

# JCAA NEWSPAPER MID-SUMMER 2012

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*  
(Published on August 21st, 2012)

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

### JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

**Tuesday, September 25th, 2012**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

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

### NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, September 13, 2012**

**Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office**

### **OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.**

1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753

Phone 732-506-6565 Fax 732-506-6975

**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.  
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### 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
<b>Rec. Sec.</b>	Tom Siciliano	609-296-3774
<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**

#### **2012 Dates**

**September 13<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**September 25<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**October 7<sup>th</sup>** Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

**October 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>** ASA Summit Hilton Head

**October 11<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**October 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>** ASMFC Annual Meeting,  
Philadelphia

**October 30<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**November 11<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Dinner

#### **2013 Show Dates**

**January 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>** Garden State Sportsmen Show

**February 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>** Atlantic City International Power  
Boat Show

**March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>** Saltwater Expo

### **President's Report**

*By Joseph Puntasecca*

Summer is fast coming to an end. Remember, there is no General Membership Meeting in August. Our next General Membership Meeting will be on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Sportsperson of the Year**

#### **Award Ceremony and Dinner**

Associate clubs in good standing are encouraged to submit, in writing, their nomination for the Sportsperson-of-the-Year Award. Please send a short bio of 150 words explaining the accomplishments of the nominee to the JCAA Office. Letters may be mailed to the JCAA office or hand-delivered to the September 25th, 2012 General Meeting by your club representative. Representatives in attendance will vote on the

nominees at the October General Meeting. The successful nominee will receive the Sportsman of the Year Award at the Awards Dinner at Crystal Point Yacht Club on Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>.

It is not too early for your club to start talking about getting a table for this great event. Let all of us together make this event a great success. Look for more information in future articles from our Dinner Committee in the newspaper.

If you or your club needs tickets, contact Dan Miller at (609) 641-7821.

We are still in need of raffle and door prize items. If you or your club can help us out with a donation, contact Paul Turi at 609-660-2126.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament**

Mark your calendar for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. The tournament will be held on Sunday, October 7, 2012 at Island Beach State Park. The Tournament is a great opportunity to learn more about the sport of surf fishing and to enjoy a great family activity. The tournament is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry, the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, and the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association

The early-entry fee is \$15 for adults over Age 18, \$5 for Ages 13-17 and free for Ages 12 and under if post-marked by September 10, 2012. Same-day registration is permitted on the day of the tournament at Pavilion #1 IBSP after 5:00 AM. The Day of Tournament Registration Fees are: Age 18 and older, \$20; Ages 13 –17, \$5.

Tournament Pamphlets and entry forms are available at bait and tackle stores, or visit [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) for complete information about the event.

Fishing begins at 6:30 AM and ends at 1:00 PM with the Raffle Drawings 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM and the Awards Ceremony at 2:00 PM.

### **Turmoil for NJ Anglers Article**

To read comments by John Toth, the RFA and others on Anthony Mauro's *Devil in the Details* column, go to the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/turmoilnj>

### **IMPORTANT**

The Next General Membership Meeting will be September 25, 2012 at the Brick Civic Plaza, 270 Chambers Bridge Road in Brick.

## **Turmoil for New Jersey's Recreational Saltwater Anglers**

### **The Devil is in the Details**

By Anthony P. Mauro, Sr., 8/2/2012

Recently I read an article in a local paper about the Christie administration's attempt to return an extra seat at the influential Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to New Jersey. A quote made by the director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance, Jim Donofrio, stood out. He said that the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) was "endorsing an environmental zealot who supports President Obama's restrictive policies on fishermen..." It was Paul Eidman, the potential designee, to whom Mr. Donofrio referred.

Whether Mr. Eidman is an environmental zealot and deserving of a set of pointy horns and bifurcated tail I will leave to others. I will only say that with respect to his candidacy for the MAFMC seat his supporters included; Jersey Coast Anglers Association, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, NJOA, Governor Christie, Sens. Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez, Congressmen Frank J. Pallone Jr. and Rush Holt, and others. Regardless, the real devil is found in the details, and if present, would render Mr. Eidman to decoy status.

Perhaps the devil is found in an article by Kirk Moore, Asbury Park Press. He wrote that the Garden State Seafood Association, a commercial fishing industry group, and the New Jersey-based Recreational Fishing Alliance lobbied members of New Jersey's congressional delegation not to support Eidman. Frankly, those in New York are ecstatic about this peculiar alliance because it may be the reason for the recent announcement that NY held on to the seat.

New York officials made no secret of their delight and also weren't shy about saying their gain comes at the expense of New Jersey recreational saltwater anglers. In fact, Mr. Moore wrote, "New York has been at the losing end of declining catch quotas for years and state officials openly said they would like to regain some of that share out of New Jersey's larger allocations." Is the devil hiding somewhere within these written lines?

With all due respect to those of faith, I don't know if the devil is a real thing, but in scripture he's

been portrayed as a skilled seducer, and a master of disguise. If true, he perhaps he is to be found in the details that surround attempts to remove commercial gear from the artificial reefs.

Most fishermen know that the artificial reefs are built and maintained by an excise tax on fishing gear used by recreational anglers. The commercial fishing industry doesn't pay the tax but over the years has annexed the reefs for their own use. Plus, they have used their considerable influence to ensure they remain as "squatters" on the reefs.

The conflicts caused by their fixed gear has caught the attention of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which responded by ceasing funding of the New Jersey Reef Program. In a letter to NJ Department of Environmental Commissioner, Bob Martin, the reason given was that conflicts caused by commercial fixed gear "... clearly violate provisions of the Sport Fish Restoration (SRF) Act and its implementing regulations."

In spite of action taken by the Feds and contrary to an unprecedented 54 members of the NJ assembly sponsoring a bill to resolve the conflicts by removing fixed gear (which would restore funding to the NJ Reef Program) the commercial industry and RFA worked to create a compromise bill that will give sections of the reefs to the commercial industry. Interestingly, only two (2) assemblypersons out of 80 support their bill.

But, similar to the admission by the commercial industry and RFA to thwarting New Jersey's efforts at gaining an extra seat on the MAMFC, the real question is whether this alliance is one benefiting recreational saltwater anglers? The answer lies in the details, and if the devil is present, he will surely be found.

