

JCAA NEWSPAPER NOVEMBER 2009

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on October 20th 2009)

Monthly Meeting Room Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, October 27th , 2009

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 12th, 2009

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) 929-2591 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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2009 OFFICERS

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Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

October 24th NJOA Rescue Our Outdoors Rally

October 26th -29th ASA Summit San Diego

October 27th JCAA General Meeting

November 1st – 5th ASMFC Annual Meeting RI

November 9th NJMFC Meeting

November 12th JCAA Board Meeting

November 15th JCAA Dinner

November 24th JCAA General Meeting

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR DINNER

BY PAUL TURI

As a reminder, November 15th is the night of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year Awards Dinner. Now is the time to buy your tickets. It is one of our major JCAA fundraisers. It takes place on Sunday, November 15, 2009 from 4:00-9:00 p.m. at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club, RT. 70 & River Rd, Point Pleasant, NJ.

The JCAA invited guest speakers are Democratic Congressman John Adler and Republican Congressman Leonard Lance. Both are freshman NJ congressmen. We asked them to talk about their thoughts on how they see congress dealing with environmental issues in the upcoming year. Both were Senators in the NJ legislature and had great environmental records. Congressman Adler has confirmed and we are still waiting to hear from Congressman Lance as to whether he will be attending.

At our October general membership meeting we will be taking nominations from the floor and selling tickets. So, if you or your club would like to nominate someone as this year's honoree, please present a short biography, no more than 100 words, as to why you or your club feels this person should receive this year's award.

Individual tickets are \$75 each and tables of 10 are \$600, which is a \$150 savings. There will be a formal sit-down dinner with choice of entrees and cash

bar. There will also be a cocktail hour prior to dinner. So get a group together from your club or organization and come to the dinner and have a great time.. There will be an excellent three-course meal, Door Prizes and a DJ. Share stories of fishing and bid on one of the many fantastic theme baskets and items on display.

This year due to economic conditions it is difficult obtaining donations from the different vendors who have helped us in the past. We are in **desperate need** of prizes for this year's dinner. We need prizes in value of at least \$25.00 or more. We need door prizes, Chinese auction and silent auction prizes.

Every club and their members patronize different bait and tackle shops up and down the coast. If each club solicited a donation from the shops that their members patronize on a regular basis, I am sure these shops will help us out as many of them have in the past. Jersey Coast doesn't have the manpower to solicit these shops ourselves. It would be greatly appreciated if your club could solicit these different shops for us and obtain a prize.

In addition to fishing & boating equipment, we do need prizes for the many women who are in attendance at the dinner. Many clubs have a women's auxiliary. It would help us out a lot if the women solicited prizes from stores they frequent on a regular basis also.

If you obtain a donation, please make arrangements with either myself or someone from Jersey Coast to have these prizes picked up. We need these prizes well in advance of the November 15th dinner.

I can be reached at (609) 660-2126. Thank you for your continued support.

Dan Miller will be co-chairing the event and tickets for the dinner can be obtained by calling Dan at (609) 641-7821.

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

Every month continues to be busier than the next. I am personally up for the task, because I truly believe this is something worth fighting for. I was very disappointed that there were not more anglers present at the public hearings held in Toms River on October 5th and 6th. It is very important that everybody participates in this process. You and your clubs need to attend and submit written comments on all issues whether it is for or against. If you don't then we as a recreational community have no voice in the matters at hand. So get more involved so the recreational

community has an even stronger voice. It is very important that each club keeps up to date with all the issues that are affecting us. There are so many issues that are happening right now so continue to check out our website. Club Presidents should make sure that their representatives attend every JCAA General Meeting to bring this information back to your individual clubs for discussion.

On September 30th NOAA announced that they were closing the Black Sea Bass fishery down for 180 days starting October 5th. On October 1st JCAA sent out a press release about the unfair NOAA shut-down of this fishery in federal waters. We are continuing to look at the most effective way to correct this unfair decision and reopen this fishery. You can get a copy of the press release on our website www.jcaa.org. We will keep everybody informed of the progress of this very important issue.

The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) is organizing a **Rescue Our Outdoors Rally (ROOR)** which is being held at the New Egypt Speedway on October 24 starting at 2PM rain or shine. The address of the speedway is 720 Pinehurst Road, RT.539 in New Egypt. The JCAA will be a part of this rally. There is free admission so come out with your family and show Trenton that the saltwater anglers, freshwater anglers, hunters and trappers have a voice with a large voting block and they are going to have to listen to our issues. One saltwater issue that will be talked about will be the closing of the Black Sea Bass fishery plus other outdoor-related issues. There will be a few politicians in the crowd that may speak on related issues only. Take this chance so you can speak to them in person. Let's all make this a huge success.

