

JCAA NEWSPAPER FEBRUARY 2011

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on January 18th, 2011)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday January 25th, 2011

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 10th, 2011

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

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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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2010 OFFICERS

President	Mark Taylor	732-929-2591
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Mem. Sec.	Bruce Smith	732-695-3431

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

Important Dates

January 25th JCAA General Meeting

February 2nd-6th Atlantic City Boat Show

February 10th JCAA Board Meeting

February 17th Talk at West Marine Brick

February 22nd JCAA General Meeting

March 18th-20th Saltwater Fishing Expo, Somerset

March 21st-24th ASMFC Meeting Week

2011 HIGH ROLLER RAFFLE

It is now time for the JCAA High Rollers 2011 Raffle. We have put together a terrific selection of rods and reels and other prizes for a raffle that will be drawn on April 26, 2011. This is a major fundraiser for the JCAA. The 8 prizes are listed below with a value of over \$3,391.00. Tickets will be two dollars each and Club Representatives can get books of tickets to sell by attending a JCAA meeting. If you would like to buy raffle tickets call the JCAA office. JCAA will have a booth at the following venues where the raffle tickets will be available for sale and the prizes will be on display: **Outdoor Sportsmen's Show(Raritan Show) in Edison** on January 13 to 16, the **Atlantic City International Power Boat Show** Feb. 2nd-6th, the **Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar** January 8th, the **Saltwater Fishing Show** Mar. 18th to 20th. Stop by and say hello. Raffle ticket books will also be mailed along with entries for the 7th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament. If you would like to buy raffle tickets call the JCAA office. When your club representative brings them to your club, please help with your purchase. Without your continued support we cannot function as an organization in protecting the marine resource and angler's rights.

- 1)Shimano Tallus TLC-58 HRSA Rod-Tiagra 30W LRSA Reel
Value \$688 *Donated by JCAA*
- 2)Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor model RT 55/SE/L&D
Value \$550 *Donated by Johnson Outdoors Inc.*
- 3)\$500 Gift Certificated to Fishermen Headquarters
Value \$500 *Donated by Fishermen Headquarters*
- 4)Tony Maja Bunker Spoon Rod w/ Shimano Tekota 800 Reel
Value \$470 *Donated by BarnegatFishinHole.com*

GET THE POTS OFF THE REEFS

- 5)Lamiglas IC 70 MH Rod with Canyon Reels HS-15
Value \$459 *Donated by JCAA*
- 6)Lamiglas TFX7650 CT Rod with Shimano Torium 20 Reel
Value \$424 *Donated by JCAA*
- 7)Shakespeare Ugly Stik BWLB 1100 M Rod-Penn 320GT2
Reel Value \$160 *Donated by JCAA*
- 8)Shakespeare Ugly Stik BWSL 2200 M Rod-Sportfisher Fin-
Nor FS50 Reel Value \$140 *Donated by JCAA*

Total Value \$3,391

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

As you all know from reading last month's newsletter, I thought that it would be my last President's Column, but due to bad weather I canceled the December meeting. There will be a meeting on January 25th at which time the new officers will be elected. To all the Presidents of member clubs, make sure that your delegates are present on this important decision of your organization for the next year. I will continue to fight for our share of the resource and to protect it for the future. It is an honor to be working with this organization for so many years. The JCAA works very hard to get the correct and accurate information out to its members as well as the public. JCAA works with many groups for the good of the resource.

Election for 2011 Officers of JCAA

Elections of officers was to be voted on at the December 28th meeting but due to the weather I canceled the meeting for the safety of all. The vote will take place at the January 25th meeting. If you are interested in being more involved and filling one of the positions, contact Don Marantz at 609-259-6368. To all JCAA member club presidents, make sure your delegates attend the next meeting.

Shows

On January 8th we were at the Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar in Atlantic City. I would like to thank George Poveromo and the Saltwater Sportsman Magazine for having us there. JCAA has been at every one of these seminars in New Jersey from the beginning.

On January 13th to 16th we had a booth at the New Outdoor Sportsmen's Show (Raritan Show) in Edison. With new owners of the show they made

many changes for the better of the show. I enjoyed the show and many of the people that I talked to did too. If you miss this year's show don't miss next year because it will be even better.

JCAA has more shows to be at and JCAA is looking for volunteers to work the booth. So if you are interested, please contact Mark Taylor at mtsport64@aol.com. I am in the process of putting the lists together. JCAA is committed to the following ones so far:

Atlantic City Boat Show in Atlantic City on February 2 to 6

The Saltwater Fishing Expo in Somerset on March 18 to 20

Promote 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 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.

JCAA Committees

If you are interested in getting more involved, one of the JCAA committees might be the place to start. With all the issues that are affecting the recreational community it is very hard for one person to stay on top of them all. If you are interested in a specific species or topic, please contact me at mtsport@aol.com and join that committee.

Saltwater Registry

As of our publishing date, we have still not heard if and when the Governor is going to sign the Saltwater Registry Bill. Contact the Governor's office and ask him to sign the bill. We do not want to pay the federal government \$15 dollars unnecessarily.

