

JCAA NEWSPAPER JUNE 2006

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on May 23rd, 2006)

Remember New Monthly Meeting Room

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, May 30TH, 2006

Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, June 1ST, 2006

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote

JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi

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

May 30th JCAA General Meeting

June 1st Early Entry Deadline to enter JCAA Tournament for \$100

June 1st JCAA Board Mtg

June 6th MFCN General Mtg

June 6th ASA Mtgs

June 6th ASA Reception

June 8th MFCN Fishfest

June 10th JCAA Fluke Tournament

June 13th NJF&G Council Mtg

June 16th JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony

June 27th JCAA General Mtg

July 6th NJMFC Mtg

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Bruce Smith

The High Roller Raffle winners were drawn at the general meeting April 26. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who participated.

Entries to the JCAA Fluke Tournament are running as anticipated. There is still time to register for this great event at the \$100 entry fee. The entry fee increases to \$125 June 1st. The tournament date is June 10th and the award ceremony is June 16th.

A year ago I reported on the activities of a group, the **OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ALLIANCE**.

The ORA was assembled for the purpose of obtaining additional state funding for The Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Parks and Forests for FY06 (Fiscal Year 06). The success of this effort provided the motive to reconvene and expand the alliance and to elevate our goals.

The membership of the alliance has more than doubled. The acknowledgement of common and overlapping interests in New Jersey's natural resources, their importance to the quality of life of all citizens and the reality that our combined voice is our strength is empowering.

Statement of Purpose: "The Outdoor Recreational Alliance (ORA) represents statewide environmental organizations, sportsmen's groups, affordable housing advocates and environmental justice activists working to secure a long-term stable source of funding for capital projects and operation, maintenance and stewardship of New Jersey's state and local parks and natural heritage conservation. ORA also supports increased appropriations for the Divisions of Fish and Wildlife and Parks and Forestry in the FY07 budget." (These Divisions also deserve stable sources of fair and adequate funding in order to plan and fulfill their missions.)

New, more informative handouts have been developed. There have been several press conferences and there will be more. There was a lobbying effort by a dozen alliance members at the Statehouse in Trenton that was successful in getting the information to many legislators. Please contact your legislators and encourage them to support this initiative.

To view ORA handouts and for other info, including a roster of member organizations, go to web site www.outdoorrecreationalalliance.org. An Asbury Park Press article on May 18th by Kirk Moore contains the latest information on the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Reauthorization Bill, HR 5018 which was voted for final markup. Representative Frank Pallone Jr. inserted language to prevent any new fees (aka licenses) on recreational fishermen. Pallone and Rep. James Saxton also got the resources committee to include language that counts bait and tackle shops, party and charter boats and marinas as part of the fishing community as prescribed by law. Thank you, Congressmen Pallone and Saxton. Good Work!

**JUNE 12TH ANNUAL
JCAA
FLUKE TOURNAMENT
Sign Up Before June 1st**

FOR \$100

**2006 Fluke Tournament
Bigger and Better Port Prizes for 2006**

By Phil Celmer

Be sure to enter the JCAA Fluke tournament now. Remember, after June 1st the tournament fee goes from \$100 to \$125. Your participation not only guarantees a great time and a chance for many fabulous prizes for you & your crew, also it allows you to support the work that JCAA does for all recreational anglers. The Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament Survey that we conduct during the tournament supplies valuable fisheries information that the state and the National Marine Fisheries Service uses. JCAA is a non-profit 501-c3 charitable organization.

This year promises to be the best tournament in Jersey Coast history, as the first place prize will be sponsored by the fantastic Trump Marina Hotel Casino and JCAA. We are especially pleased that Fisherman's Headquarters, port LBI, will be sponsoring their local port. This year each of the twelve first place prizes will be \$1,200. Our sponsor Boater's World has a generous second place prize of a \$750 gift certificate. Raymarine's third prize is a state of the art DS5000X T/M Digital High Definition Fish Finder and seven other great port prizes from these sponsors: Maui Jim Sunglasses, Minn Kota, Canyon Gear, American Fishing Wire/High Seas, Abu Garcia/Fenwick and, New Jersey Angler Magazine and our new media sponsor Nor'east magazine and others.

This year we will be giving away over \$110,000 in 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 only compete with other anglers at the port you select for 10 prizes.**

All participants are automatically eligible for the Grand Prize Century 1801 center console now 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. Due to your inputs much more

additional seating will be available and 25% off dockage is available the day of the ceremony. If you and your crew arrive at Trump Marina Hotel Casino before 3:00 you will each receive (up to 4 per entry) a \$5.00 coupon for dinner at selected restaurants. There are limited hotel rooms available at Trump Marina Hotel Casino at a special JCAA price so call early. **Mention JCAA Fluke Tournament and group reference: FLUKE 06 when you call 1-800-777-8477.**

The new Century boats are available at Sheltered Cove Marina, Tuckerton, 609-296 9400, Gateway Marina & Yacht Sales, Belford 1-800 BOATS-4-U, Pier 47 Wildwood, 609-729 4774. Order your JCAA Fluke Tournament T-shirt and hat now. We may not have all sizes available at the Awards Ceremony and you won't want to miss this year's great shirt and hat. Full color image of the T-shirts can be seen at our web site <www.jcaa.org>. Last year many people were disappointed because we ran out of shirts at the Awards Ceremony. An order form is available online. If you have questions call 732-506-6565 or visit the web site at www.jcaa.org for additional information, links to sponsors, entry forms.

**FISHERIES MANAGEMENT &
LEGISLATIVE REPORT
BY THOMAS FOTE**

**Atlantic States Marine Fisheries
Commission Meeting**

I attended 2 days of the ASMFC meeting on May 9 & 10. It was interesting to see how much discussion there was and how little was actually accomplished. Sometimes it is okay to decide not to take any action or to postpone actions pending more discussion or more information.

That was true of weakfish. There has been a big push by some of the Northern states and some members of the technical committee to further restrict the weakfish recreational and commercial catch. There were concerns that the numbers for the recreational and commercial catch were decreasing even though there seems to be no spawning problem. As you will see below, they went to the Stock Assessment Workshop to get the stock assessment peer reviewed. The peer review did not approve the stock assessment as they have done before. This

means this issue will be revisited in August and it will be interesting to see which faction holds sway.

