

# JCAA NEWSPAPER FEBRUARY 2013

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*  
(Published on January 21th, 2013)

**Monthly Meeting at Jersey Coast Shark Anglers, 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick**  
**"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"**

**JCAA REGULAR MEETING:**  
**Tuesday, January 29th, 2013**  
**Starting at 7:30 PM**  
**At 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick**  
**NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING**  
**Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office**

## IMPORTANT DATES

**January 29<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting at the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers clubhouse  
**February 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>** Atlantic City International Power Boat Show  
**February 14<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting  
**February 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>** ASMFC Winter Meeting Week  
**February 26<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting at the JCAA Office or Brick Civic Plaza  
**March 14<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting  
**March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>** Saltwater Expo  
**March 26<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting  
**April 14<sup>th</sup>** Sportsman of the year dinner  
**May 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>** Managing Our Nation's Fisheries Conference  
**August 24<sup>th</sup>** JCAA 19<sup>th</sup> Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament  
**September 6<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony at Golden Nugget AC

## 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	732-656-0139
<b>Tournament Dir.</b>	Paul Turi	609-660-2126

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## President's Report

*By Joseph Puntasecca*

Our December 18<sup>th</sup> General Meeting was canceled, therefore elections were not held. The election of JCAA Officers will be held at the January 29th General Meeting. The January meeting will be held at the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers clubhouse. If you are interested in becoming a JCAA officer, you need to contact Mark Taylor at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com) or the JCAA office. We are looking for dedicated individuals to get more involved. Each member club should have their delegates present at the January Meeting to be involved in the process of electing the new officers for 2013.

The show season is now upon us. JCAA is still looking for volunteers to staff the booths. With Garden State Outdoor Sports Show (Raritan Show)

January 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> completed, I would like to thank those that volunteered their time. There are three shows and one seminar that we will be attending the rest of the show season. There is the Atlantic City International Power Boat Show February 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, The Saltwater Fishing Expo March 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> (Somerset Show). Make sure to mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. If anyone is interested right now in volunteering, please contact Mark Taylor at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com). This is where we interact with people who do not belong to any clubs and are misinformed on issues. It is a great experience to meet many different people who enjoy something you love to do.

For those of you who took advantage of giving a contribution to non-profit or charitable organizations that support fishing or anglers, I thank you. Your contribution will be utilized to support and protect the rights of all anglers who fish in New Jersey.

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

Just a quick reminder, don't forget our 2012 Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner is coming up on **April 14, 2013**. We had to postpone this great event due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy. We look forward to seeing everyone at Crystal Point in April!

### **Federal Disaster Relief for Recreational Anglers**

If you can't fish because your marina, favorite fishing access point, or dock has been damaged by the storm, please email Chris Zeman. He will be writing NOAA and the Mid-Atlantic Council to obtain federal disaster aid for the recreational fishing industry and is looking for the help of NJ's recreational anglers. Chris is looking for specific details of the infrastructure damage that has occurred. Please e-mail Chris at [chrisze@optonline.net](mailto:chrisze@optonline.net) with details of how your fishing efforts are affected by Hurricane Sandy with one or two paragraphs, include location or locations and a couple of pictures. And put 'Sandy's fishing related damage' in the subject and also include your name and hometown.

### **NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program / NJ Volunteer Angler Survey**

Don't forget to register or re-register with the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program for 2013. You can register or renew your registration for 2013 by going to: [www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov](http://www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov).

If you do go fishing please consider filling out the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey to help the Bureau of Marine Fisheries better manage our resources by going to [this link](#).

You can also check regulations changes, get current advisories, check launch ramp and park locations, report violations, as well as fill out the NJ Voluntary Angler Survey now on your smartphone or tablet with the new Official NJ Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife [application!](#)

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### **REMINDER**

FEMA is operating out of the Brick Civic Plaza. Our January General Meeting will be held at the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers, 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick. We hope to be back to normal and return to the Brick Civic Plaza for our February meeting.

