So following the lines here, the bluefish stock is in serious trouble so let’s have recreational fishermen take three and “us” for-hire fishermen take five, because we paid more for our licenses and take people fishing who aren’t required to get a license, which is what fuels the outreach, access point rebuilding and data gathering, which is then used to protect “those” fish.

That’s a ragged line.

Money is the hook. Clearly we all want more fish and more money but as the American Saltwater Guides Association keeps advocating, abundance is what builds those businesses and you don’t build abundance by supporting plans to take as many or as small a fish as you can.

Peter Jenkins, owner of The Saltwater Edge, called for coastal equivalency, so that all states are held accountable if they fail to meet reductions. When a for-hire boat captain reminds the room that he has a fuel bill and insurance and a mate to keep busy for a season, he or she ignores that bait and tackle shops also have oil bills, insurance and full time, year round employees, so as Mr. Zambrotta commented, the highs and lows should be shared equally. It should be the same for states as well.

If the motivation is to continue in business, why didn’t anyone break into a sweat with an argument that we’re in a perfect place to affect change right now, rebuild and celebrate abundance for decades or at least, at minimum, some level of equivalency?

It’s disappointing to be going down this road again, especially for bass.

It’s disappointing for sure because that elephant Captain McMurray mentioned might just land on all of us when we’re sitting at the dock talking about how many fish there used to be.

RISAA member Todd Corayer is a lifelong fisherman who lives not far from the Saugatucket River with his wife, who supports his fishing mainly to get him out of the house and a young son who regularly catches more fish than him.