What I tried to point out twice at this meeting, never getting a real response, was that one of the crucial concerns is the lack of weakfish in Delaware Bay. The technical committee looked at natural mortality as a possible culprit. I suggested they look at the stocks of three species in Delaware Bay, striped bass, croaker and weakfish. I asked if there is any relationship in the sizes of the stocks and the interreaction of those stocks. In the mid 90's, both the striped bass and weakfish stocks were increasing in Delaware Bay with striped bass making the greatest strides. In 2000 croakers on the east coast began to make a phenomenal comeback. The commercial fishery increased tenfold and the fishery began to move up the coast. Suddenly, croakers were being caught in Delaware Bay. Their numbers continued to grow and so did their migration up the coast. As they moved up the coast into Barnegat Bay and other areas, the weakfish population did decline. Croakers moved so far up the coast they were caught in Shark River and Raritan Bay. It is interesting that the only real dramatic catch of weakfish last year was in Raritan Bay, the northern part of the croaker invasion. When I suggested a possible relationship to the technical committee I was told they had looked at the relationship but couldn't define it using the current assumptions in the stock assessment.

They need to change their assumptions in order to gather relevant data. Can we sustain three large populations of predator fish that may be competing for food and space in a limited area? Does one stock suffer at the expense of the other two even if their diet is different or they are not eating one another? As we learned in human population, when we reach a certain population density, there are serious consequences. It may be that the decline in weakfish is due to a natural occurring event which is out of our control. Before we create regulations that have negative consequences for both recreational and commercial fisheries, we need to look at all the facts. We need to know if any regulations we create will actually make a difference if there is no spawning problem. The technical committee needs to look at this option as well.

What happened with regard to menhaden was just the opposite. Since ASMFC was having a hard time getting Virginia to comply with the menhaden plan, they decided to forego taking action. It

frequently occurs to me that there are more delaying tactics for decisions that have a negative impact on commercial interests. This is an example of the commission having plenty of data to make a decision and refusing to do so.

Blackfish or Tautog

There appears to be a huge illegal blackfish fishery in New Jersey. It also seems that the pot fishery on blackfish has grown quickly in relationship to the price increases in the market for live blackfish. Blackfish are not fish that migrate up and down the east coast. They are a regional fish in New Jersey and New York and if we can control the fishery in the New York bight, we should be able to rebuild the stocks. This is also true of the Delaware Bay region. The rebuilding of the stocks does not appear to be occurring despite the restrictive regulations. The real problem is the legal and illegal commercial fishery. New Jersey and New York both complain that law enforcement is stretched to the max and it is difficult to catch people who violated the regulations. New York and New Jersey are also focusing more attention on illegal pin hooking instead of keeping track of the never ending increase in the number of pots.

There are many groups with suggestions. One suggestion is making blackfish a gamefish. JCAA will be forming a committee and discussing this issue at the next JCAA meeting. We need to look at all the reasonable options to protect and rebuild this important recreational species in New Jersey.

Registration (Back Door Fishing License)

I spent a good deal of time during the past month speaking with the Federal New Jersey delegation about the proposed registration of recreational anglers by the National Marine Fisheries Service. On May 9th I spent five hours on Capitol Hill discussing this issue with the staff for Senator Lautenberg, Senator Menendez, Congressman Pallone and Congressman Saxton. Bill Holgarth has already admitted under careful questioning by Congressman Pallone that registration is only one small piece of data collection. All that registration would do is give NMFS the telephone numbers of recreational anglers to contact for a telephone survey. NMFS is pushing this only for states without a saltwater fishing license. None of the states along the east coast that have saltwater fishing licenses demand that everyone obtain a license.

There are exemptions for senior citizens, disabled, children, and residents depending on the state. Florida admits that only 20% of their anglers are registered. So if NMFS is really serious about data collection, it would require every state along the east coast to have every angler registered.

Clearly, this is not simply about data collection. All you really do with the telephone census is find out if the respondent actually went fishing and how often. The real key to data collection is angler intercepts. How do we pick up the people who don't appear in the dock data because of their fishing habits? We miss surf fishermen, night fishermen, people who fish from private docks or from boats docked at homes.

The real problem with recreational data collection is that the Federal government spends so little money on it. NMFS barely spends 15 million dollars to gather recreational data while they spend hundreds of millions to gather commercial statistics. When we look at the economic impact of recreational and commercial fisheries they are almost the same. But since the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries became the National Marine Fisheries Service and absorbed the Bureau of Sport Fisheries, the commercial bias has continued. If we look at what recreational anglers already contribute in state and local taxes while the commercial community is exempt, there seems to be no justification to "tax" recreational anglers again. Recreational anglers contribute billions of dollars annually nationwide. And we get very little in return. All we have to do is look at New Jersey's poor record, balancing fees collected against benefits gained. New Jersey spends about 1.3 million dollars on marine fisheries and actually has contributed about 3 million dollars to the Division of Fish and Wildlife from the general fund while pulling in over 200 million dollars in taxes and fees from the recreational community (boat registrations, trailer registrations, sales tax and excise tax, fuel tax, beach buggy fees and fishing permits). I am not asking the Federal government to immediately equalize the funding for commercial and recreational fisheries. But I would be happy to have 20% of what is spent on data gathering for commercial interests spent on recreational concerns. That would get at the root of the problem and address what the NRC report recommended. This problem will not be solved by a Federal registry. If the Federal government really

wants a registry, it should be free to all anglers. This would be a step in the right direction.

Striped Bass EEZ

The Federal government is again pushing a proposal to open up the EEZ for striped bass fishing. The JCAA response was finalized at a meeting on May 18th and is included in this Newspaper. With all the problems NMFS has managing the national recreational fishing, why increase their problems? Right now they don't have to gather information about the EEZ since it is legally closed for all striped bass fishing. Again, every year we face the situation where we might be overfishing the big fish and might need further restrictions on the recreational catch. Opening the EEZ could be the straw that breaks the camel's back. And who will suffer? The fishermen who fish from the beaches and piers along the rivers, bays and estuaries. It would also hurt the boaters who prefer to fish close to the beach.

