

JCAA December 2005

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on November 22nd, 2005)

Remember New Monthly Meeting Room
"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, November 29th, 2005

Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, December 8th, 2005

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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This publication is printed and mailed one week prior to each regular monthly meeting of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. One of the prime goals of JCAA is to get accurate information into public hands as soon as possible.

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**JCAA General Membership Meetings are for club representatives and invited guests only. These meetings are not open to the general public. If you would like to attend as a guest, call the President at (732) 506-6565 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

Meetings And Other Dates

November 29th: JCAA General Meeting
December 6-7th, Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Management and ASMFC Joint Meeting on Summer Flounder Scup Sea Bass

December 8th: JCAA Board Meeting

December 27th: JCAA General Meeting

January 12th -15th: Garden State Outdoor Show

January 21st: Saltwater Sportsmen Seminar

SPORTSPERSON-OF-THE- YEAR DINNER/DANCE

BY PAUL TURI

On Sunday, November 13th, JCAA held its annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year award dinner/dance at the beautiful Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. This year's honoree was Bruce Freeman. Bruce was nominated for this award by the Berkeley Striper Club and was elected by JCAA member clubs at our general membership meeting in October.

Bruce has spent almost forty years working to protect the marine resource along the Atlantic coast. He worked for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services Bureau of Sport Fisheries, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife. Bruce designed the original bonus tag program for striped bass. In 1989 he also helped convince the Director of Fish and Wildlife to support legislation to make striped bass a game fish. Bruce puts in numerous hours both as an employee and a volunteer beyond what is required by his job. He attends many functions beyond his work responsibilities.

On behalf of the JCAA and its member clubs, I would like to congratulate Bruce on being elected this year's sportsperson-of-the-year.

Our guest speaker this year was Martin McHugh, Director of the New Jersey Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Paul Smith, on behalf of Greg Kucharewski, Chairman of JCAA's Youth Education Committee, presented this year's Youth Education Award to the Absecon Saltwater Anglers. Jim Van Daly, president of Absecon Saltwater Anglers, asked Larry Carlson to accept the award on behalf of their club because Larry's dedication and hard work he puts into the youth education program within Absecon Saltwater Anglers.

This affair is JCAA's second largest fundraiser, and as of this writing I can report that it was very successful. This event could not have taken place without the generosity of the many people and companies that donated the various items that were auctioned off and given away as door prizes. I would be remiss if I did not mention each and every one of them because JCAA could not exist without their generosity and support.

The following is a listing of all our sponsors who donated prizes, and on behalf of JCAA, I would like to thank each and every one of them:

Innovative Textiles, Luhr Jensen, Jarvis Walker, Maxima America, Yakima Bait Co. (Wordens Lures), Anglers Book Supply, Matzuo America, Top Brass Tackle, Optimum Bait, O. Mustad & Son, Solunar Sales Co., Ironwood Pacific, Inc., Fred Waltzinger, Chambliss Marine, Capt. Jim Hull ("Suzie Girl"), Schuyler Tuna Club, Absecon Saltwater Anglers, Julian's Bait Co, Inc., O.B. Fish Co., LLC, "Sea Fox", Schneider's Restaurant, "Miss Belmar", Fisherman's Den, "Skipper", Bernadette Turi, Fisherman's Headquarters, Johnson Industries, Don & Sue Marantz, Craig & Linda Jarman, Roger & Janice Staib, MT Master Plumber Plumbing & Heating, LLC, Regis Hair Salon (Lawrenceville), Fisherman Magazine, NJ Angler Magazine, Bimini Bay Outfitters, Rogue Rods, Canyon Gear, Al Ristori, Lou Graziola, Forked River Tuna Club.

Special thanks to the Fisherman Magazine for the beautiful Steve Goione prints they donated for each table.

Special thanks also to Dr. Pat Donnelly for the terrific job he did again this year as our Master of Ceremonies.

I would also like to thank all the fishing clubs that took a table: Manasquan Fishing Club, 4 B's,

Newark Bait & Fly Casters, Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County, Hudson River Fishermen's Association, Hi-Mar Striper Club, Forked River Tuna Club, Berkeley Striper Club, Absecon Saltwater Anglers, Jersey Coast Shark Anglers.

I would also like to thank the many individuals and organizations who also attended and who have shown their support of the JCAA.

Also, special thanks to Dan Miller who handled the ticket sales and Ed Cherry who helped me with the many donations that came in. I would also like to thank Don & Al Marantz, Mark Taylor, Tom Fote, Tom Siciliano, Frank Richetti, Rich Pasko, Phil Celmer and Bruce Smith.

I hope I have gotten everyone and every company and organization that participated to make this event a successful one this year. If anyone has fallen through the cracks and I have neglected to mention them, I apologize in advance. I have made every effort to keep accurate records, but, unfortunately, not everything gets into my hands the way I would like it to.

Again, on behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, thank you, everyone!

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BY THOMAS FOTE

Summer Flounder

Here is the bad news on summer flounder. NMFS is going to set the quota at 23.59 million pounds. This will be an extreme hardship on the both the recreational and commercial fishing industry. Our only hope is that the states get some backbone but I do not hold out high hope for that. The joint meeting of ASMFC and the MAFMC will take place on December 7th. I have included that agenda below as well as the press release on the quota and the link to the NMFS web page. I will be attending that meeting and so should you. It will take place at Trump Plaza Hotel, Mississippi and the Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ 08403 (telephone 609-441-6000).

At the end of NMFS press release they include the fact that they have no data to indicate this change will produce any negative economic impact to the industry. The only way they can make that claim is because they never did any economic study.

I don't care how dumb you are, if you cut the quota by 7 million pounds there will be a dramatic effect on both the commercial and recreational fishing industries. The greatest impact will be on the recreational industry since summer flounder is one of the most important recreational fisheries throughout the Mid-Atlantic states. A cut of 7 million pounds will be worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Only in fisheries can we get away with either ignoring or refusing to accumulate economic data. This would not happen in mining, forestry or any of the other natural resources. But the President through the Department of Commerce, NOAA, and the National Marine Fisheries Service have proven that the fishing industry is treated as a second-class citizen.

The real crime is that the average angler no longer believes in NMFS. They don't believe in MRFS and now we have proven they shouldn't believe in the stock assessment. At the summer flounder meeting in Atlantic City, Tom Siciliano pointed out that with a 30 or 40:1 ratio to get a keeper, the recreational anglers are catching almost every existing summer flounder in the water just to get a keeper to take home. We know that is absurd and we also know NMFS must be completely underestimating the total stock. However, no one is listening.

