

JCAA NEWSPAPER NOVEMBER 2007

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on October 24, 2007)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, October 30, 2007
Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd
NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, November 8th, 2007
Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753
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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 732-446-6298 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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2007 OFFICERS

President	John Toth	732-446-6298
1st V.P.		
2nd V.P.	Bruce Freeman	732-793-7871
Treasurer	Doug Tegeder	732-341-5674
Rec. Sec.	Tom Siciliano	609-296-3774
Cors. Sec.	Paul Turi	609-597-3193
Mem. Sec.	Mike Tutela	732-281-8942

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

Important Meeting Dates

October 28-November 1 ASMFC Annual meeting
October 30 JCAA General Meeting
November 1st NJ Marine Fisheries Council
November 9th DEP Wind MTG
November 18th JCAA Dinner
November 27th JCAA General Meeting
December 17th JCAA General Meeting

Sportsperson of the Year Dinner/Dance

By Paul Turi

Mark you calendar for November 18th, the night of Jersey Coast Anglers Association annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year Awards Dinner/Dance. Now is the time to buy your tickets. It is one of the major JCAA fundraisers. It takes place on Sunday, November 18, 2007 from 4:00-9:00 p.m. at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club, RT. 70 & River Rd, Point Pleasant, NJ. We will honor this year and past years' recipients of JCAA "Sportsperson-of-the-Year" award. Past honorees include legislators, environmental leaders, outdoor writers and other worthy recipients.

As of this writing we do not yet have a keynote speaker.

At our October general membership meeting we will be taking nominations from the floor and voting for this year's sportsperson of the year and selling tickets. So, if you or your club would like to nominate someone as this year's honoree, please present a short biography, no more than 100 words, as to why you or your club feels this person should receive this year's award. Individual tickets are \$60 each and tables of 10 are \$500, which is a \$100 savings. The event will accommodate 300 supporters and friends for a semi-formal sit-down dinner with choice of entrees and cash bar. So get a group together from your club or organization and come to

the dinner/dance and have a great time. Don't forget your partner. Treat your mate to an evening to remember at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club. Enjoy an excellent three-course meal, Door Prizes and a DJ. Share stories of fishing and bid on one of the many fantastic theme baskets on display.

We need door prizes and Chinese Auction and Silent Auction prizes, so if you or your club would like to donate a prize, please contact me, Paul Turi, at (609) 597-3193. Dan Miller will be co-chairing the event and tickets can be obtained by calling Dan at (609) 641-7821.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By John Toth

Assemblyman Panter and Senator Karcher respectively are pushing legislation (A3275 and S2041) that would significantly reduce or eliminate the influence of anglers and hunters from the NJ Fish & Game Council. Instead of prospective Council members being reviewed and approved by NJ's Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs for appointment by the Governor, the Governor would simply appoint council members on his own and political influences would most certainly determine who would be on the Council. This change would allow the Council to be dominated by animal rights activists and that possibility would bring hunting and fishing activity in this state to grave peril. Politicians react to political pressure and this Governor (already against bear hunting) would be hard-pressed by small but extreme animal rights or environmental groups to radically alter how we hunt and fish in this state.

It is our duty to inform club members on bad legislation and how it affects the sport we all love. Pass this information on to your hunting and fishing buddies so that they can contact their legislators asking them not to support this bill. The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance at its web page is listing legislators and candidates who oppose or support the bill. Check it out

The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance is sponsoring and paying for a rally for the right to hunt and fish in New Jersey on October 28th starting at 4:00 p.m. at the Clarksburg Inn. The primary focus is on the bills introduced by Panter and Karcher (described above) that if passed would change hunting and fishing in this state as we know it. The

Clarksburg Inn is near the Great Adventure Park with easy access from I-95. The phone number for the Clarksburg Inn is (609) 259-2558 and its website is www.clarksburginn.net. The NJ Outdoor Alliance is a political action committee composed of members who are very dedicated to preserving the right to fish and hunt in our state. To find out more about this most important group, go to its website at: www.njoutdooralliance.org.

Included is a letter I received from Assemblyman John Rooney discussing Assembly Bill 3275. You can get a list of legislators who support or oppose the bill at the NJOA web page.

Assemblyman John E. Rooney
411 West Avenue
Northvale, New Jersey, 07647

Jersey Coast Anglers Association
1201 Highway 37E, #9
Toms River, New Jersey 08753

ATTENTION: Mr. John Toth

Dear Mr. Toth:

As you are aware, I am a life-long outspoken advocate of Second Amendment and Sportsmen's Rights. My record reflects an uncompromising support of the Amendment in its broadest interpretation as well as working for the rights of Sportsmen.

Assembly bill 3275 is a blatant attempt to destroy the Fish and Game Council by replacing knowledgeable farmers and sportsmen parties with politically appointed individuals. Additionally, the bill would prohibit farmers, who lease their lands for hunting, or commercial or charter fisherman, from appointment under the subterfuge of having "financial conflicts of interest" simply because some of their income may be derived from hunting or fishing.

At the Assembly committee hearing on this bill, where I am the ranking minority member, my comments were "I have no problem with someone asking for a seat at the table, however, I have a major problem with that same someone trying to steal the table".

Accordingly, I voted NO and will continue to do so should this bill ever reach the floor of the Assembly.

The present constitution of the Council, I believe, is correct. As I stated at the meeting, if other interest groups desire membership through

expansion of the Council they should seek that legislation. To remove experienced and knowledgeable people would be a travesty and is no more than an attempt to “steal the table” and subvert the Council.

You have my past actions and my word that I will continue to support your position and your Constitutional Rights. In turn, I ask for your support in my fight to remain as your voice in the Legislature.

Very truly yours,
John E. Rooney
Assemblyman

**Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs Bill
and
Pots Off Reefs Bill**

We have a unique opportunity in the next couple of months that are of vital importance to recreational anglers. The Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs Bill and the Pots Off Reefs Bill could both be voted on in the session immediately after the November election. Every sportsperson needs to contact Senate President Dick Codey and Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts asking them to post these bills and insure a vote before the session ends. These bills are important to us and we will not accept any excuses to defer a vote and force the process to begin again after January. More information on both of these bills is included in Tom Fote’s Legislative Report. Call and write now! If these bills are passed, we can focus our attention on other issues when the new session begins in January.

