

JCAA FEBRUARY 2006

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on January 23rd, 2006)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, January 31st, 2006

Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, February 9th, 2006

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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2005 OFFICERS

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Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

JCAA HIGH ROLLER RAFFLE

It is now time for the JCAA High Rollers 2006 Raffle. We have put together a terrific selection of rods and reels for one raffle with eight prizes that will be drawn on April 25, 2006. This is a major fundraiser for the JCAA. The 8 prizes are listed below with a total value almost \$3,300. Tickets will be two dollars each and representatives can soon get books of tickets to sell at your club meetings by attending a JCAA meeting. JCAA will be staffing booths and selling tickets at upcoming shows. In January we will have a booth at the Sportsman Show in Raritan Center January 12th thru the 15th, the Saltwater Sportsman's National Seminar Show on January 21 at Monmouth University's Pollak Theatre, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, Atlantic City Boat Show February 1st - 5th and The Saltwater Fishing Expo at Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, March 17-19. If you would like to buy raffle tickets call the JCAA office. When your club representative brings them to your club, please help with your purchase. Without your continued support we cannot function as an organization in protecting the marine resource. Where acknowledgement is not made, the manufacturer donated these prizes. Shimano provided reels at a special price to JCAA

- 1 Shimano Tiagra 30A two speed reel with Hi Seas line & Quarrow OC56STRU 20-40 rod and a large spool of Power Pro Line Value \$850
- 2 Shimano Calcutta 700B reel with Sufix line & Rouge GPIS7MHC (JCAA embossed) 7' rod Value \$520
- 3 Fisherman's Headquarters Ship Bottom, NJ Fishermansheadquarters.com donates a \$500 shopping Spree
- 4 Shimano Calcutta 400B reel with Sufix line & Lamiglas BL6615C 6' 6" rod Value \$425
- 5 Shimano Baitrunner 4500B reel with Sufix line & G-Loomis PBR844C Pro Blue 7' rod Value \$400
- 6 Shimano TDL20 reel with Hi Seas line & Custom Power Stick CS6260R2 5' 9" Rod donated by Boaters World Value \$300
- 7 Tsunami TSSD 4000L reel with Sufix line & Tsunami 661H rod and Power Pro Line Value \$150
- 8 Daiwa 5000 reel & Ande Tournament Surf ATS-1100A 11' rod & Power Pro line Value \$150

Meetings And Other Dates

January 31st JCAA General meeting
February 1st-5th Atlantic City Boat show
February 9 JCAA Board Meeting
February 20th-23rd ASMFC Week in DC
February 28th JCAA Meeting
March 17th-19th The Saltwater Fishing Expo at Somerset, NJ
April 8th NJ Environmental Federation Summit Princeton
June 10th JCAA Fluke Tournament
June 16th JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony

2006 Fluke Tournament

Bigger and Better Port Prizes for 2006

By Phil Celmer

Mark your calendar for June 10th (fishing) and June 16th (ceremony). This year's tournament promises to be the best tournament in Jersey Coast's 25 year history: super port prizes - 120 of them, maybe more - and a fun time for all while you help JCAA maintain its ability to fight for your fishing rights. This tournament, in its twelfth year, is now one of the largest fishing events in the country.

The Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament is a unique concept that will again have twelve ports with each one having its own mini-tournament with its own set of **10 prizes for 2006**. The fantastic **Trump Marina Hotel Casino** and JCAA will sponsor the first place prizes of **\$1,200 cash** for each port. Our second place sponsor, **Boater's World**, has a generous second place prize of a \$750 gift certificate good in all **Boater's World** stores. **Raymarine's** third prize has been upgraded to the bigger, state of the art, DS5000X T/M Digital High Definition Fish Finder. We are especially pleased that **Minn Kota** will be new major port sponsor this year. Additional major port sponsors include: **Maui Jim Sunglasses, Abu Garcia/Fenwick, Canyon Gear International, American Fishing Wire/Hi-Seas, Reel Saver** and **New Jersey Angler Magazine** and others. We are delighted to add **Nor'east Magazine** to this year's media sponsors. **Nor'east** web site is www.noreast.com:

This year we will be giving away over \$110,000 in cash & prizes. Each contest is held at

one of the twelve ports from Jersey City in the north to Fortescue in the south with each port serving as its own weigh station. **Your crew, with up to six anglers, will compete for 10 prizes at the port you select.**

All participants are automatically eligible for the Grand Prize donated by our other major sponsors, **Century Boats and Yamaha**. The door prize is an **1801 Century Boat** center console with a **4 stroke Yamaha** outboard and **LoadRite** trailer. This fantastic fishing package will be awarded to a lucky angler after the huge door-prize drawing at **Trump Marina Hotel Casino** in Atlantic City the following Friday, June 16th. Entry forms will soon be available. In the meantime, you can go to <http://www.jcaa.org> for links to our great sponsors and the latest news.

JCAA is looking for a part-time intern to assist in the 2006 Fluke Tournament. Applicants should be familiar with Microsoft Word, Access and Publisher. However, the main requirements are a desire to be part of a great organization that is known for its honesty and integrity for protecting the marine resource and the right of the anglers that fish it. We can train you to do the rest. The Job runs from April through July 1. The hours are flexible and only mid May through the first week in June will be demanding. Please contact Phil Celmer at email pcelmer@comcast.net

The Saltwater Fishing Expo

March 17-19, 2006

Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset, NJ

An all new event for the saltwater angler, The Saltwater Fishing Expo, has created a significant amount of excitement in the sportfishing industry. Running March 17-19, at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset, NJ, the Expo features the entire world of saltwater angling.

Paul Fuller, show manager, states: "The entire Expo Center will be filled from wall-to-wall with products and services exclusive to the saltwater sportfisherman". Fuller went on to say that this includes fishing tackle for inshore to offshore, light tackle to big game tackle and everything in-between. Showgoers will see and touch the latest from major tackle manufacturers, discover unique products from small tackle makers and be able to buy the latest

products from local retailers. Major tackle makers exhibiting are Shimano, Penn, Daiwa, St. Croix, Quantum, Lamiglass, Albright, Barefoot and dozens of others.

In addition, anglers will have an opportunity to book fishing trips with local captains and exotic destinations. Exclusive to the The Saltwater Fishing Expo is the Boatyard which features dozens of the very latest saltwater boats, motors, kayaks and marine accessories and equipment.

There will be dozens of seminars throughout the three days of the show, which will be presented by experts at the top of their game. Showgoers will learn how-to-do-it and where-to-go. TV host and saltwater angler extraordinaire, Capt. Jose Wejbe, will be presenting a seminar on Saturday, March 18th.

There is certainly good cause for excitement over this show. Paul Fuller and the Expo's parent company, Eastern Fishing & Outdoor Exposition, Inc. have been producing sportfishing-related shows for 30 years. In addition, The Saltwater Fishing Expo is being produced in partnership with the American Sportfishing Association and presented by The Outdoor Channel.

