

JCAA NEWSPAPER JUNE 2010

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on May 17th, 2010)

Monthly Meeting Room Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd
"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday May 25th, 2010

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 10th, 2010

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.**

## 2010 OFFICERS

|                            |               |              |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>           | Mark Taylor   | 732-929-2591 |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b> | Eileen Smith  | 732-899-2681 |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b> | Don Marantz   | 609-259-6368 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Doug Tegeder  | 732-341-5674 |
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| <b>Cors. Sec.</b>          | Paul Turi     | 609-660-2126 |
| <b>Mem. Sec.</b>           | Bruce Smith   | 732-695-3431 |

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## IMPORTANT DATES

**May 25<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**June 6<sup>th</sup>** BBP Festival Island Heights

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Fluke Tournament

**June 18<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards

Ceremony

**June 29<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting before Summer Break

## **JCAA's 16th Annual 2010 Fluke Tournament**

**Getting Bigger and Better Again**

**120 Port Prizes & 10 Ports**

*By Phil Celmer*

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association will be holding its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament on June 12, 2010. The awards ceremony will be held on Friday, June 18, 2010 at Trump Marina Hotel/Casino. The Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament is a unique concept and here are... **Ten Great Reasons to Enter the JCAA Fluke Tournament.**

**One** - \$10,000 Grand Prize and you don't even have to catch a single fish to win!

**Two** - A great day of fishing fun with family and friends!

**Three** - A gala awards celebration at Trump Marina Hotel Casino!

**Four** - Ten ports to fish from - each with a \$1,200 first prize!

**Five** - You are only competing against the boats that are registered for your port for the 12 port prizes.

**Six** - Cash and prizes galore!

**Seven** - A drawing for more door prizes than you can shake a graphite rod at!

**Eight** - A chance to take five of your friends or family fishing!

**Nine** - 120 fabulous port prizes! Ten chances to win at each port. Odds like this you won't see in Vegas or any other tournament!

**Ten** - You'll be helping the Jersey Coast Anglers Association to continue our 29 year fight to protect your fishing rights and the marine environment!

This year's ports are:

**JERSEY CITY** (Lightship dock Liberty Landing)  
**SANDY HOOK** (Gateway Marina & Yacht Sales)  
**SHARK RIVER** (Fisherman's Den)  
**MANASQUAN RIVER** (Clark's Marina)  
**BARNEGAT BAY** (Southwinds Marina)  
**LONG BEACH ISLAND** (Fisherman's Hqs)  
**GREAT BAY** (Great Bay Marina)  
**OCEAN CITY** (Fin-Atics)  
**CAPE MAY** (Jim's Bait & Tackle)  
**FORTESCUE** (Higbee's Marina)

This year's port prizes are:

**First Place:** \$1,200 cash (Sponsored by Fisherman's Headquarters for LBI, Contender and Yamaha for Sandy Hook, Ocean County Board of Tourism and JCAA for Barnegat Bay and Great Bay, Hudson River Fishermens Association for Jersey City and JCAA for all the other ports.)

**Second Place:** Penn Conquer CQR5000 spinning reel with a Shakespeare Uglystik BSSL 220070 rod & a Penn Conquer CQR4000 spinning reel with a Shakespeare Uglystik BSSL 220069 rod with 2 spools of Spiderwire Ultracast Invisi-Braid and 5 packages assorted Berkley Gulp bait

**Third Place:** Penn Conquer CQR4000 spinning reel with a Shakespeare Uglystik BSSL220069 rod with 2 spools of Spiderwire Ultracast Invisi-Braid and 10 packages assorted Berkley Gulp

**Fourth Place:** West Marine \$350 Gift Card

**Fifth Place:** Penn 320GT2 level wind reel with Shakespeare Uglystik Tiger Combo with 2 spools of Spiderwire Ultracast Invisi-Braid and 10 packages assorted Berkley Gulp

**Sixth Place:** Minn Kota Trolling Motor

**Seventh Place:** Shakespeare Uglystik BSSL 220070 rod and a Shakespeare Uglystik BSSL 220069 rod with 2 spools of Spiderwire Ultracast Invisi-Braid and 10 packages assorted Berkley Gulp

**Eighth Place:** Costa Del Mar Venture Pack composed of: Costa Del Mar Sunglasses, Backpack, Visor and Strap

**Ninth Place:** Nor'east Magazine selected saltwater reel

**Tenth Place:** NJ Angler Magazine selected rod and NJ Angler Subscriptions

**Eleventh Place:** Gallon of Interlux bottom paint

**Twelfth Place:** Canyon Gear International Gift Package

Jersey Coast will be giving away over \$70,000 in cash and prizes this year.

To enter or to order this year's T-shirt by phone, have your Visa or Master card ready and call the JCAA office at (732) 506-6565. You can visit the JCAA website at <http://www.jcaa.org> and print a copy of the entry form and t-shirt order form and mail or fax (732-506-6975) to the JCAA Office with your check or your Visa or Master card number.

**Sign up early and save. Sign up before June 5<sup>th</sup> and the entry fee is \$120.00. After June 5<sup>th</sup> the entry fee is \$150.00.**

## President's Report

*By Mark Taylor*

The **JCAA Fluke Tournament** in is full swing. With June 12<sup>th</sup> only four weeks away, which is the date for the tournament, make sure you get your entry form in before the entry fee goes up on June 5<sup>th</sup>. We are back to ten ports this year and we are doing the survey online this year which is new. To find out more information read the article in this newsletter or on our website. This is the largest single day fluke tournament on the east coast, so don't miss out on a great tournament.

