

JCAA NEWSPAPER JULY 2008

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on June 24th, 2008)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, September 30th, 2008
Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd
NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, July 10th, 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	732-656-0139
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

IMPORTANT DATES

NO JCAA General meetings in July and August

July 10th JCAA Board Meeting
July 10th NJ Marine Fisheries Council Meeting
July 16th-18th ICAST
August 5th -7th MAFMC Meeting
August 12th NJ Fish and Game Council meeting
August 18th 21st ASMFC Meeting
September 30th JCAA General Meeting

14th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony & Port Winners By Phil Celmer & Tom Fote

**Tournament Director Phil Celmer congratulating
Paul Konieczka the winner of the 18-foot Century
Boat with 115hp Yamaha 4 stroke engine sitting
on a LoadRite trailer**



It was a fun tournament on June 14. In 2007 the 120 winning fish weighed a total of 587 pounds and this year the total weight was 624 lbs. The largest fish weighed in was 10 lb 9oz at Shark River caught by Jeff Bognatz. The first place prize winner

in Sandy Hook was 10 year old David Edwards from Marlboro who weighed in an 8.44 pound summer flounder. It is interesting to look at the results for some of the ports where it was hard to get a fish over 5 lbs and a lot of 3 lb fish won prizes in the south. It will be interesting to see the JCAA survey returns to see what the throwback ratio was and how many keepers were actually caught.

This annual tournament provides funds to help Jersey Coast Anglers Association to continue its fight to protect the marine resource, fund summer flounder research and fight for the rights of the recreational anglers. This year JCAA provided over \$25,000 for summer flounder research.

It was also a great night at the 14th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony as Pat Donnelly our master of ceremonies opened the event. The Grand Cayman Ballroom at Trump's Marina was filled with anglers enjoying a good time. Roger Lehmann the owner of our new port sponsor ProFishCo, could not believe the excitement and how many people were trying to get into the ballroom to see the show. We estimated over 1500 anglers attended the ceremony. The tournament port winners were there to pick up one of the 120 Port Prizes that they had won the previous Saturday and to celebrate their expertise in catching those prize-winning fish. But all of us were there to see if we could win one of those over 100 door prizes worth more than \$8,000! And more importantly, to see if we could win the final door prize, an 18-foot Century Boat with 115 hp Yamaha 4 stroke engine sitting on a LoadRite aluminum roller trailer, a package worth over \$31,000. By 9:20, the door prizes were given out, and the port winners had all received their recognition and \$1,200 each for the top port prize. Now the moment had arrived for John Zastocki, Yamaha representative, Jim Hoffman representing LoadRite and Rick Traver, of Century boats, Pier 47, to draw the winning ticket for the grand prize. John pulled the ticket. Paul Konieczka was there representing his boat named the "Fishing Poles". Like all of us, he was waiting to hear the magic number. When his number was called we could hear his team from the left side of the room yelling that they had won the boat. For the second time in a row the winning number had broken a twelve year tradition and weighed in a winning fish. Not only that, but Paul's lucky number had won a great door prize. Paul told us the Trump Hotel

Marina Casino had also been kind to him on the gambling floor. What a night for Paul and his team!

JCAA would like to thank Trump Marina Hotel Casino for hosting the event and supplying \$10,000 of the money for the 1st place prize. Fisherman's Headquarters sponsored their port at LBI and JCAA sweetened the prize to \$1,200 for each of the 12 ports. We must thank again Century Boats and Yamaha Motors for supplying the boat and motor respectively that makes this tournament one of the largest one-day tournaments. JCAA would also like to thank all the other major sponsors who donated the port prizes. Their names and the prizes they donated are listed below. There were many manufacturers that donated door prizes and they will also be listed on our web page with ceremony highlights including pictures of port winners.

Aftco Bluewater	American Angler
Angler's Book Supply	Burford Press Inc.
Do-It Corporation	Frambill
Red Drum Tackle Shop	International Paint Inc.
Lightening Jacks	Maxima America
Miss Belmar Princess	Optimum Bait Co.
Pure Fishing	ProFishCo
Shimano American Corp.	Sufix Line
Tom Siciliano	A A Worms
Angler Sport Group	TTI Companies
Capt Cal	Catcher Company
Fisherman's Den	JCAA
Guy Harvey Publishing	Maui Jim
Douglas Quikut	B 17
Stanley Jigs Inc.	Gitizit Inc.
Minn Kota Motors	Golden Eagle
Pells Bait and Tackle	
Gary Yamamoto Custom Baits	
Carlson Machine & Tool Co	

First Place: \$1,200 Cash Sponsors: Trump Marina (\$10,000), Fisherman's Headquarters, (Port LBI, \$1,000), JCAA: (Port Barnegat plus \$200 each port = \$3,400)

Second Place: DS600X Raymarine Digital High Definition Fish Sounder

Third Place: \$750.00 Gift Certificate from Boater's World Marine Centers

Fourth Place: ProFishCo Bag and tackle

Fifth Place: Minn Kota \$400.00 gift certificate

Sixth Place: Shimano rod and reel provided by Shimano

Seventh Place: A Custom made rod provided by New Jersey Angler Magazine

Eighth Place: A Shimano reel provided by Nor'east Magazine

Ninth Place: JCAA bag and assorted tackle with Sufix line and braid

Tenth Place: Canyon Gear International Gift Package

3. Shark River Inlet

		Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight
1st	Jeff Bognatz	Belmar, NJ	391	10.56	
2nd	Alan Mann Sr	Sellersville, PA	267	8.75	
3rd	James Surdovel	Belmar, NJ	285	8.00	
4th	Jim Bacska	Brick, NJ	328	7.25	
5th	Richard Braen	Hawthorne, NJ	51	6.75	
6th	Frank Applegate	Trenton, NJ	648	6.19	
7th	Joe Gogan	Groveville, NJ	450	6.13	
8th	Robert Vohdin	Howell, NJ	407	6.06	
9th	Kevin Cusack	Neptune, NJ	57	6.00	
10th	Jesse Thomas	Wall, NJ	340	6.00	
					71.69

Here are the port winners for 2008

1. Jersey City

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	
1st	Ralph Fucci	Randolph, NJ	674	8.06	
2nd	Walter Leahy	Bayonne, NJ	496	8.02	
3rd	Kevin Cole	Newton, NJ	641	7.64	
4th	George Stelninger	Freeport, NY	136	6.48	
5th	Chester Fabyanski	Bayonne, NJ	564	5.68	
6th	Laura Knospler	Sussex, NJ	296	5.58	
7th	Joseph Navdello	Woodridge, NJ	283	5.54	
8th	Victor Sa	Union, NJ Perth Amboy, NJ	585	4.54	
9th	Marshall Reid	Cliffside Park, NJ	497	4.48	
10th	Michael Ryan		286	4.26	
				60.28	

