

# JCAA NEWSPAPER DECEMBER 2011

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on November 21st, 2011)

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

## JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

**Tuesday, November 29th, 2011**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd**

## NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, December 8th, 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**

**JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi**

This publication is printed and mailed one week prior to each regular monthly meeting of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. One of the prime goals of JCAA is to get accurate information into public hands as soon as possible.

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**JCAA General Membership Meetings are for club representatives and invited guests only. These meetings are not open to the general public. If you would like to attend as a guest, call the President at (732) 929-2591 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**

## 2011 OFFICERS

|                            |                |              |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>           | Eileen Smith   | 732-899-2681 |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b> | Joe Puntasecca | 908-913-0551 |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b> | Don Marantz    | 609-259-6368 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Doug Tegeder   | 732-341-5674 |
| <b>Rec. Sec.</b>           | Tom Siciliano  | 609-296-3774 |
| <b>Cors. Sec.</b>          | Paul Turi      | 609-660-2126 |
| <b>Mem. Sec.</b>           | Bruce Smith    | 732-695-3431 |

**Tournament Dir.**

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**November 29<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**December 8<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board MTG

**December 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>** MAFMC VA

**December 27<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**2012**

**January 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>** Garden State Sportsmen Show

**February 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>** AC Boat Show

**February 11<sup>th</sup>** NJ's Salt Water Sportsman

Magazine's National Seminar

**March 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>** Saltwater Expo

## **President's Report**

*By Eileen Smith*

With the Holiday season soon upon us, we still have some die-hard fishermen out there getting the last of the blues, stripers and black fish for this year. Remember, the best way to have a successful year in fishing is to make sure you have a safe year on the water.

I look forward to hearing from all the friends and families I have had the privilege of meeting during the fishing season.

**Talking about the holidays**, JCAA has a great selection of t-shirts at close-out prices to make your gift giving easier. All shirts from past seasons are only available in the sizes we have in stock. The JCAA 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary shirt is going for just \$10.00. And as an incentive, order more than three shirts and you pay only \$5.00 for shipping and handling. To place orders, you can call 732-899-2681 or you can send a check to JCAA/Holiday shirts, 1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ. 08753 If you call, please leave a number where I can contact you anytime for additional information. Remember, name, size, and what shirt you would like to purchase if available. Please keep in mind that the

## JCAA & NJSFSC Menhaden Comments

postal services may be running slow. Get your orders in early. Shirts will be shipped after confirmed payment. Thank you for your support.

The nominated slate of officers for 2012 are as follows: President Joe Puntasecca. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Mark Taylor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice president Paul Haertel, Treasurer Doug Tegeder, Recording Secretary Tom Siciliano, Corresponding Secretary Paul Turi, and membership secretary John Toth.

Congratulations to Senator Bob Smith, the Jersey Coast Anglers Sportsperson-of-the-Year for 2011. His hard work on many of the issues important to the Jersey Coast Anglers Association and recreational fishermen is truly appreciated. His nomination letter, which includes more information about Senator Smith and his accomplishments, was in last month's JCAA Newspaper. The outstanding awards dinner at the Crystal Point Yacht Club was celebrated with a three course meal and many prizes. We would also like to congratulate Trout Unlimited for receiving the JCAA Youth Education Award for 2011. This honor was given for the outstanding programs this organization has provided for the young fishermen of New Jersey.

We would like to thank Senator Robert Menendez for being our keynote speaker. His speech addressed many important issues. I have included his speech below.

Congressman Frank Pallone also came and talked about his bill, the Flexibility and Access in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act of 2011, cosponsored by Republican Walter Jones of North Carolina. It has bipartisan support in Congress.

I have included below the comments that JCAA made on the Addendum to the Menhaden Fisheries Management Plan.

**Mark your Calendars.** The November General Membership Meeting is on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The December Board Meeting is the 8<sup>th</sup> of the Month and the December General meeting is the 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Help Wanted

We are still accepting applications for the Fluke Tournament Director Position. If you are interested in meeting great people and running a state-wide tournament, while helping the cause of JCAA, this is for you. Applications can be sent to the JCAA office attention John Toth.

## **SUPPORT THE REEF PROGRAM BY GETTING POTS OFF REEFS**

October 27, 2011

Toni Kerns

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission  
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

Subject: Menhaden Draft Addendum V

Dear Ms Kerns:

I am writing you in behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) and the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen (NJSFSC) with our comments on Addendum V to Amendment I to the Atlantic Menhaden Fishing Management Plan (FMP). These comments pertain to the biological reference points for menhaden as well as possible management measures that could be used in order to control the harvest, if they should become needed. JCAA & NJSFSC makes these in light of the 2010 stock assessment's Peer Review Panel's statement "that menhaden population abundance had declined steadily and recruitment had been low since the last peak observed in the early 1980's."

The existing biological reference points of the target fishing mortality (F target) when applied to the most recent benchmark stock assessment and its terminal year (2008) resulted in about only 8% of the stocks maximum spawning potential (MSP) being achieved. As a result, the Peer Review Panel recommended that other reference points be considered that would provide greater protection for the coastwide menhaden spawning stock biomass. In addition, given the current overfishing definition in the Menhaden FMP, overfishing has occurred some 60% of the time over the last 54 years. As you point out in your draft document, recruitment of menhaden to the coastwide stock does not appear to totally depend upon the number of spawning fish but to an important degree upon environmental factors, especially for the production of large year-classes. Further, as you point out, it is very likely that menhaden could be able to take greater advantage of favorable environmental conditions if a larger percent of spawning fish exist in the population.

While all of us benefit to some degree in the use of commercial menhaden meal as feed for chickens, turkeys, hogs and aquaculture production, and its oil via omega 3 fatty acid; as well as the direct use of menhaden as bait, JCAA feels strongly that the most important role for menhaden is its ecological one as a forage base for predatory fishes and other aquatic animals. We believe that it could be to everyone's advantage, the general public, as well as commercial fishermen and recreational fishermen, to work to increase the menhaden stock, especially spawning fish, to a higher level than now exists.

JCAA's & NJSFSC specific comments are as follows:

### **Biological Reference Points – (2.3)**

Unfortunately the ASMFC provides just two choices for an F threshold; status quo (option 1) and (option 2) a 15% maximum spawning potential. We feel neither of these accomplishes what is needed to allow the menhaden stock to fulfill its important ecological role in the sea. JCAA & NJSFSC believes this species needs to be placed with the other important forage fishes and receive the needed status it deserves.

We recommend option 4, 40% MSP with its corresponding F target and F threshold, the target guideline recommended by the Federal National Standard 1. These reference points would reflect menhaden's ecological importance, yet still provide for a commercial and recreational fishery.

### **Proposed Management Tools (2.3.2)**

#### **• Recreational Fishery – (2.3.2.1)**

Since the data pertaining to the recreational fishery is so poor (no menhaden taken for bait along the entire coast in 2009 is an example of just how unreliable those data are. Figure 2 in Draft Document), it is recommended that an alternative data collection be explored.