At the end of 2010 the RFA advocated for a free saltwater registry in New Jersey. A recent press release by the organization reminded the public of their prominent role in the victory. But the devil is a master at sleight of hand, and he focuses attention on one thing in order to hide the actions of another. While the free saltwater registry is extolled what is unstated is a default on the promise to create a state lottery, and conservation license plate, to fund the free registry and help improve the decrepit condition of the Marine Fisheries Bureau. Perhaps it is a sincere oversight, but it is one that is major in scope. If the devil is at work he'll be found by examining the details.

Earlier this year, in a 5-3 vote, the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council approved regulations for the 2012 fluke season of a 17.5-inch minimum size. While saltwater anglers may be pleased with the decision it is in their best interest to scrutinize the details that surround it.

The council's summer flounder and black sea bass committee recommended a season of an 18-inch minimum size. However, a council member made a motion to replace the committee's recommendation with the option for the 17.5-inch minimum and the motion passed. Here's the remarkable part - the three recreational representative's choice of an 18-inch minimum size was overridden by representatives of commercial industry. Therefore, those representing commercial interests actually set the 2012 fluke regulations for recreational anglers. If the devil is in the details he'll have something to tell.

While recreational saltwater anglers and commercial fishermen have more in common than not, and working together is in our mutual interests, gains should not be made at the expense of recreational anglers - and this appears to be the case in New Jersey.

Getting back to Mr. Eidman, even if he is the scoundrel he is alleged to be, it is unlikely he could cause the current turmoil that exists in New Jersey's saltwater angling community. Eidman might simply be a decoy, a straw-man of sorts. The real culprit could be the devil and, if so, he is sure to be found by those who study the details.

## **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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:pturi6@comcast.net). If I receive the bio prior to a 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](mailto:pturi6@comcast.net) or at (609) 660-2126.

## Report on the Joint ASMFC & MAFMC August Meeting

By Chris Zeman

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) met jointly last week in Philadelphia. The main focus of the meeting was to set 2013 and 2014 annual quotas for Mid-Atlantic recreational and commercial fisheries and the final decisions are summarized below:

**Summer Flounder:** For 2013, the recreational harvest limit is 7.63 million pounds and commercial quota is 11.44 million pounds. The recreational harvest limit was reduced from the 10.23 million pound Annual Catch Target (ACT) to account mainly for discard mortality and a 3% research set aside (RSA). The recreational catch reduction for estimated discards is much greater than the commercial catch reduction and the Council made it a priority to focus RSA monies to conduct gear

research to minimize summer flounder discard mortality.

**Scup:** For 2013, the recreational harvest limit is 7.55 million pounds and the commercial quota is 23.53 million pounds. The Council and Board also initiated an Amendment to revise the present scup commercial and recreational allocation of 78%/22% and consider a range of options up to a 60%/40% allocation – or up to an 18% transfer of scup catch from the commercial sector to the recreational sector.

**Black sea bass:** For 2013, the recreational harvest limit is 1.85 million pounds and the commercial quota is 1.78 million pounds. This is a significant increase in quota from last year that would allow for liberalization of the regulations. Unfortunately, NOAA's Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) reported extremely high Wave 3 (May-June) catch in Massachusetts, which caught 790,000 pounds (compared to 140,000 last year) that may likely result in an overage of the annual quota in Wave 4. New Jersey's Wave 3 landings were roughly double last year's catch.

*An overage in Wave 4 can lead to a NOAA in-season emergency closure. This is important to follow closely.*

Massachusetts landings affect New Jersey because black sea bass is managed under a coastwide approach, and not a state-by-state quota approach like summer flounder. The Council and Board are considering moving toward a state-by-state quota approach like summer flounder (under Amendment 17), but the Council voted to delay this amendment and therefore, no final action will be in place by December when the Council takes final action on the recreational season and bag limits. Therefore, Wave 3 may be closed in 2013 to prevent Massachusetts from catching so much black sea bass as it did this year. Unfortunately, any Wave 3 closure would affect all states, including New Jersey.

**Bluefish:** For 2013, the recreational harvest limit is 14.504 million pounds and the commercial quota is 9.357 million pounds. The Council also approved to allow a transfer of uncaught bluefish up to 4.686 million pounds from the recreational harvest limit to the commercial quota.

For all species summarized above, the Council is moving toward a multi-year quota setting process and also set 2014 annual quotas, which are similar to 2013 annual quotas.

*DEP is proposing changes to a lot of the rules that govern parks. Documents in New Jersey Register by the New Jersey Office of Administrative Law, VOLUME 44, ISSUE 14 ISSUE DATE: JULY 16, 2012 covers fees, boats and vehicle use. JCAA will be posting the document on our web page with highlighted sections. JCAA will be submitting comments before the end of the comment period, September 14th. We have also asked for a meeting with DEP to discuss these proposals. We will send out an alert on this. Below are the comments submitted by the NJBBA.*

## **NJBBA Letter in Response to Proposed Changes by DEP**

Alice A. Previte, Esq.  
Attention: New Jersey Register Volume 44 issue 14  
July 16, 2012  
DEP Docket number 01-12-06 Office of Legal Affairs  
Department of Environmental Protection  
401 East State Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Mail Code 401-04L  
P.O. Box 402  
Trenton, N J 08625-0402

New Jersey Beach Buggy Assn.  
P.O. Box 511  
Seaside Park, NJ 08752

Dear Ms. Previte,

The New Jersey Buggy Assn. (NJBBA) has been involved with the state park beaches since about 1953 the Assn. has 1500 families contributing 3,334 volunteer hours to the state parks system in 2011 alone doing beach clean ups, buying dune fence and installing dune fence, help teach the surf fishing clinic at IBSP every Friday in July and Aug. NJBBA are the judges at the Governor surf fishing

tournament. Since the inception, we take special need children fishing 2 time a year. When beach clean ups are done NJBBA uses their own truck to remove trash from the beach. All this is done with no cost to the parks system the mobile sport fisherman not only fish the surf but will do anything to perverse the beaches of the state parks of N J no one ever told these mobile sport fisherman that their vehicles were too big to do the volunteering that they do these are the very people that the state park system would like to eliminate because of the size of their self-contained mobile sport vehicle.