For complete information, visit the show website at www.sportfishing.com. Show hours are Friday 12:00 PM to 9:30 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Admission prices are \$10.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children 11 and under. The Garden State Exhibit Center is easily reached by taking Exit 10 off I-287.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Bruce Smith

Finally 2 at 28

Finally 2 at 28". By the time this edition is in circulation most anglers will be aware that Governor Cody, as one of his final acts as governor, signed the legislation that establishes the striped bass regulation as two fish at 28 inches or greater, effective at signing.

The overwhelming majority of striper anglers will be pleased. JCAA, representing the preference of over ninety percent of our affiliated fishing clubs, supported the 2 fish at 28 inch option ever since New Jersey lost its producer state status and was mandated by ASMFC to discontinue the one fish at

24 to 28 inches, and one fish greater than 28 inches regulation it was permitted as a producer state.. To be in compliance with the ASMFC Management Plan, New Jersey's regulations had to be the conservation equivalent of the coastwide two fish at 28 inches standard. JCAA argued for the 2 at 28 inch option based on the belief that, being identical to the standard, it was less confusing, would minimize enforcement issues, would not conflict with the size regulations of neighboring states and would not require the Bonus Program to be restructured.

Statewide, the preference of most striper anglers, including those not affiliated with JCAA, proved to be supportive of the JCAA position. The arguments for this position are well documented in past JCAA newsletter issues and in New Jersey based fishing magazines and newspapers.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the important role played by Greg Heuth, Joe Pallotto, and Bob Matthews respectively, of the Shark River Anglers, the Asbury Fishing Club and the Spring Lake Long Liners (All JCAA affiliated clubs). These avid anglers took the initiative to lead the effort to rescind the unpopular, complicated regulations that most certainly had a negative effect on the entire fishing community. I also salute Ed. Cherry, JCAA Striped Bass Committee Chairman, for his tireless efforts on our behalf.

Their passion resulted in getting bills posted in the state assembly (A 3790 / A4472) and the senate (S 2450) by Assemblyman Sean Kean and Senator Joe Palaia whose leadership we applaud. We are also appreciative to the early bipartisan support of these bills by assemblymen Steve Corodemus, Dave Wolfe, Bill Baroni, Joe Azzolina, James Holzapfel, Louis Manzo, Patrick Diegnan, Michael Panter and Robert Morgan and senators Ellen Karcher, Gerald Cardinale and Diane Allen, to the committees and legislators who voted in support of these bills and to Governor Cody.

This striper legislation provides the most benefit to anglers, the shore communities and the entire state. "There is nothing so powerful as an idea whose time has come." (*Especially if the messenger has the right message and a loud political voice as well.*)

In a perfect world, New Jersey (along with Delaware, Pennsylvania and New York) would regain producer state status whereby the harvest of one fish, smaller than 28 inches would be permitted.

This would level the playing field for hundreds, albeit a small percentage overall, of surf, back bay, river and substance anglers who would also like to take a fish for table fare and nutritional benefit. I, also, would prefer taking a smaller fish for the table rather than a large breeder. Alas, that is another battle to be waged.

We are informed that the Striped Bass Bonus Program (SBBP) will continue. The limit will be one fish at 28 inches or greater with appropriate bonus tag. Check the Division's Regulations web page (www.njfishandwildlife.com/njregs.htm) and future press releases for details concerning the 2006 Bonus Program.

Please tell me your thoughts about dogfish, fluke regs. fluke belly and bay bunker boats.

The next JCAA presence will be at the upcoming Atlantic City Boat Show. The show runs from Wednesday, February 1st to Sunday, February 5th. If you can help man our booth, contact Mark Taylor at 732-929-2591. I would like to thank everyone who staffed the Sportsmen's Show in Edison and made it a great success.

JCAA will be marking our 25th year advocating for anglers and the resource with some new t-shirts and hat graphics and the High Roller Raffle of some choice rods and reels. Stop by and say hello.

The Saltwater Sportsmen Show was a big success. I would like to thank Tom Siciliano, Al Marantz, Phil Celmer and Tom Fote for manning the booth. I would like to thank George Poveromo for allowing us to set up a booth at the show for the last 15 years. I would also like to thank Capt Terry Sullivan for switching booth space with us. It really helped us interact with all the participants.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BY THOMAS FOTE

Times are changing

Much has happened since the last JCAA Newspaper.

Marty McHugh resigned as director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and has taken a new job at DEP. Everyone from JCAA wishes Marty all the best in his new position. Dave Chanda is now acting director. Dave has a 26 year history with the

Division and has been assistant director for some time. JCAA is looking forward to working with Dave in these difficult times.

There is always controversy about fishing and hunting regulations but these controversies are minor when we look at the difficult decisions Dave is facing. From my perspective the most difficult problem will be dealing with budget constraints and the staffing problems that creates. The Division of Fish and Wildlife began facing significant staffing cutbacks during the Whitman administration and has continued to lose staff disproportionately to other state agencies. When the early retirement was offered by Governor Whitman, 6 people retired and only one vacancy was filled with a new hire. This hiring freeze has continued through all of the following governors. This would be manageable if the workload decreased or even remained the same but just the opposite is true. As an example, in 1992 New Jersey was administering 2 fisheries management plans and receiving money from federal agencies and directly from Congress. Fourteen years later, New Jersey is administering over 20 plans through Marine Fisheries. This includes regulations, stock assessment, and the personnel required to attend all the management board and technical committee meetings. This is just one example of a problem that is occurring throughout the Division. The other budget problem Dave Chanda is facing as acting director is basic funding issues for the Division. Because of the way the Division is structured, all fringe benefits are not paid by state monies but through monies collected through hunting and fishing licenses and federal grants. This practice began when that money went further but now those benefits are a major expense that is not covered by regular budget dollars in the same way they are covered at other agencies.

In addition, Bradley Campbell has been replaced as Commissioner of DEP by Lisa Jackson. JCAA and Commissioner Campbell have had some disagreements during his tenure at DEP. However, we never doubted his commitment to the environment. Commissioner Campbell was the first commissioner to get the legislature to make a one-time appropriation to cover fringe benefits in 2005. He also did allow 250 subway cars to be used for the artificial reef program when the previous administration refused to consider this action. He also allowed for a bear hunt when the two previous

administrations would not do so. JCAA wishes Brad well in his next endeavor.

Lisa Jackson comes to the commissioner's job from EPA. She has been working for DEP on a fellowship in the area of land use. We have served together on committees including the Barnegat Bay Estuarine Program and I am looking forward to looking together. Mark Taylor and I had the opportunity to fish with Lisa and her children at Pequest on opening day of trout season a few years ago. DEP is not an easy job. Not only will she need to cope with the problems in the Division of Fish and Wildlife but also she will be responsible for clean air, clean water, land use and protection of New Jersey's resources. Combining management and enforcement makes for a difficult job. It is easy for ASMFC to develop rules without needing to administer the law enforcement component. All of that will be Lisa Jackson's responsibility. JCAA is looking forward to working with Commissioner Jackson as she faces many challenges. Although we know the state has serious budget problems, dealing with the ongoing staffing problems at the Division of Fish and Wildlife will be one of the first challenges Commissioner Jackson will face.