There will be some recreational anglers who would like to fish the EEZ for their own personal advantage. They need to look at the long-term consequences and the impact on all recreational anglers. There may be some recreational anglers who practice catch and release in the EEZ or may be illegally fishing that area. But since a majority of anglers obey the regulations, the impact of this illegal fishing is small. But open up the EEZ and the numbers will increase dramatically. The short-term advantage may result in greater long-term restrictions.

Please send your comments to your federal legislator and

GETTING JCAA ALERTS

People I meet have many questions about JCAA and fisheries management. I always ask if they read the current JCAA newspaper. Or I ask if they are on the JCAA email list for frequent updates. Too many of them say no to both. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, there is considerable effort put into every JCAA newspaper and all the email alerts. If you don't read them, all that time and energy doesn't have much payoff. If I don't have your email address, you miss the alerts entirely. If you want to be on the email list, go to the JCAA webpage (www.jcaa.org) and click on the word "subscribe" about half way down the page. Or send me an email and I will add you to the list. All I need is your name and email address. This list is confidential and is never shared with anyone outside

of JCAA. . What is also disappointing is that every club does not have a representative on the email list. This is something your club can remedy easily. Just send me an email at tfote@jcaa.org and say you are the club representative.

Amendment blocks saltwater license

Asbury Park Press on 05/19/06

By John Geiser

NO FEE: House committee accepts Pallone's change to Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization to prevent it
The next battle: Pallone, Saxton fighting to prevent reopening of EEZ to striped bass fishing

New Jersey recreational fishermen are fortunate to have two congressmen who appreciate how important fishing is to their constituents and the state's economy. Reps. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-N.J.) and H. James Saxton (R-N.J.) have been weighing in forcefully on several matters of importance to not only New Jersey anglers, but those from other states on the East Coast.

Pallone was able to get House Resources Committee approval Wednesday of his amendment to the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act that prevents the National Marine Fisheries Service from imposing a saltwater fishing license on recreational fishermen.

James A. Donofrio, executive director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance, said the amendment was a vital step in protecting the liberty so long associated with saltwater fishing in New Jersey. "Without congressmen Pallone and Saxton to represent us, we'd be in trouble," he said. "They go to bat for the saltwater fishermen of New Jersey every time they are asked." Donofrio said the RFA and the Jersey Coast Anglers Association have stated countless times that a saltwater fishing license is unacceptable. "We've been fighting this together," he said. "We're presenting a united front, and it is gratifying to hear that the resources committee understood what this means to recreational fishermen."

"We know from what the director of NMFS has said that, if we didn't stop them, they would go ahead and impose a fee on anglers," Pallone said. "It's critical that we put into law this provision saying that they can put no new fees on recreational fishermen."

Thomas P. Fote, legislative chairman of the JCAA, said the glaring example of NMFS and a fee is the so-called "tuna permit" that anglers who fish offshore are forced to buy. "New Jersey has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to NMFS for those permits," Fote said, "and what have we ever gotten back?" The only evidence of payback this tuna season is apparently going to be the elimination of the fishery for small school bluefin tuna. U.S. recreational fishermen may have to stop fishing for the small bluefins because European, African and Caribbean nations are overharvesting the resource.

During a committee hearing earlier this month, Pallone, a senior member of the House Resources Committee, questioned William Hogarth, NMFS director, about mandatory license fees. Hogarth admitted to Pallone that the Bush administration planned to implement a mandatory charge on anglers of \$20 to \$25 annually for the right to fish.

Pallone's amendment, which was passed unanimously by a voice vote Wednesday, prevents NMFS from moving forward with this proposal. Pallone said he separately secured a commitment from Rep. Richard Pombo (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Resources Committee, to hold a hearing and work on language concerning the current moratorium on striped bass fishing in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

NMFS is considering whether or not to reopen the EEZ to fishing and harvesting of striped bass, which Pallone believes could have a serious negative impact on recreational fishermen along the East Coast. "We need to highlight for other members of Congress what the impacts on anglers and the recreational industry would be, if we opened the EEZ to striped bass fishing," Pallone said. "This hearing, which should happen before August, would be the perfect way to highlight these impacts," he continued.

Pallone also worked with Saxton to pass an amendment expanding the current definition of "fishing community" to include bait and tackle shops, marina owners and operators, charter boats and other elements of the economy dependent on recreational fishing. This amendment will help

ensure that fisheries managers must more closely consider the economic impacts of their decisions on the entire recreational fishing community, Pallone pointed out.

The House Resources Committee put the finishing touches Wednesday on H.R. 5018, the bill that will reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and it will now be considered by the full House.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission **Spring 2006 Meeting summary**

SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, AND BLACK SEA BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (May 9, 2006)

ASMFC Board Approves Addendum XVI to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Plan

Addendum Establishes Procedures to Address Delayed Implementation of Required Fisheries Management Measures

Arlington, VA – The Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board has approved Addendum XVI to the Fishery Management Plan. The Addendum addresses issues of delayed implementation of required management measures for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries. It provides a species-specific mechanism of ensuring that states meet their obligations under the plan in a way that minimizes the probability that a delay in complying does not adversely affect other states' fisheries or the conservation of the resource. The measures promote the long-term conservation of summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass.

The Addendum responds to an ISFMP Policy Board directive to its management boards to improve the states' implementation of all interstate fishery management plans (FMPs). Summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass management programs have been given the highest priority since these species FMPs have repeatedly been affected by delays in implementation of required regulations. This has limited the effectiveness of the management program and adversely affected the timely conservation efforts of other states. The Addendum establishes a mechanism to ensure states meet their obligations under the management program and provides

disincentives to minimize delayed implementation of required management measures.

The Addendum addresses delayed implementation of both commercial and recreational fishing measures. In the commercial fishery, season closures will be used to address delays in implementing size and trip limits, while quota adjustments will address harvest overages. For example, if a state does not implement appropriate minimum fish sizes for the first two weeks of the fishing season, in the following year the season would be closed for the first two weeks of the season. In the recreational fishery, season closures will be used to address delays in implementing size limits, possession limits, and seasons. For example, if a state does not implement appropriate possession limits for the first two weeks of the fishing season, in the following year the season would be closed for the first two weeks of the season. The addendum also deals with the timeliness of the notification period for management changes.

