, including the federal Sportfish Restoration Program and the Rhode Island Recreational Saltwater License Program. Thanks to your support, DEM's Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) carries out a range of programs and activities supporting the interests of recreational fishermen. We monitor and conserve our local fish stocks. We work closely with recreational fishing organizations on initiatives like our FREE volunteer recreational catch reporting mobile application **AnglerCatch**, which launched in 2022 in collaboration with the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association and Harbor Lights Software. And we continue to engage in outreach and education programs, such as this guide. Before you grab your poles and hit the water, be sure to purchase a recreational saltwater fishing license from the Rhode Island Outdoors — RIO — online licensing system at RIO.ri.gov!

Since 2016, DEM has worked closely with RISAA to improve boating and fishing access throughout the Ocean State, ensuring anglers can easily reach their favorite spots on the water or along the shore. These close partnerships notably include the development of special shore fishing sites, the 'Vamos a Pescar' program, and the popular Youth Fishing Camp at Rocky Point State Park which introduces recreational fishing to young Rhode Islanders. Little is more thrilling than casting a line and reeling in that first fish — especially on beautiful Narragansett Bay. Kudos to RISAA for bringing this camp to Rocky Point and inspiring both a love of fishing and for this park in our children — it is through efforts like this that we forge the next generation of environmental stewards.

Beyond the fun it brings, saltwater fishing is a great way to enjoy fresh, delicious seafood. From bluefish to scup to our beloved summer flounder, Rhode Island is well known for the wealth of seafood harvested year-round from our waters. But ultimately, whether you fish for fun or food, the common denominator is that you are part of a time-honored tradition made possible by Rhode Island's amazing marine life.

I hope this guide enhances your recreational fishing experiences. Be safe, respect the great outdoors and each other, and enjoy the excitement of fishing in beautiful Rhode Island!

Terry Gray, PE, Director



Williamstown, MA | Birmingham, AL

About This Guide

This high-quality guide is offered to you by the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife Marine Fisheries Section through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important agency programs.

If you have any feedback or are interested in advertising, please contact us at 413.884.1001 or at www.JFGriffin.com

Graphic Design:

Jon Gulley, Dane Fay, Evelyn Haddad, Chris Sobolowski



This guide is also available online at **eRegulations.com**

Background photo courtesy of Nathan Andrews



J.O. SPICE, THE TRUE CRAB HOUSE SEASONING

Since 1945

J.O. is More Than Spice! Specializing in Custom Gifts, Custom Labeling, Co-Packing and more...



J.O. No. 1 Brand Seafood Seasoning & more!
Just check out some of what we have to offer!

- J.O. No. 2 "Crab House Spice"
- J.O. Black Crab Spice
- J.O. Cajun Seasoning
- J.O. Maryland Seafood Seasoning
- J.O. Lumberjack Meat/Poultry Seasoning
- J.O. Rib/Chicken Seasoning
- J.O. Venison/Steak/Beef Seasoning
- J.O. Soup Mixes



Dealer Inquiries Invited!

Come Visit Our Fabulous Retail Store at 3729 Old Georgetown Road., Halethorpe, MD 21227.

Check Out Our Online Store at store.jospices.com

- Laser Engraving
- Custom Gifts
- Insulated Tumblers
- Glassware
- Cutting Boards
- Crab Mallets
- Crab Knives
- Gift Baskets
- Fund Raising
- Corporate Gifts
- Custom Blends
- Co-packing
- Retail Store
- Apparel
- Gifts
- Decor and More!!



3721 Old Georgetown Rd. Halethorpe, MD 21227 410-247-5205 jospices.com



Mention code 24RISW at checkout for an extra 10% OFF on your order!



General Information

Our Mission...

The Department of Environmental Management mission is to ensure that the freshwater, marine, and wildlife resources of the State of Rhode Island will be conserved and managed for equitable and sustainable use. The Department is divided into three separate divisions: Marine Fisheries, Freshwater Fisheries, and Wildlife Management.

The Division of Marine Fisheries conducts research and monitoring of marine species to support the effective management of finfish, crustaceans, and shellfish of commercial and recreational importance. Some of the programs and projects that the Division is responsible for to support the proper management of marine species are resource assessment surveys including the trawl survey and the Narragansett Bay and coastal pond seine surveys, as well as shellfish relaying and transplants, sea and port sampling, stock assessment modeling work, and aquaculture and dredging project permit reviews. The Division is also responsible for developing and maintaining a wide array of regulations on marine species including setting



Marine Fisheries Laboratory located in Fort Wetherill, Jamestown, RI

Debris Decomposition Timeline

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Glass bottle | 1 million years |
| Monofilament fishing line | 600 years |
| Plastic beverage bottle | 450 years |
| Disposable diaper | 450 years |
| Foamed plastic buoy | 80 years |
| Aluminum can | 80-100 years |
| Nylon fabric | 50 years |
| Plastic bag | 10-20 years |
| Cigarette filter | 1-5 years |
| Untreated plywood | 1-3 years |
| Cotton rope | 1 year |
| Orange peel | 2-5 weeks |

seasons, size limits, harvest methods and equipment, and daily possession limits.

The Division provides information and outreach materials, including press releases, brochures, website, fact sheets, and this fishing guide to convey regulations and marine related topics to the regulated community and general public.

The Division also works closely and collaboratively with the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC) to advise the DEM Director on a multitude of marine related matters.

If you have any questions about this guide or Rhode Island's marine recreational fisheries, please contact:

John Lake
Supervising Marine Biologist
3 Fort Wetherill Rd.
Jamestown, RI 02835
(401) 423-1942
RISaltwaterGuide@dem.ri.gov



Rhode Island Environmental Police – Division of Law Enforcement

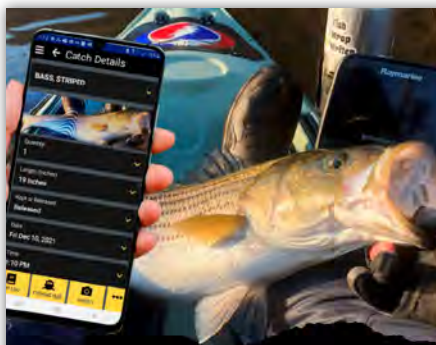
Dean Hoxsie, Chief

The mission of the Environmental Police is to protect our natural resources and ensure compliance with all environmental conservation laws through law enforcement and education.

The history of the Environmental Police dates back to 1842 when the first game wardens were appointed to the Commission of Shellfisheries.

Today, Environmental Police Officers are sworn law enforcement officers who are responsible for patrolling and enforcing all laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the state's fish, wildlife, boating safety and marine resources as well as all criminal and motor vehicle laws within the state parks and management areas. Officers patrol over 60,000 acres of state land, 92 salt and freshwater boat launching and fishing areas, 300 miles of rivers and streams, and 417 miles of coastline. They are also cross-deputized with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. During their patrols, they educate the public on the protection of our natural resources and provide safety for the public while enjoying Rhode Island's outdoors.

To report violations, please call:
(401) 222-3070



AnglerCatch

FISHERMAN'S LOGBOOK

helping close fishing data gaps

AnglerCatch works with RI DEM and RISAA to provide fisheries managers with accurate, up-to-date info on fishing in New England. AnglerCatch helps to improve fisheries management decisions through better data collection.



Weather
Buoys
Tides
Forecasts
Solunar

FREE:



AVAILABLE FREE IN
Android Play Store



AnglerCatch
Look for the logo
when downloading



AVAILABLE FREE IN
Apple App Store

MAKING A BETTER FISHING EXPERIENCE, WHILE HELPING MANAGE THE RESOURCES

MORE INFO
800-548-0670



Recreational Saltwater Fishing License

What Rhode Island Anglers Need to Know

In order to fish recreationally in Rhode Island marine waters, and in offshore federal waters, anglers and spearfishers must have a RI Recreational Saltwater Fishing License, OR a Federal Registration, OR a license from a reciprocal state.



Overview

The Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, is a comprehensive nationwide data collection and reporting system being implemented by NOAA Fisheries. All RI license information, as well as that collected by NMFS and other states, will be incorporated into a national registry of recreational anglers, enabling the MRIP program to readily survey current fishermen and more accurately assess recreational catch and effort data. That information will lead to improved state-based assessments and more fair, accurate, and effective management programs for Rhode Island's marine recreational fisheries.

Reciprocal States

Rhode Island residents may use their RI Recreational Saltwater Fishing License to fish in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine.

Saltwater Recreational Fishing License holders from New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine need not obtain a RI Saltwater Recreational Fishing License if they possess a valid license from one of the states listed above.

Please refer to pages 22 and 25 for information on lobster, shellfish, and other recreational licenses.

Recreational Saltwater Fishing License

| License Type | Fee |
|--------------------------|---------|
| RI residents (annually) | \$7.00 |
| Non-residents (annually) | \$10.00 |
| 7-Day license | \$5.00 |

- Available online at: rio.ri.gov
- Also available from certain bait & tackle shops. A list of vendors can be found at dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/huntfish.php.
- Applies in all RI waters, all offshore federal waters, and in all neighboring state waters for finfish and squid.
- Free for RI residents over 65 and for active military stationed in RI.
- No license needed for children under 16, nor for anglers on party & charter boats. See website for additional exemptions.

Dive Flag Awareness

SCUBA, skin-diving and snorkeling are all common activities in Rhode Island waters. When participating in any of these activities participants must display a flag warning boaters of their presence under water. Divers and boaters are required to follow the regulations below to ensure a safe and fun time above and below the water.

- Boaters must maintain a safe distance of 50 feet from a dive flag, unless the dive flag is in a place that obstructs navigation.
- A warning flag shall be placed on a buoy at a place of the diver's submergence. The flag shall be red in color and at least twelve by twelve inches (12" x 12") with a white stripe running from the diagonal corners and the stripe one quarter (1/4) as wide as the flag.
- If not placed on a buoy, a warning flag shall be conspicuously flown upon a vessel which the diver is then using in the area. This flag shall meet the description above, however, it shall be at least eighteen by eighteen inches (18" x 18").
- The flag must only be flown during diving activity and should be taken down during transit.
- No person shall use a dive flag in an area that obstructs navigation.
- Divers should ascend slowly and cautiously, ensuring that they are within the 50 foot safety zone around the flag.



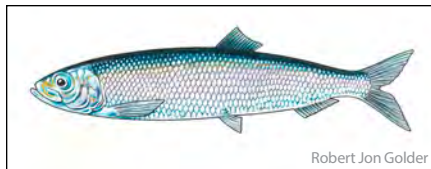
Marine Baitfish of Rhode Island

By Thomas E. Angell, Principal Marine Biologist,
RI DEM Division of Marine Fisheries

“Baitfish” are small-sized forage fish caught or purchased by recreational and commercial anglers to attract larger predatory fish, particularly gamefish.

They are typically common in a particular region or location and reproduce rapidly and prolifically, making them abundant in supply and easy to catch. Baitfish are often short-lived, and their population abundance can fluctuate rapidly, but can often recover quickly when depleted. They are an important part of the food chain and are preyed upon by predatory fish, birds, and mammals. Regulations may exist to prevent overexploitation, such as in Rhode Island, and studies by the RI Division of Marine Fisheries (RIDMF) and RI Division of Fish and Wildlife (RIDFW) monitor the health of local baitfish populations. A variety of methods are used to capture baitfish including devices such as minnow traps, small beach seines, gillnets, cast nets, lift nets, and hook & line. Baitfish can also be attracted by using a light which draws zooplankton, a primary food source for many baitfish. Many of the more commonly used baitfish species inhabit shallow waters along the edge of shorelines, in salt marshes, and around man-made objects like docks. The best baitfish species to use depends to a large degree on the species being targeted. **To harvest finfish or squid for use as bait, a valid recreational saltwater fishing license is required** (visit <https://rio.ri.gov> to purchase license). **Additionally, the possession limit for any marine finfish species that is not regulated by size, possession, and/or season in RI Marine Fisheries Regulations, Part 3 - Finfish is two (2) quarts per person per day** (<https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-90-00-6>).

Surveys conducted by the RIDMF since 1979 have identified at least twenty-eight (28) species of baitfish/forage fish occurring in RI waters. Additionally, since 2014, RIDMF has examined the stomach contents of black sea bass, bluefish, scup, summer flounder, striped bass, summer flounder, tautog, weakfish (squeteague), and winter flounder. This article will highlight a selection of common baitfish species with information about their distribution and ecology. **The harvest of river herring (alewife and blueback) is prohibited**, so although they are important forage fish species, they will not be included in this article as baitfish.



Robert Jon Golder

Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*)

One of the most abundant fish species in the world, the range of Atlantic herring is limited to cold and temperate waters of the Northern Hemisphere on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. They prefer pelagic waters from 33–52°F, and in the western North Atlantic, they range from southwestern Greenland and northern Labrador to Block Island, RI and are occasionally seen as far south as South Carolina. They appear in large schools around Block Island Sound from January–March and can be found in the coldest water near the shore and disperse as waters become warmer. When present, this species is widely distributed in RI waters. Due to their abundance and schooling behavior, they are an extremely important forage species for nearly all pelagic predators including many different species of fish, whales, porpoises, birds, and sharks. Since Atlantic herring are in RI waters during the winter months, their contribution as prey for popular recreational fish species that are usually in RI waters during warmer months is somewhat limited. They accounted for 6.4% of the baitfish species found in striped bass stomach contents, and 2.8% of those found in summer flounder.