Now that Jon Corzine is officially New Jersey's Governor, he has chosen Robert Menendez to replace him in the United States Senate. We have already reached out to Senator Menendez and his staff has responded positively to our request for a meeting. As a Senator, he must represent all of New Jersey's citizens, a very different role than representing a single congressional district. The anglers of New Jersey will be looking at his handling of the reauthorization of the Magnuson Act. Read Tom Siciliano's article in this newspaper for more information about this issue. JCAA has some problems with the present bill and need for Senators Menendez and Lautenberg to take a leading role in resolving these issues. Those of us who care about the environment are also looking for leadership in protecting the coast and the marine resources of New Jersey. We want to congratulate Senator Menendez and are looking forward to working together.

The other change is the retirement of Bruce Freeman, JCAA's 2005 Sportsman of the Year. Bruce has been a valuable voice for the marine resource, commercial and recreational anglers. He represented New Jersey's interest on the Mid-Atlantic Council, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and many other inter and intra state

committees. Despite the fact that Bruce is really irreplaceable, we need a full-time replacement for him immediately. There is no way that the present personnel at the Division of Fish and Wildlife can absorb all of Bruce's many tasks. Bruce Smith, President of JCAA, has already sent a letter to Governor Corzine stating our case for an immediate replacement. A copy of the letter is available if you email me at tfote@jcaa.org.

Article Below

I got some interesting feedback from my email request for comments about the JCAA Newspaper. Some of you notice that I occasionally ramble a bit. For that reason, when I see articles that deal with issues directly I like to include them. Below you will find a number of articles. The most anxiety-producing is the article from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer that deals with the long-term impact of pollution. Please read all the articles and send me your comments. If you don't have email, send your comments addressed to me at the JCAA Office, 1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753. Let me know if you are interested in writing some articles for this newspaper.

ASMFC Winter 2006 Meeting February 20 - 23, Double Tree Crystal City Hotel Arlington VA,

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

The preliminary agenda is subject to change. The agenda reflects current estimate of time required for scheduled Board meetings.

February 20, 2006

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Habitat Committee
Noon - 2:00 PM Tautog Management Board
2:15 PM - 4:15 PM Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Management Board
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Atlantic Sturgeon Management Board

February 21, 2006

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board
10:15 AM - 12:15 PM Habitat Workshop
1:30 PM - 5:30 PM American Lobster Management Board

February 22, 2006

8:30 AM - 10:15 AM Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM NEAMAP Board
1:45 PM - 4:15 PM American Eel Management Board

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Shad & River Herring Management Board

February 23, 2006

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

9:45 AM - 12:45 PM Horseshoe Crab Management Board

1:00 PM Buffet Lunch for Commissioners & Proxies

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM ISFMP Policy Board

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM Business Session

Question: ASMFC head wonders who speakers at hearings truly represent
Director seems to misunderstand public
Posted by the Asbury Park Press on
12/25/05

New Jersey fishermen have been wondering for a long time how officials of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission feel about them, and the current issue of the commission's Fisheries Focus spells it out.

John V. O'Shea, executive director of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, heard from a number of anglers and representatives of angling groups at the recent meeting in Galloway, and he has responded.

"Few would argue with the importance of public comment to our commission management process," he wrote. "After all, the public should have a say in what happens to them, and they should have a say in what happens to their fish.

"But who is the public and what is public comment?" he asked. "Who do those appearing before our management boards actually represent, and how well informed are their constituents?"

The lofty pulpit that O'Shea has thus established for himself is all too typical of those in power. He begins with condescension toward those who spoke at the hearings, and quickly questions who they are and what they know.

Is it possible that the executive director of the ASMFC does not know who appears before the ASMFC boards and who they represent?

For instance, is it possible that O'Shea does not know Raymond D. Bogan, what his credentials are, and who he represents? Could he have missed the fact that Bogan was one of three who represented U.S. interests at the International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas annual meeting in Spain only a few weeks before the ASMFC met in New Jersey?

Is he unaware that Bogan is legal counsel for the United Boatmen of New Jersey and New York, that he served on the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, that he argued the bluefish management case in federal court, that he is a former party and charter boat captain, that he has testified before congressional committees on fisheries, that he has participated in hundreds of meetings, hearings, conferences and debates on fisheries matters, that his family's fishing background dates back 100 years, and he is an avid recreational fisherman.

O'Shea may be unaware that James A. Donofrio, executive director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance, is a former charter boat captain, head of a national organization of thousands of members, adviser to the U.S. ICCAT team, former employee of one of the largest manufacturers of sport fishing boats in the United States, and an avid angler.

O'Shea may wonder who Thomas P. Fote, twice a New Jersey member of the ASMFC and currently legislative chairman of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association and the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, is. Fote has been a fisheries activist for more than 35 years, has testified before Congress on fisheries matters, played a prominent role in New Jersey's striped bass game fish law, currently serves on or has been a member of hundreds of fishery, conservation and environmental panels, groups, associations and organizations. He also is an avid angler.

There were many others with wide backgrounds in fishing who spoke at the last ASMFC board meetings. They shared their field observations, their thoughts and their beliefs about fisheries management and resources. Some represented hundreds, such as the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, and very few spoke only for themselves.

An example of public interest were the nearly 400 persons who attended the ASMFC hearing on winter flounders in Belmar last winter. Some may not have had the credentials of others, but all were passionate about recreational fishing, whether they made a living from the activity or enjoyed it for food and pleasure.

O'Shea said dozens of concerned New Jersey anglers appeared before the ASMFC management board to urge no new limits be put on the weakfish harvest. He said scientists have advised that weakfish stocks are collapsing, yet anglers urged

that, because scientists cannot explain the cause for the stock decline, the impacts of fishing should be ignored. "What the speakers did not make clear was how or why continued harvest of weakfish would enhance the preservation or promote the recovery of the remaining population," he said.

O'Shea made a similar case for fluke, pointing out that no one from the audience spoke in favor of the 23.5-million pound limit or other more conservative alternatives yet without it, he claimed, that the fluke stocks may not be completely rebuilt in 2010.

He mentioned the rebuilding of the striped bass stocks, but not a word about the onerous winter flounder regulations, the stringent blackfish rules, or the sea bass and porgy regulations.

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER
Saturday, December 17, 2005 · Last
Pollution on Canada reservation is probed
By Matt Crenson

AAMJIWNAANG FIRST NATION, Canada -- Growing up with smokestacks on the horizon, Ada Lockridge never thought much about the pollution that came out of them. She never worried about the oil slicks in Talfourd Creek, the acrid odors that wafted in on the shifting winds or even the air-raid siren behind her house whose shrill wail meant "go inside and shut the windows."