If recreational action is needed in the future, we feel that size limits are of no practical use. However, either daily bag limits or some time limits, i.e., seasons may prove useful.

#### **• Commercial Fishery – (2.3.2.2)**

Continue the harvest cap in Chesapeake Bay, at least through 2013. If other actions are

needed, the use of trip limits, gear restrictions, season closures, area closures, quotas, effort controls and limited entry should be included in the FMP, if only to have a broad range of possible options for the future.

One final item: In the late 1970's as the ASMFC began discussing the need for a menhaden FMP, a proposal was put forward to provide a 1 mile-wide corridor along the entire coast during the fall where no reduction fishing for young of year menhaden would occur. At that time, these small juveniles are migrating in mass close along the coast and were being targeted by reduction boats for fishmeal. It was agreed by most everyone, biologist and fishermen alike, that harvesting menhaden at this stage of life was wasteful. The harvest of the juveniles at that time was between 300 million and 1.5 billion fish annually. It would be to everyone's benefit to let these fish live another few years to grow larger. Unfortunately, all but a single processor agreed, but it would take the entire industry to agree to this on a voluntary basis for it to be implemented. Unfortunately this plan was not put in place because of this single objection.

At the present time, no one is directly fishing on young of year menhaden. A prohibition of a reduction fishery for these juvenile fish would not pose any hardship on fishermen, yet would have a great benefit to the stock in the future.

We ask that the Menhaden Board consider this request to prohibit any future reduction fishing on young of year menhaden.

Respectfully submitted:

Sincerely,  
Eileen Smith, President of JCAA  
Frank Virgilio, President of NJSFSC

## **JCAA Awards Dinner Keynote Speech By Senator Robert Menendez**

I would like to thank President Eileen Smith and all of you for allowing me to come to this awards ceremony and say a few words.

I know you know this already, but Tom Fote is a real treasure. He understands the way the fishing

community, the environmental community and the government can work together toward common aims like no one else I know.

Another person who truly gets it is State Senator Bob Smith. As Chair of the Senate Environment Committee he has done a great job of championing fishing issues.

One thing I really appreciate about Senator Smith, something I emulate, is that he has an open door for fishermen.

I want to tell you that I have the same policy in my office. If you have an issue you want to discuss, my staff and I are there to listen and do whatever we can to help.

There has always been something about fishing that speaks to all of us who live along the coast.

There is a romance and beauty to sport fishing. All of you in the Jersey Anglers Association, and the 75 Saltwater Fishing Clubs you represent, carry on a great tradition and have a great responsibility to the next generation so they will be able to catch the one that got away.

Hemingway described catching the fish in the Old Man and the Sea this way:

“Then the fish came alive, with his death in him, and rose high out of the water showing all his great length and width and all his power and his beauty.”

I’m not much of a fisherman – but that’s the moment I know any fisherman lives for.

And that is why when it comes to conservation I think there are no more passionate advocates than fishermen. You are out on the water and know just how important it is to protect our natural world from destruction.

Your advocacy is part of the reason I have always led the fight to prevent offshore drilling near the Jersey Shore. As you know, there were plans to have lease sales in Virginia waters, less than 100 miles from Cape May.

But the Administration changed course once the tragic Deepwater Horizon spill took place. BP recently announced that its clean up is over, but tell that to the fishermen who are experiencing the worst shrimp season in history in the Gulf.

The fact is that oil drilling is an inherently risky activity and the damage caused by such a spill can last for decades, and perhaps even permanently. As a result of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill off the coast of Alaska, 21,000 gallons of crude still linger

in the areas where the spill occurred, and oil-stained sand can still be found on the beaches nearby.

Conservation is something we can all agree on but where the partnership between environmentalists, regulators and the fishing community breaks down is how to effectively protect fish stocks.

There is a credibility gap between scientists and fishermen on catch assessments. “Research” tells scientists one thing and “experience” tells fishermen another. This conflict needs to be addressed head on, if we want to address fisheries management in a constructive way.

This means not only enhancing the data we are relying on to inform our fisheries management decisions and the methods we are using to collect data, it also means we have to have a more collaborative approach.

We need to get scientists and fishermen speaking the same language, and embracing the same data collection methods. Each group has something to teach the other, so working together can only improve fisheries management science. Cooperative fisheries research can help bridge the “research” versus “experience” conflict.

At the end of 2009 I joined the fishermen in asking NOAA to extend its comment period for their summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass specifications. But NOAA denied that request. I think that was a mistake and is a symptom of a larger problem. Fishermen are simply not included in the process enough.

Now the Mid Atlantic Fisheries Council is reevaluating the 2012 stock assessment for summer flounder. And I am sure you are all bracing for the worst because it feels more like something that is being done to you rather than a decision being made with you.

This leads us to another major problem. We simply need more and better data. We will never have the perfect data set, however, we can certainly do a better job of gathering information, using the latest technology and planning tools. I have fought for more funding and I have also asked NOAA to devote more of its resources to data collection. I’m not going to sugar coat it, we’re facing tough economic decisions in Washington, and money is tight on all fronts. But I’m going to keep working on this and being a voice for fishermen as we set priorities in federal funding.

Thank you again for having me here today. I look forward to continuing to work together and please do not hesitate to contact me in the future as we all try to work together to protect our oceans, protect our fisheries, and most importantly, protect recreational fishing in New Jersey.

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

### **Summer Flounder**

There was not much discussion about what may happen at the joint meeting (ASMFC and MAFMC) in December. There is talk about lowering the summer flounder quota that was approved at the August joint meeting. The stock assessment is on the JCAA webpage. Pay attention to JCAA alerts that needs to be done. This meeting will be in Williamsburg, Virginia.

### **Menhaden**

The ASMFC report and newspaper articles describe the action taken by ASMFC on Menhaden. In the President's Report you will find the JCAA position on Menhaden. There is also a New York Times article that describes what happened at the Board Meeting. This is just the beginning of the process and there will probably not be any action until 2013.

### **Striped Bass**

The ASMFC made the right decision in not going to public hearings with a new amendment to the Striped Bass plan. The ASMFC press release below provides the details for this decision. There are two additional articles that discuss the young of the year indexes for both Virginia and Maryland which were some of the highest on record.

### **Pots off the Reef**

The Lame Duck session of the NJ Legislature ends on January 9, 2012. Any legislation not passed by both houses will need to be reintroduced in the new session beginning January 10<sup>th</sup> and begin the entire process again. Pots Off the Reef was passed by the NJ Senate but is stuck in the NJ Assembly. Without action by Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, this bill has no chance for passage in this session.

