

# JCAA NEWSPAPER JUNE 2012

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on May 22nd, 2012)

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

## **JCAA REGULAR MEETING:**

**Tuesday, May 29th, 2012**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

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

## **NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, June 14th, 2012**

**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 908-913-0551 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**

## **2012 OFFICERS**

|                            |                |              |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>           | Joe Puntasecca | 908-913-0551 |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b> | Mark Taylor    | 732-245-9445 |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b> | Paul Haertel   | 908-913-0551 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Doug Tegeder   | 732-341-5674 |
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| <b>Cors. Sec.</b>          | Paul Turi      | 609-660-2126 |
| <b>Mem. Sec.</b>           | John Toth      | 732-695-3431 |

**Tournament Dir.**

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

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

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>** JCAA Fluke Tournament \$120 Early entry  
Cut-Off

**June 9<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Fluke Tournament

**June 14<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**June 15<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards  
Ceremony

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting (*last General meeting until September 25<sup>th</sup>. There are no General Meetings in the summer*)

**June 28<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Special Meeting

**July 10-13** ICAST

**July 12<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

## **JCAA's 18th Annual Fluke Tournament, June 9, 2012**

***With New Striped Bass Category!***

***By Paul Haertel***

JCAA's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012. This year we will have a new striped bass category for those of you who might like to fish for both fluke and striped bass during this time of the year. However, contestants will have to enter the fluke tournament in order to be eligible to enter the optional striped bass category. Those who enter the striped bass category will be competing only against others who are fishing out of the same port. For this category, JCAA will pay out 60% of the money taken in from each port. The entrant weighing in the heaviest striped bass for each port will receive all the cash paid out for that particular port. The entry fee for the fluke tournament is \$120 provided payment is made by 6/2/12 and \$150 after 6/2/12. The optional striped

bass category entrance fee is \$50. Entrance fees cover up to six anglers per boat.

Soon you should be receiving our mailing of this year's Fluke Tournament entry forms and High Roller Raffle tickets. Mark your calendar with these two important dates, **June 9<sup>th</sup> (Fluke Tournament)** and **June 15<sup>th</sup> (Awards Ceremony)**. Now is the time to get on your phone or get to the computer and start contacting your fishing buddies. Get your crew of up to six anglers onboard with these dates. These two dates mark opportunities to fish and win big! There are 120 port prizes available to be won on June 9<sup>th</sup>. That's twelve prizes for each of the ten ports ranging from Jersey City in the north to Fortescue in the south. Each port competes against its own registered boaters and serves as its own weigh station. The heaviest fluke weighed in at the ten ports will **win \$1,200 cash 1st Place Prize!** The remaining eleven prizes can be seen on our website.

Then there's the **\$5,000 to \$10,000 Grand Prize\*** (\*depending on the number of entries over 500). Winning the Grand Prize at the **June 15<sup>th</sup> Awards Ceremony** isn't determined by who weighs in the largest fluke, nor does it matter if your crew consisted of the most highly skilled or the least experienced anglers. The odds of winning this bundle of cash and door prizes are the same for one and all. You will automatically be entered to win provided that you or one of your crew registers at the tables outside the Trump Marina Hotel Casino Grand Cayman Ballroom. Entry forms are available at [jcaa.org](http://jcaa.org).

## President's Report

*By Joseph Puntasecca*

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament is in full swing. The date of the tournament, June 9<sup>th</sup>, is just over three weeks away, so make sure you get your entry form in before the entry fee goes up on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. To find out more about the tournament, read the article in this newsletter or on our website. This is the largest single day fluke tournament on the east coast, so don't miss out on a great tournament. And don't forget about our *New Optional Striped Bass Cash Category!* You can get complete details and register online at [www.JCAA.org](http://www.JCAA.org), just click on the link at the top of the page in the yellow banner.

The High Roller Raffle was drawn on April 24<sup>th</sup> at our General Meeting in Brick, NJ. Congratulations to all of this year's winners. I would like to thank all of the sponsors for our raffle: JCAA, Barnegat Fishin' Hole, Johnson Outdoors, Fisherman's Headquarters, Canyon Reels, Penn Reels and Interlux Paints. I would also like to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets in this year's High Roller Raffle in helping support Jersey Coast Anglers Association, as well as all the volunteers who helped in selling the raffle tickets. The High Roller Raffle is one of our major fundraisers which keeps your Association running for you. A list of the winners is below and will also be posted on our website.