IMPORTANT

The Next General Membership Meeting will be January 25, 2011 at Brick Civic Plaza, 270 Chambers Bridge Road in Brick.

The 32nd Atlantic City Boat Show

The 32nd Atlantic City Boat Show will be held on **February 2-6** 2011. You can find the boat of your dreams and everything to go with it. Come and see hundreds of new boats and an unbeatable assortment of marine gear at the Atlantic City Convention Center. From luxury motor and sailing yachts to sport fishers, performance boats, inflatables and personal watercraft, there are boats for every lifestyle, activity and budget. If it's for boating, you'll find it here at the Marine Marketplace, a 93,000 sq. ft. "show within the show," features 440 booths showcasing all the latest in marine technology, engines, accessories, nautical gifts, and more. There's no better time to buy. The 5-day event is your once-a-year chance to compare makes and models, secure insurance and financing and gear up with the latest accessories all at one time under one roof! Be sure to stop by the JCAA booth and get your raffle tickets to get in the High Roller Raffle.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

WORKING TOGETHER:

An Editorial by Tom Fote

If you read the JCAA Newspaper Archives, you will find several articles about working together. Almost every year we seem to have this conversation. I am disappointed that these articles do not seem to have the intended impact. To my dismay, the in-fighting and general lack of civility continues in the interactions of many groups. I work with both the environmental and fisheries communities and I find individuals and organizations in each community that view their role as competitive rather than collaborative. There is this feeling that the only way to be successful is to succeed at the expense of someone else. There are those who think they should be the only organization representing recreational anglers. They believe their solutions are the only solutions to the problems we face. While we may disagree, we need to recognize there are multiple reasonable points of view around an issue. There are very diverse members to the

recreational community and each member has a unique point of view.

When I first began working with JCAA, I realized we were unique in our commitment to a democratic process. Member clubs vote to establish JCAA positions. Although we work for consensus, sometimes it is majority rule. Controversial issues may be debated over a number of meetings before a final position is adopted. Once a position is adopted, JCAA speaks in one voice. Everyone has ample opportunity to make their point and provide as much evidence as possible. The wonderful thing about JCAA is that most often the dissenters respect the majority and remain active in JCAA to discuss the next issue that confronts us. Everyone realizes that there are many issues that require our attention. We will agree on most, compromise on some and agree to disagree on others. That's how a democracy works. There was never a "gag order" in place. Even though a position was adopted, member clubs retained the right to speak in opposition publicly. Because of that history, JCAA has always maintained that democratic commitment when we collaborate with other organizations. We will not be a member of a group or coalition that refuses to have an open democratic process for developing positions. JCAA belongs to New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmens Clubs, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, Marine Fish Conservation Network and American Sportfishing Association. Each of these organizations respects the democratic process and allows for discussion, presentations and disagreement before a position is reached. In every organization we have, at times, disagreed, stated our disagreement passionately and then respected the majority vote with the understanding that JCAA retained the right to develop its own position and move forward. We never resigned because we didn't win a vote. We never personally attacked members of these organizations because we didn't win a vote. And we stayed so we could participate in the next discussion, continue to make our points, and over time, revisit areas of disagreement. Democracy is a messy process but that is where our commitment lies.

In the late 80's to early 90's we reached out to groups throughout the coast trying to build consensus on many issues including making striped bass a gamefish. We were able to bring groups with different agendas to the table to work on important issues. The strength of our numbers really gave us

more clout. JCAA realized that our role was mainly in New Jersey and we needed to network across a wider area. We helped other states organize their recreational associations and clubs because we saw them as partners not competitors. This worked for many years but began to deteriorate when some people began resorting to personal attacks on individuals and other organizations as a way to enhance their own standing, at least in their own eyes. Initially we kept our meeting discussion private to encourage an honest exchange of ideas. When people began to take advantage of that privilege and use information in a negative way, particularly in the press, the trust began to erode. No longer could we honestly share opinions and respectfully disagree if our words would be used against us once the meeting was over. That open dialogue produced many wonderful ideas and I learned a great deal about the issues. I truly miss that free flow discussion.

The first thing we need to do is to respect the right of each organization to exist. We need to argue the positions and stay away from personal attacks. This is not a war. These organizations have similar goals and we are generally on the same side of issues. The goal cannot be to destroy other organizations or people with whom you disagree. The discussion may continue endlessly but we need to respect the right to disagree. We need to stop thinking that any one of us knows the exact right thing to do in any situation. That level of arrogance is not productive and keeps us from considering other alternatives that may well have merit.

In my younger and feistier days, I was known to occasionally cross the line and go to war over issues. It hurt some relationships and I regret that to this day. I also regret the loss of information and counseling and sometimes friendship from these individuals. One of New Jersey's outstanding legislators gave me some good advice. This former state senator and I had been in a heated argument about Menhaden at the Council meeting. After the meeting, he took me aside, put his hand on my shoulder and said, "Young man, we had a real heated argument in there. You got a little hot. So you know what we are going to do now, young man?" I said no. He said "We're going to go have a drink and talk. Mark my words, Tom, we will be on the same side of an issue down the road and need to work together." My older and wiser self realizes every

day how true those words were and how valuable that advice has been.

