



Charter Trip Report



Nearly 100 RISAA members are awarded spots on fishing charter trips each year simply by winning random drawings at the monthly meetings. One member on each trip agrees to write a short story to share the experience with all members. *It should be noted that not every trip can be guaranteed to catch fish. The trip brings RISAA members together and provides an enjoyable day or night on the water. Catching fish is a bonus.

STUFF IT SPORTFISHING • Capt. Joe Pagano

report by JOHN LEWIS

Members **Normand Morrissette**, **Charles O'Malley** and I (**John Lewis**) met at Pawtuxet Cove Marina in Warwick at 6:00 PM on the evening of June 19. We were the lucky winners of a charter fishing trip with **Capt. Joe Pagano**. Striped bass was our target for the evening.

When we arrived at the boat it was raining with heavy fog.

Captain Pagano welcomed us aboard *Stuff It*, his 32-foot Seacraft Master Angler center console powered with twin Evinrude outboards. The boat also has top notch electronics, which was good because a fine mist and heavy fog continued all night and he used the radar to move us around upper Narragansett Bay.



John with nighttime striper

Norm caught three more stripers. He tagged two and released the other.

All fish were caught after dark.

We were in the upper bay all night, but it was hard to tell our location due to the mist and fog.

The fishing slowed at 10:00 PM

and we called it a night. Using this radar, Captain Joe took us back to the dock.

All fish were released after being measured and DNA samples taken. Two fish were kept and filleted by Captain Joe for us.

The trip was a great experience. The captain was excellent to spend time with and learn from, and the boat was great for casting with lots of room.

We would definitely recommend Captain Joe Pagano to any member wanting to try nighttime striper fishing.



Setting the net

The trip began with the captain looking for menhaden that we would use for bait, but there wasn't a lot of it on this day. Captain Joe snagged two. Then he set out a gill net and tried again to get bait, but only brought in one more. So with those

three pogies we anchored up and started to fish on rock piles where he had previous success.

Those three pogies were divided into four pieces which lasted all night.

Norm was first to hook up with a 34-inch bass which he tagged and released. Captain Joe took a DNA sample and recorded the length which he was sending to the University of New Hampshire.



Norm was first to hook up

While I was taking a photo of Norm's fish, I hooked up with my own 34-inch fish.

Charlie hooked up and had another nice fish.



Charlie with a nice June striper

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