Distorting the News

On the front page of the Asbury Park Press, September 17th edition, there was an article written by Kirk Moore titled, “Limits weighed on use of reefs.” The article told a story of how a husband/wife team who make their living harvesting lobsters on reefs will have their livelihood taken away from them if recreational anglers are successful in banning the commercial anglers from the reefs. If readers were unfamiliar with the problems that the commercial guys are giving us on use of the reefs (and most of them are), the average reader would receive the unmistakable impression that recreational anglers are a greedy lot and want the artificial reefs only for themselves. Kirk Moore told only one side of the story and I was so mad that I wrote a rebuttal to this article and it was published in the Asbury Park Press in the Opinion section under the title,

“Recreational anglers want fair chance.” My article was edited and omitted my criticism of Kirk Moore for writing such a biased story. The Press omitted my criticism of Kirk Moore, but I think (and certainly hope) that their editorial staff told him to be more objective in his reporting of stories. My article follows:

***William C. Hidlay, Editor
3601 Highway 66, Box 1550
Neptune, NJ. 07754-1551***

September 24, 2007

***John J. Toth
24 Kings Mill Rd.
Monroe Twp., NJ 08831***

Dear Mr. Hidlay:

I, and many of my fishing colleagues, were very disturbed to read Mr. Kirk Moore’s September 17th article “Limits Weighed on Use of Reefs.” The article gives the mistaken impression that recreational anglers want the artificial reefs for themselves and do not care about the livelihoods of the commercial anglers who also use these same reefs, especially Mr. Kirk’s account of Mr. and Mrs. Hollerbach who make their living harvesting lobsters. Nothing can be further from the truth!

Mr. Moore neglected to tell readers that the recreational angling community built and paid for the artificial reefs for the purpose to enhance marine habitat and it is estimated that about 20% of the fish caught by recreational anglers in New Jersey come from these reefs. These reefs were designed for hook-and-line fishing and for underwater attractions for divers. They were intended for general public use, like a public park. The idea behind the reefs is to give fish a chance and provide moderate catch rates over the entire fishing season so that the maximum number of anglers can catch fish.

Unfortunately, it did not take long for the commercial anglers to see how many fish these reefs were attracting and they covered these reefs with hundreds of traps and gear that dominate them making use of these reefs very difficult for recreational anglers who get their gear and anchors ensnared in this commercial fishing gear. The reefs were never intended to receive this type of sophisticated fishing pressure. It is this frustration with commercial pots and gear that has pushed the recreational community to request their legislators to pass legislation banning all of this commercial gear

from the reefs where it was never originally intended.

Mr. Moore should have also pointed out commercial fishermen hold special permits granted by our state and federal government that grant them 8,000 square miles of the sea floor and the artificial reefs occupy only 0.3 percent of this area. So they have plenty of sea floor to place their pots and gear. We do not oppose commercial fishermen from fishing from the artificial reefs, as long as they do it by hook-and-line, like recreational anglers.

Mr. Moore, as a Staff Writer for the Press, should present a balanced story to Press readership and not one that is totally skewed toward commercial interests. He should be reminded of this fact by your editorial staff. There are many saltwater anglers who read the Press and we were not pleased to read such a one-sided account of this issue and one that paints a greedy picture of NJ's saltwater anglers. He writes numerous fishing related columns and he is well aware of the fishing issues, so ignorance is not an excuse.

John J. Toth
President, Jersey Coast Anglers Association

Governors Surf Tournament –

The tournament was held on October 7th and it was my first time in attending it. We had a swell day and the weather was just beautiful. The Island Beach State Park has great facilities for this event with a nice pavilion and restroom facilities. Approximately 1,000 anglers showed up for this event and we had a lot of nice prizes to give away thanks to the Quantum tackle company. Everyone enjoyed themselves and there were a lot of smiling faces, especially for the winners in the various categories. It was one of those events that had everybody in a very positive mood and I heard a number of anglers saying that they are looking forward to the Governor's tournament for 2008! Governor Corzine attended the two previous Tournaments, one as a senator and one as governor, but could not attend this year's tournament. He did send a letter with DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson. Commissioner Jackson handed out the awards this year.

BAN POTS ON REEF SUPPORT THE ARTIFICE REEF PROGRAM

STATE OF NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR TRENTON NJ 06625

JON S. CORZINE GOVERNOR

October 7, 2007

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to extend warm greetings to everyone in attendance for the Governor's 16th annual Surf Fishing Tournament. I regret that I cannot join you today. I have had the pleasure of attending in the past and look forward to joining you again in the future.

Since 1992, thousands of anglers have turned out to Island Beach State Park to enjoy the warm weather, benefit from the company of fellow fishermen, and compete for the prized Governor's Cup. This classic event has become a fixture of the New Jersey fall surf-fishing season for an increasing number of surf-anglers and their families. Each year, between 1200 and 1400 anglers of all ages compete for the opportunity to have their name engraved on the trophy. This tournament has raised significant funds that have helped support surf fishing instruction programs, restore marine habitat, improve coastal access for anglers and provide accommodations for the elderly and disabled.

I applaud all participants of this tournament and wish them luck in their pursuit. It is only through the commitment of individuals such as yourselves that we may hope to build a new and brighter future for all residents of New Jersey.

Sincerely
JON S. CORZINE

JCAA Dinner Dance –

The date of November 18th is fast approaching so mark your calendar now for this fun and elegant affair. Bring your wife or significant other and enjoy the good food, music and just being with your fishing buddies. We will also have a great dark horse with quality prizes to be won. So come on out and have a good time!

Election of Officers –

I will be willing to serve as President for next year, but we do need someone to fill my shoes when my turn is up. That means that we need a First

Vice President since that position is currently vacant. Please consider filling this vacant post. I and the Board will certainly help you in learning all of the ropes associated with this post. A new membership secretary is also needed. This is also an important post since we have to keep track of current members and bring new ones on board.

Please see me at the October 30th general meeting if you are interested in filling these positions. You can also call me at (732) 656-0139 or email me at tothjohn@verizon.net. Thank You!

Sportsperson of the Year –

At our October 30th meeting, we will be taking nominations from the floor for this prestigious award and vote on who will receive it. Please take the time to write up your nomination and remember that it does not have to be long. Only a short paragraph or two is all that is needed. We have only received one written nomination. Berkeley Striper Club nominated Bill Figley. Their nomination is included below.

