

JCAA NEWSPAPER FEBRUARY 2008

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on January 21st, 2008)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:
Tuesday, January 29th, 2008
Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd
NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, February 14th, 2008
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 732-446-6298 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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2008 OFFICERS

President	John Toth	732-6560139
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.	Bruce Smith	732-695-3431

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

JCAA HIGH ROLLER RAFFLE

It is now time for the JCAA High Rollers 2008 Raffle. We have put together a terrific selection of rods and reels and other prizes for a raffle that will be drawn on April 29, 2008. This is a major fundraiser for the JCAA. The 8 prizes are listed below with a value of almost \$3,500. Tickets will be two dollars each and Club Representatives can get books of tickets to sell by attending a JCAA meeting. JCAA will be staffing a booth and selling tickets at the upcoming Atlantic City International Boat Show February 6 – February 10 and the Saltwater Fishing Expo at the Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, March 14-16. Stop by and say hello. If you would like to buy raffle tickets call the JCAA office. When your club representative brings them to your club, please help with your purchase. Without your continued support we cannot function as an organization in protecting the marine resource and angler's rights. Shimano provided reels at a special price to JCAA. Hi Seas is supplying it new 30 pound braid for each rod and reel combination.

1. Shimano Tiagra TI-30WLRSA reel with a Shimano LCX8MHRSA rod Value \$805
 2. Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor model RT 55/SE/L&D Value \$550
Donated by Johnson Outdoors Inc
 3. Fisherman's Headquarters, Ship Bottom, NJ donates a \$500.00 Shopping Spree Value \$500
 4. U S REEL 240 SX reel with Lamiglas EXS 722 rod Value \$450
Donated by Lamiglas and US REELS
 5. Shimano TLD 30 reel with Profile GL5630 stand up rod Value \$430
Donated by Profile Rods
 6. Penn 850SSm Spinfisher reel with a Offshore Angler OMCP11SS rod Value \$300
Donated by Bass Pro Shops
 7. Shimano Stradic - ST-5000FI Reel with Shimano Terramar TMS-70MH Rod Value \$280
Donated by Shimano
 8. Tsunami TSSD 3000 reel and TFSBC-601MH rod Value \$150
Donated by Bimini Bay Outfitters
- Total Value \$3,465**

IMPORTANT DATES

January 29th JCAA General Meeting

February 6th -10th AC Boat Show

February 28th-March 2nd Suffern show

March 14th -16th Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset,

JCAA needs volunteers to help man the JCAA booth AC BOAT SHOW

Atlantic City Boat Show February 6TH – 10TH. See the show while you work the booth. This a five day show and we need your help. If you can help, contact Mark Taylor at 732-929-2591. You can also email him at MTSOFT64@aol.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By John Toth

My first statement for 2008 is HAPPY NEW YEAR and may you all and your families have a healthy, prosperous and blessed New Year!

Pot Bill – We had great hopes that this bill would pass since the Senate passed it unanimously during the closing session of the Legislature. It passed by 33 votes to 0 votes in opposition. All we had to do was to get Assembly Speaker Roberts to post it in the Assembly and it would most likely pass since the Senate endorsed it so well. I believe that the Senate passed the bill on January 3rd, and all we were all looking to see is if the Pot bill would be posted on the Assembly's calendar. With each passing day, nothing was happening and we knew that January 7th, the last day of the legislature, was the do or die day. Accordingly, we all started to call Robert's office and that included so many of you and others like Pete Grimbilas from Reef Rescue, the RFA, NJ Divers, Anthony Mauro from New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA), members from Manasquan Fishing Club, Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County and so many more! With each passing day and no reference to the Pot Bill on the Assembly's calendar, I started to get a very bad feeling about this and my intuition told me that it was not going to be posted even though I was getting some positive feedback from several sources. My intuition is usually on the money and I was hoping for once that it would be wrong. Unfortunately, it was right. Roberts did not post the bill for reasons best known to him. There were a lot of bills that needed to be posted during the closing days of the

legislature and perhaps the Pot Bill got lost in this confusion.

This means that we will have to start all over again in 2008 with our efforts to pass the Pot Bill. Pete Grimbilas from Reef Rescue emailed me that we would be getting together toward the end of January to figure out a strategy to start the Pot Bill all over again. When I expressed my disappointment and frustration over this, our Legislative Chairman, Tom Fote, reminded me that it took many setbacks on a number of issues like the bunker bill, making striped bass a game fish, etc., before they became law. It takes perseverance and stamina to keep pressing our fight and that is what we have to do to eventually win the day.

At the time of this writing, Senator Thomas H. Kean Jr. (R.) has sponsored the new Pot Bill (S336) along with Senator Jeff Van Drew (D). Senator Kean is the primary sponsor and Senator Jeff Van Drew is the co-sponsor. In the Senate, this new bill will have to be approved by the Senate Environmental Committee. In the Assembly, it will have to be approved by the Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee. The following information shows you whom to contact in the Senate and in the Assembly to move this legislation on to final approval in the Legislature. Please not only ask for them to approve the bill, but to also co-sponsor it as well. Also, try to get other legislators to support this bill in the appropriate arms in the Legislature, especially from the Democratic Party that is the majority party in the Legislature.

S336 Prohibits the use of certain fishing gear on artificial reefs.

