

JCAA NEWSPAPER JULY 2012

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on June 19th, 2012)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, June 26th, 2012

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, July 12th, 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

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

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**JCAA General Membership Meetings are for club representatives and invited guests only. These meetings are not open to the general public. If you would like to attend as a guest, call the President at 908-913-0551 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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2012 OFFICERS

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1st V.P.	Mark Taylor	732-245-9445
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Rec. Sec.	Tom Siciliano	609-296-3774
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Mem. Sec.	John Toth	732-695-3431

Tournament Dir.

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

2012 Dates

June 26th JCAA General Meeting (Last General meeting until September 25th. There are no General Meetings in the summer.)

June 28th JCAA Special Meeting

July 10th -13th ICAST

July 12th (7pm) hearings to gather public comment on the Public Information Document (PID) to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Black Drum

July 12th JCAA Board meeting

August 9th JCAA Board meeting

September 25th JCAA General Meeting

October 7th Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

November 11th JCAA Dinner

2013 Show Dates

January 10th -13th Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show

February 6th -10th Atlantic City International Power Boat Show

March 15th -17th Saltwater Fishing Expo

President's Report

By Joseph Puntasecca

Jersey Coast Anglers Association continues to fight for the New Jersey Recreational Fishermen. JCAA recently requested that the National Marine Fishery Service perform a benchmark stock assessment in 2013 for summer flounder for the Mid-Atlantic stocks in conjunction with the New England Benchmark assessment instead of waiting until 2015. The Mid-Atlantic summer flounder fishery is an extremely important resource both recreationally and commercially here in NJ. The last benchmark assessment was performed back in 2008

and JCAA thought it to be prudent to not wait until 2015 for the next assessment. Especially with the potential for strong year classes entering the biomass, it is important to keep the stock assessments up to date and continue to protect this valuable fishery. The summer flounder stock was recently declared rebuilt, is not over fished and overfishing is not occurring. JCAA wants to ensure the summer flounder stock remains rebuilt and is committed to protecting the marine resource for NJ's anglers; that is why JCAA requested NMFS perform the stock assessment in 2013. My letter to the NJ Congressional Delegation, Senators Lautenberg and Menendez with a copy to NMFS and ASMFC and President Barack Obama and NMFS response are at the end of my President's Report.

Our next fundraising event will be our Sportsperson of the Year Dinner which will be held on November 11th at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. We are looking for nominations for this important honor. Please send a short biography of 250 words or less detailing the accomplishments of the nominee to the JCAA Office. It is not too early for your club to start planning on getting a table for this great event. All of us together can make this event a great success! Look for more information from our Sportsperson of the Year Dinner Committee in future editions of the JCAA newspaper.

All of us at JCAA would like to wish everyone a safe summer; remember to take your kids and their friends fishing because they are the future of the recreational fishing community.

IMPORTANT

- There is a General Membership Meeting on June 26, 2012 at Brick Civic Plaza, 270 Chambers Bridge Road in Brick.
- There are no JCAA General Meetings in July and August.
- The Next General Membership Meeting after the summer break will be September 25, 2012.

GET POTS OFF THE REEFS

JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753

May 9, 2012

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you concerning the summer flounder (fluke) benchmark stock assessment that has been rescheduled to be performed in 2015 by the National Marine fisheries Service (NMFS). The New England region is scheduled to have many of their benchmark stock assessments performed in 2013. New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic region fisheries are just as important to its anglers and commercial fishermen as the New England region and we should not have to wait until 2015 for this assessment to be done.

On behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, its member clubs, and the one million recreational anglers in New Jersey, I would request that you urge NMFS move the summer flounder benchmark stock assessment be done in 2013 and not 2015.

Very truly yours,

Joseph Puntasecca, President

cc: National Marine Fisheries Service

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission



JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753

May 9, 2012

President Barack Obama

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW

Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you concerning the summer flounder (fluke) benchmark stock assessment that has been rescheduled to be performed in 2015 by the National Marine fisheries Service. The New England region is scheduled to have many of their benchmark stock assessments performed in 2013. New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic region fisheries are just as important to its anglers and commercial

fishermen as the New England region and we should not have to wait until 2015 for this assessment to be done.

On behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, its member clubs, and the one million recreational anglers in New Jersey, I would request that you urge the National Marine Fisheries Service to perform the summer flounder benchmark stock assessment in 2013 and not 2015. This is an important issue to New Jersey's one million recreational anglers.

Very truly yours,
Joseph Puntasecca, President

~

Mr. Joseph Puntasecca
President
Jersey Coast Anglers Association
1201 Route 37 East
Toms River, NJ 08753

Dear Mr. Puntasecca:

Thank you for your letter regarding scheduling of a benchmark stock assessment for summer flounder. Summer flounder is an important resource in mid-Atlantic and southern New England waters. The stock was recently declared rebuilt, is not overfished, and overfishing is not occurring. I am also pleased to note that there are two large incoming year-classes in the population, and that they are expected to support both commercial and recreational fisheries for the next 3 to 4 years.

The current (2011) summer founder assessment is information rich, as data from many sources inform the analyses. This stock assessment is updated annually and will be updated in July 2012 with new information on commercial and recreational landings and discards at age, survey indices, and other available biological information. These updates use the modeling framework that was peer-reviewed and accepted during the latest (2008) benchmark stock assessment. The updated assessment results are reviewed and evaluated by the Scientific and Statistical Committee of the mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Based on this evaluation, the committee recommends an acceptable biological catch for the next fishing year.

