

Rhode Island Fishing



FREE



www.RIFishing.com

Welcome to the Rhode Island Party & Charter Boat Association

The R.I. Party and Charter Boat Association is chartered under the laws and requirements of the State of Rhode Island. It was chartered in 1962 by a group of charter boat fishermen who are still members of the Association today. Its prime purpose is to promote the vast sportfishing and bottom fishing potential in R.I.. It is a well known fact that there is no other area on this coast that offers such an abundance and variety of fish as do these waters.

We also felt that it was necessary when visiting sportsmen, vacationers and clubs wanted to honor us with their patronage, a list of highly qualified Captains and boats should be available for their consideration.

We are bonded together in a spirit of cooperation to exchange ideas and information in a manner that will benefit our members and result in your

having a great day on the water while getting the most out of the supply of fish available while abiding by all fishing regulations.

Every RIPCBA captain holds a U.S. Coast Guard license and all captains and crew are in a mandatory random drug program. All State and Federal Safety requirements of passenger carrying vessels are met by the RIPCBA vessels. It will certainly pay you, in peace of mind and results, to be aboard one of our more than 65 vessels when you sail from any Rhode Island port.

Your **PLEASURE** and **SAFETY** are our prime concern. **Make sure the vessel you sail on displays the R.I. Party & Charter Boat Association Logo and either the **USCG COI** or **UPV decal**.**

We have more than 65 vessels for you to choose from

FISH OUR LOGO



SAFETY & SATISFACTION

Cruising

Diving

Fishing

Sightseeing



COI decal

Call the captain of your choice from the list of our vessels found on pages 2 & 3



UPV decal

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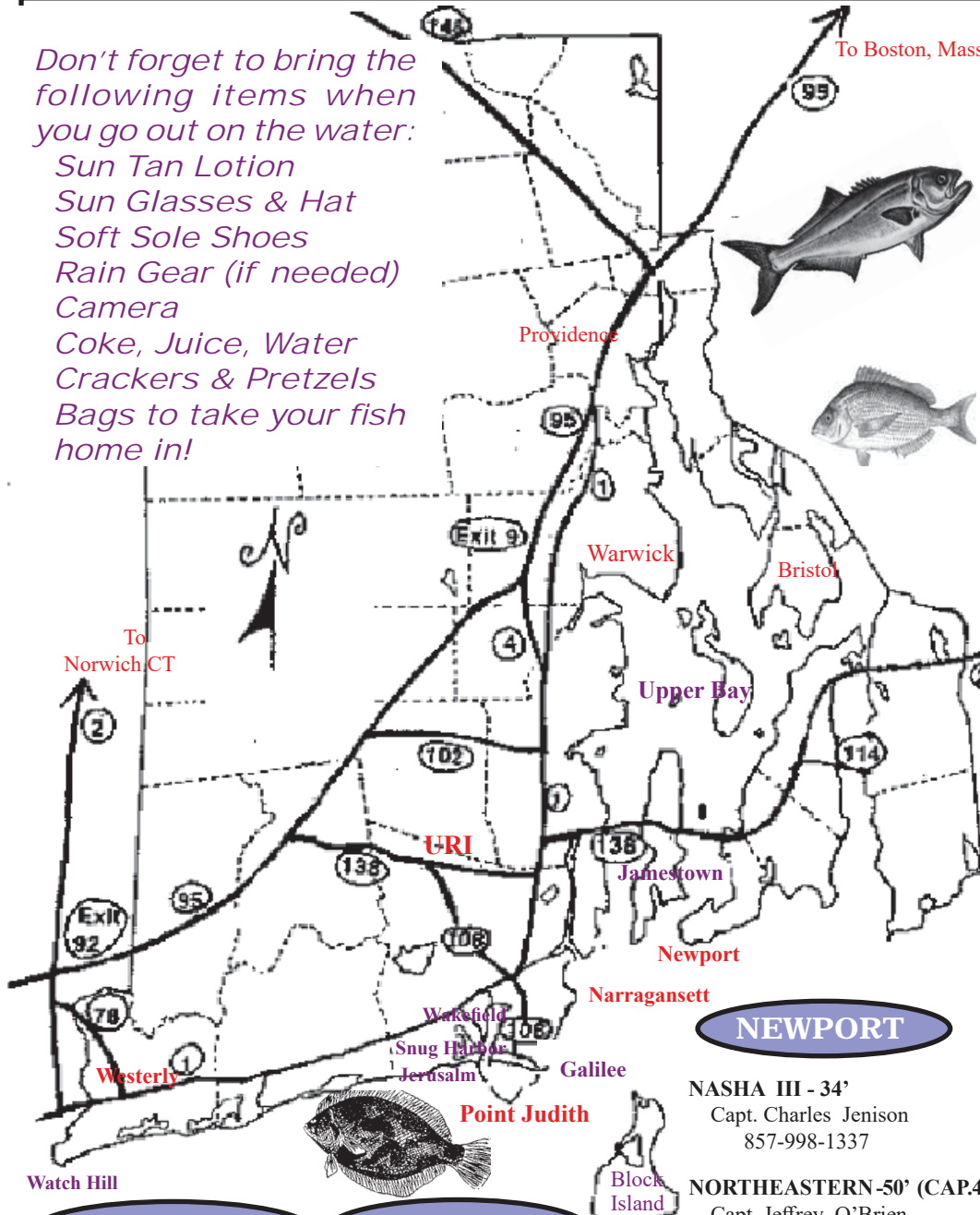
Fish on boats that display our Logo



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Don't forget to bring the following items when you go out on the water:

- Sun Tan Lotion*
- Sun Glasses & Hat*
- Soft Sole Shoes*
- Rain Gear (if needed)*
- Camera*
- Coke, Juice, Water*
- Crackers & Pretzels*
- Bags to take your fish home in!*



Galilee

MAKO II - 43' (Cap. 14)
 Capt. David Tyrrell
 25 Columbine Ct.
 Wakefield, RI 02879
 401-789-3756

SNAPPA - 46' (Cap.21)
 Capt. Charles Donilon
 2 Congdon Dr.
 Wakefield, RI 02879
 401-487-9044

SEVEN B'S V - 80' (Cap.113)
 Capt. Russ Benn
 11 Riptide Rd.
 Narragansett, RI 02882
 401-789-9250

FRANCES FLEET - 105' (Cap.150)
 Capt. Frank Blount
 P. O. Box 3724
 Peace Dale RI 02883
 401-783-4988

JERUSALEM

FULLY INVOLVED - 23'
 Capt. Jeff Hall
 1685 South County Trail
 East Greenwich, RI 02818
 401-215-0214
 401-885-1150

NEWPORT

NASHA III - 34'
 Capt. Charles Jenison
 857-998-1337

NORTHEASTERN-50' (CAP.49)
 Capt. Jeffrey O'Brien
 69 1/2 Garfield St.
 Newport, RI 02840
 401-465-8999

DRIFTER TOO - 35'
 Capt. Richard Chatowsky Sr.
 P.O. Box 494
 Hope Valley, RI 02832
 401-539-6097

ANDREW & STEVEN - 41'
 Capt. Steven Follett
 145 Thoreau Lane
 Wakefield, RI 02879
 401-789-7173

WATCH HILL

FISH TRAP - 36'
 Capt. Tom Logan
 1655 North Ave.
 Stratford, CT 06614
 203-375-0828



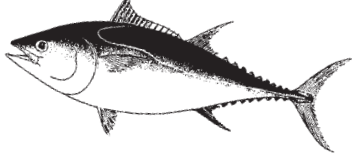
UPPER BAY

FIN DEEP - 23'
 Capt. Brian Patterson
 58 Thayer Ct.
 Portsmouth, RI 02871
 401-293-0223

RIVER REBEL - 26'
 Capt. Randell Bagwell
 90 Butterworth Ave.
 Bristol, RI 02809
 401-699-1974

VIRGINIA - JOAN - 26'
 Capt. David Monti
 399 Greenwood Ave.
 Warwick, RI 02886
 401-480-3444

Island Girl - 31'
 Capt. Rick Cataldi
 269 Paine St.
 Warwick, RI 02889
 401-458-1503



Galilee

STUFF IT - 23'

Capt. Joe Pagano
55 Angell Lane
N. Scituate, RI 02857
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401-808-0452

LIL' DEVIL II - 24'

Capt. Lynn Smith
3595 Post Rd.
Warwick, RI 02886
401-374-4232

LADY KAREN - 25'

Capt. Joe Blecziński
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Narragansett, RI 02886
401-487-7019

MISSION - 25'

Capt. John Mc Cann
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Wakefield, RI 02879
401-213-3508

BUSY LINE - 26'

Capt. Norman Bardell
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MARLIN III - 28'

Capt. John Goolgasian
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401-749-9331
401-726-8501

HIZ & HERZ - 30'

Capt. Chris Herz
22 Hillsdale Rd.
Richmond, RI 02892
401-474-1325

CAROL J - 31'

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Wakefield, RI 02879
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Capt. Barry Chermis
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Wakefield, RI 02879
401-742-5285

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Capt. Bill Della Valle
10 Amancio St.
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401-783-4805

SAKARAK - 31'

Capt. Mitch Chagnon
140 Winter Berry Rd.
Saunderstown, RI 02874
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C-DEVIL II - 32'

Capt. Kelly Smith
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401-374-1439

FISH ON - 32'

Capt. John Sheriff
81 Hardig Rd
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Capt. Chris Bell
PO Box H
Pawtucket, RI 02861
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Capt. Earl Bell
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Exeter RI 02822
401-749-1199

L'IL TOOT - 35'

Capt. John Rainone
35 Ocean View Drive
Narragansett, RI 02882
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401-497-6683

LUCKY LADY - 32'

Capt. Steven Palmer
32 Spruce Rd.
Wakefield, RI 02879
401-284-2869
860-573-3751

PATTY J - 35'

Capt. John Parente
34 Whitehall Dr.
Warwick, RI 02886
401-738-7674

REEL TO REEL - 35'

Capt. Scott Lundberg
PO Box 637
Slatersville RI 02876
508-450-1112

MARIDEE II - 36'

Capt. Andrew Dangelo
1035 Liberty Lane
West Kingston, RI 02892
401-783-3927

PRIORITY TOO - 36'

Capt. Rick Bellavance
140 Jerry Lane
N. Kingston, RI 02852
401-741-5648

DRIFTER - 37'

Capt. Richard Chatowsky Jr.
58 Tamanaco Dr.
Charlestown, RI 02813
401-364-8835

SEA HAWK - 37'

Capt. Nick Butziger
44 Bowen Briggs Ave.
Warwick, RI 02886
401-739-6028
401-578-9381

BARE BONES - 38'

Capt. Steven Anderson
33 Grand View Dr.
Warwick, RI 02886
401-255-0128

MISTY - 43'