The NJBBA would like to make comments on the new rule at the state parks they are as follows:

Page 5 44 N.J.R 1935 ( A)  
Subchapter 1 General Provision  
N.J.A.C 7: 2 – 1.7 Definitions

Page 5 Paragraph 2, line 4 **Add**  
Two- axle, Four-wheel Drive Passenger Motor Vehicle **with Surf Fishing gear and required safety equipment onboard**

Page 5 Paragraph 2, Line 9 **Remove**  
As amended all – terrain vehicles (ATV)  
**Recreational Camping vehicles**

Page 5 Paragraph 2, Line 12 and 13 **Remove**  
Large Vehicles, such as **Recreational Camping Vehicles**

Page 5, Paragraph 2, Lines 15 to 18 **Remove two sentences**

**The specifically excluded vehicles are often are uses for overnight camping which is prohibited on the beach. Moreover, there size can limit visibility beyond a around them, particularly at night which can endanger members of the public who are also using the beaches**

Page 5, Paragraph 2, Line 20 **Remove**  
This includes woods, swamps, Boggs, wetlands or field, or off road established public roads. **Or in designated parking lots**

Page 6, Paragraph 1 Line3 **Add**  
There taking up more than one parking spot. **Mobile sport fishing vehicle are excluded.**

Page 19, Paragraph 1, Line 1 **Remove**

Vehicles) ATVs, Recreational **camping vehicles (RVs)**

Page 19 Paragraph 6 Line 3 **Add**

And vehicles towing trailers and or other vehicles **and excludes MSFV and SCMSV**

Page 80, and 81 Subchapter 16 7:2-16.2 (MSFV) permits / restrictions **Add**

Fishing vehicles (MSFV) **Self-contained mobile sport fishing vehicle (SCMSFV)**

NJBBA total agrees with this subchapter 16

Page 94, Subchapter 16 IBSP Rules **Add**  
**4 Wheel drive 2 Axle vehicle that is registered and insured street legal can qualified for (SMFV) permit**

Self Contained Mobile Sport Fishing Vehicle (SCMSFV)

Mobile Sport Fishing Vehicle: (MSFV)

A SCMSFV MSFV vehicle is a 4 wheel drive 2axle vehicle with surf fishing and required safety equipment on board.

Over size vehicles: (SCMSFV)

SCMSFVs cannot be a danger to the public these SCMSFVs if they where a danger they would not be able to be registered or driven on the nations highway where they can be driven at highway speed. on the beach th e speed limit is 10 mph as for danger at night the park is closed at dark and the MSFV and SCMSFV are parked when fishing, when not fishing there are parking lots for the SCMSFV to go and will not conflict on parking space sizes due to off hours SCMSFVs and MSFV use the lots. they should be out of the lots by 0700 this is before the parks opens

Over Size Vehicles: Tire Size And Track On The Beach

SCMSFV use standard size tires larger tires cannot be put on them due to the way they are made. Driving on the beach brakes up the hard crust sand and the ruts or tracts made by the SCMSFV trap lose sand when a slight windblowing in any direction thus keeping the sand from blowing away and helps to buld the beach up it does not matter what size of mobile sport vehicle make the tracts we have seen some days that the tract are filled in within 1 hour.

Protect Wildlife: Shore Nesting Birds

There are studies by Steven P. Leatherman and Paul J. Godfrey on impact of off road vehicles on coastal ecosystems. The studies say that the MSFV,

SCMSFVs do not disturb the shore nesting birds. They will not leave when a vehicles pass, but they will fly off if a person walks up to them. The NJBBA works with Todd Pover of the DEP Department of Endangered And Protected Species every year to erect posts, and fence, and signs to protect the shore nesting birds

Economic Impact, SMFV Permits

By eliminating a lot of the SCMSFVs, MSFVs the local economy will suffer most of SCMSFV, MSFV owner stop in local store and shop before going on the state park beaches. The state will lose revenue every SCMSFV, MSFV has to have a permit at the cost of \$ 195.00 this year there has been 4,900 sold which is \$955,500 to the state parks can the state afford to lose any of this revenue

Camping On The Beach : SCMSFV On The Beach  
Camping on the beach is prohibited and NJBBA is in total agreement to that.

If not fishing between 2400 and 0400 hr. SCMSFV and MSFV have to pull off the beach to a parking lot where SCMSFV and MSFV are allowed to park

Thank You,

Paul Harris - President

Board of Directors and members of NJBBA

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

### **Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs waits for the Governor's Signature**

By this newspaper printing, I was hoping to report that Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs was law. It passed both Houses and was sent for the Governor's signature before the summer recess. After a month and a half, it remains on the Governor's desk. There are no reports that the Governor will not sign this bill but he hasn't done so yet. It would be good to remind Governor Christie by email or phone that we want this bill signed immediately.

### **Pots Off the Reefs**

We are still waiting for this bill to pass the Assembly. JCAA's position remains that we do not support a compromise. We will not have a JCAA meeting to review the current proposals until September 25<sup>th</sup>. There are some compromise proposals and we will keep you posted.

## **ASMFC Summer Meeting Week Report**

**Menhaden:** The Menhaden Board Meeting report is below. The turnkey assessment did not answer some of the Board's questions. The Commission's plan is spelled out below at the end of this report. You need to stay alert since the public hearings will be scheduled for some time after approval by the Board in late September. The sentiment was that we will basically vote on the addendum in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic Joint Meeting in December. We will keep you posted.

**Striped Bass:** We are moving to put into place a commercial tagging system to cut down on poaching. The press release at the end of this report has the details. The Addendum will be available on the Commission website ([www.asafc.org](http://www.asafc.org)) under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at 703-842-0740 by the end of August.

**Eels:** As I reported last month, the report on the status of eel stocks was extremely disappointing. As I predicted ASMFC is moving ahead to prepare an addendum to address this problem. The information is in the press release at the end of this report.

## **Report on the Joint Meeting of the MAFMC and the ASMFC**

The Mid-Atlantic Council spent a great deal of money on an economic study on reallocating the scup quota and the economic impact. The report was totally useless. There were so many proxies used for real data that the results were unusable. The report was given on Tuesday (August 12). I sat through that meeting and was waiting to see what would happen at the scup meeting the following day.

