

## Top Five Lures for False Albacore



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by Peter Jenkins, The Saltwater Edge

The common “party starters” for hardtail season is the small young-of-the-year baits

like bay anchovies, peanut bunker, and butterfish.

But this collection of micro baits can be hard to identify and even harder to find an effective lure to imitate it.

Anchovies and peanut bunker are tight schooling fish. You can see the “bait balls” on your fish finder.

In the case of bay anchovies, they can appear as dark brown/rusty patches in the water.

These baits are tough to imitate and create an annually perplexing situation without one solution. So we conducted an unscientific survey to determine the top five lures for false albacore.

Following are the results.



Typical bay anchovies from Newport.

### Point Jude Lures Po-Jee

The Po-Jee casts a mile, has a high-quality VMC Siwash hook and is rear weighted so it rides at an angle and stays in the water in front of the fish, even when you “burn it” with a high speed retrieve. Other lure designs can flip-flop along the surface and in/out of the water. The Po-Jee stays on the dinner plate.



### Hogy SI Epoxy Jigs (Ava Maria Jigs revisited)

The guys at Hogy Lures nailed the recreation of a proven, but a discontinued winner. This lure looks awesome in the water as it refracts light through the epoxy finish coat. The other small metals lack the quality VMC hardware of the SI Epoxy Jig. When you need to mix it up some of the “unnatural” colors

like Electric Chicken or Pink can be the ticket. Use the larger sizes later in the fall as the herring and bunker grow an inch a month in late summer. And the new “heavy” versions are great to get the distance you may want from the shore and for rough conditions when the albies can really chew. **(to page 15)**



## Rhode Island enjoys a cleaner Narragansett Bay

by JOHN TORGAN

Narragansett Bay and its rivers are cleaner than they’ve been in generations. This story made national news, thanks to the Environmental Protection Agency’s ill-considered decision to prohibit its scientists from presenting at a recent conference on the state of Narragansett Bay and its watershed.

Rhode Islanders should be proud of what we have accomplished together. This is a rare and wholly positive Rhode Island success story that can inspire other coastal cities and states.

Investments in wastewater treatment and capacity, which reduced nutrient pollution by more than 50 percent and captures sewer overflows, cleared the way for revitalization of the Providence and East Providence waterfronts. Fish, birds and shellfish are back and people are enjoying the water. For the first time in modern history, all major stakeholders agree on this progress, although all also agree there remains much more to do.

These infrastructure investments were based on science and backed by rigorous enforcement of the Clean Water Act and strong state environmental regulations. They were undertaken with a shared understanding that it is in the interest of all Rhode Islanders to protect our waters and the surrounding lands for the benefit of people and nature alike. Our economy, our heritage, and our identity are so closely linked to the coast, and any investment in the environment builds our economy.

Another key finding of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program’s recent report is that these improvements are now at risk from the manifestations of climate change: warming waters, coastal erosion, flooding and inundation, loss of marshes and wetlands, a changing assemblage and distribution of fish and marine species, higher tides, more precipitation, acidification and other changes that threaten our hard-won progress.

What should we do and what can anyone do about climate change and its impacts on Rhode Island? The report offers some direction on that, too. The Nature Conservancy and our partners are fighting climate change on two fronts: mitigation and resilience. The mitigation side includes everything to do with reducing emissions: support for regional agreements like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, partnership with neighboring states and energy producers, modernizing the electric grid, transitioning to renewable energy and weaning us off our dependence on fossil fuels.

Resilience includes everything we do to inoculate our coast and cities against threats from storms, sea level rise, and the other environmental and public health effects of warming. This includes nature-based coastal erosion control strategies like living shorelines and rebuilding our marshes with fine layers of sediment. **(to page 16)**