Benchmark stock assessments are scheduled by the Northeast Regional Coordinating Council

(NRCC). The Council includes representation from NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center and Northeast Regional Office, the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The NRCC meets semi-annually to discuss stock assessment priorities for a range of species and to confirm upcoming assessment schedules. Benchmark stock assessments are normally scheduled 1 to 2 years in advance to allow for required preparations, including data acquisition and analyses, aging of accumulated samples, and development of new methods and approaches. The NRCC met on May 21-22, 2012, and decided to schedule a benchmark stock assessment for summer flounder in June 2013.

We are encouraged by the current status of the summer flounder resource and fisheries, and believe that its management is supported by sound science and timely stock assessments. I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,
Samuel D. Rauch III
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

**The 18th JCAA Fluke Tournament
Awards Ceremony Wrap-up
By Joseph Puntasecca**

Just over 400 boats participated in the 18th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament which was held on June 9th and between 700 and 800 anglers attended the Awards Ceremony held on June 15th at the Golden Nugget in Atlantic City. Pat Donnelly, our master of Ceremonies, announced the many port winners and the many door prizes winners. JCAA would like to thank all of our sponsors. Our nationally known sponsors include: West Marine, Penn Reels, Spiderwire Braided Line, Berkley Gulp Bait, Interlux Yacht Paint, Costa Sunglasses, Minn-Kota Trolling Motors, Nor'East Saltwater Magazine and our host for the Awards Ceremony, Golden Nugget, Atlantic City. One of our \$1,200 First Place Port Prizes was sponsored by Fisherman's Headquarters (Long Beach Island). At the conclusion of the Awards Ceremony ticket number 954 was drawn for the \$5,000 Grand Prize. Jim Scherer of Monroe, NJ was the proud ticket holder. Congratulations, Jim! Once again, the winner of our

Grand Prize did not place for a port prize or weigh in a fish in his port. This is now the 15th time out of 18 tournaments where the Grand Prize winner has not weighed in a fish. I would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's tournament, without your participation it would not be a success. There are a lot of people who volunteered their time to make this a great event for you. There are too many to name individually without possibly leaving someone out. I would like to thank them publicly at this time and I will thank them personally as I see them.

We also want to acknowledge the terrific changes taking place at the Golden Nugget. If you haven't been there since it was Trump Marina, you are in for a pleasant surprise. The ballroom was completely refurbished and the casino area looks great. There are new restaurants and many more dining choices. Show your support for the Golden Nugget as a JCAA sponsor and pay a visit soon.

Soon we will have the pictures of the awards ceremony posted on our web page. We are already working on the 19th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament. We will be looking for ways to provide more prizes and increase participation. We are hoping to return to the days of 1,000 boats. To get the latest information, sign up on the JCAA Web Page to subscribe to the JCAA Newspaper and you will also receive all our alerts. Looking forward to seeing you next year.

JCAA 18th Annual Fluke Tournament Wrap-Up & Port Prize Winners

The 18th Annual JCAA Tournament took place on June 9th, 2012. Everyone reported having a terrific time. The Tournament had 400 boats competing in 10 ports. This was the lowest number of entries which means the participating boats had the best chance ever to win a port prize. We were competing against the greatest early striped bass season ever. The 10 port prizes are listed below.

The largest fish weighed in was 9lbs 8oz and was caught by Tony Botti from Aberdeen and weigh-in at Jersey City. Ocean City had the smallest fish qualifying for a port prize weighing in at 2.63lb. Cape May had only eight legal fish weighed in this year. This means if you enter the tournament at that

port and caught a legal fish you could have taken the last two places. You can find a comparison of total fish weighed in 2011 vs 2012 and the port prize winners and in the charts at the end of this press release. Shark River also had the largest Striped Bass weighing 42lb 8oz caught by Billy Mayfield from Point Pleasant.

In 2012 we had 41 qualifying fish over 5 lbs. This year the smallest fish was again was 2.63 lbs. Three ports did not have a fish over 5lbs. As you can see, the total weight of summer flounder that qualified for 10 port prizes for 2011 was 484.08 pounds. In 2012 the total weight was 487.26, less than 5 pound difference. It will be interesting to see the JCAA survey returns, to discover what the throwback ratio was and how many keepers were actually caught. Anglers will have an opportunity to give JCAA feedback about how the tournament is organized and also to suggest any changes that might enhance their experience. Surveys will be mailed to current and past participants, so anglers can tell us how to improve this tournament.

This annual tournament provides funds to help the Jersey Coast Anglers Association continue its fight to protect the marine resource, fund summer flounder research and fight for the rights of recreational anglers. JCAA deals with many issues. Currently we continue the fight to get the pots off the reef, Hook on Fishing Drugs Bill and to guarantee public access.

We want to thank all tournament participants and especially our sponsors for making the tournament a success. Our nationally known sponsors include West Marine, Penn Reels, Spiderwire Braided Line, Berkley Gulp Bait, Interlux Yacht Paint, Costa Sunglasses, Minn-Kota Trolling Motors, Nor'East Saltwater Magazine and Golden Nugget AC. One of the \$1,200 First Place Port Prizes were sponsored by Fisherman's Headquarters (for Long Beach Island) and the remaining ports by the JCAA. Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament T-shirts and hats will be on sale as long as supplies last.

