

Narragansett Salt Water Fishing Club



One of the oldest Saltwater Fishing Clubs in America, the club was first chartered in the State of Rhode Island by a group of surf casters in 1936. The club has been active over 90 years and has survived some of this country's most troubled times. An amazing feat in this day and age. The Club presently has



approximately 170 members, but during the 1940's and 50's it had as many as 800 members. Early meetings were held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet where an average meeting consisted of as many as 250 members in attendance. Members in those days included such anglers as Bob Linton, Dean of RI Charter skippers, Jerry Sylvester and Joe Tartorie of Narragansett, both of whom ran bait shops and were among the most accomplished surf fishermen in the Northeast. There are no longer any living charter members. Our distinctive emblem of the bust of a Narragansett Indian is displayed on the outside of the Club and patches and buttons in bright orange led them to be known as "The Boys with the Orange Buttons." All historical documents, photos, newsletters, emblems, etc. are on permanent display and will be preserved for historical purposes in the I.G.F.A. Museum of Fishes in Los Olas, Fl. We were also honored by the I.G.F.A. as one of the oldest uninterrupted saltwater fishing clubs in the entire United States, and we are on record as part of angling history. Members have been active in the preservation of the marine environment and its fishes, while supporting strong conservation measures and youth fishing lessons. It also works towards the goals of improved access, regulations and proper rules and management of the marine environment. It will remain our goal to promote and preserve the sport of surf casting and fishing for generations to come. The Club holds annual fishing tournaments for its members and conducts steak fries, family gatherings and other educational activities where members share their love of the outdoors. The Club had competed in the R.J. Schaffer Fishing Tournament for many years and placed in the top ten several times. This tournament consisted of clubs up and down the Atlantic Coast. Often this tournament saw over 300 clubs in competition that was said to be fierce. The Club won the East Coast Surf Casting title when it was sponsored by the Garcia Company in the 1960's. Members also fished in the Martha's Vineyard Bass and Bluefish Derby and placed in the top ten on numerous occasions. The NSWFC, while still a surf fishing group holding to its founder's roots for over 90 years, having some of the finest surf casters in the Northeast, can now boast of having some of the area's best boat and fly fishermen among its members.

Narragansett Salt Water Fishing Club
1030 Matunuck Beach Rd, Wakefield, RI 02879
Club Website: nswfc.net
Non-profit Status: 501c3 since 10/30/2025

Rev. (2026)