The **High Roller Raffle** was drawn on April 27<sup>th</sup> and all the winners have been contacted. A list of the winners is below and will also be posted on our website. I would like to thank all those people that supported JCAA in this fundraising event by taking a few chances and congratulation to all the winners.

I attend the ceremony on April 28<sup>th</sup> where Thomas P. Fote received the New Jersey Governor's Jefferson Award for the category of the Environmental Stewardship Award. It was a very nice ceremony held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Tom has found out that he will be one of the individuals from New Jersey going to Washington. There is more information about this in the newsletter. Congratulation again, you do deserve this award for the endless hours trying to educate everyone on the issues.

There are things happening with sea bass, striped bass and the Omnibus Bill. These are issues that we all need to keep an eye on as they arise and

## Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

By Bruce Freeman

to get the updated information to you as fast as possible. The presidents of each of the member clubs should make sure that their delegates attend the regular monthly meeting so they can bring this information back. There are things that come up between meetings so you need to be put on the JCAA Email Alert. To get on this list you need to send an email to [tfote@jcaa.org](mailto:tfote@jcaa.org). When you send the email put in the subject JCAA Email Alert List and in the body of the email your name and the name of your club.

As I mentioned in past newsletters, 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](mailto: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. So send in a description and promote your club and possibly get new members that live or fish in your area.

### Here are this year's High Roller raffle winners & prizes:

**1st** Dennis Gerhart, Point Pleasant, NJ

Shimano Tiagra TI-30WLRSA Reel with Shimano TLC X58 MHRSA Rod (donated by JCAA) - \$688 value

**2nd** Edgardo Engracia 17 Barlow Rd, Edison NJ

Igloo Great White 250 Quart Cooler (Donated by West Marine) - \$599 value

**3rd** Larry Nulle 320 Midland Ave, Pine Beach, NJ

Minn Kota Riptide Trolling motor model RT 55/SE/L&D (Donated by Johnson Outdoors Inc) - \$550 value

**4th** John Gilhooly 1854 Shore Blvd, Pt Pleasant, NJ

Shimano Calcutta 400 BSV Reel with Shimano Calcutta CLC-X76H Rod (Donated by JCAA) - \$430 value

**5th** Joe Caszas

Shimano Tyrnos 20 Reel with Profile G15630 MH Rod (donated by JCAA) - \$389 value

**6th** Seaside Heights Fishing Club

Shimano Stradic 5000 FI Reel with Shimano Teramar TMS-70MH Rod (donated by JCAA) - \$380 value

**7th** Joe Barbatito 23 Paper Mill Road, Cherry Hill

Shimano Calcutta 400 BSV Reel with Shimano Trevala TVC 66M Rod (donated by JCAA) - \$350 value

**8th** Trevor Sherwood 68 Edwards Road, Brick, NJ

Penn 320 GT Reel with Ugly Stik BWC/A0 2201 Rod (donated by Bruce Freeman) - \$150 value

The catastrophic explosion and resulting fire, and the eventual sinking of the oil drilling rig, Deepwater Horizon, some 50 miles off Louisiana's coast is both a human and environmental tragedy. Not only did it result in the deaths of 11 oil workers and injury to scores of others, but it has the ever increasing potential of being the most devastating and ruinous oil spill to our natural resource systems that this country has ever experienced.

Fortunately, New Jersey has not had to deal with anything similar to the type or size of the Deepwater Horizon spill, though the ones we have experienced share many of its important characteristics. While we have yet to determine the cause of the explosion and fire on the Deepwater Horizon and why the blowout preventer at the wellhead did not work, based upon our experience such calamities are caused 90% by human error and 10% by equipment failure. Preliminary information indicates that the blowout preventer, a fail-safe device design to seal an oil well in event of an accident, had a leaky hydraulic valve and had undergone modifications that made it difficult to operate. Also, a battery system to operate the valve was apparently not functioning.

The amount of oil being released always seems to be unknown or greatly underestimated during the critical first few days of the spill. The spill estimate given by the energy giant BP after the Deepwater Horizon burned and sank first range from no leakage at all to 5,000 gallons a day, then to 10,000, 50,000, 150,000 and eventually to 210,000 gallons. Some experts now believe it is five times the 210,000 number. In reality we will probably never know the exact amount, we never do. In our experience with tanker spills in New Jersey, even when knowing the capacity of the ship, the spill amount is at best an estimate. In the example of the Exxon Valdez, even 20 years after the most scrutinized oil spill in our country's history the experts can only agree that the oil spill ranged between 10.9 million and 38 million gallons.

We have found with our spills in New Jersey that even though the first line of defense is the rapid deployment of oil containment booms and oil skimming equipment, in reality they prove to be

inadequate. Containment booms are solid, but flexible rubberized fabric which float at the water surface and extend down some 4-5 feet. The float at the top of each boom extends some 8-12 inches above the surface. The booms are designed to contain the spill at the surface so it can be removed with skimmers or vacuums. Containment booms are not at all effective in containing oil suspended in the water column and only partially effective in containing oil at the surface if currents are less than ½ knot and waves are less than about 6 inches. Currents stronger than 1 or 2 knots or waves higher than 1 or 2 feet render containment booms nearly useless because the oil is swept either over or under them. Based on past spills in marine environments, the best we are able to recapture is 3% of the oil. In ocean waters it is considerably less than that.