For the past eight years the JCAA has conducted a survey of angling success vs. effort during our annual fluke tournament. The data gathered has provided valuable insight into the success of anglers in ports from Jersey City to Fortescue. This year we will again conduct the survey but will offer anglers the opportunity to complete the survey on line. The survey can be

found at www.surveymonkey.com/s/jcaa2012 or go to the JCAA webpage (<http://jcaa.org/>) for the link. You will need your boat registration number and can only complete the survey once. When you are finished fishing on June 9 simply go to the site and enter your actual data. All those who fill out the report on line by Thursday, June 14th will be entered into a drawing for a free entry into next year's tournament. Only surveys done on line will qualify for this additional prize.

Shark River Inlet	73.25	72.76
Manasquan River	56.05	57.70
Barnegat Bay	40.92	49.40
Long Beach Island	38.60	45.56
Great Bay	48.92	40.52
Ocean City	39.35	34.27
Cape May	41.47	36.49
Fortescue	34.49	34.28
Totals	484.08	487.26

Jersey Coast Anglers Association 18th Annual 2012 Port Prize List

First Place: \$1,200

Second Place: Penn Battle BTL5000 spinning reel with an Allegiance

Inshore rod, Penn 320gt rod and reel combo with 2 spools of Spiderwire

braid line and 2 packages of Berkley Gulp bait

Third Place: West Marine \$300 Gift Card

Fourth Place: Minn Kota Battery Charger

Fifth Place: Costa Sunglasses, and accessories

Sixth Place: Penn Battle BTL 5000 spinning reel with an Allegiance Inshore rod, 2 spools of Spiderwire braid line and 2 packages Berkley Gulp

bait

Seventh Place: One gallon of Interlux Micron CSC bottom paint, Interlux boat soap and wax

Eighth Place: Penn 320gt rod and reel combo with 2 spools of Spiderwire braid line and 2 packages Berkley Gulp bait

Ninth Place: Donated by Nor'East Saltwater Magazine, Abu Garcia 7000i reel and boat soap

Tenth Place: Allegiance rod and Saltwater Sportsman's bag with boat soap, fishing line, and more

Door Prizes Donors for 2012 JCAA Fluke Tournament

West Marine
Great Bay Marina
Fishermen' Den
Grizz' Bait and Tackle
Betty & Nick' Tackle
Effingers Sporting Goods
Ocean Explorer
Fin-Atics
Gulp
Miss Belmar
Penn
Spiderwire
Nor'east Saltwater
On The Water Magazine
Saltwater Sportsmen Seminar
Jim's Bait and Tackle
Captain Cal
Brielle Bait and Tackle
Fishermen's Supply Co.
Team American Tackle
Kevin Bogan's Tackle
Blood Marine Services
Pure Fishing
Shakespeare
Fisherman's Headquarters
Berkley
Minn Kota
Costa
Interlux
Golden Nugget

2011 & 2012 Weight Comparisons

(Weight for First 10 spots)

Port Name	2011 Total Weight	2012 Total Weight
Jersey City	59.03	58.88
Sandy Hook	52.00	57.40

Here are the Port Winners for 2012

1. Jersey City

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
1st	Tony Botti	Aberdeen, NJ	172	9.50	26.75
2nd	Edward Schaefer	Ridgefield, NJ	343	8.69	26.50
3rd	Robert Breidt	Lake Hopatacong, NJ	227	5.50	24.00
4th	Harvey Karp	Kearny, NJ	207	5.44	24.00
5th	Robert Kelly	Jersey City, NJ	295	5.44	23.25
6th	Andre Luis	North Arlington, NJ	165	5.31	23.50
7th	Thomas Murphy	Bayonne, NJ	38	5.31	23.25
8th	Tom Buchanan	Bayonne, NJ	395	4.69	23.00
9th	Dennis Giro	Ridgefield, NJ	300	4.56	22.50
10th	Jason Zebrowski	Hewitt, NJ	275	4.44	23.50
				58.88	240.25
S.B	none				

2. Sandy Hook

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
1st	John Sorretino	Pt Pleasant Bch, NJ	236	7.60	26.00
2nd	Roger Housman	Keyport, NJ	374	6.80	25.00
3rd	Bob Cameron	North Haledon, NJ	66	6.60	26.00
4th	Kevin Meyerhoff	Ocean, NJ	399	6.40	25.00
5th	Cliff Hansen	East Brunswick, NJ	234	5.80	25.00
6th	Tom Kriebel	Hatboro, PA	266	5.20	24.00
7th	Ted Jakubik	Seabright, NJ	10	4.80	23.00
8th	Nicholas Piazza	Staten Island, NY	104	4.80	23.00
9th	Charlie Parker	Oceanport, NJ	294	4.80	23.00
10th	Cory Cuccinello	South Orange, NJ	258	4.60	23.00
				57.40	243.00
S.B	Raul Delaprida	Elisabeth, NJ	398	14.20	33.00