The Berkeley Striper Club would like to nominate Bill Figley as the JCAA Sportsperson of the Year. Bill graduated from Lafayette College with a B.A. Degree in Biology in 1971 and from Syracuse University with an M.S. Degree in Wildlife Biology in 1974. He worked as a Fisheries Biologist for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife starting in 1976. In 1984 Bill Figley began the Artificial Reef Program within the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The goal was to create habitat off the New Jersey coastline for various marine species which could then be enjoyed by recreational fishermen and divers. By the end of 2005 over 140 wrecks, 3500 patch reefs and 14 million tons of various materials have been sunken on the ocean bottom. The vast majority of money used to purchase materials for the reefs was donated by local clubs, associations, communities and individuals. It was Bill who helped make the program successful by making people aware of it. He spent countless hours speaking at local clubs and organizations, getting them to understand the program, teaching them how to find and fish the reefs, and gaining support as well as donations for the program.

Bill retired in 2005 after 30 years of service to the people of NJ and Division of Fish and Wildlife. Over the years, he has published numerous fishing related pamphlets and is an avid

angler and hunter. Currently, Bill has taken a very active role in Reef Rescue which is a coalition of organizations seeking to eliminate the commercial pots that have taken over our reefs. Reef Rescue includes organizations like the JCAA, RFA, Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association, Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club, Greater Point Pleasant Charter Association, and the New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs. Recreational fishermen will be forever indebted to Bill for all the work he has done so it would be nice to show our appreciation by selecting him as the JCAA Sportsperson of the Year. It would certainly be timely to do this now with legislation pending to protect our reefs.

*Sincerely,
Paul Haertel, Delegate
Berkeley Striper club*

JCAA is a member of a coalition supporting funding for open space. Public question #3 is on the ballot. Please read the following release from the coalition and be an informed voter.

VOTE YES ON PUBLIC QUESTION #3 THIS NOVEMBER TO SAVE NEW JERSEY'S PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

On November 6, 2007, New Jersey voters will be asked to approve Public Question #3 – the Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007. By authorizing the state to issue \$200 million in general obligation bonds, the Act would provide much-needed funds to keep New Jersey's open space, farmland and historic preservation programs afloat for one more year and to begin a new Blue Acres program to purchase flood prone properties.

You can help decide the future of our state's preservation efforts by casting your vote on November 6th and spreading the word about Public Question #3. Essential to the health of our communities, high-quality natural areas, parks and historic areas provide opportunities for recreation, education and economic development. They build community and ensure public health through the protection of air and water resources. In addition, they safeguard wildlife habitat and boost local economies by spurring revitalization, supporting area businesses and providing a better quality of life. Please visit www.NJKeepItGreen.org for more information on this November's Public Question #3 and how you can help.

The funds provided by the passage of the question will arrive at a critical point when the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT), which has historically financed the Green Acres, Farmland and Historic preservation programs, is running out of money, and despite current efforts, there have been no successful long-term funding proposals. Through our collaboration with the Outdoor Recreation Alliance and the Keep It Green Campaign, a coalition of over 90 organizations, our organization is working with the public to ensure the passage of Public Question #3 and with state leaders to secure a long-term stable funding source for the GSPT. We must act now as New Jersey loses 40 acres of open space to development each day

The one-year stop gap funding approved by the State Legislature and Governor this summer and awaiting voter approval this November represents a compromise that would allow these programs to continue to operate while legislators work to identify and secure a stable funding source for the GSPT. Our organization extends a special thanks to Assemblymen John F. McKeon (D-Essex) and Douglas H. Fisher (D-Salem, Cumberland, Gloucester) as well as Senators Stephen M. Sweeney (D-Salem, Cumberland, Gloucester) and Leonard Lance (R-Warren, Hunterdon) for their continued leadership on this issue.

This November, Public Question #3 – the Green Acres, Farmland, Blue Acres and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2007 – must pass with overwhelming support to demonstrate the public's desire to continue New Jersey's preservation efforts. You can help ensure the passage of this question by casting your vote on November 6, 2007 and by spreading the word about the importance of this initiative. For more information, please visit www.NJKeepItGreen.org or contact Joanna Wolaver, New Jersey Audubon Society at joanna.wolaver@njudubon.org or 609-392-1181.

Panter, Karcher bills show intolerance
Posted by the Asbury Park Press on
10/19/07
By Karen E. Wall

Daniel Suarez can't understand the thinking. "Do you have any idea how many billions of dollars they would cost the state?" he asked incredulously. "They" would be Assemblyman Michael Panter and state Sen. Ellen Karcher, the sponsors of matching bills in the state Assembly and Senate that would alter the state's Fish and Game Council.

While much has been made of the changes those bills — A3275 and S2041 — would make to who

actually sits on the council, there is a more insidious change deeper in the bills that is, in some ways, more of a threat than just changing who sits on the councils.

On page 4 of the Assembly version, Section 32 of the current law — which describes the council's responsibilities — would be amended to remove the following phrase: "and for their use and development for public recreation and food supply."

So that section would now read as follows: "32. For the purpose of providing a properly managed and balanced system of protection, propagation, control and conservation of freshwater fish, game birds, game animals and fur-bearing animals in this State, the council is hereby authorized and empowered to determine under what circumstances, when and in what localities, by what means and in what amounts and numbers such freshwater fish, game birds, game animals, and fur-bearing animals, or any of them, may be pursued, taken, killed or had in possession so as to maintain an adequate and proper supply thereof, and may, after first having determined the need for such action on the basis of scientific investigation and research, adopt and from time to time amend and repeal such appropriate and reasonable regulations concerning the same, or any of them, penalties for the violation of which are prescribed by certain of the sections of Title 23 of the Revised Statutes amended herein, as it deems necessary to preserve, properly utilize or maintain the best relative number of any species or variety thereof, at the times, in the manner and to the extent hereinafter provided. The regulations so established shall be called the State Fish and Game Code."

By removing the words "for their use and development for public recreation and food supply," hunting and fishing are essentially given no status or importance under the new bills. And removing that language sets the table for the council to ban fishing and hunting altogether.

The question is, why? That's what Suarez, 48, of Beachwood, and hundreds of hunters and fishermen across the state are asking. Many of the hunters he knows rely on the meat from the deer and turkeys they hunt to feed their families.

"One guy has three households in his house," said Suarez, who's a bow hunter. "The deer and turkey will provide food for his family for the whole year." And he gives away much of the venison from his hunting to needy families. And he doesn't understand the motivation to shut it down.