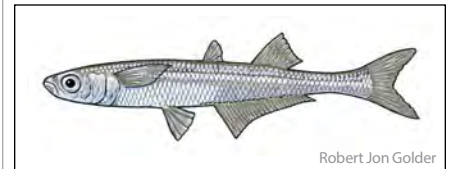


Robert Jon Golder

Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*)

Also called “bunker” (or “peanut bunker” for juveniles) and “pogy”, menhaden are a wide-ranging schooling fish found from Florida to Nova Scotia and play a major role in the ecosys-

tem as food for a wide variety of marine predators including fish, birds, and marine mammals. Menhaden were found in the stomach contents of nearly all fish species examined by RIDMF, including black sea bass, bluefish, scup, striped bass, and summer flounder. It is a major prey item of bluefish and striped bass, accounting for 41% and 36% of the forage fish species consumed, respectively. Menhaden are migratory, with adult fish arriving in late spring (May) on their annual migration, moving north and inshore during summer and then moving south and offshore during the autumn (October) and winter. They usually reach peak abundance in RI waters during August–September and are widely distributed during their stay. Menhaden prefer water temperatures above 50°F, although recently menhaden have been found in RI waters during the winter months (December–March) in water temperatures below 50°F.



Robert Jon Golder

Atlantic silverside (*Menidia menidia*)

Other common names include “green smelt”, “sand smelt”, “shiner”, and “whitebait”. This oceanodromous fish ranges from the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Canada to northeastern Florida. They are mostly found swimming in brackish waters, such as in the mouths of rivers and streams that connect to the ocean. These small schooling fish have been seen gathering in seagrass beds, which can harbor them from predation and provide safety for spawning. They tolerate a wide range of water temperature, from 33–76°F. During the summer, most are found in the shallows along the shoreline, or around docks and flotsam. During winter, they swim to deeper water to avoid cold temperatures. The Atlantic silverside serves an important role as food for a variety of commercial and sport fishes such as bluefish, mackerels, striped bass, spiny dogfish, and weakfish, as well as many shore birds. It is a widely distributed, native resident species of RI waters and has been found abundantly in most all RIDMF surveys over time. This species accounted for 0.09% of the forage fish species found in bluefish stomach contents, and 0.7% of those found in striped bass.



Robert Jon Golder

Butterfish (*Peprilus triacanthus*)

Butterfish, or “butter”, are native to temperate and subtropical waters off the east coast of North America, with the highest populations occurring from Nova Scotia to South Carolina.

They are described as being benthopelagic or semi-pelagic, inhabiting marine and brackish environments near the bottom or in the water column and travelling in schools. They prefer areas with sandy bottoms and can tolerate water temperatures between 42–76.5°F. During summer months, the population moves close to shore and occupies water depths of 65–180 feet, returning to deeper offshore waters at depths of 650–750 feet in the winter. Butterfish accounted for 2.9% of the forage fish in bluefish stomach content examinations, 4.3% in striped bass, and 3.1% in summer flounder.

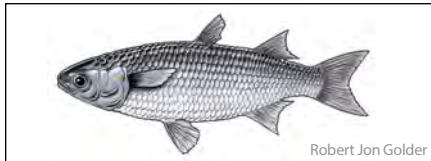


Robert Jon Golder

Mummichog (*Fundulus heteroclitus*)

“Mummies” are non-migratory fish found along sheltered shores in temperate climates of the western North Atlantic from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to northeast Florida. They abound in the tidal creeks in salt marshes, on the shores of our harbors, and in the brackish water at the mouths of our streams and estuaries, particularly in little muddy pools, creeks, and ditches due to their tolerance of large fluctuations in temperature, oxygen, and salinity. In Rhode Island, ‘mummies’ are generally common to abundant in brackish and marine waters

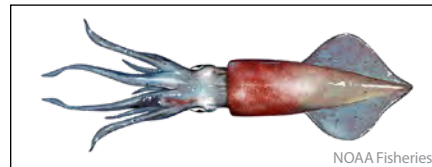
throughout the state. RIDMF stomach content examinations only found mummichogs in striped bass, accounting for only 0.4% of the baitfish/forage fish consumed.



Robert Jon Golder

White mullet (*Mugil curema*)

Also known as “silver mullet” or “silverside mullet”, this catadromous species inhabits coastal waters of tropical, subtropical, and temperate zones from the surface to depths of nearly 1,000 feet. It is usually found in shallow waters on sandy coasts and in littoral pools, but also occurs over muddy bottoms of brackish lagoons and estuaries, on coral reefs, and sometimes in rivers. Adults form schools and prefer water temperatures between 70–82.5°F. In the western Atlantic, they range from Cape Cod south to Argentina, including Bermuda, with strays observed as far north as Nova Scotia. Although occasionally eaten by people, white mullets are primarily used for bait due to their small size. Finfish predators of white mullets include crevalle jack, flounders, red drum, sharks, snook, spotted sea trout, and tarpon. White mullets are best caught on a hook baited with a lump of bread! RIDMF stomach content examinations did not find white mullets as prey in any of the species studied.



NOAA Fisheries

Longfin squid (*Doryteuthis pealeii*)

Though not a finfish, longfin squid are a popular forage and bait species. Commonly called “Boston squid”, “loligo”, or “winter squid”, they are found from Newfoundland to the Gulf of Venezuela. In the northwest Atlantic Ocean, they are most abundant between Georges Bank and Cape Hatteras, NC. Adults live over mud or sand/mud substrates of the continental shelf and upper continental slope in waters as deep as 1,300 feet. Adults and juveniles migrate vertically in the water column, remaining near the seabed during the day and moving toward the surface at night. North of Cape Hatteras, squid migrate seasonally, moving offshore during late autumn to spend the winter in warmer waters along the continental shelf, and return inshore during the spring. They are a key prey species for a variety of pelagic and demersal fish species, as well as marine mammals and diving birds. There is no recreational size or possession limit for longfin squid in RI state waters. RIDMF stomach content examinations found longfin squid accounting for 13.3% of the forage fish species found in black sea bass, 22% in bluefish, 48% in scup, 3.2% in striped bass, and 27.2% in summer flounder.

FROM SHIP
TO SHORE
AND EVERYWHERE IN BETWEEN.

THE NEW HAVALON® TALON™ QUIK-CHANGE II™ MULTI-BLADE CUTLERY SYSTEM BRINGS TOGETHER NEARLY 40 YEARS OF EXPERTISE IN THE SURGICAL FIELD AND DECADES OF QUALITY TIME SPENT OUT IN OPEN WATERS.

THIS INNOVATIVE PLATFORM FEATURES A VARIETY OF RELIABLE ADD-ON BLADES DESIGNED TO MAKE CLEAN WORK OF THE DIRTY WORK ALL THE WAY FROM SHIP TO SHORE.

BY
TALON **HAVALON**
KNIVES

10 DIFFERENT STYLES OF BLADES AVAILABLE

©2023 HAVALON KNIVES

Striped Bass: What You Need to Know

Circle Hooks

Circle hooks are required when fishing recreationally for striped bass with bait.

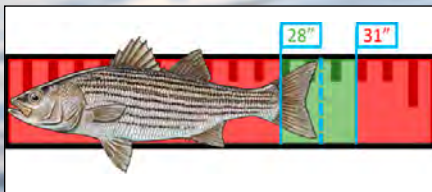


Recreational Filleting of Striped Bass:

- No filleting of striped bass or possession of racks or fillets is permitted while actively fishing with lines in the water.
- Racks must be retained and kept whole (including the head, tail, and body) and no striped bass shall be mutilated in a manner that prevents accurate measurement.
- No more than 2 fillets should be taken from a legal striped bass; the equivalent of one fish per angler.
- **Private rec anglers:** racks must be retained until the vessel is secured to the dock or removed from the water and all fillets have been offloaded.
- **Party/charter:** racks must be retained until the vessel is secured to the dock or removed from the water, all paying passengers have disembarked, and all fillets have been offloaded.

Slot Limit

Recreationally harvested striped bass must be between 28" and less than 31".



STRIPED BASS CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT

Help us conserve striped bass!

*Become a citizen scientist
and help biologists understand
why some striped bass don't
survive after they are released.*



Sign up now at
mass.gov/striper

SIGN UP

Open to anglers in all states

GO FISHING

Collect data while you fish

EXPLORE DATA

Check out what's been reported

WIN PRIZES!

Submit reports to enter our raffles



Antone Newell

Rhode Island Game Fish Award Program

Each year, RIDEM-Division of Fish & Wildlife recognizes anglers who have caught freshwater and saltwater game fish of notable size with our Game Fish Award program. To be eligible, an angler must catch a qualifying fish by rod and reel, tie-up or handline by legal means in Rhode Island waters. To accommodate both 'catch and release' and harvest fishing, the angler can either take a photo of the fish using a hand-scale and ruler or bring the catch to an official weigh station. The angler must then complete the Game Fish / State Record Award Application, available at www.dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/natural-resources-divisions/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fishing/game-fish. One award per year is issued for each species of game fish caught that meet the minimum size requirements listed to the right. The Game Fish Award goes to the angler with the largest catch in that species category. Game Fish Awards are mailed out in the spring of the following year the fish was caught.

RI State Record Award

The Division of Fish and Wildlife maintains state records on each species of game fish caught in Rhode Island waters. To apply for an RI State Record, the angler must bring his or her legally-caught fish to an official weigh-in station. The fish must be identified, measured, and weighed on a Rhode Island certified, digital scale. The station operator must fill out a Game Fish/State Record Award Application and sign it. State Record Game Fish Awards are mailed out in the spring of the following year the fish was caught. For a list of official fish weigh-in locations and applications please visit www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/records/index.php.

First Fish Award Program

First Fish Awards are available for children who catch their first fish in Rhode Island. To qualify, an angler must have caught a fish by rod and reel, tie-up or handline by legal means. Applications can be processed without the need for an official weigh-in. Below is the First Fish Award application. It can also be downloaded using the following link: www.dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/natural-resources-divisions/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fishing/childrens. First Fish Awards are processed twice a year: once in the fall and prior to the opening day of the following year.

Game Fish Award Qualifying Weights/Lengths (Except First Fish Awards)

| Qualifying Saltwater Weights or Lengths | | | | | |
|---|-----|----------|------------------------------|-----|----------|
| Black Sea Bass | 20" | 4 lbs. | Mako Shark | 90" | 300 lbs. |
| Blue Shark | 72" | 80 lbs. | Pollock | 36" | 15 lbs. |
| Bluefin Tuna | 90" | 450 lbs. | Scup | 13" | 2.5 lbs. |
| Bluefish | 32" | 14 lbs. | Spanish Mackerel | 24" | 4.5 lbs. |
| Bonito | 25" | 8 lbs. | Squeteague (Weakfish) | 24" | 4.5 lbs. |
| Chub Mackerel | 14" | 1 lb. | Striped Bass* | 48" | 50 lbs. |
| Cobia | 48" | 50 lbs. | Summer Flounder | 25" | 6 lbs. |
| Cod | 38" | 20 lbs. | Swordfish | 70" | 170 lbs. |
| False Albacore | 24" | 5 lbs. | Tautog | 23" | 10 lbs. |
| Grey Triggerfish | 17" | 3 lbs. | Wahoo | 50" | 4 lbs. |
| Haddock | 30" | 10 lbs. | White Marlin | 72" | 70 lbs. |
| Hickory Shad | 18" | 2 lbs. | Winter Flounder | 16" | 3 lbs. |
| King Mackerel | 19" | 3 lbs. | Yellowfin Tuna | 56" | 125 lbs. |
| Mackerel | 15" | 1 lb. | | | |
| Mahi Mahi (common dolphinfish) | 30" | 8 lbs. | | | |

* Striped bass not eligible due to slot size limit.

Completed Applications

Please send all completed applications to: RIDEM- Fish & Wildlife, 1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place, Exeter, RI 02822, for verification and processing. For questions about any of these award programs, email kimberly.sullivan@dem.ri.gov or call (401) 539-0037.



First Fish Award



APPLICATION

DID YOU CATCH YOUR FIRST FISH? PLEASE CUT OUT, COMPLETE, AND SEND THIS FORM TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL CERTIFICATE AND GIFT FROM THE RHODE ISLAND DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE!

You can also visit <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/fish-wildlife/freshwater-fisheries/first-fish.php> to print out a copy.

NAME: _____ DATE YOU CAUGHT THE FISH: _____

ADDRESS: _____ TOWN _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL (optional): _____ FISH SPECIES: _____

WHERE YOU CAUGHT THE FISH: _____

WEIGHT OF FISH: _____ LENGTH OF FISH (tip of snout to tip of tail): _____

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS (parent, grandparent, or other responsible adult): _____

RETURN TO: RI Division of Fish and Wildlife / Aquatic Resource Education Program
1B Camp E-Hun-Tee Place / Exeter, RI 02882

Fishing Knots

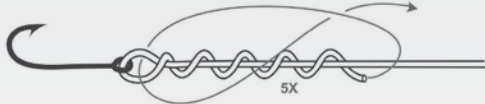
These and more fishing knots are available on waterproof plastic cards at www.proknot.com

Illustrations c 2011 John E Sherry

Improved Clinch Knot

The improved clinch knot has become one of the most popular knots for tying terminal tackle connections. It is quick and easy to tie and is strong and reliable.

The knot can be difficult to tie in lines in excess of 30 lb test. Five+ turns around the standing line is generally recommended, four can be used in heavy line. This knot is not recommended with braided lines.



