



Secretary's Office

Susan Lema



The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) Board of Directors meets monthly. In order to keep all members apprised of Board business I will report here when appropriate. It is important to note that not all business will be reported here since there are often issues dealing with individual members and privacy will always be protected. Also, some Board business that doesn't result in any action won't be printed.

RISAA Board of Directors February 16, 2021 Meeting Summary

FINANCIAL REPORTS

• **Treasurer's Reports**

Treasurer **Peter O'Biso**, presented reports for both the RI Saltwater Anglers Association and RI Saltwater Anglers Foundation.

COMMUNICATIONS

• The Board approved again advertising in the 2021 Rhode Island Saltwater Recreational Fishing Guide on the back cover.

OLD BUSINESS

• **Recreational Angler Electronic Reporting Project**

Dave Monti updated the Board on the progress of the Electronic Angler Report app project, noting that two focus groups were conducted which went well.

The data obtained from the Focus Groups results were shared with the app partners (RIDEM & Lighthouse Software), and they will use this data during the app design process.

The next job will be a survey open to all members on types of fishing which is currently being designed.

NEW BUSINESS

• **Seminars recordings in the future**

Steve Medeiros told the Board that he has received many emails and calls from members wanting to say how much they appreciate the online (Zoom) seminars and asked if this can continue once in-person meetings take place in the future.

There was discussion about the problems associated with recording the seminars, such hiring a videographer to film the seminar, added costs, inability to broadcast live, or record and make available to members to view the next day.

After these discussions it was agreed that, with current COVID restrictions, in-person meetings will not happen for many months and this will be addressed at that time.

• **Fishing Survey**

Rich Hittinger advised the Board that he has been in discussion with Steve Medeiros about conducting an online survey to find out where anglers fish, how often, etc. This would provide valuable information to let the Board know what kind of fishing RISAA members do, and this information would also be shared with to our Education Committee to help them provide seminars on the topics our members would appreciate. It might also help us to begin to build statistics that might also be valuable to fisheries managers and help in proving the value of recreational fishing in Rhode Island.

• **Draft EIS on South Fork Wind Farm**

The Board tackled the issue of the Draft Environment Impact Statement (DEIS) being conducted by BOEM regarding the South Fork Wind Farm, especially since it will involve Cox Ledge, a location very valuable to recreational anglers.

Richard Hittinger had composed a letter, proposing to send to BOEM, noting a lack of consideration for recreational fishing. He said that the DEIS doesn't even mention recreational fishing yet has a whole section devoted to commercial fishing.

He also noted possible harm done when the wind turbine bases are being pile-driven into the ground and other issues.

David Monti also agreed on the importance of the area, and also wanted area protections, but for different reasons.

There was much discussion on a number of these issues and continued for a long time.

Finally, since the meeting had gone an hour beyond the usual adjournment time, it was decided that this issue would continue outside of the formal meeting, specifically that Rich and Dave would meet to come to a mutually-agreed "RISAA position" that would be brought back to the Board to either accept or adopt.

BLUEFISH ALLOCATION PROPOSALS (from page 1)

Tuesday, March 30. 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Joint Virtual hearing for Connecticut and New York

Thursday, April 1. 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Joint Virtual hearing for Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

RISAA will send more information, documents and links via email to all members.

For anyone not on RISAA email list, you can still register to attend a hearing, but typing in the information below.

To register to attend the hearing, go to

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://tendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/1167425575591673359__!!KKphUJtCzQ!eu860R31RN2jVO2GbQqMG6dUfTQ5dSIFn5Ct_PbP9Puds5nnrsTpc95X9R2Jha-r-WxqhAs\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://tendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/1167425575591673359__!!KKphUJtCzQ!eu860R31RN2jVO2GbQqMG6dUfTQ5dSIFn5Ct_PbP9Puds5nnrsTpc95X9R2Jha-r-WxqhAs$)