

JCAA NEWSPAPER DECEMBER 2010

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on November 22nd, 2010)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday November 30th, 2010

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 9th, 2010

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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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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Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

November 30th JCAA General Meeting

December 9th JCAA Board Meeting

December 28th JCAA General Meeting

January 8th Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar in AC

January 13th JCAA Board Meeting

January 13th -16th Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's & Adventure Show

January 25th JCAA General Meeting

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

At our last General Membership Meeting which was held October 26, 2010, I mentioned about the upcoming election for 2011 officers of JCAA. We need more people to step up because there is a never-ending attack on our recreational resource. If you are interested in being more involved and filling one of the positions, contact Don Marantz at 609-259-6368. Elections of officers will be voted on at the December 28th Meeting. To all JCAA member club presidents make sure your delegates attend the next meeting. It is very important to get the latest information so your club is on top of all the issues. With all the holidays and cold weather coming, my board and I wish everyone a safe holiday season.

The Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner which was held on November 14th at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant was a great success. There was a nice speech from our keynote speaker, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno. I would like to thank her for making time for us in her very busy schedule to speak to all that were in attendance about our concerns. We also had a very good friend to the recreational community stop by, Congressman Frank Pallone. Congressman Pallone presented both recipients with a proclamation from the House of Representatives honoring Paul Harris for being

GET THE POTS OFF THE REEFS

elected this year's JCAA Sportsman-of-the-Year and Al Lorenzo for the 2010 JCAA Youth Education Award. It shows the commitment that this individual has for the people in the recreational community. At this time I would like to recognize the dinner committee co-chairs Paul Turi and Dan Miller. They did a great job and I look forward for them to be back next year.

Show time is rapidly approaching and JCAA is looking for volunteers to work the booths. So if you are interested please contact Mark Taylor at mtsport64@aol.com. JCAA is committed to the following ones so far:

- **Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar** in Atlantic City on January 8
- **Outdoor Sportsmen's Show (Raritan Show)** in Edison on January 13 to 16
- **Atlantic City Boat Show**, February 2 through February 6
- **The Saltwater Fishing Expo** in Somerset on March 18 to 20

In the last newsletter I had two letters that were sent on behalf of JCAA. One dealt with the petition on banning lead. I am delighted to give some good news that the petition was denied by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Addendum II to Amendment 6 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan was approved by ASMFC Striped Bass Board. Below is a copy of the press releases:

EPA Denies Petition that Sought a Ban on Lead in Fishing Gear

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has denied a petition calling for a ban on the manufacture, use and processing of lead in fishing gear.

In a letter to the petitioners, EPA indicated that the petitioners have not demonstrated that the requested rule is necessary to protect against an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment, as required by the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The letter further indicates that the increasing number of limitations on the use of lead fishing gear on some federal and state lands, as well as various education and outreach activities, call into question whether a national ban on lead in fishing gear would be the least burdensome, adequately protective approach to address the concern, as called for under TSCA. EPA's letter also

notes that the prevalence of non-lead alternatives in the marketplace continues to increase.

On August 3, 2010, the American Bird Conservancy and a number of other groups petitioned EPA under Section 21 of the Toxic Substances Control Act to "prohibit the manufacture, processing, and distribution in commerce of lead for shot, bullets, and fishing sinkers." On August 27, 2010, EPA denied the portion of the petition relating to lead in ammunition because the agency does not have the legal authority to regulate this type of product under TSCA.

ASMFC Striped Bass Board Approves Addendum II. Coastal Commercial Quotas Remain Unchanged; Juvenile Abundance Index Management Trigger Improved

Charleston, SC – The Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approved Addendum II to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Addendum revises the definition of juvenile recruitment failure based on a recommendation from the Striped Bass Technical Committee. The Management Board approved status quo management for the coastal commercial quotas, which were being considered for an increase as part of the Addendum.

"After lengthy deliberation, the sense of the Board was that recent fishery trends do not warrant an increase in fishing mortality, commercial or recreational, at this time," said Board Chair, Jack Travelstead. "The Board also accelerated the assessment schedule, requesting an update assessment in 2011 prior to the next benchmark assessment in 2013 to more closely track changes in the fishery and the resource."

The proposal to increase the coastal commercial quota was intended to bring more parity 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 coastal commercial fisheries are controlled by quotas whereas the coastal recreational fisheries are managed through possession and size limits. As a result, the recreational harvest has increased with expanding striped bass population levels, and now accounts for approximately 70 percent of total harvest. The Management Board opted to maintain

the existing coastal commercial quotas for several reasons, including a 66 percent decline in estimated recreational catch from 2006 to 2009; a 25 percent decline in estimated striped bass abundance from 2004 to 2008; and several years of below-average production of fish from the Chesapeake Bay. The 2011 assessment update will help to indicate whether these trends are short- or long-term, and if corrective action is necessary to maintain the spawning stock biomass above the target level.