3. Shark River Inlet

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
1st	Tom Feher	Nutley, NJ	125	9.00	25.50
2nd	Art Coakley	Wall, NJ	11	8.50	24.50
3rd	Tobian Nelson	Farmingdale, NJ	247	7.50	25.00
4th	Charlie Keidel	Jackson, NJ	396	7.13	24.75
5th	Chris Latch	Fleetwood, PA	307	7.13	24.50
6th	Billy Rstowski	Wallington, NJ	367	7.00	24.00

7th	Ed Carr	Wall, NJ	35	7.00	23.00
8th	Bob Raczkievicz	Wayside, NJ	84	6.50	24.00
9th	Mary Stab	Bayville, NJ	49	6.50	24.00
10th	Andy Dudinetz	South Hampton, NJ	249	6.50	23.50
				72.76	242.75
S.B.	Billy Mayfield	Manasquan, NJ	367	42.50	44.00

4. Manasquan River

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
1st	Capt Frank Bovasso	Toms River, NJ	79	8.65	27.50
2nd	Jerry Melia	Pine Beach, NJ	74	7.55	25.50
3rd	Lee Fitzgerald	Brick, NJ	317	6.20	25.00
4th	Peter Sivo	Middletown, NJ	58	5.55	24.00
5th	Robert Struening	Flemington, NJ	193	5.35	24.00
6th	Mathew Brown	Fairless Hills, PA	311	5.15	22.50
7th	Gene Charlesworth	Hamilton, NJ	240	5.05	24.00
8th	Kenny Russell	Levittown, PA	137	4.95	23.50
9th	Bill Jansen	Medford, NJ	321	4.65	23.00
10th	Bob Sislian	Brielle, NJ	63	4.60	21.75
				57.70	240.75
S.B.	none				

5. Barnegat Bay

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
1st	John Wnek	Forked River, NJ	327	6.60	25.00
2nd	Robert Mauro	Forked River, NJ	309	6.60	25.00
3rd	Walt Schacht	Beachwood, NJ	330	6.00	24.25
4th	Ed Buldowski	Toms River, NJ	250	5.30	23.00
5th	George Broome	Forked River, NJ	34	5.00	24.00
6th	Fred Stowman	Forked River, NJ	149	4.70	22.50
7th	Ron Rislley	Forked River, NJ	218	4.30	22.75
8th	Harold Dunn	Hamilton, NJ	152	4.30	22.00
9th	Tony Arcabascio	Bayville, NJ	105	3.30	20.00
10th	Robert Heath	Forked River, NJ	8	3.30	20.00
				49.40	228.50
S.B.	none				

6. Long Beach Island

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
1st	Gene Makitra	Barnegat, NJ	127	5.82	24.75

2nd	Steve Lutz	Columbus, NJ	173	5.56	23.50
3rd	Scott Habakus	Charlestown, SC	406	5.16	24.00
4th	John Maffia	Mystic Island, NJ	269	4.68	22.50
5th	Robert Ostorne	Columbus, NJ	97	4.64	22.25
6th	Jack Burns	Clark, NJ	378	4.54	22.50
7th	Mark Luker	Browns Mills, NJ	292	4.30	22.63
8th	Russel Mehalick	Morrisville, PA	99	3.68	20.25
9th	Lee Rothermel	Toms River, NJ	356	3.60	21.50
10th	Richard Pasko	Lanoka Harbor, NJ	4	3.58	21.00
				45.56	224.88
S.B.	none				

7. Great Bay

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
1st	Michael Klemm	Marlton, NJ	280	4.92	23.25
2nd	Jack Farrell	Burlington, NJ	235	4.85	23.00
3rd	Tiffany Tozour	Little Egg Harbor, NJ	380	4.26	21.75
4th	David Showell	Absecon, NJ	368	4.23	21.75
5th	James Daunoras	Hammonton, NJ	211	4.15	18.50
6th	Stan Wiley	Braddock, NJ	78	3.75	22.75
7th	Jim Ross	Tabernacle, NJ	342	3.71	21.25
8th	Leon Grabowski	Delran, NJ	141	3.62	21.00
9th	Bob Pharo	Tuckerton, NJ	34	3.53	21.25
10th	Willaim Lyden	Browns Mills, NJ	123	3.50	21.25
				40.52	215.75
S.B.	none				

8. Ocean City

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
1st	Richard Burgess	Avalon, NJ	67	4.66	23.50
2nd	Jerry Coombs	Little Egg Harbor, NJ	233	4.40	22.50
3rd	Darin Chojnacki	Linwood, NJ	264	4.12	22.50
4th	Richard Mitchell	Brigatine, NJ	88	3.80	22.00
5th	Jason Daunoras	Cedar Brook, NJ	349	3.64	21.00
6th	Chris Olcott	Linwood, NJ	82	2.92	20.50
7th	Frank Jankowski	Marmora, NJ	345	2.76	19.00
8th	Kevin Seeger	Mays Landing, NJ	86	2.68	19.50
9th	Scott Thorpe	Plymouth Meeting, PA	257	2.66	19.50
10th	Jim Ryan	Ocean City, NJ	347	2.63	20.00
				34.27	210.00
S.B.	Jerry Coombs	Little Egg Harbor, NJ	67	28.00	41.00