1. Thread end of the line through the eye of the hook, swivel or lure. Double back and make five or more turns around the standing line. Bring the end of the line through the first loop formed behind the eye, then through the big loop.



2. Wet knot and pull slightly on the tag end to draw up coils. Pull on the standing line to form knot with coils pressed neatly together.

3. Slide tight against eye and clip tag end.

Rapala Knot

The rapala knot is a popular method to tie a lure or fly to a line such that it can move freely and unimpeded by the knot.

1. Tie a loose overhand knot and feed the tag end through the eye and back through the overhand knot.



2. Make 3 turns around the standing line and bring tag end back through overhand knot.



3. Pass tag end through loop that is formed.

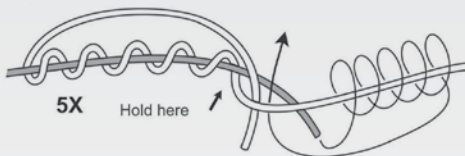


4. Moisten line. Pull on standing line while holding tag end to close knot. Pull on both tag and standing line to tighten knot down.



Blood Knot

Use this knot to join sections of leader or line together. It works best with line of approximately equal diameter.



1. Overlap ends of lines to be joined. Twist one around the other making 5 turns. Bring tag end back between the two lines. Repeat with other end, wrapping in opposite direction the same number of turns.



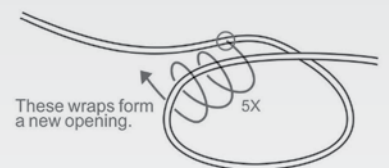
2. Slowly pull lines or leaders in opposite directions. Turns will wrap and gather.

3. Pull tight and clip ends closely.

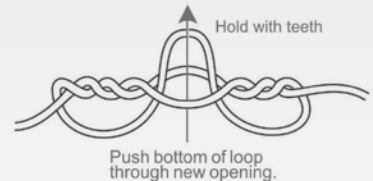
Dropper Loop Knot

This knot forms a loop anywhere on a line. Hooks or other tackle can then be attached to the loop.

1. Form a loop in the line at the desired location. Pull line from one side of loop down and pass it through and around that side of loop. Make 5+ wraps around the loop, keeping a thumb or forefinger in the new opening which is formed.



2. Press bottom of original loop up through new opening and hold with teeth. Wet knot with saliva and pull both ends in opposite directions.



3. Pull ends of line firmly until coils tighten and loop stands out from line.





For-hire Vessel Permitting and Reporting



For-hire Vessel Permitting

If you are a for-hire captain fishing in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore) for one of the species listed below, you must have a valid Greater Atlantic region Vessel Charter/Party Permit. Vessel operators are also required to have a Federal Vessel Operator Permit.

- Summer Flounder
- Black Sea Bass
- Scup
- Atlantic Mackerel
- Squid
- Bluefish
- Chub
- Mackerel
- Lobster
- Butterfish
- Golden Tilefish (North of NC/VA border)
- Blueline Tilefish (North of NC/VA border)
- New England Groundfish including cod, haddock, pollack, hakes and flounders (i.e. "Northeast multispecies")

However, if you have a Northeast Multispecies Limited Access Permit, you do not need the Northeast Multispecies Charter/Party Permit to carry passengers for hire on groundfish trips.

For-hire Vessel Trip Reporting

Once you have a federal permit, you must report your catch.

- If you only have a groundfish permit, you must submit vessel trip reports weekly, either electronically or by paper.
- If you have a for-hire permit for any other species listed above, you must submit vessel trip reports electronically within 48 hours of the end of your for-hire trip.

Lobster Only Vessels

- If you only have a lobster permit and no other federal permits (commercial or for-hire), no federal reporting is required at this time.



- Sign up for email and text alerts
- Fishing regulations
- Fishing and charter/ party fleet permits
- Charter / party fleet reporting
- Marine Recreational Information Program
- Best practices and ethical angling
- Fish Identification



Your Fishing Counts!

When you share information about your saltwater fishing trip with a state field interviewer, you're playing a key role in keeping fisheries healthy and sustainable.

Here's how you support the Marine Recreational Information Program:

You may be interviewed at a marina, boat ramp, pier, or beach.

Your information is combined with commercial catch and other data.

Scientists use these data to determine the health of our fish stocks.

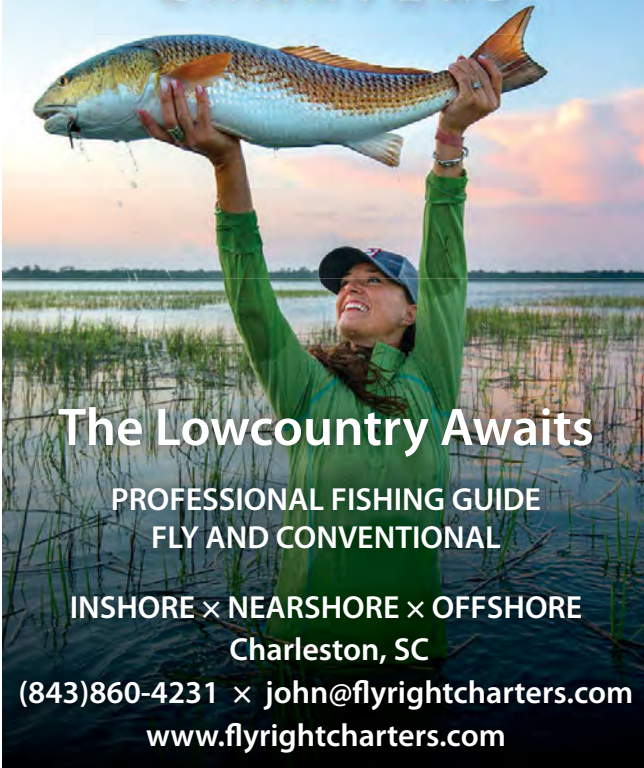
Managers set rules to keep stocks sustainable.

The cycle continues as we work to maintain productive fisheries.



countryfish.noaa.gov

FLY RIGHT CHARTERS



The Lowcountry Awaits

PROFESSIONAL FISHING GUIDE
FLY AND CONVENTIONAL

INSHORE × NEARSHORE × OFFSHORE
Charleston, SC

(843)860-4231 × john@flyrightcharters.com
www.flyrightcharters.com



J&J Bait and Tackle

Wholesale and Retail



Servicing Rhode Island and Massachusetts with the healthiest bait products for over 40 years.

Saltwater Baits

Sea Worms, Live Eels, Squid, Mackerel, Herring, Green Crabs, Pogies, Clams (Gallons, Pints, Vacuum packaged), Butterfish, Chum, Ballyhoo, Sperlings, Silversides and more.

Freshwater Baits

Healthiest Shiners, Nightcrawlers, Meal Worms, Trout Worms and more.

Weekly Deliveries of Frozen Bait and Live Bait that will stay alive.

Not a priority with your current bait supplier?

CALL US AT 508-587-0150

Let us show you what exceptional service truly is!

519 Crescent St, Brockton, MA

www.JJBait.com

2024 Recreational Regulations

2024 Size, Season and Possession Limits

| Species | Minimum Size | Open Season | Possession Limit |
|--|--|--|---|
| American Eel | 9" | Open year round | 25 eels/person/day or 50 eels/vsl/day for licensed party/charter vessels |
| Black Sea Bass (shore & private) | 16.5" | May 22 - Aug. 26 Aug. 27 - Dec. 31 | 2 fish/person/day 3 fish/person/day |
| Black Sea Bass (party and charter) | 16" | June 18 - Aug. 31 Sept. 1 - Dec. 31 | 2 fish/person/day 6 fish/person/day |
| Bluefish (shore and private / rental boat) | No minimum | Open year round | 3 fish/person/day |
| Bluefish (party and charter) | No minimum | Open year round | 5 fish/person/day |
| River Herring (alewives and blueback herring) & American Shad | Prohibited Species | | |
| Scup (private / rental boat) | 11" | May 1 - Dec. 31 | 30 fish/person/day |
| Scup (shore) | 9.5" | May 1 - Dec. 31 | 30 fish/person/day |
| Scup (party and charter) | 11" | May 1 - Aug. 31 | 30 fish/person/day |
| | | Sept. 1 - Oct. 31 | 40 fish/person/day |
| | | Nov. 1 - Dec. 31 | 30 fish/person/day |
| Striped Bass * | Slot Limit: Minimum Size 28" Maximum Size <31" | Open year round | 1 fish/person/day within the slot limit |
| Summer Flounder (general) | 19" | April 1 - Dec. 31 | 6 fish/person/day |
| Summer Flounder (special shore)*** | 17" (See Possession Limit) | April 1 - Dec. 31 | 2 fish @ 17" person/day |
| Tautog (Blackfish) Max of 10 fish/vs/day during all periods, except licensed party / charter boats | 16" Max 1 fish >21" | Apr. 1 - May 31 | 3 fish/person/day |
| | | June 1 - July 31 | CLOSED |
| | | Aug. 1 - Oct. 14 | 3 fish/person/day |
| | | Oct. 15 - Dec. 31 | 5 fish/person/day |
| Weakfish (Squeteague) | 16" | Open year round | 1 fish/person/day |
| Winter Flounder ** (Blackback) | 12" | Mar. 1 - Dec. 31 | 2 fish/person/day |

* See pg. 8 for more comprehensive striped bass information, including fillet and circle hook regulations.

** The harvesting or possession of winter flounder is prohibited in Narragansett Bay north of the COLREGS line, as well as in the Harbor of Refuge, Point Judith and Potter Pond.

*** Special Shore Areas: While fishing from shore in the following areas, above special shore possession limits apply: India Point Park in Providence, Conimicut Park in Warwick, Stone Bridge in Tiverton, East and West walls in Narragansett, Rocky Point in Warwick, Fort Adams in Newport, and Fort Wetherill in Jamestown.



Come visit **"The Biggest Little Tackle Shop in Rhode Island!"**
We carry a full line of fresh and saltwater tackle. Our fresh and frozen baits are **"Guaranteed to catch fish or die trying!"** Our unparalleled service, competitive prices and overall value are why our customers keep returning. We look forward to your patronage. **Catch 'em up!**

ROD AND REEL REPAIR



289 Market St., Warren, RI
401-247-2223

Seasonal Hours:

6AM to 6PM Daily 5AM to 6PM Weekends

Rhode Island Recreational State Records for Saltwater Species

| Species | Weight | Length | Date | Location | Angler |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Atlantic Mackerel | 1 lb. 1.6 oz. | 14 in. | 11/1981 | | T. Rovinelli - Providence, RI |
| Bluefin Tuna | 1142 lbs. 12 oz. | | 09/1971 | Block Island | J. Dempsey |
| Bluefish | 26 lbs. | | 08/1981 | | D. Deziel - Woonsocket, RI |
| Bonito | 13 lbs. | | 10/1995 | Westerly | R. Gliottone - Exeter, RI |
| Chub Mackerel | 1.52 lbs. | 14.75 in. | 07/2022 | Point Judith | A. Bierly - Catawissa, PA |
| Cod | 71 lbs. | | 06/1965 | | M. Deciantis - Warwick, RI |
| False Albacore | 16.2 lbs. | 32 in. | 09/2022 | The Gully | T. Craig - Bronx, NY |
| Gray Triggerfish | 4 lbs. 8 oz. | 22 in. | 10/2021 | | G. Castonguay - Berkley, MA |
| Hickory Shad | 2 lbs. 11 oz. | 20 in. | 11/1989 | Narrow River | M. Pickering - Lincoln, RI |
| Scup | 5 lbs. | 20.25 in. | 10/1990 | | J. Yurwitz - Block Island, RI |
| Black Sea Bass | 8 lbs. 7.25 oz. | 26 in. | 10/1981 | Block Island | K. McDuffie - Pascoag, RI |
| Squeteague | 16 lbs. 8.72 oz. | 36 in. | 05/2007 | Greenwich Bay | R. Moeller - N. Kingstown, RI |
| Striped Bass | 77 lbs. 6.4 oz. | 52 in. | 06/2011 | Block Island | P. Vican - E. Greenwich, RI |
| Summer Flounder | 17 lbs. 8 oz. | | 1962 | Narrow River | G. Farmer - Warwick, RI |
| Tautog | 21 lbs. 9 oz. | 33 in. | 11/2021 | Newport | P. Newman - New Milford, NJ |
| Winter Flounder | 6 lbs. 7 oz. | 23 in. | 08/1990 | Galilee | A. Pearson - Cranston, RI |
| Yellowfin Tuna | 265 lbs. | 6 ft. | 10/1997 | The Dip | R. Hughes - Arlington, MA |

If you believe you've caught a new Rhode Island State Record, bring it to an official weigh-in station to be weighed and measured using a digital scale. State record catches are determined annually once all data are received for that year. For a complete list of state records and official weigh-in stations, visit <https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/fish-wildlife/reports-publications/sportfish-records>



Scan this QR Code for Regulations

How to Properly Measure a Fish

Total length: is the maximum length of the fish, from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. The best way to obtain this length is to push the fish's snout up against a vertical surface with the mouth closed and the fish laying along or on top of a tape measure.

Measure to the tip of the tail or pinch the tail fin closed to determine the total length. **Do NOT use a flexible tape measure along the curve of the fish.** When measuring black sea bass, do NOT include the tendril on the caudal fin.



The Correct Way to Determine Total Length Measurement

BOATERS

Protect whales, sea turtles, seals, sturgeon, and yourself from preventable vessel collisions.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

GO SLOW

Slower vessel speeds give boaters and animals more time to react.