Wednesday morning began with the joint meeting of the MAFMC and ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Boards. Chris Zeman's report on summer flounder, scup, black sea bass and bluefish with the details from this meeting is included in this newspaper. The MAFMC and ASMFC now have three species that are listed in the

Mid-Atlantic as fully recovered, not being overfished and overfishing is not taking place. Why then am I disappointed? Black sea bass for the last three years has been frozen at the same quota when the stock was overfished, overfishing was taking place and it was not fully recovered. The MAFMC and ASMFC voted to keep this same ridiculous low quota in 2013.

The quota for summer flounder has been reduced again since we fell below the "imaginary" target even though this is the highest level of summer flounder we have seen since the 1980's. The scup recommended quota will also have a slight reduction. Again, this is on a stock that is fully recovered. The SSC, the Monitoring Committee and staff are recommending these low quotas because of the lack of surety in the data on black sea bass, summer flounder and scup. Remember, scup and black sea bass stock assessments were approved at a data poor workshop and the stock assessment team said they were fully recovered. NMFS takes credit on their web page for rebuilding these stocks and lists them as fully recovered stocks. The data on summer flounder, according to NMFS, is the best data for any Mid-Atlantic species and this data cost millions of dollars. The SSC has a four-tiered level for stock assessments. The ratings are 1 (highest) to 4 (lowest). You can imagine my frustration when summer flounder and scup both received a 3 as their stock assessment rating level. I asked what would be necessary for summer flounder data to be rated a 2. The response was we need more data and we will review this at a later date. That response proved to me that scup would never reach a level 2 since NMFS will never spend that amount of money and, given the amount of money we have already spent on summer flounder and the data available, we are still at level 3. This is not the fault of the commercial or recreational fishermen but we continue to pay for the inaction of NMFS. What makes me even angrier is they are taking out 3% of the quota for research set aside. This means that millions of dollars that could have been spent on this type of research has been diverted to other research. We tried to pass a motion that stated if NMFS was going to take research set aside money from scup, black sea bass or summer flounder, that money needs to be spent on those species. Of course, this motion failed. NMFS is determined to hang on to the purse strings. The research set aside money that was targeted for cooperative research on specific species has become NMFS slush

fund. Congress took the US Fish and Wildlife to task for the diversion of administrative funds. It is time for Congress to take action against NMFS.

### **The Hypocrisy of Discussions on Quota Splits**

Because the economic report on scup discussed above was worthless, on Wednesday we decided to create an addendum to look at splits between the commercial and recreational sectors for scup. I knew what I would hear from the audience so I wanted to point out a few facts before the audience made comments. I can remember how decisions were made for these three species in the 90's. I refreshed the memory of the few members who have been present since the 90's and educated the overwhelming number of new members. The facts are when we set split for the commercial and recreational scup quota in the mid-90's, we did it differently than any other quota. Every quota except scup is based on an average for several years. The years were chosen when the commercial harvests were the greatest and led to the collapse of the fisheries. This gave them the largest percentage of the quota. The data from the Bureau of Sport Fisheries was largely ignored even though it was the only Federal agency that collected all the recreational data before 1978. When NMFS was formed and absorbed both the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, they only used the data from the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. In the 90's the Mid-Atlantic Council voted on a quota using the same process. But they added a caveat. The commercial fishermen said they would eliminate their discards so the Council and the Commission changed the quota to add the commercial discard figures. This increased the commercial quota and reduced the recreational split. Nobody in the Council thought we would be where we are today. They anticipated better data and an end to discards and by-catch in this fishery. I remember a conversation about never needing any regulation on the recreational sector since the by-catch fishery alone was larger than the recreational and commercial fishery combined and the recreational catch was such a small part when you combined commercial by-catch, discards and catch. With discards and by-catch eliminated, there would no longer be a problem.

Eighteen years later, we still have a by-catch and discards and now they are having a negative

impact on the recreational catch. We need to reallocate this quota based on reality not on a phony debate that happened 18 years ago. I was not surprised when there was an outcry from some of the commercial lobbyists in the audience claiming this violated the Magnuson Act and was against the rules.

Now comes the hypocrisy! A few hours later we discussed bluefish. This plan was established in the early 90's with an 80/20 split in favor of recreational anglers. That split was never implemented even though that is what the plan called for. The recreational sector was not fully utilizing its quota. It was proposed to transfer the unused recreational quota to the commercial sector. At first it was only a million pounds. Over the years the numbers have increased. At times it was greater than 6 million pounds. NMFS has never allowed the transfer to go from commercial to recreational. NMFS always fights against allowing the recreational sector to recoup unused quota. For the last 15 years, NMFS has had no problem allowing this to happen with bluefish. This has become tens of millions of pounds of fish that would have been saved. What would the stocks be if we had not transferred that unused amount of bluefish quota.

I would have been thrilled if the same commercial lobbyists who complained about unfairness during the scup discussion had raised that issue again during the discussion about bluefish. But instead I could hear a pin drop. Since I have commented on this issue many times at these meetings over the years, I decided to wait and see what others would say. Not one Council member or Commissioner raised this issue. It did not surprise me. Years ago, when I tried to raise the recreational bag limit from 10 to 15 fish because of the transfer of quota, NMFS and a majority of Council and Commission members fought against it. It took over a year and action by the head of NMFS to rectify this situation. Again, it was another example of the hypocrisy that seems to be prevalent.

We now have a chance to correct a mistake that was made in the 90's. I applaud the majority of the Council and Commission members that voted to start an amendment. It will be interesting to see if the Council and the Commission members have the guts to do the right thing when it comes to actually adjusting the scup quota.



## **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

**ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Board Approves  
Mandatory Commercial Tagging Program  
through Addendum III  
Press Release, 8/7/2012**

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board has approved Addendum III to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Addendum establishes a mandatory commercial tagging program for all states and jurisdictions with commercial striped bass fisheries and recommends increasing penalties for illegally harvested fish. The tagging program includes requirements for timely catch reporting, increased accounting of unused tags, improved standardization of tag type, and the use of biological metrics for determining state/jurisdiction tag quantity. These measures 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 commercial and recreational fishermen who legally participate in the fishery.