Last Session Bill Number: S2635

	District	Phone	Fax
<u>Kean, Sean T.</u> (R) as Primary Sponsor	11	732-974-0400	732-974-2564
<u>Van Drew, Jeff</u> (D) as Co-Sponsor	1	609-465-0700	609-465-4578

1/8/2008 Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Environment Committee

Senate Environment Committee

	District	Phone	Fax
<u>Smith, Bob</u> (D) Chair	17	732-752-0770	732-752-1590
<u>Van Drew, Jeff</u> (D)	1	609-465-0700	609-465-4578
<u>Adler, John H.</u> (D)	6	856-489-3442	856-489-4180
<u>Gordon, Robert M.</u> (D)	38	201-703-9779	201-703-8127
Bateman, Christopher (R)	16	908-526-3600	908-707-4578
Ciesla, Andrew (R)	10	732-840-9028	732-840-9757

1/8/2008 Introduced, Referred to Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

A1519 Prohibits the use of certain fishing gear on artificial reefs.

Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

(Group D)	District	Phone	Fax
<u>Fisher, Douglas H.</u> (D) Chair	3	856-455-1011	856-455-2853
<u>Albano, Nelson T.</u> (D)	1	609-465-0700	609-465-4578
<u>Amodeo, John F.</u> (R)	2	609-292-5339	609-633-9806
<u>Conaway, Herb</u> (D)	7	856-461-3997	856-461-3823
Karrow, Marcia (R)	23	908-782-5127	908-788-2625

A1519 Prohibits the use of certain fishing gear on artificial reefs.Last Session Bill Number: A3986 District Phone Fax

<u>Rible, David P.</u> (R) as Primary Sponsor	11
<u>Albano, Nelson T.</u> (D) as Co-Sponsor	1 609-465-0700 609-465-4578
<u>Wolfe, David W.</u> (R) as Co-Sponsor	10 732-840-9028 732-840-9757
<u>Holzapfel, James W.</u> (R) as Co-Sponsor	10 732-840-9028 732-840-9757
<u>Diegnan, Patrick J., Jr.</u> (D) as Co-Sponsor	18 908-757-1677 908-757-6841
<u>McHose, Alison Littell</u> (R) as Co-Sponsor	24 973-726-0954 973-726-8397

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT*By Thomas Fote***UPDATE ON SUMMER FLOUNDER RESEARCH**

Last month I discussed the \$15,000 JCAA has earmarked for summer flounder research. The coalition is the Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science Inc. (PFMAFS). This group will hire scientists to be part of the 2008 benchmark summer flounder stock assessment. To date the groups that are members of this coalition are JCAA, RFA, SSFFF, United Boatmen of NY, United Boatmen of NJ, the Garden State Seafood Association and the NY Tackle Trades Association. The scientists who will attend these meetings and be part of the process are Dr Eric Powell (HSRL Rutgers), Dr Ken Able (IMCS Rutgers), Dr Brian Rothschild (Univ. of Massachusetts), Emerson Hasbrouck (Cornell Univ.) and Bruce Freeman. They all have impeccable credentials and are very familiar with the models and the process. PFMAFS has developed a budget to pay for services and travel expenses for four of the scientists. JCAA will be paying directly for Bruce Freeman's expenses for attending these meetings. Bruce Freeman is doing this as a volunteer so there is no salary or stipend expense involved.

The following organizations are the only ones listed in the most recent minutes for their commitment to provide funds for the science effort.

1. Garden State Seafood Association \$15,000
 2. Jersey Coast Anglers Association \$10,000. (plus an additional \$5,000 for expenses for Bruce Freeman)
 3. Suffolk County, NY \$5,000
 4. Save the Summer Flounder Foundation \$2,000.
- Total: \$32,000

The money coming from Suffolk County was raised by Phil Curcio representing the New York Tackle Trade Association and United Boatmen of New York. Phil is working to secure additional contributions from New York state organizations. At this time no other organizations have confirmed their contributions.

Working with the benchmark process will be only the beginning of the efforts that will be undertaken by this partnership. As a partnership we have committed to looking for long-term summer flounder research, ecosystem management and the impact of pollution and habitat destruction. For this type of major research we need a commitment from the Federal government. JCAA has committed to using our resources and contacts in Washington, DC to promote this effort. I will be leading this effort for JCAA and will be meeting with our representatives in Washington, DC in February. United Boatmen of New Jersey, Garden State Seafood and JCAA have been working on promoting research projects for over 16 years. With the addition of New York organizations and the RFA and SSFFF, we have expanded this coalition. We need to continue this expansion as broadly as possible. When you look at the budgets of NMFS and the various state agencies, no money is being spent on this type of research. The commercial and recreational fishing industries and the people who participate have been suffering for years. We get poor management and poor science. The economic value of the commercial and recreational industries far exceeds the minimal amount that is spent on these industries by both the states and the Federal government. I am so proud of all of us for our ability to set aside our differences and focus on these crucial issues. Congratulations to everyone involved.