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

### **Fisheries Disaster Fund**

Congressman Pallone will be attending the January 29<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting which will be held at the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers Building at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick. He will update us on the legislative agenda for this Congress and give us more information about the loss of money from the Fisheries Disaster Fund. If all of this money had been included in the Hurricane Sandy funding, it would not have required a dollar for dollar match for deficit reduction. Once the money was removed from the original funding, it became much more difficult to get any additional money for fisheries. It amazes me that some of the "talking heads" on news programs suggested this was Congress acting responsibly by cutting out pork. This funding clearly was not pork but an investment in our fisheries recovery that would have paid big dividends in the long run. Why do fisheries seem less important than other industries that have been impacted negatively? The 60 million anglers in the United States should be banging down the doors of the House of Representatives Republicans to let them know that we are tired of being treated as second-class citizens. Because of the huge donations from industries like oil, even the most fiscally conservative representatives have no trouble voting for exorbitant

tax breaks and investments. It seems as though small business and family-run operations count for less than the large corporations. The commercial and recreational fishing industry has been devastated by the economic downturn, the rise in gas prices and now hurricanes and other natural disasters. We are an easy scapegoat since we don't have powerful lobbyists and fat wallets.

### **Pots Off the Reefs**

There is talk of a compromise coming from the Governor's Office on getting the pots off the reefs and restoring the use of the Sport Fish Restoration Program (Wallop-Breaux Act) funds for the Artificial Reef Program. We are still waiting for the details as we go to press. The position voted on by our clubs has been no compromise and all pots must be removed from the reefs. We also feel this needs to be done by legislation rather than regulation because of the pro-commercial bias of the NJ Marine Fisheries Council. We have been down this road before and watched the Council veto or change regulations like this at the last minute as a delaying tactic. JCAA will have to see the proposal and decide if we want to vote on it. Unless there is a vote our position remains no compromise. I have been away but I will meet with the NJ Federation of Sportsmens Clubs and the NJ Outdoor Alliance before our January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Bad Bills A-2762 and A-3376 heard in Committee**

A-2762 sponsored by Assemblymen Amodeo and Albano transfers the Division of Fish and Wildlife and related entities to the Department of Agriculture. A-3376 sponsored by Assemblyman Dancer transfers New Jersey State Forestry Services and related entities to the Department of Agriculture. These bills were given an information hearing at the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. JCAA testified against these bills as it has for similar bills for over thirty years. Our testimony is below.

Over 20 years ago, JCAA supported creating a Department of the Green. It would have moved all the agencies that manage resource for the public good under a cabinet position that would have equal authority with DEP and Agriculture. It makes no sense to move these agencies under the Department of Agriculture since their staff and budget is minuscule compared to the Division of Fish and

Wildlife. The Department of Agriculture has a different mandate than Green Acres, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Forestry and other branches that manage public resources for the general public. We think that the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee should focus its attention on how to properly fund the Bureau of Marine Fisheries. This committee as well as previous legislative committees, legislators and governors have failed to fund the management of NJ marine resources. This has been true in both bad and good economic times. In the last couple of years it has even gotten worse. We have the support of many other organizations in opposing these bills.

### **JCAA Press Release on Bill A 2672**

Press Release  
January 17, 2013

JCAA cannot support Bill A 2672 that would place the Division of Fish and Wildlife under the Department of Agriculture. This bill has been pushed by commercial fishermen for the last 30 years because of their strong influence on the county agricultural boards. Many times in the last 30 years, the agricultural boards have testified against bills supported by the recreational fishing industry. The Department of Agriculture has also, on occasion, testified in opposition to bills that are supported by the recreational fishing industry. The recreational fishing industry has a greater economic value to New Jersey than the commercial fishing industry. However, in 32 years, the Department of Agriculture has made no positive contributions to the recreational fishing industry. Quite the contrary, their actions are sometimes detrimental to recreational interests.