The 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 was necessary. All public comment received on the Addendum was in favor of the mandatory tagging program and, in addition, the program was supported by NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

All states and jurisdictions, with the exception of Massachusetts and North Carolina, are required to implement Addendum III’s measures by the opening of their respective 2013 commercial fishing seasons. North Carolina was granted an

extension due to the timing of its season (North Carolina’s fishery opens December 1st), while Massachusetts lacks an established commercial tagging program and needs additional time to develop its program. Both states will be required to implement their programs by January 1, 2014.

The 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 the end of August. For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [ktaylor@asmfc.org](mailto:ktaylor@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

## **Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**

**ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Board Selects  
Options for Inclusion in Draft Amendment for  
Public Comment  
Press Release, 8/8/2012**

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Atlantic Menhaden Management Board has selected the options to be included in Draft Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Among the series of options approved for public comment are a range of harvest reduction options from 0-50% for 2013. Given that substantive changes were made to the document at the meeting, the Board approved the Draft Amendment for Public Comment contingent upon an additional round of review by Board members and final review and approval by a subcommittee of the Board. Release of the document for public comment is slated for early September, followed by an extensive public comment period and state hearings. The Board’s intent is to take final action on the Amendment this year for implementation in 2013.

The Board was also presented the findings of the 2012 stock assessment update, which included the addition of data for 2009 – 2011 to the peer review approved assessment model. The update results contained considerable uncertainty because the model fit the data poorly; however, similar issues were observed in the 2010 benchmark stock assessment that passed peer review. Despite the uncertainty in the update results, the Technical Committee believes the stock is experiencing overfishing, but is not overfished based on the current reference points used to assess the stock. The Technical Committee plans to address the issues

with the stock assessment at the next scheduled benchmark assessment.

The final Amendment had been scheduled for approval at the Commission's Annual Meeting in October. Given the Commission's public comment procedures, which requires the Draft Amendment be released 30 days prior to the first public hearing and must be extended two weeks after the final hearing is conducted, the Board will meet sometime after the Annual Meeting to take final action on the Amendment for 2013 implementation. A subsequent press release will announce the availability of the Draft Amendment for public comment, the state hearing schedule, as well as the timeline for the Amendment's final approval. For more information, please contact Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

### **American Eel Management Board**

ASMFC American Eel Board Initiates  
Development of Draft Addendum III to Improve  
Conservation and Protection of the Stock  
Press Release, 8/9/2012

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's American Eel Management Board has initiated the development of Draft Addendum III with the goal of reducing mortality and increasing the conservation of American eel stocks across all life stages. The 2012 benchmark stock assessment found the American eel population in U.S. waters is depleted. The stock is at or near historically low levels, due to a combination of including historical overfishing, habitat loss, food web alterations, predation, turbine mortality, environmental changes, toxins and contaminants, and disease.

The Draft Addendum will include a range of options suggested by the American Eel Technical Committee, including possible moratoria on glass (elver) and silver eel harvest, reductions in glass and yellow eel catch and effort, seasonal closures, and future monitoring requirements. The commercial fishery is currently regulated by a six inch size minimum, with the exception of Maine and South Carolina glass eel fisheries, and the recreational fishery is currently regulated by a 50 fish per day creel limit. States and jurisdictions are required to annually report on commercial harvest and monitor juvenile abundance. The Draft Addendum will be

developed for preliminary review by the American Eel Management Board in October.

For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Fishery Management Coordinator, at [ktaylor@asmfc.org](mailto:ktaylor@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

### **Hurt by Reeling Economy and Catch Limits, Fishing's Fortunes Sinking in NJ**

By Eric Sagara, Star Ledger, 8/8/2012

This is about the big one that got away. Not a fish, but fishing, a sport and an economic engine in decline.

In recent years, the sport of saltwater fishing in New Jersey has lost more than one of every 10 jobs lost industry-wide, nearly \$200 million in sales and \$109 million in contributions to the state's gross domestic product, according to the most recent economic data from the National Marine Fisheries Service. And since 2007, the industry has continued to lose ground here, according to a Star-Ledger analysis of federal data tracking anglers and the trips they take off of New Jersey's shores.

For a morning fishing excursion a few weeks ago, the Sea Hunter out of Atlantic Highlands was less than half full, with 32 anglers on board at \$42 a head. Capt. Rob Semkewyc said that was a good day for him. Factoring expenses, such as bait, marine fuel, dock fees and two deck hands, he estimates he made about \$10 an hour for the 4.5-hour cruise.

"It's tough living on the water," Semkewyc said. "Every year it gets tougher."

Experts point to the recession and an increase in gas prices for curbing the number of fishermen chartering boats and pleasure craft. Anglers also say restrictive catch limits make the sport less appealing for many.

"That's a major part of the New Jersey tourism industry it trickles down to restaurants and hotels," said Thomas Fote, legislative operations manager for the Jersey Coast Anglers' Association, a cooperative of more than 75 saltwater fishing clubs. "Five years ago, you couldn't get a space in a marina. There's a lot of empty spaces in the marinas nowadays."

Fote said the boat and tackle industries have not been doing as much business lately. Participation in fishing tournaments has also dropped, he said.

"I look at peoples' backyards and their boats are still sitting there," he said. "They haven't put their boats in the water the last couple of years."

Economic data for the past few years is not yet available, but federal fishing data shows people are taking fewer trips every year in New Jersey, with a 27 percent decrease in saltwater excursions from 2006 to 2011, a loss of about 1.9 million trips.

The decline in the number of anglers is slightly less steep, indicating people are still fishing but taking fewer trips, said Brandon Muffley, chief of the Bureau of Marine Fisheries in New Jersey's Department of Environmental Sciences.

Other activities such as hunting and freshwater fishing have suffered as well, he said. "General outdoor activities like that have declined over the past five to 10 years."

There has been about a 26 percent decrease in the number of anglers from out of state who are fishing in New Jersey's coastal waters. These anglers most often come from Pennsylvania or New York and have made up more than 40 percent of all the anglers fishing here in the past, according to federal fisheries estimates.