JCAA needs volunteers to help man the JCAA booth AC BOAT SHOW

ASMFC COMMISSION

The agenda for the ASMFC meeting is below. I will be attending the meetings. The schedule makes it difficult for the public to attend these meetings. I understand there are reasons the ASMFC commissioners decided to break up the schedule. For instance, striped bass is on Monday, and on Wednesday there is all commissioners' business, and on Thursday the summer flounder meeting is scheduled. It would be more efficient for the public if important species meetings were grouped together by region or interest. The commissioners' business should be grouped into one day or segment of the meeting at either the beginning or the end. Given the schedule, you would need to arrive Sunday night to make the striped bass meeting and couldn't leave until Thursday afternoon after the summer flounder meeting. The cost of a hotel is about \$200/night. Most of us just can't afford that expense or time and the schedule is just not public friendly.

ASMFC Winter Meeting February 4 - 7, 2008 Crowne Plaza Hotel 901 North Fairfax Street Alexandria, VA (703) 683-6000

FINAL SCHEDULE

February 4, 2008

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Atlantic Herring Section
10:15 AM - 1:15 PM Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
Welcome/Call to Order, M. Gibson
Board Consent - ACTION
Approval of Agenda
Approval of Proceedings from October 31, 2007
Public Comment
Vice-Chair Election - ACTION
2007 Stock Assessment Review 2007 Stock Assessment, D. Grout, G. Nelson, B. Versak
Review Peer Review Panel Report, M. Murphy
Discuss and Consider Approval of Stock Assessment for Management Use - ACTION
Discuss Potential Changes to Management Program
Technical Committee Recommendation Regarding the Hudson River Juvenile Abundance Index, D. Grout
Review Fact Sheet on Management, Stock Status and Fishery Trends, N. Meserve
Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise Update, W. Laney
Other Business
Adjourn
2:15 PM - 6:00 PM Atlantic Striped Bass Advisory Panel
Welcome/Call to Order, J. Gilford
Question and Answer Session with Technical Committee Representatives Regarding the 2007 Stock Assessment Develop Management Advice in Response to the 2007 Assessment Results

Other Business

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Prepare Statement of Advice to the Management Board

Adjourn

2:30 PM - 5:30 PM American Lobster Management Board

February 5, 2008

8:00 AM - Noon Strategic Planning Workshop

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM Tautog Management Board

Welcome/Call to Order, D. Pierce

Board Consent - ACTION

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Proceedings from October 30, 2007

Public Comment

State Implementation of Addenda IV and V, C. Vonderweidt

Other Business

Adjourn

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Shad & River Herring Management Board

4:45 PM - 6:15 PM Weakfish Management Board

Welcome/Call to Order, P. Augustine

Board Consent - ACTION

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Proceedings from May 8, 2007

Public Comment

Weakfish Management Plan Review and State Compliance, N. Meserve

Discuss and Consider Approval of de minimis Requests - ACTION

Discuss and Consider Approval of the 2007 FMP Review - ACTION

Update from the Stock Assessment Subcommittee, J. Brust
Review and Consider Approval of the Stock Assessment Terms of Reference - ACTION

Other Business

Adjourn

February 6, 2008

8:00 AM - Noon Strategic Planning Workshop

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM Communication with Congress Workshop

2:30 PM - 6:00 PM ISFMP Policy Board

February 7, 2008

8:00 AM - 10:30 AM Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board

Welcome/Call to Order, J. Travelstead

Board Consent - ACTION

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Proceedings from August 14, 2007

Public Comment

Review and Consider Approval of State Summer Flounder Recreational Conservation Equivalency Proposals - ACTION, T. Kerns

Technical Committee Recommendation

Consider Approval of Proposals

Review and Consider Approval of Scup Recreational Proposal - ACTION, T. Kerns

Discussion of 2008 Commercial Scup Summer Period Quota, T. Kerns

Discussion on Development of Amendment 15

Other Business

Adjourn

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM ISFMP Policy Board

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM Business Session

Noon Buffet Lunch for Commissioners & Proxies

12:15 PM - 1:15 PM American Eel Management Board

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Horseshoe Crab Management Board

The article below ran in the January JCAA newspaper along with two other reprinted articles (JCAA Newspaper December 2003 Article by Tom Fote WORKING TOGETHER IN THE NGO COMMUNITY, JCAA Newspaper February 2004 Article by Tom Fote WORKING TOGETHER IN THE NGO COMMUNITY PART 2). Given the holiday season and the fact that the January newspaper was not sent to our general email list, I wasn't sure everyone had a chance to read them. If you did not read last month's JCAA newspaper, please check our website for the two articles cited above and much more information on this and other topics.

JCAA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE MARINE FISH CONSERVATION NETWORK

There has been much public discussion about why JCAA belongs to the Marine Fish Conservation Network. In 1994 when the Marine Fish Conservation Network was first formed, JCAA was invited to participate along with many other recreational organizations. JCAA decided to participate to ensure that the recreational interests and our point of view were represented in the Network. Some major recreational groups approached JCAA and asked us to serve on the board in 2001 to represent all of our interests including keeping the MPA issue off the MFCN agenda. The MPA issue is still a major issue and at our urging the Network has remained neutral on this issue. There are many other issues that are important to JCAA and are also a high priority for the Network. For example, the Network has an initiative on protecting forage species including menhaden. They are also pushing for funding in next year's Federal budget to pay for the best possible science. Together we share a commitment to the environment dealing with issues like endocrine disruptors and water quality and quantity. Over the years, there have been