April was a busy month at our General Meeting. Several items were brought to the floor and voted on by the general membership. Below is a summary of those motions:

- To reaffirm JCAA's opposition to Assemblyman Albano's compromise Pots Off the Reefs bill. Passed unanimously
- To vote for Tom Fote for the Barnegat Bay Partnership Lifetime Achievement Award. Passed unanimously
- To vote for American Littoral Society for the Barnegat Bay Partnership Community Care Award. Passed unanimously
- For a JCAA position to support Option 2 for Black Sea Bass 2012 regulations. Passed unanimously
- To send a letter to Congress, NMFS and ASMFC to have a benchmark assessment in 2013 for summer flounder instead of waiting until 2015. Passed unanimously

Paul Haertel attended the NJ Marine Fisheries Council meeting on May 10, 2012 on behalf of the JCAA to give testimony on the changes to the 2012 black sea bass and tautog regulations. A summary of the changes and JCAA's testimony can be found in the article *New Blackfish and Sea Bass Regulations Set* in this edition of the JCAA Newspaper.

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

newsletter. So send in a description and promote your club and possibly get new members that live or fish in your area.

I am still trying to make our Individual Committees more effective in this coming year. So volunteer some of your time for something you love so much. By being on one of these committees you can get more involved and see how the system works. If you are interested on serving, contact the JCAA office or me.

The Raffle winners were drawn on April 24, 2010. The following is a list of the winners. Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to the thousands who participated.

- 1. Robert Valente – Farmingdale, NY**  
Penn 30VSX International Reel with  
Penn VS3080TS60 6' Rod  
**Value \$709, donated by JCAA**
- 2. Brian O'Neill – Keansburg, NJ**  
Tony Maja Products Bunker Spoon Rod,  
Reel, Metered Braided Line and Bunker  
Spoon  
**Value \$623, donated by  
BarnegatFishinHole.com**
- 3. Harold Wood –Voorhees, NJ**  
Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor model  
RT 55/SE/L&D  
**Value \$550, donated by Johnson  
Outdoors Inc.**
- 4. Paul Haertel – Barnegat, NJ**  
\$500 Gift Certificate to Fisherman's  
Headquarters  
**Value \$500, donated by Fisherman's  
Headquarters**
- 5. Chris Deegler – N. Wildwood, NJ**  
Canyon Reels HS-15 Reel with G  
Loomis SWR84-40C 7' Rod  
**Value \$477, donated by Canyon Reels  
and JCAA**
- 6. Jack Devins – Pt. Pleasant, NJ**  
Penn 965 Reel with Penn Torque  
TG1220C66 6' 6" Rod  
**Value \$413, donated by Penn**
- 7. John Macchia – Howell, NJ**  
Two Gallons of Interlux Micron CSC  
Antifouling Paint  
**Value \$400, donated by Interlux**
- 8. Pete Dzedys – Clark, NJ**  
Shakespeare Ugly Stik SP1166 1MH 6'  
6"Rod with Penn Battle BTL 4000 Reel  
**Value \$160, donated by Penn**

I would like to remind anglers to either register or renew their registration with NJ's

Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP) at [www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov](http://www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov). Registration is required each year and registration is quick, easy and FREE!

Everyone have a safe summer and enjoy time with your family.

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report** *By Thomas Fote*

### **Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs moves in Senate and Assembly**

Nothing has happened since I ran the update below last month. The Legislature has begun having committee hearings again and we are hoping this legislation is moved for a vote quickly. The information about letter writing is posted at the JCAA website in the May JCAA Newspaper.

### **Pots Off the Reefs**

Because of the budget hearings, there has also been no action on this legislation. In the May JCAA Newspaper there were sample letters to send to your legislators. If you have not done so, get your letters out quickly.

### **Howard Lab Closing**

Senator Lautenberg, Senator Menendez and Congressman Pallone continue to work to keep the Howard Lab open. Senator Lautenberg was able to get important language included in the appropriations bill and we are hoping for the same action in the House. We will keep you posted.

### **ASMFC Spring Meeting Menhaden**

There was a review of the comments of the public hearing and discussion about changes in the document. Many things are on hold until the benchmark stock assessment in June. The Technical Committee met after the ASMFC spring meeting. I received some complaints that the scientists hired by Iomega to attend this meeting became active participants rather than observers and dominated the meeting while other groups were unable to participate. Scientists hired to do stock assessment are expected to provide data and analysis but not to

advocate for a particular company's point of view. That is a fine line to walk since the company pays for the science but we expect as much neutrality as possible. I will need to check on these complaints. At the August meeting the document on menhaden should be completed and ready for public hearing.

### **Striped Bass**

The main discussion at this board meeting was how to deal with illegal poaching of striped bass. There was discussion about tagging and an addendum to address illegal commercial striped bass fishing was created. I'm not sure if any states will have hearings on this issue. New Jersey has a system in place to keep track of the bonus tag program and this program has not been a problem. This makes it unlikely that New Jersey will have a public hearing. It is important that you read the addendum and send in your comments. The information is contained in the excerpts.