Juvenile abundance indices are an important component of the striped bass monitoring program. Under the management plan, six states are required to conduct juvenile sampling surveys, and the resulting indices of abundance are analyzed for recruitment failure. "Recruitment" is the appearance of young-of-the-year fish in the nursery areas. When recruitment failure occurs in a given year, there likely will be reduced abundance and availability of fish from that year class when surviving fish become available to the fisheries.

Management action is prompted when recruitment failure occurs for three consecutive years in any of the surveyed areas. The revision results in a fixed value to determine recruitment failure in each surveyed area rather than a value that changes from year to year. Additionally, the data points used in the calculation have been standardized, which will result in a more conservative evaluation of recruitment failure in several surveys. Under the revised definition (as with the original definition), three consecutive years of recruitment failure has not occurred in any area, and no management action has been triggered based on the juvenile abundance indices.

View the EPA letter and additional information:
<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/chemtest/pubs/sect21.htm>

We are looking for a **Fluke Tournament Director** and an **Office Manager** for next year. If you are interested, please contact me by email at mtsport64@aol.com for details.

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 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. They can be sent to Mark Taylor at mtsport64@aol.com.

IMPORTANT

The Next General Membership Meeting will be November 30, 2010 at Brick Civic Plaza, 270 Chambers Bridge Road in Brick.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

I attended the ASA Summit in Ft. Lauderdale and the ASMFC Annual Meeting in Charleston. At the ASA Summit the discussion at the Government Affairs Committee was an interesting opportunity to find out more about issues from around the country. I always return from the ASA meeting with a wealth of knowledge about fresh water, salt water, the industry and the work with government agencies. The speaker list was impressive and it is a shame that more people can't attend. I find this one of the most productive meetings of the year. One of the hot topics was the proposed lead ban. Mark Taylor's article shared JCAA's response. At the ASA meeting I shared my past experiences with EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and assured the committee that Administrator Jackson would consider all the facts and the impact on the fishing industry before making a decision. And that's exactly what she did. As always, Administrator Jackson made a common-sense decision and we applaud her action.

After a week at home, I went to Charleston for the ASMFC meeting. Last month I was concerned about upcoming decisions about striped bass, shad, and river herring. I was pleased that both boards made decisions I could support. JCAA was not supporting an increase in the commercial allocation for striped bass and no increase was granted. I wanted a clarification on what a moratorium on shad and river herring would mean and what steps we would need to take to avoid a moratorium. I got those answers and I am satisfied with the way the board handled this issue. At the striped bass board meeting, even though there were members of the public attending, no public comment was allowed during the discussion of the

amendments. The decision of the chairman was that these issues had been thoroughly discussed at public hearings and ASMFC had received public comment from the hearings and in writing. Only the commissioners were allowed to participate in the debate. I have always advocated public comment at all meetings. However, there was substantial evidence of public participation and an extended comment period for the public to participate. Unlike other addendums, there was no possibility of changes, just an up or down vote. If there had been any change or substitution I would have requested a time for public comment.

There are two newspaper articles included below dealing with endocrine disruptors, an issue that remains at the top of my list. One article is about the impact on fish spawning behavior and the other is about a study that uses rabbit food to reduce the estrogen in waste water. The more I network, the more concerned I become about this issue. I am pleased, however, that the media and press are beginning to report more about this issue. Global warming gets much press and concern and the debate rages. It is impossible to blame anyone but us for the problems we are finding with endocrine disruptors. The links are absolutely clear. The public should be just as concerned about endocrine disruptors as we are about global warming. Our first job is to educate ourselves and then work to force our government to take action. This is a world-wide problem that will have consequences for everyone. You cannot sit on the sidelines.

ASMFC 69th Annual Meeting Summary

ATLANTIC MENHADEN MANAGEMENT BOARD (November 8, 2010)

Meeting Summary

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board reviewed two reports by the Technical Committee (TC). An error was found in the code for the 2009 Atlantic Menhaden Stock Assessment. The mid-point (instead of the beginning of the year) numbers at age were inadvertently used for computing the predicted landings in the Atlantic menhaden model. The effect of this on the model is to apply an additional half-year of total mortality to the population. The model was rerun with the corrected code, resulting in a change of stock status. The new stock status is the stock is not overfished but overfishing is occurring. The TC will review the

changes in the assessment and correct the assessment report for the Commission's March Meeting. The TC and Multispecies TC also reported to the Board on progress made in developing alternative reference points. Both groups will continue work and have updated reports for the Board at the March meeting. Depending on the progress made by both TCs, the Board could consider the initiation of an addendum to address reference points in the spring or summer. Duncan Barnes was approved as a member of the Menhaden Advisory Panel. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Senior Fishery Management Coordinator for Management, (703) 842-0740 or tkerns@asmfc.org.

