

CHARTER TRIP REPORTS

This year, over 100 RISAA members will be awarded fishing charter trips simply by winning random drawings at the monthly seminars. One member on each trip usually agrees to write a short story to share the experience with all members.

* It should be noted that not every trip can be guaranteed to catch fish. The trip brings RISAA members together and provides an enjoyable day or night on the water. Catching fish is the extra bonus.

BLUE BY U CHARTERS • Capt. Keith Sullivan

story by Rich Hittinger

It was a cool start for an August day. When we met at 5:30 AM on August 19 at **Captain Keith Sullivan's** dock on Salt Pond it was about 55 degrees. **Paul Howland, Bob Oliveira, Arthur Roberts, John Viveri, Steve West,** and I were all hoping for a little more heat and some hot action on striped bass fishing at Block Island. It was just getting light out when we all put on sweatshirts and other gear and found a comfortable spot on the 33 foot Donzi with twin 300 HP outboards.

We enjoyed the slow ride down Salt Pond toward Galilee. Once we reached the end of the short wall at George's restaurant there was nothing slow about the rest of our ride to the Southwest Ledge of Block Island. We moved easily and comfortably through a 2' chop at 40 MPH. We passed everyone else in sight and arrived on station about 35 minutes after leaving the West Gap.

Capt. Sullivan and his son set out the tube and worm rigs on the wire line and trolled over some of their favorite spots looking for some large bass to cooperate. Although there were marks on the fish finder, for the first hour the only interest was from bluefish. They were real crocodiles – 8 lb and up, but not the bass that we were looking for; they went in the fish box anyway. After the first few bluefish the mate used the “shake ‘em off at the side of the boat” routine to avoid a box full of bluefish.

Capt. Sullivan searched several of his spots near the 3 mile line and well inside of the line until we got a small bass to bite. This first bass was undersized and released. Once on the fish Capt. Sullivan decided to change tactics a bit and put on the puffer jigs. This proved to be slightly more successful and after several passes with our crew members taking turns jigging these rigs we landed 3 or 4 keepers before the action slowed again.

The Captain explained that when jigging it is important to jig hard so that the line goes slack on the drop back and the jig sinks. This tip allowed us to be more successful. By this time everyone had an opportunity to reel in at least one fish, with Bob Oliveira

landing the largest stripper – a nice 38" fatty and one fish breaking off before we could see him.

With the time ticking away and only 3 or 4 keeper bass in the box we could see the concern on Capt. Keith's face when he said “OK, we are going to the last resort to put more fish in the boat” and he broke out the umbrella rigs.

After only a few passes the umbrella rigs were producing keeper bass. Everyone had a turn at the rods with larger bass. In

fact I reeled in the line after what turned out to be the final knock down to land two keeper bass on the same umbrella rig. We called off the fishing by about 1:00 and arrived back at the West Gap with 4 bluefish and 10 bass. Captain Keith's son filleted the fish on the ride up the pond and we helped bag the bounty of our catch.

We all enjoyed a beautiful day on the water and we

caught plenty of fish – both bass and blues. Capt. Keith and his son know the bass fishing spots on Southwest Ledge and they can get you there and back faster than any other boat that I know. They are friendly and they make their customers feel comfortable.

Capt. Keith is getting a new boat for next season that will give up some of the speed, but get more comfort. I would recommend Blue By You Charters for a fun and productive day of fishing at Block Island, along the South Shore, or for shark fishing south of the Block.



Blue By U

High Speed Sport Fishing Charter
33' Donzi CC - Twin 300's

Capt. Keith Sullivan

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