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**RHODE ISLAND**

# **SALTWATER ANGLERS**

Association



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## Representing Over 7,500 Recreational Anglers

### RI Delegates Unable to Influence Menhaden Board

*But they voted and supported Rhode Island's interest*

by  
**Capt. Richard Hittinger**



On November 13 & 14 a meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Menhaden Management Board was held in Maryland. This meeting brought together representatives from 16 states and 2 federal agencies to take final action on **Amendment 3** of the Menhaden Management Plan.

**Rich Hittinger** attended as a representative of the RISAA. We have been working on menhaden protection for many years and most recently has been a key partner with Save the Bay, Audubon Society, and others in a push to get the RI leadership on the ASMFC Menhaden Board to pass interim Ecological Reference Points (ERPs) for menhaden through passage of Option E under Reference Points.

The short story is that the Menhaden Board rejected interim ERPs and passed an increase of 8% in harvest to a total coastwide

harvest of 216,000 metric tons (MT) with a small amount of the total coastwide quota going to each state that requests quota (0.5% minimum).



Needless to say, this is a big disappointment, especially since we had full support of **Governor Raimondo, RIDEM Director Coit**, and the full RI delegation to the ASMFC (**Bob Ballou, David Borden, and Eric Reid**).

We knew when we started this effort in early 2017 that it would be a tough battle, but when over 150,000 public comments were made on this issue and they were nearly all in support of Option E for ERPs we thought there was a good chance of passing ERPs now. There are many things to say about the current menhaden management and the process that took place in Maryland, some of which I will explain. **(to page 6)**

#### 10 Year Old Junior Member **NATE PAKURIS**

with a 6 lb tautog that he caught last month while fishing with his grand "papa" John Sheriff.



**Recreational fishing is worth \$332 MILLION to the Rhode Island economy and over 3,000 jobs!**

Seasons Greetings  
Merry Christmas  
Happy Hanukkah  
Happy New Year!