In the past year this newspaper has included the sample letters to Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver asking her to post the Pots Off the Reef Bill (A1152/S221). Please visit our webpage or previous newspapers for these samples. You must write, email, and call immediately and express both your support for the Senate Bill (S221) and your dismay at the lack of action in the Assembly. We have heard there might be a different bill that would be sold as a compromise. JCAA, NJ Outdoor Alliance and the NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs support only S221 and the current Assembly bill (A1152). The rumored bill is not a compromise because all the groups who began and continue to participate in Reef Rescue have not been asked for input into any "compromise" legislation. We can only support a bill that gets the commercial pots off the reefs once and for all.

### **Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs**

Like the Pots Off the Reef Bill, Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs is stuck in the NJ Assembly Appropriations Committee. It needs to be approved there and then voted on in the full Assembly. It was already approved by the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. This bill was already passed in the NJ Senate. You need to write, call and email Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver and tell her this legislation needs immediate action. You also need to contact Assemblywoman Nellie Poe, chair of the Appropriations Committee, 973-247-1555, 100 Hamilton Plaza, Suite 1405, Paterson, NJ 07505. We don't want to start all over again in the next legislative session that begins on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Upcoming Congressional Hearing on Fisheries Bills**

I been told there will be a hearing on the following bill in the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs on December 1<sup>st</sup> for the following bills.

HR 594 – Coastal Jobs Creation Act – Pallone  
HR 1013 - Strengthen Fisheries Management in New England Act of 2011 – Keating  
HR 1646 – American Angler Preservation Act – Runyan  
HR 2304 – Fishery Science Improvement Act – Wittman  
HR 2610 – Asset Forfeiture Fund Reform and Distribution Act - Frank  
HR 2753 – Fishery Management Transparency and Accountability Act – Jones

You can watch the hearings from your own computer live at <http://naturalresources.house.gov/Subcommittees/Subcommittee/?SubcommitteeID=5063>

These bills are important to you and hopefully you can watch them live but for those of you that cannot you can go to the same web page and click on any of the hearings and watch them. You should go there and check out the past hearings also.

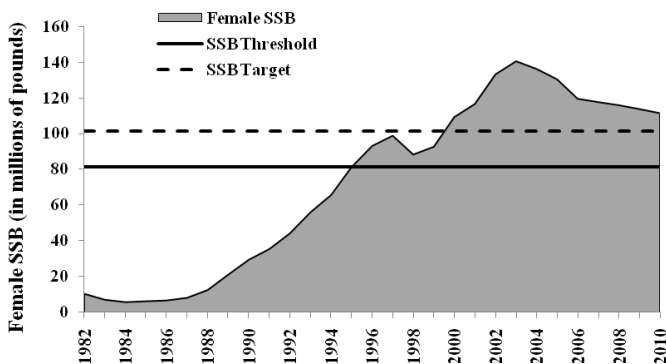
## **ASMFC Meeting Week** **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board** (November 8, 2011)

### ***Press Release***

#### **Atlantic Striped Bass Assessment Update Finds Resource not Overfished and Overfishing not Occurring**

Boston, MA – The 2011 Atlantic striped stock assessment update indicates that the resource remains in good condition with the female spawning stock biomass (SSB) estimate at 109% of the SSB target and 137% of the SSB threshold (see Figure 1). The estimated fishing mortality rate (F) in 2010 was 0.23, below both the target (0.30) and threshold (0.34). Striped bass are assessed as a single stock although there are at least three distinct stocks contributing to the coastal migratory group: Hudson River, Delaware River, and Chesapeake Bay and tributaries. The striped bass stock complex is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring.

**Figure 1. Atlantic Striped Female Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB)**  
Source: ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Stock Assessment Update, 2011



Overall stock abundance has declined since 2004, which is reflected by a decline in coastwide landings in 2009 and 2010. The decline is more prevalent in areas largely dependent on contributions

from the Chesapeake stocks (such as Maine) than areas that are dominated by the Hudson stock (such as New York).

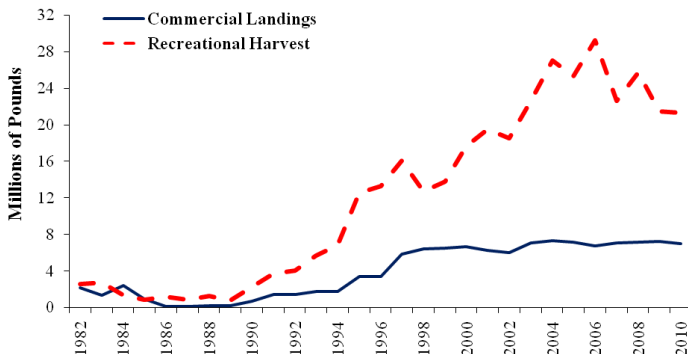
Despite the decline in abundance, the spawning stock in 2010 remained relatively high due to the growth and maturation of the 2003 year class and the accumulation of spawning biomass from year classes prior to 1996. Analysis of tagging data suggests increasing natural mortality in Chesapeake Bay, possibly the result of mycobacteriosis. However, a recent tagging study by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science suggests the impact of mycobacteriosis may not be as significant as once thought.

Recruitment estimates averaged 9.5 million fish from 1982 through 2010. However, the stock assessment update identified a period of increased recruitment from 1994-2004 and a more recent (2005-2010) period of lower recruitment. Recruitment in 2009 and 2010 was estimated at 7.1 and 9.1 million fish, respectively. The 2003 year class remains the largest since 1982 at 20.8 million fish. Striped bass are one of the most sought after species by recreational anglers along the Atlantic coast. Recreational landings have ranged from a low of under 750,000 pounds in 1989 to a high of 30.5 million pounds in 2006. In 2010, recreational anglers landed over 22.9 million pounds (1.99 million fish) (see Figure 2). This represents a 24% decline by weight and a 26% decline by number from the high in 2006. Changes in landings have varied by state, with Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey showing an increase in number of fish landed and the remaining states showing a 45% decrease on average.

Recreational discard mortalities (assuming an 8% mortality of releases) in 2010 were approximately 514,000 fish, a 75% decrease from a high of 2 million fish in 2006.

Landings from the commercial striped bass fishery have been consistently lower than the recreational catch. Commercial landings increased from ~139,000 pounds in 1987 to just under 5.9 million pounds in 1997 and have remained steady due to quota restrictions. Landings in 2010 were 7.06 million pounds. Gill nets are the dominant commercial gear used to target striped bass. Other commercial fishing gears include hook and line, pound nets, seines, and trawls.

**Figure 2. Atlantic Striped Bass Commercial & Recreational Landings**  
 Source: ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Stock Assessment Update, 2011



Copies of the stock assessment update will be available via the Commission’s website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) under “Breaking News.” For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0741 or [ktaylor@asmfc.org](mailto:ktaylor@asmfc.org).