There are many other reasons for opposing this move. JCAA and the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs have testified opposing the move many times. First, the Division of Fish and Wildlife manages a public resource for the entire public. The Department of Agriculture is interested in commercializing the public resource. Second, when you look at the budget and personnel of the Department of Agriculture, there is much more money in the budget and many more personnel. The difference is so great it is impossible to compare the two. Third, the Department of Agriculture has no history or experience in dealing with fisheries

issues and is often adversarial to the needs and the requests of the recreational fishing community.

If this bill actually comes before the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, JCAA and other organizations will provide a more detailed set of objections dealing with the hunting issues and land management about this change. JCAA also opposes Bill 3376 moving the Department of Forestry into the Department of Agriculture. Again, the Department of Forestry manages the forests of New Jersey for the benefit of all citizens. Moving it to the Department of Agriculture could well result in commercializing the forests.

Thank you for not voting on this bill today but using this time to gather information. We should not waste your time on legislation that has no support from the 1.3 million recreational anglers in New Jersey and the hundreds of thousands of hunters and freshwater anglers. Instead of discussing transferring the DF&W, we ask you to spend your time to come up with a way to properly fund the Bureau of Marine Fisheries. The Governor and Legislature has never appropriated the necessary funds in good and bad economic times to manage the NJ Marine Resource. The commercial and recreational fishing industry has suffered the consequences of this failure.

### **No Excuses for Decimating Environmental Regulations**

Sandy had a devastating impact on NJ and its citizens. Many JCAA members lost boats and incurred damage to their homes, cars and other properties. The businesses that rely on commercial and recreational fishing are in serious economic trouble. The federal and state governments need to work together to provide the resources necessary to get people back in their homes and businesses up and running. NJ's Legislature and Governor need to work in a bipartisan effort to accomplish this. What should not happen is that Sandy is used to circumvent, gut or change a lot of important environmental laws and regulations. There are people who will use a disaster like Sandy to their own benefit. They are always looking for an excuse to bypass environmental regulations that we fought to put in place. They look for personal financial gain and neglect the long-term impact. JCAA will be keeping a watchful eye with other groups to make sure that does not happen.

### **ASMFC Winter Meeting Week**

It always scares me when I look at the agenda for an ASMFC meeting week and realize that they have only scheduled a short amount of time for some of the most important meetings. This is especially true when they schedule only 3 days for the winter meeting. What usually happens is that we can't keep to the schedule, the meetings last longer than called for and as people get tired, good decisions are less likely.

### **ASMFC 2013 Winter Meeting Preliminary Agenda**

February 19-21, 2013, Alexandria, VA

#### **Tuesday, February 19, 2013**

9:30 a.m. – noon American Lobster Management Board  
1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Atlantic Herring Section  
2:45 – 4:15 p.m. Shad & River Herring Management Board  
4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Sturgeon Management Board

#### **Wednesday, February 20, 2013**

8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Atlantic Menhaden Management Board  
10:45 – 11:45 a.m. Winter Flounder Management Board  
12:45 – 2:15 p.m. American Eel Management Board  
2:30 – 5:30 p.m. ISFMP Policy Board

#### **Thursday, February 21, 2013**

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Executive Committee (Closed Session)  
9:15 – 11:15 a.m. Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board  
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Management Board  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Board (NEAMAP)  
1:00 – 1:30 p.m. ISFMP Policy Board  
1:30 – 2:00 p.m. Business Session

### **Managing Our Nation's Fisheries Conference**

May 7-9, 2013, Washington D.C.

The third Managing Our Nation's Fisheries conference will be held May 7-9, 2013 in Washington, D.C., with a welcome reception on the

evening of May 6. The conference is convened by the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils and hosted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

This conference follows up on the highly successful Managing Our Nation's Fisheries conferences held in 2003 and 2005. Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3 will focus on how concepts, policies, and practice of fishery sustainability can be advanced to a higher level. Sessions will be of interest to members of the public, fishery participants, environmental advocates, fishery scientists and managers, policymakers, legislators, and journalists.