More than 200 thousand gallons of dispersants have been spread on the oil slicks occurring in Gulf waters. Dispersants break the oil into small particles and drive it away from the surface into the water column, similar to what happens when adding dish detergent to a greasy cooking pan. The action of oil dispersants can lessen the amount of oil making it to the shoreline and striking vegetation such as salt marshes. However, from a fishes well being dispersants have a much more detrimental biological impact than oil alone. Now, not only is there more surface area of oil that becomes available for direct contact with fishes, but to the forage fishes and other marine life which they depend for food. In addition, the smaller oil particles are dispersed throughout the entire water column and can remain there for a long period of time, thus making them more available for direct contact with fishes. And to make matters worse for fishes, various chemical components of the dispersant are toxic in themselves to not only fishes, but to a great multitude to other marine organisms.

The petroleum hydrocarbons which constitute the oil of a spill are very complex chemical compounds. A series of these compounds (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) are known to be toxic to fish as well as humans, some having been shown to cause lung and skin cancer as well as reproductive problems. When these compounds come into contact with the fishes, either directly or through their food, they can suffer lethal effects, long-term debilitating problems or have serious impacts on their offspring. For example, sea herring larvae occurring in the Exxon Valdez oil spill area of

Alaska exhibited 2-3 times the deformities than did healthy herring found outside the spill area. And runs of salmon occurring in the same oil spill area had two year-class failures following the spill as compared to salmon runs in non-affected areas.

In addition to the known toxic effects of oil spill on fishes and other marine life, the Deepwater Horizon spill has been found to have yet another impact. Scientists are now finding large masses of oil, some as large as 10 by 30 miles and 300 feet thick suspended in the water column several hundred feet below the surface and the thermocline. As biological decomposition of the oil takes place, oxygen dissolved within the water column could become exhausted resulting in hypoxia or even anoxia. Such a condition would result in killing all marine life!

What we know of oil spills is that there will be no advantages or benefits to fish life, only disadvantages and damages. Any actions that are taken to clean up the Gulf oil spill will be merely attempts to keep the damages as small as possible, albeit in the end, we are unable to reduce oil spill damages any appreciable amount. Unfortunately the real impact of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill will not be fully understood for many years. In the mean time, the major biological damage will occur to marine life and fisheries will be closed in order to protect the well being of consumers.

*Bruce Freeman has been part of the DEP oil spill response team for more than 15 years.*

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

### **Oil Spill Confirms our Worst Fears**

Two years ago, when President Bush proposed opening up the east coast for oil drilling, JCAA restated our long-standing opposition to this action. JCAA and I were criticized by certain members of the outdoor press for our anti-oil, anti-Republican stand. Last month, we restated our opposition when President Obama made a similar proposal to open certain areas of the east coast to oil and gas exploration. I was surprised we weren't criticized for being anti-Democrat. The decision to drill or not drill is not a Democratic or Republican issue. It is, in our mind, an environmental issue

which crosses all party boundaries. In New Jersey, most politicians, both Democrats and Republicans, quickly condemned the proposal. The “drill baby drill” contingent were quick to jump on President Obama’s bandwagon no matter what their party affiliation. None of us have ever wished to be vindicated by the nightmare scenario that is happening in the Gulf. We would have gladly continued this fight over “what ifs” rather than have this disaster as a way to support our claims. The supporters of drilling who have been critical of JCAA’s position always argued that new drilling techniques would make this type of spill impossible. Now we have an ecological disaster in the Gulf. The dispersant agents being used may create another set of problems. What we see on top of the water is just the tip of the problem and we have no idea of the long-term consequences of this disaster. We do know that the long-term consequences in Alaska are only now being realized. Hopefully, this has convinced those in power and those who have been focused on the short-term rewards of drilling to rethink their position. We can find other ways to become energy independent. These ways will require investment and sacrifice. But we have no alternative. Bruce Freeman, who was part of New Jersey’s oil spill reaction team for over 20 years, is writing about the technical problems of clean-up and the problems with dispersants. JCAA is calling for other fishing organizations to sign on to a letter to all of our elected officials demanding a moratorium on east coast drilling for oil or natural gas. The industry has proven that they can’t control the damage that these accidents cause. They should not be allowed to risk the fisheries, tourism and industries along the coast that depend on clean water, a clean environment and abundant fish. JCAA will be contacting other organizations for their signatures.

### **Wave Turbines In The Manasquan River**

Although JCAA supports renewable energy projects, there is a right and a wrong way to go about this. Placing wave turbines in the Manasquan River is clearly an example of a wrong way. The article included gives some of the important details. However, the article fails to recognize the negative environmental impact. JCAA is wondering if an environmental impact study was done and what DEP permits were issued. The areas proposed for these turbines are nursery areas for black sea bass and other species. They are also prime fishing and

diving locations. In other studies, there have been questions raised about the amount of fish kills produced by these turbines. Without more information, JCAA cannot support the installation of these turbines. We will be asking the DEP Commissioner to review the process.

I think the most upsetting part of this entire process is the use of the increase in our boat registration fees to pay for the installation of these turbines while the electricity generated will be used mainly for a financial institution located at the site. The former marina has few slips and has shut down public and fishing access. When Governor McGreevey raised the boat registration fees, legislators provided a sunset provision that would earmark this money for boaters after the initial two years. This created I-Boat New Jersey, a program managed by the Department of Transportation. This wasn’t intended to provide financial support for banks and other financial institutions. Those institutions should be going to BPU to fund their energy projects. These institutions could consider solar panels for their sustainable energy needs without creating any type of environment problem or denying fishing access. I-Boat New Jersey should be used solely for the enhancement of boating, not special projects to benefit other segments of the economy. If this is not happening, our boat registration fee should return to pre-McGreevey fees. You can go to the link below for more information. Please contact your legislators and let them know how you feel.

