

Remembering Steve Medeiros

The outpouring of support for Steve Medeiros, his wife Lynn, his family and RISAA during this difficult time has been outstanding. Many members and fishing community leaders in Rhode Island and the nation had some kind words to share on blogs, social media and when asked for comments.

The below comments echo the words of thousands when they heard the news of Steve's passing.

“Right after RISAA began 23 years ago, Tom Mead wrote about us in his Providence Journal column because he liked our ideas: family-oriented, youth activities, education, community participation and conservation. After Tom's column appeared membership applications arrived in numbers. Some of the 15 charter members, concerned about management of the club, wanted to restrict membership to 100 dedicated fishermen. Steve had spearheaded the club's formation and drafting of the charter, and I remember him saying “why don't we let it grow and see what happens.” With Steve's dedication, leadership, and guidance RISAA grew into a nationally recognized and respected organization. Thanks to Steve there will be a healthy fishery for future generations to enjoy.” **Don Smith, founding RISAA board member and RI fishing icon.**

“Steve was amazing. Always there by email or phone, even when things got a little dicey on SNESA he kept his cool and kept us going. Last March I'd sent in a picture of me with a decent tautog, and he put it in the newsletter with the “Fish tremble at the sound of his name!” heading. He mailed me a copy of the newsletter and in a follow up email said ‘You look like a very happy guy!’ That was Steve.” **Walter Galloway, RISAA, RI Rivers Council, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program Steering Committee.**



Catching bluefish on the troll provides TAK Fishing participants with the excitement and adventure of fishing in one three hour outing.

“Steve was a great man. I am happy that I spent many years with Steve and proud to have called him my friend. Steve was soft spoken and never for the public limelight, but he had the power to bring people together for a common cause. Steve saw a need for an organization that would represent recreational anglers so he started RISAA! Steve grew this organization from a small group of founders in 1998 to a regional powerhouse representing the interests of recreational anglers in all aspects of education, access, preservation, and regulation. He built the biggest and best fishing show on the East coast. Goodbye my friend. Rest knowing that you made a true, positive and lasting contribution to our community.” **Richard Hittinger, acting RISAA Executive Director and President.**



20th Anniversary appreciation award presented by to Steve at Annual Banquet.

“Steve had a lasting impact on Rhode Island's fisheries and fishing community. His dedication and vision brought the state's recreational fishing community together through the Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association. Through his involvement in fisheries policy, habitat restoration and fishing access, he helped create quality fishing opportunities for current and future generations. His positive impact on the sport will truly be missed.” **Mike Leonard, Vice President of Government Affairs, American Sportfishing Association.**

“I am heartbroken. I've known and worked closely with Steve since 1998, when he founded RISAA. Such a great guy. He was a tireless advocate for recreational fishing interests in RI. He nurtured RISAA into the premier organization it has become. His approach was always the same – straightforward, well informed, kind, and respectful. That made him super effective and widely admired. A great leader and good friend. I'll miss him terribly.” **Robert Ballou, Assistant to the Director RI DEM and Chair of the RI Marine Fisheries Council.**

“Once in a while a person comes along who transcends the mission of an organization or a company, and becomes the embodiment of it. This was Steve Medeiros, a man who created an organization out of his love for