On October 4, the **18th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament** was held at Island Beach State Park. The weather was great so I saw a lot of families participating this year. This year's winner was Gene Brendel from Nutley, NJ and his name will be engraved on the Governor's Cup which will be on display at Island Beach State Park. Governor Jon S. Corzine and DEP Commissioner Mark N. Mauriello walked the beach and talked to the anglers who were participating in this great event. Senator Bob Smith participated with his grandsons this year and that was great to see. I would like to see more legislators and their families experience what we have in New Jersey; it may open their eyes. I would like to thank all the people who volunteered their time to make this event a great success and thanks to the sponsors: Jersey Coast Anglers Association, New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, New Jersey Beach Buggy Association and NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Our next fundraising event will be our **Sportsperson of the Year Dinner** which will be held **November 15** at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. We did receive three nominations for Sportsperson of the Year so far. The nominees are Paul Harris, Al Lorenzo and Anthony Mauro. Their names were submitted by a club with a brief reason why they should be selected Sportsperson of the Year. If any individual club would like to submit a name they can still do so at the next General meeting with at least 25 copies of a brief reason why they should be selected Sportsperson of the Year. The copies will be handed out to club representatives at the meeting. With little over a month away it is not too late to talk about getting a club table for this great event at your club meetings. There are clubs that paid for their tables already. Look for more information in articles from our Dinner Committee's co-chair Paul Turi in the newsletter.

With the end of the year coming it is that time again, Elections. If you are interested in becoming a JCAA Officer you need to contact Don Marantz at 609-259-6368 or the JCAA Office. We are looking for dedicated individuals to get more involved.

With the show season around the corner JCAA will be looking for volunteers to staff a booth. There will be more information about dates and times in the next newsletter. If anyone is interested right now please contact me at www.mtsport64@aol.com with the subject Show Volunteer and I will get back to you. This is where we interact with people who do not belong to any clubs and are misinformed on issues. It is a great experience to meet many different people who enjoy something you love to do.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter the Newspaper Committee is looking for clubs to send in a 500 word description about your club including who you are and what you do. Send it in by e-mail to jcaa@jcaa.org with the stipulation that we will be using these highlights in the order that they are received and they will be published in the JCAA newsletter.

As a reminder the JCAA has an Operations Manager in the office to answer your questions. Operations Manager Sharon McKenna will try to give you the correct answer to your question or direct your call to the proper person.

I am still trying to make our individual committees more effective in this coming year. As you can see some of the committees are very active right now, so volunteer some of your time for something you love so much. Being part of one of these committees you can get more involved and see how the system

works. If you are interested on serving on them contact the JCAA office or me.

Below are the three nominations we have received for Sportsperson-of-the-Year.

Berkeley Stripper Club & NJ Beach Buggy Association nominate Paul Harris for Sportsperson of the Year

On behalf of the BERKELEY STRIPER CLUB and the NEW JERSEY BEACH BUGGY ASSOCIATION, we would like to nominate **PAUL HARRIS** for Sportsperson of the Year. Paul has been a member of the NEW JERSEY BEACH BUGGY ASSOCIATION since 1968, the BERKELEY STRIPER CLUB and is also a member of the North Carolina Beach Buggy Association and Outer Banks Preservation Association.

Paul Harris is currently the President of the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association and has served on the Board of Directors for a total of 17 years. He has maintained a significant goal on trying to keep beach access for mobile sports fishing people in New Jersey and other states. He has tried very hard to succeed in these endeavors which its rewarding to most people that he has the ability to stand up for what is right and try to change things that will try to accommodate every sports person.

Paul is also a delegate to Congressman John Adler's Outdoor Sportsman Recreational Committee, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, United Mobile Sportsfisherman for the Berkeley Strippers Club, and the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen Clubs Salter Registry Committee.

Paul is also a member of the Courtesy Patrol for the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association for Island Beach State Park. He is also chairperson for many projects. The one in favor of many is "Hunting and Fishing Day." He started this program 38 years ago and this basically describes him as well as a favorable person that loves children. Hunting and Fishing Day is for special challenged children. He loves to take them out on the beach and teach them how to fish.

He has also done a great job with the Boy Scouts of America, teaching them safety when it comes to fishing and knot tying along. He is also an instructor for the "Becoming an Outdoor Woman" at Island Beach State Park for the past 3 years. He takes them out on the beach and teaches them how to fish as well.

Paul has volunteered in numerous youth tournament events, participating as a judge for the Governor's Cup Tournament for the past 10 years, beach clean-up at Island Beach State Park, installing string line at Brigantine to protect shore birds and to keep the beach open. He was also in charge of

installing fishing line and recycling pipes that were installed in 7 areas on Island Beach State park and also Bass River State Park with help of his colleagues hoping that it will give everyone a better environment. Paul also taught the beach driving class.