To me, it is merely another example of extremists forcing their agenda on the rest of us. The extremist animal rights groups have become

increasingly adamant, increasingly vitriolic. And that goes against everything I was taught that this country is supposed to stand for: tolerance of others' beliefs, others' lifestyles and of differing opinions.

Increasingly, though, fishermen and hunters are the targets of intolerance from those who don't understand the sport, from those who believe it's their God-given duty to force the rest of us to succumb to their version of morality. And that's just wrong.

I've heard commercials for Panter's campaign on the radio and I just laugh because they go on and on about political corruption when he accepts campaign funds from groups that support the goal of stopping fishing and hunting. How is that any different?

I don't hunt. I don't own a gun and shooting animals in any form isn't my cup of tea. But that doesn't mean I feel others shouldn't have that right. If they are engaging in their chosen hobby lawfully — with the proper permits, licenses and adhering to the seasons — they should have the right to hunt. Period.

And the same goes for fishermen. As long as we are adhering to the rules and regulations covering it, we should be free to fish. I'm tired of the guilt trips the extremist groups try to inflict on those of us who enjoy fishing. I'm tired of them trying to push us off the water.

I'm all for choosing not to eat meat or animal products if that's what you choose for yourself, Mr. Panter and Ms. Karcher. But stop trying to impose your beliefs on the rest of us. You're supposed to be representing ALL of your constituents. Not just the few who believe what you do.

Karen E. Wall is the editor of Hook, Line & Sinker.
kwall@app.com

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Thomas Fote

Summer Flounder: The Problem Of Bad Scientific Assumptions And People That Force Us To Live With Those Assumptions.

The summer flounder debate continues hot and heavy. Congressman Frank Pallone is requesting a Congressional Hearing on the controversies surrounding stock assessment and targets. There will be some organizations that will be pushing for NMFS to support the quota suggested

by the monitoring committee regardless of the hearing or any outside peer review. I believe these organizations misinterpret Magnuson Stevens Act. Magnuson/Stevens Act require that quotas do not exceed the recommendations of the Science & Statistical Committee (SSC) Committee. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council does have an SSC Committee and they have never used this committee to make recommendations for a summer flounder quota. This year JCAA and our Congressmen demanded an SSC review of the Monitoring Committee and it was never done. The membership of the Monitoring Committee and the SSC are entirely different and would bring different perspectives to the discussion. The quota of 15.77 million pounds was approved by both ASMFC and MAMF. In August 2006 ASMFC and MAFMC requested an outside peer review of the model and the targets that NMFS uses for summer flounder. NMFS has given nothing but excuses for their inaction on this request. Numerous Congressmen, Senators and Governors have also requested this review. ASMFC is equal partners in this plan and each state is represented on ASMFC. Those state agencies have turned to their Governors and have questioned the science used by NMFS. JCAA published a letter from Governor Corzine requesting this peer review. This request has been echoed by other Governors and various state agencies.

JCAA is an environmental group and I am reluctant to place the blame broadly on all environmental groups which include other recreational anglers. However, there are some NGO's who don't all include representation from the fishing public and the fishing industry. They are the ones calling on NMFS to support the lower quota. They have not a clue about the science or the 17-year history of this plan. They simply take NMFS science without question and react. They are very quick to excuse NMFS for not following the rules in determining the quota without going to the SSC's and ignoring the requirements for providing a study of the economic and social impacts. They blatantly ignore that this study is also required under NEPA rules. They can't have it both ways. Either we follow Magnuson Stevens to the letter or we ignore it altogether.

JCAA understands we need to rebuild stocks, even if the process is painful. However, summer flounder is not a collapsed stock. It is a stock that

has been rebuilding since 1990. The stock has gone from SSB_{MSY} a 1994 spawning stock biomass (SSB_{MSY}) of 22 million pounds to a 2007 estimate of between 80 – 109 million pounds. This means the spawning stock biomass has increased by 4 – 5 times in the last 13 years. It also means that we could be at half of the total of the proposed SSB_{MSY} and then overfishing would not be taken place and the quota recommendations would be much higher. There is a very good distribution of older year class fish. If you compared to other species, summer flounder has 80% of a fully recovered stock for older year class fish. We have discussed the problem of flat line or below average recruitment for the last five years in numerous articles in the JCAA newspaper. Please read those articles for the information you need. Remember, recreationally we are not harvesting any summer flounder until they have spawned 3 – 4 times. Summer flounder spawns at 13 inches and New York is fishing at a 19 ½ inch fish recreationally.

I pulled the following from NMFS' SARC Documents (all numbers in pounds):

	1993	2000	2005	2006
Spawning Stock Biomass	20,460,000	42,680,000	67,320,000	93 290 810
Total Biomass	46,860,000	61,380,000	104,060,000	103 914 887

What I find the most discouraging is the people at these NGO groups will actually ask and get increased funding because things look bad. It makes me wonder if they don't create "bad" to prove they are doing something and they need more money. They don't seem to care who it hurts. The people who depend on the commercial or recreational fishing industry won't get increased funding – they'll just go out of business. Look around. There are tackle stores going out of business and charter and party boat owners laying off staff and failing to make their loan payments. I attended a meeting in Florida with the tackle manufacturers and their sales are way down on the east coast. These are not corporations like General Motors that can sustain years of loss. These businesses just go bankrupt and people lose their homes, boats and hope. No one at NMFS or the

lobbyists at the NGO's won't lose their jobs or their homes. They keep promising if we wait, we will see the benefits. I can't imagine who will still be in business to reap those promised benefits. And, finally, the quality of life issue is really important. For many anglers, this is their recreation, not golf, just fishing. Summer flounder is the fish sought out by most recreational anglers to take home and eat. **The point is there is no point. All of this is needless if rebuilding summer flounder is your goal.**

Oceans 21 Revision!

JCAA just received the latest revisions to the Oceans 21 Legislation. JCAA's Oceans 21 Committee will meet to discuss the revisions to determine what we will support and what we will oppose. JCAA is reaching out to other groups to gather their opinions. If your organization has comments, please forward them to JCAA. We are looking for JCAA members to serve on this committee. Please email me at tfote@jcaa.org. There are time constraints so I need to hear from you soon. We will forward our comments to our legislators.