The discussion will address Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization issues, as well as adjustments to current management that do not require legislation to implement. The conference will provide a forum for information exchange and an opportunity to hear a wide range of perspectives on the sustainability of fish stocks and ecosystem functions, and the fishing communities that depend on them.

To get more information on this conference, use this link, <http://www.managingfisheries.org>.

**SIGN UP FOR  
JCAA ALERTS At  
[www.JCAA.org](http://www.JCAA.org)**

**The NJ DEP has announced the availability of a mobile application designed to provide information and technology to guide and enhance users' hunting, fishing and wildlife watching experiences in New Jersey**

jaymanntoday, January 15, 2013

The free Pocket Ranger(r) New Jersey Fish and Wildlife application is a cutting-edge mobile app that provides on-the-spot information on the state's fish and wildlife species along with extensive information on access points for hunting, fishing, boating and wildlife watching on all of New Jersey's wildlife management areas, state parks and forests, and other public open spaces.

The application has powerful GPS capabilities including a Friend Finder feature that allows users to keep track of the location of friends and family enjoying the outdoors together. As an added safety utility, Pocket Ranger has an alert feature that notifies select contacts of your GPS coordinates in the event of an emergency.

For more information about the application, see the DEP news release at [this page](#) which has a link to download the app.

**REVISED: New Report Highlights Recreational Fishing's Broad Economic and Conservation Impact**

ASA Press Release, January 10, 2013

Contact: Mary Jane Williamson,  
[mjwilliamson@asafishing.org](mailto:mjwilliamson@asafishing.org)

*Anglers' expenditures have a significant impact on the nation's economy*

**Alexandria, VA – January 10, 2013 -** Recreational fishing is more than just a pleasant getaway for millions of Americans. As an industry, it provides a living for countless people in businesses ranging from fishing tackle and boating manufacturing to travel and hospitality to publications, magazines and much more. As reported in [Sportfishing in America: An Economic Force for Conservation](#), a new fishing statistics report produced by the American Sportfishing Association (ASA), the trade association that represents the sportfishing industry, the number of anglers increased 11 percent over the past five years and fishing tackle sales grew more than 16 percent.



When expenditures are multiplied by our nation's 60 million anglers, their dollars have a significant impact on our nation's economy.

*Sportfishing in America: An Economic Force for Conservation* highlights how recreational fishing not only endures as an activity that permeates all social and economic aspects of Americans' lives, but also plays a significant role in the country's most successful fisheries conservation efforts.

"As an industry, we are keenly aware of the impact that sportfishing has on this nation's economy," said ASA President and CEO Mike Nussman. "Just by enjoying a day on the water, men, women and children across the United States pump billions of dollars into this country's economy.

Nussman further said, "And it's not just the economy. In many ways, America's anglers are the nation's most powerful force for conserving our nation's fisheries and waters, investing more than \$1 billion dollars each year in fisheries management and conservation through taxes on fishing equipment and state fishing license sales."

According to the new study, America's nearly 60 million anglers are estimated to spend \$48 billion per year on fishing equipment, transportation, lodging and other expenses associated with their sport. With a total annual economic impact of \$115 billion, fishing supports more than 828,000 jobs and generates \$35 billion in wages and \$15 billion in federal and state taxes. Despite the economic difficulties facing the U.S. economy over the past five years; the total amount spent on sportfishing, which encompasses tackle, travel and other equipment, grew five percent.

A number of reports strongly indicate that fishing is identified by American families as one of the best ways to spend quality time together. According to the National Sporting Goods Association, fishing as a leisure-time activity ranks higher than playing basketball or softball, skateboarding, jogging or hiking.

"Despite the uncertain economic conditions that beset all Americas, or because of it, anglers continue to fish and spend even more time outdoors," said ASA Vice President Gordon Robertson. "A growing interest in the outdoors helped fuel the growth in angler numbers which we believe will create even more momentum in fishing participation and sales in 2013 and beyond."