9. Cape May

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
1st	Tony Mosloski	Lester, PA	43	7.74	25.50
2nd	Bob Metzger	Deptford, NJ	25	5.62	24.50
3rd	Patrick Lind	Gibbsboro, NJ	171	5.60	24.25
4th	Howard Steinberg	Abington, PA	48	4.52	24.00
5th	Mike Maahs	Cape May, NJ	174	4.33	22.00
6th	Chet Dervisnire	Ambler, PA	15	3.37	20.50
7th	Matt Giosa	Vorhees, NJ	65	2.74	19.75
8th	Frank Bonivu	Holmes, PA	403	2.57	20.00
9th	none				
10th	none				
				36.49	180.50
S.B.	George Slobodjian	Aston, PA	43	17.53	38.00

10. Fortescue

	Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
1st	Howard Benner	Honeybrook, PA	312	4.13	22.19
2nd	John Obrien	Fortescue, NJ	360	4.00	25.13
3rd	Walt Russell	Hainsport, NJ	186	3.75	20.44
4th	Jason Renyo	Millville, NJ	263	3.69	21.50
5th	Zachary Stefka	Mickleton, NJ	366	3.38	20.25
6th	Dennis Gawronski	Landsdale, PA	214	3.19	20.25
7th	Joseph Ravis	Vally Forge, PA	215	3.13	20.56
8th	Thomas Vanwinkle	Trevose, PA	284	3.13	20.50
9th	Robert Hill	Gibbstown, NJ	76	3.13	20.13
10th	Lance Lonsimer	Coatsville, PA	365	2.75	19.13
				34.28	210.88
S.B.	none				
		Total Weight/Length		487.26	2236.46

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs moves in Senate and Assembly

Good News! John Toth and Don Marantz traveled to Trenton to testify for the bill before the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee A638/S178 HOFNOD. We would like to thank the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Paul Sarlo, for posting the bill. John and Don were the only two members of the recreational fishing community who were there to testify in support of the bill. A number of women who are against hunting and fishing surprised the senators by testifying against the bill. I find it difficult to understand how someone can oppose a bill that provides an alternative to drug use while teaching our children about stewardship for the natural world. I would like to thank Senator Jennifer Beck for defending this bill against their unfounded criticism. All that remains is for Senate President Steve Sweeney to post the bill for a full Senate vote and, with passage, for the Governor to sign it. JCAA will be contacting Senate President Sweeney to post the bill. You should contact him as well.

Pots Off the Reefs

Because of the budget hearings, there has 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. I have no good news to report. Some of the proposals we are hearing about are not acceptable to the JCAA position. Please sign up for JCAA alerts since we may need to contact you for some last minute action.

ASMFC Summer Meeting Week

The August ASMFC meeting will only be 3 days, August 7 – 9. While it is only a 3 day meeting, there is much important business to do. I have included the preliminary meeting agenda at the end of this report. It is important that you go to the ASMFC webpage before the meeting takes place. ASMFC is constantly posting documents in their breaking news section that will be part of the upcoming meeting; the week before the meeting

most of the full agenda and the documents needed for the board meetings. The ASMFC will usually post the stock assessments prior to the meeting. This will be important information if you want to make comments on menhaden and striped bass. Both of those stock assessments will be complete well before the August meeting.

Menhaden

Draft Amendment 2 will be presented to the Board during the Commission's Summer Meeting. Once approved, Draft Amendment 2 will go out for another round of public comment (including hearings) before any final management options are selected. The final adoption will be at the annual meeting (October 22nd – 25th), in Philadelphia, PA. Those public hearings will be held during the late summer and early fall, so keep informed. Many things were put on hold until the benchmark stock assessment was done before this upcoming meeting. The Technical Committee met after the ASMFC spring meeting. I received some complaints that the scientists hired by Iomega to attend this meeting almost took over the meeting. It seems they became active participants rather than observers and dominated the meeting while other groups were unable to participate. Scientists hired to do stock assessments 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 and bring them up at the upcoming meeting.

After testifying and being a hearing officer at public hearings for 23 years, I really want to point out that you should come into these and any ASMFC hearings ready to discuss the options proposed. That is what the hearings are for. I find a lot of time people do not comment on the hearing document. At the very least, you need to read the summaries posted on the website. This is especially necessary when it is no longer a scoping hearing but a hearing on an amendment or addendum that the Commissioners will be voting on at a board meeting. This preparation is important for all hearings and public meetings. If you want your comments heard and respected, you need to do your homework and stay on topic. I will be looking forward to seeing you and hearing your specific comments on the options at the upcoming public hearings.

Striped Bass

We will have the latest Striped Bass Stock Assessment to review at this meeting and also the draft Addendum III to Amendment VI to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan. Paul Haertel, Chair of JCAA Striped Bass Committee, has written an article about the addendum that is enclosed in this newspaper. Please act fast since the deadline for comments is on 6/26/12.

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. The comment period for the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) has passed. I have attached the ASMFC letter that responded to the CITES listing. My concern with the ASMFC letter is it does not address the illegal sale and exportation of glass eels. Glass eels are very small and they are easy to ship illegally. The illegal poaching is significant in tautog and striped bass and may be significant for glass eels as well. 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 heard from other ASMFC Commissioners who have the same concerns and I hope this will become part of the discussion for the August 9th meeting.

States Schedule Hearings on Black Drum Public Information Document

Arlington, VA – The States of New Jersey, Delaware, North Carolina and the Commonwealth of Virginia have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on the Public Information Document (PID) to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Black Drum. The PID provides the public an opportunity to submit input on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's development of a Black Drum FMP. Public comment is being solicited on changes observed in the fishery; actions to be taken in terms of management, enforcement, and research; and any other concerns about the resource or fishery. The dates, times, and locations of the scheduled meetings follow.