I know the three commissioners from New Jersey will not support going to 23.59 million pounds. They realize that this is totally absurd and will have the guts to tell the truth and vote accordingly. They also know the recreational and commercial communities are watching and will not tolerate any support for this reduction. If past history repeats itself, other state commissioners will kowtow to NMFS and vote in favor of the plan. Remember, New Jersey was the only state in 1998 that voted against decreasing the quota by a few million pounds just to placate a few environmental groups.

It is important for you to contact Dr. William Holgarth and explain your opposition to this lunatic proposal by December 2nd. It is also important to contact your three commissioners and make sure they know how you feel before the December 7th meeting. Two of your state's commissioners are appointed by the Governor and you should write to him or her as well and let him know how you feel. You can find out who represents your state by going to the ASMFC webpage. We should also contact our congressional delegation. The last time something

this absurd was considered, Congressmen Saxton and Pallone sponsored a hearing and were able to force NMFS to reconsider. We will need their help again. You should also contact President Bush. He appointed these people and is ultimately responsible for their decisions. Let him know how unhappy you are and how detrimental this proposal **will be to the** overall economy of your state.

Joint ASMFC & MAFMC Meeting Schedule **Trump Plaza, Atlantic City, New Jersey**

Wednesday, December 7 8:30 Council convenes jointly with Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board

8:30 - 11:00 Summer Flounder: 2006 Recreational Management Measures Review and discuss Monitoring Committee's recommendations on summer flounder management measures. Review and discuss Advisory Panel's recommendations on summer flounder management measures. Develop and approve management measures for 2006 summer flounder recreational fishery.

11:00 - 12:00 Scup: 2006 Recreational Management Measures Review and discuss Monitoring Committee's recommendations on scup management measures. Review and discuss Advisory Panel's recommendations on scup management measures. Develop and approve management measures for 2006 scup recreational fishery

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

1:00 - 1:30 Fishery Achievement Award Presentations Conservation Officer Sean Reilly of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation's Law Enforcement Division. Officers and crew of the USCG Cutter IBIS and Personnel of the USCG Station Manasquan Inlet

1:30 - 2:30 Scup: 2006 Recreational Management Measures – Continued Review and discuss Monitoring Committee's recommendations on scup management measures. Review and discuss Advisory Panel's recommendations on scup management measures. Develop and approve management measures for 2006 scup recreational fishery

2:30 - 4:30 Black Sea Bass: 2006 Recreational Management Measures Review and discuss Monitoring Committee's recommendations on black sea bass management measures. Review and discuss Advisory Panel's recommendations on black sea bass management measures. Develop and approve management measures for 2006 black sea bass recreational fishery

4:30 - 5:00 Finalize and adopt Council position regarding future system of joint management for Spiny Dogfish and Monkfish FMPs

Here is a link to the proposed rule: on Summer Flounder.

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/pdf/05-22856.pdf>

And here is a summary of the rule. The deadline for comments is December 2.

Mid-Atlantic Lower Summer Flounder Quotas to Keep Rebuilding on Track; Public Comments Accepted through Dec 6

NOAA Fisheries Service has proposed new management measures for the 2006 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries. In June 2005, an assessment of the summer flounder stock indicated that overfishing is occurring. Although the summer flounder stock continues to increase, it is increasing at a lower rate and is currently at a smaller size than previously forecast. In light of the new assessment, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council proposed a Total Allowable Landings (TAL) of 26 million lb for 2006, 2007, and 2008 -- a 14-percent decrease from the 2005 TAL of 30.3 million lb.

After careful review, NOAA Fisheries Service has concluded that the Council's summer flounder TAL recommendation fails to meet the minimum standard necessary because it would result in only a 25-to 30-percent probability of meeting the target fishing mortality rate. The setting of an annual TAL with less than a 50-percent probability of achieving the target would be contrary to the objectives of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and would violate a Federal Court Order requiring that the TAL have at least a 50-percent probability of achieving the target.

Therefore, NOAA is proposing a 2006 TAL of 23.59 million lb, which has at least a 50-percent probability of achieving the target fishing mortality rate. The proposed TAL is a 22-percent decrease for 2006 from the 2005 TAL of 30.3 million lb, and a 28.5-percent decrease from the previous specification of 33 million lb for 2006. The initial TAL would be allocated 60 percent to the commercial sector and 40 percent to the recreational sector, as specified in the FMP.

A table outlining the proposed allocations by state is provided in the proposed rule. These state quota allocations are preliminary and are subject to a reduction if there are overages of a state's quota for the

previous fishing year. In addition, NOAA Fisheries Service has conditionally approved four research projects for the harvest of the portion of the quota that has been recommended by the Council to be set aside for research purposes. This proposed rule also would make changes to the regulations regarding the commercial black sea bass fishery.

December 2 is the deadline for submitting comments on the proposed changes. Comments may be sent to: FSB2006@noaa.gov. Please include in the subject line the following identifier: ``Comments on 2006 Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Specifications."`

For more information, contact Sarah.McLaughlin@noaa.gov.

ASMFC Meeting Report

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission held their annual meeting in New Jersey. As you can see from the reports below, the summer flounder meeting proved to be an exercise in futility. The striped bass committee determined there was no reason to take any action to change the striped bass regulation since the stocks seemed to be holding their own and we are below the target. On weakfish, ASMFC decided to postpone any change in regulations until the peer review stock assessment is completed in 2006. This means that you will not see any new regulations until 2007. JCAA was proud that one of our own won the David Hart Award. Rob Winkel received the most prestigious award ASMFC presents. Rob well deserves this award and I was pleased to be in attendance when it was presented to him.

ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT

BOARD (October 31, 2005)

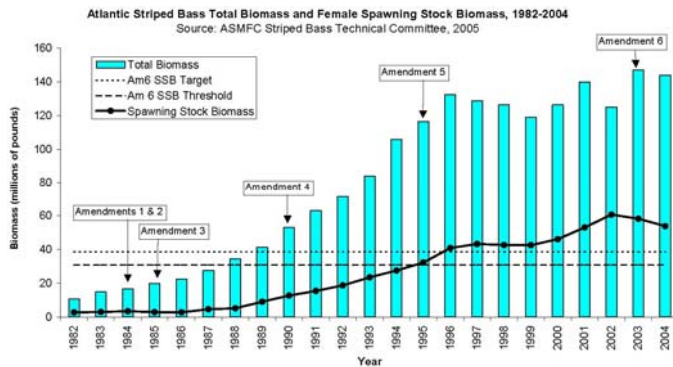
Press Release

Striped Bass Stock Assessment Indicates Healthy Stock

Total Abundance, Female Spawning Stock Biomass and Recruitment Remain High

Galloway, NJ – Scientific advice presented to the Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board today indicates that striped bass management under Amendment 6 to the Interstate Plan continues to be a success. The resource remains at a high level of abundance at 65.3 million pounds, 10 percent higher than the average stock size for the previous five years. Female spawning stock biomass (SSB) is estimated at 54.8 million pounds and is well above the SSB target and threshold levels of 38.6 and 30.9 million pounds, respectively. Recruitment of young fish (age 1) at 12.7

million is close to the average recruitment observed since the stock was first declared recovered in 1995.



The stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, with 2004 fishing mortality estimated at 0.40, below the Amendment 6 threshold of 0.41. Total catch has risen to 5.2 million fish, a 33 percent increase since implementation of Amendment 6 in 2003. Recreational harvest and discards accounted for 72.5 percent of the total mortality, with the majority of fish harvested by anglers in Virginia, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland and North Carolina. Commercial catch has risen slightly to 1.42 million fish, with Maryland commercial fisheries accounting for half of the harvest.

Based on the advice of the Technical Committee, the Board maintained the states' management programs at status quo. The Technical Committee will continue to monitor the status of the stock and refine stock assessment methodology as necessary. The next peer reviewed stock assessment is scheduled for 2007.

Copies of the stock assessment will be available on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org under Breaking News) by mid-November. For more information, please contact Lydia Munger, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or <lmunger@asmfc.org>.

WEAKFISH MANAGEMENT BOARD (November 2, 2005)

ASMFC Weakfish Board Approves Biological Sampling & Reporting Program
Stock Assessment Slated for Peer Review in 2006

Galloway, NJ – The Commission's Weakfish Management Board has approved the biological sampling and reporting provisions of Addendum I to Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Weakfish to bolster data collection and improve future stock assessments. It also agreed to send the 2005 weakfish stock assessment forward for peer review. The Commission received extensive

public comment in opposition to management measures proposed within the Addendum during public hearings and at the Board's meeting.

The collection of weakfish age and length data from the recreational and commercial fisheries is critical for use in conducting stock assessments. The biological sampling program under Addendum I makes several improvements over the Amendment 4 program. The new program was crafted to be more responsive to year-to-year changes in landings, which proportionately affect a state's required level of sampling. Addendum I also establishes criteria for determining non-compliance, consequences of non-compliance, and how states can get back into compliance with the biological sampling requirement. States are required to implement Addendum I for the 2006 season.

Copies of Addendum I will be available by December and can be obtained via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400. For more information, please contact Braddock Spear, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or bspear@asmfc.org.

Motions

Move to defer action on commercial and recreational measures of draft Addendum 1 pending completion of peer reviewed stock assessment.

Motion made by Mr. Colvin, second by Mr. Freeman. Motion carries.

Move that non-de minimis states that fail to collect required samples in a given year not be allowed to harvest weakfish until a plan for collecting samples is approved by the Management Board.

Motion made by Mr. Freeman, second by Mr. Travelstead. Motion carries.

Move for adoption of biological sampling and reporting program as outlined in Addendum 1.

Motion made by Mr. Colvin, second by Mr. Pope. Motion carries.

Move for adoption of Addendum 1 as dictated by the three motions passed by the Management Board effective February 1, 2006.

Motion made by Mr. Colvin, second by Mr. Pope. Motion carries.

Meeting Summary

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board met to discuss a number of issues including the 2006 summer flounder specifications, Draft Addendum XVII and full utilization of scup in the winter fishery. After extensive

deliberations, the Board decided to postpone setting the 2006 summer flounder specifications until its joint meeting with the Mid-Atlantic Council in December. The Board reviewed Draft Addendum XVI and approved the release of Draft Addendum XVI for public review and comment. Draft Addendum XVI outlines options to address delays in implementation of required management measures. The Board also discussed issues on scup management including what options are allowed under the FMP to address utilization of unharvested scup from the winter commercial scup fishery. ASMFC, in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, will review options for addressing these issues in upcoming amendments to the Scup Fishery Management Plan.

For more information on summer flounder management issues, please contact Toni Kerns, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at <tkerns@asmfc.org>. For more information on scup and black sea bass management issues, please contact Julie Nygard, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at <jnygard@asmfc.org>.

Motions

Move to amend the 2006 quota from 33 million pounds to 23.59 million pounds.

Motion made by Dr. Pierce, second by Mr. Smith

Move to substitute the 2006 summer flounder quota from 33 million pounds to 26 million pounds and set the 2007 and 2008 quota to no more than 26 million pounds.

Motion made by Mr. Freeman, second by Mr. Pate. Motion passes.

Main Motion:

Move to amend the 2006 summer flounder quota from 33 million pounds to 26 million pounds and set the 2007 and 2008 quota to no more than 26 million pounds.

Motion made by Mr. Freeman, second by Mr. Pate. Main motion fails for lack of a majority.

Move that the 2006 summer flounder quota be 23.59 million pounds.

Motion made by Mr. Cole, second by Mr. Smith. Motion fails for lack of a majority.

Move that the 2006 summer flounder quota be 26 million pounds.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Vasta.

Move to postpone the motion until next meeting of this Board, which is the joint meeting with Mid-Atlantic Council in December.

Motion made by Mr. Colvin, second by Mr. Travelstead. Motion passes.

Move to approve the draft Addendum XVI for public comment.

Motion made by Mr. Colvin, second by Mr. Adler. Motion passes.

Move that ASMFC in conjunction with MAFMC initiate an amendment to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP to define a rebuilding program for scup and transfer unharvested scup from the commercial winter 1 period to the summer period to be divided equally between recreational and commercial fisheries.

Motion made by Dr. Pierce, second by Mr. Colvin.

Move to postpone the motion until the December joint meeting of ASMFC and MAFMC.

Motion made by Mr. Travelstead, second by Mr. Augustine. Motion passes.

FISH IN 22 STATES TESTED FOR MERCURY:

Coalition Recommends Supermarket Warning Signs, Regular Testing of Commercial Fish to Protect Public Health

CONTACT: Sam Haswell (shaswell@oceana.org)
Oceana 2501 M St NW Suite 300 Washington, DC USA
20037 Telephone: 202-467-1906 Fax: 202-833-2070

September 15, 2005

WASHINGTON -- A coalition of environmental groups led by Oceana and the Mercury Policy Project released the results of a major, 22-state mercury testing project today, confirming that store-bought swordfish and tuna contain levels of mercury that the federal government has determined may be hazardous to human health, particularly children.