SHAD & RIVER HERRING MANAGEMENT BOARD (November 8, 2010)

Meeting Summary

The Shad and River Herring Board (Board) discussed and clarified that any state or jurisdiction that wishes to retain river herring harvested in state waters must submit a Sustainable Fisheries Management Plan (SFMP) as required under Amendment 2 to the Shad and River Herring FMP. The Plans must be reviewed by the Technical Committee and approved by the Board. At the meeting the Board reviewed SFMPs submitted by Maine and New Hampshire. The Technical Committee (TC) recommended the Board consider approval of the Maine SFMP and requested additional analysis be conducted and included in the New Hampshire SFMP prior to Board approval. New Hampshire presented additional monitoring targets for inclusion in the SFMP for review and consideration by the Board. The Board approved the SFMP from Maine, based on the TC's recommendations, and also requested that the TC review the New Hampshire targets and develop recommendations for the Board's consideration at the ASMFC Winter Meeting in March 2011. States or jurisdictions without an approved plan in place will be required to close their commercial and recreational fisheries by January 1, 2012.

The Board received an update on federal waters shad and river herring bycatch management measures currently being developed through the New England Fishery Management Council's (NEFMC) Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring FMP and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC) Amendment 14 to the Squid,

Mackerel, and Butterfish FMP. The NEFMC Atlantic Herring Plan Development Team is considering a suite of options for inclusion in Amendment 5 in order to reduce shad and river herring bycatch, including the identification of bycatch hotspots and the development of bycatch caps. These options will be considered by the NEFMC in January. MAFMC Amendment 15 is currently being developed, with the goals focusing on the development of an effective monitoring program to evaluate bycatch, alternatives to reduce total catch of shad and river herring, and alignment of Atlantic herring and mackerel reporting requirements.

The Board approved a Virginia bycatch allowance proposal, which permits a limited amount of American shad to be harvested in the areas above the first bridge in the James, York and Rappahannock Rivers in the anchored gill net and staked gill net fisheries. American shad, as bycatch from other fisheries, has consistently been less than 300 fish annually. This is the sixth year the Board has approved this allowance.

For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (703) 842-0740 or ktaylor@asmfc.org.

Motions

Move that any state or jurisdiction that wishes to retain river herring harvested in state waters must submit a sustainable fisheries management plan for review by the TC and approval by the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Fote. Motion passes (15 in favor).

ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (November 9, 2010)

Press Release: ASMFC Striped Bass Board Approves Addendum II Coastal Commercial Quotas Remain Unchanged Juvenile Abundance Index Management Trigger Improved

Charleston, SC – The Commission’s Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approved Addendum II to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Addendum revises the definition of juvenile recruitment failure based on a recommendation from

the Striped Bass Technical Committee. The Management Board approved status quo management for the coastal commercial quotas, which were being considered for an increase as part of the Addendum.

“After lengthy deliberation, the sense of the Board was that recent fishery trends do not warrant an increase in fishing mortality, commercial or recreational, at this time,” said Board Chair, Jack Travelstead. “The Board also accelerated the assessment schedule, requesting an update assessment in 2011 prior to the next benchmark assessment in 2013 to more closely track changes in the fishery and the resource.”

The proposal to increase the coastal commercial quota by a percentage selected by the Management Board was intended to bring more parity 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 coastal commercial fisheries are controlled by quotas whereas the coastal recreational fisheries are managed through possession and size limits. As a result, the recreational harvest has increased with expanding striped bass population levels, and now accounts for approximately 70% of total harvest. The Management Board opted to maintain the existing coastal commercial quotas for several reasons, including a 66% decline in estimated recreational catch from 2006 to 2009; a 25% decline in estimated striped bass abundance from 2004 to 2008; and several years of below-average production of fish from the Chesapeake Bay. The 2011 assessment update will help to indicate whether these trends are short- or long-term, and if corrective action is necessary to maintain the spawning stock biomass above the target level.

Juvenile abundance indices are an important component of the striped bass monitoring program. Under the management plan, six states are required to conduct juvenile sampling surveys, and the resulting indices of abundance are analyzed for recruitment failure. “Recruitment” is the appearance of young-of-the-year fish in the nursery areas. When recruitment failure occurs in a given year, there may be reduced abundance and availability of fish from that year class when surviving fish become available to the fisheries. Management action is prompted when recruitment failure occurs for three consecutive years in any of the surveyed areas.