[http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/airwater/maritime/marine\\_trades\\_IBOAT.shtm](http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/airwater/maritime/marine_trades_IBOAT.shtm)

### **ASMFC Week Report** **Striped Bass**

In last month’s newspaper, I discussed the vote to start preparing an addendum to increase the commercial coastal striped bass fishery. The vote was very close at that time. As you can see in the meeting summary below, the Striped Bass Board voted for the staff to proceed with the addendum. The information on the votes is below. It surprised me that Connecticut, a state that considers striped bass a gamefish, supported the addendum. It also surprised me that Maryland, Washington, DC and Potomac River, that have expressed their concerns about the Chesapeake Bay stock and disease, also supported the addendum. It also surprised me that the US Fish and Wildlife Service voted to support

the addendum when the National Marine Fisheries Service went on the record in opposition. NMFS stated that their concerns about the Chesapeake Bay stock showed this was the wrong time for an increase. The public hearings will be sometime in late June or early July. It will be up to anglers in other states to pressure their state directors and commissioners not to vote for the increase. There is also a measure in this addendum to transfer recreational quota to commercial fisheries. Since we don't have a state by state striped bass quota, I can't see how this would happen. But commissioners voted to move forward with this proposal.

The other thing that was voted on at the Striped Bass Board was a proposal by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife to allow for different management measures on striped bass. This would allow an angler to have in his possession one fish at 24 inches and a second fish over 32 inches. It would allow you to keep 2 fish at 28 inches if you didn't want to keep a smaller fish. This motion was passed. One of my fellow commissioners asked me if this would happen in New Jersey. My experience is that if you have 8 striped bass anglers in a room you have 8 different opinions. Since this is not a crisis or a compliance issue and legislation would be required, I find it difficult to imagine this will happen. It would take a majority of the organizations that fish for striped bass to be in agreement.

### **Black Sea Bass**

There was some good news at the Black Sea Bass Board Meeting. We finally got an estimate of wave 5 and 6 data that showed we did not need a 44% reduction. The reduction necessary is 21%. Since the beginning of the season was already set, the option was allowing for a longer season. It was decided to allow for a November 1 to December 31 winter season. This would still be conservative since it estimated a 26% reduction. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission passed this motion. The federal rules are currently in the federal registry and the comment period closes on May 27<sup>th</sup>. JCAA will be writing a comment asking for the NMFS to implement the same regulations in federal waters. Please make the same request. It would be advantageous to have the same regulations in both state and federal waters. The seasons are May 22 –October 11 and November 1 to December 31. There will also be a 12.5 inch minimum size and a 25 fish bag limit.

*Here is how to submit your comments on black sea bass to NMFS and link to the notice*

<http://www.nero.noaa.gov/nero/regs/frdoc/10/10sfsbsbrecspecsPR.pdf>

**SUMMARY:** NMFS proposes management measures for the 2010 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass recreational fisheries. The implementing regulations for these fisheries require NMFS to publish recreational measures for the fishing year and to provide an opportunity for public comment. The intent of these measures is to prevent overfishing of the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass resources. **DATES:** Comments must be received by 5 p.m. local time, on May 27, 2010. **ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments, identified by 0648–AY04, by any one of the following methods:

**Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal <http://www.regulations.gov>

**Fax:** (978) 281–9135

Attn: Comments on 2010 Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Recreational Management Measures, 0648–AY04

**Mail and hand delivery:**

Patricia A. Kurkul,  
Regional Administrator, NMFS,  
Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive,  
Gloucester, MA 01930.

Mark the outside of the envelope:

“Comments on 2010 Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Recreational Measures, 0648–AY04”

### **Omnibus Amendment Comments**

After the first night of the ASMFC meeting, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council conducted a public hearing on the Omnibus Amendment. I skipped dinner and sat through the 3 hour presentation. This is one of the scariest documents I have seen in a long time. It further complicates the management process since the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council is making its own interpretation of the new Magnusson Stevens Act. This interpretation is different than that of the New England Fishery Management Council and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. An important component of fisheries management is consistency throughout a region. A commercial fisherman or recreational anglers who fishes from Maine to Florida should be able to expect consistent management tools throughout the coast. This is not the way it is currently perceived by the Councils. Every Federal Fishery Management Council is setting up its own rules. Twenty years ago, I would read a document word for word and identify small changes I thought would make a difference or

identify inconsistencies I thought we should address. When I looked at this document I realized that we were setting up a management regime built on a house of cards doomed to fall. This document will simply cause great pain for no gain. There will be great financial hardship for both the commercial and recreational fishing communities. I used to say, "Garbage In, Garbage Out." Someone pointed out the appropriate expression is, "Garbage In, Gospel Out." Since NMFS is at the top of Mount Ararat, the expression should read, "Garbage In, Gospel Out According to NMFS." By the time you read this newspaper, JCAA will have submitted our written comments which are included elsewhere in this newspaper.

### **ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board Expands Recreational Black Sea Bass Season**

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board has modified the 2010 season length for the black sea bass recreational fishery. The season will now run from May 22 to October 11, 2010 and from November 1 to December 31, 2010.

The season represents an extension from what was originally planned. When the original season was developed, the Board only had 2009 harvest estimates for January through June. Harvest estimates for July through December 2009 were projected using previous years' data to calculate a total harvest estimate. Based on these preliminary projections, the original season was developed with the intent of reducing recreational harvest by 44% from 2009 levels. Final 2009 harvest estimates were made available at the end of April. The estimate indicates that harvest is less than previously projected and only a 21.4% reduction is required for the 2010 recreational season. The newly approved season is anticipated to achieve a 26% reduction and allows for a reasonable conservation buffer to account for uncertainty in the harvest estimates and the effectiveness of regulations. The season was further expanded into November and December to allow for increased access by party/charter boats and private boat/shore-based anglers that did not have a late fall/early winter season last year.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for Management, at tkerns@asmfc.org or (202) 289-6400.

