



Tournaments Committee

John Volpe, Chairman



Tournaments are open to ALL members!

Never participated before?

Read below to answer all your questions!

RISAA's official statement of "Purpose" says:

*"The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association is a non-profit organization, crated to provide a forum for recreational saltwater anglers; to provide education to members concerning fishing techniques, improved catches, and **overall enjoyment of fishing; to foster sportsmanship;** to support marine conservation and sound management of fisheries resources; and provide a unified voice to preserve and protect the rights, traditions and the future of recreational fishing in Rhode Island."*

The overall enjoyment of fishing and to foster sportsmanship is accomplished in many ways by several RISAA committees: Fly Fishing, Kayaks, Surfcasters, and Tournaments.

The Tournaments Committee works to accomplish the joy of fishing and good sportsmanship by offering and managing several tournaments via our Yearlong and Special Tournament programs.

RISAA TOURNAMENTS EXPLAINED

Each tournament has separate competition sections for Adults and Juniors (17 and under) and most of the tournaments have separate BOAT and SHORE Divisions, giving each angler an opportunity to be involved, no matter which form of fishing they enjoy.

Yearlong Tournament

The Yearlong Tournament runs from January 1 to December 15 annually. It consists of 12 species of fish which are common in and around New England costal waters.

You can see the Yearlong Tournament species on the following pages of this issue.

Special Tournaments

The Special Tournaments run for a limited period of time and includes on "team tournament" and several individual tournaments. State recreational regulations and catch limits are taken into consideration when planning the fish species and number of Special Tournaments scheduled for the year.

Team Fluke

One very popular Special Tournament is the annual "Team Fluke Challenge" where two RISAA members team up. The top winning teams are based on the total weight of the top four fish caught. The "Top Ten" teams receive a prize and an extra

prize is awarded to the team with the largest fluke.

In the past this has always been a two-day weekend tournament, but because bad weather can keep anglers at the dock, the Tournaments Committee has decided to extend it. This year's Team Fluke Challenge is scheduled for July 2-11...ten days with a holiday weekend.

TOURNAMENT RULES

The tournaments rules are fairly simple and straight forward

The Basics

- Only RISAA members *in good standing (dues up to date)* may enter tournaments
- There are no fees to participate in RISAA tournaments
- There are two **CATEGORIES: Adult and Junior**
- There are two **DIVISIONS: Boat and Shore**
- Junior members may enter fish in Junior category only
- A member may submit as many entries in all tournaments as they want.
- No person shall hold more than one place, per species, in each division (boat or shore).
- Shore anglers must have both feet on "terra firma" (docks/piers acceptable)

The Entry Form

- All data on the form must be completed for a valid entry. If not, the entry may be voided.
- All fish entered must meet Rhode Island recreational minimum legal size limits and seasons, if any exists.
- All slips must be signed by the person weighing the entry, as well as the RISAA member entering the fish
- Only one fish per slip. Use a different slip for each fish to be entered. (all weigh-in stations have RISAA slips)
- The original Entry Form for all tournaments must be submitted within seven (7) days of the date weighed, to the RISAA office by either:

***Hand-delivered** at monthly seminars within seven days

***Mail** to: RISAA, P.O. Box 1465, Coventry, RI 02816

- **Members are reminded to take the completed entry form from the weigh-in station. It is the member's responsibility to send in the slip, NOT the weigh-in station.**

The Weigh-In

- All entries must be weighed on a RISAA-Certified Scale
- The scale must be digital and give weights in pounds, tenths and hundreds of pounds, i.e. 9.52 lbs (**to page 19**)