Capt. Mark Ambrosia
53 Karison St. #1
Wakefield, RI 02879
401-789-6057
401-316-0668

PERSUADER - 44'

Capt. Dennis Dillon
110 Avicce Street
Narragansett, RI 02882
401-783-5644

WAKEFIELD

HOOK - EM - 27'

Capt. Mike Lawing
165 Dover Lane
Richmond, RI 02818
401-595-6970

Snug Habor

GANNET - 21'

Capt. Mark Sherer
1059 Frenchtown Rd.
East Greenwich, RI 02818
401-595-5050

JACKHAMMER - 24'

Capt. John Carpenter
64 Apple Rd.
Brimfield, MA 01010
401-744-2804

KNOTTY DOG - 25'

Capt. Bill Kelley
21 Mockingbird Lane
Wakefield, RI 02879
401-741-9829
401-792-3371

STRIKER - 30'

Capt. Russell Blank
516 South County Trail
N. Kingstown, RI 02852
401-884-1753

VYCORE - 31'

Capt. Karl Schmaling
RR # 1 Box 338
Passaic, NY 12592
845-677-0204

CHERRY PEPPER - 32'

Capt. Linwood Safford
84 Lady Slipper Dr.
Charlestown, RI 02813
401-364-6297

BIG GAME II - 36'

Capt. Brian Bacon
35 Holly Rd
Wakefield, RI 02879
401-243-7046

HOT PURSUIT - 37'

Capt. Charlie Johnson
40 Melbourne Rd.
Warwick, RI 02886
401-738-2427

RESTLESS - 37'

Capt. Rich Templeton
521 Post Rd.
Wakefield, RI 02879
401-728-2081

LADY K - 43'

Capt. Stephen Babigian
661 Chestnut Hill Rd.
Wakefield, RI 02879
401-284-2656
239-565-2949



Fish our Logo

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the captains and crew of the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association, I would like to thank you picking up a copy of our annual publication. Formed in 1962, the RIPCBA has been the voice of the party and charter fishing industry in Rhode Island for 56 years. Over those years our members have seen changes in clientele, changes in technology, changes in vessel and fishing regulations, and changes to the ocean climate.

Just like the seasons in New England, change is inevitable. Our oldest members and honorary members regularly remind us of Giant Bluefin Tuna caught a few miles off the beaches of Narragansett and South County. The prestigious US Atlantic Tuna tournament was held in RI throughout the 50's and 60's. Today, those fish are gone, and the tournaments are just memories. In the 70's and 80's, RI's party boats returned to port full of tired anglers with cod or bluefish hanging from every possible rail, baking in the hot summer sun. Today, those huge catches are just memories. Many of those magnificent tuna were dumped back into Point Judith harbor and burlap sacks of cod and blues sometimes found their way into a dumpster. Today, that seems like a waste.

Today, we can see signs of a recovery in our Atlantic Cod and Western Atlantic Blue fin Tuna stocks. We see it on the water with larger tuna and more cod caught recently. The scientific assessment of these stocks also indicates slow improvement. Change is once again on the way and we all would welcome healthy tuna and cod fisheries, minus the waste. As we rebuild stocks it's important to manage those stocks responsibly, balancing sustainability with the privilege to take some fish home to eat. We cannot return to the days where we dump dead fish back into the harbor. We cannot return to the days where we would throw fish into a dumpster because we took more than we really needed, just because they bite the hook. To be successful, we need plenty of opportunity to access healthy stocks like Striped Bass and Black Sea Bass, while we continue the work to restore stocks like Blue fin and Cod.

The laws governing our commercial and recreational fisheries have been successful in rebuilding many stocks that were in tough shape. Changes to the Magnusson Stevens Act are under consideration in 2018 and some of those changes could be helpful, but we would be wise to hold onto the bulk of the Act to keep the rebuilding going as well as to avoid a return to overfished stocks. Recreational fisheries are different from commercial fisheries, so it makes sense that we should look at ways to manage the recreational fisheries with methods that apply to the unique goals and objectives of a recreational fisher. New technologies are now in use that help your captain keep track of and report all the fish you catch, as well as all the fish you throw back. The discarded fish are important to know because some of those die, adding to our impact on that stock of fish. When the scientists and the fishery managers have accurate data, they can make better decisions, which will lead to better regulations and a better fishing experience for you. When the data they use is inaccurate, those same scientists and managers use the best available data..... even if it's not right. As recreational fisherman, we need to tell our story completely and accurately. It's in our best interest.

Changes to our climate are more obvious today than anyone can recall. As our waters in New England react to our changing climate, Captains will need to stay on top of those changes. We are already seeing stocks like Black Sea Bass shift into our waters, while others like Lobster shift North and East. RIPCBA Captains are on the water nearly every day and we are best suited to follow climate change and adjust our fishing as needed to offer you the best fishing experience possible. New opportunities await us all, it will be interesting to see what our fisheries look like in 10, 20, or 30 years.

What we see when we head out fishing is also changing. The waters off Block Island are now the location of the first offshore wind farm in the United States. Five huge wind towers are now spinning and are very visible to the southeast of Block Island. Planning is underway for several more offshore wind farms off Rhode Island's coast, and these will be bigger and more spread out. When we look back at the Block Island Wind Farm, the construction activities were a bit of a nuisance to those fishing in the area and it seemed like some days the fish were really affected by the work, but in general the fishing seems to have returned to what it was prior to the towers being there. Many RIPCBA captains would be happy to bring folks out to get a

look at these new monsters up close.

As we approach the 2018 season, I am encouraged by the condition of many of the fish stocks we catch. Our improving economy will help all of us and more people will have the resources to take advantage of a beautiful day on the water. About the only thing that remains unchanged is our passion for our work and our appreciation to you all for choosing RIPCBA captains and vessels for your fishing and touring trips. Rhode Island is geographically located to offer some of the country's best opportunities for world class fishing, SCUBA diving, cruising and sightseeing activities. Each RIPCBA member is a licensed professional, ready to help create your next memorable experience on the water. Rhode Island is called "the Ocean State" for a reason, we encourage you to experience the very best of our ocean activities and be sure to **FISH OUR LOGO**

Capt. Rick Bellavance Jr.

Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association



Whale Watching



Fishing



Cruising

Reasons For Coming to Rhode Island You can choose From Over 65 Vessels

***Nearest port to the famous Block Island and
Cox's Ledge Fishing Grounds***

- * Restaurants right at the docks * Plenty of Free Parking *
- * Home of Tuna, Big Gamefish, Billfish, Bass, Bluefish, Tournaments *



**R.I.'s inshore fishing grounds are
everyone else's offshore grounds**



BOOK A CHARTER TRIP AS A SPECIAL GIFT

How often have you been in a situation of trying to come up with a new and unique gift idea for that special occasion? Perhaps you have had difficulty finding something for someone who seems to have everything and have racked your brain trying to find something that this individual does not have. Well folks, I just might have the solution to this very common dilemma. Why not consider giving that individual a charter fishing trip. We have had charters to



celebrate birthdays, graduations, Father's Day, anniversaries, vacations, bachelor parties, family reunions and honeymoon packages. In the past few years people have called to purchase a gift certificate for a fishing charter, and have either given it away as a gift, or donated it as a raffle prize for a fund raiser. Some of the gift certificates were for a half or full day charter, or sometimes they were for a certain monetary amount. Now the person that received the gift certificate might have a \$100.00 or \$200.00 gift credit that they could apply towards the charter of their choice. Some captains have even had secretaries call to reserve a fishing trip for their boss as a present from them for a special occasion. A mortgage broker booked a few charters for some of his real estate agents and lawyers that were his business associates. He said he couldn't believe the business he generated by taking them out on those fishing trips. These types of trips combine the excitement of fishing along with the fellowship of friends or family, sharing the fun and experience together. I



can't tell you how many times people have told me what a great idea and super gift this type of trip makes. I know from experience that some of the greatest moments of my life involve being around my family and friends on special occasions. What better way to share and remember these moments than with a fishing trip with the people that mean the most to you. "The excitement lasts all day and the memories last a lifetime" Arranging one of these trips is easy. Just call any of the RIPCBA Captains and we can start putting your plans in motion.



Oh by the way, just in case you hear one of your friends say "I don't know what to get for his or her birthday ". You might just have the answer now!

**Cruise or Fish
aboard boats that
display one of these
USCG decals**



Why Come to R.I.

Now is the time to make some plans for the family to enjoy the many activities RI has to offer. We have many miles of sandy beaches that you can surf, snorkel, scuba, sail, kayak, or fish in. Also there are many campgrounds to enjoy a relaxing vacation back in time with nature. Newport has its Mansions and Cliff Walk, as well as a busy yachting community, museums, and plenty of shops to visit. Summertime fun and activities can be had by all in the many State Parks and beaches. Many rivers, streams, brooks, and ponds will satisfy the fresh water enthusiasts, while the vast ocean front and rivers that flow into the sea provide action for the surf fishermen. The Salt ponds, coves, ocean and Narragansett Bay, can keep the boaters, kayakers and clam diggers happy. There are many very skilled Party and Charter boat captains with excellent boats of every size, docked at various ports throughout the state. These captains are ready to take you fishing, cruising, sightseeing, or cruising for a few hours, a half, three quarter or full day or more. You might want to venture off Block Island to check out the first Wind Farm in the USA. We also have many Lighthouses throughout RI, and some of the boats do provide Lighthouse Tours, as well as Harbor Tours. Whale watching trips also provide a chance to see porpoises as well as turtles, sharks, and other sea life. We can take you out to view the many sail boat races that leave out of Newport, or you could anchor up and enjoy the Newport Jazz and Folk Festivals. If you have a boat, and would like to learn how to fish or handle your own boat, our professional captains can teach you how. Just give one of our captains a call to set it up. A ferry boat ride to beautiful Block Island, the "Bermuda of the North", for a day might interest you. There are many, many reasons to come to Rhode Island for a visit. Historic places of interest, churches, theater, music, festivals, jewelry and shopping, are all here for you to enjoy.



THE WIND FARM IS HERE TO STAY

The evidence-based conclusions came one after another at the December, 2017 wind farm forum. The Block Island Wind Farm (BIW) has had no remarkable adverse effects on the environment, fish, mammals, birds and people. Over 50 scientists presented their research findings at the Southern New England Offshore Wind Energy Science Forum held at the University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography.

A month earlier a social impacts workshop called the 'Offshore Renewable Energy Development and Fisheries' workshop was held at UMass Dartmouth. The URI Science Forum was sponsored by Deepwater Wind, who developed the Block Island Wind Farm (the first ocean wind farm in the nation) and the UMass workshop was organized by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine on behalf of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to garner input on what types of fisheries research might be needed to plan future wind farm projects.

