



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.

ON THE ROCKS CHARTERS • Capt. Rene Letourneau

report by NATE ANDREWS

On Friday June 7 at 5:00 AM sharp, members **Ken Cooper** and **Nate Andrews** stepped aboard **Captain Rene Letourneau's** 21' Mako center console, equipped with a 150 Mercury Optimax outboard and hummingbird GPS/Sonar System. With a firm handshake and an eagerness to get out on the water, Capt. Rene was confident that we were in for a great trip. The weather was beautiful, 60 degrees and sunny, with an outgoing tide. Capt. Rene trailers his boat and custom tailors his launch location to put his customers on the fish wherever in Narragansett Bay that may be.

On this particular day, we launched out of Greenwich Bay, Goddard Park boat ramp. Ken came equipped with his own fly rods and an eight weight, and Nate used some light-tackle Crafty One Custom Rods provided by the Captain.

Nate and Ken threw a variety of top-water plugs and jig heads, good ol' Cocahoe minnows, and hand-tied flies (direct from the captain's own tackle box). Capt. Rene specializes in light tackle and fly tactics with skinny water fishing and puts his customers "on-the-rocks," as his name-sake dictates. Ken would like to mention, if you bring your fly rod



Nate with topwater schoolie striper

aboard, be prepared to use it... Capt. Rene will put you to work!

After a quick steam from the boat ramp, we came to our first site, Warwick Light. After just a couple casts, Nate had fish blasting the top-water plugs out of the water. These were big fish waters. Meanwhile, Capt. Rene reset the boat as we watched huge boulders pass between

our drift. Capt. Rene knows these waters – and knows how to fish them.

Then, on his first cast after the adjustment Ken hooked-up! Ken skillfully retrieved his fish, a schoolie, approximately 22 inches in length. Captain Rene assisted with an in water release, and away she swam.

Ken picked up another fish, before Nate dropped another good one on a soft-plastic lure. Captain Rene was not only quick to correct Nate (a fairly inexperienced striped bass angler) on his hook set, but also passed along invaluable casting and top-water fishing techniques. A few casts later and Nate hooked up with his first striped bass of the day, a 20 inch schoolie!

We then made a short move to our second site of the day, Prudence/Patience gut and rocky shoreline. More shallow water bass fishing continued. Ken grabbed a scup's attention with the fly.

After consuming a banana, to everyone's astonishment, Ken grabbed the catch of the day, a 21 inch tautog off of a shallow bolder near Patience Island. Soon after, Nate caught his first striped bass on a plug – it was another 20 inch schoolie. (to page 37)



Ken with tautog caught on fly



Capt. Rene Blanchette with 27" schoolie striper

Fly Fishing • Light Tackle

On The Rocks Charters

Capt. Rene Letourneau

www.ontherockscharters.com

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