GIVE SPACE

Safe distances reduce risks of illegal disturbance and dangerous collisions.

REPORT

for entangled or injured marine mammals and sea turtles call (866) 755-6622;

for dead or injured sturgeon call (978) 281-9328 or email noaa.sturg911@noaa.gov

STAY INFORMED

Scan the QR code or search "NOAA Whale Watching and Wildlife Viewing Guidelines New England"



NOAA
FISHERIES

Your **Data** Makes a **Difference**

NOAA Fisheries works closely with the Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries to gather quality recreational fishing data from anglers like you.



This information—alongside separate commercial, biological, and observer data—is used by marine scientists, regional fishery management councils, and fisheries commissions to help inform stock assessments and fisheries management decisions.

Taking a few minutes to share information about your fishing trip is **one of the most important contributions you can make** for the successful conservation and management of our marine fisheries resources.



You are our **eyes and ears on the water**, and the central source of the information we use to estimate recreational fishing activity.

Please note: Field interviewers play no role in law enforcement. We value your privacy. Any personal information collected is kept confidential.

countmyfish.noaa.gov

Meet Your Interviewers

Rhode Island Division of Marine Fisheries' specially trained interviewers visit marinas, boat ramps, beaches, piers, and other public fishing access sites to survey anglers as they complete their fishing trips. We are committed to increasing the quantity and quality of catch information collected from anglers, as well as improving our outreach to the recreational saltwater community. Together, we can become true partners in sustainable fishing.



Mike Bucko
Lead Biologist



Nathan Andrews
Fisheries Specialist



Mackenzie Lajoie
Fisheries Specialist



Alexandria Briere
Field Interviewer

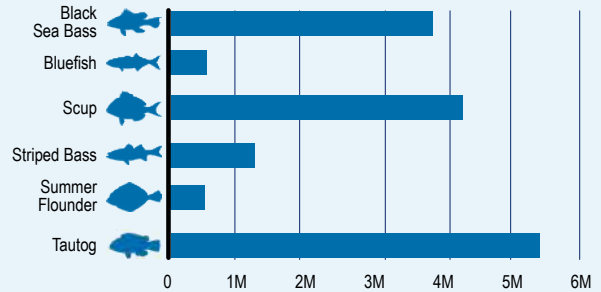


Nathan Brown
Field Interviewer



Ashley Smith
Field Interviewer

What's biting in Rhode Island?



Preliminary estimates of fish caught by recreational anglers in 2023. Source: NOAA Fisheries

One of America's favorite pastimes, saltwater recreational fishing contributes millions of dollars annually to Rhode Island's coastal economy and working waterfronts:



Source: NOAA Fisheries

With more than 100 public access sites like Charlestown Breachway in Charlestown, and Fort Wetherill in Jamestown, the Ocean State draws anglers from across the region and around the world.



Nearly two-thirds of people fishing in Rhode Island come from out of state.

#FishRI



Recipe: Rhody Poke

RECIPE: Rhody Poke

By Leigh Fordham,
local angler



Lately, the tuna fishing in Rhode Island has been phenomenal! Giant bluefin crashing around Scarborough Beach and yellowfin south of Block Island has certainly generated a lot of excitement with anglers wanting to get in on the bite.

Whether you plan on going out after them on your own boat, one of our fine Rhode Island for-hire vessels, or just picking some up at your local seafood market, one of the best ways to prepare fresh tuna is as poke! Poke is an ancient Hawaiian dish prepared with basic ingredients that is still loved by seafood fanatics today. The best part is you don't have to cook it!

Here is a recipe that my father passed down to me:

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 2 tbsp. sesame oil
- 1 tsp. fresh grated ginger
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced green onions
- 2 tbsp. crushed, roasted macadamia nuts
- 1 tbsp. finely crumbled dried seaweed
- ½ tsp. hot pepper flakes
- ½ tsp. Kosher salt (or to taste)
- 1 tsp. toasted sesame seeds
- 1 pound of sushi grade tuna
- 1 dash lemon/lime juice or seasoned rice vinegar

Directions:

1. Cut tuna into ~1-inch cubes and place in a large bowl.
2. Create the marinade by whisking soy sauce, sesame oil, grated ginger, sliced onions, macadamia nuts, dried seaweed, red pepper flakes and salt together in a small bowl. Set aside a small amount of the sliced onions for serving.
3. Pour marinade in with the tuna and stir to distribute evenly. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours and mix again.
4. Serve topped with toasted sesame seeds, sliced onions, and a dash of lemon/lime juice or seasoned rice vinegar. I like to serve over sushi rice or cold rice noodles. It is also good in a salad or a dip using fried wonton chips.

Chef's note: Don't add lemon/lime juice or vinegar to the marinade as it will affect the texture of the fish!

Makes 4 servings.



Local highliner Captain Dean Venticinque (second on the left) of F/V Twentyfive put these two lucky anglers on a giant bluefin last year.

EST. 2004
J.F. GRIFFIN
PUBLISHING

Showcase your business!



For advertising inquiries, please call
(413) 884-1001

Missed the printed edition?
Ask about year-round digital opportunities.



**Quality Fishing
Products & Services to
Get You Fishing Fast**

Fishing Equipment • Bait & Tackle
Kayak Sales & Rentals • Fishing Line
Fishing Licenses • Rods & Reels
Salt & Freshwater Bait

SHIMANO GLOOMIS VAN STAAL



157 Main Street, Westerly, RI

401-596-7217

facebook.com/watch.hill.outfitters

#1 BAIT + TACKLE SHOP



Fishing Charters
410 Gooseberry Rd.
Wakefield, RI
401-783-7766
snugharbormarina.com

Tracking Shark Movement in Rhode Island

By Jon Dodd, Executive Director, Atlantic Shark Institute

If you spend any time on the beautiful RI waters that many of us call home, there is a good chance that you may have seen, or unknowingly cruised over, an acoustic receiver. Rhode Island's network of acoustic receivers is important for understanding the movement of many marine species, including sharks.

While some states along the East Coast had extensive acoustic telemetry arrays, prior to 2019 there were no acoustic receivers deployed in the State of RI. This led to some marine scientists to refer to RI as an acoustic telemetry “black hole”. However, all that changed in May of 2019 when the Atlantic Shark Institute (ASI) and the RI Department of Environmental Management (RI DEM) collaborated on deploying 12 acoustic receivers for the very first time in RI waters.

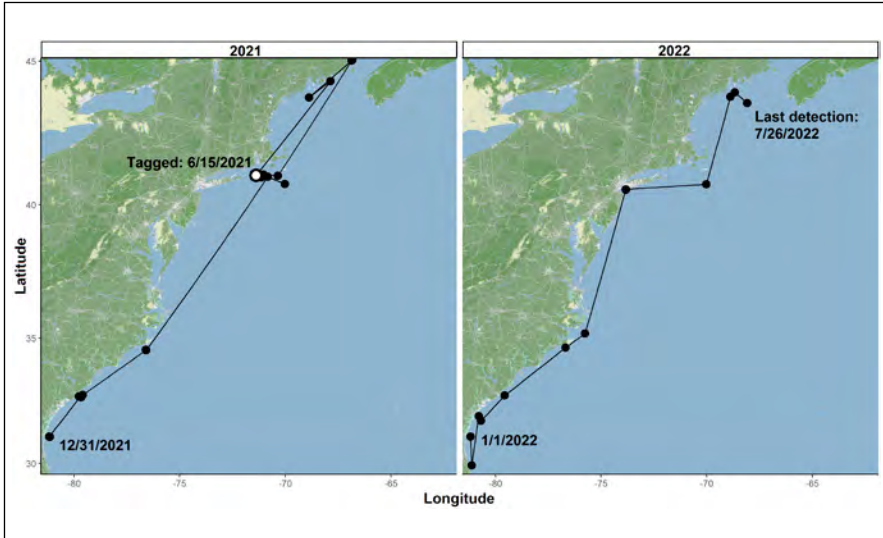
And that was only the beginning, as for the 2024 season, more than 45 acoustic receivers will be deployed!

An acoustic receiver is a waterproof device that detects acoustic pings from acoustic transmitters (tags) underwater. These tags are attached to all types of species worldwide. The tags come in all shapes and sizes, so they can be attached to large animals like sharks and whales, and even smaller fish such as herring.

The receiver itself is about the size of a medium Thermos. They last an entire research season with one set of fresh batteries and can listen for tags continuously. For our array, we usually have the receivers deployed for 7-8 months of the year. The biggest issue that we run into is the potential loss of equipment due to weather. If we lose the receiver, we lose all the data, and that is something we work very hard to avoid. As a result, during the deployment season we will go out periodically to pull all the data off the receivers via Bluetooth.

The tags each have a unique code that acts like a social security number. When an animal with an acoustic tag swims within a certain distance of an acoustic receiver (within several hundred yards), the receiver picks up that transmission, captures it, and adds a date and time stamp. Researchers can then see exactly when and where their tagged animal was observed, and for how long.

A young-of-the-year great white shark about to be tagged.



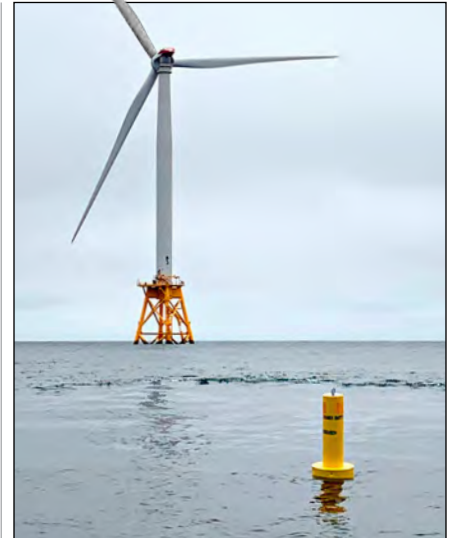
The movement of a thresher shark tagged in Rhode Island in 2021 and detected again in 2022.

The ocean is always changing. What we knew 10 years ago about a species distribution and migratory patterns may or may not stay the same. Quality research, conducted with proven methodologies, is key to informing sound management decisions. New tagging technologies are playing a larger and larger role in that research. 20 years ago, if we caught a great white shark for example, we would put a plastic tag on it, release it, and hope someone caught the same shark sometime later to determine where it went. Today, when we catch a great white shark (the ASI has tagged and released more than 30), we have a wide variety of tags to choose from, including acoustic tags. We can place an acoustic tag on the shark and track its movements for up to 10 years! With hundreds of receivers up and down the East Coast, information about shark movement is much more accessible and helps answer important questions about their behavior.

The amazing thing about these receivers is the wide variety of tagged animals that we have detected. While the Atlantic Shark Institute focuses on sharks, both the ASI and DEM receivers pick up any acoustic tagged animal that swims by. Our receivers have detected numerous shark species, including white, mako, blue, sand tiger and many others. We've also detected tuna species, sea turtles, sturgeon, striped bass, winter flounder, and black sea bass.

One example of acoustic data for a tagged fish is displayed in the map above. This map shows the movement of a thresher shark tagged by RIDEM and ASI spanning over two years. This shark was tagged near Rhode Island in June 2021 and was most recently detected in July 2022. This coastwide network of acoustic receivers allows us to understand how far sharks travel and where, as well as the timing of their movements.

To learn more about the ASI, please visit our website at www.atlanticsharkinstitute.org. You can follow us on Facebook or Instagram, and don't forget to check out our new RI shark license plate!



Above: An acoustic receiver listening for pings at the Block Island Wind Farm.

Below: An acoustic tag ready for deployment.

Commonly Caught Species

Illustrations by Robert Jon Golder.

Common Fish



Winter flounder (Blackback)

Scientific Name: *Pseudopleuronectes americanus*

Identification: Nearly straight lateral line and blunt snout. Eyes on right side.



Summer flounder (Fluke)

Scientific Name: *Paralichthys dentatus*

Identification: Eyes on left side. Large mouth with teeth.



Tautog (Blackfish)

Scientific Name: *Tautoga onitis*

Identification: Highly arched head, blunt snout and thick lips.



Black Sea Bass

Scientific Name: *Centropristis striata*

Identification: Gray, brown or blue-black. Rounded caudal fin.



Striped Bass

Scientific Name: *Morone saxatilis*

Identification: Grayish-green above, silvery on sides with distinct horizontal stripes.



Bluefish

Scientific Name: *Pomatomus saltatrix*

Identification: Series of stout conical teeth, and first dorsal fin is much lower than the second with 7-9 dorsal spines.



Weakfish (Squeteague)

Scientific Name: *Cynoscion regalis*

Identification: Long second dorsal fin, slender body and absent chin barbel.



Scup (Porgy)

Scientific Name: *Stenotomus chrysops*

Identification: Silvery, iridescent. Concave dorsal profile, small teeth and lunate pointed tail.



Atlantic cod

Scientific Name: *Gadus morhua*

Identification: Pale lateral line, chin barbel, large eyes, square tipped tail and spotted color pattern.



Striped Sea Robin

Scientific Name: *Prionotus evolans*

Identification: Large wing-like pectoral fins and distinct dark stripe along either side of body.



American eel

Scientific Name: *Anguilla rostrata*

Identification: Dorsal fin begins far behind the pectoral fin, and the lower jaw projects beyond upper jaw.



Alewife and Blueback Herring (River Herring)

Scientific Name: *Alosa pseudoharengus* and *Alosa aestivalis*

Identification: Deep body and spot located just behind the gill cover.