Now Lockridge worries all the time. A budding environmental activist, she recently made a simple but shocking discovery: There are two girls born in her small community for every boy. A sex ratio so out of whack, say scientific experts who helped her reveal the imbalance, almost certainly indicates serious environmental contamination by one or more harmful chemicals.

The question: Which ones? And another, even more pressing question: What else are these pollutants doing to the 850 members of this Chippewa community?

Lockridge and her neighbors live just across the U.S.-Canada border from Port Huron, Mich., on the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Reserve. For nearly half a century, their land has been almost completely surrounded by Canada's largest concentration of petrochemical manufacturing.

Much of their original reserve, founded in 1827, was sold out from under them via questionable land deals in the 1960s. It is now occupied by pipelines, factories and row upon row of petroleum storage tanks. The area is so dominated by the industry that it is referred to on maps and in local parlance as "Chemical Valley."

About two years ago, Suncor Energy - which already operates a refinery and petrochemical plant next to the Aamjiwnaang reserve - proposed adding another factory to the mix, an ethanol plant to be built on one of the few undeveloped parcels adjoining the community's property.

Lockridge and other members of the band joined to oppose the plant. They asked biologist Michael Gilbertson to look at a binder full of technical information about air, water and soil contamination on the reserve.

In a conference call, he reported that the data showed elevated levels of dioxin, PCBs, pesticides and heavy metals including arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury. Almost as an afterthought, he asked a question: Had anybody noticed a difference in the number of girls and boys in the community?

At the other end of the line, the Aamjiwnaang and their allies were suddenly abuzz. "All of a sudden everybody in that room started talking," said Margaret Keith, a staffer for the Occupational Health Clinic for Ontario Workers, a public health agency. Somebody pointed out that the reserve had fielded three girls' baseball teams in a recent year and only one boys' team. Lockridge thought about herself and her two sisters, with eight daughters among them and only one son.

The question was not as offhand as it seemed. "I had been interested in sex ratio as an indicator - a very sensitive indicator of effects going on as a result of exposure to chemicals," Gilbertson said in a recent interview. Gilbertson explained that certain pollutants, including many found on the Aamjiwnaang reserve, could interfere with the sex ratio of newborns in a population. Heavy metals have been shown to affect sex ratio by causing the miscarriage of male fetuses. Other pollutants known as endocrine disrupters - including dioxin and PCBs - can wreak all sorts of havoc by interfering with the hormones that determine whether a couple will have a boy or a girl.

If some pollutant was skewing the distribution of girls and boys in her family and her community, Ada Lockridge thought, what else could it be doing?

Statistics indicate that one in four Aamjiwnaang children has behavioral or learning disabilities, and that they suffer from asthma at nearly three times the national rate. Four of 10 women on the reserve have had at least one miscarriage or stillbirth.

"I was throwing up thinking about what was in me," said Lockridge, who is 42. "I cried. And then I got angry."

She got a copy of the band membership list, and tallied the number of boys and girls born in each year since 1984. Sure enough, the percentage of boys started dropping below 50 percent around 1993. It is now approaching 30 percent, with no sign of leveling off.

The finding was significant enough to warrant a paper in *Environmental Health Perspectives*, a well-

regarded scientific journal. Lockridge, who has worked as a home health aide and carpenter's assistant, was listed as an author.

On a recent autumn day, Lockridge stood in the Aamjiwnaang band's cemetery. The burial ground occupies a gently sloping patch of ground sandwiched between a petroleum storage tank farm and a low cinder-block building with half a dozen pipelines running through it.

It is hardly a place where anyone could rest in peace. The building emits a constant, deafening roar that sounds like a wood-chipper buzzing through logs one after the next. It is so loud that funeral ceremonies have to be shouted.

One of the oldest headstones in the cemetery belongs to Lockridge's great-grandfather, who died at least 50 years before Suncor Energy erected a giant flare tower not 100 yards away.

Lockridge was talking about how security guards watch and occasionally film her as she pulls weeds around her family's plots. Suddenly she stopped short. "Okay," she said. "You getting that smell right now?" Traveling around the 3,250-acre Aamjiwnaang reserve is a stimulating olfactory experience. There are tangy smells, sweet smells and acrid odors that sting the nose. There is the tarry scent of unrefined petroleum, and the rotten-eggs stench of sulfur.

There's also a "fart" smell, Lockridge said, a "stink-feet" smell and something that "smells like what the dentist puts on a Q-Tip before he gives you the needle." Whenever she detects a distinctive odor somewhere on the reserve, she makes a note of it and records it on a calendar at home.

Lockridge's discovery of a sudden shift in sex ratio suggests a new pollutant came into the Aamjiwnaang's environment during the early 1990s. And the fact that the decrease is continuing suggests that whatever that pollutant is, it is still around. So far, nobody recalls anything new coming on the scene during the early '90s. And the levels of likely suspects such as PCBs and mercury have actually decreased in the past decade.

The sex ratio of newborn babies is normally within a hair's breadth of 50-50, with slightly more boys born than girls. There are very few documented cases of an imbalance as extreme as the one of the Aamjiwnaang reserve.

During the late 1950s, a severe outbreak of mercury poisoning in Minamata, Japan, caused a decrease in the percentage of male births. Mercury and other heavy metals cause the preferential miscarriage of male fetuses simply because their brains are more vulnerable during development compared to those of females.

Mercury is unlikely to be causing the shortage of boys on the Aamjiwnaang reserve, however. Though levels of the metal are elevated on the reserve, the

Aamjiwnaang are exposed to much less mercury today than they were 50 years ago. Back then, poor band members would go to open toxic waste dumps and extract mercury from the soil by adding water to it, then sell the metal on the black market.

The Aamjiwnaang and their scientific advisers believe it is more likely that endocrine disrupters are to blame. Dozens of synthetic organic chemicals can interfere with natural hormones by either interfering with or amplifying their effects. Because hormones are so important to the development and healthy performance of the body's organs, endocrine disrupters have the potential to cause a wide range of effects, from damage to the brain and sex organs in utero to decreased sperm production and immune suppression in adults. It is even arguable that they could influence sexual behavior and violence.

In her book "Our Stolen Future," biologist Theo Colborne worries that endocrine disrupters may be responsible for "physical, mental and behavioral disruption in humans that could affect fertility, learning ability, aggression and conceivably even parenting and mating behavior."

Some researchers have suggested that endocrine disrupters may be responsible for numerous alarming trends - rising rates of testicular and breast cancer, a higher frequency of reproductive tract abnormalities, declining sperm counts and increases in learning disabilities among them.

In 1976, a dioxin release at a factory in Seveso, Italy, sickened at least 2,000 people. Years later, scientists found that men who were exposed to the highest dioxin levels were more likely to have daughters than sons. Among men who were younger than 19 years old at the time of the accident, the ratio was the same as it is today on the Aamjiwnaang reserve - two-to-one.

At lower doses, the effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals are subtle and have been harder to document.

"Not a lot is known, actually," said Marc Weisskopf, a research associate at the Harvard School of Public Health. In a 2003 study, he and several colleagues found that mothers who consumed large amounts of PCB-contaminated fish caught in the Great Lakes were more likely to have girls.