### **Eels**

The report on the status of eel stocks was extremely disappointing. I am assuming that we will soon be preparing an addendum to address this problem. There has also been pressure to list eels either as threatened or endangered. To further complicate matters, the price for glass eels (elvers) has gone through the roof again. This has created a poaching problem in states where the eel fishery is closed. I have included an article from the Cape Cod Times that discusses the problem in Massachusetts. There are only two states that legally allow for the harvest of glass eels which provides access for the illegal fishery to sell their catch. When this crisis happened 15 years ago there was discussion about closing the glass eel fishery completely. Given the status of the glass eel stocks and the poaching, it might be time to revisit a discussion about a total closing of the glass eel fishery.

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

## **Excerpts of Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 2012 Spring Meeting Summary**

**Press Release: May 1, 2012**

**ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Board approves  
Draft Addendum III for Public Comment:  
*Addendum seeks to address Illegal Commercial  
Striped Bass Harvest***

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board has approved for public comment Draft Addendum III to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Draft Addendum proposes implementing a mandatory commercial tagging program for all states and jurisdictions with commercial striped bass fisheries and increasing penalties for illegally harvested fish. These options are intended to prevent commercial striped bass quota overages and the illegal harvest of striped bass. Both undermine the sustainability of striped bass populations, as well as reduce the economic opportunities of law abiding commercial fishermen. Options include increased accounting of unused tags, timely reporting of catch, the point at which tagging must occur, standardization of tag type, and development of biological metrics for determining state/jurisdiction tag quantity.

The Draft Addendum responds to recommendations of the Interstate Watershed Task Force (IWTF). The IWTF conducted a multi-year, multi-jurisdictional investigation on illegal commercial striped bass harvest within Chesapeake Bay, resulting in over \$1.6 million dollars in fines against 19 individuals and three corporations for more than one million pounds of striped bass harvested illegally. The investigation revealed some current control measures for regulating the harvest of striped bass were ineffective or inadequately designed to maximize compliance. The investigation also found that greater accountability of wholesalers would be difficult to achieve without uniform tags (colors, design) and tagging requirements, valid year and size limits inscribed on tags, and increased dealer compliance education. Several states will be conducting public hearings on the Draft Addendum; information on those hearings will be released when they are finalized. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft

Addendum either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The Draft Addendum will be available on the Commission website ([www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)) under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740 by May 11, 2012. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on July 13, 2012 and should be forwarded to Kate Taylor, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or [ktaylor@asmfc.org](mailto:ktaylor@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III).

### **Press Release**

#### **ASMFC Atlantic Herring Section Approves Draft Addendum V for Public Comment**

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Atlantic Herring Section has approved for public comment Draft Addendum V to Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Herring. The Draft Addendum proposes measures to refine and consolidate Atlantic herring spawning regulations as recommended by the Atlantic Herring Technical Committee.

These include (1) refining sampling protocols; (2) providing flexibility to change spawning boundaries based on Technical Committee input through Section action; and (3) consolidating all spawning regulations into one document. The Draft Addendum responds to observed changes in Atlantic herring spawning behavior (size of spawning fish and extent of spawning area) as well as the need to clarify spawning regulations so that they are interpreted and applied consistently among the implementing states. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum. The Draft Addendum will be available on the Commission website ([www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)) under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740 by May 11, 2012. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on June 15, 2012 and should be forwarded to Christopher Vonderweidt, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Atlantic Herring Draft Addendum V).

### **Press Release: May 1, 2012**

#### **American Eel Benchmark Assessment Indicates Stock is Depleted**

Alexandria, VA – In its report to the Commission’s American Eel Management Board, an independent panel of scientists endorsed the findings of the 2012 benchmark stock assessment, which concluded the American eel population is depleted in U.S. waters. The stock is at or near historically low levels due to a combination of historical overfishing, habitat loss, food web alterations, predation, turbine mortality, environmental changes, toxins and contaminants, and disease. The panel urged the Board to examine alternative reference points to provide more protection to the spawning stock biomass.

Both trend and model analyses results indicate the American eel stock has declined in recent decades and the prevalence of significant downward trends in multiple surveys across the coast is cause for concern. Based on these findings, the stock is considered depleted. No overfishing determination can be made at this time. However, the Commission’s American Eel Technical Committee and Stock Assessment Subcommittee caution that although commercial fishery landings and effort in recent times have declined in most regions (with the possible exception of the glass eel fishery), current levels of fishing effort may still be too high given the additional stressors affecting the stock such as habitat loss, passage mortality, and disease. Fishing on all life stages of eels, particularly young-of-the-year and in-river silver eels migrating to the spawning grounds, could be particularly detrimental to the stock, especially if other sources of mortality (e.g., turbine mortality, changing oceanographic conditions) cannot be readily controlled. Management efforts to reduce mortality on American eels in the U.S. are warranted.