The revision results in a fixed value to determine recruitment failure in each surveyed area rather than a value that changes from year to year. Additionally, the data points used in the calculation have been standardized, which will result in a more conservative evaluation of recruitment failure in several surveys. Under the revised definition (as with the original definition), three consecutive years of recruitment failure has not occurred in any area, and no management action has been triggered based on the juvenile abundance indices.

Copies of the Addendum will be available on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under Breaking News. For more information, please contact Robert Beal, ISFMP Director, at (703) 842-0740 or rbeal@asmfc.org.

Motions

Move to accept the 2010 FMP Review as presented.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Adler. Motion carries without objection.

Move to approve option one, status quo, for issue one.

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell and seconded by Rep. Abbott. Motion substituted.

Move to substitute the motion to approve Option 2, increase coastal commercial quotas by 30 percent, for Issue 1.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. McElroy. Motion fails (Roll Call Vote: In favor – RI, NY, DE, PRFC, VA, NC; Opposed – ME, NH, MA, CT, NJ, PA, MD, USFWS, NMFS).

Move to approve Option 1, status quo, for Issue 1.

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell and seconded by Rep. Abbott. Motion substituted.

Because the striped bass SSB is still well above the target and threshold and in recognition of the fact that commercial allocations have not been increased since 2003 and notwithstanding the concerns over recent declines in SSB and Maryland JAI values, I move to substitute to increase the coastal commercial allocation by 10% above current levels, which will sunset after one year unless extended by the Board after the 2011 turn of the crank assessment.

Motion made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Dr. Duval. Motion fails (Roll Call Vote: In favor – RI, NY, DE, PRFC, VA, NC; Opposed – ME, NH, MA, CT, NJ, PA, MD, USFWS, NMFS).

Move to approve Option 1, status quo, for Issue 1. Motion made by Mr. Stockwell and seconded by Rep. Abbott. Motion carries (Roll Call Vote: In favor – ME, NH, MA, CT, NJ, PA, MD, VA, USFWS, NMFS; Opposed - RI, NY, DE, NC; Abstain - PRFC).

Move to accept Option 2 (for Issue 2).

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Carpenter. Motion carries without objection.

Motion to approve Addendum II as modified today.

Motion made by Mr. Fote and seconded by Mr. Grout. Motion carries without objection.

SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, AND BLACK SEA BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD

(November 10, 2010)

Meeting Summary

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board met jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Demersal Committee. Both groups reviewed the current scup allocation and discussed possible alternatives for both the commercial/recreational allocation split and the allocation split for the three commercial periods. The Board and Council initiated an analysis of scup allocation between the winter and summer periods and the commercial and recreational fisheries to determine if there is a justifiable economic / social / biological reason to support a modification to the current allocation scheme. The Board reviewed an update of estimated recreational landings through wave 4. Summer flounder estimates are below the target. Scup estimates have exceeded the target and black sea bass estimates are very close to the target, with the rest of the year still open. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for Management, at (703) 842-0740 or tkerns@asmfc.org.

Motions

Main Motion:

Move to initiate an amendment to consider adjusting the allocation of fishing privileges for scup between the winter and summer commercial periods and between the commercial and recreational fisheries.

Motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Gibson for ASMFC. Motion substituted.

Same motion made by Dr. Kray and seconded by Mr. King for the Demersal Committee.

Motion substituted.

Motion to Substitute:

Move to substitute: initiate an analysis of scup allocation between the winter and summer periods and the commercial and recreational fisheries to determine if there is a justifiable economic-social-biological reason to support a modification to the current allocation scheme.

Motion made by Mr. Pate and seconded by Mr. Augustine for the Demersal Committee. Motion carries (8 in favor, 1 opposed).

Same motion to substitute. Motion by made Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Munden for the ASMFC. Motion carries.

Main Motion as Substituted:

Move to initiate an analysis of scup allocation between the winter and summer periods and the commercial and recreational fisheries to determine if there is a justifiable economic-social-biological reason to support a modification to the current allocation scheme.

Motion carries for the ASMFC.

Motion carries for the Demersal Committee (10 in favor, 0 opposed)

UC Research: Rabbit's Food Brings Luck in Decreasing Estrogen Levels in Wastewater

University of Cincinnati experiments published in the November issue of Environmental Pollution show that rabbit's food (comprised of organic vegetable matter) decreases estrogen levels in wastewater.

By M.B. Reilly, 11/1/2010

Phone: (513) 556-1824

The November 2010 issue of Environmental Pollution details successful experiments at the University of Cincinnati wherein rabbit's food resulted in the abiotic (non-biological) transformation and absorption of four different types of estrogen, reducing the levels of these estrogen hormones by more than 80 percent in wastewater.