disagreements, discussions and compromises but JCAA has always represented recreational interests. Although there was some internal pressure to keep all discussions private within the Network, JCAA has never agreed to that. Recently, JCAA has been criticized for remaining in the Network given their position on the lack of flexibility in the 10 year rebuilding plans. Our participation in the Network has been discussed many times at JCAA Board and General Membership meetings and members of the Marine Fish Conservation Network have been present for some of these discussions. The general consensus of the JCAA membership maintains that there is still value in being represented in the Network. Recently, we worked hard to get the Network to refrain from sending a letter on the summer flounder issue that would argue for a much reduced quota. Fishing groups who do not belong to the Network cannot influence its decisions. IGFA and ASA supported JCAA's position and some of the commercial groups supported us as well. Had we not been at the table, the Network would have sent a letter to NMFS that reflected the positions of some of their membership who don't fish and lack understanding about recreational issues. Every recreational organization has a right to an opinion and JCAA respects that. However, our membership has made a decision that we are more valuable to the Network and the recreational community by maintaining a seat at the table and being part of the discussion and decision-making process. JCAA is concerned about new directions at PEW and the impact those decisions will have on the Network. We also have concerns about the new direction that the Network has taken since it became an independent 501C3. The Network represents a diverse and influential group of interests and the JCAA will try to steer it to also represent the best interests of the angling community.

No one outside of the Network and the JCAA, IGFA and ASA boards has any idea how much time and energy was invested in the recent discussions to steer the Network in the right direction. It would have been far easier for me, Bruce Freeman and Tom Siciliano to just walk away and criticize from afar. Personally, I have spent hundreds of hours with the Network. It is easy to be part of a coalition of the like-minded. It is harder to work with others who have very different points of view. JCAA has decided that it is more important at

this time to do the thing that is harder rather than make the easy choice.

POTS OFF THE REEFS LEGISLATION

I know many of you were as disappointed as I was that the NJ Assembly never voted on the Pots Off the Reefs legislation. There have been many articles published about this failure. The two articles below by Al Ristori will give you a good picture of what happened and what you need to know about the new legislation. Some people are discouraged, but anyone who deals with legislation regularly knows there is a process and we will continue to work on this issue. At the Federal level almost no bill gets passed in the first session where it is introduced. Even in the New Jersey Legislature, many controversial topics require two sessions to get the bill moved. The timing of the introduction of the legislation could not have been worse.

We introduced the bill during an election year just before the summer recess. It was only because of the hard work of Reef Rescue, RFA, NJ Dive Association, JCAA and many clubs and organizations that we got as far as we did. When we began this process in May, I thought this legislation was a long-shot. The hard work of the thousands of anglers who wrote letters, faxed, called and emailed, got us as far as we did. The legislation banning the Menhaden boats took years. We never gave up and were finally successful. We need for you to renew your effort, work harder and make sure this legislation passes within the year. There are many new legislators. And some have moved from the Assembly to the Senate. They all need to hear from you regularly. The new legislation has already been introduced in both houses. John Toth has covered the information you need in the president's article. We have just begun this battle and we need you to remain focused and dedicated to the cause. Reef Rescue continues to meet with the membership to coordinate our efforts. Peter Grimbilas and Bill Figley deserve our thanks for keeping us focused and leading the effort. Senate President Codey was instrumental in securing the passage of this legislation in the Senate. We would like to thank Senator Smith, Senator Adler and Senator Sweeney for all their hard work in getting this legislation passed by the Senate. They helped move this bill successfully through the Senate Environment Committee and which was passed unanimously by the Senate. In his article, Al Ristori acknowledges

the members of the Assembly who worked hard for this legislation.

Star Ledger

Artificial reef bill headed to Assembly

Friday, January 18, 2008 By Al Ristori

Anglers and divers are gearing up for another attempt to protect the state's artificial reefs for the purpose they were intended -- hook and line fishing. Energized by the 33-0 passage in the Senate during the last session, anglers hope for a better outcome this time in the Assembly -- where the bill was never posted for a vote.

The Assembly bill to ban pots from the reef is A1519, sponsored by Assemblyman David Rible (R-11th Dist.) with co-sponsorship by Nelson Albano (D-1), Patrick Deignan (D-18), James Holzapel (R-10), Allison Littell McHose (R-24), and David Wolfe (R-10).

Deignan, also a sponsor in the last session, had mistakenly been posted as being in favor of tabling the bill when Sean Kean made a motion to bring it up for a vote on the final voting day of the last session. The legislation must go through committees in both the Assembly and Senate once again. Those supporting the effort should ask their legislators to co-sponsor.

Star Ledger

Pots on reefs still a problem

Sunday, January 13, 2008 By Al Ristori

The refusal by Speaker Joseph Roberts Jr. (D-Camden) to post the bill that would have ended potting on the state's artificial reefs on the last voting day of the old Assembly pretty much ended hopes of protecting them for public use before supporters have to start the process from scratch in the new Legislature, but Sean Kean (R-11th Dist., Monmouth) did his best to save the day during his last appearance in the Assembly after having won election to the Senate in November.

Kean introduced a motion from the floor that day to take a vote on the bill that had easily passed out of committee last year. Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-Trenton) then moved to table the bill. In view of the fact that was the last opportunity to consider it, tabling amounted to a vote against the bill without any discussion of its merits.