Substantially more than any other groups, anglers support the nation's conservation efforts

through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund Program. Special taxes on fishing gear and motorboat fuel channel more than \$1 billion of anglers' dollars to state fish and wildlife conservation and recreation programs each year.

ASA's new analysis is based on data from the *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, conducted every five years on behalf of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies by the Census Bureau and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. [\*Sportfishing in America\*](#) was compiled for ASA by Southwick Associates, Fernandina Beach, Fla.

#### Facts about Recreational Fishing

- There are approximately 60 million anglers in the U.S. of which 46 million are estimated to fish in a given year.
- One of every four anglers fishes in saltwater.
- Fishing tackle sales grew over 16 percent in the past five years.
- Since 2006, angler numbers grew 11 percent.
- More Americans fish than play golf (21 million) and tennis (13 million) combined.
- If fishing were a company, the amount spent by anglers to support fishing-related retail sales would rank number 51 on the Fortune 500™ list.
- Fishing generated more revenue (\$48 billion) than Lockheed Martin (\$47 billion), Intel (\$44 billion), Chrysler (\$42 billion) or Google (\$38 billion).
- The economic activity generated by sportfishing is greater than the economy, measured in Gross State Product, of 17 states.
- At more than 46 million anglers, more than twice the number of people fished in 2011 than attended every NFL game combined.

### **American Fisheries Society urges President Obama to address Climate Change – and Offers Support**

AFS Press Release, January 2013

Contact: Sarah Fox

Bethesda, January 2013: In a letter written this month to President Obama, the American Fisheries Society (AFS) President John Boreman congratulated Obama for winning the 2012 presidential election, and for mentioning the need to

address climate change in his acceptance speech. AFS urges the Administration to use science-based information to make climate change a priority for the nation. The AFS recently adopted a 43 page [document](#) on Climate Change Policy that emphasizes the following:

- No delay in emission reductions.
- Encourage economic mitigation options that indirectly or directly assist with water conservation practices and watershed protection.
- Integrate efforts to manage both fish and wildlife habitat.
- Restore historic hydrologic regimes that facilitate historic fish dispersal patterns.
- Encourage education efforts aimed at federal and state agencies and the private sector about the general effects of climate change to our aquatic ecosystems.
- Encourage implementation of national, regional, and local monitoring programs to evaluate the effects of climate change in fisheries.
- Encourage management and research activities that reduce ecosystem stressors.
- Encourage research activities to characterize climate effects in marine, arctic, and freshwater systems.

Support provisions of dedicated funding for climate legislation that would provide for conservation of fish, water, and terrestrial and infrastructure resources affected by climate change.

The letter urged the Administration to continue to support science, address the realities of global warming, and further expand efforts to move a clean energy economy forward in the United States—and ended with an offer to help: “As fisheries scientists and also concerned citizens, we offer our assistance in helping you redirect the Nation from a carbon-based consumptive economy to a more sustainable one.”

## Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner

*By Paul Turi*

Due to Hurricane Sandy we will be holding our 2012 sportsperson of the year dinner on Sunday, April 14th, 2013 at the Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. At that time we will be honoring JCAA’s 2012 sportsperson of the year, **Tim Burden**. Tickets are \$75 each and \$600 for a table of 10. Many clubs

have already reserved their tables for the dinner. If you need a ticket or need to reserve a table, please contact Dan Miller at (609) 641-7821 or by email at [blueangray@comcast.net](mailto:blueangray@comcast.net). Dan will be happy to reserve a table for you or your club. There will be a cocktail hour with an open cash bar and a full course dinner following the cocktail hour.

I am in need of door prizes, Chinese Auction and Silent Auction prizes. If you or your club can donate a prize, please contact me at (609) 709-9215 or by email at [pturi6@comcast.net](mailto:pturi6@comcast.net). No donation is too small. I can always combine two or three prizes together to make a nice gift package.

I would also suggest that club members contact their local bait and tackle shops that they buy their supplies from year after year and ask for a donation. This is an important fundraiser for Jersey Coast and any monies realized from the event go towards the operation of Jersey Coast and allows us to continue the work that we do for the recreational angler year after year.