### ***Meeting Summary***

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board met to review the results of the 2010 update stock assessment (see press release), consider Draft Addendum III for public comment, review law enforcements operations pertaining to illegal striped bass harvest, and review the 2010 Fishery Management Plan Review Report. The stock assessment chair presented the 2011 stock assessment update. Overall the resource is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring with the female spawning stock biomass (SSB) estimate at 109% of the SSB target and 137% of the SSB threshold.

The Board was updated on the development of Draft Addendum III, which proposes options to reduce fishing mortality and options to protect the spawning stock when it is concentrated and vulnerable. Following a staff updated of the proposed management options, the Management Board voted to postpone further action on Draft Addendum III until completion of the benchmark stock assessment in June 2013. Members from the Interstate Watershed Task Force briefed the Board on the covert and overt illegal striped bass harvest investigations conducted within Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River since 2003.

As a result of these investigations, over \$1.6 million dollars in fines were levied against 19 individuals and three corporations for more than one million pounds of illegally harvested striped bass, estimated to be worth up to seven million dollars. The Task Force members presented a number of law

enforcement recommendations to the Board that would improve coastwide enforcement.

The Board reviewed the 2010 FMP Review; all states were found to be in compliance with the management program in 2010. It was noted that three states (Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maryland) adjusted their 2011 commercial quota in response to overages in 2010. For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0741 or [ktaylor@asmfc.org](mailto:ktaylor@asmfc.org).

### **Tautog Management Board**

(November 8, 2011)

### ***Meeting Summary***

The Tautog Management Board met to review additional proposals to implement Addendum VI to the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Tautog. Addendum VI established a fishing mortality target ( $F_{target}$ ) of 0.15, requiring a 53% harvest reduction based on the 2011 coastwide assessment update (current  $F = 0.38$ ). Addendum VI allows states that can demonstrate its regional fishing mortality rate is lower than the coastwide assessment “at the same level of precision as the coastwide assessment” to only reduce harvest based on its regional fishing mortality rate. The Board previously approved several states proposals to implement Addendum VI during the August Board meeting, including a regional VPA proposal for Massachusetts and Rhode Island and 53% harvest reduction plans for Connecticut, New York, Delaware, and Virginia. It began a discussion of catch curve regional fishing mortality estimates and postponed taking action until the November meeting to allow further Technical Committee (TC) input and consideration of all state catch curve proposals at the same time. The Board received an overview of the 53% reduction proposals submitted by New Jersey and Maryland.

Consistent with previous approaches, the TC evaluated proposals as ‘risk prone’ or ‘risk neutral.’ The TC considered all the New Jersey options risk neutral given the caveat that the 5 day commercial closure in its Option 2 be applied at the beginning or end of an existing season. New Jersey Board members indicated that the intent was consistent with the TC’s recommendations. The TC considers three of the four Maryland 53% reduction options to be risk neutral but considers an option that included a harvest reduction based on 16 ½” size increase to

be risk prone. The TC has concern about the effectiveness of ½” size increases because ½” increments are difficult to enforce and are less informed in the data set. Following the TC recommendations, the Board unanimously approved New Jersey and Maryland’s 53% reduction proposals but required these states to follow the recommendations of the TC to avoid any risk prone management measures. The TC provided further guidance regarding catch curve fishing mortality rate estimates but did not endorse nor reject this method to achieve the intent of

Addendum VI. There is no ‘precision’ metric that is directly comparable between VPA’s and catch curve F estimates. As such, the TC could not determine if catch curve assessments are at the same level of precision as the coastwide assessment. Because catch curves can be calculated using different methods and inputs, the TC agreed that the best approach is to standardize catch curve methods between states to best mimic the inputs of the VPA. TC members agreed to rerun catch curve F estimates using the Chapman Robson method, with regional age/length keys, starting with the first fully recruited age class. The standardized state-specific catch curve fishing mortality estimates were similar to the coastwide VPA results and still required around a 50% harvest reduction to achieve the  $F_{target} = 0.15$ . The Board agreed to allow New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia to reduce harvest based on catch curve fishing mortality estimates based on the TC’s standardized methodology. States are required to implement new regulations to achieve the harvest reductions by January 1, 2012 to comply with Addendum VI.

For more information, please contact Christopher Vonderweidt, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0740 or [cvonderweidt@asmfc.org](mailto:cvonderweidt@asmfc.org).

### *Motions*

**Move to approve the NJ and MD methodology to arrive at a 53% reduction in harvest, including the TC caveats, to not use a standalone five day closure within season for New Jersey (option 2 commercial), and not use ½” size limit increments in Maryland (option 7).**

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Travelstead. Motion passes unanimously.

**Menhaden Management Board**  
(November 9, 2011)

### *Press Release*

## ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Board Approves Draft Addendum V *Addendum Establishes New Fishing Mortality Reference Points to Increase Spawning Stock Biomass*

Boston, MA – The Commission’s Atlantic Menhaden Management Board has approved Addendum V to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. The Addendum establishes a new interim fishing mortality threshold and target (based on maximum spawning potential or MSP) with the goal of increasing abundance, spawning stock biomass, and menhaden availability as a forage species. The new threshold and target equates to a MSP of 15% and 30%, respectively. The Board has initiated development of an amendment to establish management measures for all fishing sectors and gear types to implement the new fishing mortality reference points. The percent of harvest reductions associated with the new reference points as well as an implementation process and timeline will be identified in the Draft Amendment.

The MSP approach identifies the fishing mortality rate necessary to maintain a given level of stock reproductive potential relative to the potential maximum stock productivity under unfished conditions. A 15% MSP would equate to a fishing mortality rate threshold required to maintain approximately 15% of the spawning potential of an unfished stock. An unfished stock is equal to 100% MSP. Given the current fishing mortality equates to a MSP of approximately 8%, the new reference points are intended to provide increased protection for spawning adults, which given optimal environmental conditions, may result in increased juvenile abundance. This approach is consistent with the recommendations of the 2009 stock assessment peer review panel.

With the newly adopted fishing mortality reference points, the fishing mortality threshold is set at  $F = 1.32$  and the target is set at  $F = 0.62$ . Based on the revised 2009 Atlantic menhaden stock assessment and the new fishing mortality threshold, overfishing is occurring. Fishing mortality in 2008 (the latest year in the assessment) is estimated at 2.28. Based on the current reference point to evaluate stock condition, Atlantic menhaden are not overfished.



The first step in the amendment process will be the development of a Public Information Document (PID), which will contain preliminary discussions of biological, environmental, social, and economic information, fishery issues, and potential management options for action. The PID also provides for public input about changes observed in the fisheries; actions that should or should not be taken in terms of management, regulation, enforcement, and research; and any other concerns about the resources or the fisheries. A Draft PID will be presented to the Board at the Commission's Winter Meeting in February 2012.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for Management, at 703.842.0740 or [tkerns@asmfc.org](mailto:tkerns@asmfc.org).

