



RISAA
Events & Meetings

All events and meetings can be found online at www.risaa.org/calendar.html

Oct 4 • 600 PM ASMFC Public Hearing on Menhaden Draft Amendment 3
Corless Auditorium, URI Bay Campus, Narragansett

Oct 7 • 8:00 AM Kayak Committee fishing at Camp Cronin

Oct 10 • 6:00 PM Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Narrow River

Oct 12 • 7:30 AM Kayak Committee fishing at Ft. Wetherill, Jamestown

Oct 24 • 6:30 PM RISAA Board of Directors Meeting

Oct 27 • 6:00 PM Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Charlestown Breachway

Oct 30 RISAA Party Boat Tautog Fishing Trip (sold out)

Oct 30 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly Seminar

Nov 3 • 8:00 AM Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Narrow River

Nov 13 • 6:30 PM Fly Fishing Committee Annual Meeting, Gregg's, N.Kingstown

Nov 20 • 6:30 PM Kayak Committee Annual Meeting, Gregg's, N.Kingstown

Nov 21 • 6:30 PM RISAA Board of Directors Meeting

Nov 27 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly Seminar

Dec 18 • 7:00 PM RISAA Monthly Seminar and Annual Meeting

Jan 20 • RISAA 20th Anniversary Banquet

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Notes from the
President's Desk
Stephen Medetros



Fishing License Plates; Sakonnet Access

LICENSE PLATES

Many members have already asked to order the Saltwater Fishing license plate, but it's not possible yet. For one thing, we are still waiting for the Governor to sign the legislation. It has to first become law before the process can begin.

I'm told the initial process will first take approximately two months.

First I have to arrange a meeting with the special projects director at the RI Department of Corrections, where the license plates are made.

The next part of the project will be to meet and work with the company that actually creates the "films" for the plates (actual size, colors, etc.). It also means that our initial conception of the plate can change somewhat.

Once all of that is done, we will need to set up a separate bank account, credit card processing and web site for people to sign up for the plates.

That will continue until 900 plates are pre-sold, and then they will actually begin the process of making plates. No plates will be made until 900 are sold.

I've been asked if only passenger vehicles will have the plates or if commercial vehicles will too. As far as I know, the magic number is 900: 900 passenger plates, 900 commercial plates, etc.

A few years ago I had ordered Patriots plates for my cars when the sales first went online. It took almost a year before I actually received it.

So, patience will be the key.

I'll definitely announce to everyone when this is all set up.

SAKONNET RIVER BRIDGE ACCESS

Last month I was contacted by Buddy Croft, Executive Director of the R.I. Turnpike & Bridge Authority, regarding problems with fishermen at both ends of the Sakonnet River Bridge.

He told me that he has received multiple complaints from local council people and the Tiverton police chief after neighbors keep complaining about the people fishing in the area.

Not being familiar with the area, I took a ride there on a Sunday to familiarize myself with both the Tiverton and Portsmouth areas under the bridge.

I found the Tiverton side to be very clean, with several people (adults and children) fishing. There is a nice boat ramp. There was two small trash containers and I saw no trash on the ground. The people were all fishing for scup. Two fish was caught in the 10 minutes I was there, clearly undersized, but both were released. All cars were properly parked except one, and all of the boat trailers were properly parked in the designated lot across the street.

Croft told me he went there twice during the summer after he received complaints and saw several large groups of people fishing. Several cars were illegally parked out of the lines, against the building (RITBA and DEM only) and in the area marked for boat/trailer prep. He didn't say anything to the people though, only observed. He noted many cars with Massachusetts plates.

Croft said he was having to designate the parking areas.

I told him that I didn't see any DEM signs (fishing license requirement, etc.). Not being a fisherman himself, he didn't realize such signs existed and would contact DEM.

He would reach out to us in the spring to perhaps help him with the fishing area project.

Next, I went to the Portsmouth side of the bridge. This was a totally different story! There really is no actual fishing area under the bridge since it's all too shallow. I observed several cars parked there, but could see that everyone uses it to walk out to the old railroad trestle site to fish. This parking area was a dump.

Everywhere under the bridge was bottles, cans, bags, etc. If I was a neighbor I would also complain. Croft is not ready to give up on it though.

Buddy Croft is not a rec fisherman, but clearly wants to keep the fishing areas open under the bridge. We need more officials like him.