The research has practical implications since it could point to inexpensive treatment technologies and materials for reducing estrogens in wastewater.

UC's Ruth Marfil-Vega and Makram Suidan at Cincinnati's Mill Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. They were part of the research team that experimented with rabbit's food as a treatment to decrease estrogen levels in wastewater in the lab.

Currently, estrogen in wastewater represents a major conduit for the entry of the hormone, whether in its naturally occurring forms or synthetic form (birth-control pills), into the environment. There, it's believed the hormone causes responses in the endocrine systems of fish, birds and other wildlife in and around streams and rivers, groundwater, sediments and sludge. In other words, causing effects in wildlife such as the presence of both male and female sex organs, feminization of males, abnormal and malformed reproductive organs, skewed sex ratios, reduced fertility and more.

Population growth and the use of synthetic estrogens (birth-control pills) have increased the presence of the hormone (both in its naturally occurring forms and its synthetic forms) in the environment.

Rabbit Food and the Estrogen Effect

In an article titled "Abiotic Transformation of Estrogen in Synthetic Municipal Wastewater: An Alternative for Treatment" in this month's issue of Environmental Pollution, authors Makram Suidan, UC professor of environmental engineering; Mark Mills, research engineer with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Risk Management Research Laboratory; and Ruth Marfil-Vega, UC doctoral student in environmental engineering, detail their success in harnessing natural materials in improving the removal of estrogen from the environment.

The experiments hold great promise, according to lead author Makram Suidan because "it would be an inexpensive process to replicate in wastewater treatment plants and because the UC experiments with the rabbit food proved effective in dramatically reducing the levels of naturally occurring estrogens but also the synthetic estrogen, which typically has the longest staying power in wastewater and the environment."

While the UC team tested a variety of materials – clays, casein (a protein molecule found in cheese and milk), tryptone (an amino acid) and starch – only the rabbit food proved effective in

greatly reducing estrogen levels. In fact, in testing the clays, casein, typtone and starch for effects on wastewater hormone levels, the UC experiments found that these four alternate materials only reduced wastewater estrogen levels by 10 percent.

Stated Suidan, "We are now experimenting to find out, specifically, why the rabbit food proved so effective in reducing estrogen levels. Rabbit food was a material we chose because, unlike dog food, rabbit food is hormone free. Rabbit food is merely ground up, organic vegetable matter – not unlike vegetable matter that could safely be added to wastewater."

The experiments were repeated several times using synthetic wastewater in stainless steel containers (to avoid any absorption of the tested hormones that might have been possible with plastic containers). As stated, the rabbit food reduced the levels of the four estrogens by more than 80 percent after a 72-hour contact period.

Explained Suidan, "While absorption of estrogen by the rabbit food played some role, we believe that a catalytic process occurred, meaning the estrogen compounds appeared to bind to the rabbit food when oxygen was present."

No Effect on Male Hormones Found in Wastewater

In the experiments, the UC team not only tested materials that might reduce estrogen levels in wastewater but also tested the efficacy of these same materials (rabbit food, casein, clays, tryptone and starch) in reducing the levels of male hormones (testosterone, androstenedione and progesterone) in wastewater.

However, none of the treatment materials – including the rabbit food – had any effect on the presence of these male hormone levels in the wastewater.

The research was internally funded.

DEP to being Massive Overhaul

By James M. O'Neill

The Record, Staff Writer, 10/8/2010

Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin continued his bid to overhaul his agency's culture, performance and priorities on Thursday as he released a "DEP Transformation Plan," a blueprint for change with language that gives some environmentalists the jitters.

Martin said he wants to turn the DEP "into a more streamlined organization" and reevaluate how it functions in part because state financial woes mean less money for the agency, but also because he wants to take a new look at past environmental policy decisions to see if they are appropriate for today's conditions.

"For the sake of both the environment and the economy, we cannot continue to operate as we always have," Martin said in a statement. "We need to take bold steps to change how the DEP operates."

The plan's "transformation goals" include eliminating unnecessary work that is not critical to the department's core mission, expanding the use of information technology to eliminate administrative paperwork, boosting electronic submissions from the regulated community, providing "greater flexibility" with regulations and considering the costs and benefits — both environmental and economic — associated with regulations.

Besides listing environmental safety and protecting natural resources as the DEP's critical mission, Martin also includes "supporting economic development of the state's economy."

The plan notes that DEP staff will begin customer service training, to go over such skills as determining a caller's needs, implementing conflict resolution, handling irate customers, and "learning key steps to a positive attitude."

