



Air Force Veteran Rodney Cleaves (right) poses for a photo with two striped bass caught during Saturday's Freedom Fish event in Lynn, MA. Rodney won Third place in the weight category for his 9.2 pound catch. (Leanna Puccio)

Freedom Fish nets \$20,000 for veterans organizations

Amanda Lurey

July 20, 2025 by [Amanda Lurey](#)

LYNN – About 70 people came out to Saturday's 5th annual Freedom Fish event at Blossom Street Pier, and 12 fish were caught.

There were 50 boats donated by captains in the area, which helps Freedom Fish meet its first goal, which is to provide veterans with a free day of fishing,

according to Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) Executive Director Jim Cowdell.

“They are so appreciative, and it really makes everyone who is helping out feel good about the event because the veterans very much appreciate it,” Cowdell said.

Cowdell explained that the second goal of the event was to raise money.

“Every dollar that’s raised, 100% of it goes to veterans,” he said.

This year’s Freedom Fish once again bestowed \$10,000 to the Disabled and Limbless Veterans Inc., and another \$10,000 to the Lynn Veterans Council.

Freedom Fish is sponsored by the Mayor’s office, the EDIC and the Lynn Housing and Neighborhood Development Authority (LHAND).

“The Freedom Fish event is a cherished annual tradition that brings our veterans together in recognition of their service and highlighting their indispensable role in our City,” said Mayor Jared C. Nicholson. “This is one of many ways we express our gratitude and provide a beautiful space on the water where they can connect and enjoy some excellent fishing. I greatly appreciate all those involved in making it happen.”



Amanda Lurey

Amanda Lurey has been a news reporter for The Daily Item since February 2025 when she moved to Massachusetts from Oregon. Amanda is originally from Los Angeles, but she is passionate about traveling and seeing all that the world has to offer. She’s been to five continents so far, most recently checking Antarctica off her list, and she is also well known for being an animal lover at heart.