### **Meeting Summary**

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board reviewed the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's draft Omnibus Amendment, which proposes options that will impact the Commission FMP and management of the three species. The Omnibus proposes

a framework for annual catch limits and accountability measures. The Council is holding public hearings in the month of May in Virginia, New Jersey and New York. For meeting details see <http://www.mafmc.org/comments/comments.htm>.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for Management, at (202) 289-6400 or tkerns@asmfc.org.

### **Motions**

**Motion to amend the Commission recreational BSB season to be open from May 22 –October 11 and November 1 to December 31 (26% reduction).**

Motion made by Mr. Travelstead, second by Mr.

Augustine. Motion carries (9 in favor, 2 abstentions).

### **ASMFC Striped Bass Board Approves Draft Addendum II for Public Comment**

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board has approved Draft Addendum II to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass for public comment. The Draft Addendum proposes two changes to the striped bass management program: (1) an increase in the coastal commercial quota, and (2) revising the definition of recruitment failure based on Technical Committee advice. The proposal to increase the coastal commercial quota is intended to improve equality between the commercial and recreational fishery sectors. Although Amendment 6 established management programs for both fisheries based on the same target fishing mortality rate, the implementation of state-specific quotas for coastal commercial harvest (and not for recreational harvest) has prevented the commercial and recreational fisheries from responding equally to changes in striped bass population size. Since 2004, coastal commercial harvest has decreased by 3.6 percent, while recreational harvest has increased by 13.7 percent. Under the option, the Board would select a percent increase to be applied to the coastal commercial allocations assigned in Amendment 6.

The Management Board voted to include a second issue in the Draft Addendum based on information presented at the meeting. As part of its review of the juvenile abundance indices, the Striped Bass Technical Committee recommended to the Management Board a revision to how striped bass recruitment failure is defined. Juvenile abundance indices are an important component of the striped bass monitoring program and are used to determine periods of recruitment failure which can trigger management action under Amendment 6. Adopting the proposed recommendation would result in a fixed value to determine recruitment failure in each surveyed area rather than a value that changes from year to year. Use of either the Amendment 6 definition or the Technical Committee recommendation for recruitment failure does not result in

any necessary changes to the current management program. It is anticipated that the majority of states will be conducting public hearings on the Draft Addendum. A press release will be issued once the details of the hearings have been finalized and the Draft Addendum is available for public comment. For more information, please contact Nichola Meserve, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator at (202) 289-6400 or nmeserve@asmfc.org.

### Meeting Summary

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board met to consider a proposal for alternative recreational management from New Jersey, review a Technical Committee report on the juvenile abundance indices, consider approval of Draft Addendum II for public comment, review a progress report on estimating striped bass poaching, and approve several committee nominations. New Jersey submitted a proposal to implement the following recreational regulations: a two fish creel limit, with a minimum size limit of 24 inches for one fish and a minimum size limit of 32 inches for the other fish. The Technical Committee deemed the proposed regulations to be conservationally equivalent (in terms of the effect on the stock's spawning potential) to the Amendment 6 standard of a two fish creel limit and 28 inch minimum size for both fish. The Advisory Panel members were mostly supportive of the proposal, but did not reach a consensus agreement. The Law Enforcement Committee indicated the proposed regulations were enforceable. The Management Board approved the proposal with the requirement that the Technical Committee reevaluate whether the alternative measures are still conservationally equivalent three years following implementation. This review will be in addition to the one year review that the Plan Review Team regularly undertakes of any alternative management measures implemented. As part of the discussion, the Management Board also tasked the Technical Committee to review and consider updating the method(s) for determining conservationally equivalent management measures.

With some modifications, the Management Board approved Draft Addendum II for public comment. See the above press release for additional information. As part of the discussion, the Management Board tasked the Technical Committee with providing advice on how conservation equivalency proposals including an exchange between the recreational and commercial fisheries could potentially occur and be analyzed.

### Main Motion:

Move to accept New Jersey's recreational striped bass proposal for one fish at 24" or greater and a second fish at 32" or greater which has been approved by the Striped Bass Technical Committee as being conservationally equivalent to the management plan standard of 2 fish at 28" or greater.

Motion made by Mr. McCloy, second by Dr. Daniel.  
Motion amended.

### Motion to Amend:

### Main Motion as Amended:

Move to accept New Jersey's recreational striped bass proposal for the possession limit of a one fish at 24" or greater and a second fish at 32" or greater which has been approved by the Striped Bass Technical Committee as being conservationally equivalent to the management plan standard of 2 fish at 28" or greater. Conservation equivalency will be re-evaluated 3 years after implementation.

Motion made by Mr. McCloy, second by Dr. Daniel.  
Motion carries (15 in favor, 1 opposed).

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Johnson.  
Motion carries (Roll Call Vote: In favor – **RI, CT, NY, DE, MD, DC, PRFC, VA, NC, USFWS; Opposed – ME, NH, MA, NJ, PA, NMFS**).

## **Electric turbine project set for Manasquan River in May - Will be able to Generate Enough Power for about 20 Homes**

**By David P. Willis, Business Writer, 4/20/2010**

POINT PLEASANT BEACH — Two underwater turbines at Will's Hole Marina will soon start to capture a force of nature — the tide — on the Manasquan River and convert it to electricity.

In May, Natural Currents Energy Services LLC will install the turbines at Will's Hole, a marina just off the Route 35 bridge over the Manasquan, behind Kingsbridge Financial Group.

Called the Red Hawk Tidal Energy Project, the turbines will generate 40 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power about 20 homes, said Roger Bason, president of Natural Currents, which is based in Highland, N.Y.