The tabling motion barely won by a vote of 41 to 32 (a majority being necessary), with seven not voting. The vote was primarily along party lines, with most Democrats supporting the Speaker while all Republicans were in favor of putting the bill to a vote. Yet there hadn't been any such split in the Senate, where President Richard Codey had posted the companion bill in that Democrat-controlled chamber, and it passed 33-0.

Roberts has never returned my call, and Pete Grimbilas of Reef Rescue knows of no one who called or faxed him and received a reply. Therefore, we can only

speculate as to why he wouldn't let the bill come to a vote. Apparently, that was no surprise to a commercial fishing official who congratulated a recreational representative at the last Marine Fisheries Council meeting on the big win in the Senate -- while assuring him it would do no good. The Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) noted that commercial interests put a lot of money into this fight and hired a high-priced lobbying firm. It seems they got a good return for their money.

Democrats Upendra Chivukula (Dist. 17), Linda Greenstein (14) and Jeff Van Drew (1) voted against tabling, along with the Republicans.

Groups representing recreational fishermen and divers may have to divert some of the funds they've been raising to build reefs in order to wage the political battle to save them. The Division of Fish and Wildlife constructed the reefs on unproductive bottoms to provide thriving communities of fish and shellfish. Bill Figley, who ran that program until his recent retirement, said they were intended to support a hook-and-line fishery -- rather than strings of pots that fish 24 hours a day, interfere with drifting and anchoring, and even prevent expansion of the reefs. The materials used are donated, but must be cleaned, towed and placed on the reefs with funds raised by sportsmen. Grimbilas says potting on reefs in state waters is prohibited in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and New York -- with other states also moving in that direction. The reefs have become vital to our state's marine recreational fishermen, especially to small boaters who can work easily accessible and quickly located structure not far from inlets.

Anglers and divers will have to become politically active in order to overcome the influences preventing a democratic conclusion to the reef bill battle. It's especially important in the upcoming battle for residents of their districts to contact the following current Assembly members who voted to table the bill last week: Peter Barnes (18); Neil Cohen (20); Bonnie Watson Coleman (15); Jack Connors (7); Nilsa Cruz-Perez (5); Joseph Cryan (20); Patrick Deignan (18); Joseph Egan (17); Reed Gusciora (15); Elese Evans (35); Thomas Giblin (34); Jerry Green (22); Louis Greenwald (6); Valerie Huttle (37); Mila Jasey (27); Gordon Johnson (37); Pamela Lampitt (6); John McKeon (27); Paul Moriarty (4); Nellie Pou (35); Vincent Prieto (32); Joan Quigley (32); Joseph Roberts Jr. (15); Gary Schaer (36); Frederick Scalera (36); Linda Stender (22); Joseph Vas (19); Joan Voss (38); and John Wisnewski (19).

Three Assemblymen who voted to table the reef bill have moved up to the Senate -- Brian Stack (33), Robert Gordon (38), and Jim Whalen (2).

Michael Panter, the Monmouth County Democrat who was successfully targeted for defeat in November by the N.J. Outdoor Alliance, also voted to table.

NJ ENVIRONMENTAL FEDERATION CONFERENCE

New Jersey Environmental Federation's 22nd Annual Conference will be held on Saturday April 5, 2008. There will be many workshops focusing on global warming. I will be moderating a panel discussion on the impact of drugs and other endocrine disruptors that are increasingly in our environment and causing multiple problems. The information about the conference is below. Hope to see you there.

The Heat is On!

Register for NJEF's 22nd Annual Conference!

Saturday, April 5, 2008, 8 am - 5 pm

Rutgers University School of Law, Newark, NJ

Governor Corzine invited keynote speaker.

Mayor's Plenary on Public Health, Global Warming, and Environmental Justice

Workshops will feature Children's Health, Clean Water, Global Warming, Healthy Towns & Schools, Environmental Justice, Green Jobs/Green Economy, Keeping Drugs out of Drinking Water

Breakfast, lunch, and reception with key political leaders provided

Cost: \$30 per person, \$25 for registering before March 15, \$25 for groups of 5 or more (per person), \$15 for students

Register By Phone: Call Jenny Vickers at 732-280-8988

By Mail: Print out our Registration Form and mail in to address listed on form.

Online:

<http://cleanwateraction.org/njef/conference08.html> Pay securely by credit card. Please note: Under "other", make sure to enter the amount of registration to be paid. Under "comments" please write NJEF Conference.

Fluke season lasts one day in New Jersey January 06

By Kirk Moore Gannett News Service

Shoppers will find lots of fresh New Jersey fluke in their local fish cases this week. But it won't last for long.

Fishermen who put their nets out just after midnight early this morning will get just one day's haul of 7,500 pounds out of the January commercial season for summer flounder, or fluke as it's also called, before it closes Monday. Relatively speaking, they're OK with

that as a way to both conserve the resource and help fishermen survive the economic fallout.

"Our January-February season is crummy no matter what. At the same time, North Carolina opens up, so it's the lowest prices of the year," captain Jim Lovgren of the Fishermen's Dock Cooperative in Point Pleasant Beach said.

With the East Coast federal quota for flounder set at a new low of 15.77 million pounds for 2008, the agreement with state officials to conduct a one-day season will help keep enough fish available for later in the year when prices are higher, Lovgren explained.