Over the past three decades, saltwater fishing trips trended upward until about six years ago, according to the federal data. New Jersey leads the Atlantic Coast in sports fishing catches of summer flounder, bluefish, black sea bass and weakfish, Muffley said.

The drop-off in fishing trips is sharpest among the party and charter boats that take anglers out into deeper waters for a chance at larger fish. While the number of people fishing from shore or on private or rental boats has increased over the years, the for-hire industry has experienced a steady decline in business.

The number of party boats sailing from the Atlantic Highlands Marina has dropped from nine to seven in recent years. Semkewyc said some party boat captains have left the industry altogether, looking for more gainful employment elsewhere.

Semkewyc and his father went into business together in 1993, buying the Sea Hunter and launching it as a party boat. Since then, fishing trips on boats such as his operating in New Jersey have decreased by 60 percent.

Like many in the industry, Semkewyc blames his woes on catch limits put in place the same year he started the business. The limits were instituted to protect several different species that had been overfished. Because of the limits, live release rates for summer flounder climbed from a low of 12

percent in 1985 to 92 percent last year, according to federal fisheries estimates.

"The success rate per angler is one-quarter what it was back in 1992 when the stocks collapsed," Fote said. "We now force the people to discard more fish than they take home."

Muffley said restrictions have been easing over the past few years as the fishing stock rebuilds.



Anglers on Semkewyc's morning fishing trip caught 16 "keepers" above the minimum size limit. They also tossed back an estimated 80 "shorts" that did not meet the requirement.

Ralph Sibona of Lakewood was the only one to catch the limit on Semkewyc's boat, but he had to throw back 16 fish from his position on the starboard side of the stern. "Today was a very good day," he said.

Fifteen feet away on the port side, Kevin Brown of Roselle had a different sort of luck. He caught only two fish — both about 15 inches — and

had to throw them back. He toyed briefly with the idea of paying another \$42 for another trip in the afternoon.

"I might be lucky, but I don't want to take a chance," he said, adding that he spent \$70 for the morning outing. "I'm going to go home and get some fish out of my freezer and enjoy that."

The half-dozen anglers fishing from a nearby pier also had a bad day. They too fish for fluke, but all they managed to catch were a couple of handfuls of baitfish.

"I love being on the piers, it doesn't cost me," said Rocco Galante of Jackson.

Galante is retired with a fixed income, living off of Social Security.

"I'd like to be on a boat — anybody does — but if you ain't got the money you don't do it," he said. "It's a lot cheaper to come here."

## **Omega Protein's Private Communications Reveal Attempts to Influence Science**

By Alison Fairbrother

The Public Trust Project blog, 8/1/2012

Emails unearthed in a Freedom of Information Act request indicate that representatives of Omega Protein sought to influence the official government science that determines how many Atlantic menhaden are in the ocean.

The emails also suggest that state officials in Virginia were willing to help Omega lobby to limit fishing restrictions that could be imposed to safeguard the menhaden stock.

Omega Protein, the largest commercial harvester of menhaden along the Atlantic coast, nets a quarter to half a billion pounds of menhaden each year. The company's stock prices have been falling since November, when the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) decided that regulations must be updated to protect more breeding-age menhaden fish from Omega Protein's nets.

The ASMFC's decision was based on a peer-reviewed stock assessment from 2010 that revealed that Atlantic menhaden have suffered a massive decline – as much as 91 percent in the last 25 years.

After considerable public outcry over the dire results, the ASMFC implemented new reference points – something akin to scientific goal posts — to measure the health of the menhaden population.

Before assigning a coast-wide quota, or a strict limit on fish catch, however, the agency said it would wait for the stock assessment to be updated with the most recent data. That update was scheduled for spring 2012.

Because the updated stock assessment — also called “turn of the crank” assessment — could determine limits on Omega's future harvesting, the company has a clear interest in its outcome.

Since government scientists began meeting about the stock assessment in May, the Public Trust Project and other organizations have expressed concerns about whether that interest may have turned to unscrupulous meddling in the science that helps determine the health of the Atlantic menhaden population.

For example, Omega Protein hired consultants to participate in the stock assessment process on the company's behalf. At a meeting of government scientists earlier this year in North Carolina, the contributions of Omega consultants outweighed those of the scientists who were officially nominated to sit on the panel by state and federal agencies.

In subsequent meetings, consultants inserted guidance and recommendations into ASMFC procedure, and even presented alternate science that could be used to bolster outcomes in the company's favor.

One of the consultants, Doug Butterworth, a statistician and stock assessment expert from South Africa, dominated the conversation at the North Carolina meeting to the point that some government scientists felt he had crossed the line.

Butterworth was particularly vocal about his interest in including “dome shaped selectivity” in the model.

The current stock assessment model, peer reviewed in 2010, assumes a “flat-topped selectivity” in the menhaden fishery; that is, the model supposes that the fish netted by industry are representative of all but the smallest menhaden encountered by the nets.

Dome-shaped selectivity assumes that not only are very small fish missed by the nets, but that the largest and oldest fish are not caught either, and therefore are not reflected by data that measure menhaden's abundance. One of Omega Protein's arguments is that the oldest menhaden might be congregating off the New England coast, beyond the reaches of the commercial fishery.

If the ASFMC concludes, based on computer model estimates, that there has been a dramatic increase in menhaden in the north, the panel could decide not to cut back Omega Protein's harvest. That would only be good news for a company that nets a nearly half a billion menhaden out of the Atlantic each year.

"If you have the data to support it, [using dome shaped selectivity] is perfectly fine. But if you're wrong, you are saying the stock is in much better shape than in fact it is," says Richen Brame, the Atlantic Fisheries Director for the Coastal Conservation Association.

That's Omega Protein's problem: It doesn't have the data. But the company is trying to get it.

Last year, Omega hired a New England University biologist named James Sulikowski to conduct an aerial survey from Long Island, New York to Portland, Maine, in what has historically been the northern range for migrating menhaden.

According to Sulikowski's report, also obtained through a FOIA request, Sulikowski and his team flew in spotter planes for 54.25 hours between August and October 2011, searching for schools of menhaden from their perch at 1,000 ft. (Menhaden schooling tightly look like reddish-brown patches when seen from above).

Sulikowski split the ocean between Long Island and Portland into three sections.