Kerns, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or tkerns@asmfc.org.

BLUEFISH MANAGEMENT BOARD (May 10 2006)

Meeting Summary

The Bluefish Management Board met to discuss the 2006 commercial quota. On February 24, 2006 the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published the final 2006 quota for the bluefish commercial fishery. Updated landings projections for the 2006 fishing year that were not available at the time of the joint Board/Council meeting held in August 2005, suggest that recreational harvest levels would be exceeded if the NMFS adopted the quota transfer from the recreational to the commercial fishery recommended by the Council and approved by the Board. Based on this information, the NMFS adjusted the transfer amount, resulting in a discrepancy between the federal and ASMFC quota. The Board agreed to take no action regarding the ASMFC quota but will work with states that may wish to pursue interstate quota transfers. For more information, please contact Julie Nygard, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or jnygard@asmfc.org.

AMERICAN EEL MANAGEMENT BOARD

(May 10, 2006)

Meeting Summary

The American Eel Management Board discussed the recommendations of the Technical Committee regarding follow-up from the Peer Review Advisory Panel Report. The Board tasked the American Eel Stock Assessment Subcommittee with addressing the Technical Committee's recommendations for Board consideration in late October. For more information, please contact Julie Nygard, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or jnygard@asmfc.org.

ATLANTIC MENHADEN MANAGEMENT BOARD (May 10, 2006)

Meeting Summary

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board reviewed the implementation of Addendum II by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Commonwealth has until July 1, 2006 to implement the regulations included in Addendum I. At this time, Virginia has yet to implement these regulations. The Board will re-visit this issue at the August Management Board Meeting. Copies of t

Staff presented the Plan Review Team Report on State Compliance. All states are found to be in compliance and Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina were granted *de minimis* status.

The Technical Committee Chair updated the Management Board on the 2006 stock assessment. The Technical Committee held a data workshop in March 2006. It will use this data at a stock assessment workshop in July, and plan to present the final updated assessment at the 2006 annual meeting. For more information, please contact Nancy Wallace, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or nwallace@asmfc.org.

WEAKFISH MANAGEMENT BOARD (May 10, 2006)

Meeting Summary

The Board heard from the Technical Committee an update on the weakfish stock assessment. The assessment underwent an external peer review in March 2006. A representative from the Peer Review Panel presented its Terms of Reference and Advisory Report to the Weakfish Stock Assessment Peer Review. The Panel does not endorse the recommendations of the Technical Committee regarding stock status of weakfish along the Atlantic coast. The Board accepted the Peer Review Panel's report recognizing that the Technical

Committee did not agree with all of the Panel's conclusions.

The Board tasked the Technical Committee with several items: (1) review all relevant literature and data on stock structure; (2) compile all known data and information on discards of weakfish; (3) develop written comment on agreements and disagreements between the Technical Committee's stock assessment report conclusions and Peer Review Panel's report conclusions; and (4) produce an accounting and timeline of implementation of recommendations from the SARC 40 peer review. The Technical Committee will present its report on these items during the next Weakfish Board meeting in August.

The Board took no management action on the commercial and recreational measures deferred from its November 2005 meeting. It requested that ASMFC staff develop a draft Addendum II containing those measures for Board consideration in August. The Board will have the opportunity to take final action in August to reduce fishing mortality on the weakfish stock.

The Board approved the nomination of Chris Heald, a recreational fishermen from Maryland, to the Weakfish Advisory Panel. For more information, please contact Braddock Spear, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or bspear@asmfc.org.

**JCAA STATEMENT REGARDING
NMFS PROPOSAL TO OPEN THE EEZ
TO STRIPED BASS FISHING**

Tom Meyer
State-Federal Fisheries Division
Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS
1315 East West Highway
Room 13248
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Subject: Striped Bass Scoping

This letter is in response to the Federal Register Notice of April 24, 2006 concerning Atlantic striped bass. JCAA has historically been and is presently opposed to the opening of the EEZ to recreational and commercial fishing.

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) is concerned that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has not fully explained the circumstances leading to the recommendation of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to remove the moratorium on the harvest of striped bass in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). NMFS failed to indicate that the moratorium in the EEZ, now in place, is at the request of the coastal states. The ASMFC voted no fewer than three times over the years to maintain the EEZ moratorium. The vote to remove the moratorium in 2003 was not supported by the majority of coastal states, but by four coastal states (including Massachusetts and North Carolina, the two states that will benefit the most from opening the EEZ) and the two federal agencies out of the 16 voting members. Under the voting procedure of the ASMFC the 2003 vote passed by an extremely slim margin but it certainly was not supported by a majority of the Management Board nor did it have widespread support.

Since the NMFS voted to remove the moratorium in the EEZ and obviously had taken a position on this issue, how can it now claim, as it does in the July 21, 2003 and April 24, 2006 Federal Register, that it is now being objective regarding this issue? An agency cannot argue and vote on one side of an issue, then turn around and state that it is neutral on that very issue while seeking public comment.

When we talk about increasing commercial fisheries one of the reasons given is that it allows them to use fish they are already harvesting and allows them to use that bycatch of dead striped bass. Many fisheries have demonstrated that increasing the commercial quota or harvesting opportunities increases bycatch. So, you are not just utilizing dead bass that would have been killed but instead increasing the number because of the increased effort. This was clearly demonstrated this year when the increased quota was in place in North Carolina. In order to keep the harvest open for a longer period of time and retain the price, there was an implementation of trip limits. We understand the reasons for trip limits but trip limits promote highgrading (culling out the biggest fish) and increase discard. This fact is always lost in the discussion.

It will create new fisheries in areas that are presently closed. Striped bass in the EEZ will be targeted since many other fisheries will be closed at

that time. If trip limits are in effect, bycatch will only increase. Depending on regulations, small fish may have to be discarded, which will only increase the discard mortality.

While striped bass stocks appear to be in a healthy condition, the population structure of age/size has not expanded to historical ranges. The reduced population of the larger and older fish is primarily concentrated in the 3-12 mile range. To place additional pressure on these fish could well jeopardize the goal of having an expanded age/size distribution in the stock.