"The bottom line is there's not enough quota. But there are enough fish," co-op manager John Cole quipped. "There should be a 30 million, 32 million-pound quota."

The annual fishing limit is set using a complex biological analysis that accounts for the species' reproductive success, and for numbers of flounder taken by fishermen. Weeks of uncertainty ended New Year's Eve when the National Marine Fisheries Service published a final rule setting the 15.77 million-pound limit for commercial and recreational fluke catches. Under pressure

The agency had been under pressure from environmental activists to set a lower quota limit, 11.64 million pounds, which scientific advisers had recommended as a way to speed progress toward a goal of nearly doubling the flatfish population by 2013.

"We're disappointed. For precautionary reasons, they should have adopted the recommendations" of advisers, said Lee Crockett, who heads federal fisheries reform efforts with the environmental arm of the Pew Charitable Trusts.

"They're hanging their hat on more optimistic scenarios that haven't panned out in the past," Crockett added. "So we'll see what happens."

Fishing advocates doubt further enormous growth is achievable in the fluke spawning stock and say the economic consequences of trying are just too much for the commercial and recreational industries to bear. The controversy has so split environmental and recreational groups, one influential national organization, the Marine Fish Conservation Network, could not agree on the quota, network executive director Bruce J. Stedman said.

"There was a wide diversity of opinion on the subject so we chose not to comment," Stedman said of the public comment period that led up to the NMFS decision. "So in this case, our individual members are speaking for themselves."

One longtime network member, the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, argued strenuously in

December against the network taking a position in favor of the lower quota, said Thomas P. Fote, the JCAA's legislative chairman. Strong case

The New Jersey recreational anglers' arguments won over the International Game Fishing Association and American Sportfishing Association.

"Had we not been at the table, the network would have sent a letter to NMFS that reflected the positions of some of their members who don't fish and lack understanding about recreational issues," Fote wrote in his group's January newsletter. It's a prime example of why recreational groups should stay engaged with the environmental movement, even when the two sides disagree, he says.

The exact 2008 fluke rules for New Jersey's recreational anglers will be worked out before the season starts in May. It's one of the most crucial parts of the party and charter boat business, where summer flounder accounts for about 40 percent of the trade, according to industry advocates.

"We're going ahead on flounder," said Dick Herb, a Cape May charter captain and member of the state Marine Fisheries Council as the group met Thursday in Galloway. Proposals to impose across-the-board fishing limits were defeated and states can still set their season and catch limits within the federal quota, he said.

But with good weather forecast, boats will be out of the gate today, fighting for a share of the market with diesel fuel high at \$3 a gallon, and flounder prices at the dock likely to be around \$2 a pound to the boats, fishermen said.

"Tons and tons of fluke out there. It should be going to the people," said Jesus Sante, a captain with two boats at the co-op and 55 years of experience fishing out of Spain, Africa and the Americas. "I've got \$1 million at the dock here. Who's going to pay my bills?"

Regulators make fluke anglers very anxious

**By JOHN GEISER
CORRESPONDENT**

Every day that is crossed off the calendar from now on leaves fluke anglers increasingly worried about what the regulators will allow them to fish for this year.

John Toth, president of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, got some attention on the problems of the fluke fishery when he addressed the December joint meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's summer flounder, scup and black sea bass board.

"After testimony from the angling community who protested about how these regulations are ruining the

industry, and this testimony seemed to fall on deaf ears, I decided to take a different tactic," he said.

"I told the management councils that they should impose the lowest quota, stop fishing during July or August, and close the fluke season for all of next year (2009)," Toth said.

"This way, in a few years down the road, the waters will be teeming with fluke, but there will be no marinas left or boats to fish for them since they will all be out of business.

"I said this is the scary scenario we are facing with marinas already in financial trouble . . . developers would love to buy them to make high-priced condos that adjoining towns would like to see for increased ratables," Toth said. "Once these marinas are gone, they are not coming back."

Toth also told the two management bodies that, while management must fashion rules to abide by the Magnuson-Stevens Act, it also is incumbent on them to inform Congress that these regulations are destroying the fishing industry.

He emphasized that there needs to be a pause in the enforcement of these regulations to see if more flexibility can be incorporated in them.

Toth finished his testimony with the repeated warning: "We all see a train wreck coming, and that something needs to be done to stop it."

Toth also said that, during testimony at the hearing, it was mentioned that, despite the fact that the National Marine Fisheries Service has the final say on regulations, not one study has ever been done by NMFS and other management bodies on the socioeconomic impacts of their regulations on the angling community.

This, in fact, is not true, but it is wholly accurate in substance. NMFS, in particular, is always careful to include a few lines in most plans about the socioeconomic impacts it has evaluated.

This is designed as shittails to cover them when a judge or congressman happens to start shuffling through the pages of the plan.

The trouble is that they always find that the impact will be hardly noticeable or it is has been determined that there will be no impact.

The latest analysis of proposed fluke cutbacks, for instance, is that strict regulations will not affect angler participation, and impact on the party and charter boat industry will be negligible.

The JCAA, like so many other organizations, trusts neither the data nor the techniques that drive the management process, and Toth said it will do more than talk about it.