Monkfish (Goosefish)

Scientific Name: *Lophius americanus*

Identification: Depressed body and huge mouth.



Smooth dogfish

Scientific Name: *Mustelus canis*

Identification: Small, slender shark with spineless dorsal fins.



Atlantic menhaden

Scientific Name: *Brevoortia tyrannus*

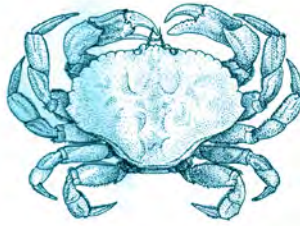
Identification: Large scaleless head nearly one third total body length.

Common Invertebrates



American Lobster

Scientific Name: *Homarus americanus*
Identification: Greenish brown with blue patches near joints of appendages.



Atlantic Rock Crab

Scientific Name: *Cancer irroratus*
Identification: Beige or yellowish shell with numerous closely spaced purple-brown spots. Very common.



Green Crab

Scientific Name: *Carcinus maenas*
Identification: Usually dark green. Found under rocks and in intertidal zones. Very common.



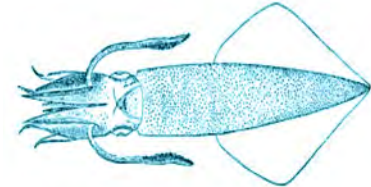
Blue Crab

Scientific Name: *Callinectes sapidus*
Identification: Blueish gray shell. Fingers of claws are bright blue in males and red in females.



Horseshoe Crab

Scientific Name: *Limulus polyphemus*
Identification: Olive green or brownish shell. Long spike-like tail.



Atlantic Longfin Squid

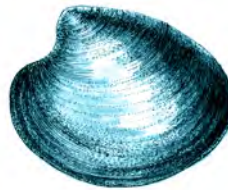
Scientific Name: *Loligo pealeii*
Identification: White or translucent gray with tiny red or purple spots with expand and contract.

Common Shellfish



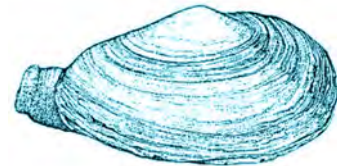
Eastern Oyster

Scientific Name: *Crassostrea virginica*
Identification: Grayish white, variable shape, found at or below low tide level.



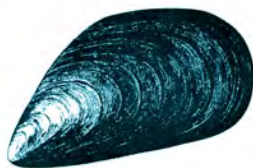
Northern Quahaug (Hard Shell Clam)

Scientific Name: *Mercenaria mercenaria*
Identification: Shell ranges from light gray to black. Found in shallow water.



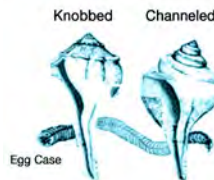
Soft Shell Clam (steamer)

Scientific Name: *Mya arenaria*
Identification: Chalky white shell. Lives deeply burrowed in sediment. Common in intertidal zone and shallow water.



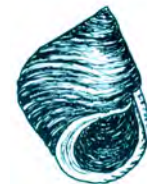
Blue Mussel

Scientific Name: *Mytilus edulis*
Identification: Blue or blue-black. Common in beds near low tide and attaches to rocks and shells with fibers.



Channeled & Knobbed Whelk

Scientific Name: *Busycotypus canaliculatus* & *Busycyon carica*.
Identification: Grooved or knobbed beige or yellowish gray shell. Often covered with a hairy outer shell layer. Distinctive egg case.



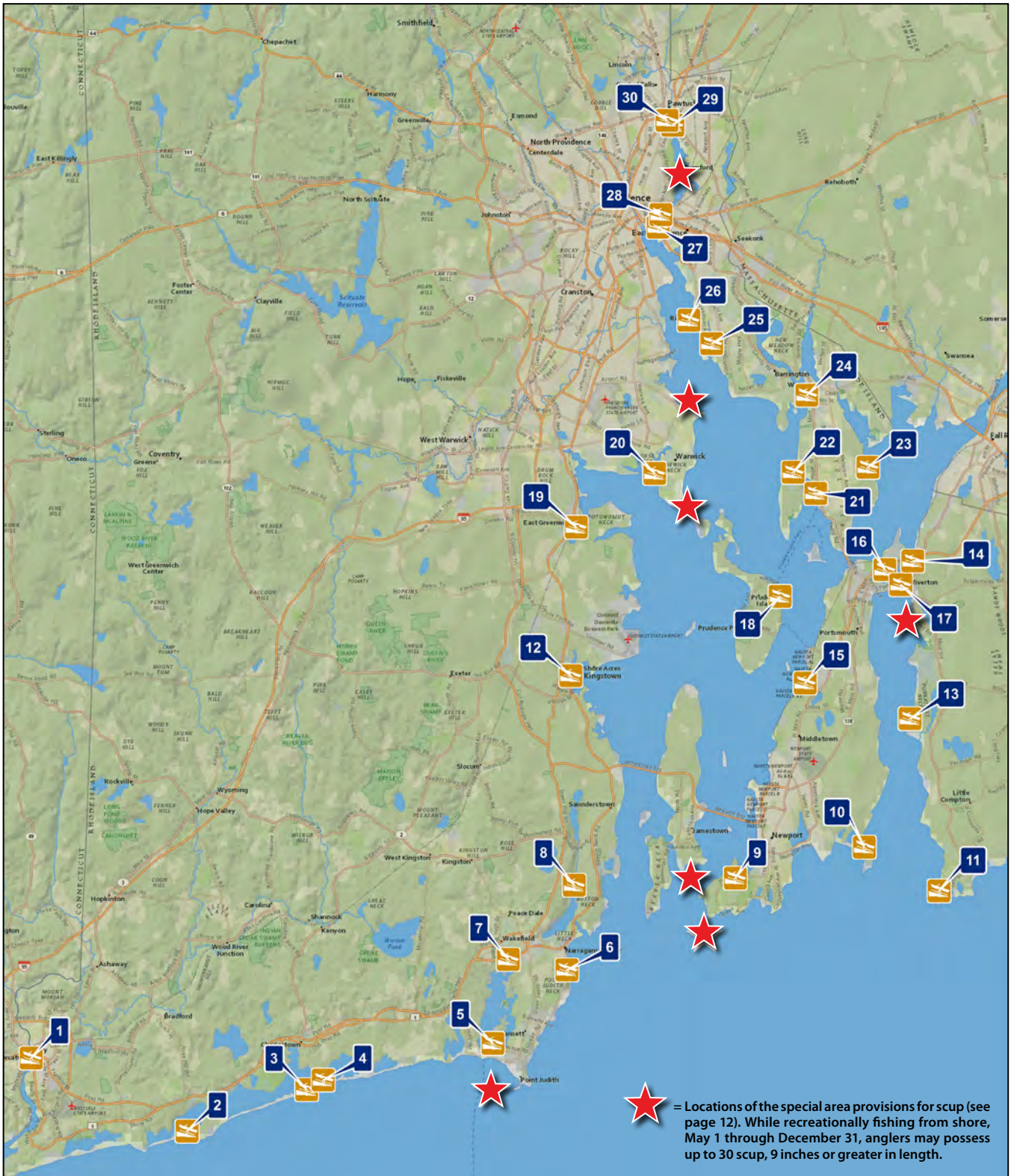
Common Periwinkle

Scientific Name: *Littorina littorea*
Identification: Usually brown, black or gray shell, sometimes will white spiral lines. Most common periwinkle in the rocky intertidal zone.

Access Sites

Please see below for a map of saltwater boating access sites throughout Rhode Island. The sites are State-owned and currently in usable condition. A list of these locations with brief descriptions is found on page 21. More boating access sites, such as town-owned ramps, and additional information can be found on the Marine Fisheries website at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/boatlnch.htm#salt>.

When utilizing these boating access sites, please be respectful of other users and properly dispose of all trash and waste.



| Town | Site # | Name | Description | Depth at MLW |
|------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| Westerly | 1 | Main Street | Main St., concrete slab ramp | 4 ft. |
| Charlestown | 2 | Quonochontaug Breachway | Off West Beach Rd., concrete plank ramp | 3 ft. |
| | 3 | Charlestown Breachway | West end of Charlestown Beach Rd., linked concrete slabs | 3 ft. |
| | 4 | Charlestown | Off of Charlestown Beach Rd. Natural Shoreline, gravel base | N/A |
| Narragansett | 5 | Galilee | Corner of Galilee Rd., and Great Island Rd., southeast side of Great Island Bridge. Linked concrete planks - double ramp | 4 ft. |
| | 6 | Monahan's Dock | East Side of Ocean Rd., at South Pier Rd., concrete - steep drop | 3 - 4 ft. |
| South Kingstown | 7 | Narrow River | Off Middlebridge Rd. on Pollock Ave., concrete planks | 3 ft. |
| | 8 | Marina Park | Route 1., concrete slabs | N/A |
| Newport | 9 | Fort Adams | Off Harrison Ave. | 3 ft. |
| Middletown | 10 | Third Beach | Concrete ramp. Parking fee when beach is open | N/A |
| Little Compton | 11 | Sakonnet Point | Sakonnet Point Rd. (Rt. 77). North side of Town Landing Rd., linked concrete planks | 2 ft. |
| North Kingstown | 12 | Wilson Park | East end of Intrepid Dr., off Post Rd., Rt. 1, near fire station. Linked concrete plank - moderately steep | 3 ft. |
| Tiverton | 13 | Fogland | End of Fogland Rd., at High Hill Rd. Linked concrete planks | N/A |
| | 14 | Sakonnet River Bridge | Underneath new Sakonnet bridge., off Riverside Dr. concrete planks, strong currents | N/A |
| Portsmouth | 15 | Weaver Cove | On Burma Rd. South of Melville complex. Concrete slabs | 4 ft. |
| | 16 | Gull Cove | Accessed via turnoff from RI 138 E/24 E. Linked concrete planks | 2 ft. |
| | 17 | Stone Bridge | Off Rte. 138 at junction of Park Ave and Point Rd., at Teddy's Beach | 3 ft. |
| Prudence Island | 18 | Homestead | On Prudence Island, off Narragansett Ave., north of Prudence Variety | N/A |
| East Greenwich | 19 | Greenwich Cove | Pole #6, Crompton Ave. Concrete slab | N/A |
| Warwick | 19 | Goddard | Goddard State Park | N/A |
| | 20 | Oakland Beach | Warwick Cove. Oakland Beach Ave. Take last left. East side of Oakland Beach. Concrete ramp | <4 ft. |
| Bristol | 21 | Independence Park | At the foot of Church St., off of Rt. 114. Linked concrete slab | N/A |
| | 22 | Colt State Park | Off of Hope St. (Rt. 114), concrete ramp | 4 ft. |
| | 23 | Annawanscutt | Annawanscutt Dr., off Metacom Ave. (Rt. 136), past Veteran's Home. Linked concrete planks | >2 ft. |
| Warren | 24 | Warren | West side of Water St., at Wheaton St., cement slab | N/A |
| Barrington | 25 | Haines Park | On Bullock's Cove, off Metropolitan Park Dr. concrete slab | 4 ft. |
| East Providence | 26 | Sabin Point | Off Bulluck's Point Ave. Hard packed Sand | N/A |
| | 27 | Bold Point | Off Veteran's Memorial Pkwy., via Mauran Ave. at the end of Pier Rd. Concrete slab | 4 ft. |
| Providence | 28 | Gano Park | End of of East Transit St. Concrete slab | N/A |
| Pawtucket | 29 | Festival Pier | End of Tim Healey Way, off of School St. (Rt. 114). Concrete slab | N/A |
| | 30 | Pawtucket | East side of Taft St., just south of Rt. 95 bridge. Linked concrete planks | N/A |

* Please note that some boating access sites may require a permit or fee for parking and/or use.

N/A= Information not available

Lobster/Crab Regulations

Recreational Lobster License

- Available to Rhode Island residents only
- Allows for personal use only (not for sale)



Types of licenses available:

| Lobster | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Non-Commercial Pot License | \$40.00 yr |
| Non-Commercial Diver License | \$40.00 yr |

Licenses can be obtained through the Office of Boat Registration and Licensing located at 235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908.

- All lobsters must be measured IMMEDIATELY.
- Those measuring less than 3-3/8" carapace length must be returned immediately to the water from which taken.
- The POSSESSION of egg-bearing or v-notched lobsters is prohibited.
- Mandatory v-notching of all egg-bearing females in LCMA 2 (includes all RI state waters).
- No person shall raise or unduly disturb any

lobster pot or trap within the territorial waters of this State between the hours of one (1) hour after sundown and one (1) hour before sunrise.

- Recreational possession limit for licensed residents:
 - » Pots – 5 pots/recreational license
 - » Divers – 8 lobsters/day

Blue Crabs

- State Residents Only – no license needed



- All Blue Crabs measuring less than 5" spike to spike shall be returned to the water immediately.
- No person shall possess, take, or attempt to take more than 25 blue crabs from any of the waters in this state except when taking by crab net, dip net, scoop net, hand line or trot line.

- Harvesting of blue crabs is prohibited between sunset and sunrise.
- The POSSESSION of egg-bearing crabs is prohibited.

****This is only a brief summary of the RI Division of Marine Fisheries regulations. For more information or to view the actual regulations please visit RIDFW's website at: <https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/marine-fisheries/marine-fisheries-regulations>****

Life Jackets; Wear Them!