The results released in Fair Warning: Why Grocery Stores Should Tell Parents About Mercury in Fish were more comprehensive than any recently released by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and included samples purchased at popular supermarket chains such as Safeway, Shaw's, Albertsons and Whole Foods. Swordfish and tuna samples bought in grocery stores in 22 states were tested at the University of North Carolina's Environmental Quality Institute between July 7 and August 11.

An average mercury concentration of 1.1 parts per million (ppm) was found in the 24 swordfish samples tested. That level exceeds the FDA Action Level of 1.0 ppm for commercial fish, which is the amount at which the agency can take legal action to remove a product from the market. Two samples, including one from Maine and one from Rhode Island, contained more than 2 ppm, twice the FDA Action Level. The testing results also suggest that a typical

shopper buying swordfish in a grocery store has a 50 percent chance of buying a swordfish steak with mercury levels considered unsafe by the FDA.

Mercury concentrations in 31 samples of fresh or frozen tuna steaks averaged 0.33 ppm, a level comparable to that of canned albacore tuna, a fish specifically targeted for limited consumption by women of childbearing age and children in the 2004 joint advisory from the FDA and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The second page of the same advisory has similar consumption advice for tuna steaks.

“The results clearly demonstrate the need for signs in our supermarkets to communicate the FDA advice because people are unknowingly purchasing these high mercury fish, and women of childbearing age and children may be eating them in spite of the FDA’s warning,” said Jackie Savitz, director of Oceana’s Seafood Contamination Campaign. “Americans have a right to know what’s in their food, and posting warning signs in grocery stores where these fish are sold is a simple, common-sense solution that fulfills that right.”

In addition, the groups called on the FDA to improve its testing program. The Fair Warning project analyzed and reported on six times more swordfish than the FDA has in the past five years combined, and eight times more tuna steaks than the FDA has in the past eight years, according to the FDA’s database.

"Pregnant women and parents of young children need point-of-sale warnings to make informed choices about the fish they purchase," said Michael Bender, director of the Mercury Policy Project. "Based on our test results a 44-pound child eating six ounces of tuna weekly would be four times over the EPA's reference dose, and a 120-pound woman eating just six ounces of tuna weekly would be eating one and one-half times EPA's reference dose." The EPA reference dose is an estimation of the amount of methylmercury that, if consumed, would not be expected to cause an appreciable risk of adverse health effects over a lifetime.

To protect and inform the public about the risks of mercury poisoning, the coalition produced these recommendations:

State and federal governments should require warnings to be posted where fish covered by government advisories are sold.

In the absence of federal and state requirements, grocery stores should post signs to communicate mercury advisories.

The FDA should regularly test commercial fish for mercury content.

The FDA should not interfere with states’ efforts to educate citizens about mercury in seafood.

The final recommendation was offered in response to FDA Commissioner Lester Crawford’s recent opposition to the State of California’s efforts to protect families by requiring mercury warning labels on canned tuna in grocery stores. CA Attorney General Bill Lockyer maintains that the FDA does not have the authority to preempt the state’s law.

Mercury is a dangerous neurotoxin that has been linked to learning disabilities and developmental delays in children, as well as damage to the heart, nervous system and kidneys in adults. Mercury enters the environment via pollution from power plants, chlorine production facilities, waste incinerators and other sources. Forty-five states have issued advisories warning sensitive populations about the dangers of eating mercury-contaminated fish, and in 2004, the FDA and the EPA advised women of childbearing age and young children to avoid shark, swordfish, king mackerel and tilefish, and to limit consumption of canned albacore tuna and fresh tuna to 6 ounces per week.

“While mercury pollution in tuna and swordfish is a global problem, mercury pollution in local waterways has resulted in fish consumption advisories in local rivers and streams, as well as the mainstream of the Chesapeake Bay,” said Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) Senior Scientist, Dr. Beth McGee. “As a result of EPA’s decision not to require strict limits on mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and 22 states have sued EPA, and CBF is advocating for tougher state laws that will reduce pollution from these plants and other sources.”

Fish were collected from: Alaska, California, Connecticut, Washington, D.C., Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont and Wisconsin. The fish were bought in major grocery stores, including Shaw’s, Whole Foods, Albertsons, Sav-a-Center, Winn-Dixie, Dominick’s, Kroger, Trader Joe’s, Genuardi’s, Safeway and Carrs.

The Times
Recreational fishermen deserve better
Friday, October 21, 2005
Joe Kasper

Managing wild striped bass in Massachusetts waters as game fish for recreational or personal fishing - and replacing the commercial striper harvest in markets with fish raised through aquaculture - would

boost the state's economy by \$334 million and support 2,781 new jobs, according to a study commissioned by Stripers Forever and prepared by Southwick Associates, Inc.

According to data gathered in 2003, the study titled, "The Economics of Recreational and Commercial Striped Bass Fishing in Massachusetts," shows the recreational fishery for wild striped bass in the Commonwealth comprises nearly 549,000 resident sportsmen and has a direct retail sales value of \$650 million spent on fishing tackle, boats and motors, guides/charters, travel and food.

Stripers caught privately in Massachusetts waters generate almost \$237 per pound in economic impacts, but less than \$23 per pound if commercially harvested, according to the Southwick Study. The total economic activity generated by the recreational fishery - including 10,986 full-time equivalent jobs - was more than 47 times greater than that produced by the commercial harvest of wild fish, a seasonal business which supports only 524 such jobs.

The study also explains the production of hybrid striped bass raised through aquaculture has increased 222 percent in the past 10 years, and that fish suppliers in Massachusetts would be able to meet any consumer demand for striped bass in the Commonwealth by replacing all wild bass sold seasonally with farmed fish available on a year-round basis at basically the same retail price.

Stripers Forever, a non-profit, Internet-based membership organization (www.stripersforever.org) advocates eliminating all commercial fishing for wild striped bass and managing the resource for recreational and personal fishing.

Southwick Associates, Inc., based in Fernandina Beach, Fla., specializes in collecting and analyzing socio-economic information on fishing and hunting.

The wild striped bass is far and away the most popular and valuable sport fish in Massachusetts waters, says Brad Burns, president of Stripers Forever. By comparison, the commercial fishery is, in large measure, a seasonal hobby practiced by a handful of mostly recreational fishermen who exploit a hugely important public resource for their personal benefit.

Burns adds that about 50 percent of the entire Massachusetts commercial harvest in 2002 was taken by only 145 permit holders during a season that lasted just 21 days.

Stripers Forever supports legislation which would eliminate all commercial fishing for wild striped bass throughout their range. Stripers Forever is also in favor of using funds raised through the sale of a

dedicated recreational striped-bass stamp to buy out those licensed commercial harvesters who can document that a significant portion of their income is derived from historical landings of wild striped bass.