In response to the findings, the Board tasked the American Eel Technical Committee with developing potential management actions for Board consideration at its next meeting. A more detailed overview of the American eel stock assessment is available on the Commission website at [http://www.asmfc.org/speciesDocuments/eel/AmericanEelStockAssessmentOverview\\_May2012.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/speciesDocuments/eel/AmericanEelStockAssessmentOverview_May2012.pdf). It was developed with the intent of aiding media and interested stakeholders in better understanding the Commission’s stock assessment results and process.

The American Eel Stock Assessment Report and Assessment Peer Review Report will be posted to the Commission website under Breaking News on May 7. For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Fishery Management Coordinator, at [ktaylor@asmfc.org](mailto:ktaylor@asmfc.org) or at 703.842.0740.

### **Press Release**

#### **ASMFC Announces Change in Leadership**

Alexandria, VA – The Executive Committee of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission met yesterday afternoon to consider the future direction of the Commission. After lengthy discussion, the Executive Committee approved an action to move forward with new leadership in the near future. The approved change includes appointment of a new Executive Director, thus replacing the current Executive Director, John V. O'Shea, who has served in the position for the past ten years. Paul Diodati, the Chairman of the Commission said, "The Commission has prospered under Executive Director O'Shea's administrative oversight. His professionalism and conservation ideals set a high standard for the Commission that will guide us in making a new appointment. We will work closely with Mr. O'Shea over the next few months to help make a successful transition in leadership." Last evening as part of its Annual Awards of Excellence, the Commission honored Mr. O'Shea's 10 years of contributions to Atlantic coastal fisheries management.

### **Eels face Poaching Threat**

By Doug Frazer, Cape Code Times, 5/7/2012

HARWICH — On April 11 at 2:30 in the morning, Sgt. Bob Brackett bumped down a long dirt road bordered by cranberry bogs and woods and pulled into the dirt parking lot of the Bells Neck Conservation Area. There were no other vehicles in the lot, but Brackett noticed two men standing alongside the concrete fish ladder that helps alewives climb upstream from the Herring River into the West Reservoir.

These were not high school revelers or even a couple of guys poaching alewives. The two men had dip nets and battery powered bubbling aerators pumping oxygen into water-filled buckets. The tiny transparent eels, known as glass eels or elvers, which they were catching illegally, have recently become

one of the most expensive delicacies in the world, with fish dealers paying more than \$2,000 a pound.

With prices that high, state fisheries regulators, enforcement officers and local eel monitors worry that poaching may further deplete American eel populations. Last week, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which regulates fishing in state waters on interstate fish stocks, endorsed a report showing the American eel is at or near historically low levels from a multitude of causes, including overfishing, habitat loss, food web changes, predation, hydroelectric turbines, environmental changes, water pollution and disease.

The commission's eel board urged that, given those environmental factors, fishing be limited throughout all stages of the eel's life cycle, but particularly for the glass eel and elver phase, and the adult stage when they are migrating back to the Sargasso Sea to spawn for the one and only time in their lives.

### **Explosion in poaching**

Harvest levels of glass eels and elvers more than doubled between 2010 and 2011 as the average price went from \$185 to \$891 per pound. "This year, the (poaching) activity exploded," Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries eel scientist Brad Chase said. Elvers don't have the swimming ability of the river herring and the fisheries division and others have been building special eel runs to get them past the swift flowing waters in herring runs, or over dams. Generally, the eels ascend a pipe into a locked collection box that is checked and emptied into the lake or pond daily by volunteers. Those boxes also have become the object of poachers, said one local volunteer, who noticed the pipe pulled off and the box cleaned out on two consecutive weekends on the run she monitors. She did not want to be identified to protect the run. The price spike stems from a surge in demand from aquaculturists in Asian countries who purchase the wild juvenile elvers, raise them until they reach a half-pound then sell them in the sushi market, explained Mitchell Feigenbaum, principal of Delaware Valley Fish Co. of Portland, Maine. A significant drop in recent years in the number of wild Asian glass eels, combined with a European ban on exporting their own wild stock, meant the U.S. elvers suddenly commanded high prices. Feigenbaum said the price increase really isn't that large when you consider the profit farmers make selling the adult eels on the high-end sushi market. A good farmer, he

said, could turn \$2,000 worth of glass eels into \$20,000 in sales.

A dozen years ago, the price for glass eels was \$25 a pound. In recent years, it climbed to \$325 and last year reached \$900. Now at more than \$2,000, the tiny translucent eels, less than 6 inches long, newly arrived in the Cape's rivers and streams from the Sargasso Sea this spring, were particularly inviting to poachers. Harwich police Sgt. Brackett had no way of knowing, but the 2 pounds of elvers swimming in those unpretentious buckets could have fetched \$4,000 to \$5,000 when sold in Maine, one of only two states where it is legal to harvest and sell them. With prices that high, competition for prime spots on Maine's waterways has been fierce and the yields are nowhere near what fishermen get in Massachusetts, where the elver fishery is banned and the competition virtually nonexistent.