JCAA will continue to work with everyone who wants to work with us. However, our commitment to the democratic process is not negotiable.

New Jersey Continues to Fail to Fund the Bureau of Marine Fisheries

Approximately four years ago I wrote a white paper on alternative funding for the Division of Fish and Wildlife. I am including an excerpt from that paper that deals with the funding problem. The entire document is available on the JCAA website under recent news (archives). Since this paper was written, things have gotten worse. Higher gas prices, tougher regulations and the economic recession have combined to have a negative impact on the recreational fishing industry. The funding problems have gotten worse as Governors have attempted to balance the budget. There has been a continued decrease in staff and the overall funding from the general fund has decreased to less than \$750,000. There are those in leadership positions in the recreational community who think worrying about funding the Bureau of Marine Fisheries is not our job. I can't agree. Without appropriate funding, there is not enough personnel to actively participate on committees for stock assessment and technical issues at ASMFC. We risk being shortchanged in plans when we are unable to participate. When plans are developed we are unable to provide the technical information that supports our point of view. We can't do regional breakdowns for species like tautog because we can't accumulate the data to support decision making. As we review many of these plans in the upcoming years, this problem will be even worse.

Please read the information below so you have a good sense of the gravity of the problem. We need to prove to the Governor and the legislature that they cannot continue to make these draconian budget cuts for marine fisheries. You need to write the Governor and your legislators. Use the information below to prove your point and insist on increased funding for the Bureau of Marine Fisheries. JCAA hopes every recreational and commercial organization in New Jersey will join together to work on this issue during the budget process. The entire legislature is up for reelection in 2011. Now is the time to let them know how important this is to

you and that you will be watching and voting. There are about 800,000 New Jersey saltwater anglers. We have the power of the vote. We need to use it to protect our marine resources and the recreational and commercial fishing industries.

Excerpt from White Paper on Funding for the Bureau of Marine Fisheries, 2007

From 1990 to the present I have served in a variety of positions including the Governor's Appointee to ASMFC, Legislative proxy to ASMFC, member of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, and numerous advisory committees to the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Bureau of Marine Fisheries. I have worked with all the DEP commissioners and Division of Fish and Wildlife directors since the 1980's and have discussed this issue with every one of them.

In the last 25 years I have seen a complete disregard by the state for adequate funding for the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administration, Bureau of Marine Fisheries. The New Jersey treasury has only contributed a little over 1 million dollars per year from the general fund since the mid 80's. The other 2 million dollars per year comes from Wallop-Breaux funds and interstate grants. Both of these funding sources come from the excise tax on saltwater tackle drawing money directly from user groups.

I have served on the Board of Directors for the American Sportfishing Association which is the tackle manufacturers' trade association. The manufacturers of hunting and fishing supplies are the only group I know which actually went to Congress and asked to be taxed to provide funds for conservation. Because of the great job these funds have done supporting and paying for these conservation and fisheries programs, the manufactures continue to support the reauthorization of Wallop-Breaux Act. That means that every angler who buys a piece of fishing tackle is already paying for the management of freshwater and saltwater fish in New Jersey. Without Wallop-Breaux and Dingle-Johnson (excise tax on hunting equipment) and the license fees for freshwater fishing and hunting, the Division of Fish and Wildlife would be unable to operate. If we use the funding in other states as a guideline, the Bureau of Marine Fisheries should be funded at about 11 million dollars. A slightly higher figure was included in the 2003 White Paper done for the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

In this same period of time I have seen a huge reduction in staff in the Division of Fish and Wildlife, most seriously in the Bureau of Marine Fisheries. Even in the years where money was not tight and other agencies of state government were seeing increases in funding and staff, the Bureau of Marine Fisheries has seen no increase. This has significantly hampered their ability to manage the resource and meet the escalating responsibilities placed on them by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and state mandates. When I first became the Governor's Appointee to ASMFC in 1990 on the recreational side, we were dealing with a fisheries management plan for striped bass, a 13 inch size limit on summer flounder and some bluefin tuna regulations. This required only minimal staff time. On the commercial side we were dealing with shell fish regulations and some fin fish fisheries but these responsibilities were very limited. There were no commercial quotas to monitor on any of the fin fish and there were few size restrictions. Most of the commercial responsibilities were monitoring surf clams, oysters, hard clams and soft clams. There was only insignificant monitoring of commercial fin fish by the state. Without the required monitoring for fin fish, there was more emphasis on the science of marine fisheries and the environmental connections. The Division of Fish and Wildlife had its own economist who could provide information about the economic impact of hunting and fishing in New Jersey. This has all changed.