We thank Paul Harris for a job well done. He is certainly an asset to all organizations and well deserves this award.

Manasquan Fishing Club Nominates

Anthony P. Mauro, Sr. for the JCAA Sportsperson of the Year.

Anthony Mauro, Chairman, NJ Outdoor Alliance, was the driving force of a grass roots coalition to stop politicians from stacking the Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) with animal right activists and extreme environmentalists. If these forces were to have gained access to the DFW, they would have used their political muscle and influence to strip away the fishing and hunting rights of our state's citizens. Anthony continues to support the rights of anglers and hunters through his chairmanship of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, an organization that summarizes its mission as "we've got your back" for the sportspersons of our state. For all of his time, efforts and personal sacrifices in defending and watching out for the interests of the anglers and hunters of New Jersey, the members of the Manasquan Fishing Club unanimously and enthusiastically endorse Anthony Mauro to receive the JCAA's prestigious JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Award!

Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County Nominates Al Lorenzo for Sportsperson of the Year

Since it was founded in 1937, the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County have been taking out orphans/disadvantaged children on an annual fishing trip. While many of its club members have chaired the committee for this event over time, club member **Al Lorenzo** has been doing it for 31 years! He charts the boat for the event and does all of the preparation for the trip which includes all of the refreshments, contacting the orphanages, giving them directions and making sure that all goes well on the fishing trip for the children.

For over 29 years, Al has brought joy and happiness to untold number of children who need one day in their lives for sure fun and enjoyment. Al has been a club member for 45 years! For all of his tireless efforts in bringing joy to disadvantaged youths over 29 years, the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County nominates Al Lorenzo for the JCAA'S prestigious Sportsperson of the Year award!

Operations Manager

By Sharon McKenna

September was a busy month here at the office, but that doesn't mean I did not get out there to meet up with our clubs and associate members! I was happy to meet some of you at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament out at Island Beach State Park on October 4th and at the October meeting of the Village Harbour Fishing Club which featured Dr. Mike Kennish of Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences. I also met up with some of you at Oceanside Bait and Tackle in Brighton Beach on October 10th for the kick-off barbecue for the 55th Annual Long Beach Island Fishing Classic. I am available to come to member club meetings, marina and tackle store events (schedule permitting) so please call the office if you would like for me to attend **yours!** Also, please remember that there is space available in the newspaper to highlight your club's activities and history if you can keep it to 500 words. These articles will be placed in the newspaper on a first received, first published basis!

This past month's efforts have gone to publishing materials to advertise the important work that JCAA is accomplishing on behalf of saltwater anglers and the marine environment. In last month's report, I mentioned I would be updating our tri-fold hand-outs, also known as "rack cards." Mission accomplished! Thank you to the JCAA Board for the helpful suggestions on the content and lay-out of the cards. The plan is to have these cards on hand for the "Rescue Our Outdoors Rally" on Saturday, October 24th at New Egypt Speedway! It is a "must attend" so we can stand up for our recreational fishing culture and heritage. Please join us and about 4000 other concerned outdoors enthusiasts and their families to protest funding reductions for the Division of Fish and Game. Now is the time to get our collective voice heard – all the way to Trenton! **There is power in numbers - every person present counts!**

If you missed the Ocean County Decoy and Gunning Show on September 26th and 27th, then you missed a great time! We were housed at the Marshelder building at the Tuckerton Seaport this year and plan to complement our presence there with a tent space over at Tip Seaman Park next year.

Reminder: JCAA office hours are slightly changed. I typically will be at the office Monday-Friday, from 8:30- 2p.m. barring off-site meetings, so call ahead if you are planning to pick up newspapers for distribution or offering your volunteer services.

The one weekday I can guarantee I will not be in the office is Thursday. So, if your JCAA committee is looking for meeting space during the day, Thursday would be a great day to schedule use of the office. Normal business hours of 9 – 2 p.m., Monday through Friday will resume on January 7, 2010.

We are planning to build two banners that exhibit the patches of every member club that we will display at events where we participate each year, such as the Raritan Show, the Saltwater Sportsman Expo and other shows. Please send in your club patch by mail to the office, or bring it to the October general membership meeting so we can be sure to include your club! Thank you!

Finally, thank you to you all for participating in the JCAA. You are the eyes and ears of what is going on in the marine environment and we depend on hearing from you! Please call with any questions or comments that you may have – **every weekday except Thursday!**

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

Since the Federal Government decided to arbitrarily close down the black sea bass fishery, JCAA has been very busy. We discussed this issue with Governor Corzine and DEP Commissioner Mauriello at the Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament. We discussed the possibility of a lawsuit and other possible actions the Governor could take. In speaking to Deputy Commissioner Watson recently, I questioned what actions might be taken. He was waiting to see what actions would be taken by the Mid-Atlantic Council. The Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council met the week of October 12th and took no action. An attempt to bring this up for discussion was ruled out of order. I will continue contacting the Governor’s Office and hope to have more information at the NJ Outdoor Alliance Rally on October 24. We received a letter from Congressmen Pallone and Adler supporting revisiting the quota and opening the fishery. We are still waiting for a letter from Senators Lautenberg and Menendez but I have been in contact with both staffs and anticipate that will happen soon.