### *Motions*

#### **Move that the Board accept option 2, 15% MSP as the threshold.**

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Duren. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **Main Motion:**

#### **Move to select option 3, a target of 30% MSP consistent with scientific literature.**

Motion made by Ms. Fegley and seconded by Rep. Peake.

#### **Motion to Amend:**

#### **Move to amend the motion by changing 30% MSP to 20% MSP.**

Motion made by Mr. Travelstead and seconded by Mr. Himchak. Motion fails (Roll call Vote: In favor – ME, RI, NJ, PRFC, VA; Opposed – NH, MA, CT, NY, DE, MD, NC, SC, GA, FL, NMFS, USFWS).

#### **Main Motion:**

#### **Move to select option 3, a target of 30% MSP consistent with scientific literature.**

Motion made by Ms. Fegley and seconded by Rep. Peake. Motion carries (Roll call Vote: In favor – ME, NH, MA, RI, CT, NY, DE, MD, NC, SC, GA, FL, NMFS, USFWS; Opposed – NJ, PRFC, VA).

#### **Motion to approve Addendum V to the ISFMP for Atlantic Menhaden with selected options.**

Motion made by Mr. Augustine and seconded by Mr. Abbott. Motion carries.

### **Move to adopt the schedule putting together a PID for Board approval for public comment at the February 2012 meeting, conduct hearings and come back to Board for the May meeting.**

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell and seconded by Mr. McElroy. Motion approved without opposition.

### **Winter Flounder Management Board**

(November 10, 2011)

#### *Meeting Summary*

The Winter Flounder Management Board met to review the SARC 52 Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) stock assessment and determine an appropriate management response. Paul Nitschke of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center presented the assessment results that estimate the GOM stock overfished status is unknown with overfishing occurring and the SNE/MA stock is overfished with overfishing not occurring. In addition, the SARC 52 revised the reference points with the new Fmsy value = 0.31 in the GOM, and Fmsy = 0.29 with a MSY value = 11,728 metric tons for the SNE/MA stock.

Technical Committee (TC) Chair Steve Correia presented a review of current state and federal winter flounder management under ASMFC Addendum I and Amendment 16 to the Northeast Multispecies Groundfish FMP (Amendment 16), and TC recommendations for a management response. In September, the TC reviewed the SARC 52 results and current winter flounder management. Following the review, the TC recommended the Board accept the results for management use with no further action necessary. Some Board members commented that future management measures to reduce state waters harvest in the SNE/MA stock may be necessary but they agreed to revisit the issue at the ASMFC Winter Meeting in February 2012, after the New England Fishery Management Council had discussed the SARC 52 results.

For more information, please contact Christopher Vonderweidt, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0740 or [cvonderweidt@asmfc.org](mailto:cvonderweidt@asmfc.org).

## **MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO JCAA**

## **2011 a Banner Year for Young Striped Bass in Virginia**

by VIM Staff, October 17, 2011

Preliminary results from a 2011 survey conducted by researchers at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) suggest the production of a strong class of young-of-year striped bass in the Virginia portion of Chesapeake Bay. The 2011 year class represents the group of fish hatched this spring.

The results are good news for the recreational and commercial anglers who pursue this popular game fish because this year class is expected to grow to fishable size in 3 to 4 years. The results are also good news for Chesapeake Bay, where striped bass play an important ecological role as top predators.

The 2011 study, formally known as the Juvenile Striped Bass Seine Survey, recorded more than 27 fish per seine haul, significantly higher than the historic average of 7.5 fish per seine haul. This is a significant increase from recent years, during which catches of young fish were average.

Although survey results show that numbers of young-of-year striped bass in Virginia have been average to above-average since 2003, results from a similar survey in Maryland indicate that numbers of juvenile striped bass there were below average in 2008, 2009, and 2010. Striped bass populations and the fisheries they support depend on the availability of strong year classes to mitigate the effect of less productive years.

Professor Mary Fabrizio, who directs the Juvenile Striped Bass Seine Survey at VIMS, notes that the economic and ecological value of striped bass lends significant interest to the year-to-year status of their population. "By estimating the relative number of young-of-year striped bass," she says, "our survey provides an important measure of annual and long-term trends in the Bay's striped bass population."

The VIMS Juvenile Striped Bass Seine Survey, managed by Leonard Machut, currently samples 18 stations in the Rappahannock, York, and James River watersheds. Each year, biologists sample each site 5 times from early July through mid-September, deploying a 30.5 m-long (100-foot) seine net from the shore. They count each netted fish, measure its fork length (the distance from snout to the fork in the tail), and return it to the water. These young striped bass generally measure between 40 and 100 mm (1.5-4 inches). Survey scientists

measured nearly 4,200 juvenile striped bass at these stations in 2011. VIMS has been conducting the survey annually since 1967 for the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC).

The Bay's striped bass population has rebounded from historic lows in the late 1970s and early 1980s, following fishing bans enacted by Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia in the mid- to late-1980s. Since then, the Bay's striped bass population has increased to the point that striped bass are now considered recovered.

For more information about the Virginia Juvenile Striped Bass survey visit the survey's webpage at [http://www.vims.edu/research/departments/fisheries/programs/juvenile\\_striped\\_bass/index.php](http://www.vims.edu/research/departments/fisheries/programs/juvenile_striped_bass/index.php)

## **2011 Young of the Year Striped Bass Survey Shows Fourth Highest Reproduction on Record**

Press Release MD DNR

by Josh Davidsburg

Annapolis, Md. (October 18, 2011) - The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced that the 2011 Young of the Year (YOY) Striped Bass Survey is 34.6, well above the long-term average of 11.9, and exceedingly higher than 2010's results of 5.9. This is the fourth highest measure of striped bass spawning success in the Chesapeake Bay in the survey's 58-year history.

"This reinforces our understanding that when conditions are right, the striped bass population is capable of producing robust year classes of young rockfish," said DNR Fisheries Service Director Tom O'Connell.

The survey also documented an increase in the abundance of juvenile blueback herring- a population that had previously decreased dramatically in the Chesapeake Bay and along the coast. White perch, another important food and sportfish species, saw near record reproduction.

During this year's survey, DNR biologists counted more than 59,000 fish of 47 different species while collecting 4,565 YOY striped bass. Variation in annual spawning success is normal because striped bass reproduction is influenced by many factors including water temperature, winter snowfall, spring flow rates, and prevailing weather conditions. Typically, several years of average reproduction are intermixed with the occasional large and small year-

classes. The strong 2011 year-class shows that the spawning stock is capable of producing a large year-class when conditions are favorable.

“We are extremely pleased to see this year’s results,” said DNR Biologist Eric Durell. “It is interesting to note that the four largest year classes on record have occurred since the moratorium was lifted in 1990.”

DNR biologists have monitored the reproductive success of striped bass and other species in Maryland’s portion of the Chesapeake Bay annually since 1954. Twenty-two survey sites are located in the four major spawning systems: Choptank, Potomac, and Nanticoke rivers, and the Upper Bay. Biologists visit each site monthly from July through September, collecting fish samples with two sweeps of a 100-foot beach seine.