## Sandy Fisheries Aid Update

*By Chris Zeman*

Last week, the House passed a Sandy appropriations bill that provides \$50.7 billion in disaster aid for states affected by Hurricane Sandy. The House bill includes \$5 million in funding for declared fishery disasters in New York and New Jersey. The paltry \$5 million does not come close to funding the needs of New Jersey’s recreational fisheries. Unfortunately, New Jersey congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen did not include the \$150 million in fisheries disaster funding that was in the expired December 2012 Senate appropriations bill. I appreciate all the efforts by recreational groups and individuals weighing in with their New Jersey delegation in support of increased funding. Unfortunately, the House did not allow considerations of amendments by Rep. Pallone or Rep. Tierney to restore funding.

The approved House bill now goes to the Senate, which can make amendments to the House bill. That can lead to further delay in getting funding to affected states, so it is unlikely that the Senate will propose its own bill. I expect the Senate will just forward the House bill unchanged to the President for signature.

Fortunately, the fishery disaster funds are not the only funds available for fishery-related businesses. The House bill includes \$17 billion in Community Development Funding for necessary expenses related to restoration of infrastructure, housing and economic revitalization in hard-hit communities. HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs) were the major source of disaster funding for Hurricane Katrina. The bill requires that a minimum of \$6 billion is made available to municipalities within 60 days after the President signs this bill into law. It is unclear how competitive this process will be, but with the widespread damage, you should assume that it will be a very competitive process – so get involved now so you are the first in line, and not at the end of the line.

There is presently no process set up for applying for CBDG grants. So follow this closely and contact your local, state and federal representatives NOW to let them know your fishery-related business is in need of grants and to find out what you need to do to apply for CBDG grants for your business.

For more information about CDBG Disaster Recovery Assistance, go to [this link](#).

## Comments on Recent Menhaden Meeting

*By John Toth*

The following is more of a ‘**Behind The Scenes**’ comments on my attending the ASMFC meeting in Baltimore that ended up placing restrictions for the first time on menhaden stocks.

I went with Captain Paul Eidman (Menhaden Defenders) to attend the December 13th meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) that was held in Baltimore to review public comments that were received on their Draft Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. The agenda included public comments that were received on this plan and also to possibly approve of a plan to restrict the catch of menhaden.

I was expecting about 30 anglers or so to show up at this meeting. I was surprised to see about **300 people or more** show up at this meeting from various organizations that included fishing clubs and

environmental organizations. I was also glad to see at this meeting **Bruce Franklin** who wrote the book “**Menhaden - The Most Important Fish in The Sea.**” Bruce has led a one-man crusade for a number of years trying to get some restrictions on menhaden stocks. Over the years, he emailed me summaries of his meetings in Washington with various politicians with little or no success. At times, I felt that Bruce was the proverbial man charging at windmills and he would never knock them down. But this day was going to turn out different for him and also for all of us.

The meeting started off with a review of public comments that were received concerning ASMFC’S Draft Amendment 2. The ASMFC received **128,333 letters, faxes or emails** from fishing clubs, concerned anglers or environmental organizations that it should do something to help menhaden stocks to recover! That is a **huge amount** of outpouring concern over menhaden stocks **that cannot be ignored** by any organization! However, an ASMFC member from New York even tried to downplay these numbers by saying he called some of the people who sent these letters and they did not understand what they were talking about. But not all 128,333 people can be wrong!

The real culprit here in reducing menhaden stocks is the Omega industry based in Virginia that uses spotter planes and huge vessels to land this fishery. The Omega industry sent up **two busloads of their employees** wearing their company shirts to this meeting to impress the Commissioners of the importance of the Omega industry. Most of these employees are minorities and the commissioner from Virginia made the argument that Omega is one of the biggest employers of minorities and if restrictions on menhaden are made, these minorities will be out of work. In addition to this race card argument, he and other commissioners in sympathy with Omega challenged ASMFC’S statistics and often made procedural challenges to derail any movement to change the status quo.