It is extremely difficult to say whether background doses of endocrine disrupters are having any effect on the general population. Scientists in many industrialized countries - including the United States and Canada - have documented a subtle decline in the male-to-female ratio since World War II. But it has been a matter of controversy whether the decrease is due to industrial chemicals or lifestyle factors and medical advances, which can also tinker with the sex ratio.

There is little doubt that endocrine-disrupting pollutants are affecting the sexual development of wildlife right where the Aamjiwnaang live. In Lake St.

Clair, not 30 miles from their reserve, fish are swimming around with both male and female gonads. The condition, known as intersex, is caused when a young fish that is genetically male is exposed to chemicals such as the fertilizer atrazine, which causes female gonads to develop by acting like the hormone estrogen. The phenomenon has been documented all over the southern Great Lakes - not just in fish, but in birds and amphibians as well.

The Aamjiwnaang are getting increasingly worried and obsessed about the pollution of their reserve. With every new baby, said Ron Plain, a member of the Aamjiwnaang environment committee, "we have to worry what's the matter with that child, five years from now, 10 years from now, 20 years from now." Some people have suggested that the whole band should simply pick up and leave the reserve for a less contaminated place. But Plain wants to stay and fight.

Petitions and demonstrations against the Suncor ethanol plant eventually convinced the company to choose a location about 10 miles south of the reserve for the new facility. A Suncor spokesman said that community opposition was one of several factors that led to the decision.

Now Plain wants to use the band's veto power over new pipelines crossing the reserve as a bargaining chip: For example, in return for allowing a right-of-way, the Aamjiwnaang would require establishment of a fund to set up a network of air monitoring stations. The money could also be used to clean up hazardous waste sites on the reserve, or other environmental projects. "The band doesn't have the money for that type of stuff," said Plain, who runs his own medical supply company. "If we have a million dollars we can hire some pretty good experts."

Alan Joseph is not sure he can wait. He has five children - a boy and four girls. All suffer from asthma; the eldest girl has liver problems. He used to catch crawfish in Talfourd Creek and fish in the St. Clair River, less than a quarter mile from his house. Now, if he wants to go fishing, he drives 25 miles up the shore of Lake Huron. "I really want to move," he said.

Pros and cons of river dredging

By LAWRENCE HAJNA

Courier-Post staff

Published: December 30, 2005

The following Q&A examines the history of the river dredging project and summarizes the interests of the stakeholders.

Q: What is the proposal?

A: The river's main shipping channel has been set at a depth of 40 feet (mean low water depth) since World War II, when it was last deepened to accommodate battleships being built in Philadelphia. In 1992, Congress first authorized deepening the river's main shipping channel to

45 feet at the request of the Delaware River Port Authority.

The DRPA's charter had just been changed from solely operating the bridges and PATCO. The stated idea was to benefit the region's refineries by allowing tankers to carry more oil up the river without unloading some at the mouth of the bay, a process known as lightering. But port business leaders saw the deepening as an opportunity to attract larger cargo ships that need deeper water.

Q: Where would the river be dredged?

A: The project boundaries are from the Beckett Street terminal in Camden to the mouth of Delaware Bay, about 102 miles.

Q: How much would it cost?

A: Estimates have fluctuated widely.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had been using a figure of \$311 million, but in September revised the figure to \$264 million.

The federal government would pay \$161 million. DRPA and the states of New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania would have to contribute about \$103 million.

There is no money budgeted by the federal government for the project.

Q: How much sediment would be removed?

A: The Army Corps estimates the project will generate 26 million cubic yards of sediments -- about 18.7 million cubic yards from the river and 7.3 million cubic yards from the bay.

Q: Where will they go?

A: This is the biggest question swirling around the project.

Sediments dredged from the bay will be used to rebuild wetlands along the bay in New Jersey and Delaware. The Army Corps has identified six existing upland sites and three new sites along the river in Gloucester and Salem counties to accept spoils, which could create hills up to 75 feet high.

Pennsylvania and Army Corps officials have studied using spoils to fill in mines in Northeastern Pennsylvania and stop the flow of acid-tainted water into streams and rivers. Several years ago, the Army Corps estimated this would add \$190 million to the cost of the deepening project.

Q: Who is in favor of the project?

A: Longshoremen and trade unions, the South Jersey Port Corp., Pennsylvania's House of Representatives, Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell and Pennsylvania's DRPA commissioners.

Q: Who opposes the project?

A: Most South Jersey state lawmakers, U.S. Rep. Rob Andrews, South Jersey's DRPA commissioners, and environmental groups, including the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

Q: Why do supporters say the project must be done?

A: Shipping and labor unions argue the Port of Philadelphia is at a significant disadvantage for cargo shipping, arguing bigger cargo ships are now using ports at New York and Norfolk, Va., which have deeper shipping channels.

Q: Why do opponents say the project is not necessary?

A: They say Philadelphia, unlike New York and Norfolk, is too far upriver to attract bigger ships. They say new berths are needed in places like Paulsboro and Salem to accommodate more of the same size ships that now use the river.

Opponents also say that many of the larger ships today need 50-foot channels and that the river cannot be deepened this much because bedrock lies just below the sediment.

Q: What are the environmental impacts of dredging?

A: Environmentalists contend the project will disturb habitat for species such as the short-nose sturgeon, blue crabs and horseshoe crabs.

They fear that digging into sediments that have lain dormant for decades would release harmful industrial contaminants, although the Army Corps insists most of the sediments are clean and even virgin material.

Opponents also contend that digging into the river could crack a massive underground water supply known as the Potomac-Raritan-Magothy aquifer, potentially contaminating it.

Q: Would the project generate new jobs?

A: While DRPA has conducted a study showing the ports of Camden and Philadelphia generate some 75,000 jobs directly and indirectly, no one has performed a detailed study of the impact a deeper river would have economically or whether it would indeed attract newer and bigger ships.

Federal law required the Army Corps to conduct a cost-benefit analysis to ensure taxpayers don't lose money if the project is built.

The Corps has looked primarily at impacts to refineries but also factored in effects on the shipment of some products such as scrap iron and cement slag.

Triggered by environmental concerns, South Jersey officials demanded an independent audit of the project's anticipated economic benefits. The federal General Accountability Office found that the project would lose about 50 cents for every dollar spent on construction, in contrast to initial Army Corps calculations that estimated the project would generate \$1.40 for every dollar spent.

The Army Corps conducted a new analysis, showing the project would generate \$1.15 in economic benefit for every dollar spent.

Q: Why is the project on hold?

A: The state of Delaware has withheld a permit the Army needs to disturb the river bottom. New Jersey also says

the Army Corps needs to update studies on environmental impacts disposal sites would have.

New Jersey also has not taken action to appropriate its share of project funding.

Because of these issues and the economic questions, DRPA has not signed a project cooperation agreement with the Army Corps.