The project, which will power about 50 percent to 60 percent of the electric needs at the Kingsbridge Financial Group building and the marina, is a first of its kind for New Jersey, Bason said. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

"We have all seen the movements of the tides and in some cases it is quite strong," Bason said. "People have wondered, "Why can't we tap that for electric power?" "The idea of using the tides for power has received a boost as computers and new material for turbines have enabled machines to capture the tide's lateral movements. "We now have turbines that . . . whatever way the water is moving, the turbines spin in the same direction," Bason said.

Will's Hill is an ideal location. There is a "tremendous tidal flow," said Bill Damora, co-owner of the marina and Kingsbridge Financial Group Inc. The nearby railroad bridge also acts as a funnel.

Damora has long had an interest in green power. “Every day I see this tide flowing every six and a half hours in and out,” he said. “The sun doesn’t always shine, the wind doesn’t always blow, but the tide always moves.”

The project will cost about \$408,100, with \$371,000 funded through a grant by I Boat New Jersey, a program managed by the state Department of Transportation. Will’s Hole and Natural Currents Energy provided about \$37,100, the 10 percent in matching funds.

James Pacilio, co-owner at Will’s Hole and Kingsbridge Financial Group, estimated it would take about three to five years to recoup the costs through energy savings. He’s hopeful it could take even less time.

“These things have capabilities that really will far surpass that,” Pacilio said. Excess electricity that is generated will be sold to Jersey Central Power & Light.

The turbines will be installed under a dock that will be built near some old pilings at the marina, Bason said. “The waterway looks the same before and after the installation.”

## JCAA’s Comments on the Omnibus Amendment

Huge changes in fishery management are proposed by the Omnibus Amendment written by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) working with NMFS. These changes are vast and all encompassing. Will they have a devastating negative impact on fishing for all species by any fisherman? Written comments are due on or before 5:00 p.m., EST, on May 21, 2010. The August 2010 Council meeting will be held at: Philadelphia Holiday Inn at 400 Arch Street in Historic Philadelphia. The dates are August 17-19 2010. The Council will discuss the Omnibus Amendment at this meeting.

### JCAA comments:

#### **1. The JCAA does not support the four tier system for dealing with poor stock assessment data.**

The Omnibus Amendment sets up a four tier system to deal with fact that NMFS is still dealing with the same poor stock assessment for many species that it was 25 years ago. JCAA asked NMFS 25 years ago for better stock assessment data for many species including black sea bass and scup. NMFS has failed to spend the money to accomplish this and it is still not doing anything to improve that

data for these and many other species. The NMFS Data Poor Workshops got us better models but not better basic stock assessment data. So in this system, even if scup and black sea bass are considered recovered, overfishing is not taking place and they are not overfished, then the SSC could set a quota greatly reduced from what the stock assessment recommends. The fishing community is paying the consequences because the NMFS has failed to spend its money on good stock assessment data. Instead, they spend it on models and management tools. JCAA’s Legislative Chairman, Tom Fote, often uses the expression, “Garbage In, Garbage Out.” However, we believe a better expression is “**Garbage In, Gospel Out According to NMFS.**” NMFS puts garbage into the models and then treats the output as gospel. They implement regulations based on that flawed gospel. We are stuck with **The Gospel According to NMFS**, since it is, according to NMFS, “the best available data.”

That is why Congress, the Senate, JCAA and many other fishing and environmental groups were so upset when we heard that the head of NOAA had proposed in the NMFS budget to divert stock assessment science money for a management program called Catch Share.

#### **2. The JCAA does not support giving the NE Regional Director the power to shut down the recreational fishery.**

This Omnibus Amendment would allow the Northeast Regional Director to shut down the recreational fishing of a species based on the first 3 waves of the flawed Marine Recreational Statistical Survey. Look how well this worked this year for Black Sea Bass. We are 5 months into the following year and are now doing a reduction that is half of what was recommended at the end of the previous year. Another example is the scup fishery which in the first 3 waves only represents 15% of the harvest. If, in any year, the first 3 waves were 20%, the Regional Director could shut down the rest of the year’s fishery. This is using data the National Academy of Science calls worthless. JCAA cannot support this action.

#### **3. This document is very difficult to understand and there are not examples on what will be the outcome with the new interpretations.**

The new language for SSC operation used in the Magnusson Act is open to interpretation. NMFS has one way of interpreting the Magnusson Act. There is not general agreement with the

**JCAA Press Release - May 16<sup>th</sup> 2010**  
**Tom Fote Receives New Jersey State Governor's**  
**Jefferson Award**

Contact Mark Taylor 732-929-2591

Contact Tom Siciliano 609-296-3774

On April 28, 2010, Tom Fote, JCAA's Legislative Chairman, was honored for his environmental stewardship at the NJ State Governor's Jefferson Awards. The Jefferson Awards were "established to honor individuals for their achievement and contributions through public and community service."

There were twenty individuals and group honorees. The New Jersey State Governor's Jefferson Awards honor people who perform outstanding community service. Award recipients are ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or reward. The environmental stewardship award is sponsored by PSE&G.

The Governor's Jefferson Awards highlight the great service of New Jersey's 1.5 million volunteers who are making a difference in our state. The Awards celebrate the power of volunteerism and honor exceptional leaders throughout New Jersey who give so freely of their time and energy for the greater good of the state.

Some of the many major environmental issues that Tom has been directly involved in include:

**Ocean Dumping** – Years ago Tom worked with the newly formed Clean Ocean Action and the Littoral Society to stop the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey from dumping sludge into the ocean. The once accepted process of ocean dumping is no longer acceptable. This was a huge benefit to the citizens of New Jersey and more importantly the quality of ocean water.