"I hear stories of someone coming in (to dealers) with 50 pounds of eels and I think, they must have been to Massachusetts," said Gail Wippelhauser, a Maine Department of Marine Resources scientist specializing in eels. "There's no place in Maine where you can get that many eels in one night."

The poachers are well-organized, said Massachusetts Environmental Police Lt. Col. Christopher Baker. With investigations and other enforcement actions still under way to catch poachers, Baker said he couldn't discuss the measures his department is taking. The environmental police are short-staffed, having lost 33 percent of their force in the past five years, Baker added.

One source said the federal and state authorities know those in the poaching rings, which have been operating for decades. Many come from Maine, the only nearby state where you can sell them legally as long as you are among the 407 allowed to have elver licenses. Often, poachers will be dropped off in pairs to work a stream and then picked up when they are finished. It's a good strategy, since Massachusetts law allows for the confiscation of all equipment, including vehicles, associated with the poaching operation. Poachers can also be fined \$100 per eel. Transporting them across state lines is also a federal offense.

### **No jail time, no fine**

The two men Brackett and the other officers caught April 11 told officers they were dropped off at the Harwich run that night. Christopher Baxter,

who gave a Michigan address but a Maine phone number, and Michael Knowlton, from Union, Maine, fled into the surrounding woods and marshes and surrendered to police after an hours-long search by Harwich, Dennis and state police officers. With between 2,500 and 4,000 eels per pound, the pair could have faced a half-million dollars or more in fines and up to 30 days in jail. Instead, when they pleaded guilty at their arraignment in Orleans District Court on April 11, they were released after paying only \$50 in court costs.

The Division of Marine Fisheries' Chase, who is also chairman of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Eel Management Board, thinks ending the elver fishery in Maine could cut back on poaching and help the species recover.

"There's a very good reason why most states have banned it," Chase said. The eel board met in Virginia last week and considered a petition to list the American eel as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Wippelhauser countered that the threat to eels does not come from the juvenile fishery but from the catching of adults, which tends to focus on large adult females. Maine banned the weir fishery for eels a decade ago while allowing glass eels to be caught. Adults can live for 40 years, mate only once, offshore in the Sargasso Sea, then die.

In its petition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Council for Endangered Species Act Reliability noted a steep population dropoff for American eels beginning in the mid-1980s. It contended that overharvesting, significant loss of habitat mostly due to dams both large and small, a deadly parasite from imported eels that scientists believe may have infested at least half the adult population, and inadequate protection and planning by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and other regulatory agencies.

## **Top Five Foes of Fishing**

Courtesy of the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance

While spring means warmer waters, active fish, and anglers making casts across America, take note that there are groups working to prevent you from ever making another cast-or from catching any fish, anywhere. Here are the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance's Top Five Foes of Fishing:

- **Center for Biological Diversity**

This Tucson-based, lawsuit-centered group has twice petitioned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to ban the use of lead-based fishing tackle products. After a rejection in 2010, CBD filed a second petition in November 2011 requesting that the EPA again ban lead fishing tackle in all U.S. waters under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). This was again rejected with more tax dollars wasted because of CBD's efforts.

- **Sierra Club**

This environmental group joined with Earthjustice, The Wilderness Society, and others to reinstate the Roadless Rule in national forests. Parts of the plan would block access for anglers to rivers and lakes.

- **PETA**

This anti-fishing group often performs weird and wacky stunts to make fishing less attractive to kids. PETA also sought to rename a highway rest stop near Troutville, Virginia as "Fishing Hurts" as well as promoted a nationwide anti-fishing campaign entitled "Save our Schools." More examples of how PETA thinks fish are like people can be found at [www.nofishing.org](http://www.nofishing.org).

- **Ocean Conservancy**

Is an environmental group working to create Marine Protection Areas (MPA's)-which are off-limit ocean parks-that will prevent anglers from having access to fish and waterfronts, including public lands and beaches. The OC is pushing to expand this restrictive "off-limits" system along California's entire coastline-and beyond.

- **Environmental Defense Fund**

Another environmental group that's also working to increase areas off-limits to fishing. The group's website boasts that: "underwater wilderness areas, called marine protection areas (MPAs), are an important tool to rebuild fish populations and revitalize ocean ecosystems. Such areas are off-limits to offshore oil drilling and mining, and all types of fishing may be restricted or banned." Yes, they are working to stop fishing, including your fishing access.

Keep the "Top Five Foes of Fishing" on your mind and tell other anglers in your boat, and in your local tackle shop, about these groups that work against anglers everywhere.