To access a road map that summarizes the findings of the Southwick Study, and to read the full study, log onto www.stripersforever.org. For further information, contact Brad Burns at (207) 797-7224.

The study just highlighted was done on the striped bass population in Massachusetts. It does, however, have its applications to New Jersey.

While the striped bass is a gamefish in New Jersey and commercial harvesting is not permitted, the economic impact of recreational fishing for striped bass on the state's economy is even greater.

Over the years, studies have been done on the money spent by recreational fishermen in New Jersey and some have shown that close to a billion dollars is spent annually by resident and non-resident anglers in the Garden State, much of which is a direct result of fishing for striped bass.

That being said, one has to wonder why the state doesn't more vigorously defend the rights of recreational fishermen.

A good point in case is the current attempt by recreational fishermen to have the size and bag limits changed to come in line with it's bordering states. The current laws allow fishermen to keep one fish larger than 24 inches but less than 28 inches, and one fish at 34 inches and over.

Fishermen are also allowed to keep a third fish of 28 inches or over if they are participating in the state's bonus tag program. These faulty regulations are hard to enforce.

Legislation to change the law so that anglers are allowed to keep two fish at 28 inches and over and simplify the regulations has been proposed, yet there has been no movement on the legislation in close to a year. It's time the New Jersey legislators passed the necessary legislation to bring New Jersey's bass regulations in line with surrounding states.

Another area where the state does nothing for the recreational angler is in the legal department. Every time the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) ups size limits and cuts bag limits and seasons, the Division of Fish and Wildlife does nothing but force recreational fishermen to comply with their unfair demands.

Never have they taken the ASMFC to court to defend recreational fisherman's rights. All the Division tells recreational anglers is that if the state does not yield to the demands of the ASMFC the state will be

deemed out of compliance and the particular fishery will be shut down.

Other states have gotten injunctions to keep the ASMFC from shutting down a fishery and taken the ASMFC to court and won. Yet New Jersey is unwilling to defend recreational fishermen.

All this has happened because of the unfair regulations anglers have been forced to live with. More and more sportsmen are keeping under-sized fish, taking fish out of season and keeping more than the meager limits they are allowed.

The Massachusetts study proves the value of recreational fishing to that state's economy. New Jersey's recreational fishing is worth far more money, yet the state does little or nothing promote matters.

With the New Jersey elections just around the corner, we can only hope the next governor will see the value of recreational fishing and take steps to protect and promote it.

Wildlife Retirees Must Be Replaced

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

By Al RistoriStar-Ledger Staff

Marty McHugh, director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, gave the keynote address at Sunday's Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) Sportsman of the Year

Dinner/Dance honoring the service of this year's recipient, Bruce Freeman, while also pointing out that many of the Division's key scientists and administrators will be retiring around the same time - leaving the state unable to comply with all the requirements of 22 fishery management plans as well as all their other responsibilities.

In addition to Freeman, reef specialist Bill Figley and others will soon be gone. Without the funding to bring in replacements while the veterans are around to train them, New Jersey could lose out in negotiations at the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

During his press conference last month at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament in Island Beach State Park, Governor-elect Jon Corzine was made aware of this problem and agreed it isn't right that the state can't meet its obligations in marine fisheries which are of such great economic value and vital to the tourism industry. Hopefully, Corzine will follow through and provide the relatively minimal funds required.

Absecon Saltwater Sportsmen were also honored at the dinner/dance with the JCAA Youth

Education Award for their work with Atlantic County kids and funding of the Nuncie Bruno Youth Bluefish Tournament.

Rob Winkle, winner of this year's ASMFC David H. Hart Award, was also at the dinner. The state's former Fish and Wildlife law enforcement chief was identified as "Rod" in Sunday's column due to my keystroke error.

(CBS) News 60 Minutes

Burning Rage

Nov 13, 2005

When they first emerged in the mid-1990s, the environmental extremists calling themselves the "Earth Liberation Front" announced they were "the burning rage of a dying planet." Ever since, the ELF, along with its sister group, the Animal Liberation Front, has been burning everything from SUV dealerships to research labs to housing developments.

In recent years, these so-called "eco-terrorists" have been responsible for more than a thousand crimes resulting in over \$100 million in damage. And their tactics and rhetoric continue to escalate. Things have gotten so bad, the FBI now considers them the country's biggest domestic terrorist threat.

Correspondent Ed Bradley reports.

The biggest act of eco-terrorism in U.S. history was a fire, deliberately set on the night of August 1, 2003, that destroyed a nearly-completed \$23 million apartment complex just outside San Diego. The fire was set to protest urban sprawl. "It was the biggest fire I have ever responded to as a firefighter," remembers Jeff Carle, a division chief for the San Diego Fire Department. "That fire was not stoppable. At the stage that the fire was in when we arrived, there were problems in the adjacent occupied apartment complexes. Pine trees were starting to catch fire. Items on patios were starting to light up and catch fire. And we had to direct our activity towards saving life before we could do anything about the property."

Hundreds were roused from their beds and evacuated. Luckily, nobody – including firefighters – was injured. By the time the fire burned itself out the next morning, all that remained was a 12-foot-long banner that read: "If you build it, we will burn it." Also on the banner was the acronym: E-L-F.

When Carle saw the banner, he says he knew he had a problem. A problem, because he knew what ELF stood for: the Earth Liberation Front, the most radical fringe of the environmental movement. It's the same group that set nine simultaneous fires across the

Vail Mountain ski resort in 1998 to protest its expansion, causing \$12 million in damage.

And it is the same group that has left SUV dealerships across America looking like scenes from Iraq's Sunni triangle, their way of protesting the gas-guzzling habits of American car buyers.

The ELF is a spin-off of another group called the ALF, or Animal Liberation Front, whose masked members have been known to videotape themselves breaking into research labs, where they destroy years of painstaking work and free captive animals. In recent years, they've capped off their visits by burning down the buildings. Still, they insist they are non-violent.

"For every arson that I've carried out, there's probably three or four that were not carried out for that fear of injuring somebody," says Rod Coronado, a former ALF leader, who is widely-credited with introducing arson to the cause. He spent four years in prison for setting six fires, including one at Michigan State University.

Why burn down a building? "It's simply because after years of rescuing animals from laboratories, it was heartbreaking to see those buildings and those cages refilled within the following days. And for that reason, arson has become a necessary tool," says Coronado.

Coronado says the ALF and ELF operate in small autonomous "cells." He says he usually worked with five or less people.

