



# Rhody FLY RODDERS

*America's Oldest Saltwater Fly Fishing Club*

## THE CURRENT

*"The lifeline of the estuary and knowledge"*



## Summer Fishing Series

**"Pass on to all, who ask, what you learn here"**



The hard tails are coming and so is a new data collection program focused on them! The RI Division of Marine Fisheries partnered with RISAA to receive a grant to purchase supplies for a project that seeks to collect data on albies and bonito. The project focuses on anglers volunteering to take pictures of their catch with a provided token card in the image. When the volunteers submit the pictures to DEM, scientists can use the size of the card in the picture to tell the size of the catch. It works by comparing the the number of pixels in the image that make up the length of the card to the known size of the card. This ratio assigns a unit of measure to a pixel and can then be applied to the length of the fish in the image. Fortunately, computer programs can make the math and counting take only a second. DEM has 520 cards to give to volunteers for this program and is hoping to supplement their recreational catch data with this data. If this works well for albies and bonito, they hope to use it on other species as well.

Besides measuring pictures, the DEM has received 1000 dart tags to tag hard tails over the next few years. Again, volunteer anglers are the nexus for getting tags into these fish. A group of charter captains and die hard albie and bonito addicts will receive tagging kits to help with the work. The data collected from tagging will aid in assessing the availability of these species to anglers and help determine management measures.

Both J.A. Macfarlan and Patrick Williamson are leading this project and if you wish to volunteer you can reach out to them at [DEM.AlbiesBonito@dem.ri.gov](mailto:DEM.AlbiesBonito@dem.ri.gov).

*Capt. Ray Stachelek*

*Capt. Ray Stachelek*



President  
Rhody Fly Rodders



# July and August

AUGUST, 2025



# Fishing Report

The last month has been difficult for shore anglers. Fly fishers tied to the shore continue to find sporadic action during the night, but the success rate is far from good. Those on dawn patrol have been able to connect with a bonito here and there, but more often than not they are watching from the rocks as fish break out of their reach. Anglers looking to sight fish in RI and Cape Cod have found a few fish, but the fish are always extra picky in August.

Thankfully, this will all change soon. The Bay is full of silversides and peanut bunker, and they will begin to meander out into the ocean in the next two weeks. The beginning of this shift and the declining temperatures will awaken the bass sitting out deep in the channels, and they will return to the shallows looking for food. Hard tails will start patrolling the coastline covering 40 plus miles per day at torpedo like speed. Fishing is about to get better.



For those with boats, fishing has been ok. The fishing has been mostly hit or miss with any pattern only lasting a few days before disappearing. The main catch has been a mix of bonito and bluefish, but some stripers are being caught too. When everything clicks, it has been epic, but the days where epic feeds do not materialize have been dismal. There has not been much in between. An eight hour day may provide a vessel nothing, a three fish combo of blues and bass, or you hit the jackpot of all you can catch bonito. It seems like these have been the only outcomes for a month now. The three fish combo has been most common, and trying to make any future prediction has been less successful than trying to hit the mega millions. Still, the rate of the success has made the slow days worth it for most anglers.

Please remember that catching stripers in warmer water temperatures, like those we still have in the Upper Bay and in portions of the Narrow River, leads to an increased post release mortality rate. If you choose to fish in the bay or river on warm sunny days please be thoughtful and minimize handling time. You should not need a picture of a 15 inch fish. Taking pictures of smaller fish pulled out of near 80 degree water shows a lack of respect for our resource and other anglers.

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## We Need Your Help!

Did you read a good fishing book or go on a trip somewhere? Do you want to share your knowledge of a **well known** spot with members new to the area or new to fly fishing? How about just some pictures of the fish you catch? ***U dun't hav 2 worry about gramma or speling***, we can fix it! Let us know and we will include it in the next issue.

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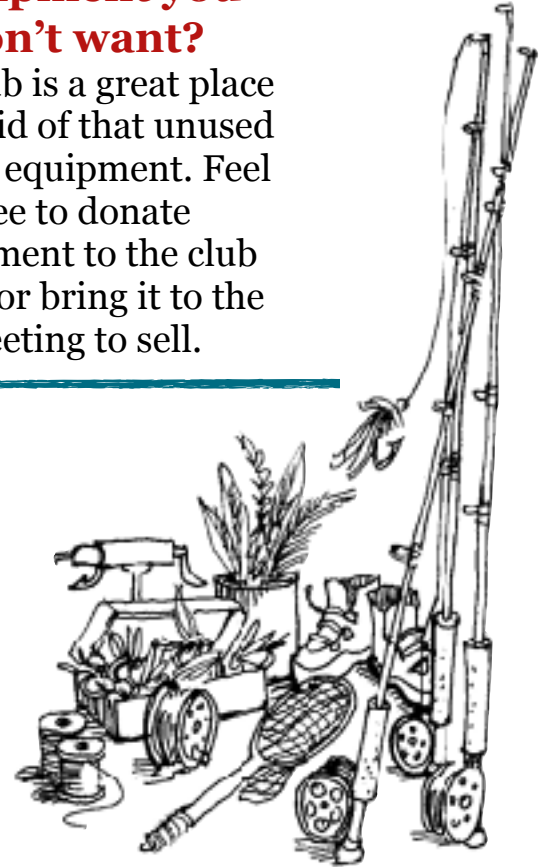
Contact the newsletter team:  
[Rhodyflyrodder.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:Rhodyflyrodder.newsletter@gmail.com)

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## Do you have unused fishing equipment you don't want?

Our club is a great place to get rid of that unused fishing equipment. Feel free to donate equipment to the club raffle, or bring it to the meeting to sell.

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## Officers and Board

### President:

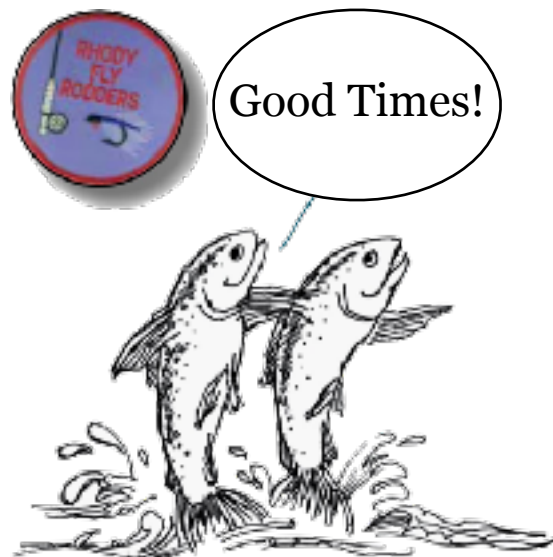
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### Secretary/Treasurer:

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### Directors:

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Artwork by: **Peter Nilsen**