I will not go into detail about the proceedings of this almost all-day meeting since it was somewhat exasperating at times with numerous motions, amendments and counter-amendments and often with many petty procedural issues. Suffice it to say that the Omega people did all that they could to block any motion that would place restrictions on their catch of menhaden. In the end, the ASMFC approved a **20% reduction** in bunker harvest



beginning in **2013**, with a 178,000 metric ton total allowable catch (TAC). **What is important here is that it takes place in 2013, not 2019 or some distant time frame.** Also, the plan allocates the total allowable catch on a **state-by- state basis** based on landing history of the fishery from 2009-2011. If the allocation of bunker were coast-wide, Omega would come ahead since their catch would be averaged in with other states that are depleted of bunker like Maine. States will have to close their menhaden fisheries when they exceed their state-specific total allowable catch. Any overages must be paid back from the following year quota.

This has been one hard battle and at times I did not think we would have success. This time, Bruce Franklin, Menhaden Defenders, and all of us who have been engaged in this battle, finally knocked the windmill down! All too often we go to these types of meetings with little to no success and we walk away from them frustrated and angry. But not this time thanks to all of you JCAA member clubs who sent in those emails, faxes and letters to the ASMFC...**This day also belongs to you!**

## JCAA Supports SMZ Status for Delaware's Artificial Reefs

*By Paul Haertel*

On 1/17/13 the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council with the assistance of the New Jersey Bureau of Marine Fisheries sponsored a hearing in Toms River concerning Delaware's artificial reef program. Several proposals are being considered that range from status quo to designating all five of Delaware's reefs as special management zones.

While some might believe that this issue has little to do with New Jersey, the decision rendered will most likely have a significant impact for those who fish our reefs. There is a strong likelihood that the MAFMC will make similar decisions when New Jersey's reefs are eventually discussed. Additionally, we felt compelled to speak on behalf of our fellow anglers in Delaware and the recreational fishermen from the southern part of our state who utilize Delaware's reefs.

Attendance at the meeting was not as large as it would have been if the meeting was about New Jersey's reefs. In fact, only three commercial

fishermen were present and they spoke against SMZ status. However, recreational fishermen were well represented by various prominent fishing and diving groups. In addition to the JCAA, Reef Rescue, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs, Recreational Fishing Alliance, and a number of representatives from various other recreational fishing groups all spoke in favor of the following options:

- 2a.** Designate reef sites 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 as SMZ (i.e., all five reef sites)
- 3b.** Restrict fishing activities in designated SMZ sites to hook & line and spear fishing gear only. (A request to also allow hand fishing as well for lobsters is going to be looked into)
- 4b.** Designate SMZs year round
- 5c.** 500 meter buffer (equivalent to 0.25 nautical miles)

Written comments on Delaware's request for SMZ status for their reefs must be submitted by 1/29/13. They may be mailed to Chris Moore, PH. D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State St., Suite 201, Dover, DE. 19901. (Write "SMZ Comments" on the envelope)

Comments may also be submitted via email, [cmoore@mafmc.org](mailto:cmoore@mafmc.org) or faxed to (302) 674-5399. Be sure to write "SMZ Comments" on the subject line.

## Membership Report

*By John Toth*

I have already received **2013** membership dues from the **South Jersey Saltwater Anglers** and the **Newark Bait and Flycasting clubs**. I will be sending out invoices for 2013 club membership dues in the near future. Please return these invoices not only with your check, but also fill out the form that requests the names of your new club officers. It is also important to provide the name of your club's treasurer so that we can contact that person if there is a problem with your payment.

If you think your club has not paid its **2012 dues**, please check with your club's treasurer to see if the check for the dues has been sent to us.

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 of the JCAA!

