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ON THE ROCKS (from page 33)

We made another move, but were cut short - the engine seized from a blown piston and we were out of commission!

SeaTow had us back to the docks in no time and Captain Rene guaranteed us another trip when he was back in action.

A man of his word, that's exactly what we did. Not a day later, Rene had a new Mercury 150 HP Four Stroke and was back to conducting charter trips.

Fast-forward to Friday, June 28 at 5:00 AM. Nate and Ken reconvened at Goddard boat ramp for round two. The weather was 77 and sunny to start the morning with temperatures working their way up to the mid 80's. We had a water temp of 68 to 71 degrees - phenomenal weather conditions with a strong outgoing tide. Captain Rene was anxious as ever.

We had similar results to our last stop at Warwick Light. Plugs were blasted out of the water! Ken stealthily picked up 3 striped bass on the fly, one of which was of decent size, the first and biggest fish of the day at 27 inches! Nate toyed with a big bass for a while, but she lost interest after a few good strikes, never actually taking the plug.

For the remainder of the trip, Captain Rene zoomed all over Narragansett Bay in search of striped bass. Nate picked up a snapper blue and Ken masterfully caught the smallest black sea bass I have ever seen and yet another schoolie to end the day. Just a few fish, but not from lack of effort! We were back to our cars by 10:30 AM.

In conclusion, Ken and Nate had a great fishing trip (over the course of two days). Ken was certainly high-hook and had the biggest fish. Nate honed his casting and top-water skills, catching his first bass on a plug! Capt. Rene gained two more happy customers, and a new Mercury.

Oh, and if you book a trip with Capt. Rene, know that you are going to be in for a good time. He is a knowledgeable professional-fisherman (by every definition of the term), has a true passion for fishing for stripers, and a love for Narragansett Bay... just take Ken and Nate's word for it, and don't insult the Captain's fly-tying-skills, or else!

WITEK: MANAGEMENT (from page 35)

In such a fishery, managing for yield, instead of abundance, is absolutely the wrong way to go, both in the context of maintaining a "quality" recreational fishery and in the context of maximizing economic gain from the fishery.

NMFS data makes it clear that angling effort, and so economic benefits, are driven by striped bass abundance, with directed trips dropping from 19.3 million in 2014, to 18.5 million in 2015, 17.4 million in 2016, 16.8 million in 2017 and 15.5 million in 2018, as striped bass abundance declined. There is no reason to believe that the number of trips targeting striped bass, and thus the economic value of the recreational striped bass fishery, will not continue to decline if the striped bass population is not rebuilt.

Thus, whether a Management Board member is more concerned with the long-term health of the striped bass stock or the short-term economic benefits to business, conserving striped bass and rebuilding the stock are clearly the right way to go.

And managing for landings, rather than for abundance, is a fool's errand, for it accomplishes neither goal.

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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