Amendment 6 restored the coastal commercial fishery to the average landings during 1972-1979 (3.8 million lbs), provided jurisdictions implemented a 28-inch minimum size limit. They are now fishing at 100% of the average or more. Some states have not changed the recreational regulations to allow for a greater harvest by the recreational sector under Amendment 6 and are considering doing so or could in the immediate future. We do not know what impact this would have on the overall mortality. We should not open the EEZ until all states are allowed to fully implement Amendment 6 and see what its effect will be on increased mortality.

What we are talking about is opening the EEZ at the same time that NY, NJ, PA and DE recreational fishermen are restricted in their quotas and size limits. According to historical data North Carolina and Massachusetts will benefit the most from opening the EEZ.

Why is it necessary to open an area that is a refuge for the larger (best breeders) striped bass, when it appears we are currently fishing at 100% both recreationally and commercially?

New Jersey's waters have been closed to the commercial harvesting of striped bass since 1995 because PCB testing placed these fish above the FDA levels for the sale of striped bass. New York also has areas closed due to the same PCB contamination problem. Once the EEZ is open there will be no enforcement of those closed PCB areas since state jurisdiction does not extend there. This could allow for the harvesting and sale of contaminated striped bass. This is a potentially serious problem with possible legal and health consequences that the management boards MUST address. This could affect the entire striped bass commercial fishery since no one could guarantee the source of the commercial landings. The Public would lose confidence in the quality of the product.

The preferred option here is to remain status quo and keep the EEZ closed to the possession of striped bass. This option helps to maintain conservation of striped bass and allow states to manage striped bass within state waters.

We have included our additional relevant comments made in response to your request for comments in 2003. (Attached).

Edward Cherry
JCAA Striped Bass Committee Chairman
214 Jeremy Lane
Manahawkin 08050
609-597-9456
edwardwc@comcast.net

JCAA's 2003 written comments and a point by point discussion of these comments are posted on our web page in the newspaper archives section. Look at the December 2003 newspaper.

Some Comments About Fisheries Management

By Tom Siciliano

For years I have been saying there are only three things needed to improve the science of fisheries management. They are DATA, DATA and DATA. We need to add to that another factor and that is some common sense. The first criterion of any scientific measurement is: "Does it make sense?" If it is outside what one would expect then you need: You guessed it! More DATA.

The current fisheries management system uses the "Best Available Science" in making its decisions. Unfortunately, the best available science is not very good in many cases.

The reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Act calls for more reliance on scientific data. The big question I have is how is that going to be accomplished?

There are two components of the data needed. The total biomass of fish that are available to be caught and the total fish caught. The data on the commercial side is pretty good at determining the total fish caught since there are lots of records that can be reviewed. The recreational side relies on the MRFSS survey, which even by NMFS admission is not reliable.

The National Academy of Sciences recently reviewed the Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods. They came to the same conclusion-that the MRFSS survey needs a major overhaul of the design, implementation and analysis of data from the MRFSS program. The current approach has serious flaws in design, implementation and uses inadequate analysis methods that need to be addressed immediately. They conclude that users' concerns about the use of the MRFSS in fishery management are justified.

Not surprisingly they recommend additional staff and more funding. They state that a registry or license requirement for all saltwater anglers is a major impediment to the development of a reliable and accurate survey program. They do recognize that even in states that currently have a saltwater license the information is incomplete because there are too many exemptions based on age, residence, boat and pier licenses and others. They, therefore, recommend a national registration of all saltwater anglers or state license programs that would allow no exemptions.

We all know how well the Tuna Permit has worked to provide data. It hasn't!

And how well has the Charter and Party boat log books of fish landed, caught and released worked? They have been required for over 10 years and the information has been sent to NMFS in Woods Hole where it has gathered dust.

What does the National Academy of Sciences say as one of their major recommendations? "Charter, party and other for-hire recreational fishing operations should be required to maintain logbooks of fish landed and kept as well as fish caught and released. Providing the information should be mandatory for continued operation in this sector, and all the information should be verifiable and made available to the survey program in a timely manner."

Talk about not understanding the concept!!! Where has the information that has already been collected been going? This certainly makes you wonder how they came up with some of their recommendations, doesn't it?

The other half of the information that is used by fisheries managers is the total biomass of a given species. Let's look at a few examples. First, according to the biomass data, dogfish are an endangered species. I think this is where that common sense that I mentioned comes into play. The trawl survey shows without a doubt that there

are very few dogfish. So let's not consider the information from every other source because it is not scientific. How many times have boat anglers been inundated with dogfish as they try to fish a wreck for blackfish or sea bass or how many dogfish have you caught while drifting for fluke? Why doesn't that information get factored into the total biomass calculation?

Next is my personal favorite, summer flounder. According to NMFS the total biomass of summer flounder is 120,000,000 pounds. Now, follow this calculation, it's not that hard, but the fisheries managers didn't get it. Let's use a figure of 20 discards to each keeper, which certainly is not that unreasonable, based on 2005 catch reports. Now, assume an average of 2 pounds for each keeper fish and 1 pound for each fish released. The recreational quota was 12 million pounds or 6 million fish. So at 20 to 1 recreational anglers released 120,000,000 pounds of summer flounder. Therefore, recreation anglers caught and released the entire estimated biomass of summer flounder in the ocean. Does that make sense to anyone? Did common sense enter into the equation of the "Best Available Science"?

When the Magnuson Stevens Act is reauthorized we can certainly agree that additional funding is needed for science, and JCAA will be actively working to ensure that the funds go into improving the "Best Available Science."

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

BY JOHN KOEGLER

NMFS HMS 2006 Permit Mischief???

NMFS 2006 HMS permit has new reporting requirements. I find fault with them in that they may be used by NMFS in the future to close anglers' access to key HMS species.

The 2006 permit for the first time requires reporting of recreational LANDINGS ONLY of Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish, Swordfish, plus the previously required bluefin tuna landings. The reason for the word "landing" emphasis is that only kept billfish are to be reported. Catch and released billfish are not to be reported

The problem arises when you consider that US Blue and White Marlins are under a tiny yearly quota allocation from ICCAT. The current limit is

250 marlins per US fishing year. That's 250 total marlin landed from the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico during 2006. This tiny quota was the result of NMFS reporting to ICCAT only the landing they observed while doing scientific studies at a mere handful of major US HMS tournaments. Now, after a fixed international quota has been imposed, NMFS desires to collect accurate information on all US billfish landings!