In 2007, the Bureau of Marine Fisheries was responsible for implementing over 20 Fisheries Management Plans (FMP) put in place by either the ASMFC or NMFS. Most of the plans require a monitoring of size, recreational bag limits, seasons, commercial quotas and biological information for stock assessment. To meet these additional responsibilities there has been no increase in total staff. In fact, the staff has continued to decrease to a level about 30% less. The Bureau of Marine Fisheries has been in crisis mode and unable to meet minimum requirements for the last 15 years. We have been voted out of compliance by ASMFC since we are unable to do the biological research required in some of the FMP's. I am not blaming the Division. Everyone who works there does a fantastic job with way too few people. The fault is not theirs. What I have seen is the impact this understaffing has

on morale, sometimes resulting in early retirements of valued staff.

This lack of increased funding has occurred despite the contribution of recreational fishing to New Jersey's economy. Recreational fishing alone contributes 1.3 billion dollars annually to New Jersey's economy. It accounts for over 500,000 visitors to New Jersey each year with fishing as the goal. The boating industry is a 2 billion dollar industry, tied to fishing, a clean environment and a well-managed resource. The most recent figures I have seen suggests the commercial industry contributes 4 – 5 hundred million dollars annually. The fin fish component is more than 50 million dollars. The NJ sales tax generated by recreational fishing is over 100 million dollars. This is separate from the federal excise tax that funds Wallop-Breaux. Boat registration generates about 5 million dollars. To buy a vehicle fishing permit to drive a vehicle on the beach at Island Beach State Park costs \$195 annually. With approximately 6,000 permits sold each year, this generated 1,170,000 dollars. Just the vehicle fishing permits at Island Beach exceed the state of New Jersey's annual contribution to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. New Jersey ranks #2 in the country in the number of trips made for recreational saltwater fishing. We rank #2 or #3 in the number of anglers. We rank #3 in the commercial landings. However, we are outspent for a state Bureau of Marine Fisheries by every state. We are at the bottom of the list for funding despite being at the top of the list for income generated. To add insult to injury, the state is now going to spend 4½ million dollars to study the effects of the proposed wind mills off New Jersey's coast and none of that money is going to study fish. That is more than four times what the state contributes to the Bureau of Marine Fisheries annually!

Right now the income generated at the Bureau of Marine Fisheries comes from surf clamming licenses, commercial lobster and fish pot permits, permits for the striped bass bonus tag program, recreational and commercial crab pot licenses, some netting license fees, and assorted bait permits. There is no license to sell commercial fish and no recreational saltwater fishing license. There are strong feelings in the recreational and commercial fishing communities that the state of New Jersey has not been contributing its fair share to the Bureau of Marine Fisheries. If 10% of the sales tax that is generated by recreational fishing was

allocated to the budget of the Bureau of Marine Fisheries, the current budget would quadruple.

On the Transition from MRFSS to MRIP for Black Sea Bass

I have gained some insight on the transition from Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) to the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) for future Black Sea Bass (BSB) stock assessment that I am happy to be able to share. As you are likely aware, we have been waiting for some time for NMFS to rectify problems with MRFSS regarding recreational catch figures on black sea bass, problems that were well-documented by the National Research Council. The responses I have received to several questions on this topic are informative and somewhat reassuring that improved catch data is on the immediate horizon. I will discuss the issue further at the next ASMFC meeting. I suggest a JCAA Black Sea Bass Committee take a look at these responses. If you want to share your thoughts on this, please send me an email.

Question: Will NOAA Fisheries still rely on the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) framework for stock assessments in 2011, 2012, and in future years? How does MRFSS data play into the Black Sea Bass stock assessment and management?

NMFS Response: NOAA Fisheries develops recreational catch estimates for black sea bass via three current ongoing surveys. The coastal household telephone survey generates information on angler trips. The access point angler intercept survey provides data on catch per trip. The results of the two surveys are combined to generate catch estimates for shore and private boat angling modes. The for-hire survey and access point angler intercept survey provide estimates for the for-hire (charter and head boat) mode. The Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) is developing revised methods (consistent with the National Research Council recommendations) that will be phased in over the next two years to substantially improve the accuracy of effort and catch estimates based on a combination of telephone, mail and access point surveys. In 2011, the MRIP will implement a new design-unbiased method to calculate catch estimates from MRFSS data. Later in 2011, the Program will implement an improved sampling design for access point surveys that will further resolve potential bias issues. These changes address the highest priority

findings of the National Research Council's 2006 review of our current survey methods. In addition, NOAA Fisheries implemented the National Saltwater Angler Registry Program in 2010 and will begin implementing new survey designs for estimating fishing effort that are based primarily on direct sampling from lists of registered anglers who fish from shore or private boats or from lists of registered for-hire boats and their operators. The new registry-based approach will replace the coastal household telephone survey and upgrade the for-hire survey. We expect that full implementation of the new fishing effort surveys will occur by the beginning of 2012.

The historical data from MRFSS will continue to be used in the black sea bass assessments in future years. Stock assessment models rely on a long-term time series of catch as a primary measure of population size. The transition from MRFSS to MRIP will result in improved estimates of recreational catch in future years, but the full implications of the MRIP for the historical record of landings from MRFSS have not been identified. However, the scientific and statistical advances associated with the development of MRIP should allow NOAA Fisheries to improve the historical estimates from MRFSS. This is possible because historical data can be re-estimated using alternative newly-developed statistical models. This is not a simple task and the process of revising the historical estimates has only just begun. To date, provisional re-estimates for 2003 to 2010 are being examined and revised catch estimates for this time period will be complete by mid-2011.