Much of the wind farm science is new and it is developing quickly. Three firms have secured leases to build wind farms in Federal waters between Block Island and south off Nantucket; they are Deepwater Wind LLC, Bay State Wind LLC and Offshore MW LLC.

Deepwater Wind has the South Fork Wind Farm in development on Cox Ledge (15 turbines to supply Long Island) and this week proposed a utility-scale renewable energy project with the State of Massachusetts and partners National Grid and FirstLight Power Resources. Ocean wind farms off Rhode Island and Massachusetts are starting to take off.

Ocean wind farms in Europe have been around for many years; however, most were developed and built with little or no research on how they might impact the fish and environment.

Any detrimental effects were discovered and mitigated after they were built. But thanks to Deepwater Wind (DWW) and their Block Island project we have the depth of research to develop a robust protocol for future wind farm development in this nation. DWW facilitated (and in many cases paid for) an army of scientists, engineers, consultants, and universities to study the BIW before, during and after construction.

Insights from the UMass workshop and URI science forum are too numerous to mention, but here are some of the highlights.

Jeffrey Grybowski, CEO of Deepwater Wind said at the URI Science Forum, "Starting with a small wind farm (five turbines) at Block Island allowed us to address project challenges effectively. Because small problems on a big project can sink you, but small problems on a small project can likely be solved. We not only produced a source of energy but we helped Block Island solve its energy problem, the wind farm addressed a real world problem."

Aileen Kenney, vice president of permitting and environmental affairs for DWW said, "We are closely looking at the cumulative impact and analysis of multiple turbines. After the 15 turbine South Fork Wind Farm we may build a 20 turbine and then possibly a 30 turbine farm adding to the research that we have already done along the way."

Chris Brown, a commercial fisherman who is president of the Commercial Fisheries Center said, "Fishermen were initially terrorized as to what was going to be built, but last week I made a living towing all around the wind farm."

Drew Carey, principal scientist/managing partner of Inspire Environmental, Middletown was hired by DWW to do a trawl survey, a lobster survey and other studies before, during and after construction of the windfarm. Carey said, "No real dramatic changes in the fish community occurred in four years of study and the lobster study showed consistent patterns too."

Presently Inspire Environmental is conducting a research project on Coxes Ledge to check out the spawning of cod in the area. They want to see if cod are spawning on the areas that are projected for the 15 new wind farm towers to be installed.




John King, professor at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography said, “We measured electrical magnetic fields (EMF) associated with the sea2shore cable. We found EMF for this AC cable to be significantly lower than predicted models, it seems the impacts of AC cables are less pronounced than DC cables. We also found that if cables do not meet project depth that EMF goes up. And, we found that skates were actually attracted to the EMF, but lobsters seem to detract from EMF and try to stay away from the cable.”

Monique LaFrance Bartley of the URI Graduate School of Oceanography provided habitat mapping of sea bottom at the wind farm, close to the wind farm and further away. She and her team took hundreds of sea bottom samples and said, “We found no major differences or changes between organisms in soil samples taken at different locations and times.”

Amelia Moore, assistant professor at the URI College of the Environment and Life Sciences, conducted an experiential study, participating in tourist and recreational activities at the wind farm, on Block Island and the mainland. Moore said, “People on the mainland and tourists on Block Island were very supportive of wind farm. And, when on a wind farm tour on the Block Island Ferry, participants felt the windfarm experience was ‘outstanding’ and could be heard saying ‘they were very large and majestic’.

It is important to note that not everyone is pleased with future wind farm development siting. Some in the commercial industry are concerned about proposed wind farm sites interfering with grounds they fish.

During the URI Forum wrap up session, Jennifer McCann, moderator from the URI Coastal Resources Center/Rhode Island Sea Grant, said that she and colleagues will be doing a follow up report on the workshop.

Aileen Kenney of DWW said, “We were happy to hold the forum as we wanted all to understand just how much research and work DWW and others are doing. And we all had a chance to network with each other. One of our next steps is to determine the best way to move forward to synthesis all the research that has been done for our use and the use of others. The Block Island Wind Farm has become a fishing destination for many recreational anglers. Summer flounder and black sea bass have been plentiful in the area and this December the cod bite was terrific. 



**It's great fun
for the whole
Family**





**Our Future
Fishermen
Teach them to
Enjoy
Fishing**



QUESTIONS ABOUT CHARTERING

Here are some questions and answers that many people ask when trying to book a RIPCBA vessel. (Q) [Do we have to bring food and drinks or do you have them on the boats?](#) (A) If you are going on a party boat, they do provide food, snacks and drinks onboard, but you are always welcome to bring your own food. Check with them to see what is on the menu, and don't expect a prime rib or lobster dinner. Some boats sell and allow alcohol onboard, and others do not, so check first. As for charter boats, most do not have food or drinks onboard so everyone brings their own, but you can always ask the captain if food or drinks could be provided. Some charter groups check in advance and order muffins, coffee or breakfast sandwiches, or sandwiches and drinks for lunch. You would then pay the captain the expense of providing you with your food and drinks. (Q) [Is alcohol allowed on charter boats?](#) (A) Some charter boats allow people to drink beer or wine and not hard stuff, while other boats allow anything you want to drink, but I believe the common answer amongst all charter boats is that if anyone gets drunk or out of hand, the trip is over and the boat returns to the dock and you still pay for the full trip. (Q) [How many people are allowed on the boats and do children count?](#) (A) First off, children no matter how young do count towards your total people allowed, as well as people who say they only want to watch and not fish. You are considered a passenger on a licensed passenger carrying vessel and we have strict laws set by the U.S. Coast Guard that we have to abide by. Party boats are Inspected Vessels, meaning they can carry more than 6 passengers up to the capacity of their vessel, and so they are just like going to the movies. You can call ahead and reserve a spot or just show up and if there is room you get a ticket and climb aboard. Charter boats by Coast Guard rules are only allowed to take up to 6 people. The only exception is the Inspected Charter boats that are allowed over 6 passengers. Sometimes we

MARIDEE II



36' Sportfisherman

www.MarideeCharters.com

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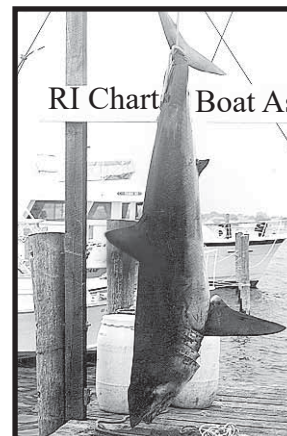


36 ft. new Twin Diesel 330 h.p.
All Tackle Included - Full Electronics

**SPRING - FALL
SPECIALS**

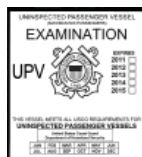
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FAST
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- Night Bass Trips -

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
CAPT. ANDY DANGELO**

1035 Liberty Lane
West Kingston, RI 02892

Email: Maridee2@gmail.com

get people that want to take more than 6 but don't want to go on a party boat with other people. You can ask the captain if he has other charter boats that he works with and you can put your charter together with as many boats as needed. This also brings out the competitive edge of all the anglers, fishing next to each other during the day on the water. This is great for businesses taking out clients or workers, bachelor and bachelorette parties, or family reunions. Of course you can also do this on a party boat and reserve the whole boat to yourselves. Just call and ask the price and see if they can do it. (Q) [Do I have to give you a deposit to reserve my trip?](#) (A) Yes. A deposit is our way to reserve your date in our schedule. You will not lose your deposit as long as you show up and go on the boat. If the weather is bad, the captain will decide on the dock if he will sail or not. If he cancels the trip, most likely he will offer you another date to go, and if that doesn't work then you should get your deposit back. Every captain has his own policy so don't be afraid to ask, but if you don't show up, your deposit is not refundable. You have reserved a boat, captain, mate/ mates for the day. They probably could have filled that date up with someone else and not lost the day's pay, but at the last minute it's almost impossible. (Q) [What is the policy on the fish we catch?](#) (A) First off, we all have to abide by the State and Federal fisheries regulations pertaining to bag limits and size limits for all fish. We have to throw back any fish that are not the right size, and we can't keep more than



Continued on page 16



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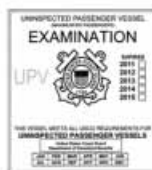
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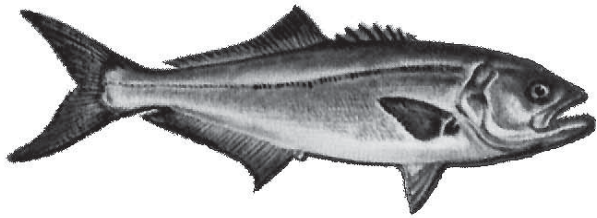
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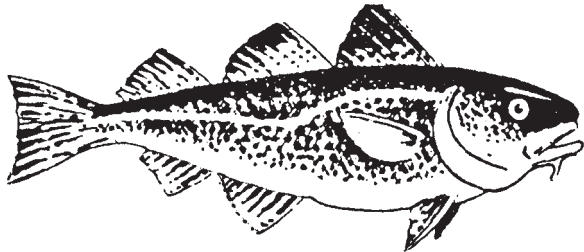
Rhode Island fish you might catch



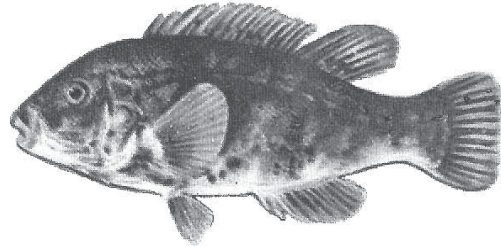
BLUEFISH: A real strong fighting fish found in our bays, along the shore and out in deep water. Strikes at a host of artificial lures, feather jigs, eel-skins, whole eels. One of the very few fish that will bite at a man's hand with its steel like jaws. World record 24 pounds. Roams the oceans and is coming back strong.



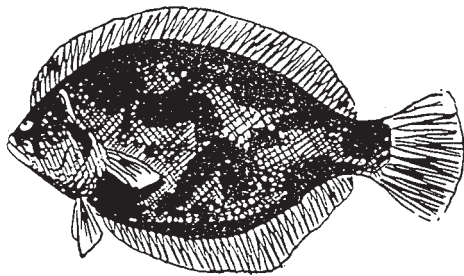
STRIPED BASS : One of our greatest salt water game fish. Found all along Rhode Island shores, particularly in rocky areas and in estuaries, salt ponds and rivers. Largest local fish, 78 pounds, came from Block Island area. Takes artificial lures, shrimp, sea worms, bloodworms, crabs, eels, and menhaden. June through November.