"The JCAA membership has recently approved \$15,000 for the hiring of several scientists to evaluate the information and the analytical techniques used by the National Marine Fisheries Service in developing stock assessment for fluke quotas in 2008," he said.

The scientists expected to participate include Bruce L. Freeman, former marine research scientist with the state Division of Fish and Wildlife; Dr. Eric Powell and Dr. Ken Able, both of Rutgers University; and Dr. Brian Rothschild, University of Massachusetts.

Toth stressed that the JCAA supports a complete and independent review of the statistics and methods used to determine fluke stocks, and NMFS has agreed to a benchmark review of the information and analysis that goes into the setting of fluke quotas. This will be done in June.

"Our group of scientists will be participating in it (Benchmark Assessment Workshop)," he said. "More money most likely will be needed to fund this project and other fishing groups have expressed interest in assisting us."

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

By John Koegler

An Important Meeting on Fishery Issues

The National Association of Charterboat Operators (NACO) annual meeting was held at Chesapeake Beach, MD. on January 15. They had 6 quality speakers who provided key information about a wide variety of key fishery issues.

The first speaker was Dr. John Boreman who gave a report about their progress in developing a new statistical program to replace the discredited MRFSS. This new Program has been named the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). In my opinion, despite their reported progress in creating a more accurate system, they have little intention in giving up their total control of this program.

The old MRFSS system yearly budget allocation was \$10 Million per year. The cost of the new system asked NMFS for a 2008 budget of \$50 Million. Can we believe that the data improvement will be in lock step with the increased funding?

Last year, the new MRIP program had a meeting of all involved in Denver, CO. The meeting's purpose was to define what was required to create a new system. Most regional fishing council executive directors attended. No recreational anglers or recreational council members who worked on fisheries were invited or attended. NMFS reported that all involved had attended! NMFS changes names but their actions never change.

Bad MRFSS statistics have been a sore point with recreational anglers for many years. North Carolina in 2007 imposed a NEW recreational saltwater license. In 2006, MRFSS had stated there were more than TWO MILLION individual anglers fishing NC saltwater. For 2007, North Carolina reports they sold ONLY 257,000 recreational saltwater licenses. What a huge difference

from 2006! What is the 2007 reduction in NC angler fish landing estimates when NC angler numbers collapsed from 2 Million estimated to 257,000 paid? What will NMFS excuse be to use much higher NC numbers in their 2007 NC estimates?

National Recreational Angler Registry

Gordon Colvin, New York State, now heads NMFS National Recreational Angler Registry division. This program will create a current list of angler names and phone numbers so that the MRIP callers will reach fishermen rather than random coastal residents. They expect to greatly improve the accuracy of the new MRIP program with an angler registry. If nothing else, it will improve license fees since NMFS will charge \$15-25 after 2011 for their federal saltwater license. NMFS expects All states to have their own saltwater license by 2011, avoiding a federal license fee. It was stated at the meeting that only states from New Jersey to Maine have yet to impose a saltwater license. Was this a sneaky way to impose a saltwater fishing license in the states where anglers do not desire one?

Transportation Workers Identification Card - TWIC

This is the latest gem from Homeland Security's TSA. All workers in commercial docks/yards or who work on ships, plus all those who hold a USCG license, are mandated to obtain this new card. They are required to obtain this card by Sept. 25, 2008. The cost is \$135.00 for 5 years. Visa, MasterCard, money order or certified/cashiers checks are the only form of payment accepted. Two visits to a specified location are required to obtain this card. The first visit provides your basic information for a TSA background check to determine if you are a terrorist. The second visit obtains inserts for your biometric credentials into the TWIC smart card. It will contain your picture, address, height, weight and other biometric information. For sure Big Brother is watching.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Charter and head boat captains MUST POSSESS one of these new TWIC cards to renew their current captain's license. Their USCG license will not be renewed without a TWIC. USCG estimates 800,000 licenses will be issued. Only 50,000 had been issued as of December 31. It will get real crowded at TWIC offices this summer. The nearest location is Philadelphia Regional Port, 3460 N. Delaware Ave., Phila., Pa. 19134. More offices will open this month, so check to their website for location.

TSA TWIC help desk can be reached at 1-866-347-8942. Their website is www.tsa.gov.twic.

USCG TWIC help desk can be reached at 1-877-MTSA-AID. Their Philadelphia office can be reached at 1-215-425-1727.

USCG - DUI Facts for Charter and Head Boats

DUI packets that determine if you had consumed alcohol have been required by the USCG for the last two

years for all captains and crew. Captains were directed to use them immediately if they had a reportable incident on a for-hire boat. It was noted by the speaker that these DUI packets all of which go positive at .02 despite a legal limit of .04 are very temperature sensitive. Both high and low temperatures have produced a positive reading using these packets, when, in fact, there was none, reported David Walters.

Note that the current USCG booklet for charterboats has a key sentence: "Crew or watch stander shall not perform or attempt to perform any scheduled duties within four hours of consuming any alcohol." This sentence also applies to prescription and non-prescription drugs that cause any degree of impairment. This is a tougher standard than the stated legal limit of .04.

