



# Secretary's Office

Susan Lema



The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association (RISAA) Board of Directors meets monthly. In order to keep all members apprised of Board business I will report here when appropriate. It is important to note that not all business will be reported here since there are often issues dealing with individual members and privacy will always be protected. Also, some Board business that doesn't result in any action won't be printed.

## RISAA Board of Directors • August 24, 2020 Meeting Summary

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

- **Treasurer's Report** given by Peter O'Biso

### MEMBERSHIP

- The Board was informed that a RISAA member was involved in a recent RIDEM arrest for fisheries violations, went to court and was fined. The formal process was begun to revoke that person's membership.

### COMMUNICATIONS

- The Board approved \$100 to renew RISAA membership in the **American Littoral Society** and also approved \$500 to replenish our supply of tagging kits for RISAA members.

### OLD BUSINESS

- **Saltwater Fishing Production**

The board approved a new special project to create a special video, entitled *Introduction to Saltwater Fishing in RI*, which will consist of a 45-minute video, with professional videographer, utilizing multiple speakers and locations. It will cover a variety of topics containing all of the BASIC information a new angler would need to know. This would include such things as basic tackle, knots, baits, local fish identification, shore locations, regulations, and much more. RIDEM would be invited to participate.

Once completed, the video will be permanently posted on the RISAA web site, Facebook and other locations.

The board approved \$3,000 for this project via the RISAA Foundation.

A special subcommittee was formed with **Richard Hittinger** as lead, assisted by **David Michel, Steve Medeiros, Dave Monti, Peter O'Biso** and **Dawn Wood**.

- **Virtual Meetings.**

The Board discussed recording the monthly online seminars so that members who are unable to attend at the actual date and time, might view the seminar at another time. There was much discussion and some problems would occur. The following was resolved.

The Board stresses that monthly seminars are an important benefit to RISAA membership, and wishes to provide that to as many members as possible.

Starting with the August 25 seminar, and for as long as the program is successful, a recording would be made each month.

The seminar speaker must agree to be recorded and to share the video with members not present during live meeting.

After the successful recording is confirmed and reviewed,

an email would be sent to all members with a special link to view the video online at the Zoom site.

Zoom will record the name/email of every member who views the video online.

The video files are very large, and a monthly video seminar uses the total file space allotted to our RISAA account. Therefore, the file would remain online for only a few days and then would be deleted since all Board meetings are recorded as well as RISAA committees that chose to use the RISAA zoom.

### NEW BUSINESS

- **Insurance.**

The Board discussed annual RISAA insurance which is renews at the start of September. There are many aspects beyond the basic coverage which includes special riders for the Saltwater Fishing Show, Take-A-Kid Fishing Day, Youth Fishing Camp and more. Some changes were made by the insurance company. Board approved \$7,000 for our 2020-2021 coverage.

- **Aquaculture Applications.**

For many years, every application for an aquaculture lease in RI is sent to RISAA for review to make sure that it will not effect a traditional recreational fishing location. 95% of them do not. **Roger Tellier**, the recreational representative on the Shellfish Advisory Panel, has a meeting coming up in which one of the applications DOES effect rec fishing and he will voice RISAA concerns.

### GOOD OF THE ORDER

The Board discussed the fact that Quarterly Meetings of RISAA membership are required by our By-Laws, but we missed March and June due to COVID and no virtual capability at that time. These quarterly meetings are always held immediately following the night's seminar in March, June, September and December.

This would not be possible since the seminar (webinar) only allows for the moderator and 5 panelists to speak and be viewed, meaning none of the members in attendance would be able to participate in a meeting that followed.

Zoom webinars and run differently from Zoom meetings. In the meeting format every member in attendance would be able to speak and have their photos displayed.

The Board resolved that on those quarterly meeting nights, we will send two links to all members: one for the actual seminar/webinar, and then a second for the Quarterly Meeting which will immediately follow the end of the seminar.