2. Sandy Hook

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	
1st	David Edwards	Marlboro, NJ East	301	8.44	
2nd	Cliff Hansen	Brunswick, NJ	349	7.78	
3rd	James Mathews	Somerset, NJ	598	6.46	
4th	Robert Turner	Piscataway, NJ	389	6.20	
5th	Ranger Rand	Secaucus, NJ	173	6.18	
6th	Michael Wells	Pt Pleasant, NJ	346	6.18	
7th	Len Schmierer	Delran, NJ	126	5.46	
8th	Edward Schaffeld	Califon, NJ	479	5.38	
9th	Robert Pante	Hazlet, NJ Union Beach, NJ	565	5.36	
10th	Robert Leschinski		403	5.28	
				62.72	

4. Manasquan River

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight
1st	Bob Steimle	Brick, NJ	19	7.40
2nd	Bob Angelini	Yardville, NJ	438	7.36
3rd	Pat Donnelly	Brick, NJ	660	7.05
4th	Jerry Melia	Toms River, NJ	28	6.65
5th	Mike Garcia	Toms River, NJ	622	5.55
6th	Ceil Sexton	Ocean, NJ	311	5.35
7th	Bob Casale	Brick, NJ	642	5.35
8th	Dan Plenzo	Colts Neck, NJ	509	5.05
9th	Rich Miller	Pennington, NJ	493	4.85
10th	Chis Carver	Brick, NJ	443	4.80
				59.41

5. Barnegat Bay

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight
1st	Lou Alfonso	Whiting, NJ Lanoka Harbor, NJ	287	9.60
2nd	Rich Pasko		353	9.04
3rd	Tom Patierino	Brick, NJ	197	5.80
4th	Walter Schacht	Beachwood, NJ	458	5.71
5th	Lance Erwin	Toms River, NJ	523	5.36
6th	Rae Anne Walker	Jackson, NJ Seaside Park, NJ	457	4.91
7th	Gary Fecak		149	4.80
8th	Peter Bell	Hamilton, NJ	482	4.41
9th	John Harlop	Garfield, NJ Forked River, NJ	195	3.88
10th	Keith Rylak		359	3.75
				57.26

6. Long Beach Island

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight		Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight
1st	Tom Pasko	Summerset, NJ	62	9.06	1st	Marc Olivastri	Philadelphia, PA	125	4.88
2nd	Daniel, Boden	Chadsworth, NJ	386	5.32	2nd	Jim Romer	Egg Harbor, NJ	387	4.86
3rd	Steve Lutz	Pemberton, NJ	152	4.40	3rd	Bill Simmerman	Mamora, NJ	60	4.41
4th	Ed Cherry	Waretown, NJ	415	4.08	4th	Rich Hennessy	Vineland, NJ	711	4.29
5th	David Elbertson	Forked River, NJ	481	4.04	5th	Ed Kubowski Jr	Langhorn, PA	253	4.25
6th	Steve Scalera	Whitehouse Station, NJ	559	3.64	6th	Richard Vagnoni	Natboro, PA	491	4.09
7th	Bob Lefebvre	Barnegat, NJ	187	3.42	7th	Robert Campbell	Deptford, NJ	77	4.04
8th	Jason Czarnik	Manahawkin, NJ	421	3.30	8th	William Coulter Jr	Morrisville, PA	3	4.04
9th	Paul Schell	Barnegat, NJ	435	3.16	9th	Craig Nelson	Chesterfield, NJ	95	4.32
10th	Robert Freyer	Cliffwood, NJ	545	3.00	10th	Donna Palmer	Aston, PA	579	3.49
				43.42					42.67

9. Ocean City

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight
1st	Marc Olivastri	Philadelphia, PA	125	4.88
2nd	Jim Romer	Egg Harbor, NJ	387	4.86
3rd	Bill Simmerman	Mamora, NJ	60	4.41
4th	Rich Hennessy	Vineland, NJ	711	4.29
5th	Ed Kubowski Jr	Langhorn, PA	253	4.25
6th	Richard Vagnoni	Natboro, PA	491	4.09
7th	Robert Campbell	Deptford, NJ	77	4.04
8th	William Coulter Jr	Morrisville, PA	3	4.04
9th	Craig Nelson	Chesterfield, NJ	95	4.32
10th	Donna Palmer	Aston, PA	579	3.49
				42.67

7. Great Bay

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight		Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight
1st	Joseph Crist	Dividing Creek, NJ	265	8.77	1st	Robbie Grap	Gibbstown, NJ	628	6.26
2nd	Lee Webb	Little Egg Harbor, NJ	290	6.62	2nd	Leo Kamertz	Phoenixville, PA	623	6.10
3rd	William Wilcox	Little Egg Harbor, NJ	231	6.27	3rd	Joe Sear	Bellmawr, NJ	140	4.33
4th	Mike Vanderstine	Bensalem, PA	547	5.74	4th	Ken Hornbeck	Atco, NJ	560	3.99
5th	Peter Tilstra	Milford, NJ	122	5.15	5th	Tom Dunleavy	Port Norris, NJ	5	3.75
6th	Bryon Haslam	Little Egg Harbor, NJ	456	4.97	6th	Scott O'Rourke	Waterford, NJ	612	3.69
7th	Rick Sulivan	Browns Mills, NJ	273	4.81	7th	Al Nagoiano	Voorhees, NJ	470	3.65
8th	David Brown	Crosswicks, NJ	630	4.39	8th	Carl Haines	West Berlin, NJ	129	3.58
9th	Richard Boyle	Little Egg Harbor, NJ	214	4.27	9th	Mike Krajicek	Cape May Courthouse	90	3.15
10th	Bob Montague	Philadelphia, PA	302	4.25	10th	Jason Daunaros	Cedar Brook, NJ	726	3.11
				55.24					41.61

11. Cape May

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight
1st	James Broso	Philadelphia, PA	712	6.58
2nd	Tony Sabo	Philadelphia, PA	411	6.25
3rd	Dennis Molette	Turnersville, NJ	664	6.10
4th	Chris Parson	Cape May, NJ	702	5.23
5th	Bill Hadik	Waterford, NJ	678	5.17
6th	Steve London	Holland, PA	658	5.10
7th	George Slabodjian	Twin Oaks, PA	145	4.52
8th	Ed Lang	N. Cape May, NJ	108	4.46
9th	Ed Rust	Cherry Hill, NJ	298	4.18
10th	Tom Riess	Riverton, NJ	2	4.05
				51.64

38.14

12. Fortescue

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight
1st	James Woodson	Philadelphia, PA	262	5.31
2nd	Chuck Fox	Millville, NJ	578	5.06
3rd	Josh Trainer	Gibbstown, NJ	476	4.69
4th	Chris Kuhn Donna	Pine Hill, NJ Franklinville, NJ	534	3.94
5th	Gomeringer	Franklinville, NJ	300	3.94
6th	William Munyan	Elmer, NJ West Deptford, NJ	106	3.75
7th	Keith Wilson	Eldora, NJ	209	3.69
8th	Walt Sutton	Philadelphia, PA	335	3.63
9th	Frank Piccolo	Philadelphia, PA	533	3.38
10th	Robert Strimel	Philadelphia, PA	373	3.13
		Total Weight/Length		40.51
				624.59

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By John Toth

right. When he brought it up, the fish swallowed his rig and the rig of his colleague Jim Beninato! Dan also told me that he has never seen a fish take two rigs at once throughout his fishing career! I guess that there is a first time for everything! Dan Plenzo and his crew ended up taking 8th place in my port.