From October 26th -29th, Sharon McKenna (JCAA Operations Manager) and I will be attending the ASA Summit in San Diego and the following week

I will be at the ASMFC Annual Meeting in Rhode Island. Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator, will be at the ASA Summit and I am planning to discuss the black sea bass issue with her. I plan to bring up this issue at the ASMFC Annual Meeting. I cannot see how NMFS can justify emergency action on black sea bass when this stock is recovered, it is not overfished and overfishing is not taking place. The ASMFC Commissioners knew that their Governors could not justify this action. That was why ASMFC voted not to close this fishery. I guess I should not be surprised this action was taken by NOAA without consultation with the Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council and ASMFC. The Federal Government doesn’t play by the same rules as the states. For the states to take this type of action, there would be a process including public comment. Not at the Federal level.

What should we do now? In addition to the ASMFC Meeting in November, I plan ask to revisit the quotas at the Joint Meeting of ASMFC and MAFMC in December. We need other states to join us in contacting their Governors, Congressional delegations and President Obama. All of us, individuals, Governors, Congressional delegations, need to express our outrage at the direction of fisheries management in general and the black sea bass specifically. I was on a conference call with ASA Saltwater Committee to discuss red snapper. During that conference call I also discussed the black sea bass issue. The JCAA release on black sea bass and the ASA Saltwater Committee on red snapper will both be discussed at the Government Affairs Committee and the ASA Summit. I have included both documents below. ASA plans to take action on both issues. JCAA will continue to issue alerts about this issue and other actions that need to be taken. Sign up for alerts at http://jcaa.org/Subscriber_Form.asp

Black sea bass and red snapper are just the issues currently receiving attention. JCAA did not support giving the Scientific and Statistical Committee total control to set quotas. We are now seeing the damage they can do with that power. The SSC is making decisions that are much more conservative than even their data would require. These decisions are not made strictly based on models and numbers. They (SSC) also have no consideration for the history of the fisheries management of these stocks and what is actually happening in the real world. The members of the SSC are scientists who only crunch numbers. The Councils and Commissions include members who live

in the real world of fisheries management; state scientists, commercial fishermen, recreational anglers, environmentalists, state directors, legislators, and members of the interested public. When you look at the process, you realize the models are very precautionary and conservative. The information fed into the models is very precautionary and conservative. Now we have an SSC that is adding another level of conservative thinking. The National Marine Fisheries Service continues to tighten the noose around the neck of both the commercial and recreational industries. Soon there will be nothing left and they will have succeeded in killing these vital industries with no appreciable gain to the stocks of fish. In the mission statements of NMFS and ASMFC, the goal is to promote sustainable fisheries, not end fishing all together. Some of the staff at NOAA needs to read the mission statements and stop following their own agenda. Those of us who represent the recreational and commercial industries no longer feel that we are an equal part of the process. We have been made to feel like the enemy and we are facing annihilation.

As Commissioner to ASMFC, I attended four public hearings on striped bass, weakfish, shad, and black sea bass. The actions based on the hearings will be taken at the ASMFC Annual Meeting in November. I will report on that in the next newspaper. The JCAA positions on striped bass and weakfish are included below.

**JCAA position on the Draft Addendum II to
Amendment 6 of the Atlantic Striped Bass
Interstate Fishery Management Plan
October 6, 2009**

JCAA feels that the quota underage in recent years regarding the established coastal commercial quota may be indicative of some additional factors in the fishery that management has as of yet been unable to identify. Certainly the commercial fishery has demonstrated in the past that it is highly efficient. The inability to reach established quotas in many states must be regarded with some degree of caution and concern about the stock at this time.

Treatment of Unused Coastal Commercial Quota

JCAA supports:

Option 1: Status Quo.

Under this option, unused coastal commercial quota would not be rolled over to the subsequent year

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Cherry

JCAA Striped Bass Panel Chairman

**JCAA position on Draft Addendum IV to
Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery
Management Plan for Weakfish**

October 18, 2009

JCAA regards the extremely low stock assessment of weakfish to be a very serious ongoing problem for this fishery. Unfortunately, it will require a very severe restriction on the fishery to try to evaluate more exactly the causative factors and methods needed to correct the problem.

