

## NORTHEAST BOATERS (from page 26)

In addition, several businesses participated as sponsors, including Grady-White, US Harbors, and Marina Bay of Boston Harbor.

**U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse** commented on the survey, noting that "Recreational boating is an important part of Rhode Island's economy, as this survey shows. I congratulate the authors for gathering this new data, which will help guide future decisions on coastal economic development, environmental planning, and how to best protect our oceans and our boaters' safety."



**Sen. Whitehouse**



**Andy Lipsky**

SeaPlan's Director of Ocean Science and Policy **Andy Lipsky**, notes that "Knowing popular spots for boating helps society avoid and address possible conflicts when siting new development in the ocean, like offshore wind farms; and ensure that recreational boating is properly accounted for when thinking about ocean management decisions. Also, knowing where boaters like to go and how they are spending their money can guide investment in marinas and other boating infrastructure. Having a better understanding of this important industry can help ocean and coastal planners and industry alike."

**Nick Napoli**, project manager for the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC), said, "This survey is an important part of the initial phase of regional ocean planning in New England. We are working to understand how our communities rely on the ocean for boating as well as other activities such as fishing and shipping, and the importance of a healthy ocean to marine mammals, birds, fish, and other species. This survey provided key information about boating and also provided the opportunity to engage boaters in this initial regional ocean planning effort."

**Grant Westerson**, Connecticut Marine Trades Association President, believes the partnership led to good results. "Connecticut's Recreational Boating Industry was pleased to be a partner in the development of this survey. The best way to document boating activity and obtain reliable and useful data is to get it directly from the active boaters themselves, as they enjoy their favorite recreation. Marketing and sales information is available from manufacturers but the economic benefits and business generated from the actual use of boats can be very helpful to our industry in future business planning."

Several publications describing the survey and results are now available at [www.neboatersurvey.org](http://www.neboatersurvey.org). The boating data and interactive maps are also available through the Northeast Ocean Data Portal (<http://www.northeastoceandata.org>), where users can view the data, zoom to areas of interest, and add several ocean data layers to a map, indicating where physical or biological data overlap with recreational boating activities. A technical report that explains, in detail, the methodology used to conduct the survey and provides a variety of study results will be available in November.

## Free Fluke Seminar in Westerly

Mike Wade, owner of Watch Hill Outfitters, has announced that he will sponsor a FREE seminar on fluke fishing at his Westerly store.

The speakers will be **Capt. Tom Logan** of Fish On Charters and RISAA member **Cathy Muli** of Jackpot Digger Jigs.

Mike also expects to have a few company reps on hand to display new products.

The seminar will be held on Friday, May 16 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Space is limited, so you need to call for a reservation at 401-207-4952.

Watch Hill Outfitters is located at 157 Main St, Westerly, RI.



## PRESIDENT (from page 2)

Turns out, Ken Whiting is a professional wood carver. He showed me photos of his carvings of striped bass and much more. You can reach him at [ken.whiting@comcast.net](mailto:ken.whiting@comcast.net). The carving is hanging in my office, we it will hang on the RISAA booth at future fishing shows. Thanks Ken.

## FOCUS GROUP - BOAT RAMPS

The Board of Directors has decided to seek member input on many issues, present and future, that effect RISAA. Two "focus group" meetings were held last month and 45 members participated. The results and recommendations from the group meetings are in the process of being analyzed and prioritized. After Board review, the findings will be shared with all members in a future newsletter.

One item that came out of both groups, was a **concern for Rhode Island's boat ramps**, including repairs and upgrades to existing ramps and plans for future ramps. Parking was also an issue. I decided to get working on this issue right away, and as of this writing, I have a meeting schedule in May, arranged by DEM Associate Director **Larry Mouradjian**, with two DEM engineers and Federal Aid coordinator who work on ramp projects.

I'll report later on the results of the meeting.



**Capt. Mike Duclos**  
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