This is made even more distressing when readers remember that all other ICCAT members make no report or even an estimate of their recreational landings. NMFS deliberately over reports US recreational landings while the rest of the world reports "0"! NMFS management procedures must be changed immediately.

SWORDFISH

Recreational landings of Swordfish are not a major a problem at this time. US recreational landings are included in the miscellaneous category for swordfish landings. NMFS reports that the swordfish commercial landings have dropped below the US quota allocations from ICCAT for several years. A major cause for the decline of the commercial sword fishery is massive imports of frozen swordfish from the Pacific and Indian ocean areas. These imports low prices have sharply reduced the dockside price of fresh US landed swordfish. As a result, US fishermen now limit their trips to that time period when they can be assured of a good catch. Given the cost of fuel, a quality catch is needed to cover the cost of their trips.

Recreational School Bluefin Estimates

A major reason anglers are upset with NMFS HMS reports is they consistently manipulate their angler data. The result is anglers are never allowed to land their allocated HMS quota.

The perfect example is the recent data review of NMFS anglers' bluefin tuna landing estimates. Bluefin tuna are mandated to be measured using the Curved Fork Length system. However, when most tuna are measured at LPS dockside interviews, they use the standard scientific metal ruler that measures a tuna's straight length. NMFS corrects for this by adding 17% to the length of straight fork length measurements reported to them. But anglers CFL measurements cover over 90% of the bluefin reported.

The result is NMFS over estimates recreationally school landings by 17%. Then NMFS

compounds this over estimate. Using their school tuna length to weight conversion tables, they increase their already high estimates by an additional major amount.

Bluefin Tuna Season

The school bluefin tuna season is proposed by NMFS to be closed in 2006. They estimated that anglers landed more school bluefin (27"-47") than their 8% quota limit from ICCAT allows. They estimated that only 5.7 MT remained in anglers' 2006 quota.

Given that there would be a short one-day fishery with a quota of 5.7 MT, NMFS proposes to close anglers school bluefin season. They will allow a season on bigger fish of 47" to 63" of three bluefin tuna per boat.

NMFS had at least two years to correct their angler landings number due to their over estimating. There has been some indication that NMFS will make data changes so that there will be some school bluefin season for 2006.

Bottlenose Dolphin

Bottlenose dolphins have been dramatically impacted by commercial fishing. Gill nets and other commercial fishing gear have a major impact on the numbers of dolphin deaths. As a result, the costal migratory stock of this species has been designated as depleted under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Normally this should not impact recreational anglers.

However, in a Federal Register report on Monday, April 24, 2006 under proposed rule changes NMFS states that there have been undocumented reports of recreational interaction with this dolphin species. Please understand that all commercial interactions are totally documented. No undocumented reports have ever been used for corrective commercial regulatory actions. Commercial fishing dolphin deaths are currently over 10% of the estimated entire bottlenose dolphin population. Under the MMPA corrective action is mandated. Watch this issue since if this species goes to the next step and becomes listed as either endangered or threatened tough future rules will be imposed.

Wiggly, Squiggly Eels.

Eels are the preferred live bait for a large number of recreational fisheries. Recent scientific studies have found a major reduction in the eel population. Corrective action has been started by ASMFC. So far there are many questions about the eel's population

status and the corrective action required. Future regulatory action is considered a certainty by those active in fishery management issues.

By J. STAAS HAUGHT Staff Writer,

Published: May 2, 2006

The Press of Atlantic City

Boats and Gas

If rising gasoline prices aren't enough to keep area boaters out of the water this summer, the gas itself might do the trick.

Boat owners and marina operators say they're concerned that ethanol-blended fuel, now being sold at all filling stations across the state, could damage their engines and fuel systems, putting them in dry dock for the season.

Bud Dickinson, of Mays Landing, is worried about damaging his three boats. Ethanol stirs up the junk in your tanks, and if it gets brought into the injectors, it's going to be a real problem, he said. Most of the manuals tell you really to take a lot of precaution with ethanol so you don't ruin your engine.

That's because ethanol acts as a detergent, stirring up sediment left in the tanks. If filtering systems fail or get too clogged, the residue could find its way to the engine. If your filter works, once that first tank is done, you'll probably be OK, or you might have to change your filters several times, but who wants to ruin a \$14,000 engine to test that? Dickinson said.

From May through October, all gas sold in New Jersey has to be treated with a pollution-reducing additive. Traditionally, that has been MTBE, but recent studies raised concern about its effects on groundwater, so the state ordered a switch to E10 gas, so-called because it is 10 percent ethanol.

Most drivers won't notice any difference running the cleaner-burning E10 in their cars or trucks, but boats are designed differently and the fuel can be a problem in marine applications. Most new car engines were designed with E10 in mind, while most boat engines are older and were designed to run on other fuels. Wawa posted notices on its fuel pumps last weekend warning customers that some boats will need preventive maintenance to run on E10.

David Brown, owner of Thompson Marine in Egg Harbor Township, said most boat owners are expecting problems. I don't think anybody really knows anything yet, and that's kind of the issue. We're not sure what to expect. We had a problem

long ago, in the late 70s and early 80s when they tried ethanol before, with fuel lines and rubber hoses breaking down, so there's some concern we could see the same thing this time, Brown said. There's also an issue with the ethanol mixing with water and fouling up the engine.

Traditional gas, and even MTBE-treated fuel, doesn't mix with water, so any water in a boat's fuel tank can be pumped out before it creates a problem. Ethanol, however, is water-soluble, so it mixes with water and carries it into the engine.

With the old fuel, if you get some water in there, you can pump out from the bottom and still save the tank (of gas). But with ethanol, the boat just won't run and you waste a whole tank of gas, said Jack Madore, owner of Graef Boat Yard in Somers Point. But, Graef said, ethanol poses another concern for boaters. The big issue for some of the high-end boats is their tanks. Ethanol eats away at fiberglass tanks, he said.

That has Scott Raab really worried. I'm not going to put it in the water as much this year, Raab said of his 28-foot Bertram fishing boat. I don't know what kind of damage the ethanol fuel might do, so I don't want to risk it too much.