POTS OFF REEF BILL

The bill (S 2635) that would rid New Jersey artificial reefs of pots that interfere with drifting, anchoring and even additional reef-building passed through the Senate Environmental Committee on Thursday, October 18th. JCAA would like to thank Senator Robert Smith, chairman of the Environmental Committee for holding a special hearing on this bill and for all of his support. Other Senators who supported this bill are Senators Adler, Sweeney, and McNamara. We would also like to thank Senate President Codey for allowing this special hearing. His continued support is needed to get this bill posted and passed by the full Senate. We also need Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts to post this bill for passage by the Assembly. Please Governor Corzine, Senate President Codey and Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts know how important this bill is to you. We want this bill posted during the session following the November election. There is no reason to begin this process again in the next legislature to reach the same outcome. Call or write them now. Included below are articles from the Star Ledger and the Asbury Park Press. A special thanks to Bill Figley for his terrific testimony and all his

hard work. Many members from JCAA also attended the hearing.

S138/A636 HOOKED ON FISHING-NOT ON DRUGS BILL

JCAA, NJSFSC and I have been working hard to get S138/A636 Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Bill passed. It was heard by the Senate Environmental Committee on Monday, September 17 and was moved out of committee. JCAA would like to thank Senator Robert Smith, Chairman of the Senate Environmental Committee for posting this bill for hearing. We would like to thank Senator John Adler and Senator Andy Ciesla for their support. This bill has already passed the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee with a unanimous vote. We now need to work on getting the Assembly Appropriations Committee and Senate Appropriations Committee to hear the bill after the elections and then get the bill passed by the full Assembly and Senate.

Assemblyman Herb Conaway is a co-sponsor and a member of the Assembly Appropriations Committee. In the Senate there are two members of the Senate Appropriations Committee who are co-sponsors, Senator Barbara Buono and Senator Nick Asselta. We will need their help to get this bill posted for a vote and out of the Appropriations Committee in their houses. These are the committee members that we need to contact to have the next hearing on S138/A636.

Assembly Appropriations Committee members are;

Nellie Pou – Chair, Joseph Cryan, - Vice-Chair
Herb Conaway, Michael J. Doherty, Robert Gordon, Louis Greenwald, Reed Gusciora, Marcia A. Karrow, Richard A. Merkt, Joseph Pennacchio, Valerie Huttle Vainieri, John S. Wisniewski.

Senate Budget and Appropriations

Bernard F. Kenny – Chair, Sharpe James - Vice-Chair, Nicholas Asselta, Martha W Bark, Anthony R. Bucco, Barbara Buono, Joseph Coniglio, Joseph V. Doria, Walter J Kavanaugh, Leonard Lance, Robert E Littell, Paul A. Sarlo, Stephen M. Sweeney
Shirley K. Turner, Joseph F. Vitale.

The key is also to get the leadership to make sure the Assembly Appropriations Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee hear and pass these bills. Senate President Richard Codey and Assembly Speaker Joseph Roberts need to make sure this happens and that the bills are posted for a vote by the

full Senate and Assembly. To make sure this happens we need to get a commitment from them before the elections to post and pass the bill. Here is their contact information.

Senate President Richard Codey
449 Mount Pleasant Ave.
West Orange, NJ 07052
Phone Number: (973) 731-6770
Fax Number 973-731-0647

Assemblyman Speaker Joseph J. Roberts Jr
Brooklawn Shopping Plaza,
Route 130 & Browning Rd,
Brooklawn, NJ 08030
Phone Number: (856) 742-7600
Fax Number 856-742-1831

PRESIDENT SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER ON STRIPED BASS AND RED DRUM

I was invited by the President to witness this signing of an Executive Order but could not make it. JCAA has been working on striped bass no sale for over 20 years and I have been working on it for over 30 years. It is nice to see that President Bush recognizes the importance of conserving striped bass and red drum and protecting the recreational community that depends on these fish. The EEZ is currently closed for striped bass fishing so there is no real impact there. The Executive Order and the press release are below the Executive Order that was signed by President George Bush on Saturday, October 20th. It directs the revision of current regulations, as appropriate, to include prohibiting the sale of striped bass and red drum caught within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States off the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico and the sale of striped bass and red drum from the EEZ. However, this Executive Order also recommends that the states consider no sale status for these two fish. It will be interesting to see how the states and ASMFC react. There is also a bill sponsored by Congressman Frank Pallone with many cosponsors including Congressman Thomas Allen from Maine that would make striped bass a gamefish (no-sale) by Federal Legislation. The value of Federal Legislation is that the solution is more lasting and less dependent on the current President. It would also address state waters. It will be interesting to see if this Executive Order provides any motivation to move this bill. The Executive Order and the press release are below.

Executive Order: Protection of Striped Bass and Red Drum Fish Populations

White House News

President Bush Signs Executive Order to Protect Striped Bass and Red Drum Fish Populations

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, to assist in ensuring faithful execution of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, and the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (chapters 38, 71, and 71A of title 16, United States Code), and to conserve striped bass and red drum fish, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Sec. 1. Policy. It shall be the policy of the United States to conserve striped bass and red drum for the recreational, economic, and environmental benefit of the present and future generations of Americans, based on sound science and in cooperation with State, territorial, local, and tribal governments, the private sector, and others, as appropriate.

Sec. 2. Implementation. (a) To carry out the policy set forth in section 1, the Secretary of Commerce shall:

(i) encourage, as appropriate, management under Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local laws that supports the policy of conserving striped bass and red drum, including State designation as gamefish where the State determines appropriate under applicable law;

(ii) revise current regulations, as appropriate, to include prohibiting the sale of striped bass and red drum caught within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States off the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico;

(iii) periodically review the status of the striped bass and red drum populations within waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and:

(A) take such actions within the authority of the Secretary of Commerce as may be appropriate to carry out the policy set forth in section 1 of this order; and

(B) recommend to the President such actions as the Secretary may deem appropriate to advance the policy set forth in section 1 that are not within the authority of the Secretary.

(b) Nothing in this order shall preclude or restrict the production, possession, or sale of striped bass or red drum fish that have been produced by aquaculture.

(c) The Secretary of Commerce shall implement subsections 2(a)(i) and (iii), insofar as they relate to Atlantic striped bass, jointly with the Secretary of the Interior, as appropriate.