**Barnegat Bay** – Tom is the longest serving member on the Policy Board of the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program, an organization that is dedicated to improve the quality of water in this important waterway that is home to so many of nature's wildlife.

**Endocrine Disruptors** – There is alarming evidence that drugs dumped into our waterways are having a serious impact on fish reproduction and other aquatic species. Tom has testified to Congress on this issue and is leading the fight to educate the public on the proper disposal of drugs.

interpretation made by NMFS. Further confusing and complicating this issue is that the Councils are further interpreting what NMFS has said. There is not consistency among the interpretations by the Federal Fishery Management Councils. As a Commissioner to ASMFC, Tom Fote deals with 3 Councils, each with a different interpretation of what NMFS meant when it interpreted the Magnusson Stevens Act. We need a clear, consistent interpretation of the content of the Magnusson Stevens Act in order to make appropriate management decisions. NMFS and all the Federal Management Councils need to agree to a set of rules, make sure everyone understands those rules and then consistently play by those rules. What we have now is pure chaos.

JCAA doesn't think President Bush or Congress, with the passage of the 2006 Magnusson Stevens Act, intended to destroy commercial and recreational fishing. We think their goal was to rebuild sustainable fisheries. But the way NMFS is interpreting the law could destroy the infrastructure of both the commercial and recreational fishing industry for years to come. There needs to be a balance between the needs of the fishing public and the rebuilding of the stocks. There are ways of doing both and somehow this has gotten lost in NMFS interpretation of the Magnusson Stevens Act. If you turn people from commercial and recreational fishing, there is no incentive for them to be stewards of the environment and the oceans we love. The commercial and recreational fishing communities were and remain the original environmentalists. We spearheaded the drive to end ocean dumping and many other important environmental initiatives.

JCAA understands there has been much staff and council time working on the Omnibus Amendment. But we are asking the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to put this Amendment on hold and draft a National Omnibus Amendment that would include all the Councils. NMFS should be developing the guidelines and not the Councils.

**Sign up early for the JCAA Fluke  
Tournament and save. Sign up by  
June 5<sup>th</sup> and the entry fee is \$120.  
After June 5<sup>th</sup> the entry fee is \$150.**

A retired Army Captain and disabled Vietnam Veteran, Tom's personal experiences with Agent Orange inspired him to make a life-long commitment to environmental issues. As an unpaid volunteer, Tom has as his mission preserving the natural environment for future generations.

In addition to the award presented on April 28, Tom has also been chosen to attend the National Jefferson Awards in Washington, DC in June to represent New Jersey's recipients.

**NEW JERSEY OUTDOOR ALLIANCE REPORT**  
*By John Toth*

Members of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance met on April 26<sup>th</sup> and the following is a brief summary of the issues that were discussed.

The NJOA staff takes the time to meet with legislators of both political parties to explain the issues relating to anglers and hunters of our state. Just because we are familiar with these issues, we assume and expect that our legislators have the same depth of knowledge on these issues as we do. Nothing can be further from the truth! While some legislators have this knowledge, many do not and if they do they sometimes have incorrect information. The NJOA invited Senator Beck from the 12<sup>th</sup> District to its April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting so that she could hear firsthand and, more importantly, understand the issues facing anglers and hunters.

One of the first issues that came up was the upcoming registry. Senator Beck initially indicated that the registry should be free and that anglers should not be required to pay anything for it. NJOA members explained the background of the registry to her and the issues involved with it. Namely, the administrative costs of the registry and the negative impact that it would have if the NJ's Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) would have to absorb the cost to administer the program estimated to be \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. Depleting the budget of Fish & Wildlife by this amount would have a very adverse impact on the abilities of DFW to manage our state's hunting and fishing programs. Funding of the registry must be addressed if it is to be handled by the DFW. The NJOA indicated to her that it needs the direction of our Governor on this important issue and she agreed.

Senator Beck told us that the deer population is a big problem in the Shrewsbury area and she asked the NJOA for input on how to handle this problem. There has been ongoing discussion to handle this deer problem in this area by using professional hunters, sterilization of

deer and other alternatives. Of course, there is always the animal right activists who do not want any deer hunt even though there have been numerous accidents involving deer in the township.

NJOA members indicated that professional hunters using guns in a populated area would naturally antagonize residents and these hunters are expensive as an alternative estimated at \$300 per deer. NJOA hunters recommended bow hunting to reduce the deer population and they offered to come to Senator Beck's meeting on this issue with the township to fully explain this option to its residents at Senator Beck's request. Senator Beck was very appreciative of this offer of assistance by the NJOA.

Other issues were discussed and explained to Senator Beck like the Pots Bill, HOFNOD and other issues. Senator Beck is in a position to help anglers and hunters of our state and her sitting down with NJOA Council members to hear what we have to say and her getting a better understanding of our issues was time very well spent. Senator Beck thanked us for inviting her and she said that she really enjoyed meeting with us. We need more legislators on board to get our legislative issues resolved.

Senator Tom Kean, Jr., Senate Minority Leader, has been invited to the NJOA's May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**JCAA LETTER TO PAT KURKUL ON JCAA'S POSITION ON BLACK SEABASS**

Patricia Kurkul, Regional Administrator  
NOAA/NMFS  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

Dear Ms Kurkul:

Please be advised that the Jersey Coast Anglers Association supports the black sea bass regulations that the ASMFC voted on and approved at the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The seasons are May 22 – October 11 and November 1 to December 31. There will also be a 12.5 inch minimum size and a 25 fish bag limit. This is a 26% reduction which is higher than the 21% required. We want you to implement the same regulations in the EEZ.