Seaworthy magazine cautioned boaters last fall that ethanol could break down the fiberglass, creating a black sludge that gums up valves and intake manifolds, destroying the boat's motor.

That's not a cheap fix, Madore said. It involves cutting out the tank and replacing it with an aluminum one. It's a lot of money and several weeks without your boat.

Brian Lefebvre, an assistant professor of chemical engineering at Rowan University, said ethanol's chemical characteristics raise another concern for boaters. Ethanol can actually suck the moisture out of the air, so if there's any leaks or pressure problems with the fuel lines, it's going to mix water into the fuel, he said.

Older boats with worn seals and gaskets on fuel systems are at greatest risk, Brown said. It's going to cost owners some money in maintenance and repair at first, I think, he said, adding that occasional boaters would probably suffer the most. The guys with their boat in the back yard they take out every once in a while, as soon as they have a problem with it, they're probably not going to be able to afford to repair it. They might not even get it in the water, Brown said. I feel really sorry for the

guy who has an outboard and doesn't have any filtering system at all. He's in for real trouble.

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Along the Hudson, a path of construction

Sunday, April 16, 2006

By Alexander Lane

Star-Ledger Staff

It was 40 years ago that planners first conceived of a public walkway along the Hudson River, a picturesque promenade connecting the George Washington and Bayonne bridges.

State officials put the force of law behind the idea about 20 years ago, requiring developers building near the water to add a section, open to all. So how's it coming? There's no easy way to find out. Government maps of the walkway are scarce and out-of-date.

So The Star-Ledger did it the hard way, with a bicycle and a global positioning device. The result seems to be the only thorough, current map of the Hudson River Waterfront Walkway.

Vast stretches were finished and beautiful, tracing the curves of the Hudson, and offering delicious breezes and postcard-perfect Manhattan views. And new sections are under construction in six of the nine towns the walkway traverses, thanks to a waterfront development boom that shows no signs of slowing.

But the bottom line was that travelers venturing the 32 miles from bridge to bridge had to spend almost as many of them on roads as on the walkway. Put another way, the walkway is roughly half finished. There are large gaps that aren't going away anytime soon, and are difficult to navigate. There are also plenty of smaller obstacles and oddities, such as stretches hidden behind gated developments, parking lots, and, in one instance, a staircase.

"It's poised on the cusp of being a terrific accomplishment, and it needs a push," said John Weingart, associate director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics, who helped design the walkway as an appointee of former Gov. Brendan Byrne. "It was understood from the beginning that it would take a pretty long time to do, but this has been a pretty long time."

SIGN GOES HERE

The designated route starts in grand style at Palisades Interstate Park, between dizzying basalt cliffs and the sheer steel of the George Washington Bridge's western tower. But the walkway is nowhere to be seen. Travelers have two options for getting to the first finished stretch -- a rough dirt path along the water, then through the private roads of the Edgewater Colony development, or a steep road to the top of the cliffs.

The Colony predates the state's walkway requirements, imposed gradually in the 1980s. New construction there has enabled the state to demand a walkway, but it is at least a couple of years away, state and local officials said. "They're still working out the engineering as to where the exact location will be," Edgewater Construction Official John Candelmo said. "Some of those people have docks and it's just not feasible to put it on the water."

After the Colony, it's a sketchy jaunt on narrow, busy River Road to Shelter Bay, a townhouse development. Here the walkway makes its first appearance, as a broad brick path along the Hudson's rocky edge. This section was fenced off for a decade by the Shelter Bay Club Townhome Association, until the group lost a legal battle with the state Department of Environmental Protection in 2001. The state had also won a 1998 suit by national and state home builders associations, who had alleged the walkway requirement amounted to an unlawful property seizure.

Undergirding the victories was the public trust doctrine, which is traceable to Roman civil law and holds that running waters and their shores belong to all, and are held in trust by the government.

Farther along in Edgewater are long, inviting stretches of finished walkway interspersed with more difficult detours on public roads, and some hard-to-find access points in strip-mall parking lots. Signs are prominent in some places, but not where they're needed most.

The state has historically devoted little money to the walkway, instead ushering it into existence through regulations that require developers to build it as a condition of waterfront development permits. There is no budget for signs to lead travelers through gaps in the walkway to the next completed stretch.

"We costed it out once," said Leah Healey of the private Hudson River Waterfront Conservancy. "It was hundreds of thousands of dollars."

FITS AND STARTS

Over the border in North Bergen is Roc Harbour, another development with a private waterfront walkway that predates public-access requirements. These condos are settling into the soft ground here, though. Applications for fill permits should enable the state to pry open this portion of the walkway within a few years, the DEP's Karl Braun said. It would connect to what is now a short, orphaned stretch tucked behind a neighboring high-rise, technically public, but accessible only to the adventurous.

That's not half as odd as the portion in Riva Pointe, a development built on a pier a bit downriver in Weehawken. A branch of the walkway goes up a steep set of stairs, through a canyon of condos, with water nowhere

in sight. Uninformed passers-by would be unlikely to realize this portion was public.

Other stretches in this part of Hudson County run behind new developments with private roads and scant parking.

"Developers have done innumerable big and small things to make sure it seems like it's very private and functions like it's very private," said Ben Goldman of Friends of the Weehawken Waterfront.

Travelers coming from the north or south along the walkway can find these sections easily, though. And the long, finished stretches through Weehawken and West New York's numerous new developments, such as Port Imperiale, are pleasant and growing. This stretch of the waterfront, like so much of the route, is characterized by ongoing construction; condos and townhouses are sprouting like mushrooms, each filling in another piece of the walkway.

Neighboring Hoboken has done far more to connect the walkway to its public streets, however, with plenty of perpendicular access. But it comes to an abrupt end near the Jersey City border, where travelers must find their own way through bustling, pothole-ridden streets to the high-rises -- and long, broad, finished walkway -- of the Gold Coast.

THE PIECE DE RESISTANCE

The walkway is at its best, and its worst, in the southern end of Jersey City. Access to Liberty State Park, via bustling city streets, is so bad it amounts to a "critical safety problem" for bikers and walkers, a study commissioned by Jersey City found last year.

But once there, travelers encounter the walkway's crown jewel -- a gorgeous 1.5-mile portion that curves like a crescent around Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. Tourists wait for ferries, joggers run past mothers pushing strollers and John Schmitt, a 62-year-old lifelong Bayonne resident, can often be found dropping a line in the water.