Asked how after choosing a target, a mission is carried out, Coronado says, "Those are the types of things that take nights and nights and weeks and weeks of reconnaissance to make sure that you know in the one hour that you're going to take action, that there will be absolutely no risk to any living being. The fact that nobody was ever injured in any of the actions that I've been accused of is not a coincidence."

Coronado says these days, he's simply an unofficial spokesperson for the ALF and ELF. And in that role, he travels across the country giving lectures on the group's philosophies and tactics.

Many in law enforcement believe Coronado is still active in the movement as an organizer and recruiter. He recently found a GPS tracking device under his Jeep, which he believes was planted by the FBI. And, he just happened to have a speaking engagement in San Diego the day after the fire.

Coronado says he knew nothing about the condo complex fire, yet he has traveled around the country and encouraged people to do this sort of thing. "Encouragement through explanation and demonstration of my own actions," says Coronado. "I've showed them how I set fires. I showed them how

the ELF and the ALF, what their mode of operation is." "I'm asking for people courageous enough to take those risks for what they believe in," said Coronado.

60 Minutes was surprised when one of those people, a man claiming to be an active ALF cell leader, **came out of the shadows** to grant what he called "the group's first on camera interview in 20 years, "as long as we didn't see his face or record his voice.

He told us that his cell has conducted operations from coast to coast, and every one of them was what he considered to be non-violent because nobody was injured. He said under the mask he is a normal, otherwise law-abiding citizen, and that his friends and family have no idea about his activities. He said he thinks it's "abysmal" that the FBI considers them America's top domestic terrorist threat, because unlike neo-Nazi groups, the ALF has never hurt anyone.

"Having the FBI chase you around is not a good thing, says John Lewis, a Deputy Assistant Director for Counterterrorism at the FBI. Lewis is the man charged with stamping out eco-terrorism in the United States. Lewis says the bureau is aware of over 1,000 attacks and says these groups are considered such a threat is because they have caused over \$100 million worth of damage nationwide. He says there are more than 150 investigations of eco-terrorist crimes underway.

Lewis says the arsonists who started the fires in San Diego and Vail remain on the loose. But he says investigations have led to "approximately 40 arrests or prosecutions" for other eco-terror crimes.

Lewis says these groups use the Internet to pass along information and to take credit for their crimes. He admits they're not in the same league as al Qaeda but he says they're ratcheting up their actions and turning up the rhetoric. "There have been multiple statements made regarding assassination and/or killing of individuals involved in, for instance, biomedical research and that kind of thing," says Lewis.

Case in point is Dr. Jerry Vlasak, a practicing trauma surgeon in Los Angeles, who also acts as a spokesperson for several extreme animal rights groups. Vlasak has told audiences that it's time to consider assassinating people who do research on animals. Vlasak has been quoted as saying "I think for five lives, ten lives, 15 human lives, we could save a million, two million, ten million nonhuman lives."

"I think people who torture innocent beings should be stopped. And if they won't stop when you ask them nicely, they won't stop when you demonstrate to them what they're doing is wrong, then they should

be stopped using whatever means necessary,” Vlasak replied.

Vlasak says he is not going to do that, pointing out he is a physician. “My role in the movement is not to go out and do that, but to explain to the mainstream media and to the public in general why these people are doing what they're doing.”

Asked if Vlasak wants someone to go out there and kill, Vlasak says, “I want people who care about animals to do what's necessary to stop their exploitation, to stop their suffering.” Vlasak says someone who believes that the life of an animal is not akin to the life of a human being is “species-ist.” Species-ists, he says, are akin to racists or sexists. Animals, he says, should be accorded the same rights as human beings, despite their place on the food chain.

“Just like at one time black humans were considered property. Well, dogs, cats and all other animals in our society are still considered property,” Vlasak says. Asked who he thinks is fair game, Vlasak says, “Well, I think anybody that tortures animals for a living or for a profit and who won't stop when they're asked to and won't stop.”

“Does that include researchers who are testing and performing tests using animals?”

“Animal researchers, slaughterhouse workers, the head of the corporation that slaughters hundreds of millions of chickens every single year for the taste of their flesh,” says Vlasak.

Well, people like chicken.

“People liked owning slaves too, okay. That doesn't make it right,” Vlasak said. Vlasak says it's very straightforward in his mind.

“We don't live in a country where it's okay to kill people if we don't necessarily. Like what they're doing. If we have someone who actively embraces this then what's next?” says John Lewis. What's next, he says, is the emergence of a “lone wolf” like Eric Rudolph or Ted Kaczynski, something that has already happened.

A mysterious bomber was caught on surveillance camera in 2003 planting two sophisticated explosive devices late at night outside a company that makes vaccines in northern California, a company targeted by animal rights activists. One bomb was set to go off an hour after the first - after firemen and police arrived - but it was spotted by a night watchman. A few weeks later a third bomb went off outside another company, this one strapped with nails. “Anyone from 50 feet of that particular bomb probably would have been killed or seriously injured,” says the FBI's David Strange, who is in charge of the investigation. Strange thinks the second explosive was

designed to hurt or kill the first responders that show up to the scene. He says it was the first time he heard of eco-terrorists using bombs.

Strange says the FBI has identified the suspected bomber as Daniel Andreas San Diego, a 27-year-old animal rights activist from San Rafael, California, who is now a fugitive after he slipped an FBI surveillance team. But he left behind a message, posted on a Web site sympathetic to the Animal Liberation Front. Part of it reads, “We will now be doubling the size of every device we make.”

“I'll ask you. Why does someone build an improvised explosive device with shrapnel, nails and such, if they're not intending to cause someone grievous harm if not worse?” says Lewis. There is a definite split in the movement when it comes to violence.

After torching a forest research station in Irvine, Pennsylvania, one ELF cell threatened to “pick up the gun.”

“I think it's sort off disingenuous to say “Well, we can burn down buildings. But we can't use explosives. Or we can use explosives. But we can't do anything that might harm a person. I think what we have to do is look at the big picture. We have to look at what works,” says Dr. Jerry Vlasak.

The FBI and other law enforcement agencies are also looking at what works. They are winning longer prison sentences for convicted eco-terrorists. And they are pushing legislation in congress that would make it a crime to threaten violence against any person or institution that uses animals to do business.

The Rahall Bill

By Tom Siciliano

The Rahall Bill, HR 1431, “Fisheries Science & Management Enhancement Act of 2005” is the house version that amends the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservations and Management Act. The bill is intended to improve fisheries management and incorporate the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

The Marine Fish Conservation Network has been working hard to encourage congressmen to come on as co-sponsors.