At the time of this writing, I am looking forward to our Gala Awards Ceremony at the Trump Marina Casino. We had about 1,700 anglers and their friends in the Grand Ballroom last year to see the winners from each port receive their prizes and of course, have a chance to win the many door prizes and the grand prize of the Yamaha Center Console with the Yamaha 4 stroke engine and the LoadRite trailer to take it away! This is truly a grand event and not many organizations can hold an event that is so classy and one that is loaded with prizes for the taking. Hope you had the opportunity to attend it.

The JCAA Fluke Tournament is our major fundraiser and your support means so much to us! In spite of the gas prices, more anglers decided to enter our tournament than we expected and that means so much to us! **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!**

Pots Off the Reefs – Important !!!!! – I have been advised by Anthony Mauro, NJ Outdoor Alliance's Chairman, that the Alliance and its lobbyist (which the JCAA has helped to fund) has been meeting with legislators and especially Assemblyman Fisher to get the Pots Bill voted on or posted in their respective chambers. While we now have the momentum on this issue, I have been advised by Anthony Mauro that anglers are not sending in emails and letters to Assemblyman Fisher and Senator President Codey that we want the Pot Bill posted and voted on. **We cannot get this bill passed if we do not make our voices heard!** We especially have the momentum since funding for these reefs that come through the Dingell –Johnson Fishing Restoration Program stipulate that traps set on these reefs cannot interfere with hook and line activities. Accordingly, the commercial traps on the reefs are violating the spirit of this law and New Jersey is in jeopardy of losing federal funding for its fishing activities and NJ may even have to reimburse the Federal Government monies for the time period it has been out of compliance! Due to this development, NJ DEP has come out in total support of our bills to take traps off the reefs! Not to long ago, the NJ DEP wanted a sharing agreement of the reefs with recreational and commercial interests, but not any more.

Immediately after the 13th Annual Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony, JCAA's Tournament Committee began planning for the 14th Annual. The Tournament is one of the largest in the United States. Many thanks go to Phil Celmer, Tournament Director, Tom Fote, Rich Pasko, Bruce Smith, Ed Cherry, Frank Richetti, Mark Taylor, Al and Don Marantz, Pat Donnelly, Philip Vincent Celmer Greg Kucharewski, Dr. Eleanor Bochenek - all who volunteer so much of their time and Eileen Smith who worked tirelessly for the JCAA Tournament. Also, many thanks to the volunteers who stopped by and put in a few hours to help our office staff. There were mailings to be done, T shirts order's to fill and registration for all tournament anglers. Thanks again!

JCAA volunteer Jim Galanaugh Sr. and I, were weigh masters at Clark's Marina on June 14th and what an exciting time we had! Approximately 107 boats were registered to come into this port to weigh their fish. Many nice fish were weighed and the first place winner was about 7 and ½ pounds. Two anglers (Dan Plenzo and Jim Beninato) told me that the fluke they caught (a 5.05 lb. fluke) took both of their rigs! Dan, an experienced angler for many years, told me that he had a 10 inch squid on his rig and when the fish hit, he said it did not feel quite

So write to your legislators and especially Assemblyman Fisher and Senator Codey and tell them to support these bills. We all know that the traps dot the reefs and should not be there, but now they are in violation of Federal legislation that prohibits anything on the reefs that interfere with hook and line fishing. Their information follows.

(Bill S-336) Send your letter or FAX to:
Honorable Senate President Richard Codey
449 Mount Pleasant Avenue
West Orange, NJ 07052
(973) 731-6770 **FAX** (973) 731-0647
sencodey@njleg.org

(Bill A-1519) Send your letter or FAX to:
Assemblyman Douglas Fisher
14 East Commerce Street, 3rd Floor
Bridgeton, NJ 08302
(856) 455-1011 **FAX** (856) 455-2853
asmfisher@njleg.org

No Meetings during July and August – Reminder
– During **July** and **August**, most anglers are fishing since that is what we are supposed to do, or either we are on vacation with our family and friends. Consequently, there will be **no General meetings** at our usual Brick meeting location during these months. However, your Executive Board will still meet during June and August since our fishing management problems and issues do not go away. We will be expecting some indication where we stand on fluke issues with the Stock Assessment Workshop meeting that will be held at Woods Hole, MA toward the latter part of June. Most likely there will be follow up issues on this workshop that we will have to monitor and address. We will keep you informed through your JCAA newsletter. **So have a good summer and see you in September as the song goes!**

Caucus Breakfast and the annual meeting of the Marine Fish Conservation Network. In addition to the meetings, I met with Congressman Saxton and his staff, Congressman Pallone and his staff, Senator Lautenberg's staff and Senator Menendez's staff. Those meetings were all very productive. Summer flounder, endocrine disruptors and funding for NMFS stock assessment research were all topics we discussed. At the receptions I met with staff from many Congressional Offices and also commercial and recreational representatives from other national and state-wide organizations. Over the years our presence in Washington DC and the credibility that accompanies the JCAA name has gained us access that is unparalleled in the fishing community. When I am in DC, I am asked to meet with legislators and staff from around the country, not just New Jersey. JCAA collaboration is also sought by many recreational and commercial groups from around the country.

One common realization that occurs in all of these discussions is the lack of credible science used by NMFS in decision making. Just talk with Dr. Eric Powell, Emerson Hasbrouck, Bruce Freeman and Dr. Mark Maunder who attended the summer flounder benchmark meetings. They tell us that there are so many holes in the available data that NMFS is basing their decisions on assumptions rather than on facts. As JCAA has stated for some time, the lack of valid research data is the main problem in developing appropriate management measures. What is truly scary is that NMFS holds out summer flounder as one of the fisheries that has an abundance of research. If this is their "poster boy" species, we are in real trouble everywhere else. This lack of science only proves again that our federal legislators must stop passing unfunded mandates and pay for the necessary science. President Bush and the previous Congress passed the Magnusson Stevens Act without providing the funding to cover the mandates. If you expect to have fisheries management plans and set specific rebuilding timelines, you need to have the appropriate valid data. In my discussions with our legislators and their staffs and with the environmental, recreational and commercial groups, I raise this issue time and time again. We need to hold Congress accountable to adequately fund fisheries research so we have the necessary data to manage each species. I believe the minimum starting point is a 60 million dollar yearly

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Thomas Fote

June was another month that I spent at least a week on the road. This time it was in Washington DC for National Fishing Week. While in DC I attended the Recreational Fishing and Boating Foundation and ASA Reception, the Congressional

appropriation strictly for data collection. I expect NMFS will be developing management plans for about 60 species nationwide with limited or no data. If NMFS' decisions on the other 60 species follow the same pattern as summer flounder, we may see many of these species totally shut down. The President and Congress cannot allow this to happen. That's one of the main reasons I spend so much time for JCAA in Washington DC building the coalitions necessary to deal with funding issues.

