



## Representing Over 6,500 Recreational Anglers

### Legislative agenda keeps RISAA leadership and member busy in June



#### Legislation for public Rights of Way passes House, but stalled in Senate

House Bill No.5336 was introduced by **Representative Peter Kilmartin** on February 5, 2009. This worthwhile legislation would require cities and towns to provide free parking at CRMC designated Right-Of-Ways along the Rhode Island shore. RISAA is fully supportive this bill, and thanks Rep. Kilmartin for his efforts.

The bill received two hearings before the House Municipal Government Committee, and passed on May 28. Then on June 4, it passed the full House of Representatives.

It was then sent to the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Agriculture, but as of this report the end of June, it was not scheduled for a hearing.

Steve Medeiros asked RISAA members to send emails to Senate President Teresa Paiva-Weed and Majority Leader Daniel Collins, encouraging them to get the bill moved and scheduled for a hearing. Let's hope our pleas don't fall on deaf ears.

(to page 46)



Rep. Peter Kilmartin

#### Recreational Saltwater Fishing License bills introduced in Northeast states

Because of the federal mandate for an angler registry projected to cost \$15-\$25 per year, the five states in the Northeast without a saltwater fishing license are moving to get a program in place to save their anglers the higher federal fees. The federal angler registry will begin on January 1, 2010.

##### CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut legislature passed their bill and made it effective as of June 15 this year. The license fee is \$10 for residents and \$15 for nonresidents. In a rush to accommodate the early date, license outlets began selling licenses. Problem was, after thousands were sold, someone realized that the governor had not yet signed the bill. Sales were immediately halted, and the June 15th date passed with no license law in place.

Connecticut will recognize licenses that are issued by neighboring states, including Rhode Island.

##### RHODE ISLAND

Upon completion and recommendation of the R.I. Recreational Fishing License Study Group, RIDEM had proposed language written up for an "ideal" license that would be acceptable and beneficial to Rhode Island anglers.

The fee would be \$7 (lowest in the country) for residents, \$10 for nonresidents, and \$5 for a one week license.

All funds would be placed in a restricted receipt account and used only for recreational fishing purposes.

At RISAA request the House version was introduced by **Representatives Peter Kilmartin, Raymond Gallison, Michael Rice, Eileen Naughton and Jan Malik**. A "companion" bill was introduced in the Senate by **Senators J. Michael Lanihan and V. Susan Sosnowski**.

The bill was heard before the House Finance Committee and approved on June 6. It then passed the full House on June 18, and was sent to the Senate. (to page 43)



Rep. Gallison



Rep. Rice



Sen. Lenihan

#### Other Legislative Issues of Importance

- Bill would unfairly change balance of R.I. Marine Fisheries Council. Opposed by RISAA - page 47
- DEM issues closure of commercial menhaden fishing - Warning raised by anglers- page 48
- Bill would prevent municipalities from selling off public access to shoreline properties- page 47