*JCAA received this article for the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance and it is the first list of kind I have seen. If you made a list, who would you put on it?*

**Atlantic Coastal Cooperative  
Statistics Program  
Atlantic Coast Fisheries Data Collection  
Standards**

For Immediate Release: May 10, 2012  
Contact Ann McElhatton  
[info@accsp.org](mailto:info@accsp.org)

Arlington, VA (May 10, 2012) - The Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) is proud to release the latest edition of the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Data Collection Standards. This document is considered the blueprint for the Program, as well as partners, and will be used to direct partner data collection over the next several years.

Major highlights of this document include a call for more timely data, specifically:

- Within the recreational (Private boat, rental boat, and shore based fisheries) and for-hire fisheries, the frequency of calculating catch and effort estimates was recommended as 1 month from the previous recommendation of 2 months.
- Within the recreational and for-hire fisheries, data availability (data collection and processing prior to initial review) was recommended as 38 days (preferably, 30 days) from the previous recommendation of 45 days.
- Various conditions for accepting either census or survey methodology were recommended within forhire fisheries for estimating catch and effort data.
- Biological data is recommended as being collected every 30 days from the previous recommendation of 6 months.

Mark Alexander, Chair of the ACCSP Coordinating Council, states that these standards "are significant because they've been compiled by very knowledgeable professionals from all the Atlantic coast federal, state, and regional partners of the ACCSP. The breadth and detail of this collaboration makes it an essential resource that we



expect all data collectors will come to rely on. Using this guide for sound and effective data collection will no doubt inform sound and effective fisheries management decisions”.

If you would like to learn more about the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Data Collection Standards the ACCSP is conducting a webinar on Thursday, June 7 at 10am EST. Please contact Ann McElhatton, Program Manager with ACCSP, at [info@accsp.org](mailto:info@accsp.org) or 703.842.0780 for more information on registration. The Atlantic Coast Fisheries Data Collection Standards can be downloaded from [this link](#).

### **About ACCSP**

ACCSP is a cooperative state-federal program to design, implement, and conduct marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and to integrate those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen. It is composed of representatives from natural resource management agencies coastwide, including the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the three Atlantic fishery management councils, the 15 Atlantic states, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the D.C. Fisheries and Wildlife Division, NOAA – National Marine Fisheries.

## **New Blackfish and Sea Bass Regulations Set**

*By Paul Haertel*

New regulations for blackfish and sea bass were set at the May 10th meeting of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council. The length of our sea bass season had to be reduced from the original season that was set back in March and was due to the fact that wave VI data was not available at that time. When the data became available it showed that far more sea bass were harvested than what had been estimated when the regulations were initially set. However, we will still have a longer season than we did last year. On behalf of the JCAA, I spoke in favor of the option that was ultimately passed at both the advisors and marine council meetings. The size and bag limits will remain the same as last year, 12 1/2" and 25 fish. The season for state waters which includes the areas up to 3 miles off our coast will be

from May 19th – September 3rd, September 23rd - October 14th, and November 1st – December 31st. This was the option that JCAA member clubs who were present at our last meeting voted unanimously to support. It will allow inshore fishermen something to fish for after fluke season ends while also allowing them to keep sea bass caught in federal waters during those periods of time. It is also important to note that the regulation that allows sea bass to be kept in federal waters beginning on May 19th was just finalized by NOAA on May 17th. Had it not been finalized we would have had to wait until May 22nd to fish for sea bass in federal waters.

There is some better news for blackfish as their harvest was overestimated and New Jersey was allowed to liberalize the regulations that had previously been set. The change will now allow us to keep one blackfish from July 17th – November 15th and 6 fish from November 16th to December 31st. The size limit will remain at 15”. Previously, fishermen would not have been able to keep any blackfish during much of the July - October period and would have only been able to keep 4 fish during the November 15th - December 31st period.

## **Membership Report**

*By John Toth*

Not too long ago, I sent out a package of information to member clubs asking clubs to pay their 2102 dues (\$50) and if clubs want to be sponsors at the levels of \$50, \$100, \$250 and \$500. Also included in this package was the 2012 Annual Club Survey. This survey gives the JCAA information on the club’s profile, such as the name of the club’s President, Treasurer and other contact information. We need this information since club members continually change positions in a club and we do not want to send JCAA information to the wrong person. Also, the package included a “Hooked on Fishing, Not On Drugs” HOFNOD Survey. I have received these documents from a number of clubs with all the forms filled out and I **Thank You** for your cooperation! However, I have not yet received this information from some clubs. Please take the time to send this information to me. If you have misplaced this information and need more forms, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If there are problems with the JCAA sending newsletters to the wrong addresses or to the wrong club members, please let me know so that corrections can be made. I can be reached at (732) 656-0139 or at tothjohn@verizon.net

As always, **Thank You** for your continued support!