Pots off the Reefs

Glenn Arthur, Chairman of the NJCDC, shared this North Carolina House Bill153 with the members of Reef Rescue. North Carolina had a companion bill in their Senate. This bill is even stricter than the bill currently pending in New Jersey. The North Carolina Bill calls for no commercial fishing operation within 1,000 yards of an artificial reef marking device placed by the NC Division of Marine Fisheries. John Toth discusses where we are with the NJ in the President's article. We will be looking at many options to ensure passage of this bill. I have spent much time in Trenton in the past few months just working on this bill. Again, JCAA is a member of the Reef Rescue coalition and has been encouraging support from other interested groups beyond the Reef Rescue membership. I was pleased that, at JCAA's request, other groups were willing to testify in support of the bill at the recent Senate hearing. JCAA will participate at a rally on June 24th sponsored by Senator Sean Kean in support of this bill. Since JCAA has no summer meetings, we will post information regularly on our webpage, jcaa.org. We will also keep you informed via email. If you are not on JCAA's email list, send me an email and I will add you to the list.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO PROHIBIT COMMERCIAL FISHING NEAR ARTIFICIAL REEFS WITHIN THREE NAUTICAL MILES OF THE SHORELINE OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) As used in this section, the term "commercial fishing operation" has the same meaning as in G.S.113-168.

SECTION 1.(b) The Division of Marine Fisheries shall mark all artificial reefs within three nautical miles of the Atlantic Ocean shoreline in that area east of a line beginning at a point onshore at the

border between North Carolina and South Carolina at 33° 51.0667'N – 78° 32.5833'W; running southeasterly three nautical miles to a point offshore at 33° 48.8342'N – 78° 29.8494'W; and south of a line beginning at a point onshore at the border between Brunswick County and New Hanover County at 33° 55.8833'N – 77° 56.2000'W; then running southeasterly three nautical miles to a point offshore at 33° 54.5735'N – 77° 52.7184'W with a readily identifiable artificial reef marking device. The Division shall place the artificial reef marking device as near the center of the artificial reef as feasible.

SECTION 1.(c) It shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person to engage in a commercial fishing operation within 1,000 yards of an artificial reef marking device placed by the Division of Marine Fisheries as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

SECTION 2. This act becomes effective December 1, 2008, and applies to all offenses committed on or after that date.

Summer Flounder

JCAA and Garden State Seafood have provided funding to the Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science Inc. to send Dr. Eric Powell, Emerson Hasbrouck, and Bruce Freeman to the meetings for the summer flounder benchmark assessment in Woods Hole. In addition, Dr. Mark Maunder is being paid by SSFFF. They are providing an independent scientific review of the data available. They are uncovering multiple gaps in the data that is used for decision making. Their input is proving invaluable. The upcoming review process is very complex and doesn't take place in public. We don't know how the review team appointed by NMFS will choose to evaluate the data and make recommendations to the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council. Once the benchmark is completed, which is where the public has an opportunity to make suggestions and recommendations, the review team moves behind closed doors, out of the sight of the people most affected by their decisions, and has total authority to adopt or ignore all the recommendations made during the benchmark assessment. They've obviously never heard of the "Sunshine Law" and in the past, have totally ignored the negative impact of their decisions. JCAA's concerns are specifically

about summer flounder but more generally about the arbitrary and secretive nature of the process. We are in the process of developing a set of recommendations to bring to Congress to discuss necessary changes in the process. If we are stuck with the Magnusson/Stevens Act, at least we need for the review process to be more transparent and more responsive to the public.

Endocrine Disruptors and Wildlife

The other issue frequently discussed when I visit our federal and state legislators are the impact of endocrine disruptors. Because of the work of JCAA, sharing research accumulated from many different studies, we have raised awareness at the state and federal level. The more information we have, the more it becomes obvious that endocrine disruptors, through sewer discharges, are having an impact on fisheries stocks. All we have to do is look at a recent study on winter flounder in Jamaica Bay. Above the sewer plant the male and female populations of winter flounder are roughly equivalent. Below the sewer plant, females outnumber males dramatically and we are finding some fish with both sexes. In the Jamaica Bay study we find female/male at 12 or 13/1. And the males they are studying have female genes as well. We have talked about the small mouth bass in the Potomac River and now Chesapeake Bay where we find some males are laying eggs. By the time you receive your August JCAA Newspaper, there will have been a Congressional Hearing on this issue. I will keep you informed. We are also working on some NJ bills to find a way to keep expired drugs from being flushed into the sewer system. Endocrine disruptors extend well beyond drugs into many products we use every day including personal care items and detergents.

State Backs Reefs Effort **Star Ledger** **Al Ristori Thursday, June 12, 2008**

Anglers and divers have been greatly encouraged by word from Division of Fish and Wildlife Director Dave Chanda that the state is supporting the effort to pass legislation that would protect artificial reefs by limiting fishing gear to hook and line or spear.

Not only will the state support the effort to protect reefs within state waters, but Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Lisa Jackson will also comply with the proposed legislation's request that she apply to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council for similar protection on the 13 reefs that lie in federal waters.

The only hold-up now is in the legislative process as the Assembly bill must be scheduled for a hearing -- and the Senate bill, that long ago was approved in committee, has yet to be scheduled for a vote.

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies **Policy Statement on Marine Protected** **Areas**

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association) represents all state fish and wildlife agencies regarding the conservation and management of fish and wildlife resources. Many of the member agencies have statutory management responsibilities for marine fish and the Association has a long history of assisting with the development of marine policy, regulations, and legislation including the recent re-authorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

The Association policy regarding Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) to be considered by NOAA and other Federal and state governmental entities is:

- The Association expects a transparent, data-driven and science-based process for establishing MPA's. Clearly defined goals, coordination mechanisms, stakeholder input opportunities, and accountability measures are vital in order to obtain support and appreciation for MPA's from the fishing community. In addition, the Association urges NOAA and USFWS to be strongly guided by input from the eight Fishery Management Councils which already consider MPA's through their management plan processes when establishing federal MPA's.
- When MPA's are being considered, the Association believes that government entities should evaluate opportunities for maintaining sustainably managed fishing opportunities within MPA's. Low impact harvest strategies, like hook and line trolling, do provide fish stock and

habitat protection which significantly reduce the necessity of having MPA's closed to all fishing. In addition, the Association believes fishery objectives or stock recovery targets should be established, with concomitant monitoring, so regulated fishing can be reinstated in those instances when it was necessary to close fishing at the outset.