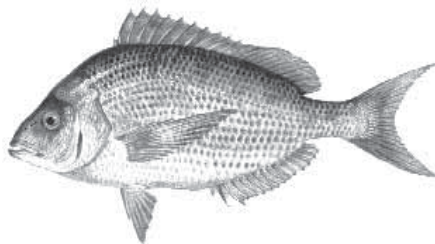
ATLANTIC COD: An excellent white meat fish. Caught 12 months of the year by bottom fishing methods near shore to deep-water wrecks. Feeds on clams, crabs, and jigs. Sizes 3 pounds to record 98 pounds.



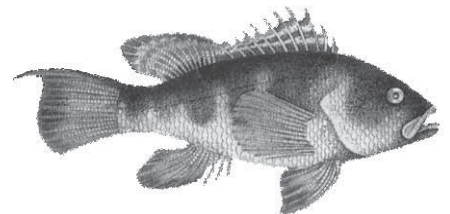
TAUTOG: A bottom fish by most concepts, but also taken with very light tackle and chum in bays and rivers. Found all along shore but favors rocky areas and piers. Feeds on all mollusks, shrimp, worms, crabs. Season April through December. Average size three to seven pounds. Local record is 21 pounds from Seal Rock Ledge.



SUMMER FLOUNDER: Also known as fluke, is greatly sought after along ocean fronts. Has sharp teeth and although a bottom fish will drive baitfish to the surface. Caught during warm weather. Feeds on all kinds of small fish and squids. Weighs from a pound to ten and above.




SCUP: A silvery bottom fish, weighing from a few ounces up to four pounds. In recent years it has moved into bay and brackish waters in warm weather in great numbers. Larger specimens frequent deep-water ledges and bars offshore. Feeds on all mollusks, squids, shrimp, worms, and bites freely.



BLACK SEA BASS: A very feisty bottom fish. They are caught along the shores in rocky areas around pilings and docks, as well as in deep water wrecks and rock piles. Feeds on all mollusks, squid, clams, worms, butterfish, and shrimp. Weighs from a 1/2 lb.to eight lbs. Average sizes are two to five pounds.

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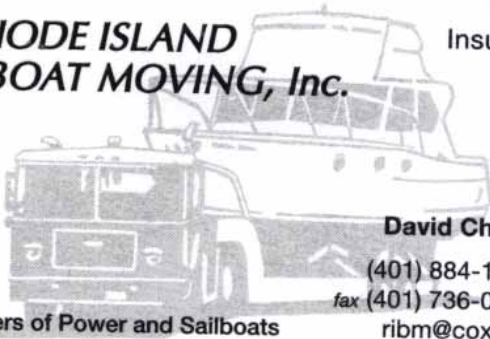
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Continued from page 13

our limit of fish per person on the boat. You can still catch more fish, but you have to release them. Most charter boats all have State and Federal permits to even be allowed to fish for



these species, and we have to report on every trip as to what we kept and threw back. Most boats give all the fish to the anglers. There are exceptions though with Giant Blue Fin Tuna, and other offshore species. You have to check that out with the captain before you go fishing. If you have watched Wicked Tuna you can see how much money is involved in Giant Tuna, but you should also have noticed that the money always went to the boat, captain and crew. If they had a charter onboard, they might have gotten the trip free or had a credit towards another trip. This is due to the licensing and permitting involved in even being allowed to fish or retain these big fish. (Q) Can we bring our own fishing tackle, rods, reels, or bait? (A) Yes you can, but on party boats they have rods, reels and tackle to rent for a nominal fee, and the bait is provided for you to use, but if you prefer to bring your own, go right ahead. Charter boats are somewhat the same, except most all provide the rods,

reels, and tackle needed, but if you would like to bring your own that would be fine, as long as the equipment is in good shape and correct for what you are fishing for. You shouldn't show up to go tuna fishing with a fresh water spinning rod and 6 lb. test on it, and then wonder why the captain tells you to leave it in the car. Bait is usually provided by all charter boats, but if you want to bring along your own or extra I am sure it would be fine. The one bait that is usually

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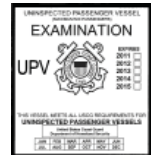
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an extra expense is eels. Some charter boats charge for eels if you would like to use them during the day to fish for bass. (Q) What happens to the fish I catch? (A) On party boats they keep your fish in a large fish box on a stringer and give you the number of your stringer. On the way home they will ask you if you want your fish cleaned and filleted or gutted or whole. Some people keep their fish in their own coolers. Don't forget to tip the mates at the end of the day for helping you get your gear ready to fish if you needed help, netting and gaffing your fish, as well as cleaning and filleting. On charter boats most fish are put in a fish well or cooler, but you could put them in your own cooler if you prefer. On the way home the mates will ask the same questions as to how you want your fish. Most groups split up the catch at the end of the day because they all know each other, but you can always keep your own fish if you prefer. Also tell the mate if you want your fish done a certain way. Some people want skinned and boned filets, while others want the skin left on for smoking, or they just want them gutted. Mates will do whatever you want as long as you ask them, and they usually get between 15-20% and more of the charter fee as a tip. This tip is from the whole group not individually. It is also not necessary to tip the captains, but if you feel they have gone out of their way to make your trip enjoyable, I am sure they will appreciate it. (Q) Should I bring along some foul weather gear or does the boat have raincoats if it starts raining? (A) If the weather forecast is for showers or rain, it is best that you bring along a rain coat or foul weather gear and boots. There is always room on the boats to store your gear till you need it. Better to have it with you then in your vehicle. Party & charter boats do not provide foul weather gear. The same applies to hot and cold weather changes. Sometimes in the morning it is very cold and you need a sweatshirt or coat, but later on it warms up and you could fish in your tee shirt. Bring whatever clothes you think you will need to be comfortable.

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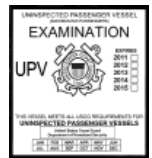


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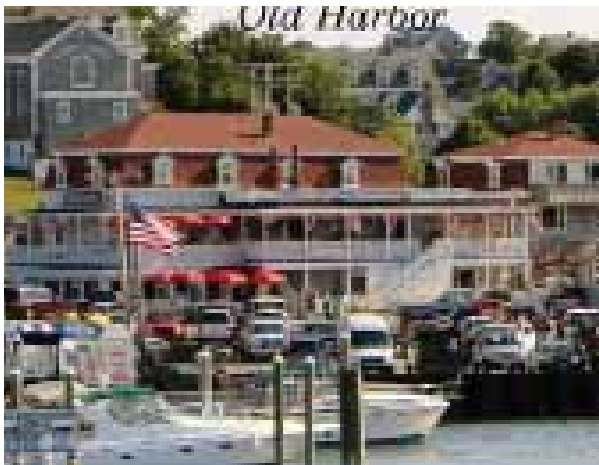
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Continued from page 17

(Q) [What should I bring on a charter?](#) (A) You should bring food and drinks, sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat, clothes for the weather, camera or phone to take pictures. If your food is in a cooler with ice, that is great because now you can put your fish in the cooler to go home. Don't bring along empty big coolers for your fish, especially if there is not enough room on the boat to store it. Leave those big coolers in your vehicle till you get back. Then you can bring it down to the boat and load it up if you need to. Many people use 1 or 2 coolers for everyone, and stow all their drinks and food together. This gives you more room on the boat to move around. (Q) [Do I have to wear boots on a boat?](#) (A) No, but if you have them and the weather or the boat is going to be wet then definitely take them. Ladies, do not show up on the boat wearing high heels. Wear sneakers or something comfortable hopefully with soft soles. Men do not need to wear cowboy boots or combat boots either. Soft soled sneakers or shoes and boots work fine. (Q) [Will the boat turn around and take me back if I get sea sick?](#) (A) Most likely NO, especially if you are on a Party Boat. They will not end a trip and go back to the dock if you get sea sick. There are usually 25-80 people on board, and it would not be fair to everyone to cancel their trip for you. If you are prone to sea sickness, plan your trip according to the weather forecast. If they are calling for large seas and strong winds then you should pick another day. If it's going to be a typical weather day but you're afraid to get sick then take some Dramamine, Bonine, or other motion sickness medication. It is best that you take it the night before to get it into your system and then take one on the morning of the trip and you should be fine. (Q) [If we get tired of fishing what are our options?](#) (A) Party boats are out for a



certain amount of time to catch you fish. If you are tired, take a break inside the cabin or just sit out on the deck somewhere and enjoy the view. Charter boats can be a little more flexible due to only your group of friends or relatives have chartered the boat, and you can ask the captain if there are any other options. On some trips you might catch your limit of fish, and you can now go home, or practice catch and release. You could also ask the captain if there are any other species that you could fish for. Another possibility is that you could ask the captain to take you into Block Island or into a harbor for lunch or shopping.

This could all be planned ahead of time too. If people become sea sick and the weather is getting worse, the captain might suggest that he find some calmer water or tie up in the Island and wait for the weather to pass. All of these possibilities and more can be had with a charter boat if you just ask the captain. I have had some anglers that caught plenty of fish and then asked me if I would take them for a sightseeing trip around Block Island to see the lighthouses, cliffs, etc. before we went home. Depending on the size of the boat and what the captains are willing to do, you can be creative as to what your charter could be. Although most of our trips are for fishing, we also do sightseeing, harbor cruises, sunset cruises, lighthouse tours, ash burials, viewing yacht races and tall ships, anchoring up to enjoy air shows, jazz and folk festivals.

[Check out our list of vessels on pg. 2-3, and don't be afraid to ask the captains all your questions. We strive to make your day on the water an enjoyable, and memorable event so that you will come back and visit us again and tell all your friends of the great time you had Fishing in RI. with the RIPCBA.](#)





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How Legalized Marijuana Applies to Boaters

- Just because you are in a State that allows recreational or medical marijuana use, you cannot bring it on board a Party or Charter Boat.
- Party and Charter Boats are under Federal rules of the DOT and Marijuana and all other class 1 drugs are prohibited. **Zero Tolerance**
- The U.S. Coast Guard, a federal agency does not abide by State Laws. Even if your State allows small amounts of marijuana use and possession as legal, the Federal Government could prosecute you since Marijuana possession and use is not legal in the USA.
- You cannot bring legal medical Marijuana on an airplane either. Airplanes are under the DOT regulations too. You could be stopped and arrested at the security check points.
- As of this article's writing, simple marijuana possession still carries up to a \$2,000 fine and a year in jail.
- **Operating Under the Influence** of marijuana as well as alcohol or any controlled substance is a paramount concern for all law-enforcement personnel. (OUI)

ALBIES RUNNING WILD



False albacore were running wild last year all along the southern coastal shore, off Narragansett, Jamestown and Newport, and this year, for the first time in a long time, they were deep up into Narragansett Bay as far north as Conimicut Point. The bait (such as peanut bunker which are immature Atlantic menhaden) came into the Bay in a big way and the false albacore followed. Maybe they were pushed in because of all the storms we had, but what is interesting is that the false albacore decided to stay for a while because the conditions were right... plenty of food and clean

water. Many anglers believe the Bay is cleaner than ever before and this set the table for the abundance of bait and false albacore in the Bay this fall.