Question: When will MRIP be fully implemented so that stock assessments will no longer be based on MRFSS data? In particular, when will the Black Sea Bass stock assessment be based on MRIP?

NMFS response: The transition from the MRFSS sampling design and assessment methodologies will take several years to implement. Catch estimates incorporate the improvements noted above. It should be recognized that the importance of historical information diminishes over time, so that the existing MRFSS estimates will become less influential as contemporary measures of recreational catch are obtained through MRIP.

The MRIP has established a process for developing and implementing improvements to survey methods that is expected to be continuous

over time. NOAA Fisheries will phase in these improvements as they are developed via the MRIP process, working with our partners in each region to address priority data needs and areas of survey improvement. Please refer to the MRIP Implementation Plan at www.countmyfish.noaa.gov for more detailed information on the MRIP.

By mid-2011, NOAA Fisheries will complete revising catch estimates for the period of 2003 to 2010, applying the new design-unbiased estimation method referred to in the response to the first question. Also, we expect the new access point angler intercept survey and registry-based effort survey methods to be used to support production of catch estimates for the full calendar year 2012. NOAA Fisheries will continue to phase in additional MRIP-developed survey design improvements over time as they are developed, tested and peer reviewed.

Once the initial, high-priority survey improvements referenced above have been implemented, NOAA Fisheries intends to use available funds to increase the amount of sampling in order to improve the statistical precision and to improve the spatial and temporal resolution of the catch estimates, beginning in 2012. Also, contingent on receiving increased funding, NOAA Fisheries is planning to implement changes that will enable catch estimates to be made more quickly in order to facilitate in-season tracking of catch and to implement electronic logbook reporting by the for-hire vessels in those regions where this method is preferred by the Councils and our state partners. These improvements could begin in 2013, if funding becomes available.

JCAA Press Release on NOAA Fisheries Service Report to Congress

Contact: Tom Fote, tfote@jcaa.org, 732-270-9102

Date: 1/17/2011

Today Jersey Coast Anglers Association received a copy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Fisheries Service Report to Congress on the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). This discusses and reports the new way NOAA's Fisheries Service is counting and reporting marine recreational catch and effort.

In the letter that accompanied the report, the author includes: "NOAA states that it is a customer-driven initiative that will not only produce better

estimates, but will do so through a process grounded in the principles of transparency, accountability and engagement. MRIP replaces the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey, or MRFSS, which has been in place since the 1970s. MRIP is designed to meet two critical needs: 1) Provide the detailed, timely, scientifically sound estimates that fisheries managers, stock assessors and marine scientists need to ensure the sustainability of ocean resources; and 2) Address head-on stakeholder concerns about the reliability and credibility of recreational fishing catch and effort estimates. In early 2011, you can expect to see the use of data from the National Saltwater Anger Register in recreational fishing studies, and a major re-estimation of MRFSS estimates based on the new MRIP method for counting and reporting catch and effort.”

The recreational community has long awaited a system that will better report the recreational landings and in a timely manner. The entire report will be posted on the JCAA webpage. JCAA will be reviewing the report in depth and responding to the information. You can share any comments or concerns by emailing me at tfote@jcaa.org.

Good News for Barnegat Bay and New Jersey

In the last newspaper, I talked about the good things going on with Barnegat Bay. Three of the bills discussed in that article were passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor. We would like to thank Governor Christie and the Legislature for taking these vital first steps. Combined with the Governor’s announcement of his commitment to the bay, we have a new focus on the health of the bay. The Barnegat Bay Partnership played a major role in gathering the necessary data and fostering a public awareness of the problems faced by the bay. Without the perseverance of Senator Bob Smith and Assemblyman John McKeon, this legislation would never have happened. They have been working on this for years and never gave up in the face of controversy or apathy. They continued to build the consensus necessary to get this legislation passed. I know they remain committed to the additional legislation that is necessary. There are some hard things yet to do and in a time of economic problems, funding the work will be a challenge. Below are the three bills that are now law: The office for Senator

Bob Smith provided us with a legislative update that is included in this edition.

The “Fertilizer Bill” (A2290) codifies best management processes for fertilizer for use on lawns throughout the State of NJ by regulating the content and application of fertilizer. This bill was initially conceptualized as a model local ordinance by Save Barnegat Bay before it gained momentum at the State level.

The “Soil Health”(A2501) addresses the need for comprehensive soil care practices at a Statewide level. This new law will use a common sense approach to soil management and sets best management processes for soil care throughout the State. [Editor's Note: The legislation requires the development of standards for restoration of soil affected during construction projects, aiming to eliminate unnecessary soil compaction or removal]

The “NJDOT Stormwater Basin Bill” (A3606) speaks to a hidden need in our communities—that of our stormwater basins. This last piece of legislation will provide dedicated funding for the restoration and repair of DOT managed stormwater basins and mandates that the Department of Transportation annually review their stormwater basins and address any problems that are found.”