- It is a long-standing policy of state and federal governments to allow the use of public lands and waters for purposes consistent with sound conservation. This policy is imbedded in the principles of our state and federal managed lands and should be considered in any decision to implement MPA's – especially no-take areas.

In summary, due consideration should be given to the economic, societal, and cultural values derived from the Nation's marine resources during the deliberation on MPA's. Any final determinations should be science based and developed in an open public process. The Association recognizes the important role of fishing, e.g. the recreational angler, in fisheries conservation as both a data source and a key element in funding state fishery conservation efforts. Providing fishing opportunity maintains the model under which this nation supports marine fishery resource management efforts.

Approved by the Association Membership on March 28, 2008

Synthetic Estrogen Threatens Small Fish
February 25, 2008
(From Water & Wastewater News)

After an exhaustive seven-year research effort, Canadian biologists found that minuscule amounts of estrogen present in municipal wastewater discharges can decimate wild fish populations living downstream.

The research, led by Karen Kidd, Ph.D., a biology professor at the University of New Brunswick (Saint John) and the Canadian Rivers Institute, confirms that synthetic estrogen used in birth control pills can wreak havoc on the sex lives of fish. Small amounts of estrogen are excreted naturally by women whether or not they are taking birth control pills.

Male fish exposed to estrogen become feminized, producing egg protein normally synthesized by females. In female fish, estrogen often retards normal sexual maturation, including egg production.

"We've known for some time that estrogen can adversely affect the reproductive health of fish, but ours was the first study to show the long-term impact on the sustainability of wild fish populations," Kidd said "What we demonstrated is that estrogen can wipe out entire populations of small fish -- a key food source for larger fish whose survival could in turn be threatened over the longer term."

Estrogen is part of a broader class of sex-changing chemical compounds known as endocrine disrupting substances. These contaminants, also present in pulp mill effluents, can seriously interfere with normal hormonal processes, notes Kidd.

To better understand the impacts of estrogen on fish, the researchers conducted a seven-year, whole-lake study at the Experimental Lakes Area in northwestern Ontario. Over three summers, they added tiny amounts -- low parts per trillion -- of the synthetic estrogen used in birth control pills to the lake to recreate concentrations measured in municipal wastewater.

During that period, they observed that chronic exposure to estrogen led to the near extinction of the lake's fathead minnow population as well significant declines in larger fish, such as pearl dace and lake trout." Generally, the smaller the fish, the more vulnerable they are to estrogen," remarks Kidd.

Part of the reason, she adds, is that smaller fish have a shorter lifespan and will often die after reproducing only once.

The researchers used synthetic estrogen because it tends to persist longer in the environment than natural estrogens. Yet the problem with estrogen is not its environmental persistence but rather its persistent discharge in municipal wastewater into surface waters.

Kidd says the risk is greatest for aquatic ecosystems downstream from municipalities that either discharge untreated wastewater or maintain only primary treatment facilities. On the flipside, the problem is of less concern near cities that remove a wide range of chemical contaminants, including estrogens, from wastewater using secondary and tertiary treatment processes.

It is now understood, she says, that removing estrogen through wastewater treatment can reverse the adverse impact of this substance/hormone on wild fish. In fact, three years after halting additions of synthetic estrogen to the experimental lake, the researchers discovered that the fathead minnow population was on the rebound. "To me, that's the good news. Once you take the stressor out the system, we now have ample evidence that suggests affected fish populations will recover."

[note: the study can be found at
<http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/full/104/21/8897?m=extshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMATX=&fulltext=karen+kidd&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&resourcetype=HWCIT>]

Little done to test, limit contaminated water

By Jeff Donn, Martha Mendoza And Justin Pritchard, Associated Press Writers

PHILADELPHIA — Just a century ago, this historic city notched by the Delaware and Schuylkill treated these rivers as public sewers, but few cared until the waters ran black with stinking filth that spread cholera and typhoid. Today, municipal drinking water is cleansed of germs — but not drugs.

Traces of 56 human and veterinary pharmaceuticals or their byproducts — like the active ingredients in medicines for pain, infection, high cholesterol, asthma, epilepsy, mental illness and heart problems — have been detected in Philadelphia's drinking water. Starting their winding journey in medicine cabinets and feed bins, they are what's left of drugs excreted or discarded from homes and washed from farms upriver.

Is Philadelphia worried? Not so far. Tens of millions of Americans here and elsewhere drink water that has tested positive for minute concentrations of pharmaceuticals, and they don't even realize it, The Associated Press learned during a five-month investigation.

Though U.S. waterways coast to coast are contaminated with residues of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, there's no national strategy to deal with them — no effective mandates to test, treat, limit or even advise the public.

Benjamin H. Grumbles, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's assistant administrator for water, told the AP the agency recognizes that this contamination in water supplies is a growing concern and that government has some catching up to do: "Our position is there needs to be more searching, more analysis."

He said the EPA has launched a four-pronged approach: to identify the extent of the problem, to "identify what we don't know and close the gap," to take steps using existing science and regulatory tools, and finally, to increase dialogue and awareness with water providers and state and local agencies.

But none of those goals has any regulatory firepower.

Some researchers, environmentalists, health professionals, water managers and bureaucrats say it's time for government to do more.

"The onus has been on the scientific community to provide the research, but at this point the evidence is conclusive," says U.S. Geological Survey scientist Steven Goodbred, who has studied carp in drug-tainted waters. "Now it's up to the public and policymakers to decide what they want to do about it."

Yet water regulators are barely budging:

The government has set no national standards for how much of any pharmaceutical is too much in waterways or taps. Drugs in the environment are "not currently a priority" of the National Center for Environmental Health, says spokesman Charles L. Green, at its parent U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Though the Food and Drug Administration can review the environmental impact of new drugs, it has never rejected one on this basis, according to Raanan Bloom, an FDA environmental officer. Most pharmaceuticals are excluded from environmental review on the basis of their presumed low concentrations in water.

Even though residues of many types of prescription and over-the-counter drugs have been discovered in scores of watersheds and drinking water systems nationwide, the EPA says it awaits more survey data before considering action. The agency has little information "that goes into whether these substances are occurring in the environment ... and at what level," says Suzanne Rudzinski, a manager at EPA's Office of Water.

But even when the EPA says it's taking action, little is accomplished. The agency analyzed 287 pharmaceuticals for inclusion on a draft list of contaminants to be considered for regulation. Only one, nitroglycerin, which can be used as a drug for heart problems, has been nominated. Asked to explain, an EPA spokesman acknowledged the primary reason for inclusion was its use in making explosives.

