

RISAA Artificial Reefs Committee

12-20-07 Minutes

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Rich Hittinger

In attendance were: Steve Medeiros, Bruce Getchel, Henry Cugno, Steve Travisamo, Rich Hittinger

Absent: John Stanford, Mike Warner, Jared Elwell.

David Swain and Steve Segerson's names will be removed from the committee since they will not likely be able to participate in committee activities.

Committee Elections

Rich was elected Chair of the committee, Bruce Vice Chair, and receiving no volunteers for secretary, Mike Warner was discussed. We agreed that if he would take it, he would be Secretary for the committee. Rich will contact him.

Old Business

We discussed the reefs that were recently constructed from the Jamestown Bridge demolition. Rich went to the Sheep's Point area with David Swain and David dove on the reef. He took several pictures showing fluke, sea bass, and scup around the concrete slabs, but also a large amount of rebar sticking out from the structure making it a dangerous dive and providing snags for fishermen. Rich passed the photos around. Rich also said that the location, just north and east of a large fish trap off Sheep Point makes getting there from the west (the Newport or Point Judith side) a hazard. Steve M. pointed out that you can go inside that net or across the middle. Steve has drawings showing how those nets are constructed and he will publish them in the Newsletter early this coming fishing season.

We discussed the RI Artificial Reef Plan that RIDEM needs to complete before any significant building of artificial reefs can occur. When asking how to get this plan produced more quickly, the Coastal Institute was mentioned as a possible coordinating and expediting group. Steve M. indicated that they are in charge of getting the various SAM Plans finalized and he thinks they may be able to get the RI Reef Plan done much more quickly than the Division of Fisheries. We decided that we will try to talk to Satchwill to see if he would be in favor of this and see if the Coastal Institute would consider it, if both react favorably, we would then discuss it with Director Sullivan. Rich will see if John Stanford might be able to discuss this with Satchwill, then Steve M. or Rich will mention it to Coastal Institute.

New Business

It was decided that we will produce another newsletter for the Tackle Show. Henry said he has the format and he will put the newsletter together if we send the content to him. We will use the photos from reef. Rich will write an article about the ARMPA (Artificial Reef Monitoring Plan Advisory Committee) of which he is a member. Henry will look into what other states are doing. Henry also mentioned that Roger Williams may be interested in writing an article about what they are doing with artificial reefs and even RIDEM may be interested in writing an article to update everyone. We also need to include the locations of the artificial reefs to make the newsletter more interesting to people at the show. We discussed the fact that Steve sent a letter of support from RISAA to CRMC for Jason Krumholz related to his proposal for funding for artificial reef restoration; possibly Mr. Krumholz would write an article. Bruce brought up the Russian sub that has sunk at the dock in Collier Park in Providence. That would be a great reef if we were able to get it to the right place. Steve T. said he would look for information about the group that owns the sub. We will then try to find out if this is something that people want to see removed from the area and if we can get some interest in finishing the RI Artificial Reef Plan to allow this to go to one of the approved sites. This may be another article, since it appears that Collier Park is closed because of the sunken sub and it has been a popular fishing spot in the past. We agreed that all drafts of articles will be circulated before the end of January to give us time to revise them, allow Henry to organize the newsletter and get it to the printer.

We continued the discussion of how to encourage completion of the Artificial Reef Plan. Steve M. asked if Rich could write a brief article for the February newsletter about the current status to point out that RISAA is interested and wants to see this move forward.

We did not see the need to schedule another meeting. We will try to handle all preparation for the Tackle Show through email.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55.