## **New Jersey Updates Recreational Fish Consumption Advisories**

NJ DEP Press Release, 4/18/2012

(12/P45) TRENTON – As a public service, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Health and Senior Services today reminded anglers to be aware of routine fish advisories that are in place for fish caught recreationally in New Jersey. These advisories allow members of the public to make informed choices about the fish they catch and eat.

While water quality in New Jersey continues to improve, past pollution can persist for many years in sediments and continue to accumulate in fish at or near the top of the aquatic food chain. As a result, some recreationally caught fish can contain mercury, PCBs and pesticides that may be unhealthy for children or some adults with certain health concerns.

The DEP recently updated its advisories to incorporate results of new sampling for lakes, ponds and reservoirs that flow into the Delaware River. This sampling round, the last in a five-region statewide cycle, resulted in fish advisories being posted at 14 new water bodies.

“Before heading out to go fishing, anglers should take a few minutes to review advisories in place for their favorite fishing spots so they can make good decisions about eating the fish they catch,” DEP Commissioner Bob Martin said.

All states have fish consumption advisories. Many of the fish on New Jersey’s advisory lists are typically caught and released without being consumed, but some people rely heavily on some of the species on the advisory lists as a food source.

“By following the guidelines in our advisories, the public can safely include fish and other seafood they’ve caught as a part of their healthy diet,” said DHSS Commissioner Mary E. O’Dowd.

The DEP and DHSS update fish consumption advisories regularly. The revised fish consumption advisories include statewide, regional and water

body specific advice, and a general advisory for freshwater fish.

The DEP and DHSS advise all anglers to get the latest advisories for the specific water body they fish by visiting [www.fishsmarteatsmartnj.org](http://www.fishsmarteatsmartnj.org).

For much of the population, the majority of advisories can range from no restrictions to a recommendation to limit consumption to one meal per week. For the high risk population – which includes pregnant women, women planning to become pregnant, nursing mothers, infants and children – advisories can range from no more than one meal per week to do not eat

If you choose to eat those species under advisories, there are steps you can take to reduce your exposure. Contaminants tend to concentrate in the fatty tissue of the fish.

Proper cleaning and cooking techniques, which remove some of the fat from the fish, can significantly reduce levels of PCBs, dioxins and other organic chemicals. However, these techniques will not reduce or remove unsafe levels of mercury from fish.

For all freshwater fish and waters not covered by consumption advisories, consumers should follow the DEP’s general freshwater advisories, which recommend eating no more than one meal per week for the general population and no more than one meal a month for high-risk individuals.

For decades, the DEP has been warning the public to not eat blue claw crabs taken from the lower Passaic River and Newark Bay complex due to elevated levels of dioxin contamination from pesticide production during the Vietnam War era. The DEP and federal Environmental Protection Agency last month announced the start of the first phase of a massive project to remove sediments contaminated with these chemicals.

## **Highly Migratory Species Report**

*By John Koegler*

### **NMFS - New HMS Bluefin Tuna Scooping Document**

NMFS Highly Migratory Species division has proposed to review most everything in the current 1995 Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management plan. Their new proposed Amendment #7 plan is labeled: “Issues and Possible Alternatives

for the Future Management of Atlantic Bluefin Tuna.”

These NMFS proposed changes include deducting from future US quotas all estimated bluefin dead discards from each category’s quota before their quotas are determined. It includes changing all present US quota percentage allocations between categories.

US scientists had assumed that the mid-Atlantic ocean was a food desert, there was not enough food for bluefin tuna to cross the Atlantic. Recovered internally implanted data recorders reported bluefin feed deep while crossing the Atlantic. These recorders found that BFT went as deep as 4,000 ft. to find food

US published science studies using satellite pop-off tags prove that many US conserved bluefin cross the Atlantic yearly and spawn in European waters. These data tags prove bluefin tuna are super tough. These BFT after being caught by hook and line tackle found there was only a single bluefin whose tag did not pop off and report about the bluefin’s travel history. This is an astronomical low BFT mortality number using hook and line. Ignoring their own data NMFS proposes to impose a 10% dead discard mortality deduction on all BFT category allocations. A 20% mortality reserve had been imposed on recreational school tuna landings for many years.

NMFS also plans to create a new quota limit for US longfin tuna landings. NFMS latest estimate of angler longfin tuna landings are so low they are absurd. Based on estimates using canyon landing data and newspaper reports is that NJ anglers longfin landings would exceed NMFS proposed entire quota for the US and GOM in a single season.