These three bills represent models for other bays and estuaries throughout the state and throughout the country. As usual, New Jersey is at the forefront in working on environmental issues. We will be tracking the progress of the remaining bills and keep you updated. You need to continue letting your legislators know that these bills are the highest priority and their “Yes” votes are expected.

Barnegat Bay Legislative Update from the Office of Senator Bob Smith

This past summer, at a joint meeting of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee and the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee, a package of bills was moved that will help restore the Barnegat Bay from years of misuse and pollution. Barnegat Bay generates \$3.3 billion of revenue every year in recreation and tourism for the State of New Jersey, while employing tens of thousands of New Jersey residents. It is critical that we work together to clean up this national treasure for both economic and environmental reasons. While each bill is a measure to revive the ecology of the

bay, they address the underlying problem of storm water runoff in the surrounding areas of Ocean County.

The first bill requires the soil conservation service to issue regulations requiring that soil be restored after construction has occurred at a site. Heavy construction equipment causes soil compaction, which then acts as if the soil was concrete or asphalt, increasing storm water runoff into the bay. The most important bill in this package is designed to restrict the use of fertilizer and to limit the nitrogen content in a bag of fertilizer. The increased amount of run-off containing fertilizer is causing the Barnegat Bay to undergo a process called eutrophication. Eutrophication results in the stimulation of algae growth and adversely changes the environment to the detriment of the clams, fish and other species and finally to the ultimate filling in of the bay. The Barnegat Bay is now classified as the second worst bay in America because of the extensive eutrophication occurring here. By setting regulations that will require soil to be restored after construction projects to reduce soil compaction and instituting the toughest fertilizer legislation in the country, we are working to revitalize the bay and improve its classification. Sponsors of the legislation, Senator Bob Smith, Chairman of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee and Assemblyman John McKeon, Chairman of the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee were pleased that this past December these bills passed both the New Jersey State Senate and the New Jersey Assembly and were signed into law in the beginning of 2011. One bill also requires the State of New Jersey to clean up any state owned storm water basins which impact Barnegat Bay.

Critically important to the future health of the Bay will be adoption of TMDLS (Total Maximum Daily Loads) like the ones that have been adopted by the Chesapeake Bay jurisdictions and which reduce pollution into the bay. Finally, one bill permits, but does not require the Ocean County Board of Freeholders to set up a Stormwater Utility to fund the cleanup and restoration of the more than 2,000 malfunctioning stormwater basins which are killing Barnegat bay. The major advantages of a stormwater Utility is that the large property owners with large impervious surfaces pay for the stormwater pollution that they are causing rather than the average taxpayer paying for these improvements.

The first step toward the clean up of the bay has begun!

New Jersey Enacts Toughest US Rules on Fertilizer

by Wayne Parry, Associated Press, 1/5/2010

WARETOWN — New Jersey adopted the nation's toughest restrictions on fertilizer Wednesday as part of a package of bills signed into law by Gov. Chris Christie to protect the fragile Barnegat Bay from further pollution.

Runoff from fertilizer applied to lawns and farms eventually makes its way into waterways and contributes to water pollution and fish-killing algae blooms.

The bills require upgrades to malfunctioning storm drains, force contractors to loosen soil that becomes hard-packed.

A key provision requires that at least 20 percent of nitrogen in fertilizer sold in New Jersey be the slow-release type to prevent it from easily washing into waterways.

Christie signed the bills in Waretown, a Barnegat Bay boating and crabbing community.

"Over the years there have been studies and talks and conversations about taking the necessary steps to save Barnegat Bay, but very little action," Christie said in the clubhouse of a bayfront beach club after signing the bills. "Today you saw action."

Dena Mottola Jaborska, executive director of Environment New Jersey, said the bills are a good first step in a long process to undo decades of pollution and neglect.

"This is a big day for the Barnegat Bay and the state's waterways," she said. "Fertilizer pollution is the invisible scourge that has been slowly polluting our bays, rivers and streams."

Jeff Tittel, director of New Jersey Sierra Club, called the bills "a victory for the environment." "Without these bills especially, the fertilizer bill, the bay will die," he said. "These bills are each a piece of the puzzle to protect the bay and our environment."

Christie said he was signing "the toughest fertilizer standards in America," and noted the fertilizer industry gave significant opposition to the proposed standards before both sides agreed on the 20 percent nitrogen requirement.

Nitrogen is a major component of water pollution. It leads to algae blooms that deprive water of oxygen and kill fish and other marine life.

It also encourages the growth of stinging jellyfish, which have overrun the bay and rivers near it, including the Manasquan and Metedeconk, making them virtually unswimmable at times and clogging the engines of some boats.

"How people and towns manage their lawns, soil and stormwater affects the health of NJ's waters—especially Barnegat Bay," said Heather Saffert, a staff scientist for the Clean Ocean Action environmental group. "These laws help reduce pollution and increase the public's awareness of these problems and importance of our natural resources."