Region 1 encompassed the waters between Long Island and southern Rhode Island (an area that is well within the range of the New Jersey-centered bait fishery), and Sulikowski estimated that he found 16 million pounds of fish in 13 hours of flying.

In Region 2, from Rhode Island to Boston, he found 580,000 pounds of fish in nearly 15 hours of flight time.

Most striking, however, was that Sulikowski found just 550,000 pounds of fish after flying more than 26 hours in Region 3, between Boston and Maine.

For a commercial fishery that catches over 700 times that amount annually, this suggests that a miniscule amount of fish swim beyond of the range of commercial netters.

But data from this survey is preliminary at best. In an interview in December, Sulikowski told the Public Trust Project that his research would have to continue for a period of years before it would be statistically significant.

Nevertheless, Sulikowski and Butterworth prepared a presentation to the panel of government scientists, formally known as the Technical Committee, on June 25th, in which they argued that that using the aerial results, dome-shaped selectivity, and a few other tweaks in the model structure, the updated stock assessment could show that the overall menhaden stock is at least twice as large as the current stock assessment projects.

"If the Sulikowski study was more completely developed and peer reviewed, and had gone on over a period of years, they could make an argument that there are a lot of big fish in the population that are not being caught by the reduction fishery. Then you might use that as an argument for dome selectivity," says Jud Crawford, the Science and Policy Manager for the Northeast Fisheries Program at the Pew Environment Group.

Emails obtained by the Public Trust Project suggest that Omega Protein executives know just how important dome-shaped selectivity is to the outcome of the stock assessment.

In an email dated April 23rd 2012, Ben Landry, Omega Protein's Public Affairs director, wrote to Jack Travelstead, head of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), who represents Virginia on the ASMFC.

Landry's email cited a response he received from ASFMC officials Louis Daniel and Bob Beale laying out the ASFMC's "existing and inflexible assessment process . . . for 'turn of the crank' assessments."

Landry wrote that there was a chance to influence the "the model's aging selectivity and the possibility for adjusting the dome, but we'll need to push extra hard for this to be conducted for this assessment. If they wait 3 years until the benchmark assessment, the menhaden fishery could potentially be already significantly damaged by harvest cuts and the doming selectivity at that point would be 'too little, too late.'"

Other recipients of the email included Rob O'Reilly, the head of fishery management at VMRC, and Joe Grist, a VMRC fishery management officer and scientist.

Landry's email suggests strongly that Omega Protein is actively lobbying for dome-shaped selectivity, anticipating that it could change the picture of the stock provided to the ASFMC. He also indicates that the industry's interest in "doming selectivity" is not based on improving the existing

science, but on influencing the model to affect the company's bottom line.

Jack Travelstead, the highest-ranking marine fisheries official in the state of Virginia, responded to Landry's email the same day. His answer suggested a willingness to lobby on Omega's behalf. He even volunteers the services of one of his staff members.

"Ben, I suspect this might be an uphill battle, especially if the Board digs its heels in, based simply on past protocol....," Travelstead wrote. "Joe Grist will pursue furthering this along with the TC [Technical Committee], and I will certainly raise the issue at the Board meeting."

In a phone interview, Landry defended his decision to discuss dome-shaped selectivity with Jack Travelstead.

"The peer reviewers from the previous stock assessment were the first to urge the stock assessment subcommittee to look at different types of selectivity curves. That idea didn't come on our radar until the peer reviewers put that forward," he said. "For us to remain a viable company, to pay our bills, not to turn away tons of employees and put them on the streets, we have to do what we can to make sure that northern range is counted in the assessment."

When asked for comment on his email, Travelstead responded, "As with all science, we want it to be fully vetted by the [Technical Committee] to make sure that it is considered. I suspect, down the road, it will be looked at when further stock assessments are done. My impression is it's not quite ready for prime time, but could be more fully vetted when another benchmark assessment is done."

As for the appearance that Travelstead was willing to lobby on Omega Protein's behalf, Travelstead said, "Omega Protein is one of our constituents. We get advice from all number and manner of stakeholders. We use all of those comments to formulate all of those opinions. I think that's the standard. We try to assist our stakeholders when we can, and when we don't agree, then we can't. All we're about is making sure all of the available science is fully considered by the Technical folks, and then what happens with it beyond that point is up to the TC."

In the intervening months since that email exchange, "dome-shaped selectivity" has gained traction with some Technical Committee scientists.

Erik Williams, a senior stock assessment scientist with the National Marine Fisheries Service, has supported analysis of dome-shaped selectivity in the updated assessment.

"I suspect at a minimum we'll be investigating it to see whether we have enough data to support a particular configuration of dome shaped selectivity as a base run. What worries me is what information we're going to base the dome shaped selectivity on," Williams told the Public Trust Project in a phone interview.

Omega Protein, by advocating dome-shaped selectivity, is pursuing its commercial interests through political intervention in what is supposed to be an objective process. But is it scientifically valid to include dome-shaped selectivity in the stock assessment?

A research fisheries biologist at NMFS, who has led multiple stock assessments, says that dome-shaped selectivity is often used without justification. He declined to be identified.

"We're often looking for a mechanistic reason [to use dome-shaped selectivity]," the biologist said. "It needs to biologically make sense. There needs to be a reason why the older fish are not showing up. My personal opinion is that dome shaped selectivity gets thrown around out there when there aren't mechanistic reasons for using it."

It remains to be seen whether the Menhaden Technical Committee and the ASMFC will support the inclusion of Sulikowski's data and Butterworth's edits to the model.

What we do know is that Omega Protein is pushing hard to affect the scientific process. And it may be getting unwitting help from Virginia's taxpayers.

## **Bullard Named Northeast Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries**

NOAA, 7/2/2012

*The following statement was sent to NOAA staff by Samuel Rauch, Deputy Assistant Administrator for NOAA's Fisheries Service.*

Today, I am pleased to announce that John K. Bullard, immediate past president of Sea Education Association, former mayor of New Bedford, Mass., and former director of NOAA's Office of Sustainable Development, has been named the Northeast

Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. He will assume his new duties on August 6.

