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Representing Over 7,500 Recreational Anglers

Major issues are before us that will effect recreational fishing for years to come

by Capt. Richard Hittinger



There are two major efforts underway at the coastwide Commission and Regional Council levels that will affect how we all fish for years to come.

They are the **Atlantic Striped Bass Amendment 7** through the Atlantic States Marine



Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment** produced jointly by the ASMFC and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC).
(see full story on page 3)

Member Jay Ferschke displays a triggerfish that he caught on a green crab during the RISAA Tautog Trip this past October 24 aboard the Seven B's



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

Last minute news...

Bluefish Allocation & Rebuilding Amendment

Announced as this issue was going to press, that the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission are seeking public comment on management options under consideration in the Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment. The alternatives are:



- Revise the fishery management plan (FMP) goals & objectives
 - Modify the bluefish allocations between commercial & recreational sectors
 - Modify the commercial allocations to the states
 - Initiate a rebuilding plan
 - Revise the quota transfer process
 - Revise how the FMP accounts for management uncertainty
 - Revise the *de minimis* provisions in the FMP
 - Public hearings for comments have been scheduled
- Virtual public hearings are being scheduled between March 24 and April 8.

(continued at page 5)