The bill can be broken down into the following four recommendations:

1. **Strengthen the Use of Science in Fisheries Management.** This bill requires the councils to develop fishery management

plans that conform to the recommendations of qualified scientific advisors. It requires that the Best Available Science be used. Unfortunately, the Best Available is oftentimes not very good. The bill should insist that the scientists use all available data and use common sense when the data just does not make sense. The precision of the data is at best suspect so many additional data points are needed. This is addressed in the second recommendation.

2. **Cooperative Research, Data Collection and Gear Modification Program.**

Fishermen have a wealth of knowledge based on direct experience. The bill establishes a cooperative research program which would be funded with Saltonstall-Kennedy Act monies. It also provides financial assistance to the states to improve recreational fishing data.

3. **Broaden the Representation on Fishery Management Councils and Reduce Conflict of Interest.**

The bill requires that governors nominate a slate of candidates that includes at least two representatives of commercial fishing interest, recreational fishing interests, and representatives of the public to serve on the councils. The representatives of the public must derive no income from commercial or recreational fishing. The benefit of this addition is to give a broader perspective and would also loosen the grip of commercial fishermen on the councils.

The bill also addresses conflict of interest by prohibiting council members from voting on a matter affecting a fishery in which they have a financial interest.

4. **Train New Council Members.** The bill requires that members of the councils be trained in fisheries science, basic ecology, social science and fishery economics, the requirements of the MSA, and other relevant statutes and regulations.

The Senate has just introduced their bill. Next month we will provide a rundown of the requirements of that bill. We will discuss the Rahall bill at the next JCAA monthly meeting. There are many good things in the bill and there are others which may be of concern to some of you. We will review the pros and cons of each item at the meeting

and come up with a JCAA position that will be voted on by the clubs. This and the Senate version of the bill are very important to the future of fisheries management. We need to know how the clubs feel about this bill so we can work to get the best parts of the bill passed in congress. This is the time to get involved. Come to the next JCAA meeting on November 29th.

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES *BY JOHN KOEGLER*

Important new scientific studies have been completed and published proving HMS fish were being over fished worldwide. Below is an outline of those that will have the biggest future impact.

Worldwide HMS study

In the magazine Nature in 2003 a new study found that the total world wide population of HMS fish had plummeted. The co-authors Boris Worm and Ransom Myers of Dalhousie University state that over fishing has not only greatly reduced the number of HMS in the seas, but also the variety. Their report states that the diversity of tuna, marlins and swordfish in the world's oceans has declined 50% in the last 50 years. Several HMS species have been reduced by 90%.

Their report identified several big fish ocean hot spots. These hot spots identified were: the East coasts of the US, Australia and Sri Lanka, plus the area south of Hawaii and South-Eastern Pacific.

Their report stated: "Everywhere you go, in every ocean basin, the hotspots today are only relics of what was once there. It really hurts to see this." Their report found that a yearly weather change affects reproduction numbers.

The report states that losing the variety of fish does not bode well for the future health of open oceans. A robust portfolio of different species is needed to maintaining our long term supply of fish. The ability of these species to rebound from environmental changes is dramatically affected by continued over fishing. They identify long lines as the primary fishing gear that has caused the HMS stock declines.

Satellite Tagging Report

Bluefin tuna took the spotlight with the latest report from Barbara Block and her team. Their latest

report is, "Electronic tagging and population structure of Atlantic Bluefin tuna." It proves beyond any doubt that bluefin tuna regularly cross the Atlantic Ocean. This article was published as a letter to Nature Magazine in their April 28, 2005 edition. It is a very informative 7 page report.

Most bluefin ocean crossings were from the US Atlantic to the Mediterranean Sea. The reason there is not an equal return of bluefin to US waters is the massive over fishing occurring in the Mediterranean Sea. ICCAT bluefin landings totals for the Mediterranean are more than 100% above the MSY maximum of 25,000 MT for the tenth consecutive year. ICCAT's totals do not count bluefin landings from Greece, Turkey and other non-member countries.

The European Countries at last year's ICCAT meeting failed to report any landings of "0" age bluefin tuna. In previous years' landings these small bluefin were 50% of the total European bluefin totals. No European country has a single regulation in place that banned or restricted their purse seining of these small tunas. An ICCAT attendee went to the local fish market and bought a "0" age bluefin to show the delegates. This clearly proved that the European members were not being honest. He was strongly admonished for embarrassing the other ICCAT members. This is a perfect example of members' deceitful reporting and fully documents how worthless ICCAT management really is.

Part Good News

The White Marlin lawsuit requesting an Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing was decided by a Federal Judge in October. His decision permits anglers to keep landing White Marlin until ICCAT's next Marlin assessment in 2007. At that time NMFS must review the population status of White Marlin and determine if an Endangered Species Act listing is required. Current best science estimates state that the White Marlin population is less than 15% of the biomass required to provide MSY. It would take a true miracle to increase the White Marlin population by 2007. This issue has been postponed, not ended. Thanks to Ray Bogan and RFA for working so hard to solve our immediate problem. If they get NMFS to write their new HMS management plan so that this problem has a lasting solution, that too would be a miracle.

Part of the judge's ruling required NMFS to "Take into account five suggested time/area closures

to pelagic drift long lining." No commercial fishing limits were part of the HMS plan.

School Bluefin \$500. Tag Reward

A new school bluefin tuna study about school bluefin migration patterns was begun this year. Molly Lutcavaga heads a cooperative pilot tagging project with Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Mass., Division of Marine Fisheries. This project is supported by NMFS and the University of New Hampshire. Data recorders had been implanted in 46 school bluefin by the end of the 2005 season. Tagged tuna are identified by a bright green spaghetti ID tag noting the presence of the data recorder inside these tuna.

It is important that the tuna be returned to the address marked on the tag. To encourage returns from anglers a \$500 reward is being offered. This is an important project and needs anglers cooperation. A tagged tuna in your possession does not count against your daily bag limit. Check the exact details on the Reward at www.tunalab.unh.edu. or call VIMS at 1-804-684- 7166 and ask for Jon Lucy or Rich Brill. E- mail rbrill@vims.edu

New Giant Bluefin Petition Filed

An important new petition was filed with NMFS in June. Monterey Bay Aquarium plus four other conservation groups presented a petition to NMFS requesting a ban on all longline fishing when and where western bluefin tuna spawn. NMFS has up to 6 months to answer this petition.

US reported landings of large spawning bluefin in the Gulf of Mexico have been low. But Mexico reported a huge increase of Bluefin tuna sold to Japan. US longline fishing effort in the bluefin spawning area has increased during their spawning season. Mexico is not known to have an Atlantic Bluefin spawning area nearby. The prime fishing area is as close to Mexico ports as to US ports. But to expect US regulators to add 1 and 1 and determine what was happening is difficult.