Mr. Bullard will head the agency's regional office in Gloucester, Mass., which works with coastal states from North Carolina to Maine, two fishery management councils, the fishing industry and other stakeholders to manage federal commercial and recreational fisheries, marine mammals, habitat, and much more. He will also oversee critical aspects of international fisheries conservation and management in the region.

His appointment will bring a renewed spirit and forward momentum to the Northeast Regional Office as he strives to balance NOAA's multiple missions in a historically-significant and dynamic region. Mr. Bullard has the right leadership skills and experience for the job. His long history of bringing people with diverse perspectives together to reach common goals will serve him well in his new position. His efforts will continue to strengthen NOAA's partnerships with fishing communities as we work together to build an economically vibrant and sustainable future.

Please join me in wishing Mr. Bullard well in his new position and in thanking Mr. Dan Morris for a job well done in his tenure as acting regional administrator since January 2012.

Samuel D. Rauch III

## Membership Report

*By John Toth*

Many clubs have paid their 2012 JCAA membership dues. 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](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net)

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

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### JCAA FLUKE TOURNAMENT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the JCAA membership volunteers, contestants, sponsors, and merchants that supported the JCAA Fluke Tournament. Funds from the Fluke Tournament help provide needed drug awareness literature, fishing equipment for disadvantaged youths, and aquatic education materials to promote environmental stewardship. The JCAA Youth Education/Drug Awareness program continues to grow and each year we teach children and their families the joys of fishing. Our youth fishing program is highly recognized by the State of New Jersey and we support other state programs by demonstrating the use of partnership materials such as, the Future Fisherman Foundation's "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" program, National Fishing and Boating Week, and "Passport to Fishing and Boating." During the months of June, July and August, the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee provided fishing instruction and materials to several hundred families in Monmouth and Ocean County. Members of the JCAA Youth Education Committee and Vietnam Veterans of America, NJ Chapter 12, presented a fishing program for children attending the Monmouth County ARC during National Fishing and Boating Week. Children learned how to safely fish from a boat, prepare for a boat trip, and how to properly adjust a life vest. Children also learned about National Fishing and Boating Week and how to take advantage of the many fishing and boating opportunities throughout New Jersey. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee supported this worthwhile event by providing "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" and "Passport to Fishing and Boating" packets for all the youngsters. If your fishing club or organization would like information about JCAA's youth education seminars, please e-mail, [Gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:Gkucharews@aol.com) and if time allows we will help support your event.

### HOFNOD PRESENTATION

The JCAA Youth Education Committee presented two HOFNOD programs entitled "Fun

Jersey Shore Jobs” for students attending the Privet Industry Council program at T.H.E. Technologies located in Toms River, New Jersey. Students from Toms River North and South High Schools learned how volunteering to keep our environment clean would help them find a fun summer job that could lead to full-time employment.

High school students were encouraged to use fishing/boating and other related water sports as an alternative to drugs, alcohol, gangs, and violence. They also learned how to start a high school fishing club and how fishing/boating can be a great way to relax with family and friends. Students received “Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs” materials and books to learn about surf fishing.

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](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com) and place HOFNOD in the subject line.

### **2012 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD**

It takes the support of many volunteers to bring successes to the fishing community but sometimes individuals and sport-fishing organizations go above and beyond to make the future of fishing better for our youngsters. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is accepting nominations for the 2012 Youth Education Award. Please submit your nominations by October 2012. Submit your nominations in writing at the JCAA monthly meeting or email the JCAA Youth Education Committee, [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com).

### **NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM**

Campers attending the National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) at the University of Toledo enjoyed learning to fish at Olander Park. Approximately 75 children, ages 10 to 14, participated in a three-day fishing workshop that featured aquatic education classes, freshwater fishing, nature hikes, and classroom instruction that supported aquatic education and the Future Fisherman Foundation’s “Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs” (HOFNOD) programs. Volunteers from the Merickel-Farley Trout Club donated funds to purchase prizes and support material from HOFNOD’s program. The Merickel-Farley Trout Club, family members and friends spent many hours at Olander Park teaching children casting and angling basics. We thank the Merickel-Farley Trout

Club and friends for supporting this event and giving the gift of time to make the event a success. Neighborhood children were grouped together to create fishing buddies so youngsters could fish with each other for the remainder of the summer.

### **SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT IBSP**

Get ready to enter the largest surf-fishing tournament along the Jersey Shore. The Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament will be **Sunday, October 7, 2012**. Don’t miss a day of family fun! Pick up a brochure about the tournament at Island Beach State Park or at your favorite tackle dealer. The contest is reasonably priced. Register early and save. For information about disabled access and surf fishing beach chair reservations, please phone Greg Kucharewski, 732-785-9278 (leave message & phone #). The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice anglers at the Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament and this will require extra volunteer hours from member clubs in JCAA. If members in your fishing club would like to help others learn the joy of surf fishing, please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail [Gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:Gkucharews@aol.com) and place IBSP in the subject line. Help is needed to provide assistance for disabled anglers, youth anglers, and novice anglers. We also need judges with 4X4 vehicles. This is a fun day. Come out and share your surf fishing expertise and help cast a line of caring.

Veteran anglers think about donating some of your time to teach children the joy of fishing. If you can help, please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com).

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

Save the dates.

- The New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Children’s Surf Fishing Tournament, at Island Beach State Park, Saturday, **September 8, 2012**. Registration is FREE for all children age 16 and under. For more information contact Tim Burden or visit [this link](#).
- NJ Wild Outdoor Expo, **September 15 & 16, 2012** at Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area, Jackson, NJ. For more information visit [this link](#).
- 39<sup>th</sup> National Hunting and Fishing Day, **September 22, 2012**. The fun will start with coffee and donuts at 8:00 AM in the A21 parking lot. After donuts we will take the children onto the beach for some fishing and a hot dog lunch around



noon. If you have never participated in this event this is your chance to come out and help these very special kids have a great time and hopefully catch some fish. We can use all the help we can get and it truly is a great feeling to fish with these boys and girls. Come spend the day on the beach and help to brighten someone's day. For more information contact: Reb Gilliland (reb@rebrods.com) & Angel Prouty ([prouty5@comcast.net](mailto:prouty5@comcast.net)).

## **SHARE THE FUN TAKE SOMEONE FISHING**