Juvenile indices are calculated as the average catch of YOY fish per sample. For more information about the YOY striped bass survey go to [dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/juvinindex/](http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/juvinindex/).

## Panel Votes to Reduce a Forage Fish Catch

By Abby Goodnough, NY Times

BOSTON — A fishing oversight group voted Wednesday to sharply reduce the allowable East Coast catch of menhaden, an oily forage fish that does not show up on dinner plates but is vital, scientists say, to the ocean ecosystem.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which includes representatives from 15 Eastern states and the federal government, voted to reduce the menhaden harvest by as much as 37 percent compared with 2010 levels after a review found the species had been overfished and needed to rebuild.

Millions of pounds of menhaden are caught along the Atlantic Seaboard each year, most by [Omega Protein](#), a company that grinds it and reduces it to fish meal and oil that goes into fertilizer, feed for livestock and farmed fish, pet food and even dietary supplements. But menhaden — which is rich in Omega 3 fatty acids and is also known as bunker or porgy, depending where you live — is also an ecological building block, serving as a crucial food for larger fish like tuna, striped bass and bluefish, as well as birds and marine mammals.

“There’s really not much in the ocean that is as healthy to eat, pound for pound, as menhaden,”

said Peter Baker, director of Northeast fisheries at the [Pew Environment Group](#), which supported the catch reduction. “If these other species don’t have menhaden in their diet it becomes less nutritious and they’re more susceptible to disease.”

Mr. Baker said the menhaden fishery was the largest on the East Coast by weight and that the population had fallen to less than 10 percent of historic levels.

The bait industry also harvests the fish for use in lobster and crab traps, Mr. Baker said, though it is estimated to catch 20 percent of the harvest, compared with about 80 percent for Omega Protein.

“We’ve been pushing this fish into the red zone over and over again,” he said, “and we’re now at the critical point where it’s going to stop being able to reproduce itself and perhaps go into freefall and collapse if action isn’t taken immediately.”

In two separate votes, the commission members called for a minimum catch reduction of 23 percent and a target reduction of 37 percent until menhaden stocks rebound. It has yet to figure out exactly how to reduce the catch.

The only states whose representatives on the commission voted against the target 37 percent catch reduction were Virginia, where Omega Protein’s fleet is based, and New Jersey.

Jack Travelstead, a representative from Virginia, questioned whether the measure would really increase menhaden stocks, suggesting that environmental factors played more of a role.

“There’s an enormous amount of uncertainty,” he said.

Ben Landry, a spokesman for Omega Protein, said the company was disappointed and felt the commission was responding to pressure from environmentalists and recreational fishermen.

“One thing is certain,” Mr. Landry said. “The industry is going to have to face some significant harvest cuts that will lead to a lot of hard employment questions, and a lot of tough questions as to how they’re going to conduct their operation.”

Several recreational fishermen at the meeting said they were deeply encouraged by the vote, which came after the commission received more than 90,000 public comments, mostly in favor of steep catch reductions.

“I think it’s great that so many states recognize how vital this fish is,” said Paul Eidman, a fishing guide based in Sandy Hook, N.J. “It’s just a start, but it’s an important one.”

Mr. Eidman, who founded an advocacy group called [Menhaden Defenders](#), said that smaller schools of menhaden off the New Jersey coast had meant a drop in business for him in recent years.

“The general feeling in New Jersey is if we don’t have bunker the fishing’s terrible,” he said. “And in this economy, people just aren’t going to take a day off from work to fish unless they know the fishing’s going to be really good.”

But H. Bruce Franklin, who wrote “The Most Important Fish in the Sea: Menhaden and America,” said a better step would have been to get rid of the so-called reduction fishing industry — harvesting menhaden for the manufacture of meal and oil — altogether.

“There’s no rational reason for this industry to exist,” he said. “If the maximum measures were taken right now, it might still be a little bit too late. But we’re hoping it’s not.”

## **Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner**

*By Paul Turi, co-chairman*

On Sunday, November 13th, 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 Senator Bob Smith. Senator Smith 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 Senator Smith on being elected this year's sportsperson-of-the-year.

On hand to honor Senator Smith was our keynote speaker for the evening, Senator Robert Menendez. Also in attendance was Congressman Frank Pallone.

JCAA's Youth Education Committee, represented by Paul Smith, presented this year's Youth Education Award to representatives of Trout Unlimited for their promotion of youth fishing.

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:

|                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Albivi's Brick Oven                 | Atlantic Bait & Tackle  |
| Barnegat Bait & Tackle              | Bay View Restaurant     |
| Betts Tackle LTD                    | Big Bass King           |
| Big Ed's Custom Rods                | Bimini Bay              |
| Bob's Bay Marina                    | Brunch Spot             |
| Canyon Reels                        | Capt. Cal               |
| Capt. Paul Eidman                   | Chambliss Marine        |
| Crystal Diner                       | Eileen Smith            |
| F.J. Neil Co.                       | Fish Bonz               |
| Fisherman Magazine                  | Fisherman's Den         |
| Fisherman's Headquarters            | Fisherman's Supply      |
| Frabill, Inc.                       | Frank Tenore            |
| Grumpy's Bait & Tackle              | Guy Harvey              |
| Hi-Mar Striper Club                 | Horizon Diner           |
| Interlux Paints                     | Investors Savings       |
| Jersey Coast Shark Anglers          | Jersey Hooker           |
| Jingles Bait & Tackle               | Julian's Bait Co, Inc.  |
| Kevin's Lures                       | Kristy's Restaurant     |
| L & H Woods & Water                 | L&S Bait Co.            |
| Lacey Marine                        | Lamiglas                |
| Long Branch Bait & Tackle           | Minn Kota               |
| Miss Belmar                         | Yo-Zuri America         |
| Sandy Hook Bay Anglers              | MV Tackle               |
| Norma K III                         | Ocean Explorer          |
| Oceanside Bait & Tackle             | Paul & Linda Haertel    |
| Pell's Fish & Sport                 | Pradco Outdoor Brands   |
| Rhode Island Poppers                | South Harbor Marina     |
| NJ Beach Buggy Assoc.               | Murphy's Hook House     |
| Sportsman Center                    | Surf City Bait & Tackle |
| The Bait Shop                       | Tony Maja's Products    |
| Triangle Sport                      | Uncle Josh Bait co.     |
| Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County |                         |

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 of 10:

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

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, Ed Cherry, Paul & Linda Haertel, Bruce Smith, Joe Puntasecca and Eileen Smith.