Though pharmaceutical sales are rising, plants that cleanse sewage or drinking water are not required to remove drugs. They aren't even required to monitor for them.

When contacted directly by the AP, many water utilities confirmed whether they had tested for the presence of pharmaceuticals in their water. But federal agencies and industry groups declined to identify the cities and treatment plants where traces of

pharmaceuticals had been found during independent studies, citing confidentiality concerns.

Philadelphia has found more pharmaceuticals in its source and drinking waters than any of the other 61 big water providers surveyed by the AP. It tested for more drugs and byproducts than other utilities — a total of 72 — and it found 56, or three-quarters of those checked, in its drinking water. It found 63 — almost 90% of those checked — in its source waters. More study is planned.

However, water managers detected scant concentrations similar to other places, suggesting they found so much largely because they tested for a larger list of pharmaceuticals — not necessarily because their watersheds are more contaminated. David A. Katz, a deputy water commissioner for the city, said the water was tested so heavily out of vigilance: "We choose to know; we choose to look."

Under no obligation to tell, Philadelphia keeps it quiet when tests show that drugs have reached its drinking water, the AP found. Philadelphia Water Department spokeswoman Laura Copeland provided the findings for an AP survey but added: "We don't want to create any perception where people would be alarmed."

John Muldowney, who oversees the city's three drinking water treatment plants, said no immediate upgrades are planned to filter out pharmaceuticals. "Based just on the data that's available now ... we would be risking spending a lot of money, a lot of public funds, for very little health benefit," he explained.

Government leaders seem largely to share that attitude. "We're not really doing anything on this right now," says a spokesman for U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., though he has earmarked funds in the past to study environmental drugs in his state.

Congress held hearings in 2006 on endocrine-disrupting compounds after researchers discovered that the Potomac River, dotted with sewage treatment plants, contains feminized male bass which create egg yolk proteins, a process usually restricted to females. But the hearings produced no new proposals.

In Boston, drug makers, state representatives and water managers have been grinding through their third year trying to craft a compromise approach to dealing with the problem on a national scale. Scott Cassel, director of the Product Stewardship Institute, which is hosting the dialogue, says controlling waterborne pharmaceuticals will make the disposal of old computers "seem simple by comparison."

"There's definitely a growing movement and a growing concern, but at this point there isn't a lot of direction from the federal government," adds Susan Frechette, a policy expert at the institute.

Grumbles, the EPA's top water pollution official, said the agency has embarked on four studies specific to the presence of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in wastewater and fish tissue. One "national

study," expected to be completed next year, will look at the inflow and outflow at nine sewage plants; another will study sludge from 74 randomly selected sewage treatment plants.

The fish tissue study will focus on five streams where the flow primarily originates at a sewage treatment plant.

Just two months ago the agency developed three new methods to detect and quantify about 160 different pharmaceuticals and personal care products, including steroids and hormones, in wastewater and sewage sludge, Grumbles said.

A year ago, the federal government put out its first consumer guidelines for discarding leftover or expired medicines. The goal was to slow the flow of drugs flushed down the toilet. Though Grumbles acknowledged that human excretions are the major factor in spreading pharmaceuticals through the waste stream, he said it is important for all Americans to realize "the toilet is not a trash can."

But the guidelines immediately drew criticism from some environmentalists, water treatment experts and pharmaceutical researchers who say they are contradictory, confusing, and don't solve the problem.

The guidelines say that about a dozen specific drugs should still be flushed down the toilet to keep others from finding and abusing them. The rest should be mixed with something unsavory like coffee grounds and tossed into the trash. That just moves the problem, though: The drugs end up at landfills, where they can slowly seep into the groundwater.

The EPA is also engaged in a national study — expected to be completed by the end of the summer — to examine how long-term health care facilities and nursing homes dispose of pharmaceuticals.

"We don't really know what to do with waste pharmaceuticals," acknowledges Laura Brannen, executive director of the professional group Hospitals for a Healthy Environment.

The government barely oversees drugs spilled or tossed by hospitals and drug makers. Discharge limits for drug makers concentrate on chemicals used in manufacturing, not the drugs themselves; Virginia Cunningham, an environmental executive at drug maker GlaxoSmithKline PLC, says the industry spills very little of the drugs that turn up in waterways.

At hospitals, the EPA flags about three dozen specific drugs as hazardous waste. Though their dangers are acknowledged, the rules for special disposal have been casually observed, according to environmental specialists in the industry. They say many hospitals still dump some of those hazardous pharmaceuticals into their other garbage.

Also, the list hasn't been updated for years and ignores scores of troublesome newer drugs, including toxic chemotherapy agents.

"It has not been practical or economical to keep pace with the large number of pharmaceuticals developed, approved ... and marketed each year," explains EPA spokeswoman Roxanne Smith.

And what of the drug waste generated by millions of U.S. households? It's exempt from these rules. The EPA again says it would be impractical to act.

In fairness, even those pressing for action realize that regulators must strike a hard balance between potential benefits and costs. Several recent studies indicate that even very dilute pharmaceuticals can harm human cells, but scientists are still unsure if there's a significant health risk from drinking water with trace drugs.

Environmental standards focus on better-understood contaminants from disease-causing germs to manmade dioxins. The government also is pondering a raft of newly identified water contaminants in many products from cosmetics to vitamins — not just in pharmaceuticals.

The government has tried to narrow the focus of much of its drugs-in-water research to powerful hormones that orchestrate reproduction and development and omnipresent antibiotics that strengthen the very germs in the environment that they're meant to kill in the body.

"This is a complex issue because each and every one of us is a part of this problem. But there's no doubt we need a new standard of wastewater treatment. If the limits were there, believe me when I say it could be done," argues environmental toxicologist Greg Moller, at the University of Idaho.

As with global warming, some cities and states have tried to forge ahead, even without strong federal direction. Small pilot programs and one-day pickups of unused drugs have popped up in the Northeast, California, Washington state, Florida, and elsewhere.

Maine is preparing to accept unwanted pharmaceuticals on a grander scale. The federal and state governments have split the \$300,000 cost to launch a four-county trial in coming months. Pharmaceutical buyers will take home prepaid mailers to send drug leftovers to a way station, where most will be picked up for transport to incinerators. Organizers intend eventually to roll out the program statewide.

Drug pollution stirs more anxiety in Europe, Canada and Australia, and officials in those places have acted more aggressively to reclaim unused drugs. A French program recaptured about 6,500 tons at drugstores in 2005, managers estimate. Two-thirds of the French say they participate, according to one poll.

That program is run by Jacques Aumonier, an environmental officer for Cephalon, Inc., a Pennsylvania-based biopharmaceuticals firm. He said pharmaceutical levels in water may be modest now, "but with more and more drug use, it can become more important."