JCAA proposes a solution similar to what was enacted for Winter Flounder. Although the decline of the weakfish stock is due to conditions other than the overfishing that was occurring with winter flounder. Overfishing of the weakfish stock does not appear to be occurring at this time and is not involved with the stock decline.

We feel that this precipitous decline in the weakfish stock anecdotally may in part be due to a displacement of the weakfish stock by the recent coincidental Croaker population explosion. Additionally, the growing inshore Spiny Dogfish stock can have a seriously adverse effect on the fall coastal migration of the 1 and 2 year old class of weakfish. The large winter bluefin tuna population off of the Carolinas probably does not help promote the size of the stock either.

There also appears to be an increasing pressure on ever decreasing population of available forage. The increase in the commercial harvest of sea herring, mackerel and squid may have upset the forage fish balance in offshore waters. Additionally, water quality problems in the bays and estuaries that potentially can affect the spawning cycle and maturation of the fry on both weakfish and forage species continue to escalate and must also be addressed.

We know that forage species are heavily affected by the industrial use of water and pollution of our rivers and estuaries. We need to address these problems and not just put all the pain on the recreational fishing industry.

We present the following realistic interim solution for your consideration:

Commercial Fishery:

As with the winter flounder fishery, there should be a moratorium on commercial landings with severely reduced trip limits and by-catch allotments. Any trip limit

and by-catch allotment should be so small as to prevent any possibility of a targeted by-catch fishery.

Option 2 Trip Limits

JCAA Supports: Option 2.1b (100 pounds)

Option 3 Bycatch Limits

JCAA Supports: Option 3.1b (100 pounds)

Recreational Fishery:

JCAA supports Option 2a

The recreational sector should be allowed a 2 fish daily bag limit to act as a monitoring device for the inshore fishery. This is similar to what is the approach in the winter flounder fishery. A complete recreational moratorium will provide no beneficial effect on the stock. Seasonal closures would be contra-indicated because of the wide variation in the appearance cycles of these fish in different areas of the coast.

2.4 Monitoring Options

JCAA Supports: Option 2: Addendum I Requirements Lifted

4.0 Recommendation for Federal Waters

JCAA supports The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Position on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Cherry

JCAA Weakfish Panel Chairman

edwardwc@verizon.net

JCAA Press Release:
NOAA Unfairly Shuts Down Black Sea
Bass
October 1, 2009

NOAA announced on September 30th that they were going to close the black sea bass fishery for 180 days starting October 5th. The stated reason is that preliminary data suggests that the recreational sector will over harvest the 2009 quota. What the NOAA release failed to state is the fact that the quota in 2009 was set too low and they are allowing the same low quota to be in place for 2010. They set the original quota in 2008 believing the stock was being overfished and overfishing was taking place. They raised the recreational size limit to 12 1/2" to implement the smaller quota.

In 2008, after the new stock assessment was published and it stated that the stock was not overfished and overfishing was not occurring, NOAA did not raise the quota in response to this new information. Instead they kept an arbitrarily low quota that guaranteed overharvesting since it did not take into consideration that

the stocks were larger than they estimated. They did leave the higher 12 1/2 inch size limit in place.

This year, when it was time to set the quota for 2010, the black sea bass quota was set by the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) before the Monitoring Committee of the MAMFC and ASMFC met. The SSC decided to go with status quo even though the latest approved stock assessment showed that the stocks were no longer being over fished. The Monitoring Committee met after the SSC and realized that the quota they set for 2009 was based on the condition that black sea bass was overfished and overfishing was taking place. With this new information, the Monitoring Committee recommended an increase in the quota. At the joint meeting, we questioned the SSC about whether or not they had considered the same new information discussed by the Monitoring Committee when they set the quota at status quo. The response was that they had not. I made a motion asking the Monitoring Committee and SSC to hold a conference call to discuss this issue and see if there was a possibility of increasing the quota based on the available information. After a long discussion, the MAMFC voted a 10/10 tie so the motion did not move forward. The excuse given by the Council Chairman and Vice Chairman was that this would set a bad precedent. What it showed me was the callousness of these individuals relative to the needs of the recreational and commercial fishing industries? This is a new process and mistakes will be made. Until we resolve the procedural matters, there should be no problem revisiting decisions in the best interest of all concerned. For 10 council members, it wasn't important to make sure all information and recommendations were considered before final decisions were made.

