



Charter Trip Report



Nearly 100 RISAA members are awarded spots on fishing charter trips each year simply by winning random drawings at the monthly meetings. One member on each trip agrees to write a short story to share the experience with all members. *It should be noted that not every trip can be guaranteed to catch fish. The trip brings RISAA members together and provides an enjoyable day or night on the water. Catching fish is a bonus.

FIN REAPER CHARTERS • Capt. Bruce Weinstein

story by HERBERT BERG

At the July RISAA meeting, **Ed Mardo** from Lincoln, RI, **Wayne Talbot** from Scituate, RI, and I (**Herbert Berg**) from Shrewsbury, MA won a charter fishing trip on **Fin Reaper Charters**.

After bad weather forced a postponement of our original date, we rescheduled to August 10, and arrived at 5:00AM at the Matunuck Marina (formerly Lockwood Marina) in Snug Harbor and met **Captain Bruce Weinstein**.

Captain Bruce has been fishing the waters off Southern New England his entire life. His boat, *Fin Reaper*, is a 2006 26-ft Glacier Bay Canyon Runner catamaran with twin 150 HP Yamaha outboards and full electronics.

The marina was in heavy fog, so we ran slowly to the opening of the harbor with a few other early risers, and then sped off to the southwest corner of Block Island. Having radar on the boat to watch for other traffic, we could safely run at full speed even with limited visibility. Due to its large size and tri-hull design, the boat ran smoothly through the water, including through other boat wakes and waves. The Captain watched for signs of large fish on the fish finder, and stopped when the plentiful marks appeared.

The fog quickly burned off, and with the calm seas and light wind, the day became bright and sunny. It was a great day to be on the water!

Both Ed and Wayne were experienced in fishing for stripers, but I was a newbie. With a live eel and small sinker on each line, we each lowered our sliding rig (also known as a fish finder rig) from the spinning reel and waited for the stripers to hit. The plan was to free-spool the bait down fast to the bottom, reel up a few turns to keep the sinker from getting stuck on structure, then release the bail, but hold the line with a finger. If a bass hit, the

line would be pulled out without much resistance, then after a couple seconds the bail flipped and the fight would be on.

Well, we waited for the stripers to hit the eels, but they didn't. Captain Bruce said they might have found lots of food during the

night, so weren't hungry. Or they were "leader-shy", or the combination of the water conditions weren't right. We mentioned that maybe the fish finder was on "simulator mode," but the captain smiled no. I thought maybe they don't want eels, but the Captain said eels are like irresistible candy to stripers. Maybe it was the morning after Striper Halloween and they were tired of candy!

After the Captain determined that the fish weren't biting here, we moved to a new spot with lots of fish finder activity, but still no hits. Then

another spot, then another, to over 20 different spots thru the morning, but still no keeper stripers. (to page 37)



RISAA Members (l-r) Ed Mardo, Herbert Berg and Wayne Talbot



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