The albies were all over the bay, out in front of Newport and all along the southern coast. Anglers were catching false albacore both from shore and boats. They were even in the surf along the beaches, even during the bad weather with an occasional striped bass behind them. The run of false albacore this fall was very unusual, but enjoyed by everyone.

Susan Lema said "The first tip is use as little hardware as possible. We tie directly to a 25 pound fluorocarbon leader with a uni knot and no swivel. This keeps things simple with no hardware flashing in the water to spook the fish." Her husband Roger Lema said, "The second tip is to fish the outgoing tide in front of rivers, coves and ponds as the water and bait

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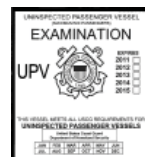
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have to be moving.” Susan said, “These fish are ram feeders. They open their mouths and hit the bait at high speed so things are moving.”

The third tip is to be prepared to mix it up. Roger said, “When we go out we have five rods ready to go. Some prepared to cast silver lures like Deadly Dicks and Kastmaster lures. But, we are also ready to troll (at four knots) with broken back lures, shallow swimming and deep swimming lures to use depending on where the fish are in the water column.” And, one last tip, “You have to anticipate where these speedsters will surface again



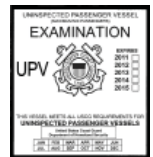
and be there when they do. So we like to fish the sides of the schools rather than getting out in front of them.” False albacore (aka albies, falsies or little tunny) have broken/squiggly lines, spots below and no teeth. Atlantic bonito (aka bonito) have solid lines along their upper half running head to tail, and teeth. A short saying that helps me distinguish between the two is ‘Bonito have teeth and are good to eat’. Although anglers often do not eat false albacore (because for years, many said they were not good to eat) more and more anglers are now giving them a try. The meat is a dark red, darker than most other fish in the tuna family. If you have a smoker, they are great smoked after you have brined them for a few hrs. They also make a great salad AKA tuna salad. Just boil up the fish after cutting the darkest part of the fillet off. After a few minutes of boiling, drain the fish and cool down. Then treat the fish just like you would to make a tuna fish salad. I have even heard of people using the albies for cerviche. Try them out. What have you got to lose? You might just find another fish that you love to eat and are plentiful and fun to catch.



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TAKE YOUR KIDS & GRANDKIDS FISHING

One of the greatest joys you can share with your children or grandchildren is the experience of going fishing. These feelings are priceless, just to see their smiling faces as they pull in a fish, or their struggling



and straining on a big fish. These are the memories that you will all cherish for a lifetime. Many people call and ask at what age is it too early to take children fishing. Well it all depends on what you want to catch and expose them too. If you want to go offshore fishing for sharks and tuna etc. then I think the child should already be an experienced fishing and boating person. By that I mean, if they have never been boating before, they might get sea sick and that will leave them with a bad feeling towards boating and fishing, as well as your trip might be over. If they are real sick they will want to go back in, but if they tough it out, I am sure you will be worried about how they are doing and if they will ever want to go fishing again. These trips are usually around 10 hrs on the water and out about 20+ miles.

My feelings are that no matter what age they are, take them fishing on an inshore fishing trip first. Usually the weather is mostly calm, and you are not too far away from land to run back in if you have to. Inshore fishing is almost always a guaranteed action packed trip. This is what kids need and want. They want action and lots of it. Otherwise they would rather be in the cabin on their electronic games etc. Fish biting and coming over the rail keeps them excited, and it is something that they can do all by themselves. Children as young as 5-7 can usually handle catching scup, sea bass, and fluke by themselves or with a little help from yourself and the mates. There should be plenty of fish to take home for dinner and plenty that will be released to swim another day. This will teach the youngsters about conserving our fish stocks with bag limits and fish sizes, and they all love to throw fish back in the water. In fact sometimes you have to put a few fish in a pail of water so that they can touch them and watch



them swim around for a while. The real little children especially love to be able to watch and touch fish

or crabs in a 5 gal bucket. It is fun and a learning experience for them. These trips are usually around 4-6 hrs long so you are not on the water too long, and you are close to shore.

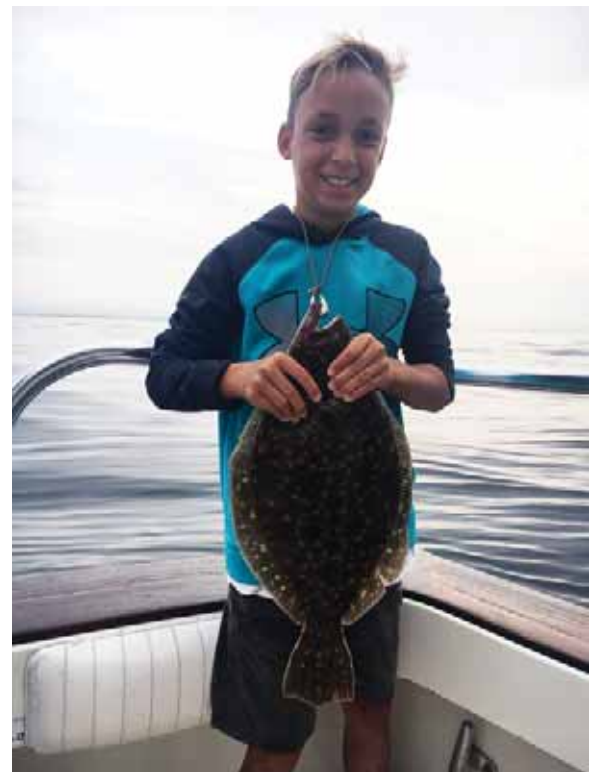
Gradually expose them to catching bigger fish as they get older and stronger. Usually once they are around 10-12, they are physically able to take on some bluefish, tautog, cod, bonito,


and striped bass. You can use spinning rods and light weight bait casters to catch most of these fish, or you can try trolling, and to a young child this is like the big game fishing they see on TV. You can help them if they need it, but most of the time the mate and captain will assist them in catching their fish by stopping or slowing down the boat and encouraging them to lift, and then reel down the rod. It is amazing how well kids pick up the technique of “lift and reel down” once it is explained to them properly. Many adults still struggle with that technique. LOL

Once they have proved that they like the water and don't mind being on it for a long time you can take them on a full day or an offshore trip. Usually they are now bigger and stronger teenagers ready to take on the action of fighting tuna, bonito, mahi-mahi, and sharks. Offshore fishing is also a great experience for children to see what Mother Nature has to offer. Many times offshore we will see turtles, whales, dolphins,



fish jumping out of the water, sharks finning on top, and all types of birdlife. The one bad thing of offshore fishing is that it can be very boring until some type of action begins. Everyone works as a team when you are offshore, so youngsters can just watch or get involved as much as they want.



Whether they are just looking in the water for fish or bait, or helping to take weeds off of the lures or just reeling in the rods so the others can check them and put them back out in the spread, everyone has a job to do to make a successful trip. Sometimes you have to remember that you have to fish for what your child or grandchild can handle and not what you want to catch. There is always another time that you can go fishing with adults and catch those dream fish that you want to pursue. Make memories with children with what they can handle and enjoy. They will get bigger before you know it, and hopefully then you can both enjoy catching those trophy fish. You want them to remember how much fun they had fishing with grandpa, and always be asking “When are you going to take us fishing again Papa?” 

ELECTRONIC CATCH RECORDING TAKES CENTER STAGE

There was a lot of positive energy in the room at the Commercial Fisheries Center on the University of Rhode Island East Campus. Capt. Rick Bellavance, president of the Rhode Island Party & Charter Boat Association (RIPCBA), welcomed about twenty charter fishing captains; Department of Environmental Management and NOAA staff members to the electronic recording workshop. Charter captains and government officials were there to learn how to record catch and effort electronically on computers using the SAFIS eTRIPS software developed by Harbor Lights Software.

Capt. Bellavance said, "In March, 2018 electronic Vessel Trip Reports (VTRs) will become mandatory for all federally permitted for-hire vessels holding permits for species managed by the Mid Atlantic Fisheries Management Council. These include summer flounder, black sea bass, scup, bluefish, squid, mackerel, butterfish and tilefish.

Presently, charter captains are required to file a VTR that reports fish caught and released, fish saved for food, the size of the fish and where the vessel was fishing. The antiquated paper system forces fishermen to file a six part paper carbon form for

every fishing trip. (In the past they had to file a report even if they did not fish).

Electronic recording replaces the filing of paper VTRs, and instantly sends results of the days fishing to DEM and NOAA. The training session focused on one of five approved software systems, the SAFIS eTrips software.

"I want you to know that this software was pioneered by the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association. Several years ago they had the software developed as part of a pilot summer flounder (fluke) project. The software has been expanded for use with all species and refined with input from captains who used the software. It is now replacing paper VTR reports in a number of regions." said Fran Karp, developer of the software and owner of Harbor Lights Software.

The software has been approved by NOAA in the Greater Atlantic Region. The software allows captains to take a laptop, iPad or tablet on their vessel and record catch, effort, released fish, fish saved as food and the size of the fish in real time. The system is GPS based and can also track trips, reporting the exact locations the fish are caught.

The software generates electronic reports that fulfill not only NOAA reporting requirements but reports are also sent to the State of Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Division to fulfill reporting requirements such as the charter boat requirement to report catch and effort in the tautog fishery. The software can also be used to fulfill reporting requirements for commercial rod & reel fishermen instead of using the old paper forms.

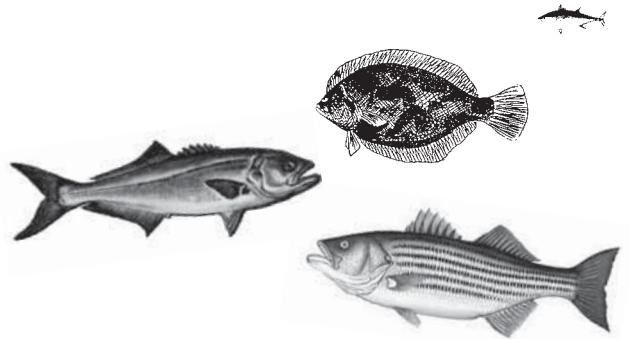
I have used electronic reporting for four years on my boat and find it a great time saver. My hope is that the lessons learned reporting charter boat recreational catch and effort can be transferred to recreational fishing in general. We need to continue to fund electronic reporting projects, particularly those that explore using smartphone electronic reporting of recreational fishing in general. Better recreational catch data is greatly needed so accurate harvest limits can be established that give anglers greater access to the fish.