- Always remember to wear a life jacket.
- Make sure your life jacket is U.S.C.G. approved.
- Take the time to ensure a proper fit.
- Life jackets meant for adults do not work for children.
- Children under 13 years old must wear a life jacket.
- All operators and passengers of canoes, kayaks, sailboards, kiteboards, paddleboards, and any other paddle craft must always wear a United States Coast Guard (USCG)-approved PFD while underway regardless of age.



Equipment Regulations



Escape Vents (Lobster, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Pots)

| Minimum size | Lobster | Scup | Black Sea Bass |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Rectangular | 2" x 5-3/4" | 2-1/4" x 5-3/4" | 1-3/8" x 5-3/4" |
| Square | None | 2-1/4" x 2-1/4" | 2" X 2" |
| Two Circular | 2-5/8" diameter | 3.1" diameter | 2.5" diameter |

Diving Baskets

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Bar Spacing | 1" x 2-1/2" minimum |
| Bag | 2" minimum |

Spacing Requirements for Tongs and Bullrakes

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Tooth Spacing | 1" minimum |
| Head Construction | 1" x 2-1/2" minimum |

Bay Scallop Regulations:

Bay Scallops may only be harvested using dip nets from the second Saturday of November until sunrise the first day of December. Other appropriate methods, such as snorkeling, diving, or dredges, may be used from December 1st until December 31st. For additional information and restrictions, please visit http://www.dem.ri.gov/pubs/regs/regs/fishwild/rimf_shell.pdf.

Scuba

Shellfishing using SCUBA gear is prohibited in Ninigret Pond, Green Hill Pond, Quonochontaug Pond, and Potter Pond.

Gill Nets, Otter Trawling, Seines, Etc.

Please contact RIDFW to request area specific regulations.

Beach Seines, Recreational Bait Nets

Marine species may lawfully be taken for personal use provided that all existing minimum size and possession limit restrictions for the species possessed are adhered to. Also, a limit of 2 quarts per person is allowed for all unregulated marine species. Nets being used cannot exceed four (4) feet in depth and 20 feet in length.

Marking of Traps

The owner of every trap, pot, or other stationary contrivance used for the taking of marine fish, shellfish, crustaceans, or other invertebrates being fished in the waters of this state, and the owner of any trap or pot for catching, or cars or other contrivance for keeping lobsters shall mark each such trap, pot, or contrivance, together with the buoy which is attached thereto, with the name or names of the owners thereof or the person or persons using the same, and the license number or numbers of such person or persons. Each such lobster or crab pot buoy shall display that person's stated color scheme, and this color scheme shall also be displayed on the boat used by that person in tending that gear. The use of floating line within eight feet of the surface is prohibited.

RHODE ISLAND
HUNT BOAT FISH
Outdoors

Your one-stop shop for RI fishing, hunting & boating licenses & permits

Start your adventure today!
rio.ri.gov

Is your boat registered in Rhode Island?

We are moving to the RIO system. Please take a few minutes to create an account to save time when your renewal becomes due.

dem.ri.gov/boatreg

TECHNIQUES

How to handle shellfish with love

Shellfish are one of Nature's most perfect foods – healthful, nutritious and delicious. However, if shellfish are not kept cold they can cause illness (like many other raw foods). These tips ensure that the shellfish you serve are as perfect and healthful as Nature intended.



Harvesting Shellfish

Before you set out to “dig your own” there are basic guidelines to follow. The first is to dig in approved waters. The RI Dept. of Environmental Management regulates and manages shellfish growing areas. They monitor water quality for conditions such as bacterial/viral loads and “red tide.” To ensure you are harvesting from approved waters you can check the maps and descriptions at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/maps/mapfile/shellfish.pdf> and get updates on closures on the DEM hotline at 401-222-2900. The wild harvest of oysters is prohibited from May 16 – Sept. 14 annually.



Transporting Shellfish

Make sure your shellfish stay cold on the trip home. The optimal temperature to preserve flavor and safety is 35° to 45° F. Here are a few options:

- Keep shellfish on ice, not in water, and in the shade for the trip home.
- Using a cooler with ice or cold packs is the best choice.



Storing Shellfish

Fresh shellfish can last for several days if properly stored in your refrigerator below 45° F. Freezing shellfish will kill them, and they should not be held in melted ice water. Make sure they are not contaminated by other foods that might drip on them. Allowing shellfish to warm up can allow bacteria to grow, increasing the risk of illness.



Cooking Shellfish

Make sure there are no dead or gaping shellfish, live shellfish will close tightly when tapped. Shellfish should smell fresh - like an ocean breeze. Avoid raw or undercooked shellfish if you are immune compromised*, but fully cooking will eliminate bacteria.

* The elderly, as well as those individuals who suffer from liver disease, diabetes, HIV, or are taking medications that suppress their immune system, can be at risk for serious illness from bacteria that may be associated with raw or undercooked poultry, eggs, hamburger and shellfish (especially in summer). Ask your doctor if you are not sure.



For more information
about shellfish safety issues visit the following websites:
www.ECSGA.org or www.safeoysters.org



Shellfish Regulations

Shellfishing is prohibited statewide between sunset and sunrise.

Oysters – The season is open from September 15 to May 15 (inclusive).

Scallops – The season opens sunrise the first Saturday in November and closes at sunset on December 31.

Consult “Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Regulations: Shellfish” of the Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations for specific shellfishing regulations. <https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/marine-fisheries/marine-fisheries-regulations>

Resident Recreational Shellfishing – No License Required

Any resident of this State may, without a license, take quahogs, soft-shelled clams, mussels, surf clams, oysters (in season), and bay scallops (in season). Harvested shellfish may not be sold or offered for sale. (See below for possession limits in Shellfish Management Areas and Non-Management Areas).

Non-Resident Recreational Shellfishing – Licensed Individuals Only

Holders of a non-resident shellfishing license may take quahogs, soft-shelled clams, mussels, surf clams, oysters (in season). (See below for possession limits in Shellfish Management Areas and Non-Management Areas). There is no taking of lobsters, blue crabs, whelk, or bay scallops by non-residents.

Non-Resident Property Owners

A nonresident landowner who owns residential real estate in Rhode Island assessed for taxation at a value of not less than thirty thousand dollars may, with proof of property ownership, obtain an annual, non-commercial, non-resident shellfish license for a fee of twenty-five dollars. This license holds the same restrictions and allowable daily catch limits as a licensed non-resident.

Shellfish Management Areas:

Potter, Point Judith, Ninigret (Charlestown), Quonochontaug, and Winnapaug (Brightman) Ponds, Greenwich Bay, Bristol Harbor, Potowomut (Areas A, B and C), and Bissel Cove, Kickemuit River, High Banks, Mill Gut, Jenny’s Creek (closed until further notice). Additionally, certain Shellfish Management Areas, have limited fishing days and seasonal requirements for commercial harvest.

Area specific regulations may apply. Consult “Part IV Shellfish” of the Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations at <https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/marine-fisheries/marine-fisheries-regulations>

Shellfishing Areas with Harvest Restrictions Due to Water Quality:

Certain areas are subject to permanent, seasonal, and rainfall-induced shellfishing closures. Consult <http://www.dem.ri.gov/maps/mapfile/shellfish.pdf> for current maps and regulations or contact the Division of Water Resources at (401) 222-3961. For current rainfall-induced closure restrictions call

(401) 222-2900. Please be responsible; be aware of all harvesting restrictions.

Spawner Sanctuaries and Shellfishing Moratoria:

Certain waters of the state are permanently closed to shellfishing, allowing maintenance, restoration, and enhancement wild broodstock. Areas include portions of Winnapaug Pond, Quonochontaug Pond, Ninigret Pond, Potter Pond, Potowomut, and Jenny’s Creek in its entirety. Consult “Part IV Shellfish” of the Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations: <https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/marine-fisheries/marine-fisheries-regulations>

Minimum Sizes for Shellfish:

- Quahog = 1 inch hinge width
- Soft-Shell Clam* = 2 inches
- Oyster* = 3 inches
- Bay Scallop = No seed possession
- Surf Clam* = 5 inches
- Channeled or Knobbed Whelks = 2 1/4" shell height (farthest distance from opercular side to top of shell when operculum is laid on flat surface)

* Measured in a straight line parallel to the long axis of the animal.

Daily Possession Limits for Quahogs, Soft-Shell Clams, Surf Clams, Mussels, and Oysters (Bay Scallops Excluded) in:

Shellfish Management Areas

Resident (no sale) = 1 peck each per person
Licensed Non-Resident (no sale) = ½ peck each per person

Non-Management Areas

Resident (no sale) = 1/2 bushel each per person
Licensed Non-Resident (no sale) = 1 peck each per person

Dry Measure Equivalents

- 1 peck = 2 gallons
- ½ peck = 1 gallon
- 1 bushel = 8 gallons
- ½ bushel = 4 gallons

Whelks

1/2 bushel per person
1 bushel per vessel max
Residents only

The most up-to-date fishing regulations online!

[eRegulations.com](https://www.dem.ri.gov/eRegulations)

The advertisement features a laptop displaying the eRegulations website, a smartphone with the eRegulations app, and a magazine titled "Saltwater Fishing" with a cover photo of a fisherman. The magazine cover also includes the text "2024 Rhode Island Saltwater Fishing" and "Listening for sharks".

Access Site Improvements

Multiple storms battered the Rhode Island shoreline this past winter highlighting the need for resilient coastal areas more than ever before. To address this issue, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Coastal Resiliency Program has provided funds to RIDEM for resilient designs for two popular state recreational fishing areas: Quonochontaug Breachway Fishing Area in Charlestown and Gull Cove Fishing Area in Portsmouth.



Angler Robert Pos shows off a beautiful bluefish caught in the Quonochontaug Breachway.

Resiliency Designs for Two Popular Fishing Access Areas

“Resilience” in a broad sense is defined as the capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from experiencing difficulty or trauma. The resilient designs are planned to increase the longevity of the two fishing areas by implementing solutions that address the effects of sea level rise and catastrophic storm events. The focus of the designs will be nature-based solutions that protect, conserve, and restore ecosystems in a way that addresses environmental challenges, while also benefiting wildlife and the people that use them. Resilient recreational areas will bounce back from abrupt environmental changes and will provide anglers with coastal access opportunities for years to come.



Previous failed attempts to control shoreline erosion at the Quonochontaug Breachway. New nature-based resilient designs are planned to more effectively address the effects of sea level rise and provide continued access to anglers.



The Stephen J. Medeiros Fishing Area at Black Point

On a Spring day in May of 1989, a multi-year court battle to ensure public access to Black Point was won. This effort included users of the site who delivered their own video-taped accounts of historic access to the rocky Narragansett shoreline at this location.

After the win, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management purchased the property and added it to land previously purchased by the state in 1974 that includes Scarborough Beach.

On December 2, 2023, members of Stephen Medeiros's family, friends, loyal Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) members, and members of the fishing community gathered in Narragansett for a dedication ceremony. An outspoken advocate for recreational fishing in the Ocean State, Steve was an original founder of the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association. Through RISAA, his leadership brought our recreational fishing community together as an influential voice. With his unprecedented dedication to the sport, he represented the interests of recreational anglers in all aspects of education, access, preservation, and regulation.



Steve Medeiros, founder of the RI Saltwater Anglers Association, poses with a big white-chin tautog. Steve was a dedicated advocate for the recreational fishing community in Rhode Island.

Steve's approach was always the same: straightforward, well informed, kind, and respectful, which made him effective, widely admired, and profoundly influential. One of his deepest passions was protecting and increasing public access to the shore. It is an appropriate, if understated tribute, that this site is now and forever more known as the "Stephen J. Medeiros Fishing Area at Black Point".

The Stephen J. Medeiros Fishing Area at Black Point offers excellent shore fishing access and scenic views of Rhode Island sound.



The Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species!

Examples of Invasive Species:



1/2 inch
Zebra Mussel



1/2 inch
Asian Clam



Variable
Milfoil



Water Chestnut



Eurasian Milfoil



Fanwort



Carp



Koi



Goldfish

Attention Boaters: Inspect vessel carefully before & after use!

- Remove **ALL** weeds and plant fragments from water craft & trailer before & after use
- Drain boat & motor far from water; allow to dry before next use
- Clean off all waders, boots and gear after use in any waterbody
- Do not release bait of aquarium fish, shellfish or plants

For more information contact:

RI Department of Environmental Management
Division of Fish and Wildlife
(407) 789-0281 or (401) 789-7481

www.dem.ri.gov



Party & Charter Boat Notable Catches

Want a chance to see your notable catch featured here? Follow us on Facebook @RhodeIslandDEM or Instagram @rhodeisland.dem and look out for our annual photo contest announcement, or email DEM.MarineFisheries@dem.ri.gov for more information.



L'il Toot

Having a blast landing speedy bonito on light tackle.



Big Game

A big male mahi mahi showing off its brilliant coloration.



Great Run

A young angler shows off the white belly of a nice big fluke.



Frayed Knot

Double slot-size stripers landed on an overcast day.



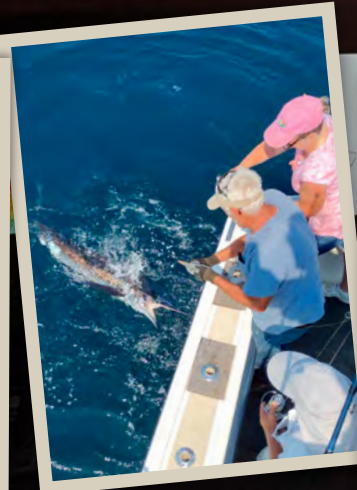
Stuff It Sportfishing

Father-son duo Stephen and Jayden teamed up to tackle this beautiful bluefin tuna.



