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RHODE ISLAND

SALTWATER ANGLERS

Association



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Representing Over 7,500 Recreational Anglers

2018 Southern New England Recreational Fishing Symposium being held in Warwick this month

The Magnuson Stevens Act - How to Make It Work for Recreational Fishing

This the official title of our 2018 Symposium that is being held on January 26, 2018 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick.

The Symposium is being financed and sponsored by the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation, the University of Rhode Island Coastal Institute and the Marine Fish Conservation Network.

Why is this important?

This is VERY important! The Magnuson Stevens Act (MSA) regulates all saltwater fishing activities in U.S.

The MSA went into existence in 1979 and is credited for the rebuilding of over 40 fish species in the oceans off the U.S. coasts.

The MSA was initially designed to control commercial fishing activities, but has since been used to regulate recreational fishing as well. And while many agree that the

MSA does a good job regulating commercial fishing, it falls short when applied to recreational fishing.

Presently, under MSA, the catch of commercial and recreational fisheries are measured by estimating *pounds of fish* landed to fit the existing management models that were developed for commercial fisheries. But recreational regulations use quantities of whole fish, not pounds, creating a flawed system. These estimates result in inconsistent regulations for anglers year after year.

Besides recreational anglers mostly fish for the experience, and not pounds of fish.

This Symposium plans to bring together individuals who can express the advantages and disadvantages of MSA as it pertains to recreational fishing and what MSA reauthorization should include to better suit recreational fishing. **(to page 28)**

Member
Michael Casey
with a 24 inch tautog that
he caught while fishing
off Newport on
November 27

**Recreational fishing is worth
\$332 MILLION
to the Rhode Island economy
and over 3,000 jobs!**

**Mark Your
Calendar**

The 15th Annual
**NEW ENGLAND
SALTWATER
FISHING SHOW**

is coming!

MARCH 9 - 11, 2018

Rhode Island Convention Center
NESaltwaterShow.com