It also takes sharp aim at some of the DEP's regulatory programs, and calls the regulatory process in general "cumbersome, resource intensive, and time consuming." It says the land use, air quality, solid waste and water quality regulatory programs have been criticized by those inside and outside the agency.

It says the land use program is "unresponsive, cumbersome, antiquated, overreaching and expensive due to fees," and that it is "an impediment to economic growth ... due to antiquated administrative/technical processes that include no flexibility."

It says the air quality program has been criticized for being "more stringent than federal regulations, overreaching, over-regulating and expensive."

Environmentalists are leery of the plan, the talk about promoting economic development. "It's the Department of Environmental Protection, not the Department of Economic Development," said Jeff Tittel of the Sierra Club's New Jersey chapter. "It's

one thing to streamline permitting so they are approved in a timely manner, or to say the department supports appropriate economic development in the appropriate places, but this plan doesn't say that. The role of the DEP is not to be the cheerleader for industry."

Tittel was particularly bothered by the attacks in the plan on the air quality program. "We have a lot more air problems than places like Minnesota, so we need to have stricter regulations than the federal level" to improve air quality and meet federal air quality standards.

Bill Wolfe with Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility is also concerned. "DEP's mission, established by law, is to protect the environment and public health, not grow the economy," he said. "Martin's views are at odds with law, almost 40 years of practice, and the reality of environmental policy, where compliance burdens often cost industry real money. 'Greater flexibility' is merely a code for providing 'regulatory relief.' "

David Pringle of the New Jersey Environmental Federation was more reserved in his assessment of the plan. "It's a healthy process for an agency to look at how they're doing things and modernize to be more effective," he said.

"They laid out the process for change today, but I'm more concerned with what they determine will be their 'mission critical' and what they don't, and whether we will agree with those decisions."

He said it's not inappropriate for the agency to understand the economic impact of its decisions, "but that doesn't mean the economic impacts should determine environmental decisions."

Wastewater Chemicals Dampen Fish Fervor

Nest Protection and Mating Behavior are Altered by Low Levels of Pharmaceuticals and Antibacterials.

By Richard Lovett

Pharmaceuticals and household chemicals in rivers and streams may be affecting how fish mate and spawn, scientists warn, even when the substances are not present at levels high enough to cause visible damage.

The laboratory studies, reported at the 7–11 November meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in Portland, Oregon, are part of a growing effort to determine how pollution

affects fish behavior, rather than just their anatomy or physiology.

Drugs and chemicals that are flushed down toilets and drains have long been reported in urban waste water and the streams into which it flows. But it has been difficult to work out how this is affecting wildlife.

"Subtle effects are the issue," says Melissa Schultz, a chemist at the College of Wooster in Ohio. "It's easy to tell if a fish suffers from obvious anatomical changes such as being intersex or not having mature secondary sexual characteristics," she says. But determining effects on mating behavior "takes more meticulous work".

Schultz has been studying the effects of low concentrations of triclosan and triclocarban — antibacterial agents commonly added to soaps, disinfectants and increasingly to household products such as toys, bedding, socks and rubbish bags. Her team placed adult fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*) — fish commonly used in aquatic toxicity studies — in aquaria containing 0.01–0.5 micrograms per litre (0.01–0.5 parts per billion) of various mixtures of these chemicals. "These are levels we have found in the environment," she says.

In the wild, fathead minnows establish nests, which males defend from rivals. But in Schultz's laboratory tests, exposed males were less interested than unexposed controls in trying to drive off artificial "bait" minnows placed near their nests.

The study shows that even at the low concentrations found in the wild, these chemicals can alter reproductive behavior, says Schultz's collaborator, Heiko Schoenfuss, an aquatic toxicologist from St Cloud State University in Minnesota. "That's the take-home message."

Anti-inflammatory Apathy

A second study by Dalma Martinović, an environmental toxicologist from the University of St Thomas in St Paul, Minnesota, found equally disturbing effects in zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) housed in tanks containing 50 micrograms per litre (50 parts per billion) of ibuprofen.

The drug has been found in environmental samples at levels up to 20 micrograms per litre. That's a little lower than the levels used in her study, admits Martinović, "but the same order of magnitude."

Ibuprofen and related drugs work by inhibiting two enzymes called COX-1 and COX-2.

In humans, these enzymes are part of the pathway that produces prostaglandins, which have a role in inflammation. But in fish, says Martinović, prostaglandins also serve as pheromones, and play a part in initiating sexual behavior and spawning.

Martinović found a significant reduction in courtship behavior, such as "chasing and touching noses", in males exposed to ibuprofen, she says. And water collected from the aquaria of ibuprofen-exposed females elicited less of a reaction in male fish than water from the tanks of females that had not been exposed to the drug.

