



RISAA Events & Meetings

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

Jan 9 • 5:00 PM RIDEM Pre-Hearing Workshop on Fluke, Tautog, Black Bass, etc, Coastal Institute, URI Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI

Jan 13 • 5:00 PM RIDEM Pre-Hearing Workshop on STRIPED BASS, Coastal Institute, URI Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI

Jan 25 • 22nd ANNUAL BANQUET Quonset 'O' Club, North Kingstown

Jan 27 • 7:00 PM Monthly Seminar

Jan 28-30 • New England Fisheries Mgmt Council, Portsmouth, NH

Feb 4-6 • ASMFC Winter Meeting

Feb 10 • 6:00 PM RIDEM PUBLIC HEARING on ALL RI rec regulations, all species. Corless Auditorium, URI Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI

Feb 18 • RISAA Board of Directors

Feb 24 • 7:00 PM Monthly Seminar

Mar 24 • RISAA Board of Directors

Mar 27-29 • 17th Annual New England Saltwater Fishing Show

Mar 30 • 7:00 PM Monthly Seminar

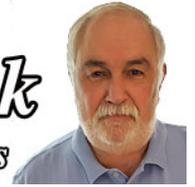
Apr 6 • 6:30 PM RISAA Kayak Committee Spring Meeting

Apr 13 • 6:30 PM RISAA Fly Fishing Committee Spring Meeting

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From the President's Desk Stephen Medeiros



Striped Bass, Fisheries Politics, You can have input

Back in August, when it was determined that the Atlantic striped bass stock was overfish and the current management amendment triggered a requirement for immediate action, the ASMFC put out a list of options to be considered in the proposed Addendum VI.

At its September meeting, the RISAA Board discussed the options and voted on the option that provided "1 fish at a 32-40 inch slot" which would provide a 21% reduction, the maximum percent of the options.

Note that at the time of this meeting, the Board did not know what anglers in other states might do. We only knew that we wanted to what was best for striped bass by selecting the maximum reduction.

We didn't want to put pressure on the smaller fish. Another major reason is that all of the other coastal states do not have the luxury of Block Island and Newport, areas with fantastic striped bass structure that regularly draws thousands of huge breeding striper every year.... and also hundreds of poachers who are after them.

As it turned out, many individual anglers in other states provided comments promoting 1 fish at 35", an 18% reduction.

And in the end, the ASMFC adopted the option with for 1 fish at 28-35 inch slot.

I think we could all live with that decision. All that's important is that every state follow the same rules. But in my opinion, they made a big mistake by voting to allow Conservation Equivalency. You can bet that states (New Jersey!) will use CE to finagle a way to get more fish.

Will we see different striper regulations between adjoining states?

A lot of the ASMFC Commissioners vote to serve their own state's special interests and not what's best for the fish.

I will say though that we are lucky in

Rhode Island because I believe our ASMFC representatives almost always do what's right. If you follow the ASMFC meetings and the motions that are made, the names of **Jason McNamee** and **David Borden**, two of the three RI commissioners, are always in the records as voting for the fish. And if the fish are plentiful, so will our fishing.

YOU CAN HELP DECIDE RULES

If you took the time to read the above, I assume you actually care about how our fisheries are managed, and how your future fishing experiences will be.

In 2020 we are facing a lot of challenges, not only from striped bass, but also for bluefish and fluke.

I know that, come spring, there will be a lot of recreational anglers complaining in the tackle shops, at the dock, and online. But rather than B**CH about it, you have the opportunity to be part of the process and express YOUR views!

ATTEND THE FISHERIES WORKSHOPS AND PUBLIC HEARING

On January 9, DEM will hold a public workshop on upcoming regulations for black sea bass, fluke, scup and tautog.

On January 13, DEM will conduct a second workshop dedicated solely to the striped bass issue.

If you attend these workshops, you will see a presentation from DEM staff on each species and proposed regulations. You will have the chance to answer questions and/or offer your own suggestions.

Then on February 10, there will be the actual Public Hearing, when YOU will get to voice your opinion on all of the regulations and options proposed. By this time there will be no questions or proposed changes - the workshops was time for that - but your vote will count and be on record. **(to page 4)**