Fishermen fear another surprise fluke cutback

By John Geiser

Asbury Park Press 01/22/06

Fluke fishermen are hoping that the National Marine Fisheries Service does not decide the fish need additional protection.

It was about this time last winter that Patricia A. Kurkul, northeast administrator for NMFS, began dropping hints that the numbers were not as good as originally thought. The biomass was not growing as fast as expected, and recruitment was not as good as NMFS hoped.

The biologists had predicted the year before that total allowable landings (TAL) for 2006 would be 33 million pounds, up from 30.3 million in 2005. Instead, Kurkul claimed that the TAL had to be dropped to 23.59 million pounds, which was ultimately done. Fisheries management is aiming to increase the fluke biomass to 204 million pounds by the year 2010, and Kurkul maintained that only by cutting back to 23.59 million pounds could the management plan have a better than 50 percent chance of achieving this goal.

John V. O'Shea, executive director of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, took opponents of the cutbacks to task recently in the ASMFC's publication, Fisheries Focus. "None of the speakers expressed concerns about not meeting the rebuilding target by 2010 or of the consequences of a possible partial or full moratorium in 2009," he stressed. "What was clear was that those present were speaking passionately from their individual and short-term perspectives. They want more fish to take home next year, and they want more fish for their customers to take home so they can stay in business another year."

Most of the anglers and party boat captains who spoke at the ASMFC meeting in Galloway, of which O'Shea was referring, would agree with his second sentence.

Bruce L. Freeman, research scientist with the state Bureau of Marine Fisheries, has revealed that the coastal release rate of fluke was 85 percent in

2005, the highest ever. Coastal landings in the recreational sector were 3,838,729 fluke in 2005. Anglers probably released 20 to 25 million fish, many of them hooked and released perhaps a dozen to 20 times during the course of the season.

Biologists have put the mortality rate of released fluke at 10 percent; so the kill beyond landings could be very high.

New York overfished its quota again in 2005, this time by 23 percent, landing 1,041,825 fish, second only to New Jersey's 1,315,026 fish. New York will be forced to take a 38 percent reduction this year.

Connecticut overfished its quota by 18 percent, landing 211,426 fish, and requiring a cutback of 35 percent. Massachusetts undershot its quota by 10 percent, but will still have to cut back 15 percent.

New Jersey was under its quota of 1,873,000 fish by 30 percent, and thus could stay the same this year or the season could be lengthened a bit on either or both ends with its 10 percent liberalization factor.

O'Shea pointed out that scientists claim the fluke biomass is not as large as had been expected, "probably due to unaccounted for removals from recreational harvest and commercial discards." The government's claim that the biologists' projections on the progress of rebuilding the stocks that would allow a harvest of 33 million pounds this year were wrong "probably because of unaccounted for removals" is unsettling.

Thomas P. Fote, legislative chairman of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, reminded that fishermen have been cutting back for years waiting for the day when they can land more fluke. "It's not happening," he said. "We've been saying all along that they don't know how to manage a recovering stock."

Fote pointed out that sales of fluke fishing tackle have been dropping, party and charter boats have been going out of business, bait and tackle shops have been closing, and fewer people have been fishing for fluke, but the government remains oblivious to the effects of its regulations. "They've forgotten recreational fishermen," he said. "Years ago management tried to help the fish and the fishermen. Today they don't listen to fishermen. "They put some crazy system in place, and forget common sense. The arrogance is unbelievable. They don't care about us. It's truly a mess."

JCAA Acoustical Striped Bass Tag

By Tom Siciliano

The newest member of the JCAA family is a striped bass aptly called JCAA. The JCAA has adopted this fish and He or She can be found at stripertracker.org. The 13-receiver buoys set up in Great Bay and the Mullica River monitor the movements of "JCAA". The movements are also tracked by Rutgers students with the help of volunteers who bring their acoustical gear up and down Great Bay in search of the stripers that have transmitters inserted. A few of the JCAA clubs have already adopted fish along with Congressman Jim Saxton whose fish is named Net Free. The following is from the website and you can adopt your own fish by following the instructions provided.

Scientists from the Rutgers University Marine Field Station are trying to better understand the coastal migration of striped bass. The study area includes the Mullica River/Great Bay estuary, the southern end of Barnegat Bay, and the coastal ocean outside of Little Egg Inlet off Tuckerton, New Jersey.

JCAA was caught tagged and released

Location: Inside Tip of Holgate

Date: November 18th, 2005

Tide: Ebb

Bait: Live spot

Notes: Caught by Dave Messerschmid.

Adopted by: [Jersey Coast Anglers' Association \(JCAA\)](#) - Working for Marine Recreational Anglers [Tracking info](#)

Magnuson-Stevens Act Renewal

By Tom Siciliano

Probably the most important piece of legislation to impact fisheries management is undergoing revision in Congress. It is the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

This legislation will incorporate the recommendations of the President's Ocean Commission and the PEW Commission Report. It is very complicated as most legislation is but you have the opportunity to impact some of its provisions. To help us understand the issues that are of most importance to recreational anglers, we have invited

Lee Crockett and Brooks Montcastle of the Marine Fish Conservation Network to attend the next monthly meeting of club representatives. Lee has a clear understanding of the Bill and the inner workings of Washington. He will provide us with an overview of the bill, provide the pros and cons and answer any questions you might like to ask. Lee will start his presentation at exactly 7:30 p.m. and has to leave at 8:30 so don't be late or you will miss this opportunity. The JCAA has been a part of the network for quite a few years. Tom Fote has been on their board of directors and for a time served on the executive committee.

The Senate Bill S2012 was introduced on December 15, 2005.

Some of the issues in the bill that recreational anglers need to be aware of and express their opinions to their legislators are:

Issue: Saltwater Fishing License.

The bill requires that a uniform national program for registration of recreational fishermen be established. This is a Saltwater Fishing License. The reasons given for this sound great. To improve management of marine fisheries, it is essential to obtain more complete recreational fishing data. A license would create a national angler database to improve data collection.

It is difficult to believe that this will do anything to improve data collection. There is a lot of information that is currently available that is not being used, such as the log books that have been required of Party and Charter boats for years. This abundant source of information is ignored. So it does not make a lot of sense to add more complexity and cost. A prime example of this is the tuna permit, which keeps adding species, and all the money goes to the contractor who provides the permit. Look at the great job that has been done on tuna! I don't think so.

Issue: Data Collection/Science

The bill addresses the collection, quality control and use of science that is the basis of fishery management decisions. The quality of scientific advice by the SSC's is improved by a peer review. The bill also authorizes the payment of stipends to SSC members.

It is certainly critical to expand and enhance the collection and use of fisheries-related information. No one can disagree with that. The bill strengthens the use of scientific

information by mandating formalized scientific peer review. The bill establishes a national data collection system. The bill expands the categories of social and economic information that can be collected.

However, it is unclear who will be doing the collection of information and who the peer reviewers will be. The current system could be considered to meet these requirements and yet most recreational anglers and commercial fishermen have serious doubts about the validity of the existing data. Data which is provided by recreational and commercial fishermen, is considered anecdotal and not given any weight. This does not make sense. This source of information must be given the weight that it is due and a system needs to be developed to do this.