Is the best way to correct this problem a closure of the Gulf of Mexico spawning area to all longline fishermen? Long term studies of tiny "0" age bluefin numbers leaving the GOM have dropped to all time lows. It is obvious that immediate action is mandated. Given NMFS management record, it is difficult to make a guess as what NMFS will do. But since Christmas is coming, what do we have to lose by hoping for the time/area closure under our Christmas tree this season.

A Bait Fish Story

Sea Herring are an important New England baitfish. They have been caught for many years by purse seine gear. About 8 years ago herring were first targeted by pair trawl boats. The pair trawl boats have done very well catching vast amounts of herring. At the same time the New England Giant Bluefin fishing has sharply declined. This was a financial shock to most New England commercial fishermen, many of whom depend on catching and selling one or two giant bluefin a season to support their commercial fishing

The last two years have been a disaster for New England giant bluefin fishermen. They had been under strict quotas that not only specified monthly quotas but also mandated two days per week as no fishing days. Their quota was over 908 MT for 2005. Their season starts in June. By the last day of September they reported landing only 89 MT. In previous years the commercial quotas had been landed by the end of September. This year 819 MT of General Category quota has not been caught.

There does not seem to be a shortage of giant bluefin. Canada fishermen have filled their quota. North Carolina fishermen have landed any general category quota that remained. The price of bluefin in Japan may have something to do with the lower landing report. The \$20 a pound numbers are no more. Quality bluefin are now under \$10 a pound.

Two weeks ago I watched as two bluefish were weighed in for the LBI surf fishing tournament. These blues were all head, looking much like large spring run bluefish. Having never seen such gaunt large blues at this time of year, I wondered where these fish spent the summer. Is a lack of sea herring in New England waters also a major problem for large bluefish? This seems like a reasonable assumption given the time of year these fish arrived at LBI.

Locally there is a vast amount of bait that bluefish and stripers are feeding on. The gaunt look has not affected the 3 to 5 pound blues. The two blues I saw if not fattened up would never survive the winter. A perfect example what the over fishing of bait fish has on all species. If this is a problem for ocean bluefish, consider the bunker problem that stripers face in Chesapeake Bay.

Photo Finish

In the December issue of Salt Water Sportsman on Page 132 is a picture of a sea creature

never before seen alive. A pair of Japanese researchers took the first picture of a live giant squid. Guess how they accomplished this feat? They went fishing in 2,900 feet of ocean!

Giant squid are a legendary beast. Dead giant squid have been measured that were over 60 feet long. That is one huge plate of calamari. It is believed they live in all oceans of the world. Sperm whales have many giant squid sucker scars on their hide caused by them chasing and eating these squids in the ocean depths.

Best of the Holidays to all and many thanks for your help and support.

MEMBERSHIP

By John Toth

This year is rapidly coming to its end and some of our clubs have not paid their annual JCAA dues. Time goes by quickly and somebody may have forgotten to send in their club's dues. So please, if you have not already done so, send in your check to: JCAA, 1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753. If you have any inquiries on payment call (732) 506-6565.

If you know of any fishing clubs that are not members of the JCAA, please talk to them about joining us. You can tell them what the JCAA does for recreational anglers, or you can hand them a copy of our newsletter. This publication always has interesting articles about what the JCAA is all about. The JCAA's primary interest is the recreational anglers of New Jersey and the JCAA will always monitor and respond to any major issue that affects the fishing rights of its anglers.

If you want me to talk to any potential club members, I can be reached at (732) 446-6298. or at tothjohn@juno.com.

Remember, there is always more strength in numbers!

Thank You!

YOUTH EDUCATION

BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI

NANFA GRANT

I received the following from Wayne Tonnesen, NJ Conservation Officer and NJ State HOFNOD Coordinator. Check out the website – <http://www.nanfa.org/corcoran.shtml> -- for the North American Native Fishes Association (NANFA). It offers small grants of up to \$1,000 for projects to educate the general public about native North American fishes and their environment. The grants can be used for producing and distributing educational materials, stream surveys with public education as a primary goal, public lectures, nature center displays, school materials and displays, and teacher training workshops. The North American Native Fishes Association has created a cash award program to support development and implementation of educational projects featuring native fish ecology and conservation. Thanks to a generous matching grant from the Corcoran family, this program will provide NANFA members with up to \$1000 a year for environmental education projects such as: Production and distribution of educational materials (print and electronic media), Education based aquatic surveys, Lecturing expenses, Nature Center exhibits, School materials and displays, Field and laboratory supplies, and Teacher training workshops.

JCAA ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Congratulations to the Absecon Saltwater Sportsmen for their continued promotion of family fishing and providing “Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs” programs for middle school students. I would also like to thank all attendees, sponsors and merchants that support the JCAA Annual Sportsperson of the Year Award Dinner. Funds realized from the dinner help support JCAA Youth Education programs throughout New Jersey.

JCAA EVENTS LIST NEEDED

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association’s Youth Education Committee is asking JCAA member clubs/organizations for a listing of scheduled youth and family events that are going to be held by your club or organization during 2006. The purpose of this request is to alert other fishing clubs and

organizations that would like to participate in your youth and family event. Please send your list of events to: gkucharews@aol.com and place HOFNOD in the subject line.

SPORTSMEN SHOWS

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's, Youth Education Committee, will be featuring special youth education seminars at upcoming sportsmen shows. Participating merchants at the hunting and fishing expositions will offer special promotions at their booths for children attending the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's, Youth Fishing Seminars. Parents are also welcome to attend.

SALT WATER SPORTSMAN NATIONALSEMINAR SERIES COMES TO WEST LONG BRANCH!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 21. That's when the Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series will come to West Long Branch! The eight-hour seminar, which is presented by West Marine, will be held inside Monmouth University's Pollak Theatre, 400 Cedar Avenue, West Long Branch.

Headlining the seminar will be George Poveromo - Host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on ESPN2 and a Senior Editor for Salt Water Sportsman. Poveromo will be joined by Gary Caputi, David DiBenedetto, John A. Luchka, Dr. Mitchell Roffer, and captains Steve Bent, Lou Grazioso, Bob Henn, Jimmy Price, Greg Bogdan and Ray Burke.

Tickets are \$ 55.00 and include the 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. seminar, a \$ 40.00 discount coupon to West Marine, West Marine Tote Bag with water bottle and fish towel, textbook, One-Year Subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman, One Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, One year membership to the International Game Fish Association, 8-Ounce OrPine Wash & Wax, and One log of Double Strike Chum.

Order early, as this seminar usually sells out well in advance. Call 1-800-448-7360, or visit www.nationalseminarseries.com

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