Sec. 3. Definitions. As used in this order:

(a) "Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States" means the marine area of the United States as defined in Presidential Proclamation 5030 of March 10,

1983, with, for purposes of this order, the inner boundary of that zone being a line coterminous with the seaward boundary of each of the coastal States;

(b) "red drum" means the species *Sciaenops ocellatus*; and

(c) "striped bass" means the species *Morone saxatilis*.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) This order shall be implemented in a manner consistent with applicable law (including but not limited to interstate compacts to which the United States has consented by law, treaties and other international agreements to which the United States is a party, treaties to which the United States and an Indian tribe are parties, and laws of the United States conferring rights on Indian tribes) and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, and legislative proposals.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, entities, officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

GEORGE W. BUSH
THE WHITE HOUSE,

October 20, 2007.

For Immediate Release

Office of the Press Secretary

October 19, 2007

Fact Sheet: Guarding Against Over-Fishing Through Cooperative Conservation
White House News

President Bush Signs Executive Order to Protect Striped Bass and Red Drum Fish Populations

President Bush Signs Executive Order Encouraging Conservation Of Two Of America's Most Popular Recreational Fish

On Saturday, October 20, President Bush visited the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, Maryland, to sign an Executive Order to protect America's striped bass and red drum fish populations. Recreational fishing is important to sportsmen and women, to America's families, and to our economy recreational fishers spend more than \$40 billion a year. Striped bass and red drum are two of our Nation's most popular recreational fish; yet while they were once abundant in America's waters, they have been over-fished.

The Executive Order the President signed sets a policy to conserve striped bass and red drum fish for the recreational, economic, and environmental benefit of present and future generations of Americans. The Executive Order:

1. Moves to prohibit the sale of striped bass and red drum caught in Federal waters. The Order directs the Departments of Commerce and Interior to work with Federal and State officials on our fishery management councils and commissions to prohibit the sale of striped bass and red drum caught in Federal waters.

2. Promotes more accurate scientific records about fish population levels. The Order encourages the periodic Federal review of the status of striped bass and red drum populations to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information for determining whether breeding stocks are attaining healthy numbers and size in Federal waters.

To improve the quality of our data, we are building a recreational saltwater registry that will collect information from sportsmen about local fish stocks, which will help us better protect striped bass, red drum, and all our fisheries.

3. Helps the Federal government work with State and local officials to find innovative ways to conserve these species for future generations. The President is directing Federal agencies to work with State officials, while respecting the States' role in the management of the natural resources under their care, to find innovative ways to help conserve striped bass and red drum populations, including the use of the State designation of "gamefish," where appropriate, to prohibit commercial sales of the fish.

The Executive Order is based on the Administration's policies of cooperative conservation and responsible stewardship. To meet the environmental challenges of the 21st century, the President believes we must bring together conservationists, sportsmen, local leaders, and Federal, State, and tribal officials in a spirit of cooperation to protect and preserve our Nation's natural heritage.

Saturday's Action Will Advance The Administration's Efforts To End Over-Fishing In America, Replenish Our Nation's Fish Stocks, And Advance Cooperative Conservation And Responsible Stewardship

In 2004, the President released his Ocean Action Plan to promote responsible use and stewardship of our ocean and coastal resources. The plan focused on making our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes cleaner, healthier, and more productive.

In 2006, the President signed an Executive Order establishing the Papahānaumokuākea Marine

National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. This action created the largest conservation area in the history of our Nation, and the largest protected marine area in the world.

In January, the President signed the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. This legislation has set a deadline to end over-fishing in America, which occurs when we catch fish from a species at a rate faster than they are reproducing, by 2011, and has authorized "limited access privilege programs" to set market-based incentives to help replenish our fish stocks. In 2005 the President set a goal to double the number of these programs by 2010, and we are on target to meet that goal.

In February, the President released his 2008 Budget, which included a \$143 million Oceans Initiative to support the Ocean Action Plan priorities. The Oceans Initiative provided \$38 million to protect and restore coastal and marine areas, including \$8 million for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument; \$25 million to end over-fishing and ensure sustainable use of ocean resources, including \$6 million to implement Limited Access Privilege Programs; and \$80 million to advance ocean science and research.

Major improvements have been made in the management of our Nation's marine fisheries. Important stocks such as Atlantic sea scallops and swordfish have been returned to productive levels. Since 2001, 29 stocks have been removed from the over-fished list, and rebuilding plans are in place for the more than 90 percent of the remaining over-fished stocks. In addition to these efforts to end over-fishing, we are implementing a strategy to improve, restore, and replace three million acres of wetlands. These wetlands act as "nature's nurseries" by helping small fish survive and grow before they head to deeper waters.

We are working in our coastal areas to tackle the problem of marine debris, such as abandoned nets, which can destroy fish habitat. Next month we will announce a new strategy to deal with marine debris. We will:

Work with the private sector to clean up marine debris.

Educate the public on what they can do to prevent its spread.

Work with our partners in the international community to help stop marine debris from being dumped into oceans and waterways in the first place.

We are encouraging other nations to follow our lead and end destructive fishing practices such as bottom trawling on coral reefs and the use of explosives and chemicals.

The Star Ledger
Senate passes bill to free reefs
Friday, October 19, 2007
By Al Ristori

The bill (S 2635) that would rid New Jersey artificial reefs of pots that interfere with drifting, anchoring and even additional reef-building passed through the Senate Environmental Committee yesterday at its meeting in Trenton.

Sen. James McCullough (R-Atlantic) was on hand to testify for the bill that he and Senator Nicholas Asselta cosponsored, and it was passed 4-0 with Committee Chairman Bob Smith plus Vice Chairman Stephen Sweeney, and Sens. Henry McNamara and John Adler in favor.

Tom Fote of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association said commercial fishermen did show up in force to oppose the bill, but organizations such as the JCAA and RFA ensured there was also a good showing of anglers and divers to emphasize that the reefs were built for recreational use and have been almost entirely funded by contributions from sportsmen. Though only reefs in state waters are affected, the bill also asks the DEP commissioner to petition the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to gain similar protection for New Jersey reefs in federal waters.

The Assembly companion bill, A1986, has already cleared the committee there. Now it's important to request that Senate President Richard Codey and Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts schedule the bills for a vote. For information visit the Reef Rescue web site at www.reefrescue.com.

Bill would prohibit fixed gear on artificial reefs
Posted by the Asbury Park Press on 10/20/07
By John Geiser

This could be the last year that commercial lobster and fish pots inhibit recreational fishing on the two artificial reefs in state waters. The state Senate Environment Committee decided unanimously Thursday to send bill S-2635, which would ban the fixed gear on the reefs, to the full Senate for a vote.