Some researchers and activists want to catch and stop drugs from entering waterways at both types of water treatment plants — those for sewage and for drinking water. Standard techniques allow many to slip through, research shows. It seems possible to remove virtually all detectable pharmaceutical traces with an advanced treatment known as reverse osmosis, and hotter incinerators also could burn more drugs.

But all that is viewed as too expensive and maybe unnecessary, at least until the threat is better understood.

"When there's no regulation or limit, and no evidence of human health impacts, it's very hard to justify putting in energy and money to test for it," said Shane Snyder, research and development project manager at the Southern Nevada Water Authority in Las Vegas. Never mind spending much more to remove it.

Some critics want drug companies to design medicines that break down more easily into safer byproducts. "In the long run ... we can at least make some of the compounds greener," says chemist Klaus Kuemmerer, at the University of Freiburg Medical Center in Germany.

However, that would come "a distant third" after designing drugs for effectiveness and safety, says Cunningham of GlaxoSmithKline.

In coming years, public pressure is likely to grow, as more pharmaceuticals find their way into less water. Drug use is expanding in many countries, and more communities will need to recycle treated wastewater for drinking to cope with increased demand, drought, and global warming.

At the same time, today's chemical tests that reveal pollutants in parts per trillion will no doubt be able to detect even finer levels in the future. The added knowledge may not equal bliss, though.

"There isn't such a thing as 100% pure water," said EPA scientist Christian Daughton, one of the first to sound warnings over pharmaceutical pollution. "Yet people have a tough time with the idea that water contains all kinds of chemicals."

Fish, Wildlife Affected by Contaminated Water

By Jeff Doon, Martha Mendoza and Justin Pritchard, Associated Press writers

LAKE MEAD, Nev. — On this brisk, glittering morning, a flat-bottomed boat glides across the massive reservoir that provides Las Vegas its drinking water. An ominous rumble growls beneath the craft as its two long, electrified claws extend into the depths. Moments later, dozens of stunned fish float to the surface.

Federal scientists scoop them up and transfer them into 50-quart Coleman ice chests for transport to a makeshift lab on the dusty lakeshore. Within the hour, the

researchers will club the seven-pound common carps to death, draw their blood, snip out their gonads and pack them in aluminum foil and dry ice.

The specimens will be flown across the country to laboratories where aquatic toxicologists are studying what happens to fish that live in water contaminated with at least 13 different medications — from over-the-counter pain killers to prescription antibiotics and mood stabilizers.

More often than not these days, the laboratory tests bring unwelcome results.

A five-month Associated Press investigation has determined that trace amounts of many of the pharmaceuticals we take to stay healthy are seeping into drinking water supplies, and a growing body of research indicates that this could harm humans.

But people aren't the only ones who consume that water. There is more and more evidence that some animals that live in or drink from streams and lakes are seriously affected.

Pharmaceuticals in the water are being blamed for severe reproductive problems in many types of fish: The endangered razorback sucker and male fathead minnow have been found with lower sperm counts and damaged sperm; some walleyes and male carp have become what are called feminized fish, producing egg yolk proteins typically made only by females.

Meanwhile, female fish have developed male genital organs. Also, there are skewed sex ratios in some aquatic populations, and sexually abnormal bass that produce cells for both sperm and eggs.

There are problems with other wildlife as well: kidney failure in vultures, impaired reproduction in mussels, inhibited growth in algae.

"We have no reason to think that this is a unique situation," says Erik Orsak, an environmental contaminants specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pulling off rubber gloves splattered with fish blood at Lake Mead. "We find pretty much anywhere we look, these compounds are ubiquitous."

For example: In a broad study still underway, fish collected in waterways near or in Chicago; West Chester, Pa.; Orlando; Dallas; and Phoenix have tested positive for an array of pharmaceuticals — analgesics, antibiotics, antidepressants, antihistamines, anti-hypertension drugs and anti-seizure medications.

That research follows a 2003 study in northern Texas, where every bluegill, black crappie and channel catfish researchers caught living downstream of a wastewater treatment plant tested positive for the active ingredients in two widely used antidepressants — one of the first times the residues of such drugs were detected in wildlife.

In several recent studies of soil fertilized with livestock manure or with the sludge product from wastewater treatment plants, American scientists found earthworms had accumulated those same compounds, while

vegetables — including corn, lettuce and potatoes — had absorbed antibiotics. "These results raise potential human health concerns," wrote researchers.

Blood and liver samples of bull sharks in Florida's Caloosahatchee River, a nursery area for juvenile bull sharks and home to six wastewater treatment plants, are being tested for the presence of an array of medications this winter. Of the first ten sharks sampled, nine tested positive for the active ingredient in an antidepressant.

And in Colorado's Boulder Creek, 50 of the 60 white suckers collected downstream of Boulder's wastewater treatment plant were female, compared to about half of them upstream.

Elsewhere in the world — from the icy streams of England to the wild game reserves of South Africa — snails, fish, even antelope, are showing signs of possible pharmaceutical contamination. For example, fish and prawn in China exposed to treated wastewater had shortened life spans, Pacific oysters off the coast of Singapore had inhibited growth, and in Norway, Atlantic salmon exposed to levels of estrogen similar to those found in the North Sea had severe reproductive problems.

More than 100 different pharmaceuticals have been detected in surface waters throughout the world.

"It's inescapable," said Sudeep Chandra, an assistant professor at University of Nevada, Reno who studies inland waters and aquatic life. "There's enough global information now to confirm these contaminants are affecting organisms and wildlife."

While some researchers have captured wildlife and tested it for pharmaceuticals, many more have brought wildlife into their laboratories and exposed them to traces of human pharmaceuticals at levels similar to those found in water, aquatic plants and animals.

The results have been troubling.

Freshwater mussels exposed to tiny amounts of an antidepressant's active ingredient released premature larvae, giving the next generation lower odds of survival; in a separate lab study, the antidepressant also stunted reproduction in tiny fresh water mud snails.

When researchers slid hydras — a tiny polyp that under a microscope looks like a slender jellyfish — into water tainted with minute amounts of pharmaceuticals, their mouths, feet and tentacles stopped growing. While the hydras are minuscule, the implications are grave: Chronic exposure to trace levels of commonly found pharmaceuticals can damage a species at the foundation of a food pyramid.

Tiny zooplankton, another sentinel species, died off in the lab when they were exposed to extremely small amounts of a common drug used to treat humans suffering from internal worms and other digesting parasites.

In a landmark, seven-year study published last year, researchers turned an entire pristine Canadian lake into their laboratory, deliberately dripping the active

ingredient in birth control pills into the water in amounts similar to those found to have contaminated aquatic life, plants and water in nature.

After just seven weeks, male fathead minnows began producing yolk proteins, their gonads shrank, and their behavior was feminized — they fought less, floating passively. They also stopped reproducing, resulting in "ultimately, a near extinction of this species from the lake," said the scientists.