At present the only catch efforts or landings for recreational fishermen is through dock side surveys and interviews of the fishermen. To me this is not a reliable and true representation of the fish that are caught by the recreational community.



To learn more about the software and its application for charter and party boats as well as commercial rod & reel fishing contact: Capt. Rick Bellavance at rickbellavance@gmail.com or Fran Karp at fkarp@harborlightssoftware.com.

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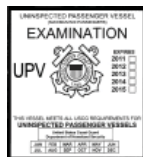
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MEMORIES OF THE GREAT PARADE

There was a time many years ago that serious Blue fin tuna fishermen would anxiously await the start of what we use to call the great parade. It usually would occur sometime around the end of the first week of June and continue through July and carry into August. Tremendous herds, or pods I should say, of all kinds of whales would start their annual migration to the northeastern United States coming from the offshore canyons and travel up through the Block Canyon, travel behind Montauk and skirt south of Block Island travel east behind Coxes Ledge and wind up south of Noman's off the Vineyard Coast. There were as many as 10 or 20 whales in a pod and there were many pods that would stretch across the horizon endlessly. Their white spouts set in a backdrop of blue sky with the morning sun created unforgettable Moby Dick like "there she blows" scenes. You could see them for miles and were truly memorable brilliant views. There were enormous amounts of krill, sand eels, herring, mackerel and squid that these various kinds of whales would feed on.

In the midst of all these whales and making the great parade truly great for tuna fisherman, especially blue fin tuna fisherman, were the large schools of tuna that would accompany the whales on this great parade. Blue fin tuna weren't the only pelagic fish that would congregate around the traveling and feeding whales, but albacore, yellow-fin, all kinds of sharks, swordfish and various marlin would all join the great parade. Initially, all you had to do was find the whales, have some rigged daisy chains of mackerel, and troll around the whales and more often than not you would hook up into a giant tuna.

This was the backdrop for a family day of giant tuna fishing during the middle of the great parade. My wife Mickey, my daughter Lori and her husband Tony, my step-daughter Kerri and her best friend ever Holly, my daughter Michele, my son Chris, my step-son Brendan

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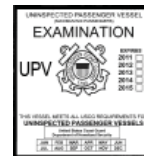
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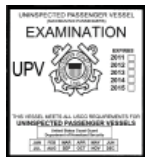
and my son Stephen were all on board. Now you have to understand that Mickey and my daughters' (blood and step) idea of tuna fishing was putting their bathing suits on and soaking up the sun on the foredeck of the boat. The men folk were more interested in catching tuna. I was usually perched in the tuna tower scanning the horizon for whale spouts. Brendan and Stephen were up there with me. Tony and Chris were in the cockpit getting tuna rods set up and in place. The rigged mackerel baits which were coiled in a cooler of ice and salted water were being made ready to be set in the water when the time was right. The wire leaders holding the mackerel daisy chains were snapped onto swivels that were attached to the lines on the tuna rods. We would make extra sure to dental floss the snap swivel shut so that it would not open. Everything was made ready for that right time being when I said, "Put them in." About five miles behind Block Island the kids up in the tower with me both shouted simultaneously like Moby Dick deck hands "tharr she blows" with a giggle and pointed off in the distance. Sure enough 4 or 5 whale spouts popped up. You could see the spray shoot into the air and then vaporize out of sight. In great anticipation, I pushed the throttle of the single screw 31' JC boat up a few knots and steamed right for the water spouts.



The closer we got to the spouts the more life we started to see. Shearwaters, storm-petrel's and sea-gulls were flying around the whales looking for scraps of baitfish.

Continued on page 28

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Continued from page 27

As we approached this pod of whales we could see that other whale pods were near by and before long we were in amongst a very large number of whales.



“Put them in”, I shouted down to Chris and Tony. In those early days, I only trolled three rods when fishing for giant tuna. Port side back in the port outrigger, starboard ahead of the port in the starboard outrigger and port side in the wash no outrigger straight out of the rod-holder. I had found in those days that trolling fewer rods resulted in more hook-ups and better control of the cockpit once we hooked up!

We started trolling amongst the whales and the life and we basically just stayed with them. Initially, everyone on board was thrilled and excited to be among the whales. After about two hours with no bites and no action (the whales seemed to be becoming less evident) the ladies decided it was time

to take a break and get some sunshine and proceeded to the foredeck. It was an absolutely gorgeous day on the water, the morning wind gave way to a slight afternoon breeze which made for very calm seas which in turn made the ladies way forward rather easy. I stayed up in the tower and the kids went down below to get something to eat. We continued to troll in

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the vicinity of the whales, but with no hook-ups.

Another couple of hours had passed and by this time the ladies were comatose up on the foredeck. Meanwhile I started to see more whales and the birds started to become more active. The whales must have been swimming underneath me for quite a time and to my utter amazement I found myself in the midst of a tremendous pod of very large whales. They were literally all around the boat and some of them would swim alongside the boat and look me right in the eye! Others would swim under the boat and their tails were enormous. Some of the whales were longer than my boat! I'm not sure if they were doing this to scare me or to put on a show, but as they came next to the boat they spouted! When whales spout they make a whooshing noise out of their blow hole. Whale spout is not water like some people think it is rather used up air that needs to be expelled. Whale spout is wet and smelly, and depending on the kind and the size of the whale, spout can travel fifteen to twenty feet in the air! The ladies woke up to a whooshing sound of whales spouting and they were greeted with a shower of wet, smelly spout! Whale spout covered the ladies on the foredeck! "GROSS!" the ladies shouted as they carefully made their way into the cockpit. We all watched in amazement as the whales continued their spectacle. We never did get a hook-up,



Others would swim under the boat and their tails were enormous. Some of the whales were longer than my boat! I'm not sure if they were doing this to scare me or to put on a show, but as they came next to the boat they spouted! When whales spout they make a whooshing noise out of their blow hole. Whale spout is not water like some people think it is rather used up air that needs to be expelled. Whale spout is wet and smelly, and depending on the kind and the size of the whale, spout can travel fifteen to twenty feet in the air! The ladies woke up to a whooshing sound of whales spouting and they were greeted with a shower of wet, smelly spout! Whale spout covered the ladies on the foredeck!

"GROSS!" the ladies shouted as they carefully made their way into the cockpit. We all watched in amazement as the whales continued their spectacle. We never did get a hook-up,

Continued on page 30

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Continued from page 29

but none of us have ever forgotten that particular day which occurred in the mid-1980's. The Great Parade has occurred every year since then, as I'm sure it occurred before that time.



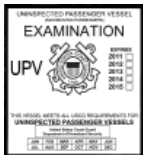
Let me back up a little and set the time, place, people and events into a better focus. In the early 1980's there was a Montauk tuna fisherman by the name of Greg Beacher. He ran a boat called *The Dawn Boat*. He had a giant tuna chair bolted to the transom of his boat with the leg extension hanging over the back of the transom. His motto was "fish the chair if you dare." He was an excellent tuna fisherman and he would usually be the first one to land a giant. This very frequently would happen sometime around the end of the first week of June. The *Dawn Boat* usually fished around six hundred

square which in those days they called the Aquarium.

The *Dawn Boat* would kick off the start of fishing for tuna and it was always when The Great Parade was just beginning. Offshore tuna fishing boats from Montauk, Niantic, Point Judith and the Vineyard would begin trolling for giant tuna. As the season progressed and the bodies of fish moved from the Aquarium northward to south of Montauk and Block Island and points East the technique would change from trolling to chunking or using bait.

The earliest I ever caught a giant on rod and reel was the tenth of June. It weighed in at 575 pounds and was caught on a mackerel daisy chain just south of Shark Ledge.

During this past season, I was on the southeast corner of Coxes in late June and witnessed



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a very familiar sight of whales and large numbers of shearwaters. I just know that tuna was in that Parade also. Tuna trolling lures have changed, e.g. spreader bars, green machines and smoker baits. Techniques have also changed, e.g. jigging and spin casting with Ronz's and Hogeys.

What hasn't seemed to change is The Great Parade. I remember it being so in the 1980's and it is still happening today. One very big difference that seems to be evident is the size of the fish. These recent runs of fish are definitely smaller in size.



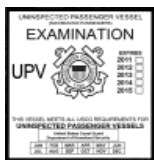
Then again, I'm not sure if bigger fish are in the Parade, I haven't tried and Greg Beacher passed a long time ago. Give one of the many charter boats of the RIPCBA a call and see what is happening on the tuna scene this year. You'll never know if the tuna are out there unless you join the parade. 



Carol - J

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FLUKE...EASY TO COOK AND EASIER TO CATCH

Fluke (or summer flounder) is fairly plentiful this year and they are relatively easy to catch along our southern coastal shore and around Block Island. In recent years the spring and early summer fishing in the mid-Bay area in Warwick, East Greenwich and North Kingstown in the West Passage and off the shores of Barrington and Bristol in the East Passage has been as good as it has been in years. So if you have been lucky enough to catch this delicate, delightful, white meat fish here are two simple recipes.

Capt. Dave's Fresh Fried Flounder Sandwiches

First prepare flounder fillets for cooking by rinsing in cold water to clean. Carefully feel fish flesh one last time to remove any bones left from the filleting board. Pat fish dry with a paper towel and set aside.

Ingredients

1 to 1 ½ lbs. of fresh flounder fillets
2 fresh lemons or lemon juice
½ cup flavored Italian bread crumbs
¼ cup all purpose flour
Olive oil, 1/3 to ½ cup
One sliced large tomato
Three to four leaves of lettuce
Tartar sauce (or your favorite mayonnaise and relish to make your own*)
Sandwich bread

Preparation

Combine and mix flavored Italian bread crumbs and flour. Put olive oil in pan and heat prior to cooking fish. Lightly moisten filets with lemon juice on both sides so fish coating sticks. Lightly bread filets with coating on both sides and place in frying pan. Cook 4 to 6 minutes on each side depending on the thickness of the fillet. Once cooked (fish is flaking, do not overcook) place on your choice of lightly toasted bread (we like light rye or wheat at our house).

Spread tartar sauce on second slice of bread and top with lettuces and tomato slices. Cut sandwich in half and garnish plate with olives, pickles and chips.

*Making your own tartar sauce is easy. Start with ½ cup of your favorite mayonnaise and add green relish to taste (two to three tablespoons), mix together and then place in refrigerator to cool.



Capt. Robb's Baked Fluke Recipe

Ingredients

1 to 2 lbs. fluke fillets (or any white fish fillet)
 1/2 to 3/4 stick of butter
 1 or 2 sleeves of Ritz crackers
 one Lemon, sliced thin
 Large Ziploc baggie, in which to crush the crackers

Preparation

Lightly butter the bottom of a glass baking dish and cover with the fillets, arranged in a single layer. Place Ritz crackers into large Ziploc, remove all air, and crush into medium-fine crumbs. Cover the fillets completely with the crumbs. Melt butter in the microwave and drizzle evenly over entire dish. Place thinly sliced lemons on top, for color and flavor. Bake in a preheated 450 degree oven for 10 to 15 minutes, removing from oven when crumbs begin to brown. Squeeze lemon juice over dish, as desired, and serve.