New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife
July 11, 2012; 7 PM
Galloway Township Branch of the
Atlantic County Library
306 East Jimmie Leeds Road
Galloway, New Jersey
Contact: Russ Allen at 609.748.2020

The Commission's South Atlantic State-Federal Fisheries Management Board approved the PID to the Black Drum FMP for public review and comment in May. As the first step in the development of the FMP, the PID presents the current status of the fishery and resource, and solicits public input on all aspects of the fishery and the resource. The FMP is being initiated in response to concern regarding significant increases in harvest in recent years and the fact that the fishery primarily targets juveniles. The Commission is also moving forward with conducting the first coastwide assessment of this species.

The assessment will be developed concurrently with the FMP to support establishment of the interstate management program

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the PID either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. The PID can be obtained via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740. Public comment will be accepted until 5 PM (EST) on July 25, 2012 and should be forwarded to Danielle Chesky, FMP Coordinator, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at dchesky@asmfc.org (Subject line: Black Drum PID). For more information, please contact Danielle Chesky at dchesky@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Tina Berger
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Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 2012 Summer Meeting

August 7-9, 2012, Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Old Town Alexandria, Virginia

The preliminary agenda:

August 7, 2012

8:30 - 11 AM Atlantic Herring Section
11:15 AM - 12:45 PM American Lobster
Management Board
1:45 - 3:45 PM Atlantic Striped Bass Management
Board
4:00 - 5:30 PM Shad & River Herring Management
Board

August 8, 2012

7:30 - 9:30 AM Executive Committee
9:45 AM - 12:45 PM Atlantic Menhaden
Management Board
& 1:45 - 2:45 PM
3:00 - 4:30 PM Sturgeon Management Board
4:45 - 6:15 PM ISFMP Policy Board

August 9, 2012

8:00 - 10:00 AM American Eel Management Board
10:15 AM - 12:45 PM Spiny Dogfish & Coastal
Sharks Management Board
1:15 - 2:45 PM South Atlantic State/Federal
Fisheries Management Board
2:45 - 3:15 PM ISFMP Policy Board (continued)
3:15 - 3:45 PM Business Session

Bob Beal Named Acting Executive Director of the ASMFC

For Immediate Release: June 8, 2012

Arlington, VA – Robert E. Beal has been appointed the Acting Executive Director for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. He will serve in that capacity until an Executive Director has been selected by the Commission's Executive Committee. Bob Beal has been with the Commission for more than 15 years and has served as the Director for the Interstate Fishery Management Program for the past 10 years. "Bob's excellent track record of leading the Commission's fisheries management process for the last decade made him a sure choice to serve as the Commission's Acting Executive Director," stated ASMFC Chair Paul Diodati. "Recognized and well

respected by the fisheries management community, he brings to the position strong leadership skills and a thorough understanding of the issues faced by the Commission and the states. His appointment will ensure continuity in the Commission's scientific and management programs during this time of transition." Over the next couple of months, the Commission's Executive Committee will develop a vacancy announcement and selection process for the new Executive Director. Mr. Diodati continued, "This is an exciting time in the Commission's seventy year history. It offers our Commissioners an opportunity to look back at where we have been and what we have accomplished, and chart a new course for the future."

The Commission was formed over 70 years ago by the 15 Atlantic coast states to assist in managing and conserving their shared coastal fishery resources. With the recognition that fish do not adhere to political boundaries, the states formed an Interstate Compact, which was approved by the U.S. Congress in 1942.

The states have found that their mutual interest in sustaining healthy coastal fishery resources is best promoted by working together cooperatively, in collaboration with the federal government. With this approach, the states uphold their collective fisheries management responsibilities in a cost-effective, timely, and responsive fashion.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

1050 N. Highland Street,
Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201
703.842.0740 • 703.842.0741 (fax)
www.asmfc.org

June 11, 2012

Rosemarie Gnam, Ph.D.
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Chief, Division of Scientific Authority
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 110
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Dear Dr. Gnam,

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) provides the following comments in response to the Federal Register Notice (April 11, 2012, 77FR21798) regarding the listing of

the American eel to CITES Appendix II. At this time, the Commission does not feel that an Appendix II listing will benefit the rebuilding efforts for American eel.

The Commission has recently completed the 2012 American Eel Stock Assessment, which concluded the American eel stock is depleted in the U.S. In response, the Commission is working to develop management options to reduce mortality and increase eel abundance. The Commission is aware that in the past two years there has been growing demand for glass eels. This harvest is almost exclusively for Southeast Asian markets and, at this time, there is no information that illegal exportation of glass eels is occurring. Additionally, there are currently well-regulated European yellow and silver eel export markets. While the Commission has great concern over the American eel stock and will be considering additional fisheries management measures in the next few months, the undocumented international trade does not appear to have a negative impact on the population.

The Federal Register notice indicated concern over the similarity in appearance between European and the American eels. European eel were listed in CITES Appendix II in 2009 and declared Critically Endangered by the IUCN in 2010. In response, the European Commission has taken considerable management actions to restore the European eel stock. The Commission does not oppose a listing if there are a substantial number of documented 'look-alike' cases complicating law enforcement efforts and the European Commission considered such an action necessary to assist in the successful conservation of European eels.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. The Commission, in partnership with US Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries and the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, is committed to efforts restoring American eel populations throughout their range.

