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SALTWATER ANGLERS Association



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Representing Over 7,500 Recreational Anglers

RI Saltwater Anglers Foundation Contributes \$15,000 to Improve South County River Herring Runs

Two fish ladders in Saugatucket River to be modified

The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Foundation has awarded a \$15,000 grant to the Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island towards the modification of fish ladders in the Saugatucket River in South Kingstown for diadromous fish (alewife, blueback herring).

The project, working closely with RIDEM Division of Fish and Wildlife, is scheduled to make these modifications for



Indian Lake spillway on the Saugatucket River

improving fish passage at the Palisades Mill ladder and Indian Lake ladder during the fall of 2018.

The grant from the RISA Foundation will be used to match a \$50,000 grant from the Rhode Island Coastal and Estuary Habitat Restoration Fund.

Both adult and juvenile river herring provide an important forage base for freshwater and saltwater game fish such as striped bass and bluefish. (to page 15)




MATT DAVIDSON
displays a pair of summer founder that he landed while fishing aboard Skipjack last August off Block Island. The fished weighed in at 8.5 and 5.5 lbs.

Recreational fishing is worth \$332 MILLION to the Rhode Island economy and over 3,000 jobs!

15 YEARS! NEW ENGLAND

SALTWATER FISHING SHOW
March 9 - 11, 2018
NESaltwaterShow.com



2018 Saltwater Fishing Show Sets New Records!

This year's Fishing Show was the best to date!
"We knew it was going to be special," said Show Committee member **Pete O'Biso**. "The line waiting to get in for the Show's opening on Friday was so long it went the length of the Convention Center and into the parking garage!"
Convention Center box office personnel quickly added two additional ticket collectors at the doors so there would be four lanes to get people inside. At 1:00 on Friday the show doors were opened and for 20 minutes those people flooded in. As soon as the line subsided, the turnstiles were counted, and confirmed a new show record for an opening: 926 people had been in that line!
And the rest of the Show drew crowds the entire three days. "By our count, 15,400 people attended the show," said **Ed Kearney**, Show Committee member. (to page 36)



Rhode Island SALTWATER ANGLERS FOUNDATION

A nonprofit, IRS recognized (501c3) charitable and community service foundation. Contributions to the RISA Foundation are deductible on your federal income tax.

FISH LADDER GRANT (from page 1)

Increasing the river herring spawning populations in the Saugatucket River will hopefully substantially enrich the forage fish populations in the main river, as well as the lower river estuary, Point Judith Pond and Block Island Sound.

Based on the extent of the spawning and nursery habitat in the Saugatucket watershed, this system has the potential to support river herring populations of over 200,000 spawning adults.

The Saugatucket River is a small, coastal watershed (11,018 acres) that flows into the northern end of Point Judith Pond in South Kingstown. It is the largest river system contributing to Block Island Sound.

Runs of diadromous fish (river herring and American eel) were once plentiful in the Saugatucket River but disappeared from the watershed with the construction of mill dams in the 1800's. Efforts to restore diadromous fish to the watershed began in the 1970's with the construction of the first fish ladder at the Main Street dam in Wakefield. Shortly after, a second fish ladder was constructed at the Palisades Mill in Peacedale providing access for spawning fish into the Peacedale Pond.

A third ladder was eventually constructed at the outflow of Indian Lane in 2003. The DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife has executed easements with the respective landowners in order to maintain and operate each of the ladders.

Most recent observations and assessments by RIDEM, NOAA and USFWS fish passage engineers have identified several problems, as well as opportunities to improve, fish passage performance at both the Palisades Mill and Indian Lake fish ladders.



The Saugatucket River runs from Indian Lake to the north to the northern end of Point Judith Pond and empties into Block Island Sound.



The Palisades Mill Fish Ladder to include an extension and new baffle system. See yellow in photo.

The Nature Conservancy is working closely with RIDEM F&W to schedule these modifications for improving the fish ladders during the fall of 2018.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has listed river herring (both alewives and bluebacks) as "species of concern" and continues to evaluate the status of Atlantic Coast river herring populations. River herring is listed as NOAA *trust resources* and are federally managed through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

Currently there is a moratorium on the taking of river herring in Rhode Island freshwater and marine waters.

WORK TO BE DONE Indian Lake Fish Ladder.

Each spring, the upstream movement of herring has been delayed. Fish have been observed stacking up in the ladder pools and have had to be manually netted and released into the head pond (Indian Lake). Based on current USFWS engineering criteria, modifications (design changes) will be made to the ladder to revise hydraulic conditions and improve the upstream passage of fish through the ladder. These improvements will include increasing the number of concrete weirs in the ladder and revising the orientation of the low flow notches.

Palisades Fish Ladder.

Modifications are necessary to improve attraction to the entrance to the ladder as well as decreasing water velocities in the fishway to meet acceptable levels for the passage of river herring.

(to page 37)



RISAA Member News

by Lynn Medeiros



The purpose of this column is to pass along information and milestones within the membership. Birthdays, anniversaries, events or get-well wishes are all in order. We also let members know of the passing of other members.

GETTING WELL

Member **Dan daSilveira** went through spine surgery in January. All went well and he arrived home mid-March after six weeks of recovery. Apparently he won't be fully recovered for six months so he had to cancel his boat slip for this year.

"I can't wait to start driving so that I can begin attending monthly meetings once again," Dan said. "I missed working the shows this year."



We all wish you a full recovery Dan, and hope to see you at a meeting soon.

CONDOLENCES

It is with deep sadness that we report the loss of member

Thomas W. Nerney

on March 17, 2018 of Wakefield, RI.

Tom leaves behind his wife Jean Bowen, a sister Dr. Anne Balboni, a brother, James Nerney, and four children, Julie Marron, Tom Nerney, Michael Nerney and Kevin Nerney, and stepchildren Kristen Bowen and Jason Bowen, and 12 grandchildren.



Tom has been a RISAA member for 15 years and he shared his love of fishing with his 12 grandchildren.

His wife Julie - also a RISAA member - said Tom was an admirer of the work of RISAA.

"He was happiest when fishing," said Julie. "We want to designate memorial donations to go to the RISAA Foundation."

The RISAA Board extends it's condolences to Jean and Tom's family. We thank her for thinking of the RISAA Foundation during this most sad and trying time.

FISH LADDERS (from page 15)

Modifications to the ladder will include revising and installing a new baffle system (48 wooden baffles) to create a false 1:8 slope and installing a steep pass at the fishway entrance to hydraulically connect the water within the entrance channel to the tail water.

THE FOUNDATION GRANT

In 2013, the R.I. Saltwater Anglers Foundation, our 501(c)(3), established the "Recreational Fishing Advancement Grant" to promote and invest in projects that will have a benefit to the recreational fishing community.

The funds may be used for on-the-ground habitat conservation and improvement projects, research, culture specific to species of recreational interests, or for projects that will in some other way benefit recreational fishermen in Southern New England.

Each individual project grant has a maximum of \$15,000.

We will keep RISAA members apprised of the project as it moves along.



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