ICCAT Report

The Bluefin Tuna fish is in real trouble. All European and African nations who are members of ICCAT have refused for the last 31 years to pass national regulations that would control and regulate the out of control Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic bluefin fishery

Rich Ruais is a longtime participant at ICCAT meetings. His comments are shocking in their future implications for the US bluefin fishery. He reports: "The failure of ICCAT to respond in 2007 to the repeated ICCAT scientific advice about a pending likely collapse of the stock makes a listing of Atlantic bluefin tuna at the next meeting in 2010 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITIES) almost a certainty. A CITIES Appendix listing will ban international trade in the species both east and west. It is unclear whether the U.S. would continue to allow domestic sales or recreational fishing under a CITIES listing."

NMFS report of US landings of Medium and Giant tunas in the US as of December 1 are considered a disaster. NMFS reports only 159.9 MT of the US quota of 1,391.2 MT have been landed as of December 1, 2007. This is the lowest reported landings in 20 years.

The good news is bluefin tuna fishing off North Carolina has been good. Some boats have hooked one fish in the Medium or Giant category daily. Smaller recreational legal tuna over 100 pounds are caught on every trip. But regardless how many bluefin tuna are landed in NC, the US will fall way short of catching their assigned ICCAT quota for the fourth year in a row. Check National Fishermen Magazine and see how many Giant Bluefin tuna boats are for sale.

ICCAT Yellowfin and Longfin Tuna Report

Those who enjoy canyon fishing over the last 20 years have found their former superb fishing reduced to a hit or miss opportunity and now land only a few tuna per trip. Yellowfin and Longfin tuna are the species usually caught on 95 % of the canyon trips.

ICCAT voted to reduce their 2008 and 2009 longfin tuna landings by 11%. The US has a total quota of 600 MT. Carry forward provisions allow landings higher than the ICCAT approved TAC of 30,200 MT.

Yellowfin and Big Eye tuna spawners and zero age juveniles are caught in vast numbers between Africa and Brazil using FAD's. These FAD's catch 70% of the estimated zero age tuna each year.

There were other issues approved by ICCAT but their impact will be minor compared to the out of control landings of all tunas that are far above replacement numbers.

Swordfish Stocks

As you remember, the US swordfish biomass has recovered to the point where their numbers are estimated to support MSY landings. The September/October issue of Sport Fishing has a superb article on daytime swordfishing in 1,500 feet using braided line. See pages 70-77.

Having hooked two swordfish recently, I am very respectful of their fighting ability. I found the joy of eating fresh swordfish was not diminished in the slightest by watching another angler fight my swordfish. In fact, I enjoyed every minute of the battle.

If you are depressed with the thought of catching fewer fish, you can look forward to catching all the fluke, black sea bass and porgies you desire during 2008 subject to new draconian regulations. For example, this year's recreational Porgies season is Oct 1 to 31, 2008. The entire 2008 Porgy season is ONE month long! Does anyone consider this fair?

Where are the rewards anglers had expected to receive from years of strict observance of regulations? Where are the benefits we expected from stock recovery? Now we get fewer fish and shorter seasons with each passing year?

Jersey Coast Anglers Association Youth Education Report *By Greg Kucharewski*

GET READY FOR SPRING

The cold winter months are here and its time to get our fishing equipment ready for the spring thaw. I like to prepare my fishing equipment and terminal tackle according to the species of fish I fish for early in the spring starting with the following: Winter Flounder rigs, black fish rigs, Striped Bass lures, circle hook rigs. During the winter I clean, oil, and grease all the reels I use. I also re-spool each reel with new line and recycle the old line. I inspect each fishing rod for broken/worn guides, loose reel

seats, and make the necessary repairs. Tip: Use a bright flashlight to inspect fishing rods. You might find a crack in the fishing rod or guide that would cause you to miss catching a trophy fish. Now is the time to do the tedious work of untangling that mess in your tackle box. Do all the work now and you will be ready for the 2008 fishing season.

INDOOR CASTING DEMONSTRATION

The JCAA Youth Education Committee has been invited to support the Keansburg Father Time indoor fishing stations on January 26, 2008. It's the third year Jeff Johnson of Keansburg Father Time will be organizing the event for the Bolger Middle School. The JCAA Youth Education Committee will support the Father Time event with an indoor casting demonstration. Several fishing clubs will volunteer time and provide fishing learning stations for children and their families. For more information on the Father Time organization, call Jeff Johnson at (732) 787-2007, ext. 2554.

OUTDOOR SPORTSMEN SHOWS

It's going to be a long cold winter and it can be the perfect opportunity to introduce children to learning about making hand-crafted fishing lures, rod repair, tying saltwater and freshwater flies, reel maintenance, and going to the outdoor hunting and fishing expositions. Outdoor sportsmen shows offer a variety of fun fishing and hunting attractions for children and their families. There are many learning displays set up at outdoor shows for children to keep busy and spark an interest in healthy outdoor activities. Families can also find bargains on hunting and fishing equipment for the novice hunter or fisher. If funds are available after the holidays consider taking a fishing vacation where the weather is warm. Disney World offers freshwater fishing and the rates are reasonable if you plan your trip in advance. 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.

Atlantic City Boat Show February 6TH – 10TH.
See the show while you work the booth. This a five day show and we need your help. If you can help, contact Mark Taylor at 732-929-2591. You can also email him at MTSPORT64@aol.com

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 _____

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Pres. Address: _____

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Please make check **\$50** payable to **JCAA**

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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

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

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