Other items in the bill include emphasizing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management; setting a hard deadline for ending overfishing and incorporates stock life history into rebuilding requirements; promotes the use of market-based dedicated access privileges; broaden and provide better balance of constituent interest on the fishery management councils. To deter repeat offenders the bill strengthens fisheries enforcement by increasing the civil and criminal penalties for violators.

To learn about the bill make sure a representative of your club is present at the next meeting.

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES BY JOHN KOEGLER

Florida Snowbird Report

Sailfish Marina had their best January sailfish tournament in their history. Fifty boats fished for 2½ days and released a record 958 sailfish. The previous year's tournament caught and released only 636.

Has anglers' total dedication to sailfish catch and release caused this major rebound? Despite over 30 years of angler conservation, no explosive sailfish rebound had been previously documented. Now after only 3 years of a total HMS long line ban in the Florida straits, the sailfish population explodes! Is this amazing recovery based on eliminating only long line discards? Especially when self-reported long line catches and/or dead sailfish discards were reported as low? The long line ban was imposed primarily to stop the slaughter of small unsellable

swordfish. A major sailfish rebound was not forecast nor expected.

What lesson can be learned from the sails' miracle rebound? Do all managed fisheries have a similar history? Are commercial landings and discards the key factor in the recovery of any managed fishery? Should this unexpected recovery be highlighted in all future fishery management decisions? Do not these facts apply to all managed fisheries?

ICCAT Report

ICCAT is the international organization that has responsibility for management of bluefin tuna and other HMS species in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. ICCAT holds a yearly November meeting to review landing data and get members international agreement on rules to manage these fisheries. The US has been a member since 1976. The US assigned NMFS as domestic manager. NMFS HMS division writes the rules and manages the US HMS fisheries.

NMFS has done a good job of writing rules and regulations to control US fishermen both commercial and recreational. US fishermen compliance has resulted in some recoveries in bluefin tuna and big increases in swordfish population.

This past November a major surprise occurred.

Bill Hogarth head of NMFS was elected to chairman of ICCAT. He agreed to serve for two years. Congratulations to Bill on his appointment and best wishes for making changes at ICCAT to make it function as intended.

Other key items from the meeting were:

1-Approved: A US resolution to encourage research and use of circle hooks and to report on the distribution and knowledge about Sargasso weed was approved.

2-Approved: A recommendation to punish Chinese Taipei for huge overages in their bigeye tuna landings. However, the Taiwanese said that they could not implement it. The key question is what will ICCAT do about it since Taipei is an ICCAT member?

3-Approved: The US recommendation to protect shortfin mako sharks was approved. The outgoing ICCAT chairman made major changes in the original recommendation. These changes so weakened the recommendation that the new rule will do little to rebuild the shortfin mako population.

4-Not Approved: The EU proposed new rules for certain gear and to ban the sale of recreationally caught ICCAT managed species. The proposal also contained a proposal to report recreationally caught fish.

Will VMS be mandated for recreationals?

Commercial fishermen are familiar with VMS. VMS is short for Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). This is a satellite tracking system that reports a vessel's exact position to NMFS. NMFS planned use of this system is to keep closed areas free of commercial fishermen 100% of the time. In the past closed areas were frequently violated.

However, NMFS success with this system has NMFS bureaucrats believing that all fishermen should be willing to accede to any policy that they deem appropriate.

Isn't this the same management thinking that was recently imposed on all fluke fishermen for 2006? In that plan NMFS mandated a major reduction in quota in the Fluke management plan. NMFS using a 1998 court order as their reasoning unilaterally imposed a major reduction in 2006 fluke mortality. Is this an example of their future management style? If so, there is a zero need for fishery management commissions or councils, especially when the guidance and insight they are mandated by law to provide is unilaterally eliminated by NMFS.

Katrina's Continued Toll

There has not been any weather event that has had a bigger impact on more people, businesses and wildlife than Hurricane Katrina. This storm's devastation was not limited to beachfront locations, but extended far inland. Even areas that had for over 70 years experienced minor hurricane damage were totally destroyed. The damage is so absolute in some areas that it is hard to comprehend.

Consumer Reports February 2006 issue has an article on page 6 that covers future fallout. The article's title is: "Higher insurance premiums blame climate change."

A report from CERES (an insurance industry think tank) found that insured US losses from weather-related disasters have increased 15-fold in the last 30 years. This is a greater increase than in any other recorded time frame. Recent losses from natural disasters have outpaced both population growth and inflation. Their climate experts envision more future severe disturbances including windstorms, hailstorms and droughts.

CERES states that insurance will become less available and less affordable as the costs of disasters challenge insurer's ability to pay. They state that a gradual transfer of risk back to consumers and governments in the form of higher premiums, higher deductibles and more government backed high-risk pools is likely.

The article continues, "Swiss-Re and other European re-insurers (they insure insurance companies) regard climate change as a fact. These companies are incorporating this fact into their risk analyses used to design policies and set insurance premiums. These companies are planning to hike some premiums in 2006. In Florida a standard homeowner insurance policy may have a deductible of \$5,000 which is even higher on expensive homes or damage-prone areas.

Just imagine insurance companies' payout if a 70 mile long stretch of New Jersey shoreline were hit with a 30 foot high hurricane storm surge. Would it surge as far inland as the Garden State Parkway? Could it go even further? Such an event's insurance costs would make the Gulf estimated costs look like a picnic.

Insurance costs will have a major impact on our ownership costs since none of us can buy or sell a house, car or boat that is financed without insurance coverage.

Striped Bass Game Fish 2006
"A Landmark Event"
Saturday, May 20, 2006 Save this date!
By Brad Burns

Striped Bass Game Fish 2006 will be the most important event in the history of saltwater recreational advocacy in the Northeast. We have aligned ourselves with three of the nation's top recreational fishing organizations – the International Game Fish Association, the Federation of Fly Fishers, and the American Sportfishing Association - to organize an afternoon symposium on May 20, 2006, in Foxboro, MA, with top experts who will address the major issues behind designating wild saltwater species like striped bass as game fish. The presentations will later be published and widely distributed to fishery policy makers.

Immediately following the Symposium we will host a cash bar with hors d'oeuvres followed by a first class banquet and auction where you can rub shoulders with many of the East Coast's best-known fishermen and select from an unparalleled array of super guided trips, top-shelf merchandise, original art, and much more.

Please take a minute and go to the SF website at www.striperforever.org, click on the Striped Bass Game

Fish 2006 event link, and check it all out. Plan to get together with your fishing friends and attend. You can buy tickets on line or through the mail.

For those of you in MA or RI with an activist bent, this is a perfect opportunity to buy a ticket for your local state representative/s and ask him/her to come see and hear what this movement is all about.

Dear Striped Bass Fisherman

Our favorite fish is under more pressure than ever, and Stripers Forever, a free membership, internet-based organization is fighting for them on many fronts. They need as many members as possible to show the politicians how many people depend on striped bass for recreation, food, and income.