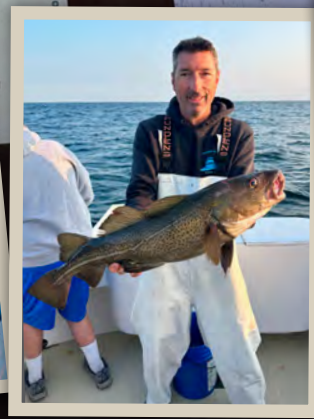
C-Devil II Sportfishing

Successful jigging on this night-time squid trip.



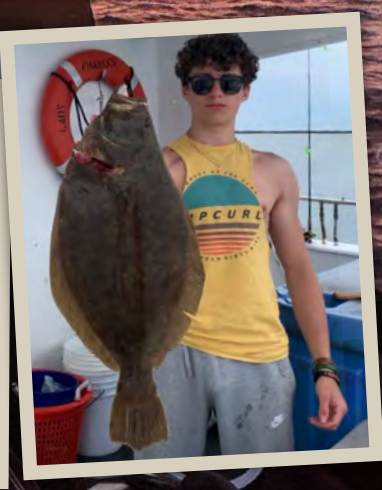
Jackhammer

These anglers wrestle a gorgeous marlin while offshore, after already landing two yellowfin tuna!



Priority Too

This hefty cod was caught on a diamond jig during October.



Frances Fleet

A nice doormat summer flounder caught on the Lady Frances.

2024 Tide Table – Newport, RI

High tide predictions between 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM (adjusted for daylight savings time)

● = New Moon ○ = Full Moon

| | May | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. (2025) | Feb. (2025) | Mar. (2025) | Apr. (2025) |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | 2:28 PM | 4:10 PM | 4:51 PM | 6:04 AM | 7:26 AM | 7:41 AM | 8:16 AM ● | 7:22 AM | 8:24 AM | 9:37 AM | 8:30 AM | 10:51 AM |
| 2 | 3:29 PM | 5:12 PM | 5:53 PM | 6:58 AM | 8:08 AM | 8:16 AM ● | 8:48 AM | 8:00 AM | 9:09 AM | 10:27 AM | 9:18 AM | 11:46 AM |
| 3 | 4:33 PM | 6:10 PM | 6:49 PM | 7:46 AM | 8:46 AM ● | 8:49 AM | 8:22 AM | 8:42 AM | 9:57 AM | 11:21 AM | 10:08 AM | 12:45 PM |
| 4 | 5:34 PM | 6:36 AM | 7:13 AM | 8:31 AM ● | 9:23 AM | 9:21 AM | 9:00 AM | 9:27 AM | 10:47 AM | 12:17 PM | 11:03 AM | 1:45 PM |
| 5 | 6:30 PM | 7:29 AM | 8:03 AM ● | 9:13 AM | 9:57 AM | 9:53 AM | 9:42 AM | 10:16 AM | 11:41 AM | 1:16 PM | 12:00 PM | 2:48 PM |
| 6 | 6:56 AM | 8:19 AM ● | 8:51 AM | 9:54 AM | 10:31 AM | 10:27 AM | 10:32 AM | 11:09 AM | 12:36 PM | 2:19 PM | 1:00 PM | 3:53 PM |
| 7 | 7:47 AM | 9:08 AM | 9:37 AM | 10:34 AM | 11:05 AM | 11:06 AM | 11:27 AM | 12:05 PM | 1:34 PM | 3:28 PM | 2:04 PM | 4:58 PM |
| 8 | 8:37 AM ● | 9:57 AM | 10:22 AM | 11:12 AM | 11:42 AM | 11:52 AM | 12:25 PM | 1:01 PM | 2:36 PM | 4:36 PM | 3:12 PM | 5:55 PM |
| 9 | 9:26 AM | 10:46 AM | 11:07 AM | 11:51 AM | 12:25 PM | 12:46 PM | 1:23 PM | 1:59 PM | 3:44 PM | 5:34 PM | 5:20 PM | 6:43 PM |
| 10 | 10:16 AM | 11:37 AM | 11:53 AM | 12:30 PM | 1:13 PM | 1:44 PM | 2:24 PM | 3:01 PM | 4:49 PM | 6:25 PM | 6:18 PM | 7:07 AM |
| 11 | 11:07 AM | 12:27 PM | 12:37 PM | 1:09 PM | 2:07 PM | 2:45 PM | 3:27 PM | 4:05 PM | 5:47 PM | 6:55 AM | 6:52 AM | 7:45 AM |
| 12 | 12:01 PM | 1:17 PM | 1:19 PM | 1:52 PM | 3:08 PM | 3:49 PM | 4:28 PM | 5:05 PM | 6:39 PM | 7:37 AM ○ | 7:35 AM | 8:20 AM |
| 13 | 12:56 PM | 2:04 PM | 1:59 PM | 2:40 PM | 4:16 PM | 4:54 PM | 5:25 PM | 6:01 PM | 7:08 AM ○ | 8:16 AM | 8:13 AM | 8:54 AM ○ |
| 14 | 1:51 PM | 2:50 PM | 2:40 PM | 3:38 PM | 5:22 PM | 5:53 PM | 6:17 PM | 6:52 PM | 7:55 AM | 8:54 AM | 8:50 AM ○ | 9:28 AM |
| 15 | 2:44 PM | 3:36 PM | 3:26 PM | 4:45 PM | 6:19 PM | 6:47 PM | 6:43 AM ○ | 7:19 AM ○ | 8:39 AM | 9:30 AM | 9:24 AM | 10:03 AM |
| 16 | 3:38 PM | 4:25 PM | 4:21 PM | 5:48 PM | 7:45 AM | 7:13 AM | 7:33 AM | 8:09 AM | 9:22 AM | 10:06 AM | 9:58 AM | 10:40 AM |
| 17 | 4:33 PM | 5:15 PM | 5:20 PM | 6:43 PM | 7:35 AM | 8:02 AM ○ | 8:23 AM | 8:58 AM | 10:04 AM | 10:43 AM | 10:32 AM | 11:20 AM |
| 18 | 5:23 PM | 6:02 PM | 6:15 PM | 7:08 AM | 8:24 AM ○ | 8:51 AM | 9:14 AM | 9:47 AM | 10:45 AM | 11:22 AM | 11:07 AM | 12:06 PM |
| 19 | 6:07 PM | 6:46 PM | 6:41 AM | 7:57 AM ○ | 9:12 AM | 9:41 AM | 10:08 AM | 10:36 AM | 11:26 AM | 12:04 PM | 11:46 AM | 12:57 PM |
| 20 | 6:45 PM | 7:10 AM | 7:31 AM | 8:46 AM | 10:02 AM | 10:33 AM | 11:04 AM | 11:26 AM | 12:08 PM | 12:51 PM | 12:30 PM | 1:51 PM |
| 21 | 7:02 AM | 7:55 AM | 8:19 AM ○ | 9:35 AM | 10:54 AM | 11:28 AM | 12:01 PM | 12:14 PM | 12:49 PM | 1:43 PM | 1:19 PM | 2:47 PM |
| 22 | 7:41 AM | 8:40 AM ○ | 9:08 AM | 10:25 AM | 11:49 AM | 12:27 PM | 12:56 PM | 1:00 PM | 1:34 PM | 2:46 PM | 2:13 PM | 3:48 PM |
| 23 | 8:20 AM ○ | 9:28 AM | 9:57 AM | 11:18 AM | 12:48 PM | 1:28 PM | 1:49 PM | 1:45 PM | 2:28 PM | 3:55 PM | 3:13 PM | 4:51 PM |
| 24 | 9:02 AM | 10:17 AM | 10:48 AM | 12:12 PM | 1:50 PM | 2:30 PM | 2:42 PM | 2:34 PM | 3:32 PM | 4:56 PM | 4:19 PM | 5:49 PM |
| 25 | 9:46 AM | 11:08 AM | 11:41 AM | 1:10 PM | 2:53 PM | 3:31 PM | 3:37 PM | 3:30 PM | 4:35 PM | 5:47 PM | 5:23 PM | 6:42 PM |
| 26 | 10:33 AM | 12:02 PM | 12:36 PM | 2:09 PM | 4:01 PM | 4:32 PM | 4:27 PM | 4:26 PM | 5:28 PM | 6:35 PM | 6:19 PM | 7:09 AM |
| 27 | 11:24 AM | 12:58 PM | 1:31 PM | 3:11 PM | 5:07 PM | 5:27 PM | 5:12 PM | 5:15 PM | 6:14 PM | 6:58 AM | 6:45 AM | 8:00 AM ● |
| 28 | 12:19 PM | 1:53 PM | 2:28 PM | 4:20 PM | 6:02 PM | 6:12 PM | 5:51 PM | 5:59 PM | 6:59 PM | 7:44 AM ● | 7:33 AM | 8:50 AM |
| 29 | 1:16 PM | 2:49 PM | 3:28 PM | 5:28 PM | 6:46 PM | 6:50 PM | 6:28 PM | 6:41 PM | 7:21 AM ● | | 8:21 AM ● | 9:41 AM |
| 30 | 2:12 PM | 3:48 PM | 4:35 PM | 6:24 PM | 7:02 AM | 7:10 AM | 6:46 AM | 7:01 AM ● | 8:05 AM | | 9:09 AM | 10:35 AM |
| 31 | 3:10 PM | | 5:40 PM | 6:41 AM | | 7:44 AM | | 7:42 AM | 8:50 AM | | 9:59 AM | |

Tidal Differences

- Providence, RI.....Plus 13 minutes
- Warwick, RIPlus 13 minutes
- Portsmouth, RIPlus 8 minutes
- Wickford, RIPlus 3 minutes
- Sakonnet Point, RI.....Less 9 minutes
- Narragansett, RI Less 11 minutes
- Point Judith, RI.....Same as Tide Chart
- Westerly, RIPlus 41 minutes
- Block Island, RILess 13 minutes

Fishnet Charters
FISH CAPE COD

CAPTAIN MEL TRUE
SIGNATURE SERIES

www.CaptainMelTrue.com

FISHNET CHARTERS

CAPE COD - BUZZARDS BAY

Targeting all species of gamefish • Sea Bass - Stripers - Tautog



508-951-9991

capt.meltrue@gmail.com • www.captainmeltrue.com

Photo Credit: Katie Rodriguez

Attention Rhode Island Party/Charter Captains!

All Party/Charter vessels and Head boats licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management are required to report catch from all for-hire trips electronically. All trip reports must be submitted within 48 hours of the end of the trip. The application used for reporting is called Etrips-Mobile and is free. It works on tablets, phones and laptops. You can sign up for an account and access training materials on our website: <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/marine-fisheries>.



BLOCK ISLAND

- BLOCK ISLAND FISHWORKS**
CAPT. CHRISTOPHER WILLI.....(401) 466-5392
- HULA CHARTERS**
CAPT. MATT KING.....(401) 263-3474
- LINESIDER FISHING CHARTERS - ROOSTER**
CAPT. ERIC GUSTAFSON.....(401) 439-5386
- PALE HORSE**
CAPT. JOHN HUNNEWELL.....(802) 379-0336
- FISH THE WORLD**
CAPT. JOHN HOBE.....(401) 466-5254

EAST BAY

- NEWPORT**
- ARCHANGEL FISHING CHARTERS**
CAPT. MIKE LITTLEFIELD.....(401) 406-9555
- CITY BY THE SEA CHARTERS**
CAPT. PATRICK HEANEY.....(401) 489-3004
- FLAHERTY CHARTERS**
CAPT. TIM FLAHERTY.....(401) 848-5554
- ISLANDER FISHING CHARTERS**
CAPT. MIKE MASSA.....(401) 835-4474
- NEWPORT SPORTFISHING CHARTERS**
CAPT. ROBERT TAYLOR.....(978) 877-0997
- ON THE ROCKS CHARTERS**
CAPT. RENE LETOURNEAU.....(401) 359-3625
- SARA STAR FISHING CHARTERS**
CAPT. JOE AIELLO.....(401) 623-1121
- SKINNY WATER CHARTERS**
CAPT. JIM BARR.....(401) 465-8751
- TALL TAILZ CHARTERS**
CAPT. CONNOR MACLEOD.....(401) 855-1471
- TEEZER**
CAPT. ERIC THOMAS.....(401) 524-7239

PORTSMOUTH

- FLIPPIN OUT CHARTERS**
CAPT. B. J. SILVA.....(401) 529-2267
- PATTERSON GUIDE SERVICE**
CAPT. BRIAN PATTERSON.....(401) 293-0223

POINT JUDITH

- GALILEE**
- ADVENTURE CHARTERS**
CAPT. CHRIS BELL.....(401) 359-1785
- ACES WILD CHARTERS**
CAPT. EARL BELL.....(401) 749-1199
- BARE BONES**
CAPT. STEVE ANDERSON.....(401) 737-0730 / (401) 255-0128
- C.J.**
CAPT. BARRY CHERMS.....(401) 789-8684

Catch a good time with

The Frances Fleet

DEEP SEA FISHING:
1/2 Day, Full Day, Night Trips
Overnight & Offshore Trips
Whale Watching

Online Reservations Now Accepted
401-783-4988
www.FrancesFleet.com
33 State St., Narragansett