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 JCAA Fluke Tournament Director Position Open

The JCAA is seeking a person who will manage its JCAA Fluke Tournament in 2012. This person in this position will promote the tournament with press releases, interacting with tournament sponsors to obtain prizes and recognition in promotional materials, handle promotional mailings to anglers concerning the tournament, distribute promotional material to tackle shops and port locations, enter tournament applicants in the JCAA's data base and be responsible for the overall management of the tournament for its successful result. This position requires the following skills:

- Effective writing skills
- Computer expertise skills with Microsoft Office
- Good verbal skills
- Experience dealing with the public
- Ability to be a self-starter to complete tasks.
- Organizational abilities to prioritize tasks
- Prior experience in managing an event is desirable

The JCAA Fluke tournament will take place in June of 2012. This position **requires** the applicant to work part time starting November 1st and attend Board and General meetings. Starting in April the position becomes almost full time. It

becomes full time throughout the month of May 2012 and part of June up to the Awards Ceremony in the Golden Nugget in Atlantic City on June 15<sup>th</sup>. (Salary ranges from \$3,000 up to \$5,000 with possible bonuses dependent on the Tournament Director's ability to increase the number of anglers entering the tournament.)

The JCAA is now accepting resumes for this position. All resumes should be sent to JCAA Board member John Toth by November 1, 2011 at the following address or at his email: [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net).

John Toth  
24 Kings Mill Road  
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

## Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series Brings its 25th Anniversary Tour to the Jersey Shore!

For Immediate Release  
Contact: 1-800-448-7360

Salt Water Sportsman's National Seminar Series – the nation's premier educational seminar on recreational marine fishing tactics, will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> year of touring with a stop at the Jersey Shore on Saturday, February 11. The 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. event will be held inside the Performing Arts Theater at Monmouth High School (1 Norman J. Field Way, Tinton Falls, 07724). The presentation will be hosted by **George Poveromo** – Host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on VERSUS, and Editor-At-Large for Salt Water Sportsman, and **Gary Caputi** – Offshore Editor for Salt Water Sportsman.

Joining Poveromo and Caputi will be "**Crazy**" **Alberto Knie** – Innovative trophy striped bass fishing authority who also excels at catching trophy fluke and blackfish; **Captain Ken "Big Kid" Gallop** – Distinguished shark and tuna fishing pro and expert at catching trophy striped bass and fluke; **Captain Steve Purul** – Noted striped bass, fluke, and wreck fishing authority who runs Reel Fantasea Fishing Charters from Barnegat; **Captain Gene Nigro** – Veteran Sandy Hook inshore specialist who excels at catching striped bass and fluke aboard his Phantom Charters; **Captain Jimmy Price** – North Carolina's premier trophy flounder fishing authority and innovative light tackle angler; **Bill Carson** –

Noted striped bass and wreck-fishing expert; **Captain John Oughton** – Renowned Ocean City, Maryland- based tuna and white marlin expert aboard his charter vessel “That’s Right”; and **Captain Joe Trainor** – Noted expert at fishing the canyons off the Northeast aboard the charter vessel Over Under.

“New Jersey has always been a popular and fun stop on the National Seminar Series, right from the very beginning 25 years ago.” says George Poveromo. “We are thrilled to bring this special edition seminar here, and conduct an information-packed and entertaining day. The amount of cutting edge information dispatched by our faculty teams borders on the incredible. And with our lineup of leading national and regional angling authorities, it’s hard to leave the seminar without learning something new, despite an angler’s level of experience. The fact that we’ve been touring going on 25 years now is the greatest endorsement to the amount of how to and where to information contained within the Seminar Series, and the quality in which we dispatch and reinforce that information to the audience.”

Courses for the February 11 presentation will focus on Trophy stripers on ultra-light tackle; Live-lining for trophy stripers; Top trolling tactics for stripers; Secrets of fishing Raritan, Sandy Hook, Silver and Barnegat Bays; Flutter-jigging for stripers and bluefish; Sure-fire weakfish tactics; Chunking for bluefish; Bluefish on surface lures; Inshore wire-line techniques; Jetty tactics; How to catch more and bigger fluke; Targeting trophy fluke; Cutting-edge fluke tactics; Southern flounder tactics that will take more and bigger Jersey fluke; Top tactics for big blackfish; Catching blackfish by the score; Variety fishing in and around inlets; How to locate and fish productive bottom (blackfish, sea bass, spot and fluke); Back-bay stripers; Can’t-miss tuna-trolling patterns; Cutting-edge tuna chunking tactics; Live-baiting for tunas; Advanced methods for bluefin and yellowfin tuna; Zeroing in on big eye tuna; Flutter-jigging for tuna; How to choose, rig and fish the best lures and natural baits for tuna; Tournament winning offshore trolling tactics; Subsurface offshore trolling tactics; Cutting edge spreader bar and dredge tactics; Secrets for catching more inshore tuna; Reading water temperature charts; Targeting trophy makos; Basic and advanced sharking techniques; Offshore kite fishing for sharks and tuna.

A ticket to the Seminar Series costs \$55.00, and includes a course textbook, one year

subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman, one Roffers Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, one bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, one spool of Sufix fishing line, one bottle of Star Tron Fuel Treatment, \$20 off on any purchase of \$150 or more from Capt. Harry’s Fishing Supply, and chances to win thousands of dollars worth of door prizes.

At the conclusion of the Jersey Shore seminar, there will be a drawing for a chance to win an incredible Bahamas bonefishing excursion to the Bimini Sands Resort and Marina. The drawing will consist of the names of the attendees that day, and one lucky person will win the trip for two!

In addition, the names of all attendees from the 2012 National Seminar Series Tour will be entered into the drawing for the Super Grand Prize - a brand new Mako 184 Center Console! The drawing for the boat will take place one week after the completion of the final seminar on the tour, and one lucky winner will take home the boat.

For more information, and to order tickets on line, visit: [www.nationalseminarseries.com](http://www.nationalseminarseries.com). To order tickets by phone with a major credit card, call 1-800-448-7360.

Remember to order your tickets early, as this seminar sells out quickly!

## **New Jersey Outdoor Alliance Report** *By John Toth*

On behalf of the JCAA, I attended an October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) and the following issues were discussed.

NJOA Board member Pete Grimbilas gave a brief report about a retreat that NJOA Board members recently had to discuss the goals that the NJOA should pursue for 2012 and beyond.

One of the main goals that came out of this retreat was discussion on how to increase NJOA membership. The NJOA will look into improving its database to keep in better touch with its existing members and to reach out to possible new ones at upcoming sport shows in 2012.

A lengthy discussion ensued about increasing NJOA presence through lobbying efforts with legislators in Trenton to advance NJOA’s issues. The personal touch with legislators is important since legislators all too often really don’t understand the legislation that anglers and hunters want passed.

It takes money to hire a full-time lobbyist to reach out to the many legislators in the manner that we need. Discussion then turned to various recommendations on how to raise the money that would be required for this purpose.

The Pots Off the Reef issue was also raised and Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver was reported to be opposed to bringing this bill up for a vote. She apparently does not want to hear a negative response from the commercial side of the fishing industry. Pressure is still on to get this bill passed since a majority of Assemblymen and Assemblywomen (approximately 51 out of 80) have signed on to cosponsor this bill.

