



# RISAA Events & Meetings

All events and meetings can be found online at [www.risaa.org/calendar.html](http://www.risaa.org/calendar.html)

Aug 3 • 6:30 AM -Kayak Committee fishing URI Bay Campus, Narragansett.

Aug 5 • 6:00 AM -Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Quonnie

Aug 6-8 • ASMFC Spring Meeting, Arlington, VA

Aug 10 • RISAA Adult/Jr Party Boat Fishing Trip (sold out)

Aug 20 • 6:30 PM -Board of Directors

Aug 26 • 7:00 PM -RISAA Seminar

Aug 31 • 6:00 PM -Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Quonnie

Sep 4 • 4:00 PM - Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Bristol Narrows

Sep 7 • 6:30 AM -Kayak Committee fishing at Spring Neck Beach, NK

Sep 14 • Sunrise -Surfcasters Committee fishing Newton Ave, Narragansett

Sep 17 • 6:20 PM -RISAA Legislative Committee meeting

Sep 17 • 5:00 PM -Fly Fishing Committee fishing Weekapaug Breachway

Sep 21 • 7:30 AM -Kayak Committee fishing off Third Beach, Newport

Sep 28 • 9:00 AM -Fly Fishing Committee fishing at Narrow River

Sep 30 • 7:00 PM -RISAA Monthly Seminar & Quarterly Meeting

Oct 28 • 7:00 PM Monthly Seminar

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Notes from the

# President's Desk

Stephen Medeiros



## Confusing Cod; Striped Bass

In mid-July I received an email from one of our members asking what the correct cod regulations were. It turned out that we had 22" in our newsletter and web site, but DEM's web site had 21".

We started the season at 22" when regulations were set to match DEM.

Then NOAA lowered it to 21" in federal waters last month.

So I called John Lake at DEM's Marine Fisheries and he told me that yes, it was confusing to have different state and federal regulations.

So, DEM changed the state regulations law which from now on will match the federal waters regulations which reads for recreational (3.20.1) , "The minimum size in state waters is equal to the minimum size in federal waters (outside Gulf of Maine), and "The possession limit in state waters is equal to the possession limit in federal waters for Georges Bank cod."

Since most of the cod is caught over 3 miles from shore in federal waters, it means that prior to this change, an angler returning home to RI waters with a 21" cod (legal in federal waters) but was over the 22" state regulation, would be in violation. Now they match.

### ASMFC ON STRIPED BASS DO THE RIGHT THING!

By the time you read this, the ASMFC will be conducting its Summer Meeting, August 6-8. There are many items on the agenda, but those of particular concern to recreational fishing are:

- **Atlantic Menhaden:** update on the Single-Species and Ecological Reference Point Benchmark Stock Assessments.

- **Black Sea Bass:** review of commercial allocation and an update on the Recreational Management Reform Working Group.

- **Summer Flounder:** update by RI's Jason McNamee on the Summer

Flounder Management Strategy Evaluation - A Recreational Fishing Project

- **Tautog:** review guidelines for the commercial tagging program, and consider approval of 2019 Fishery Management Plan Review.

- **Atlantic Striped Bass:** This is the most important topic being dealt with! It has been determined that the striped bass stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring. The mandatory trigger has been reached and now ASMFC must do something about it.

And since there are always politics and greedy people involved, there are those who are fighting this move.

I hope our Rhode Island commissioners will stand up and vote FOR the needed changes to restore this fish.

- Consider a Draft Addendum VI for public comment... YES!

- And they are supposed to consider two postponed motions from their Spring meeting:

- An Amendment to the management plan to "address the needed consideration for change on the issues of fishery goals and objectives, empirical/biological/spacial reference points, management triggers, rebuilding biomass, and area-specific management."

This is dangerous. There was talk by some of changing the reference points which would change the need for immediate drastic measure.

It's the same as if you can't get the basketball into the net, just lower the net.

The ASMFC has boasted for years that the restoration of striped bass after the 70's stock collapsed was their greatest achievement. Well guess what? They FAILED when they saw this coming several years ago. Don't let the past happen again.