



The Watch

Capt. Dave Monti, Chairman



The RISAA Legislative Committee’s mission is to provide, in partnership with the Affiliated Clubs, a forum for improving the knowledge and understanding of fishery-related and government issues that affect recreational anglers. An informed membership encourages involvement and advocacy. The Legislative Committee will strive to advocate responsible fishery decision.

The Committee is comprised of RISAA Members and delegates from the Affiliated Clubs. The Committee meets two or three times a year, depending on the number of fishery and/or legislative issues that develop.

2017 Fishing Review and What’s I Store For 2018

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Striped bass Cape Cod Canal bite best in years

“The striped bass bite for customers fishing the Cape Cod Canal has been staggering. It is better than it has been in years,” said Dimitri Mancini of Continental Bait & Tackle, Cranston.

“Hogy soft plastic lures are working well. It has been a very successful lure for our customers fishing the Canal and comes in a variety of colors with white and pink working the best lately,” Mancini continued.

“The striped bass bite at the Cape Cod Canal continues to be outstanding,” said Dave Henault of Ocean State Tackle, Providence. “Anglers are landing bass in the 40 pound range from shore. The Whip-It Fish, a soft plastic lure by Al Gag’s Lures is working very well for Canal fishermen.”

Regarding Narragansett Bay and Mt. Hope Bay, many said the striped bass season was half as good as 2016. Anglers did catch large fish in the Bay, just not as many.

The striped bass season for anglers fishing from shore, along the southern coastal shore from Narragansett to Watch Hill, was good.

Steve McKenna, noted shore angler and author, said in November, “Fishing from shore for striped bass has been great. Since September I have landed about 300 striped bass. One or two in the 30 pound range, many in the twenties and teens.”



Steve McKenna

Large fish (but fewer fish) were caught at Block Island this year. Capt. Andy Dangelo of Maridee II Charters said this fall, “We had a lot of big fish on the south side of the Island this week. Charter boats had five or six fish over 50 pounds. We caught our big fish trolling umbrella rigs.”

Fair summer flounder and black sea bass season

Another surprise was that we had a fair summer flounder and black sea bass bite in the Bay, off Newport and along the coast to the Sakonnet River in Massachusetts.

This was offset with a good, but spotty summer flounder bite in the area of the wind farm at Block Island with a very strong black sea bass bite there.

The bite was fair to good along the southern coastal shore.

What’s in store for 2018 and a preliminary look at regulations?

(Official RI regulations to come in March)

STRIPED BASS

The striped bass season should be solid in 2018 as recruitment classes are good with many fish maturing to minimum size of 28 inches. This, coupled with a good supply of Atlantic menhaden (one of their primary food sources) in the



water, should be good striped bass season in 2018.

Striped bass regulations for 2018 will likely remain the same, one fish/person/day with a minimum size of 28”.

The stock is not overfished; however, it is close to having “overfishing occurring” as the spawning stock biomass (SSB) is just above the threshold, but below the target as was the case last year.

2015 was a good recruitment year and the 2017 Maryland Young of the Year Survey indicated a high abundance relative to 2016 so there is room for optimism.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke)

Summer flounder fishing will likely remain challenging as it was last year as the stock is still in questionable shape overall with overfishing occurring the past seven years relative to the biological reference points.

2018 regulations will likely stay similar to last year in Rhode Island with a possible bag limit increase.



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