After the joint meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Council and ASMFC, the ASMFC held the summer meeting in August. At this meeting we saw preliminary data that showed that the black sea bass fishery, summer flounder and scup might be exceeding their recreational targets. It was decided by ASMFC Policy Board to ask the Summer Flounder, Scup and Sea Bass Board to meet via conference call to discuss this issue. There was a conference call on sea bass, summer flounder and scup. The controversy was regarding the Marine Recreational Statistical Survey and how accurately it reflects what is actually happening. Again, this data was preliminary and had not been subject to the in house peer review. The states voted not to shut down the black sea bass fishery based on preliminary and unreviewed MRSS data. We also realized that it would be difficult too for the states to shut down through emergency action since this overage would not hurt the stocks. We realized that in December we would have to review all the data and take actions on the 2010 fishery to guarantee we stayed within quota. What NOAA did through its arrogance is put through an emergency action using preliminary without consulting

the public. As the Governor's Appointee to ASMFC, I was not notified prior to the release. The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife were also not consulted or notified in advance. A release from the Mid-Atlantic Council suggests they were not consulted or notified either. This would not have happened during President Bush's administration. Bill Holgarth would have consulted with at least the state directors and council members before implementing an action like this. It seems the new director of NOAA has decided to take unilateral action. This is not how a partnership works to manage fisheries. The JCAA is calling on the recreational community to notify President Obama and our members of Congress that this is unacceptable. We can't have Dr. Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator, taking arbitrary action with no regard for or understanding of recreational fishing and the industry that it supports. This just reinforces our concerns when she replaced the recreational representatives on the Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council. We also need for each of you to contact your Governors and Legislators, asking them to take whatever action they can. We need for NOAA to rescind this closure immediately. We need NOAA to get the Monitoring Committee and Science and Statistical Committee to establish realistic quotas.

We have all seen the stimulus packages to bail out banks and the auto industry. We have all seen the stimulus packages that are designed to create jobs in both the public and private sectors. These actions by NOAA on black sea bass and red snapper in the Gulf are doing exactly the opposite. If this continues NOAA will have created another economic crisis and increased the unemployment roles. This time we need to avoid the problem and find a common sense solution before we need another bailout. JCAA will keep you posted on our upcoming action on this issue.

Questions should be directed to
Thomas Fote
Legislative Chairman

New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) Report

By John Toth

Most of the discussion at the September 28th meeting of the NJOA focused on the "Rescue Our Outdoors Rally" planned for October 24th at the New Egypt Speedway. The purpose of the rally is to show the politicians in Trenton that there are a lot of hunters and anglers in New Jersey and that we are very concerned about a number of issues that affect

us. Some of these issues include Trenton's substituting an animal rights agenda for fish and game management, blocking recreational anglers from NJ's artificial reefs and Trenton's raiding the budget of the department that oversees fishing and hunting. NJ Board member Pete Grimblas chaired this meeting and strongly urged NJOA representatives to get their membership to attend this rally that will be held rain or shine starting at 2:00 p.m.

Ed Markowski reported that the Recreational Fishing Alliance has resigned its membership in the NJOA.

**Feds to 60 Million American Anglers: We
don't need you**
SHIMANO AMERICAN CORPORATION
News Release
contact: John Mazurkiewicz/Catalyst Marketing
- 574/289-1331 - jpmazurk@ameritech.net
IRVINE, Calif. USA - October 5, 2009 -

A recently published administration document outlines a structure that could result in closures of sport fishing in salt and freshwater areas across America. The White House created an Interagency Oceans Policy Task Force in June and gave them only 90 days to develop a comprehensive federal policy for all U.S. coastal, ocean and Great Lakes waters. Under the guise of 'protecting' these areas, the current second phase of the Task Force direction is to develop zoning which may permanently close vast areas of fishing waters nationwide. This is to be completed by December 9, 2009.

Dave Pfeiffer, President of Shimano American Corporation explained, "In spite of extensive submissions from the recreational fishing community to the Task Force in person and in writing, they failed to include any mention of the over one million jobs or the 60 million anglers which may be affected by the new policies coast to coast. Input from the environmental groups who want to put us off the water was adopted into the report verbatim - the key points we submitted as an industry were ignored.

"Recreational fishing generates a \$125 billion annual economy in the United States and supports jobs in every state according to government figures. Through the Sport Fish Restoration program, anglers have provided more than \$5 billion through excise taxes on fishing tackle to fishery conservation and education for decades.

In addition to the economic aspects, anglers lead the nation in volunteer conservation efforts on

behalf of improving fish habitat, water quality and related environmental areas. “There was no mention of the fishery conservation efforts which anglers have led for over 50 years in every state –an environmental success story that has no equal in the world”, said Phil Morlock, Director, Environmental Affairs for Shimano. “The Task Force did not make any distinction between the dramatic differences between harmful commercial fishing harvest methods and recreational fishing, even though we spelled it out for them in detail,” added Morlock.

Claiming to be the result of a public consultation process the report states, “Having considered a broad range of public comments, this report reflects the requests and concerns of all interested parties.”

The original White House memo and not surprisingly the Task Force report contains multiple references to developing a national policy where Great Lakes and coastal regions are managed, “consistent with international law, including customary international law as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea” - a 300 page treaty the U.S. has never ratified.

