

Let's go fishing! You'll find stripers, blues and flounder

Jamestown is always a world-class fishing destination, but early summer fishermen get a bonus in June because of the amount of striped bass in the Narragansett Bay. Some of the largest fish in the state's fishing history have come from the shores around Jamestown, including a record-holding tautog.

One of the best bass fishing spots on the island is at Beavertail State Park. The cliffs and rock outcroppings are prime bass habitat and allow shore fishermen easy access to deep water. Anglers with decent casting ability can reach water over 17-feet deep close to the shoreline.

Boat fishermen only need to travel about 170 yards to the area off of Newton Rock to find striped bass, bluefish, blackfish, bonito and false albacore.

The east side of the park tends to be the fishermen's favorite – there used to be bass stands there – but a few say the west side is also good, particularly when there is a westerly wind.

The easy distance between the two sides of the park make it easy for anglers to change sides depending upon the wind and surf conditions.

Those fishing in the surf will prefer at least a 9-foot rod with 20 pound test line, and heavy leaders are a must because of the rocks.

Ft. Wetherill is another popular spot, but anglers will want to find a location away from the scuba divers for safety reasons. The coves in the fort are a good location to find fluke, snapper blues, black sea bass and tautog.


The Fort Getty and town fishing piers are excellent places to fish with children. Hull Cove on the north end is also a good place to fish, but parking is limited.

The Jamestown Striper Club will make it easy for kids to catch fish during their annual Kid's Fishing Derby held every summer. Check the Jamestown Press for the date and time. The derby is open to kids ages 5-15 and will be held at the reservoir on North Main Road. There are prizes awarded in three different categories, and the club provides bait.

Some of the club's members had their first fishing experience at the derby, which has been an island tradition for nearly 40 years.

There is no fishing license required for saltwater fishing in Rhode Island, but anglers should be aware of state fishing regulations.

If you think you've caught a record fish, Zeek's Creek is a certified weigh station, and the shop has all of the necessities needed for a fishing excursion.

For those looking for offshore action, several fishing charters are available locally. 

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