



# PRESS RELEASE

## Recreational Fishing Alliance

5724 N. Route 9, New Gretna, NJ 08224

P: 888-564-6732 F: 609-294-3812

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Contact: Jim Hutchinson, Jr.

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888 564-6732

### **THREE TOP INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS JOIN RFA BOARD Seventeen Member Board Dedicated To Meeting Mission of Angler Advocacy**

The Executive Board of Directors for the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) has appointed three, highly qualified new members to begin two-year terms which officially commencing as of 2012.

The three newest members of the RFA Executive Board include Capt. Len Belcaro, publisher of *Big Game Fishing Journal* and CEO of *Offshore Satellite Services* of New Jersey; Carl Huffman of *Electric Fishing Reel Systems* in North Carolina; and Marty Bistrong of *Yellowfin Boats* based out of Florida.

“These three long-time friends of the RFA are tops in the field and have been in the sportfishing industry a very long time, so they understand what’s at stake today,” said RFA executive director Jim Donofrio. “In terms of staying on top of fisheries management issues and legislative battles that impact our members’ ability to access sustainable coastal fisheries, RFA is in the trenches everyday so it’s good to know we’ve got a well-rounded and engaged board of directors there to back up our efforts at the top.”

Belcaro, Bistrong and Huffman were officially appointed to the RFA board at the annual meeting of the directors at the Fort Lauderdale Boat Show this past October. Their terms officially run though 2014. Also getting reappointed to the RFA Executive Board William “Jamie” Wilkinson, Group Publisher of *F&W Media*; Phil Keeter with the *Marine Retailers Association of America*; Ken Ehlers, Northeast representative for *Lamiglas Rods*; Jim Motsko, *White Marlin Open*; Joey Prochazka, Director - Saltwater Division for *Z-Man Fishing*; Peter Harper, Business Solutions Manager for *GE Capital*.

Rounding out the 17 member RFA Executive Board are RFA co-founder Bob Healey, Chairman and CEO of the *Viking Yacht Company* and Bob Healey, Jr. of the Viking Group; Tred Barta of *The World of Tred Barta*; Nick Cicero of the *Folsom Tackle Corporation*; Mike Leech, Director of the *World Cup Blue Marlin Tournament*; Tom Putnam of *Half Hitch Tackle*; Capt. Bob Zales, II of the *National Association of Charterboat Operators*; Jack Holmes of the *Southern Kingfish Association*; Jerry Straub Sr., Chief Financial Officer of *Viking Yachts* and Patrick Healey, *Viking Yachts*.

"When we first incorporated back in 1996, the RFA’s goal was make positive changes in the way that our government manages our nation's saltwater fisheries by combining the voting power of a large grassroots membership with the economic power of the fishing industry," said Donofrio. “Our stated, guiding mission at the RFA is to protect the fish, the fishermen and the fishing-related business, and each of these individuals on our executive board provides important input as to how our goals can be met. I’m proud to be associated with a core group of supporters like them,” he added.

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*The Recreational Fishing Alliance is a national, grassroots political action organization representing recreational fishermen and the recreational fishing industry on marine fisheries issues. RFA’s Mission is to safeguard the rights of saltwater anglers, protect marine, boat and tackle industry jobs, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our Nation’s saltwater fisheries. For more information, call 888-JOIN-RFA or visit [www.joinrfa.org](http://www.joinrfa.org).*