The Assembly version of the legislation — A-3986 — was passed out of that body's Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee by a 4-1 vote May 21, and is set to be voted on by the Assembly.

James A. Donofrio, executive director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance, said he was pleased at the Senate committee action, and hopes that the measure can be voted on in both houses in November or early December. "Prohibiting the fixed gear on the artificial reefs is something that has been needed for a long time, and I applaud the legislators for their appreciation of this need and especially for the bipartisan effort," he said. "This is an example of lawmakers of both parties working

together to help the recreational fishing community," he said. "So many people today don't realize how far recreational fishing has slipped in the last 10 years," he said. "It's because of regulation. Our backs are to the wall.

"Fisheries management has taken away our winter flounder fishery, ruined our blackfish fishery, destroyed our tuna fishery, and they are prepared to end our summer flounder fishery," he said. "This hurts not only our own food supply and recreation, but the economy of our entire state. "Now the state Legislature is doing something to help us without hurting the commercial fishing industry," he said. "We're only talking about 5.4 square miles out of about 350 square miles of ocean. "The benefit to the recreational sector is enormous — more and more recreational fishing is done on artificial reefs — and this bill will help anglers, party and charter boat owners and the boating industry," he said.

Thomas P. Fote, legislative chairman of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, said the fishing public should appreciate the efforts of more than 20 anglers who drove to Trenton and testified at the Senate hearing. "They say that 14 percent of the New Jersey public fishes recreationally, but this also affects their families and friends," he said. "I'll bet 30 percent of the people of New Jersey either participate or benefit from the recreational fishery. "This is also a matter of dollars and cents," he said. "When you think of how much money is spent on recreational fishing and the taxes — excise taxes on tackle, sales taxes, fuel taxes — this is important to the state's economy. "I'm hoping we can get votes on this as soon as possible, and make this a law," he added. "Hopefully, this can be done before the end of the year."

Bill Figley, former head of the state's artificial reef program and now retired, spoke in favor of the bill at the Senate hearing. He maintained that the reef program was designed to "create fishing grounds for anglers and underwater structure for divers."

John DePersenaire, research specialist with the RFA, said that organization's membership was virtually unanimous in support of prohibiting commercial gear on the state's reefs. "The objectives and goals of the artificial reef program, approved by the Department of Environmental Protection in 2005, are clear in that the program will provide and enhance marine habitat, improve biodiversity and provide recreational opportunities for hook and line fishermen and divers," he told the committee. "The benefits of the reef program are to be spread among as many people as possible," he added. "Having 40 to 50 potters dominate our reefs completely disregards the spirit and intent of the reef plan."

The recreational groups that spearheaded the effort to get the commercial gear off the reefs included, besides the Recreational Fishing Alliance and Jersey Coast Anglers Association, the New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs and Reef Rescue.

Further, organizations, such as the American Littoral Society, weighed in in favor of the legislation.

Assemblyman Sean Kean, R-Monmouth, introduced the Assembly bill during the winter, and he said at a recent hearing in Belmar that he was pleased at the bipartisan support the legislation has received.

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

BY JOHN KOEGLER

Disastrous Giant Bluefin tuna Report

The US giant bluefin tuna landing report for the season up to September 5, 2007 are so low they are shocking. The landings of Giants in the Northeast have dropped so far it must be described as a fishery collapse. NMFS reported only 64.7 MT of giant bluefin had been landed from the US quota of 1391.2 MT.

In the years before 2001 US fishermen had landed the entire US quota before October 1. NMFS, to stretch out the season, imposed a monthly quota system so that the entire US quota was not landed in the early months of the season. They did this partly because the fat content of early season migrating bluefin was low resulting in low dockside prices.

If this was not bad enough, I was given a copy of the Fishery Bulletin magazine issue 105 and on pages 390 to 395 this report was absolutely shocking. The report is titled, "Decline in Condition of Northern Bluefin Tuna in the Gulf of Maine." This report is based on the letter grading system used by fish dealers to describe the fat content of the tuna. The premium tuna are labeled A. Tuna with a lower fat content are labeled B or C.

This study found Bluefin tuna landed in the month of June, 2004 were in much poorer physical condition than fish landed in the early 1990's. The probability of landing a poor quality tuna in June of 1991 was 30% of the landings. This percentage number had exploded to 70% of the landings by 2004. This is a 40% drop in tuna fat content.

In earlier years these Bluefin giants were almost all fat and happy by late in the summer. "In 1991 the probability of landing a bluefin in the C category during August was 16%. By September this percentage had dropped to 9%." This new report found 68% of tuna landed were grade C or lower. This is a drop of 53% in 13 years!

Their September, 2004 report can be described as a disaster. Not only did the fat content

not increase in landed bluefin but the fat content dropped to 76% of the bluefin tuna landed and all were now grade C or lower. This is a percentage drop of 67%!

Clearly, these giant bluefin could not find the abundant food sources they had fed on in previous years. Abundant forage is the only way they can build fat reserves for the long winter and their need for extra reserves to support their late spring spawning.

What happened? The huge increase in the commercial landings of Atlantic herring has been singled out as a likely cause of the decline in fat content of these tuna. This appears likely since these fisheries' landings have increased to hundreds of thousand of tons a year.

In response, the New England Fishery Management Council created a herring management plan that limited herring landings in the inshore areas where most giants have been caught in the past. The Council also prohibited the landing of spawning herring. This species of herring is not identified as overfished. It appears that recent herring catches have come from near coastal waters where bluefin tuna have historically gone for food. Local fishermen have already reported increases in inshore herring abundance plus the birds and other large fish that feed on them.

There is a good article about herring in the November 2007 issue of National Fisherman which covers the impact of the new regulations.

In any event, something very bad has happened to the giant bluefin during their prime feeding season. It is not just the negative impact of low US bluefin prices but the future implications for their species survival. Scientists believe that low fat bluefin have a hard time surviving the winter plus low fat content affects their successful spawning.

After so many years of angler sacrifices in school bluefin tuna landings, this report suggests an absolutely terrible future for the recreational bluefin tuna fishery.

Bluefin Tuna 2008 rules

NMFS has stated that 2008 bluefin tuna rules will be the same as their 2007 regs.

Swordfish Stock Recovery

Swordfish are the ONLY US HMS fishery where a stock recovery has occurred.

For many years NMFS observers on longline boats in the Straits of Florida and the Charleston Bump

have reported huge numbers of small swordfish being discarded dead by longline fishing gear.