"The fishing's great, the view is great," he said, trying to seduce striped bass with sandworms. "If I had a wife, if I was young, I'd take her down here and give her Manhattan."

Then things get strange. The exclusive Port Liberté development, just south of Liberty State Park, has a public portion of walkway, but visitors have to detour down industrial roads and talk their way past a guardhouse to get there. A stretch being built next to Liberty National Golf Course, currently under construction between the park and Port Liberté, will solve that problem soon, Braun said.

Another golf course, the Bayonne Golf Club, is taking shape a bit farther south, and promises another respite of finished walkway in an area surrounded by heavy in dusty and busy roads. The walkway, already

halfway done there, will encircle the course, which is shaping up as a Scotland-like landscape of windswept bluffs.

Then it's through the streets of Bayonne for 2 1/2 miles, to where the refineries and tank farms give way to an old waterfront park with a curvy asphalt path. It peters out just short of the Bayonne Bridge, requiring a final detour on a city street to complete the trip -- one last challenge in a journey that has more than a little frustration mixed in with ample portions of exhilaration.

Alexander Lane covers the environment. He may be reached at alexander@starledger.com or (973) 392-1790.

YOUTH EDUCATION BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI

WEST MARINE DONATION

The JCAA Youth Education Committee received a donation from West Marine for providing a HOFNOD and "Passport to Fishing and Boating" presentation at West Marine's Belmar, New Jersey store. Funds will be used to purchase HOFNOD materials and to reprint Dr. Eleanor Bochenek's Youth Fishing and Crabbing Guide. We appreciate the generous donation from West Marine to the JCAA Youth Education Program and we look forward to partnering with West Marine at other family events.

NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK 2006

Get ready for a week on the water! National Fishing and Boating Week is June 03-11, 2006. You can be part of this annual national effort by hosting or sponsoring an official National Fishing and Boating Week event. It's a great way to promote the joys of boating and fishing to people across the country and to turn your passion for the water into a promise for the future. Visit <http://www.nationalfishingandboatingweek.org/> for event ideas, planning materials and to register your event. With the help of the Passport to Fishing and Boating Program you can even recruit volunteers that have never been fishing or boating before to help you with your event. Passport is a hands-on, interactive program designed to teach families the basic skills needed to begin fishing and boating. Materials include color posters, scripts detailing what to say and do, activity cards, a boat mat layout,

and other teaching tools. To download Passport materials free of charge or to order a Passport Materials Kit go to www.NationalFishingandBoatingWeek.org/Passport. And remember to register your NFBW events online. Even if you don't have full details yet, you can benefit from the free publicity being generated by our national media campaign. All you need is an event name, date, state, and contact person, and you can update event details as your event planning progresses. Don't miss out on this free promotional opportunity for your event! To receive an Event Planning kit or for more information regarding NFBW, contact Anne Minor at aminor@rbff.org or (703) 519-0013 ext 108. Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, 601 N Fairfax St, Suite 140, Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 519-0013

RBFF LAUNCHES ANGLERS' LEGACY

"Take Someone Fishing" It is a simple request to share your passion for fishing with someone new. That is the message of the new Anglers' Legacy campaign: A clear and concise call to action for the nation's avid anglers to take someone fishing on their boat. What's special about it is that it is being supported by leading manufacturers, publishers, pro-staff and celebrities. This program will give avid anglers a chance to give something back to the sport they love and give all of us opportunities to help grow participation in recreational boating, fishing and stewardship. The Anglers' Legacy will:

Focus national awareness on your efforts at the federal, state and grassroots level, help motivate new members, supporters and volunteers, provide a way to unify all our efforts to leave the shared legacy that is important to us all. And Anglers' Legacy is a terrific way for you to connect with one of your most active and vital resources – the avid angler.

The first ads will appear during May 2006. And it's just the beginning of many full-page ads that are being generously donated by numerous industry publications. There has already been a lot of positive buzz and there will be many opportunities for your organization to take advantage of the heightened awareness the Anglers' Legacy program will create. Accept our invitation to view the campaign – then take The Pledge and spread the word. Put the Anglers' Legacy campaign to work for you!

SAFE BOATING FOR NFBW

During National Fishing and Boating Week, members of the JCAA Youth Education Committee and NJ Chapter 12 Vietnam Veterans will present a fishing fun day for children attending the Fort Monmouth School Age Services program. Activities for the day will include "Water Works Wonders" Fish Identification Flash Cards, Boat Safety, HOFNOD and a variety of tackle demonstrations. Children will learn about National Fishing and Boating Week and how to take advantage of the many fishing and boating opportunities in Monmouth and Ocean County.

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP HOFNOD

Stafford Township School will conduct the third annual "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" event. Cathy O'Leary is the project coordinator for the event. Over 340+ fifth grade students will test their skills fishing on Wednesday and Thursday, May 17 and 18, 2006. The JCAA Youth Education Committee will support the event by providing assistance, Youth Fishing and Crabbing Guides, and HOFNOD materials for the event. The program is geared to introduce youth to recreational fishing while emphasizing angling skills, environmental education, stewardship, and drug prevention.

FREE FISHING DAYS IN NJ

Free Fishing Days in New Jersey are Saturday & Sunday, June 10 & 11, 2006. Residents and non-residents may fish the public waters of New Jersey without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations apply. Last year, the J.C.A.A. Youth Education Committee coordinated fishing and aquatic education programs for the weeklong celebration of National Fishing Week. This year we will be working with disadvantaged students in Monmouth County. Member clubs that wish to conduct a National Fishing Week program can phone the JCAA office and NFW support material will be available. Call early as supplies are limited. Please record your event and let the JCAA Youth Education Committee know how many National Fishing Week participants supported your program.

TOMS RIVER BOY SCOUTS

The JCAA Youth Education Committee will conduct a Fishing Merit Badge presentation for the Toms River Boy Scouts on Monday, June 5, 2006 Pleasant Plains Fire House. This will prepare the Boy Scouts for a fishing outing during National Fishing and

Boating Week. HOFNOD materials and Dr. Eleanor Bochenek's Youth Fishing Guide will be made available to all attending.

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