If you haven't signed up yet as a member of Stripers Forever, here are a few things you should know:

-Membership is free
-There are no meetings to attend
-Everything is done via the internet and e-mail
-Many of the top fishermen in the country support Stripers Forever
-Stripers Forever's **only** goal is to make striped bass a gamefish, which means it would be managed for the benefit of the recreational fishing public, now and for future generations

Here is all that you have to do, it will take less than a minute and cost nothing:

-Go to www.striperforever.org
 -Select "Become A Member"
 -Fill out the very easy to follow sign up sheet.
- This is a critical time for striped bass. Help Stripers Forever successfully advocate to protect wild striper populations by "Making It A Gamefish."

YOUTH EDUCATION

BY GREG KUCHARAWSKI

HOFNOD CERTIFICATION

The JCAA Youth Education Committee would like to schedule a sign-up "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" certification training session during the month of January and February 2006. We will provide a sign-up sheet for JCAA member representatives at the JCAA general membership meetings. Club representatives can bring the HOFNOD sign-up certification sheets back to their clubs and return the information to the JCAA Youth Education Committee. Members of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will present the HOFNOD certification program. Wayne Tonneson, NJ Conservation Officer and NJ State Coordinator for the Future Fisherman Foundation's "Hooked On

Fishing Not On Drugs” program, will assist the JCAA Youth Education Committee with choosing a training/certification schedule that will be suitable for our needs. If you would like more information about the upcoming HOFNOD certification program and youth fishing programs, please e-mail Greg Kucharewski at gkucharews@aol.com and place HOFNOD in the subject line.

FAMILY FISHING VACATION

I recently received this information from the Take Me Fishing Boating & Fishing News website. What could be more fun than a fishing fun vacation? Check it out and you will be surprised how many fishing vacation opportunities you will find.

Mention fishing lodges and most people picture a rustic cabin equipped with only the bare necessities. What they don't know is that many of today's fishing lodges have evolved considerably from those of yesteryear. Families who enjoy the outdoors are discovering that these new fishing lodges are complete vacation resorts, offering not only great fishing with top-notch guides and the most well equipped boats, but also a range of other activities. From nature trails to fine dining, luxurious accommodations and spa treatments, there's something for each member of the family. Hooked on the idea of a family fishing vacation? Start planning today. Find a fishing lodge by visiting <http://www.takemefishing.org/facilitySearch.aspx?searchType=A> search page and search by one of these keywords: lodge, camp, ranch, inn. Looking for your favorite fishing lodge, but don't see it listed? Help them populate their listings by using <http://www.takemefishing.org/facilitySearch.aspx?searchType=A> and just be sure to include one of the following words in the description: lodge, camp, ranch or inn.

\$1,000.00 GRANTS

The website –<http://www.nanfa.org/corcoran.shtml> for the North American Native Fishes Association has 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 award was established in memory of past NANFA President Gerald C. Corcoran, who stressed public education regarding the continent's native fishes. NANFA is

an organization made up of home and professional aquarists, university and other professional researchers, conservationists, anglers and naturalists. As its name implies, the group is dedicated to the study and conservation of North America's native fishes. Grant proposals are due March 31, 2006. Proposals will be evaluated and ranked by a review committee, and funding awarded on June 1, 2006. Qualifying applicants must be members of NANFA but non-members may submit their annual dues with their proposals.

HRFA YOUTH ANGLING 2006

The Hudson River Fisherman's Association is well on their way with youth angler fishing events for 2006. I spoke to one of the HRFA members and more than nine events are planned for the upcoming fishing season. They planned the following for this Spring: April 8th on Piermont Pier: Piermont, NY, April 29th CATFISH DERBY on the Piermont Pier: Piermont, NY, MAY 7TH “HOOKED ON THE HUDSON.” This is their premiere event and it is held on Ross's Dock under the George Washington Bridge in the Palisades Intestate Park. Remember, all the events are free and they will provide children with the use of a rod and a reel, bait and lunch. The HRFA membership does a great job supporting their youth events and all the volunteers make it a success. This is a great tool for young anglers learning to fish. Check out the HRFA's Kaptain Katch's Ship's Log message. Ahoy mates! Kaptain Katch here to welcome you to the Hudson River Fisherman's Association *Youth Angler* official news column. We've got a lot in store for you and the best part is you get to participate and make it all happen. Every month I'm going to be here and we'll have news from you, that's right! You fish and have lots to share. Send me your articles and I'll put it in the Riverview's Magazine, the official news magazine of the Hudson River Fishermen's Association, We'll also have answers to the questions you send. You can send them in either by e-mail or snail mail (US Post Office).

OUTDOOR SPORTSMEN SHOWS

The JCAA'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 JCAA's, Youth Fishing Seminars. Parents are also welcome to attend.

We need the support of your club and its members!

Your club should be a member of JCAA and make a difference for only \$50 a year. Your club will have a voice in all JCAA positions that affect your fishing future. Your club will receive up-to-date info on vital issues each month.

Club Membership Application

Date _____

Club Name: _____

President's Name: _____

Pres. Address: Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

Please make check \$50 payable to JCAA

JCAA SPONSORSHIP

The JCAA has four levels of sponsorship, \$50, \$100, \$250 & \$500.

The sponsors are recognized in our newspaper. For more information call JCAA at 732-506-6565. Become a JCAA sponsor and help our cause. As you can see by our newspaper many our member clubs are also JCAA sponsors, if your club is not contact us today to become one. With all the new battles we are engaged in we need to raise more funds in order to be effective. Become a sponsor now and help us to continue the fight.

Join JCAA as an Associate Member

Only \$25 per year! Support the Goals of JCAA and receive a subscription to JCAA NEWS that gives you the Most Up-To-Date News about Fisheries Management and Environmental Issues

JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICATION

Date _____ New ___ Renewal _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Check if you would rather receive newspaper by email instead of by regular mail. Yes ___

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

Legislative	Tom Fote	732-270-9102
Office Manager	Phil Celmer	609-693-3414
Fluke Tournament	Rich Pasko	609-971-6120
Access: (North)	Ray Marione	201-843-1711
Access: (South)	Robert DeLeonard	732-793-8080
Blackfish	Pat Donnelly	732-295-1755
Blue claw Crab	Jack Miktus	732-477-5184
Blue Fish	Al Marantz	732-280-2643
Habitat	Pat Donnelly	732-206-1407
Large Pelagic	John Koegler	610-687-2208
Menhaden	Len Fantasia	732-872-1862
Striped Bass	Ed Cherry	edwardwc@comcast.net
Sponsorship	Frank Richetti	732-477-3120
Webmaster	Dave Franceschina	732 364-3168
Youth Education	Greg Kucharewski	732-840-9197

If you would like to receive JCAA Email alerts email your Name, Club, if you belong to one, and your interest to <tfote@jcaa.org> or just go to the JCAA Web and subscribe from there.