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Representing Over 7,500 Recreational Anglers

Paving the way for better fishing data

RISAA a partner in future recreational angler reporting software

by
Capt. David Monti



The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association, in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and Harbor Lights Software, have been awarded a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant to develop an electronic monitoring pilot program for volunteer angler reporting.

The pilot project aims to create a volunteer recreational angler logbook for use on tablets and smart phones to collect recreational data on catch and effort from the angling public, and to promote the usage of the software among recreational anglers in Rhode Island.



This project specifically seeks to develop, test and pilot innovative solutions to address inadequate insight into the impact of recreational fishing on fisheries management in the state of Rhode Island.

“Better recreational fishing data is crucial to recreational fishing,” said RISAA President Steve Medeiros. “Electronic recording and monitoring is part of the solution and this grant will help prove that. We are excited to work with RI DEM and Harbor Lights Software on this important project. The hope is that better recreational fishing data to complement MRIP data will lead to healthier fish stocks so we have more fish in the water for all of us to catch, eat and/or release.” (to page 19)



Steve Medeiros

Tristan Kensavage

with a 7 lb. spring tautog that he caught last May in the Sakonnet River on an Asian crab.

Tristan is the son of member Ted Krensavage



Recreational fishing is worth \$412 MILLION to the Rhode Island economy and over 4,000 jobs!

Circle hooks must now be used when bait fishing for striped bass

Non-offset, in-line circle hooks will now be required when fishing for striped bass using natural baits. This new regulation took effect January 1, 2021 coastwide and there are no gear or mode type exemptions allowed.



Changes to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) implemented coastwide harvest reductions in 2020 as striped bass were

overfished and overfishing was occurring. Changes in the plan also required the mandatory use of circle hooks when fishing with bait to reduce release mortality in recreational striped bass fisheries. As per the FMP, states were required to implement circle hook requirements by January 1, 2021. (to page 34)