She concludes that even though there were no observed anatomical or physiological changes in the fish, they were nonetheless affected by exposure to levels of ibuprofen similar to those in municipal waste water. "Physiological endpoints are less sensitive than behavioral ones," she says. "I think effects on behavior might be more common than we realize."

"We are finding subtle effects at environmentally relevant concentrations," adds Schultz. Both researchers point out that the affected behaviors could impact the ability of fish species to thrive in the wild.

James Lazorchak, an aquatic biologist from the US Environmental Protection Agency in Cincinnati, Ohio, who was not involved with either study, agrees. "We need to be paying more attention to behavior," he says, "especially with pharmaceuticals".

http://www.nature.com/news/2010/101112/full/news.2010.607.html?WT.ec_id=NEWS-20101116

Sportsperson-of-the-Year Awards Dinner

By Paul Turi, co-chairman

On Sunday, November 14th, JCAA held its annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year award dinner at the beautiful Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. This year's honoree was Paul Harris. Paul was nominated for this award by the Berkeley Striper Club and was elected by JCAA member clubs at our general membership meeting in October. On behalf of the JCAA and its member clubs, I would like to congratulate Paul Harris on being elected this year's sportsperson-of-the-year. Paul is a member of the

Berkeley Striper Club, New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, North Carolina Beach Buggy Association and the Outer Banks Preservation Association. Paul is currently the President of the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association and has served on their Board of Directors for 18 years. Paul is also a delegate to Congressman John Adler's Outdoor Sportsman Recreational Committee, the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, United Mobile Sportsmen for the Berkeley Striper Club, the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs Saltwater Registry Committee. Paul has been active for the last 38 years teaching special challenged children how to fish and enjoy the beach, as well as teaching Boy Scouts safety, fishing and knot tying to name a few.

On hand to honor Paul and present him with this year's Sportsperson-of-the-Year award, and also our keynote speaker for the evening, was Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno. The Lt. Governor spoke of the Governor's commitment to recreational fishing in New Jersey and the economic impact that recreational fishing has on the state's economy. The Lt. Governor also spoke about the Saltwater Registry Program.

Also in attendance was Congressman Frank Pallone. Congressman Pallone presented Paul with a proclamation from the House of Representatives honoring Paul for being elected this year's JCAA Sportsperson-of-the-Year.

JCAA's Youth Education Committee, represented by Paul Smith, presented this year's Youth Education Award to Al Lorenzo for his promotion of youth fishing. Congressman Pallone also presented Al with a proclamation from the House of Representatives honoring Al for receiving the JCAA Youth Education Award. Congratulations, guys, for a job well done.

This affair is JCAA's second largest fundraiser, and as of this writing I can report that it was very successful. It should be noted that this event could not have taken place without the generosity of the many people and companies that donated the many different items that were auctioned off and given away as door prizes. I would be remiss if I did not mention each and every one of them because JCAA could not exist without their generosity and support.

The following is a listing of all our sponsors who donated prizes, and on behalf of JCAA, I would like to thank each and every one of them:

Adrienne McCauley
 Albivi Brick Oven
 Barnegat Fishin Hole
 Beach Buggy Association
 Bernadette Turi
 Big Ed's Custom Rods
 Canyon Reels
 Capt. Cal II
 Chambliss Marine
 Chambliss Marine
 Daniel DeChurch
 Douglas Quikut Co.
 F.J. Neil Co., Inc.
 Fisherman's Den
 Fisherman's Headquarters
 Frabill, Inc.
 Greater Pt. Pleasant Charter Boat Assoc.
 Guy Harvey
 Hi-Mar Striper Club
 Interlux Paints
 JCAA
 Jersey Coast Shark Anglers
 Julians Bait Co.
 L & S Bait Co.
 Miss Belmar Princess
 Ocean Explorer
 Old Monmouth Candies
 Pat Donnelly
 Pell's Fish & Sport
 Profile Fishing Tackle, Inc.
 Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County
 The Folsom Corp.
 Tom & Lynda Fote
 Tony Maja
 West Marine
 Wordens Lures/Yakima Bait Co.

Special thanks to Dr. Pat Donnelly for the terrific job he did again this year as our Master of Ceremonies

I would also like to thank the following fishing clubs that took a table:

Jersey Coast Shark Anglers
 Sandy Hook Bay Anglers
 Berkley Striper Club
 Newark Bait & Fly Casters
 Forked River Tuna Club
 Hi-Mar Striper Club
 NJ Beach Buggy Association
 Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat Association
 Manasquan Fishing Club
 Hudson River Fishermen's Association
 Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County

Village Harbor Fishing Club
 Barnegat Fishin' Hole

I would also like to thank the many individuals who also attended and who have shown their support of the JCAA.

