



Secretary's Office

Travis Barao



Board selects award winners; Symposium plans

Board of Directors Meeting November 24, 2017

The Board held its regularly scheduled meeting in November. Here are some of the highlights of the meeting.

Photo Contest

The judging of the Bi-annual Photo Contest entries was held prior to the start of the meeting. Sixty-nine entries had been received. Winners will be announced at the 20th Annual Banquet on January 20. The names and photos of the winners and Honorable Mention photographs will be announced in the February newsletter.

Tautog Trip

Steve Medeiros gave the final report on the Tautog Fishing Trip we sponsored. It was held on October 28 aboard the Frances Fleet. 49 of 50 spots were sold (several members had cancelled near the end).

Board members discussed the trip noting that not a lot of keeper fish were caught, but agreed that the unusually extra-warm weather that we had during October kept water temperatures too high. It was agreed that if we do the trip again next year it will be made later in the season.

Annual Awards

The board spent much time on this topic, and after much discussion decided who would receive the annual *Member of the Year Award*.

They also selected non-member recipients of the annual *Marine Fisheries Award* and the *Marine Conservation Award*. An additional *Award of Appreciation* recipient was also selected.

The awards will be presented at the 20th Annual Banquet on January 20.

2018 Southern New England Recreational Fishing Symposium

Richard Hittinger and David Monti are heading up this event. Rich advised the Board that it will be held on January 23 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick.

The focus of the symposium will revolve around the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and how it can be modified to improve recreational fishing. Federal legislation is pending on this issue so timing of this symposium fits perfectly.

Rich and Dave are working on finalizing the speakers and panelists from both ends of the spectrum, including recreational and commercial fishermen, environment representatives and government officials.

Insurance

Last month a question arose when there was discussion of one of our committees possibly arranging a fishing trip to Florida. We currently have insurance that covers all RISAA events, including Take-A-Kid Fishing Day, the fishing show, meetings, etc., but this was something new. Steve reported, after checking with the insurance company, that an out of state fishing trip is not an ordinary function of our Association and therefore is not covered. The appropriate chairman will be notified.

Adopt-A-Ramp

The Board approved a request that we “adopt” the DEM boat ramp at Galilee, the most popular ramp in the state. Funding was also approved for a monofilament line collector which will be built by Pete O’Biso and both the line collector and an Adopt-A-Ramp sign will be installed at the site by DEM staff.

Annual Reports

Per RISAA rules, every committee chairman has to file a “2017 Annual Report/2018 Budget Request” which was submitted to the Board. These requests are important as the Board works to set a balanced budget for the following year.

Most of the Budget Requests were approved, although a couple of them were sent back to be adjusted.

Guest Rules

There was discussion regarding the monthly meeting “guest” rules. Although it has been in place for several years, the rule is revisited from time to time.

Nonmembers are charged a \$10 “donation” fee to attend a monthly seminar and members always attend free.

Members are allowed to bring a guest *at no charge* so that the visiting person can see what RISAA seminars are like and consider joining.

But a person can be a **guest only once**. After that, the person must either join or pay the \$10 fee to attend.

The rule was started because some members would bring the same guest multiple times, and some even every month. This is not fair to all other members who pay their dues.

So, when a guest checks in at the meeting, a board member will be present at the door and write the name of the guest (and sponsoring member) on a list which is always updated and kept at the sign-in table at meetings.

Important parts of the rule:

- No one can be a "guest" more than one time.
- This applies to non-member *spouses as well*.
- A member may bring more than one guest during the year, but it must be a *different person each time*.

After discussion, but board voted to reaffirm and continue the guest process.