- CAROL J**
CAPT. PAUL JOHNSON SR.....(401) 207-6947
- C-DEVIL II**
CAPT. KELLY SMITH.....(401) 374-1439
- CAPTAIN SHERIFF'S FISHING CHARTERS**
CAPT. JOHN SHERIFF.....(401) 450-2549
- FISHING MACHINE**
CAPT. MICHAEL O'GRADY.....(401) 742-5070
- FRANCES FLEET**
CAPT. FRANK BLOUNT.....(401) 783-4988
- GREY FOX CHARTERS**
CAPT. JOHN MCCANN.....(401) 258-4630
- HALF-N-HALF CHARTERS**
CAPT. JAMES OTIS.....(401) 477-2886
- HIS & HERZ**
CAPT. CHRIS HERZ.....(401) 474-1325
- HOOLED ON A FEELING CHARTERS**
CAPT. JOE BLECZINSKI.....(401) 788-3638

THE WHITE AND GREEN FISHING MACHINE

SEVEN B'S V

80 FT. - CAP. 120
Fishing Year-Round
JULY Thru AUGUST
1/2 DAY TRIPS
COD - SQUID - FLUKE
SEA BASS - TAUTOG - SCUP

8:30am - 12:30pm
1:00pm - 5:00pm
\$55 Adults • \$30 Child
SUNDAY
Sunset Special
1pm - 8pm

FISHING
Special Events • Private Charters
Group Discounts

MUST RESERVE ONLINE OR CALL OFFICE

Narragansett, RI
30 State Street - Dock RR
www.sevenbs.com
401-789-9250 • 800-371-FISH

- IRISH JIG CHARTERS**
CAPT. DAVE MCCORMICK.....(401) 499-9182 / (401) 667-0095
- L'IL TOOT**
CAPT. JOHN RAINONE.....(401) 783-0883 / (401) 497-6683
- LUCKY LADY**
CAPT. STEVEN PALMER.....(401) 284-2869
- MAKO II**
CAPT. DAVID TYRRELL.....(401) 789-3756
- MARIDEE**
CAPT. ANDREW DANVELO.....(401) 783-3927
- MISTY**
CAPT. MARK AMBROSIA.....(401) 789-6057
- OLD SALT**
CAPT. BILL DELLA VALLE.....(401) 783-4805
- PAMELA MAY**
CAPT. JASON A. HOWELL.....(401) 742-2383
- PATTY J**
CAPT. JOHN PARENTE.....(401) 451-5654



Welcome to the most Revolutionary Walk-in Cooler on the Planet

Massive Savings • 50,000 Sold • Complete DIY
Get Connected - Stay Cool™



CoolBot
GET CONNECTED - STAY COOL™

BUILD YOUR OWN GAME OR MEAT COOLER

- Save \$1,000s by building your own walk-in cooler
- Cool a well insulated room down to 34 degrees with a CoolBot and window air conditioner
- Perfect for meat curing and aging
- Over 100,000 units sold in 70 different countries

Go to eregulations.com/coolbot to save \$20 on your order!

Party/Charter Boat Directory

GALILEE CONTINUED

PERSUADER
CAPT. DENNIS DILLON.....(401) 783-5644

PRIORITY TOO
CAPT. RICK BELLAVANCE JR.....(401) 741-5648

REEL TO REEL
CAPT. SCOTT LUNDBERG.....(508) 450-1112

RIVER REBEL CHARTERS
CAPT. RANDALL &
CAPT. JOE BAGWELL.....(401) 253-9693 / (401) 699-1974

SEVEN B'S V
CAPT. RUSS BENN.....(401) 789-9250

SNAPPA CHARTERS
CAPT. CHARLES DONILON.....(401) 782-4040 / (407) 487-9044

STUFFIT CHARTERS
CAPT. JOE PAGANO.....(401) 808-0452

TWENTY/AUGHT SPORTFISHING
CAPT. JASPER COUTU.....(401) 744-8011

JERUSALEM AND SNUG HARBOR

ANDREW & STEVEN
CAPT. STEVEN FOLLETT.....(401) 789-7173

BAD TOUCH
CAPT. LANCELOT BANFIELD.....(401) 595-3923

DRIFTER TOO
CAPT. RICHARD CHATOWSKY SR.....(401) 539-6097/
(401) 480-2539

FLUKIN CHARTERS
CAPT. CHARLES BORANIAN.....(401) 692-9058

BIG GAME FISHING CHARTERS
CAPT. BRIAN BACON.....(401) 243-7046
CAPT. PETER BACON.....(401) 623-0353
CAPT. SHAMUS MARA.....(401) 489-0631

CHERRY PEPPER
CAPT. LINWOOD SAFFORD.....(401) 364-6297

ISLAND CURRENT FLEET
CAPT. CHRIS CULLEN.....(917) 417-7557

KNOTTY DOG
CAPT. BILL KELLEY.....(401) 741-9829 / (401) 792-3371

LADY K
CAPT. STEPHEN BABIGIAN.....(401) 284-2656 / (239) 565-2949

RESTLESS
CAPT. RICH TEMPLETON.....(401) 728-2081

STRIKER
CAPT. RUSSELL BLANK.....(401) 884-1753

WISE KRAKEN CHARTERS
CAPT. MATT.....401-678-1958

WAKEFIELD

BOOKED OFF CHARTERS
CAPT. TONY GUARINO JR.....(401) 741-2580

HOOKEM
CAPT. MIKE LAWING.....(401) 595-6970

LILY ANN
CAPT. RYAN LAWHORN.....(401) 269-1970

SOUTH SHORE

WATCH HILL

FISH TRAP
CAPT. TOM LOGAN.....(203) 375-0828

UPPER BAY

WARWICK

EAST COAST CHARTERS
CAPT. JACK SPRENGEL.....(401) 338-1752

ISLAND GIRL CHARTERS
CAPT. RICHARD CATALDI.....(401) 458-1503

WEST BAY

EAST GREENWICH

CAST A FLY CHARTERS
CAPT. RAY STACHELEK.....(401) 884-3794 / (401) 323-5439

Don't See Your
Business in this
Directory and Want
to Add it to the List?

Contact RI DMF at
DEM.MarineFisheries@dem.ri.gov



Bait & Tackle Shop Directory

BLOCK ISLAND

BLOCK ISLAND FISHWORKS.....(401) 466-5392

BRISTOL

BRISTOL BAIT & TACKLE.....(401) 545-5470

CHARLESTOWN

BREACHWAY BAIT & TACKLE.....(401) 364-6407
QUONNIE BAIT & TACKLE.....(401) 637-7184

CHEPACHET

BIG BEAR FISHING & HUNTING LLC.....(401) 949-0339

COVENTRY

SANDY BOTTOM BAIT & TACKLE.....(401) 823-1540

CRANSTON

CONTINENTAL BAIT & TACKLE.....(401) 943-2137

EAST PROVIDENCE

ARCHIES BAIT & TACKLE.....(401) 437-2630

HOPE VALLEY

HOPE VALLEY BAIT & TACKLE.....(401) 539-2757

JAMESTOWN

ZEEK'S CREEK BAIT & TACKLE INC.....(401) 423-1170

MIDDLETOWN

THE SALTWATER EDGE.....(401) 842-0062
SAM'S BAIT & TACKLE.....(401) 848-5909

NORTH KINGSTOWN

QUAKER LANE BAIT & TACKLE.....(401) 294-9642
FIN AND FEATHERS OUTFITTERS.....(401) 294-3781

NARRAGANSETT

MARIDEE CANVAS BAIT & TACKLE.....(401) 789-5190
CAPTAIN'S TACKLE.....(401) 783-4988

PORTSMOUTH

CRAFTY ONE CUSTOMS.....(401) 293-0477

PROVIDENCE

MARINE & AUTO SAVINGS INC.....(401) 461-2230
OCEAN STATE TACKLE.....(401) 749-3474

TIVERTON

RIVERSIDE MARINE.....(401) 625-5181

WAKEFIELD

SNUG HARBOR MARINA.....(401) 783-7766
BROOKS TRAP.....(401) 782-4412

WARREN

LUCKY BAIT & TACKLE.....(401) 247-2223

WARWICK

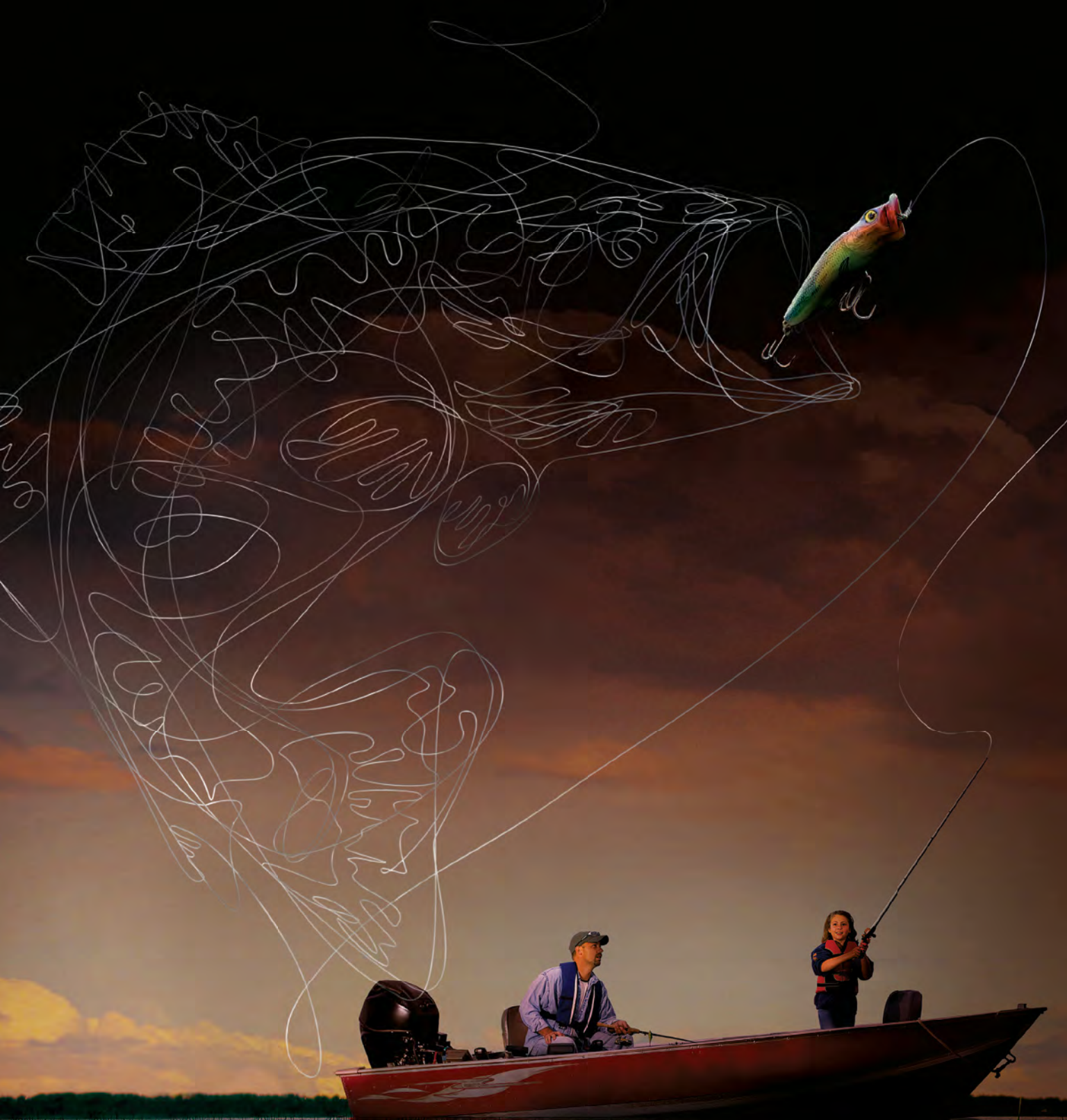
PONAUG BAIT & TACKLE.....(401) 384-7692
TACKLE BOX.....(401) 736-0605
ISLAND GIRL.....(401) 458-1503

WESTERLY

WATCHHILL OUTFITTERS.....(401) 596-7217
GRAY'S BOATYARD MARINE STORE.....(401) 348-8689
WEEKAPAUG BAIT & TACKLE.....(401) 388-8453

WOONSOCKET

PETE'S BAIT AND TACKLE.....(401) 651-6178



THE SIMPLE ACT OF FISHING, PRESERVES FISHING.

Every time you purchase a fishing license or register your boat, a portion of the proceeds go toward preserving our nation's coastlines, lakes, rivers and streams. Protecting our memories on the water for generations to come.

Learn more at TakeMeFishing.org/Conservation



TAKEMEFISHING.org



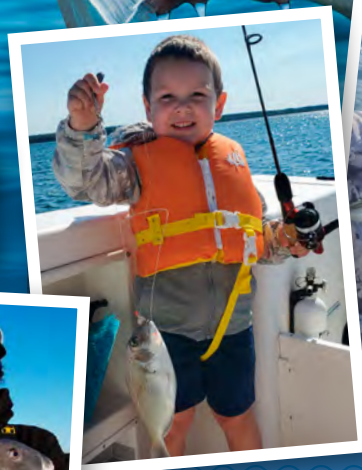


Instagram Facebook
FIND US ONLINE!

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

The NE Saltwater Fishing Show™

3-Day Youth Fishing Camp

Dam Removal Projects



RHODE ISLAND
SALTWATER *Anglers*



RISAA.org
401.826.2121

The Voice of Southern New England Fisherman

P.O. Box 1467, Coventry, RI 02816