Another essential part of the state's plan to protect the bay is an agreement negotiated last month with the owners of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station to shut down the nation's oldest nuclear power plant in 2019, 10 years earlier than expected.

It is located next door to Waretown in the Forked River section of Lacey Township.

The plant sucks 1.4 billion gallons a day from the bay into its pipes, and discharges warmer water back into the bay, which hurts water quality. The plant agreed to shut down early in return for New Jersey backing off its demand that it build costly cooling towers to replace the massive water intake to cool the plant.

A fourth Barnegat Bay bill that passed the state legislature was not part of the package signed into law Wednesday. It would establish a "total daily maximum load" for nutrients like nitrogen that can be allowed to enter the bay each day. Christie said that bill is still in legal review.

Federal Grant to Sandy Hook Consortium Helps Pay for Coastal Research

by Jennifer Bradshaw, Staff Writer, 12/31/2010

SANDY HOOK — A \$471,500 installment awarded to the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium from the federal Department of Commerce will benefit research projects that are collecting data around the Shore in the hope of improvement and better understanding of local beaches and coastlines.

Claire Antonucci, executive director of the consortium said the money is the second half of a \$943,000 grant that the consortium submitted a proposal for last year.

"That money goes toward funding our education research and extension program," she said. "Almost half of that money does go to research."

There are four research projects currently under way within the consortium, three of which are at Rutgers and one at William Paterson University.

The Rutgers projects are examining the movement of water particles from the Raritan Bay out into the ocean, collecting data on the ratios of male and female summer flounder in commercial and recreational fisheries in the state, and measuring the amount of mature adult fish to the surviving offspring in fish populations, according to the consortium website.

The experiment at William Paterson examines different kinds of beach grass to determine if planting different species of the grass makes for a stronger dune, Antonucci said.

"These are two-year projects and the researchers are three-quarters of the way through the first year," Antonucci said.

After the projects are completed, the findings are shared with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other interested agencies, such as the Department of Environmental Protection and local government, she said.

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES *BY JOHN KOEGLER*

Bluefin Tuna ESA Listening Meeting?

NMFS was petitioned on May 24, 2010 by The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) to list Atlantic Bluefin Tuna as Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act. In September 2010 "NMFS found the petition presents substantial scientific information indicating the petitioned action may be warranted. They will conduct a status review of Atlantic Bluefin tuna to determine if the petitioned action is warranted. To ensure that the review is comprehensive, they solicit information pertaining to this species from any interested party."

Why would NMFS review this issue from a member of a group who just brought to EPA a frivolous petition to stop the destruction of the environment caused by anglers' use of lead lures and weights. EPA finally determined there was no reason to ban anglers' lead use. NMFS should follow EPA example and deny the petition. Since we are one of the targets it will have a huge economic impact on

fishing opportunity on the saltwater fishing industry and recreational anglers.

NMFS first listening meeting was held at their lab in Sandy Hook on January 5.

1 - The first surprise was NMFS reporting the result of the ICAAT 2010 study on the abundance of bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic. ICAAT had determined that the previous estimate lifespan for bluefin tuna was wrong. Their new determination is that the average bluefin lifespan is now more than 30 years. This dramatically increased the bluefin spawning potential in the western Atlantic. This was a very positive finding and should result in the ESA petition being denied.

2 - Send a letter of thanks to Canyon Runner Sportfishing and Captain Mark for his great power point presentation on the number of bluefin tuna CRS have landed since 2006. From 2006 to 2007 their landings increased by 56%. From 2008 to 2010 their landings increased 22% each year to a total of over 600 landed bluefin in 2010. Their reported landings clearly supports the fact that there are far more bluefin tuna around in 2010 than 2006. Since CRS is required to report every bluefin landed, these numbers represent the increase of the bluefin tuna population since 2006.

3 - The ICCAT study found the western Atlantic 2003 year class was very large. Some western Atlantic bluefin first spawn when 6 years old and all have spawned once by 8 years of age. (2003 + 8 years (2011) = lots of bluefin tuna will be available.)

4 - The Canadian 2010 giant bluefin tuna season closed after only 5 days of fishing. This was the earliest their season has ever closed. ICCAT reported the likely reason for such an early closure was food abundance in Canada attracted the giants.

5 - The US landed their full 2010 ICCAT quota for the first time since 2005. ICCAT reported the area of biggest bluefin tuna landings had shifted from US coastal areas 330 km east to the Georges Bank Area! Many New England-based General category boats made this very long trip after NMFS in September increased their landing limit from 1 giant bluefin tuna per trip to 3 giant tuna per trip. The success of increased landings plus good spring fishing in North Carolina resulted in US landing their full ICCAT 2010 quota.

6 - ICCAT found a large school of sand eels along the entire NE Atlantic coast. They also believe the reduced abundance of herring, boston

mackerel and squid is a factor in the movement of bluefin offshore and north.