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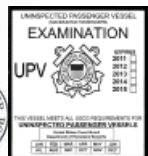
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Kid Favorite Fish Sticks

Growing up as kids, we all loved fish sticks, but they were from the frozen fish section. Once married and trying to get my children to eat fish I made up my idea of Fish Sticks, and it was a hit. It is now a hit with the grandkids as well. This is very easy to make, and you can use Cod, Striped Bass, Sea Bass, or Tautog (Blackfish).

2 lbs of White meat Fish Fillets 3 Tbsp. Melted Butter, or olive oil
1 cup Seasoned Bread Crumbs Tartar sauce, hot sauce or Ketchup (your choice)
Salt and Pepper to taste.

Rinse and pat dry with a paper towel the fillets. Then cut them into finger-size strips. Roll them in the bread crumbs and season with garlic salt, and black pepper to taste. Sauté the fingers in butter or olive oil until done. (About 5 min.) Or put them on a greased baking sheet and brush on butter or olive oil and bake uncovered for 10 min. in a 350° oven. Serve them plain, or with Tartar sauce, Ketchup, or Hot sauce.



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Spinach and Feta stuffed Blackfish

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 2 lbs blackfish fillets | 1 sleeve of crackers crushed |
| 2 cups chopped fresh spinach | 2 Tbsp. salted butter or margarine |
| 4 oz. pitted black olives, diced | ½ tsp lime juice |
| 4 oz. feta cheese | Salt & Pepper to taste |

Preheat oven to 350° F. Cut the fillets in ½ horizontally. Put half the fillets in a medium glass baking dish. Mix the spinach, olives, cheese, and cracker crumbs in a bowl to make the stuffing. Put a layer of stuffing over the fillets, and then add another layer of blackfish and another layer of stuffing. Bake for about 10 minutes. Melt the butter with the lime juice. Take the fish from the oven and sprinkle the lime butter over the top, and return the fish to the oven for another 5 minutes. The top of the stuffing should be barely browned and the fish will appear white through the glass.
Enjoy....should serve 3-4 people

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COD IS KING IN SPRING, FALL AND WINTER

Cod is a cold water fish and in Rhode Island, waters off our coastal shore are cool enough to attract cod in the spring, fall and winter months. The minimum size for cod in Rhode Island is 22" with a catch limit of 10 fish/person/day.

Capt. Rick Bellavance, president of the Rhode Island Party & Charter Boat Association (RIPCBA), said, "The cod fishery in Rhode Island can be amazing. The cod will school in shoal waters south of Block Island and offer an awesome opportunity to get out on the water during the winter months."

Few private boats are still in the water after Thanksgiving but in Rhode Island there are party and charter boats that fish for cod even in the dead of winter.

Years ago Rhode Islanders caught cod from shore. An angler could catch as many as ten fish to sixty pounds from shore in one outing. Fishing from shore for cod is no longer possible. There are few cod close to shore as they have received so much commercial fishing pressure over the years that they are no longer plentiful.

Cod are a cold water fish and with climate change and warming water along the northeast continental shelf, some scientists believe that cod are headed for deeper cooler water.

However, Capt. Frank Blount of the *Frances Fleet* believes southern New England cod are not following normal climate change patterns.

"The fishing is getting better with anglers catching cod closer to shore now when fishing for tautog in the fall. I am not a scientist but believe there are three distinct cod stocks and the southern New England stock is doing well, the Gulf of Maine stock is slowly improving and the George's Bank stock is not in very good sharp." said Blount.

Fishing in recent years off Rhode Island has been very good. Capt. Richard Chatowsky of

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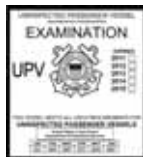
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Capt. Richard Chatowsky

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the charter fishing vessel *Drifter* said, "Fishing has improved in the last few years. Last year the season was short but it was one of the best as far as fishing intensity. The season produced cod in the 25 pound range and pollock to 20 pounds that were mixed in chasing the herring and maceral bait. Overall keeper fish averaged about 12 pounds last season."

Cod are bottom fish that are basically lazy. They are not aggressively hunting, they pretty much stay on the bottom, often near structure (underwater wrecks, rock piles, holes, humps and drop offs), waiting for prey (cod like to feed on maceral and herring) to come by. So you

have to go to where the cod are to catch them. They are not likely going to come to you.

Capt. Rusty Benn of the *Seven B's* party boat said, "Winter cod fishing has been pretty good. The cod have been left alone most of the season as anglers are targeting different species, so we find them pretty regularly right around Block Island in December and January. We like to fish on open bottom near structure. One of the biggest problems is dogfish."

Rick Bellavance said, "If fishing on your own boat for cod, plan to move around a bit, keep the bottom machine going and try each hump and bump." Try each spot at different times of the trip, focus on one area and hit the spots in that area hard. Take notes throughout the day and over time you will have the areas that are productive or not.

Anglers should wear layers of clothes with an outer layer that can repel water as spray and



Continued on page 38

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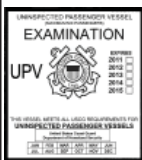
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Continued from page 37



precipitation occur often. Wear warm water proof boots and bring a couple of pairs of gloves (ideally ones that allow you to maneuver you fingers). Capt. Frank Blount said, "The winter weather is unforgiving, if anglers are fishing in private boats in winter waters off Rhode Island they have to be extremely cautious. When the weather is warm the wind and seas are generally high as the warm temperatures are blowing in."

A hook or two, a bank sinker that holds the bottom and sea

clams are often used as bait to catch cod. Jigs of various sizes, color and weight depending on conditions are used too. Cod will generally eat anything that is in front of them, they are not picky, but you have to get their attention and jigs usually do a good job of this. A common rig used is a diamond jig with a colored teaser tied about 12 inches above the jig. Sometimes anglers tip the jig and teaser with fresh bait (a piece of sea clam). "I like Viking jigs with a teaser above with pink and green colors generally working well for me. Grub style teasers also work.



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The jig weight will vary depending on tide and current but 8 ounces is what we often use.

Cod fishing experts generally use seven to eight foot rods with a bit of backbone. Shimano, Diawa and Penn are popular names when talking cod fishing rods and reels. Some party boat captains suggest customers use monofilament line to avoid timely tangles with fellow customers. Yet, most captains suggest braid to create the most direct line of contact with the fish. Capt. Dangelo said, "Braid line is important to create that direct contact with the fish, the less line out the better, there's no big bow in your line when using braid compared to monofilament."

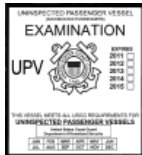
Party boats (inspected vessels that take more than six anglers, often 50 to 75 anglers) out of Rhode Island fishing for cod include: the *Seven B's*, and the *Frances Fleet*. Rates per angler for cod fishing are about \$100. Charter boats (six or fewer anglers) range from \$750 to \$1,200 per vessel depending if the cod trip is close to shore or offshore (and length of trip). Charter boats fishing for cod in spring, summer or winter can be found at www.rifishing.com.



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ELECTRONICS - vs - FISHING

Welcome to the new age of electronics, I think. After looking around while having breakfast in a local restaurant I was amazed at what was going on at most tables. Just behind my wife were a mother and her teenage daughter, waiting for their food. They were not talking to each other at all but were both engrossed in their phones. The table to my right was a family of a grandmother, mother and 3 children from about 6-14 yrs of age. They too were busy checking out the phones, iPods, tablets, etc. Know body was talking to each other. Even Grandma was texting someone. Boy have things changed in just a few years.

Well I have noticed this phenomenon is also starting to happen on charter boats. At first when I began running my charter boat back in 1980 there were no portable phones. Everyone talked to each other. Then little by little the phones started to show up. Sometimes the customers would all throw their phones up on the dashboards and say "Thank God I am out here and don't need to use my phone. Finally I have some peace and don't need to talk to anyone." That didn't last too long. Phone service got better and you could be reached just about anywhere. Now I have some businessmen that still shut down their phones and enjoy their free day fishing, but there are always a few, especially the millenials that simply just can't do it. They have to be in constant contact with someone, whether it is their wife, friends etc. As soon as they catch a fish or someone else is hooked up they are taking pictures or video and sending them off to Facebook, Instagram, or whatever else is available in the electronic cloud. Call me old fashioned and out of touch, but whatever happened to just enjoying time with your friends, and getting excited with the excitement going on in the boat with your friends. You are making memories, and they will last a long time if you just get involved and pay attention to

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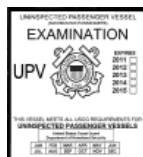


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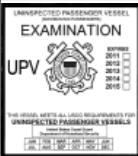


VS



what is going on at the time. There is nothing wrong with taking videos, and pictures but do it after all the high fives and congratulations are finished. Many fathers are now starting to change their fishing habits. They used to fish with a group of guys and fished hard, ate and drank, and kidded each other all day. Now they seem to have begun taking out their families for a great fishing experience. There is nothing better than teaching a child how to fish and seeing the excitement on their faces when they catch a fish. As a grandfather I have taken my children when they were young, and now I am taking my

Continued on page 42



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Continued from page 41

grandchildren out for some family fun and bonding. They also love to eat fish, so it is great when they boast about catching their own dinner. The tough thing is keeping them away from their electronic gizmo's, but we managed to make them realize that they can play in the electronic world before we get on the boat, and after on the ride home. Most of the time they all fall asleep on the ride home because they are exhausted from their day fishing on the water with the family.



Hopefully you can find some time to go out with your friends or family and enjoy a great day of fishing on the ocean, and put your electronics in your bag or better yet leave them in your car. There are many boats to choose from in the RIPCBA that will gladly take you out in the water to enjoy a great experience, and make some fantastic fishing memories. 

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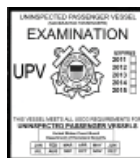


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GET READY FOR A TUG OF WAR

Tautog (or blackfish) is a great eating fish with a white delicate meat. That's why anglers love to catch them. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) regulates recreational tautog fishing. The minimum size is 16" and at press time catch limits were still being determined but generally they are three fish/person/day in the spring and late summer/fall seasons, and five or six fish in the later portion of the fall/winter season. In addition there is a ten fish boat maximum per day limit for recreational boats, which does not apply to party and charter boats.



Tautog fishing is much like a tug of war. Once you hook one the battle is on to keep it from going into structure. Many times anglers hook up on the bottom when fishing for tautog. My experience is half the time the bottom hook up is caused by a fish that takes the angler's bait into the rocks before they even know it.