Also, special thanks to Dan & Heather Miller who handled the ticket sales. I would also like to thank Don & Al Marantz, Tom Fote, Mark Taylor, Frank Richetti, John Toth, Bruce Smith, Joe Puntasecca and Ed Cherry.

I hope I have gotten everyone and every company and club that participated to make this event a successful one this year. If anyone has fallen through the cracks and I have neglected to mention them, I apologize in advance. I have made every effort to keep accurate records, but, unfortunately, not everything gets into my hands the way I would like it to.

Again, on behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, thank you, everyone!

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

On behalf of the JCAA, I attended an October 25th meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) and the following issues were discussed.

NJOA Chairman, Anthony Mauro, reported that he attended the Governor's October 3rd Surf Tournament and after the tournament was over, he and JCAA Board members Mark Taylor and Tom Fote had the opportunity to speak with our state's Lieutenant Governor, Kim Guadagno, on the important issues facing recreational anglers. Anthony Mauro indicated that it is these face-to-face meetings that are so important in getting our issues in front of legislators who may not be fully aware of the problems anglers and hunters are facing in our state. Anthony indicated that he thought that this meeting was productive and that our Lt. Governor has a much better understanding of our issues. She may use this information in the future to influence other legislators to support legislation that works in our favor.

NJOA Board member, Pete Grimbilas, reported that the NJOA is working with our state's

DEP on a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the possible NJOA's procurement and deployment of vessels and materials to build more artificial reefs in the future.

NJOA staff sponsored a good day of hunting at Hudson Farms for disabled veterans who were wounded in the Iraq/Afghanistan wars. The veterans just had a great time!

NJOA Board member Tom Connors reported on his efforts in managing a NJ Angler and Hunter Caucus (NJAHC) in Trenton with 15 key legislators including Senate President Stephen Sweeney and Senate Minority Leader Tom Kean on October 18th. The goal of the NJAHC is to establish a link between anglers and hunters, conservationists and legislators to facilitate an exchange of ideas that will advance environmental stewardship with an emphasis on hunting and fishing. The co-chairs of the NJAHC announced that the caucus will meet quarterly and the next agenda will include the issue "Hooked on Fishing – Not ON Drugs."

Elections are coming up next year and the NJOA wants to develop a questionnaire that will be sent to legislators to determine their positions on various hunting and fishing issues. This questionnaire will effectively be a scorecard to help anglers and hunters on which legislators should receive our support during the next election.

Discussion occurred on how to attract more NJOA members through possibly Facebook and during the hunting and fishing shows that occur in the winter of 2011.

Anthony Mauro would like to see NJOA members have an event that would not only be a fundraiser but to also serve as an opportunity for NJOA members to rub elbows and get to know each other better. Planning for this "Big Tent" event is in its initial stage.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

JCAA ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

It takes the support of many volunteers to bring successes to the fishing community but sometimes individuals go above and beyond to make the future of fishing better for our youngsters. This

year Mr. Al Lorenzo was selected by the JCAA Youth Education Committee to receive the 2010 JCAA Youth Education Award. Mr. Lorenzo is a member of the Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County. He has volunteered countless hours over more than 30 years to assist orphans and disadvantaged children on fishing trips. He charters the boat for the events and does all of the preparation for the trips. Al has been bringing joy and happiness to an untold number of children who truly need one day in their lives dedicated to pure fun and enjoyment. For all of his tireless efforts in bringing happiness to disadvantaged youths, we were proud to honor Mr. Al Lorenzo as this year's recipient of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Award. The awards ceremony was held on Sunday, November 14th at Crystal Point Yacht Club RT. 70 & River Rd, Point Pleasant, NJ.

GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

Over 100 children received "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" stickers and fishing line for participating at the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's drug awareness activity booth at the Governor's 19th Annual Surf Fishing Tournament. Members of JCAA demonstrated the "Save Our Schools" poster and assisted children with fish identification. We also assisted disabled anglers fishing the tournament by providing beach wheelchairs for contestants that could not walk through the sand to get to the water's edge. Special thanks go to Bruce Freedman, Paul and Eileen Smith for assisting at the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's youth education booth.

OUTDOOR SPORTSMEN SHOWS

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will feature special youth fishing programs at upcoming hunting and fishing expositions. The Youth Education Committee will offer special promotions at events for children attending the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Fishing Seminars.

If you would like to help with our youth education efforts and offer some of your time to teach children the joy of fishing, please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail Gkucharews@aol.com

SHARE YOUR FUN & TAKE A KID FISHING