“We question what implications there will be for state authority and jurisdiction in the Great Lakes and coastal regions if the U.S. adopts the U.N. Treaty,” said Pfeiffer.

The report makes it clear that future authority for implementing the policy for coastal and inland waters will fall under White House jurisdiction with a new National Ocean Council comprised of over 20 federal agencies at Cabinet Secretary or Deputy Secretary level. No reference to Congressional jurisdiction is indicated.

“This significant change in U.S. policy direction is the result of a 90 day fire drill process as ordered by the President that, not surprisingly, lacks balance, clarity and quality in the end product,” said Morlock. “People who simply want to take their kids fishing on public waters deserve better from their government,” he added.

Shimano is joining with other members of the recreational fishing industry to urge anglers to contact their members of Congress and the administration to request this process be required to adopt the economic, conservation and social contributions of recreational fishing as key elements of the policy. It is critical that we ensure Congressional oversight and state jurisdiction and management continues.

E letters can be sent to the administration and members of Congress by visiting

KeepAmericaFishing.org. The future of fishing is in your hands.

Political Hurricane

By John Koegler

The Interim Report of the White House Interagency Oceans Policy Task Force was released on September 10. This task force was created by President Obama on June 12, 2009 and was given only 90 days to draft and submit this Interim Report.

The president’s expressed goal: “To succeed in protecting the oceans, coasts and Great Lakes, the United States needs to act within a unifying framework under a clear national policy, including a comprehensive, ecosystem-based framework for the long-term conservation and use of our resources.” He appointed Nancy Sutley of the White House Council of Environmental Quality as Chairwoman.

This report makes it clear that future authority for implementing policy for coastal and inland waters will be totally under the White House jurisdiction. The new National Ocean Council will be comprised of over 20 current federal agencies at the Cabinet Secretary or Deputy Secretary level.

This is a total change in management of our ocean and inland water resources. This new Ocean Council eliminates all congressional oversight and authority. It places all authority for ocean and inland water management under White House (Presidential) control!

A new White House controlled Ocean Policy Task Force has terrible future implications for recreational fishing access to both fresh and saltwater areas.

The Interim report refers to developing our national policy so that the Great Lakes and coastal regions are managed “consistent with International law as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas.” The US has never ratified the “UN Law of the Seas” so the White House is side-stepping the Congress to make this sweeping policy change.

The single most obvious omission in the report is there is no reference to recreational fishing as a key activity for either the oceans or the Great Lakes. There are many submissions by recreational groups. The Shimano letter was only written after all their attempts to amend the interim report failed. Clearly, the proposed future water uses will be preservationist oriented. The preservation members of the council propose to lock up all public waters instead of promoting sustainable uses such as recreational fishing. All of the items covered by the Shimano letter are a major threat to your continued fishing in the United States.

You need to act immediately or lose your right to fish. Remember, this is only an Interim Report, but it does

show the current direction and emphasis of the Obama Administration. It is up to us to ensure our voices are heard and that the final report includes recreational fishing as a key activity in our oceans and the Great Lakes.

KeepAmericaFishing.org is a website supported and edited by The American Sportfishing Association (ASA). ASA is offering us a tool to get recreational anglers on the record in opposition to our own exclusion! The website will send a letter in your name to the President, your Congressman and your U.S. Senators. It is easy to use and includes a letter that covers the issue clearly and accurately. Please either send this by letter, e-mail or your own letter immediately before the November election.

Highly Migratory Species

By John Koegler

Swordfish Catches

Despite the huge amount of work at NMFS the commercial swordfish landings remain close to 2008 landings with a landings increase of just 239,000 pounds DW. A major push was supported by the commercial fishermen and lobbyist to scrap the current fishing limits and rules. They demanded uncontrolled sword fishing so the US does not lose any of their quotas at the next ICCAT meeting in November, all of which is nonsense.

As noted previously, the big problem is not catching swordfish but selling fresh swordfish at a price high enough so they make a profit. Massive frozen imports from the Indian Ocean have sharply depressed swordfish prices at the wholesale level. This has resulted in fishermen only making trips at a time when good catches were sure to be made. The result is fewer trips and fewer fresh swordfish from the US fishermen.

Where is the reason to remove all the landing limits for commercial fishermen? This is typical commercial baloney.

Commercial Bluefin

The August 31 report on US landings of Bluefin tuna reports shocking long line increases. One of the huge problems is the continued increase in Bluefin landings from the Gulf of Mexico spawning area. NMFS permits continued long lining in the Gulf during spawning time so they are not shut down in the landings of other tuna. But over the last several years the number of Giants landed and sold has continued to increase.

The number of giants landed in 2007 by long line fishermen was 247 fish. The number in 2008 was 266 and the number in 2009 was 346. This is an increase of 99 spawning size giants and would clearly affect the future spawning success of the giant Bluefin tuna.