Sincerely,
Robert Beal
Director, Interstate Fisheries Management Program
cc: American Eel Management Board

Public Input Sought on Striped Bass Addendum

By Paul Haertel, SB Committee Chairman

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has developed draft Addendum III to Amendment VI to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan. The purpose of the addendum is to address the illegal harvest and sale of striped bass. In part, the addendum states that there are currently no reliable estimates of illegal coast-wide harvest. However, investigations by the Interstate Watershed Task Force revealed that over 1 million pounds of illegal striped bass were taken. The addendum may be viewed in its entirety by going to:

http://www.asmfc.org/speciesDocuments/stripedBass/fmps/stripedBassDraftAddendumIII_PublicComment.pdf. The ASMFC will be accepting public comment on the proposed addendum until 5PM on 6/19/12. Those who would like to do so should mail their comments to Kate Taylor whose address is ASMFC, 1050 North Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, Va. 22201, or email her at ktaylor@asmfc.org. She may also be contacted via phone at (703) 8422-0740 or fax (703) 842-0741.

JCAA will be taking a position on this matter at our general meeting on 6/26/12. Club representatives are urged to review the addendum with their clubs and to be prepared to vote on it at our meeting. In my opinion, JCAA should write a letter stating that the best way to resolve the illegal sale of striped bass would be to make them a no-sale or game fish. However, we support any measures that will help curtail the illegal harvest of striped bass. Specifically pertaining to Addendum III, we should encourage the ASMFC to adopt the following options:

3.1 Commercial Tagging Program Implementation - Option 2, Each state be required to have a tagging program.

3.1 A Tag Information and Type - Option 2, There should be a uniform coast-wide tagging program.

3.1 B Tag Timing - Option 2, Fish should be tagged at the point of harvest rather than the point of sale. and Sub-Option A, There should be no exceptions for the two states that currently have point of sale tagging.

3.1 C Tag Allowance - Option 2, We agree with the biological tag allowance.

3.1 D Tag Accounting - Option 2, There should be tag accountability and strict penalties for non-compliance.

3.1 E Reporting - Option 2, Reports should be as frequent as possible with no less than ACCSP standards.

3.1 F Processing - Option 2, Tags should remain with the fish until they are processed for consumption by the consumer. Fillets from the same large fish should be required to go to the same market

3.1 G Exportation - Option 2, All fish sold should have a commercial tag attached.

3.2 Penalties - We believe that penalties should be as strict as possible and include suspensions and revocations as well as the denial of tags in the year following one where the permit failed to account for all of his tags.

4.0 Compliance - Date should be set for states to implement the addendum once it is approved.

vote at our October general membership meeting, I will include the essay in our monthly newspaper.

Also, it would help us out with prizes if each club could donate a gift for a door prize or Chinese or Silent auction prize. Some clubs have been very generous over the years donating some very expensive gifts. Even a small gift worth \$10.00 would be greatly appreciated. Many times we can package several gifts together to make a nice door prize or Chinese Auction prize. It can be a fishing or non-fishing related gift. Remember, I also need gifts for the ladies too.

If anyone has any questions or would like to donate something, I can be reached via email at pturi6@comcast.net or at (609) 660-2126.

HOFNOD Passes Senate Budget & Appropriations

by John Toth

Background: The JCAA and other groups like the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance and the NJ Federation of Sportsmen Clubs have been lobbying legislators for many years to pass the HOFNOD bill (Hooked on Fishing and Not on Drugs) and it seems this year HOFNOD may yet receive a final OK from our legislators. The funding for HOFNOD (\$200,000) comes from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund that is continually replenished from cars, monies and other items seized by police from people involved in the drug trade or from DWI. This fund has millions of dollars in it, perhaps as much as \$30 million. Funding for HOFNOD comes directly from this fund and NOT from taxpayers. The purpose of HOFNOD is to get kids and young adults interested in fishing, especially from high crime city environments. Individuals are trained through this program to reach out to schools and community organizations to get kids on fishing trips and show them the benefits of getting in touch with the nature that is all around us. HOFNOD has already received approval from the Assembly. It needs Senate approval before it becomes law. However, the first step in the Senate approval process is that this bill has to be heard in a committee and HOFNOD (S-178) was scheduled for discussion in the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee chaired by Senator Paul Sarlo on June 7th.

