

## Outdoor briefs

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# Outdoor

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## Ranger Boats to feature Norwalk Harbor

### Beauty of local coast prompts photo shoot by large boat maker

**NORWALK** — Now that many of us have put the boats and other aquatic toys away for the season, the harbor is beginning to settle back into a more peaceful and serene place that we all can appreciate. With no mad rushes for the gas dock or races to get out of the no wake zone, the Norwalk Harbor begins to transform into a place where one can easily view deer, waterfowl and bird migrations.

However, on one bitterly cold morning earlier this fall, a small procession of boats left Norwalk's Cove Marina for a very unique excursion.

Armed with tripods, multiple lenses and warm gloves, Eric Johnson owner of Westport Outfitters and his crew had an unlikely charter.

Their clients this morning were Ranger Boats and the catch of the day would be just the right light and perhaps even a fish or two. Ranger Boats, which are sold out of Westport Outfitters, had selected picturesque Norwalk Harbor and the dozens of islands that surround it to include in the upcoming 2008 product catalogue.

"Rocky coastlines, lighthouses, waterfront homes and commercial fishing vessels steaming out of the har-

bor at first light is quintessential New England," Johnson, who piloted one of the boats being shot, said.

Ranger selected local professional photographer Dan Murdoch for the shoot ([www.danmurdoch.com](http://www.danmurdoch.com)).

"Dan is much more than just a photographer," Johnson said, "He is local and an avid fisherman, so he knows the light, the landscape — and where the rocks are!"

Despite 27-degree temperatures at sun up and chipping ice off the decks, the shoot went off without a hitch. The sunset was one of a kind and the lighting just perfect, said Johnson.

Adding to the excitement, the crew was able to get into some migrating bluefish as well as they begin to depart the sound at this time of year.

"Once we saw some fish pop up around Goose Island, the numbness in our hands quickly took a back seat," said John Anthony, who was also part of the shoot.

"The crew was able to get some great photos that will give Ranger Boats exactly what they were looking for and, for fellow Norwalk residents, just another reiteration why we all choose this blessed place as home," Johnson said.



Photos by Dan Murdoch

