

NEW ENGLAND FISHING (from page 11)

Often only 6 inches of depth variation between the flat and the trough can be enough to attract fish. Scouting a flat at dead-low tide is a great way to find these troughs, guzzles and edges.

Always note the direction of the current when fishing a flat. Moving water makes for better fishing, no matter where you fish, and the flats are no exception. Stripers and blues almost always swim into the current, so choose your stake-out spot or plan your drift accordingly.

If you decide to anchor, do so far enough upwind to put yourself in the best casting position given the wind direction and your range. As you wait, scan the flat and the channel edges for the shadows of fish.

Keep in mind that stripers and even bluefish become lighter over sandy bottom and darker over mud bottom, making them harder to see than many people suppose. A pair of polarizing sunglasses will greatly assist in your ability to spot fish.

If you find a place the fish are using like a highway to and from the flats, or through the flats, make note of it on your GPS or plotter, as you can bet it will attract fish at the same tidal stage each day—as long as enough bait is present.

Tide can be play a role, as well. As in bonefishing, I've found that a rising tide generally produces the best fishing, as the fish are moving onto the flat to feed. In other words, they are more inclined to eat your fly or lure than when they are vacating the flat and retreating to deeper water.

One last note when fishing a beach flat: If you notice seals or an abundance of other anglers, go elsewhere. Otherwise, you'll likely be wasting your time.

About the author....

Tom Richardson, a RISAA member and Massachusetts native, is passionate for the outdoors, including camping, hiking, boating and fishing. An award-winning writer, he was editor for *Salt Water Sportsman* for 15 years prior to becoming editor of the regional boating magazine *Offshore* in 2004. In 2009, he started the boating-lifestyle *BoatingLocal.com*. Three years later, *BoatingLocal* became **New England Boating**, a multimedia brand comprising the website, a glossy magazine, and a TV show, all edited and co-hosted by Richardson. In 2016, he launched **New England Fishing magazine**, website and TV show, which he also wrote and hosted.



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P.O. Box 763
Londonderry, NH 03053
Tel: 603-434-4689
Fax: 603-432-3902
E-mail:
seawolfe2000@hotmail.com

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WITEK: Amendment 7 (from page 9)

Today, when I look at the PID that was approved yesterday, it feels like we're back where we were two decades ago, making the same arguments, for the same reasons, that we did back then. Although then we were dealing with a healthy and, we thought, fully restored stock, while today we're dealing with a stock that is overfished and in need of recovery.

It's a stock that needs a real win even more than we do.

So now, with the PID approved and being released to the public soon, it's time to forget about the times that the Management Board didn't listen to public comments, and shake off the disappointments of past defeats that might make us want to throw up our hands in frustration.

For make no mistake—if you're anywhere close to might age, this is the big fight that could decide how striped bass are managed for the rest of your lifetime.

I'm gearing up for the fight, and you should be getting ready, too. You can't afford to sit on the sidelines.

Having said that, I do think that yesterday's meeting should have been rescheduled for February 2nd, instead of the 3rd.

Because after being part of the fight over Amendment 6, which was bitter and lasted three years. when I heard the Management Board push through the flawed PID, containing all the same issues we debated back then, it sure as Hell felt just like Groundhog Day.

About the author...

Charles Witek, from Greenwich CT, has spent over 50 years on the water, and is a well-known author and blogger. Witek said, "I have realized that without strong fisheries laws and effective conservation measures, the future of salt water fishing, and America's living marine resources, is dim."

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