



RISAA  
**Events & Meetings**

All events and meetings can be found online at [www.risaa.org/calendar.html](http://www.risaa.org/calendar.html)

Apr 3 • 6:30 PM Kayak Committee Spring Meeting

Apr 3 • 6:00 PM RI Marine Fisheries Council meeting

Apr 11 • 6:30 PM Fly Fishing Committee Spring Meeting

Apr 18 • 6:00 RISAA Board of Directors

Apr 24 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly Seminar

April 29 • 3:00 PM Fly Fishing Committee fishing at 100 AcreCove

May 1 • 6:00 PM RI Marine Fisheries Council meeting

May 6 • 3:00 AM Kayak Committee fishing at 100 Acre Cove

May 13 • 5:00 PM Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Ninigret Pond

May 13 • 5:00 PM Kayak Committee fishing at Ninigret Pond

May 18 • 6:00 PM Kayak Committee fishing worm hatch at Potter Pond

May 20 • RISAA Party Boat Squid Fishing Trip, 7pm-1am out of Galilee, RI

May 22 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly Seminar

June 10 • RISAA Trip to Fenway Park

June 24 • 19th Annual TAKE-A-KID FISHING Day

June 27-29 • 2nd Annual Youth Fishing Camp, Rocky Point, Warwick

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*Notes from the*  
**President's Desk**  
*Stephen Medetros*



## Bring on the river herring

For most of my life, friends have said I was nuts because I like the winter in New England. No, I don't ski or go to the mountains. I just like snow and cold weather.

I like fall and winter. I also like April and can tolerate May, but not summer. I've always said I'll take 10 degrees outdoors over the 90 degree heat and humidity anytime.

But now, as I'm sitting here at the end of March working on this April issue, it's another drizzly, damp, overcast and cold day outside. March has been a miserable weather month. For the first time in years, I have to say I'm ready for some warmer weather and sunshine.

In years past, I would look forward to April, not because it was an end of winter, but because it meant the river herring would return.

Collecting river herring for fishing was an elaborate process, but only because we made it that way.

We would stand on the bank with a long-handle net in the water, keeping it still, and the herring would swim right in.

We then had a large round container in the back of our vehicles, already half-filled with water, and as we caught the herring we would put them into the container.

Even though the container was large, we would only take approximately 20 herring (or they would die). Then we would drive to the marina, where there was another, larger container tied to the dock near by boat that would hold our herring catch.

The herring were hardy, and usually any fish still alive after the trip from the stream to the dock and put into the holding net would be alive and well for our weekend fishing trip.

I always said that every herring we put into the water would be a striper caught. Sometimes a single herring would even last for two or three stripers.

That was the time of year I really enjoyed taking people out fishing.

Every so often, a member would tell me

how he fished all his life, but couldn't catch a striped bass - so I took him fishing and with a live river herring on the hook, a striper was guaranteed.

For many years my fishing buddies and I would go to the herring stream in Warwick either early in the morning or early evening. Sometimes we would only catch a few in an hour, and sometimes they wouldn't show up at all that day.

But there were many days where the herring were nonstop, and on many of those days it would make me angry. There would often be pickup trucks with huge barrels in the back, with elaborate battery-power aeration systems.

Those people would be in the stream and have set up large rocks across part of the stream to create a smaller opening for their nets to easily catch hundreds of herring. This was illegal, but in those days I wasn't involved in fisheries management and didn't know the laws like I do now. I just knew that the greed I saw wasn't right.

Anyway, those days of catching a few river herring are now gone, and we may never see it again. That's sad.

### FISHING SHOW REPORT

I would be remiss if I didn't take the time here to **thank everyone** who took part in our New England Saltwater Fishing Show.

I know I'm often a pest when I have to keep asking for more volunteers, but thankfully there are so many RISAA members who will answer the call and step up to help. To ALL of you thanks.

And the show was a big success! While we don't have attendance counts yet, it looks like we were a little higher than 2016, which was a record-breaker. Those of you who were at the show on Saturday and Sunday probably noticed at times it so crowded that it was hard to walk along the aisles.

And the exhibitors were all happy, and in fact, approximately 50% of them have already signed up for the 2018 show!