While the Canadian study was prompted by human intervention, similar die-offs have occurred in the wild.

In Pakistan, the entire population of a common vulture virtually disappeared after the birds began eating carcasses of cows that had been treated with an anti-inflammatory drug. Scientists, in a 2004 study, said they eventually determined that the birds' kidneys were failing.

"The death of those vultures — the fact that you could get a complete collapse of a population due to pharmaceuticals in the environment — that was a powerful thing," said Christian Daughton, an EPA researcher in Las Vegas. "It was a major ecological catastrophe."

In November, at the annual Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry meeting in Milwaukee, 30 new studies related to pharmaceuticals in the environment were presented — hormones found in the Chicago River; abnormalities in Japanese zebra fish; ibuprofen, gemfibrozil, triclosan and naproxen in the lower Great Lakes.

Many of those studies refer to the heralded research at Lake Mead. There, on a recent morning, Steven Goodbred struggled to hold a large wriggling carp with both hands. On the outside, the carp looked fine, vibrant and strong, but the U.S. Geological Survey scientist assumed the worst.

"Typically we see low levels of sex steroids, limited testicular function, low sperm count, that kind of thing," he said slipping the fish into a holding tank and closing the lid. "We'll have to wait and see about this fellow."

These carp live, eat, reproduce and die at the mouth of what amounts to a 30-mile-long drainage system that starts within the toilets and sinks of the casinos, hotels and homes of Sin City.

Some 180 million gallons of effluent are discharged into the channel each day from three wastewater treatment plants. The daily sewage discharge is expected to increase to 400 million gallons a day by 2050.

The USGS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service tracked the channel from its origins, before the inflow from the sewage plants, to where it empties into Las Vegas Bay in the lake. Their findings: The amount of endocrine-disrupting compounds (including hormone

treatments and other chemicals affecting reproduction) increased more than 646 times.

Not far from the mouth of the drainage channel — amid the fishing boats and sightseeing tours — water is sucked into a long pipe, destined for a drinking water treatment plant, then Las Vegas — thus beginning the cycle all over again.

Other communities in Nevada, as well as locales in California and Arizona, also draw on Lake Mead.

"Lake Mead is a fortuitous worst-case scenario" for study, said environmental toxicologist Greg Moller, holding a bottle of Lake Mead water he planned to take back to his lab at the University of Idaho. "You've got the wastewater, you've got the documented impact on wildlife, and you have drinking water uptake."

Although more than eight million tourists, including 500,000 anglers, visit the reservoir annually, there are no warnings about the contaminants. No signs. No advisories.

That's not unusual. Scientists have been finding pharmaceuticals in hundreds of other public waterways across the nation and throughout the world — almost always without public fanfare, as documented in the AP investigation.

At the same time, scientists are looking for remedies. In Las Vegas, just off the Strip at the Desert Research Institute, microbial biologist Duane Moser optimistically held a tray of increasingly murky test tubes.

"We put a little bit of estrogen in here, and then we added a particular bacteria, and guess what? The bacteria are consuming the estrogen," he said. Someday, perhaps, scientists will be able to use these special bacteria to clean estrogen out of contaminated water.

"It's early, but it's promising," he said.

National Writer Martha Mendoza reported from Lake Mead, while writers Jeff Donn, based in Boston, and Justin Pritchard, based in Los Angeles, also contributed

Jersey Coast Anglers Association Youth Education Report By Greg Kucharewski

JCAA FLUKE TOURNAMENT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the JCAA membership volunteers, contestants, sponsors, and merchants that supported the JCAA Fluke Tournament. Funds from the Fluke Tournament help provide needed drug awareness literature, fishing equipment for disadvantaged youth, and aquatic education materials to promote environmental stewardship. The JCAA Youth Education/Drug Awareness program has grown over

the years and each year we teach as many as 4,000 children and their families, the joys of fishing. Our youth fishing program is highly recognized by the State of New Jersey and we support other state programs by demonstrating the use of partnership materials such as: the Future Fisherman Foundation's "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" program, National Fishing and Boating Week, and "Passport to Fishing and Boating." During the month of June, 2008, the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee provided fishing instruction and materials to several hundred families in Monmouth and Ocean county. Members of the JCAA Youth Education Committee and Vietnam Veterans of America, NJ Chapter 12, presented a fishing program for children that are temporarily homeless during National Fishing and Boating Week. Children learned how to safely fish from a boat, prepare for a boat trip, and how to properly adjust a life vest. Children also learned about National Fishing and Boating Week and how to take advantage of the many fishing and boating opportunities in Monmouth and Ocean County. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee supported this worthwhile event by providing "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" and "Passport to Fishing and Boating" packets for all the youngsters. If your fishing club or organization would like information about JCAA youth education seminars, please e-mail, Gkucharews@aol.com and if time allows we will help support your event.

SECOND REQUEST FOR LETTERS

Due lack of funding issues this year, the youth fishing derby season that generally takes place during the months of May through September will be suspended due to budget short falls and less staffing within the Division of Fish and Wildlife. This is a great disappointment to the many fishing clubs and organizations that depend on the support of the Division of Fish and Wildlife to assist with providing derbies and educational programs to New Jersey children and their families. We request letters be written to bring the Derby program back and give young anglers and their families the opportunity to experience the fun of participating in a fishing derby and learning about fish identification. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association will send a letter on behalf of its membership to reinstate the youth fishing derby for fiscal year 2009. Please address your letters to the JCAA, Youth Education

Committee, 1201 Highway 37 East, Toms River, NJ 08753. The letters will be forwarded to the State Office of Information and Education supporting the reinstatement of the youth fishing derbies provided by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

PRESS RELEASE

Weekday dates for group programming (<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/peqprog.htm>) at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center are still available for July and August. Groups with a minimum of 15 participants in grades 2 and up may schedule group programs. The basic program consists of a video about the hatchery followed by a guided tour. This program runs for two hours and can accommodate a maximum of 100 people. Fishing education classes are offered from April through October to groups with between 10 and 25 people. Classes cover safety, ethics, technique and equipment followed by an actual fishing experience on Pequest's trout stocked education pond. All equipment is provided, however, you must supply the bait. Groups may also combine the two programs for a four-hour education experience at the hatchery. The day will start off with the video and tour of the facility. After a break for lunch, the group and staff reconvene for the fishing education portion of the program. There are picnic facilities on the grounds, but no vending machines or indoor/sheltered eating facilities. Students will be outdoors for part of the program and should dress accordingly. Programs are conducted rain or shine and there are no rain dates. There are no fees charged for the programs. For further information or to schedule a program please call 908-637-4125.

BE SAFE-HAVE FUN-ENJOY FISHING

Greg Kucharewski, a member of the Shore Surf Club, is the J.C.A.A. Youth Education Director. If you would like to help with our youth education efforts and offer some of your time to teach children the joy of fishing please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail Gkucharews@aol.com.

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