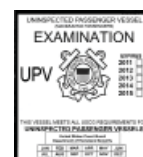
So, get ready, here are five tips to help you have a great tautog fishing experience.

1. Find structure to find tautog. Tautog can be fished from shore or boat, and in both cases they like structure (rocks, wrecks, bridge piers, dock pilings, mussel beds, holes and humps along the coast and in the Bay). So no structure, no tautog.

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2. Fish where the fish are. This is particularly true with tautog because they are a territorial species, you have to find the tautog, they are not going to find you. So if you get no bites move to another spot. When you find them get ready, you found them and the bite is on.

3. Boat placement is important. Find structure, estimate wind/drift direction and anchor up current from where you want to fish and drift back to the spot as the anchor is setting. Once in position fish all sides of the boat casting a bit to cover as much area as you can. If still no bites let some anchor line out (a couple of times) to change your position, if still no bites it is time to move the vessel.

4. Feel the bite-tap, tap and then get ready for a tug of war. I believe with the first tap the tautog is positioning the bait for consumption. So get ready to set the hook anticipating the second tap before the fish takes your bait into structure. Once the fish is hooked, keep the rod up and pressure on so the fish is not able to run for cover.

5. Where to fish for Tautog. From shore look for rocky coastline like Beavertail Point on Jamestown, locations off Newport and off breakwater rock walls along the southern coastal shore. From a boat I have had good luck at, Ohio Ledge in the East Passage, Plum Point light



Continued on page 46

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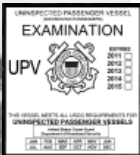
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Continued from page 45



house next to the Jamestown Bridge, the rock jetty at Coddington Cove in Portsmouth, off Hope Island, General Rock in North Kingstown, around Brenton Reef and Seal Ledge off Newport, off Narragansett at rock clusters or the bolder field off Scarborough, Whale Rock and any other place there is structure, debris, rock clusters, wrecks, etc. It's good to find your own spots as popular ones often get overfished.



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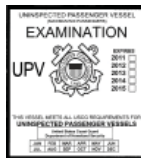


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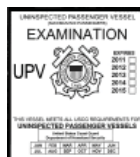
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Codfish



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Smoked Bluefish Recipe

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 6 to 8 bluefish fillets (skin on) | 1/2 cup of Molasses |
| 1/2 cup Kosher Salt | 1/2 cup of Brown Sugar |
| 3 Tablespoons of Soy Sauce | 1/4 cup of Honey |
| 1 jar tomatoe & basil sauce | 1 1/2 Gal of water |
| 3/4 cup fresh cut parsley | |

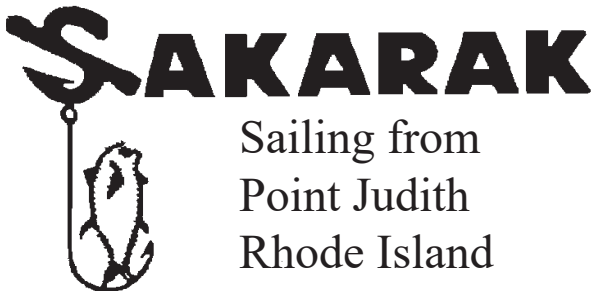
Mix everything ,except the fish, and put the mix into a large container (never in a metallic container). Gently place fillets into the brine mix and make sure they are resting in the liquid. Place the container in the fridge for 10 to 18 hours.

Take out the fillets and pat dry them. Place the filletts on the racks of the smoker and let them air dry for at least 1 or 2 hours. Bring the smoker up to temp. Brush the fillets with maple syrup occasionally. Smoke the fish for about 4 to 5 hours.

Cool the fish at room temperture for 2 hours and then wrap & store them in the fridge.



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Rinse your fillets in clean salt water.
Put them on a microwave safe dish or paper plate.
If you have butter, and lemon, put that on the fillets first. Usually I only have salt, pepper, and parsley on the boat, so that is all I put on the fillets.

Cover the fish with a paper towel and put it in the microwave on High for 2 1/2 minutes.
Check to see if it is done.
If the fillets are small like scup or fluke, they might be done, if not put them back in for another 2 minutes.

Thicker fish like Tautog needs probably 3 minutes to cook, check and then cook another 3 minutes.
The fillets should be pure white and flake with a fork.
If they look pink or translucent they are not done.
You don't want to overcook the fish, but you also don't want to eat it raw. The fish will be moist and delicious. ENJOY!





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The Rhode Island Party & Charter Boat Association captains and mates donated their vessels, time and bait to take out over 50 veterans, and their caretakers. Some of the disabled veterans fished from their wheelchairs on the boats. This was the fourth time that RIPCBA members took out the veterans to give them an enjoyable day on the water catching fish. Many of the veterans took the fish home for dinner, while others just enjoyed the day of camaraderie with their fellow vets, male and female. The Providence and Boston Veterans Administration put together this trip to help veterans enjoy activities that they might feel they can never do again, like kayaking, fishing, and flying kites. Lunch, drinks, and snacks were provided to all the veterans, caregivers, family, friends and crew. It was a great experience and gave all the captains and mates a good feeling of giving back, and thanking them for their service with our time and fishing experience. They had a chance to catch Striped Bass, Sea Bass, Fluke, Blues and Scup. Hopefully this year we will have our 5th Veterans Fishing Adventure with even more vets participating. 🐟





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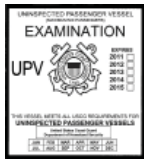
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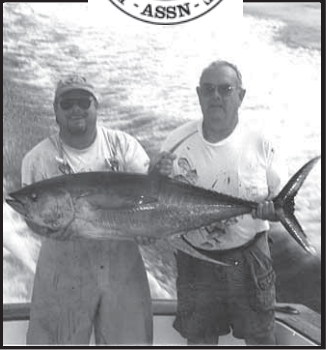
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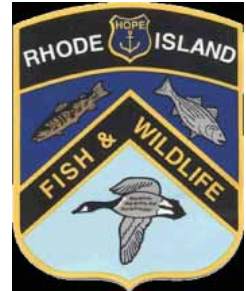




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Soon we were marking fish and the mate was introducing the rigs to the water to troll the area. In a short while one of the poles was bending and jerking and Sarah, phone forgotten, was being ushered into a trolling chair and handed a pole. "Bring it up like this and reel like crazy as you lower it," instructed the mate. Her eyes wide with excitement, she obeyed. "It's hard!" she exclaimed but kept at it until we suddenly saw it jump out of the water. "Look! Look!" she



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yelled, and renewed her efforts until in minutes the mate grabbed the gaff and pulled aboard her trophy. "My turn!" my son announced, and old dad took the other chair. My wife, Janet, preferred her role to be taking pictures with her phone and sending them to various grandparents, aunts and uncles. After a bit the initial rush of fish was waning. "I think the bite is over for now," the captain said. "Let's try some bottom fishing." He slowed the boat while the mate switched over to other poles and baited the hooks with pieces of squid and a sinker. He showed us how to let it down to the bottom and what to feel for. Even my wife tried this and in fact reeled up the first one, and made me take pictures to send to her girlfriends. Then she passed out sodas and pastries as Stephen and I persevered and both of us were rewarded with two small ones. These we released while Janet passed out beverages and pastries.

The wind had picked up a little and we were rolling quite a bit. "I want to do something else," whined Sarah. The captain called me up on the bridge. "Your family looks like they need a break. What about going in to Block Island for an hour or so, grab a snack, maybe take a quick dip at the beach?" That sounded like just what we needed. Spirits perked up as he turned into the harbor. We had never been to Block Island and as the old Victorian houses came into view we couldn't wait to explore. Our first stop was the old ice cream shop plastered




Continued on page 60



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Continued from page 59



with postcards of days gone by. Then we strolled through unique shops with local crafts. A little farmers' market was in full swing and we bought some honey made from local flowers along with some hand-made beeswax candles for my mother. We strolled back down to the boat where the mate was just finishing fileting our fish and bagging them up, and we climbed aboard, refreshed.



We got underway and the captain said, "How about on our way back we stop at the North End to try for some bass?" We had already had a great day and were ready to put our feet up and enjoy the ride, but we agreed. The captain made a few passes and finally we hooked up with a small bass. My wife took a quick picture and we let it go. We'll be back for that one another year. 

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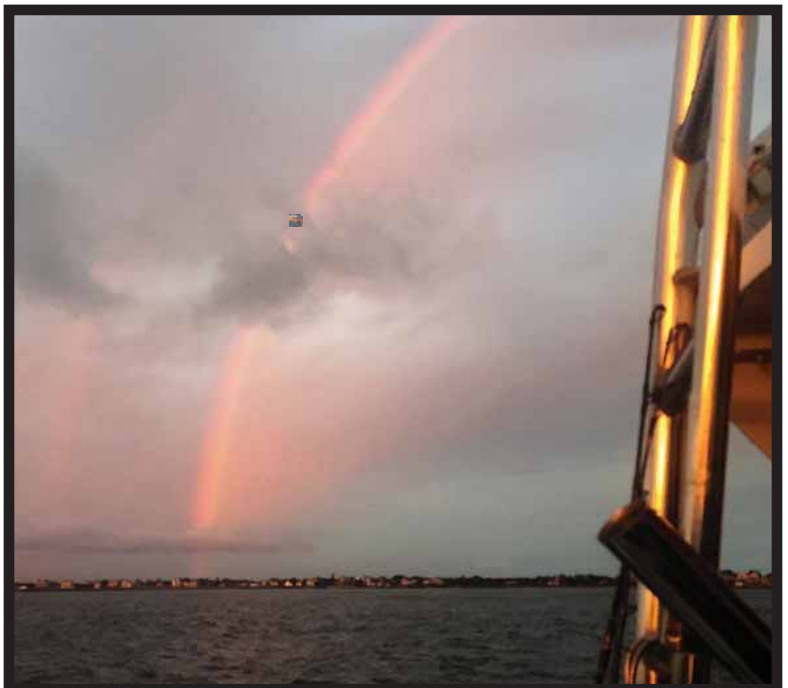
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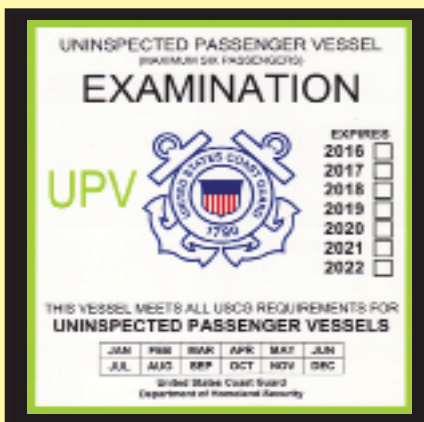


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