NMFS used a similar approach in their original yellowfin tuna quota proposal. NMFS originally proposed a US angler quota of 400 MT. At their NJ meeting NMFS offered their yellowfin tuna plan. Public comments from Manasquan Inlet fishermen explained that their single NJ inlet landed more than NMFS proposed 400 MT. US national quota. Other NJ anglers reported how high their yellowfin landings were from their NJ inlet, clearly documenting that NMFS proposal was very low and very wrong.

NMFS later found North Carolina HMS state document reported angler landings exceeding 1,000 MT in most years! They also found high yellowfin tuna landings in all Maryland State reports. NMFS

still imposed an angler limit of 3 yellowfin tuna per angler per trip. They failed to impose any quota limit on US commercial fishermen. Under the Magnuson Fishery Management Act such unilateral HMS action are supposed to be 100% illegal.

NMFS new Amendment #7 scoping document is available from their HMS internet site and listed as a scoping for Amendment 7 to the HMS management plan. This proposal is located at :[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/breakingnews.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/breakingnews.htm) or call 978-281-9260 for a copy You must reply before July 15, 2012.

This is YOUR best opportunity in the last 30 years where a united angler response to NMFS proposal will result in a major increase in the US angler quota allocation plus many other beneficial changes in their proposal This is the first time since 1995 where you have been given an opportunity to submit your comments and support NMFS proposed actions. There are also commercial changes you must oppose. If you do not want to do this for yourself, then do it for your family and grandchildren.

## **Youth Education Report**

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### **FREE FISHING DAYS IN NJ**

National Fishing and Boating Week, June 2 - 10, 2012: Free Fishing Days in New Jersey are Saturday & Sunday June 16 & 17, 2012. Residents and non-residents may fish the public waters of New Jersey without a license or trout Stamp. All other regulations apply.

For those anglers just starting out, the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife offers many programs and classes to advance from beginner to expert. The Pequest State Trout Hatchery in Oxford, Warren County offers free fishing programs. Pequest offers a Natural Resource Education Center with a variety of exhibits and displays on wildlife, a butterfly garden, picnic areas and hiking trails. There is also a handicapped-accessible fishing site along the Pequest River. Last year the JCAA Youth Education Committee coordinated fishing and aquatic education programs for the week-long celebration of National Fishing Week.

This year we will teach students about saltwater fishing at Ocean & Monmouth County public schools. Member clubs that wish to conduct a

National Fishing Week program can phone 732/785-9278 and we will guide your organization through the process. Phone if you have questions and please record your event. Let the JCAA Youth Education Committee know how many National Fishing Week participants supported your program. For more information about National Fishing Week in New Jersey check out [this link](#).

### **PROMOTE DRUG AWARENESS AT YOUR SCHOOL**

Combine environmental education, the excitement of sportfishing and drug prevention into one powerful package and what do you have? The innovative Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs (HOFNOD) program!

The program's primary objective is to develop qualified people to implement the HOFNOD curriculum (K-12) through community networks. Through the program, students and families will learn how to fish and to become stewards of the resource.

By linking hands-on instruction in fishing and environmental stewardship information, the program introduces valuable life skills, positive role models and healthy alternatives to the many negative social pressures influencing the next generation. Providing the enjoyable activity of fishing and a solid foundation to live a drug-free lifestyle, award-winning HOFNOD is considered to be one of the most effective drug prevention programs available by educators, drug prevention specialists and law enforcement personnel across the country. For more information about the "Hooked on Fishing Not On Drugs" program phone 732-785-9278 or email [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com) and place HOFNOD in the subject line.

### **JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION MATERIALS**

National Fishing and Boating Week and "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" materials are available to JCAA member clubs and organizations.

Please let the JCAA Youth Education Committee know if your organization needs drug awareness and fishing promotional items for your next fishing event. The JCAA supported two youth events during the month of May and supplies are being replenished. If you are hosting a large event this summer or fall, please phone 732-785-9278 and we will return your call as soon as possible.

### **SALTWATER FISHING DIGEST**

If you did not have a chance to pick up a copy of the 2012 NJ Saltwater Marine Fishing Digest, don't worry, you can receive a copy of the digest online at the following link: <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/digmar.htm> on the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife website.

### **MONMOUTH COUNTY HOFNOD PRESENTATION**

The JCAA Youth Education Committee will present a HOFNOD learning program in Monmouth County during National Fishing and Boating Week. Students from the Monmouth County ARC will learn the following activities and lessons: Disabled Access fishing locations in Monmouth and Ocean County, fish biology/environmental education and life skills, fishing rules and equipment maintenance. Activities - fish scale tale, knot tying, backyard bass casting exercise, (gyotaku) Japanese fish printing, and fish identification.

Veteran anglers think about donating some of your time to teach children the joy of fishing. Please call 732-785-9278 or e-mail [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com).

**PLEASE RENEW  
YOUR  
JCAA CLUB &  
INDIVIDUAL  
MEMBERSHIP**