The solution is easy, end bluefin tuna fishing in the Gulf during their spawning time. NMFS either desires to save the bluefin tuna or they do not. Keeping the Gulf long line fishery open during giant spawning time is criminal and must be stopped.

Spiny Dogfish

The spiny dogfish "Plague of Locusts" has become so acute that New England fishermen are having trouble catching anything else that is not so damaged by the dogfish it cannot be sold. As usual, NMFS says, "We're not seeing the whole picture," this despite a huge increase in reported spawning age females from a low of less than 50,000 MT in 2001 to a huge unexplained female population explosion to over 198,000 MT. in 2008. Add the male population estimate of 400,000 MT and NMFS population estimate is 598,000 MT. Other scientist estimates are over 2,000,000 MT. That is a difference of more than 300%, which is clearly impossible. Somebody's estimates are way wrong.

New England commercial fishermen are now labeling spiny dogfish "Vermin of the Ocean." NMFS low dogfish population estimates are horribly wrong. Locally many fisheries are closed down because if anglers drift off wrecks between November 1 and May 1, they are covered up by dogfish. This is 7 months of the year that New Jersey anglers cannot bottom fish because of the excessive dogfish numbers. Anglers cannot just complain but make your concerns known to your ASMFC commissioners and MAFMC members. Demand that they increase the current spiny dogfish commercial quota by 300% or more immediately!

JCAA Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

NOVEMBER SURF FISHING

Now that everyone is back in school and focused on studying, it's time to start thinking about getting some exercise and fresh-air on the weekends. November is the best time to cash in on catching that prize Striped Bass that everyone wants to enjoy. Besides, the fish are on the move and it's the fall migration. Your chances of hooking that fish of a lifetime are the greatest. Visit your local tackle shop and get the latest information about where to fish and what they are biting on. Give your thumbs a rest from texting and start reeling them in! Oh, don't forget to let us know if you catch a prize fish and remember to enter it in the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife's Skillful Angler Awards Program. To receive a brochure about the program send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Skillful Angler Awards Program, NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife, 605 Pequest Rd., Oxford, NJ 07863

FISHING/ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO

Want to turn kids and families on to fishing and environmental stewardship? Sign up for the Father Time Expo, January 23rd, 2010 9:30 a.m. until Noon at the Bolger Middle School, 100 Palmer Pl., Keansburg, NJ. For more information contact Jeff Johnson 732 787-2007 Ext 2554.

ASBURY PARK YOUTH FISHING PROGRAM

The JCAA Youth Education Committee was asked to assist the Asbury Park School System with information about the “Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs” curriculum. We will meet with school administrators during November 2009 to discuss HOFNOD implementation options for children at risk.

2009 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

It takes the support of many volunteers to bring successes to the fishing community but sometimes individuals and sport-fishing organizations go above and beyond to make the future of fishing better for our youngsters. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is accepting nominations for the 2009 Youth Education Award. Submit your nominations in writing to JCAA Youth Education Committee, gkucharews@aol.com.

HOFNOD CERTIFICATION

Get ready to get certified for the “Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs” certification training session during 2010. At the next JCAA general meeting we will provide a sign-up sheet for JCAA member representatives to bring back to their club or organization. We will coordinate the HOFNOD certification training sessions with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife HOFNOD certification program. Wayne Tonneson, NJ Conservation Officer and NJ State representative for the Future Fisherman Foundation’s “Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs” program will assist the JCAA Youth Education Committee with information about their HOFNOD certification schedule. If you would like more information about the upcoming HOFNOD certification and youth fishing programs, please e-mail Greg Kucharewski at gkucharews@aol.com and place HOFNOD in the subject line. The JCAA Youth Education Committee also provides HOFNOD, Passport to Fishing and Boating, and commercial drug awareness materials to member clubs/organizations of JCAA. Throughout the year several fishing clubs and organizations have used the services of the JCAA Lending Library and ordered environmental support materials for their events. We are pleased with the recent interest to provide youth fishing programs within the membership of the JCAA. Remember to provide us with a follow-up letter about your event so it can be part of the JCAA Newspaper. We would like to publish your success stories in the JCAA Newspaper. If your organization needs “Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs” promotional items for your event, please phone 732-785-9278 and leave a message. We will return your call as soon as

possible and support your event with materials from the JCAA Lending Library.

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 information on vital issues each month.

Club Membership Application

Date _____

Club Name: _____

President's Name: _____

Pres. Address: Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

Please make check \$50 payable to JCAA

JCAA SPONSORSHIP

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

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

Join JCAA as an Associate Member

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

JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICATION

Date _____ New ___ Renewal _____

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Street _____

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Email _____

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

Ph. # _____

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