Those who do not follow these issues should remember that major commercial landings of Atlantic Herring using pair trawling has resulted in a huge increase in Atlantic herring landings. These fishermen report they are selling most of the herring to lobster fishermen to bait their traps. NMFS 2011 sea herring quota is 91,200 MT. That is 91,200 MT X 2,200 lbs per MT = 200,640,000 pounds or over 200 million fish at 1 lb. each. If these herring weighed around 8 oz., that is 400 million individual herring. That is some bait business. Given this huge number it is difficult to believe it is used for US Lobster pot bait. But you do not have to worry about the giant bluefin tuna. They know how hard it is to find herring in US waters. They now swim to other waters like Canada where pair trawling is illegal and herring overfishing is also illegal. Bluefin are not dumb! There is also the problem of the huge river herring bycatch in this fishery. A fishery that will almost be closed on the whole east coast in 2013.

The formally great recreational spring Boston mackerel fishery is no more. So far NMFS has yet to impose strict quotas on this commercial fishery. In New Jersey the landings have exploded from less than 2 million pounds per year to as high as 32 million pounds in 2005, plus multi-million pound landings from several other states. I guess NMFS is so overworked that they have not been able to control the destruction of the Boston mackerel fishery. It would seem smart for recreational interests to file a petition with NMFS about the Boston mackerel fishery being decimated by commercial overfishing. Is not the passenger dollars collected by the recreational fleet many times greater than the commercial catch dollar value? Did you ever attend a Mid-Atlantic council meeting to complain about the loss of your fishery? It's your choice, you can scream about the loss of your fishery or try and do something about it!

Loligo Squid

This commercial squid fishery had a huge increase in landings over the last 10 years. Loligo moved from an incidental fishery to a directed fishery many years ago and the commercial landings are now huge. NMFS 2010 quota for Loligo was 41,153,697 lbs.

The east coast canyon fishery and other fisheries are subject to huge shifts in tuna presence

when key food species have increased to such unbelievable numbers.

8- Another major issue that must be pushed is NMFS refusing to bring up at ICCAT the Europeans totally ignoring their quotas for yellowfin and bigeye tuna being caught in the south Mid-Atlantic. Their new fishery under artificial FADS has been started by huge new European purse seine boats. This fishery supposedly under ICCAT control has exploded. The killer issue not being discussed is a majority of these tuna are under 10 pounds. Despite their small individual fish size, the landings have exploded from less than 1 million pounds per year to over 12 million pounds per year.

Do anglers forget how great Canyon yellowfin fishing was at one time? What is NMFS problem? Because Anglers do not sell yellowfin tuna internationally, must our once great canyon fishery be permitted by their refusal to get ICCAT to enforce the rules the European and other members agreed to observe? Must anglers permit NMFS neglect to permit our once great canyon fishery to be destroyed by European overfishing?

9- Another issue that must be reported is the shocking veto by ICCAT's chairman of the beginning of the eastern Atlantic members strict bluefin tuna quota observance until 2012. This makes it 26 consecutive years of ICCAT regulatory failure. Some achievement!

Give credit to the international conservation community who have fought at all levels of national government to end the bluefin tuna overfishing in the eastern Atlantic.

Youth Education Report By Greg Kucharewski

YOUTH EDUCATION PLANNING MEETING

During February 2011 the JCAA Youth Education Committee will conduct a planning meeting to reorganize our volunteer efforts to support a number of youth education programs. Tim Burden has offered to assist with promoting our aquatic education and "Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs" awareness program.

NEWARK BAIT AND FLYCASTING CLUB

During 2011 the JCAA Youth Education Committee will visit the Newark Bait and Flycasting Club and present a "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" event for youngsters attending their Kids Fishing Night. The Newark Bait and Flycasting Club will host the event at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located in Union, NJ. Children and their families are welcome to come and enjoy a night of fun fishing activities and refreshments. This is one fishing club that is committed to teaching the joys of fishing to our young people. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will support this worthwhile event by conducting a safe boating seminar and providing "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" packets for all the youngsters.

JCAA LENDING LIBRARY

Several fishing clubs and organizations have used the services of the JCAA Lending Library during October and November. We are pleased with the recent interest to provide youth fishing programs within the membership of the JCAA. Remember to e-mail your youth fishing events to: gkucharews@aol.com so that we can publish your success stories in the JCAA newspaper. If your organization would like to use materials for your event, please phone 732-785-9278 and leave a message. We will return your call as soon as possible and support your event. Plastic bags are also available for making goodie bags for children attending your event.

WINTER FAMILY OUTING

If you are tired of shoveling snow and staying in the house this winter, try attending the NJBBA Annual Banquet and Chinese Auction. It will be held at Yesterday's restaurant, Rt. 9 South, Bayville, NJ on Saturday, March 12, 2011 - 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. Bring your family and friends to enjoy a great night out. For more information: Call Event Chairperson Kathy Burden at 737-279-3177 or Co-Event Chairperson Carol Harris at 737-269-8878.

GET THE POTS OFF THE ARTIFICIAL REEF AND SUPPORT REEF RESCUE