Sportsperson-of-the-Year Award Dinner

By Paul Turi, Co-chairman

It is getting near that time of year again when JCAA hosts its second largest fundraiser of the year, our annual Sportsperson-of-the-year dinner. As you know, every year JCAA honors an individual or organization that has done outstanding work to enhance sport fishing or the environment. The dinner this year will be Sunday, November 11th, again being held at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. Ticket prices will be the same as last year. Individual tickets are \$75 each and tables of 10 are \$600, which is a \$150 savings. This gala event will accommodate 300 supporters and friends for a semi-formal sit-down dinner with choice of entrees and cash bar. There will also be a cocktail hour prior to dinner. Member clubs should start thinking about who they would like to nominate for the sportsperson-of-the-year award. A short bio of 250 words or less as to why the nominee should be considered for this award can be presented at any general membership meeting or can be mailed or emailed to the JCAA office or emailed to me at pturi6@comcast.net. If I receive the bio prior to a

Senate Budget Hearing- Rocky Start, But A Good Ending: There were nine bills scheduled to be heard in the large conference room and many of them were contentious according to Chairman Sarlo. Accordingly, he decided to have the HOFNOD bill up first for discussion since he thought that it would easily pass with little to no discussion. He asked if there was anyone opposed to it and about eight hands shot up! When Chairman Sarlo saw that, he remarked to his fellow committee members, "I thought that this was supposed to be easy." Mostly animal rights activists testified against the bill claiming it would cause depletion of the fisheries, endanger the lives of fish and other animals, and stated it was a poor use of money. They also opposed the bill on the grounds that they are against the consumption of fish. They kept complaining that they did not want taxpayer money used to fund this program even though taxpayer money is not used for it. One of them used the argument that having these new kids fishing would result in more lead dropped in the ocean and the ocean would, therefore, become more polluted!

I was waiting in the audience along with Don Marantz to testify in support of HOFNOD. Both of us are JCAA Board members and also represent several fishing clubs. We were surprised to hear this type of testimony since HOFNOD is intended to get kids fishing and off the streets. What can be so wrong about that! It seems that when fishing and hunting issues are up for legislative approval, animal rights activists come to Trenton to oppose this legislation simply because they do not want any fish or animals killed for any reason. This narrow way of looking at legislation makes them look extreme in their testimony on HOFNOD or any issue affecting anglers and hunters.

Don Marantz testified how HOFNOD can help kids. Senator Beck followed Don and she gave a very good explanation of what HOFNOD is all about for the benefit of committee members. There was really not much for me to explain about HOFNOD with my following Senator Beck. So I recounted my club's (Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County) taking out disadvantaged children on fishing trips for many years and the joy it brings to them. I told them about me seeing a girl about 12 years old and she looked not only sad but lacking in confidence. She quickly gave up on trying to catch fluke. I took her under my wing and in a short while she was hooking her own bait and catching a lot of

fish. She asked me in earnest "Is this day going to end"! She enjoyed it so much that I kind of wished that the day would not end for her. This personal story about how kids can enjoy fishing hit home and I saw several legislators nodding in agreement. Sometimes a personal story can have more influence about what a bill means instead of discussing it in abstract terms with bill numbers, funding and hearing negative comments from people who want to be negative.

The HOFNOD bill was unanimously approved by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee! The bill now needs to be passed by the full senate, and if it is approved it will go to the Governor for his signature. We are very close to getting this bill passed and let your senators know that you are in favor of this bill, as well as they should be. We may just win this one!

Membership Report

By John Toth

Several months ago, I sent out a package of information to member clubs asking clubs to pay their 2012 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 club dues from some clubs. If you have misplaced club membership information and need it, please do not hesitate to contact me. Also, if you think your club has not paid its dues, please check with your club's treasurer to see if the check for the dues has been sent out.

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!

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

HOFNOD BILL A638 PASSES SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Many thanks to Don Marantz and John Toth for representing JCAA and attending the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee hearing on June 7, 2012. New Jersey Outdoor Alliance and others did an outstanding job by making the HOFNOD bill a priority for 2012. We all know how important this bill is to have our youngsters learn healthy outdoor activities as an alternative to drugs and alcohol.

There was some opposition at the hearing, but HOFNOD Bill 638 was approved by unanimous vote by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. We are looking forward to the full senate passing A638 and the Governor's signature.

HOFNOD PRESENTATION

The JCAA Youth Education Committee presented a HOFNOD activities program for ARC students during National Fishing and Boating Week. Children and young adults learned about Japanese fish printing (G yotaku) and the "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" program. Information about New Jersey disabled access fishing locations was distributed and attendees received HOFNOD decals and fishing booklets.

For more information about promoting the "Hooked on Fishing Not On Drugs program at your school, please phone 732-785-9278 or email gkucharews@aol.com and place HOFNOD in the subject line.

ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK FISHING CLINICS

Get ready to learn about all the tricks and tips about how to surf fish at the Jersey shore. Surf fishing clinics will be offered at Island Beach State Park during July, August, and September.

Now is the perfect time to register for a fun filled day of learning at Island Beach State Park.

Pre-registration is required and a small fee to cover bait and terminal tackle for the clinic.

Veteran anglers will teach all the techniques to catch striped bass, fluke, bluefish and other fish that swim close to the shore. The clinic includes the following: knot tying, rods and reels, rig making, bait, species identification, fish cleaning, surf casting, and reading the beach. Surf fishing rods and reels also provided or attendees can bring their own equipment.

To learn more about the time and dates of the fishing clinics at Island Beach State Park, please call the Park Office at 732-793-0506.

HOFNOD DECALS

JCAA member clubs that host youth fishing programs are welcome to use any of our educational materials from the JCAA lending library. We currently ordered new HOFNOD decals, books, and videos. We also have rods/reels and a number of posters to teach youngsters about fishing. Please phone 732-785-9278 and leave a message, we will return your call promptly.

Veteran anglers think about donating some of your time to teach children the joy of fishing. Please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail

Gkucharews@aol.com.

**SIGN UP FOR
JCAA ALERTS
at www.JCAA.org**