Mark Taylor  
JCAA President

**Enjoy Your Sport More  
Teach a Child To Fish**

## Survey Monkey By Tom Siciliano

For the past seven years the JCAA has conducted a survey of angling success vs. effort during our annual fluke tournament. The data gathered has provided valuable insight into the success of anglers in ports from Jersey City to Fortesque. This year we will again conduct the survey but will offer anglers the opportunity to complete the survey on line. The survey can be found at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/2TG29KP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2TG29KP). You can look at it now and even try filling it out to see how easy it is. Obviously, the data you enter between now and the date of the tournament will not be of any use. I will erase all those trying the system out on June 11<sup>th</sup>. When you are finished fishing on June 12 simply go to the site and enter your actual data. All those who fill out the report on line by Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup> will be entered into a drawing for a free entry into next year's tournament.

If you want to provide data on your earlier catches go to the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife Website and fill in your information. They have a survey form at [www.njfishandwildlife.com/marinesurvey08.htm](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/marinesurvey08.htm), which is very similar to the one I have on survey monkey. It only takes a few minutes and will add to the data that the state will have to fight for your fishing rights. An added benefit is that you now have a log of what you have caught which can be used to improve your fishing in the future.

I will be using the survey monkey for the Sunshine Foundation Tournament which will be held at Great Bay Marina on July 10, 2010.

I would love to work with anyone running a fishing tournament in New Jersey to use survey monkey for their anglers to report the results of your tournament. Give me a call at 609-296-3774 or email me at [toms6363@comcast.net](mailto:toms6363@comcast.net). I will help you set up the survey for your tournament and complete a report of the results for you to share with your participants. I will then provide the information to the biologists for the State of New Jersey and also to the National Marine Fisheries Service. My goal is to have more data on fishing in New Jersey than the National Marine Fisheries Service does. That shouldn't be that hard with your help. With that information we will be able to challenge or confirm

the data that is collected by MRFS. We must insure that NMFS uses all the data that is available and the more data we have the better chance we will have of showing them what the real numbers are for New Jersey. I encourage all anglers in New Jersey to fill out the state survey listed above for every trip they make. Only when the state biologists have more information than NMFS will they be able to fight for you.

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Barnegat Bay Festival

Whether you swim, fish, kayak, clam, sail, or ice boat on the Barnegat Bay, there is never a better time to celebrate this unique and wonderful natural resource of New Jersey than at the Barnegat Bay Festival. Join us as we say **"Thank You, Barnegat Bay"** at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Barnegat Bay Festival being held once more at **Wanamaker Complex in Island Heights on Sunday June 6, 2010, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Rain or Shine)**. The Barnegat Bay Festival is sponsored by the Barnegat Bay Partnership (formerly known as the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program) with support from our partners, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Ocean County College.

The day will feature events that promote good environmental stewardship and hands-on activities:

- Canoe eco-tours (pre-registration required)
- Seining demonstrations & beach discoveries
- Pontoon boat rides on the Toms River
- Special children's performance on stage by YOSI
- Touchable sea life in the Atlantic City Aquarium Touch Tank
- Sailboat rides with Nelson Sailing Center
- Music with the Greater Pinelands Dulcimer Society
- Dozens of Environmental Exhibits and Organizations
- Eco-Friendly Arts and Crafts
- Native Plant Sale
- Face Painting with Dana
- Festival Food
- ....and so much more!

**NEW this year!** On Saturday June 5, 2010, there will be Bay-Friendly Gardening Workshops under the festival tents. Topics will include proper use of fertilizers, landscaping with native plants, composting, attracting wild birds to your yard, rain barrels and a special children's program on bugs. Pre-registration and a \$5 donation are required.

Go to [www.bbneq.org](http://www.bbneq.org) for additional festival and workshop information (pre-registration signups) or contact Betsy Hyle, Special Events Coordinator @ 732-255-0472 ext.4

## 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 of our member clubs are also JCAA sponsors. If your club is not contact us today to become one. With all the new battles we are engaged in, we need to raise more funds in order to be effective. Become a sponsor now and help us to continue the fight.

## Join JCAA as an Associate Member

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

### JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Ph. # \_\_\_\_\_

Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

## **COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS**

|                |             |                                                                    |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Legislative    | Tom Fote    | 732-270-9102<br><a href="mailto:tfote@jcaa.org">tfote@jcaa.org</a> |
| Office Manager | Phil Celmer | 609-693-3414<br><a href="mailto:jcaa@jcaa.org">jcaa@jcaa.org</a>   |

|                    |                  |                                                                          |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Access: (North)    |                  |                                                                          |
| Access: (South)    |                  |                                                                          |
| Blackfish          | Pat Donnelly     | 732-528-8181                                                             |
| Blue claw Crab     | Jack Miktus      | 732-477-5184                                                             |
| Blue Fish          | Al Marantz       | 732-280-2643                                                             |
| Habitat            | Pat Donnelly     | 732-528-8181                                                             |
| Large Pelagic      | John Koegler     | 610-687-2208                                                             |
| Menhaden           | Len Fantasia     | 732-872-1862                                                             |
| Science & Research | Bruce Freeman    | 732-793-7871                                                             |
| Sponsorship        | Frank Richetti   | 732-477-3120                                                             |
| Striped Bass       | Ed Cherry        | <a href="mailto:edwardwc@verizon.net">edwardwc@verizon.net</a>           |
| Webmaster          | Phil V. Celmer   | <a href="mailto:philipc@highlandstech.net">philipc@highlandstech.net</a> |
| Youth Education    | Greg Kucharewski | 732-840-9197                                                             |

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