To allow swordfish to rebuild their numbers, the entire east coast of Florida and The Charles Bump were closed to longline fishing. In just 5 short years since longlining was banned the swordfish stocks are near their plan's objective and way ahead of the plan's rebuilding schedule. Blue and white marlin have also been aided by their not being killed by domestic longliners as they make their annual journey from the east coast of Florida to New Jersey.

This recovery totally supports the concept that if fishery managers honestly regulate commercial fishing of any species, that species will recover quickly. This is a proven fact that politicians, fishery managers and councils nationwide have refused to accept. In fact, they have all done their very best to ignore this fact. They often relax the management rules for commercial fishers and have mostly disregarded their dead discards. This hugely increases the recovery time for any fish species.

Sadly, big success often brings other problems. Recent US commercial landings of swordfish have crashed. This appears to be a price issue due to low dockside prices caused by massive imports of cheap frozen swordfish from the Indian Ocean areas.

NMFS 2007 HMS rules required anglers to report their non-tournament swordfish and marlin landings by phone. NMFS phone swordfish reporting system was a total pain. NMFS has only 46 swordfish landings by anglers as of October 1. To correct this problem NMFS has created a web-based reporting system. (www.hmspermits.gov.) Remember, you need your permit number plus catch and gear specifics to make reporting complete. The phone number provided last spring is still working if you prefer to use a phone to make your report.

Please report your swordfish landings. Even if all anglers' landings had been reported there is a huge quota available that can never be used this year. The problem is created by ICCAT. If the US does not land their quota, ICCAT could shift the unused US quota to other nations.

Large Coastal Shark Comment Time extended

NMFS announced their comment period of LCS has been extended until November 1, 2007. Please send in your comment about the negative impact of NMFS proposed closure of recreational landings of black tip and sandbar sharks.

NMFS shark management proposal is a terrible waste of angler's trust and cooperation! Missed by most is that NMFS has ended the recreational landing of many rarely caught sharks. Note that NMFS did not impose the same rules on the commercial fishery.

Here is a great opportunity for you to make a comment and save your fishery. Go on line and check the JCAA October newsletter HMS columns for ideas for your letter.

NMFS is slowly squeezing recreational out of all HMS fisheries. Please respond! It's your fishery you are writing to save.

YOUTH EDUCATION BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI

YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

There is still time to submit nominations for the JCAA Youth Education Award at the next JCAA meeting. Nominations can also be e-mailed to gkucharews@aol.com.

GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

Over 200 children received "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" goodie bags for participating at the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and Jersey Coast Anglers Association's drug awareness activity booth at the Governor's 16th Annual Surf Fishing Tournament. Special thanks go out to Nick DeMicco, Shore Surf Club for assisting at the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's "Fish Printing" booth. We also thank the many volunteers, judges and sponsors of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament that make the tournament a great success.

HOFNOD CERTIFICATION

The JCAA Youth Education Committee would like to host a "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" certification training session during the month of February or March 2008. We will provide a signup sheet for JCAA member representatives to bring back to their club or organization. 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. The JCAA Youth Education Committee also provides HOFNOD, "TAKE ME FISHING," and commercial drug awareness materials to member clubs/organizations of JCAA. Throughout 2007 several fishing clubs and organizations have used the services of the JCAA Lending Library and ordered environmental support materials for their events. We are proud to support members within JCAA with materials for their events. Remember to provide us with a follow-up letter about your event so it can be part of the JCAA Newspaper. We would like to publish your success stories in the JCAA Newspaper. If your organization needs "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" promotional items for your event, please phone 732-785-9278 and leave a message. We will return your call as soon as possible and support your event with materials from the JCAA Lending Library.

YOUTH FISHING ACTIVITY BULLETIN BOARD

Here's how a circle hook works. The most effective way to hook a fish with a circle hook is not to raise the rod in a quick motion, more or less to reel and lift at the same time. If you do the typical hook set, you will pull the hook out of the fish's mouth. The fish grabs the baited hook and starts to swim away. The line tightens slowly and usually pulls the hook out of the throat and to the corner of the mouth, where the point rotates and pierces the jaw hinge or check. Once the fish is hooked, it cannot escape. According to manufacturers, advantages of the circle hook design include increased catch rate, higher lip hook rate, which greatly reduces mortality; ease of use because the fish hooks itself; and less snagging in certain bottom fishing applications. **Remember, avoid the typical hook setting practice.**

OUTDOOR SPORTSMEN SHOWS

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

Saxton Introduces Menhaden Bill **Fish is an important part of gamefish** **industry**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Jim Saxton has introduced new legislation to bolster the stocks of a key forage fish that many other fish and marine animals rely upon as prey.

"Menhaden are an important part of the food chain," Saxton said. "It is strongly suspected that they are a primary food source of gamefish that are crucial to Jersey Shore tourism. I'm not telling fishermen anything they don't know. What's good for menhaden is good for the stripers and the blues."

Menhaden stock appears to be on the decline, prompting concern from the fish and wildlife community. They are believed to be a food source for ospreys, loons seals, whales and other marine life that live or visit the Jersey coastal areas and the East Coast, fish such as weakfish and Spanish mackerel. Because menhaden themselves feed on rotting sea vegetation and plankton, they have a positive effect on water quality.

Saxton's bill, H.R. 3840, is modeled after the successful Atlantic Striped Bass Act, which Saxton and others have supported and renewed since the 1980s.

H.R. 3840:

establishes a moratorium on commercial Atlantic menhaden fishing for reduction purposes in Atlantic coastal waters until a scientifically-determined catch level can be established that also considers the role of menhaden in the ecosystem.

prohibits commercial Atlantic menhaden fishing for reduction purposes in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone that extends 200 miles into the Atlantic Ocean from the coast.

The bill also directs the Secretaries of the Departments of Interior and Commerce to conduct annual stock assessments, and investigations into population dips and the impact of menhaden on water quality. The bill authorizes a total of up to \$1.05 million to pay for the studies.

"Menhaden may not be the daily special at a New Jersey diner, but to a bluefish or striped bass, they're meat and potatoes," Saxton said.

Get copy of the bill by calling (609) 261-5801.

SHARE YOUR FUN TEACH & TAKE SOMEONE FISHING

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.

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 # _____

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Blue Fish	Al Marantz	732-280-2643
Habitat	Pat Donnelly	732-206-1407
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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.