Pete Grimbilas reported that a questionnaire was mailed to 120 legislators to get their views on a variety of NJOA issues. At this time, NJOA received 40 responses and NJOA Board member Tom Connors was not present at this meeting to give a summary of the responses that were received. Approximately 15 legislators indicated that they wanted to join the NJOA Caucus and that is good news since it provides the NJOA with an opportunity to explain NJOA issues at its Caucus meetings.

Board member Jerry Natale indicated that the NJOA will be participating in a number of shows during the winter months and he is looking for volunteers to staff the NJOA booth. The first show is the Raritan show (Edison, NJ) that will be held during January 12-15, 2012.

Beach access is an ongoing problem and Paul Harris from the NJ Beach Buggy fishing club expressed his frustration over the NJ DEP's handling of this issue since he cannot receive responses to the questions he has on the new rules, or lack of them, from NJ's DEP. This "Trust Me" approach that the NJ DEP presently has with beach access is not reassuring since anglers have been restricted from shore towns for many years. Paul will continue to pursue getting the DEP to be more forthcoming on their beach access regulations.

Menhaden was another topic that was raised and the reductions that will be needed in the commercial quota to bring back spawning levels of menhaden to an improved level. Tom Fote indicated that it could take approximately two years for any new regulations for menhaden (if passed) to take effect due to the lengthy review process that is inherent with any change to the regulations governing the fishing industry.

## **Electronic Press Releases, Alerts and the JCAA Newspaper**

*By Joseph Puntasecca*

We recently upgraded our e-mail alerts, press releases and monthly e-mailing of the *JCAA Newspaper*. You may have noticed a new look and feel to the last few *Press Releases* and *Alerts* we sent out. If you don't already receive our monthly newspaper electronically or you don't receive our *Press Releases* and *Alerts*, you can sign up to receive them at [www.JCAA.org](http://www.JCAA.org). Just click on the *subscribe* link near the top of the page.

On the *Registration* screen just enter your e-mail address. The system will ask you to confirm your e-mail address and you can then select your areas of interest. You can select to receive our monthly newspaper electronically or to receive press releases or notices on environmental issues. We will also be updating our alert categories in the future and will notify you via e-mail and in the monthly newspaper.

You don't have to worry about spam, the contact information you submit to us is secure and is never sold or shared, and if you so choose you can opt-out at any time.

## **Youth Education Report**

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### **2011 YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD**

The JCAA Youth Education Committee presented New Jersey Trout Unlimited the 2011 JCAA Youth Education Award for their promotion of the "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" program, Trout In the Classroom (TIC), Cold Water Conservation School (CCS), and organizing a number of youth fishing events for children and their families. Trout in the Classroom started 6 years ago and reaches over 10,000 students, teachers and faculty. (TIC) partnered with NJ Fish & Wildlife and has over 117 fish tanks located in NJ schools. Every October all NJ Trout Unlimited chapters meet at the Pequest Trout Hatchery for "EGG DAY". Each chapter receives eggs and delivers them to the awaiting fish tanks in schools. Chapter members oversee the care and maintenance of the program and

in the spring release the trout into the wild. Cold Water Conservation School started two years ago, and is designed to teach students about the importance of a healthy watershed through hands-on workshops. Students learn about aquatic education, species identification, fly fishing, and fly-casting. Their National Organization has a great program called Trout Unlimited Stream Explorers that is geared toward youth membership. This program provides the youth member with: Sixteen month TU calendar, Official TU membership card, Stream Explorers sticker, access to activities and games on [www.streamexplorers.org](http://www.streamexplorers.org). The amount of volunteers that are needed to make this happen is unbelievable, but members of New Jersey Trout Unlimited pool their resources to make fishing a fun activity and a learning experience that they will use to promote a healthy planet. The 2011 JCAA Youth Education Award was presented to Mr. Rick Axt, New Jersey Trout Unlimited (NJTU) Council Chair and Mr. Richard Thomas, NJTU Council Chair Elect on behalf of NJ Trout Unlimited at the JCAA Sports Person of the Year Dinner.

### **SPECIAL NOTE OF GRATITUDE**

Every summer I travel to The University of Toledo to teach inner city children about the "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" (HOFNOD) program. For the past twelve years I received a number of thank you notes from The University of Toledo's, National Youth Sports Program (NYSP), Activity Program Director for coordination of the new lesson plans and organizing volunteers for a successful fishing event. Children enrolled in the NYSP program always thank me for visiting with them at their awards ceremony. This year I also received a special note of thanks from Bailey Morgan, Fairfield Middle School, Ohio. When I received the note card I was very surprised and choked up. I speak to a lot of youngsters about how fishing is a great healthy outdoor activity that they can use as an alternative to gangs, drugs, alcohol, and violence. I always wear my fishing cap that displays a hand-tied Vietnam Veteran fishing fly. Children always ask me about the colorful green, yellow, red, fishing fly and I tell them what it represents. Bailey's note read: "Dear Greg Kucharewski, I am Bailey Morgan and I go to Fairfield Middle School. I want to thank you for what you have done. I hope you are well and have a good Veterans Day. I wish you the best of luck.

Sincerely, Bailey Morgan" Thanks much, Bailey! I never received a card for being a veteran. I would also like to thank Bailey's teacher for taking the time to send note cards to other veterans. Welcome home brothers and sisters.

### **BILL S106**

This bill establishes the Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs Program in the DEP and appropriates \$200,000 from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund. Originally this bill was introduced during September 2002 as bill S1778/A2823 utilizing monies not from tax dollars but rather from a fund paid into by drug offenders. Recently, at the JCAA Sportsperson of the Year dinner I had the opportunity to speak with Senator Bob Smith and Captain Pete Grimbilas, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, about why these funds should be obtained for the HOFNOD program after ten years. The JCAA Youth Education Committee will work with NJOA and suggest to New Jersey legislators that these funds be appropriated for 2012 and used to promote HOFNOD healthy outdoor activities.

### **FATHER TIME FISHING EXPO**

Save the date Father Time Fishing Environmental Expo will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2012, 9:30 a.m. till noon at the Bolger Middle School, 100 Palmer Pl., Keansburg, NJ. The JCAA Youth Education Committee will provide a special learning activity for children, prizes, and HOFNOD materials. If your fishing club would like to support this event, please contact Jeff Johnson [sumrwind@optonline.net](mailto:sumrwind@optonline.net) with a short description with your contact info or call Jeff at 732 787-2007 Ext 5833. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is looking for volunteers to support this event.

### **SPORTSMEN SHOWS**

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's, Youth Education Committee, will feature special youth education seminars at upcoming sportsmen shows. During the sportsmen show season, please stop by the JCAA booth and ask about how to start a school fishing club.

*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](mailto:Gkucharews@aol.com)*