## Show Time

By Mark Taylor

With another good year coming to an end and Fishermen getting their last shot at some last minute fishing before winterizing their boat, then a cooled winter season starts and we all start to winterize our tackle and start thinking of what we need to get for the start of the new fishing season. A few great places to get those supplies are the local tackle stores and the upcoming shows. JCAA will have a booth at a few of the shows before the fishing season starts. So stop by and talk to the volunteers that are manning the booth and get the latest JCAA Newspaper and take a chance on the High Roller Raffle and help support JCAA. By attending the shows and visiting all the booths, talking with tackle manufactures and vendors is a great way to help support all those people that make up the sport you love. Without all those people working together we will not be able to enjoy this sport in the future. Hope to see you all at the Shows. JCAA is looking for volunteers to work the booths. So if you are interested, please contact Mark Taylor at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com). JCAA is committed to the following shows for February and March:

- **Atlantic City Boat Show** on February 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>
- **NJ's Salt Water Sportsman Expo** on March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>

*If you have already volunteered, please send me an email so I don't miss anyone.*

# SHARE THE FUN TAKE SOMEONE FISHING

## Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

### FEBRUARY NEW JERSEY HOFNOD TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

If you are a member club of JCAA and would like to apply for the JCAA HOFNOD training grant, please follow the instructions: Jersey Coast Anglers Association "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" (HOFNOD) certification grants are designed to provide fees to cover HOFNOD certification in the State of New Jersey for JCAA member clubs. Funds are limited and when \$500.00 is expended for a year, the grants will cease until the following fiscal year.

Applicants should submit a letter in writing to the Jersey Coast Anglers Association that includes:

- Current date the application was submitted.
- Date funds are needed.
- Name, address, telephone & fax numbers and email address of applicants.
- Name of organization, if applicable.
- Total amount requested
- Brief description of how the HOFNOD certification/s will complement your youth fishing program.
- Your club president signature vouching that the grant will be spent as described in the request.

Fax your application to (732) 785-9278 Jersey Coast Anglers Association, Youth Education Committee.

Successful applicants will be notified within 5 working days. **Only two members from your organization can be certified per fiscal year.** You will be required to submit HOFNOD certification numbers for all successful applicants that complete their HOFNOD certification training.

Questions? Call Greg Kucharewski at (732) 785-9278 or e-mail [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com) insert HOFNOD in the subject line.

### HOFNOD WORKSHOP

(Press Release)

The Future Fisherman Foundation and the New Jersey Department of Fish and Wildlife will host a HOFNOD workshop at Cheesecake State Park at 300 Gordon Road in Matawan, N.J. The

workshop dates are Saturday, Feb. 23 and Sunday, Feb. 24. The park is conveniently located off the Garden State Parkway about 35 minutes from Newark Airport. Restaurants and lodging are available in surrounding towns.

“We are very excited to partner with the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection’s Division of Fish & Wildlife and assist them in kicking off their new Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs (HOFNOD) initiative in the state,” said F3 Executive Director Mark Gintert. “The New Jersey legislature has appropriated funding to bring HOFNOD back to life in this state, and we are thrilled to be working with Fish & Wildlife personnel to offer this training. Our Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs program is terrific for community-based youth organizations that are looking to add outdoor recreational opportunities like fishing to their programs.”

Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs is a legendary program that has been offered to thousands of children over the last 20-plus years in almost every state. Program participants are immersed in a variety of topics that include basic angling skills, freshwater and marine aquatic education, natural resource conservation and developing positive life skills. HOFNOD is designed to help youth learn about and appreciate themselves and the great outdoors while providing them with skills to better cope with life challenges and the tough choices that affect their lives.

This training opportunity is ideal for formal and non-formal educators and youth group leaders interested in using the sport of fishing to re-engage youth with the outdoors and to help them develop skills that lead to healthy lifestyle choices. The \$20 registration fee will cover all text materials and lunch on Saturday. Applicants will begin their training at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 23 by signing in at the Cheesequake training facility. Pre-registration is required as class size is limited. Applicants must register on-line at [this link](#).

For more information about F3 and its program, visit [www.futurefisherman.org](http://www.futurefisherman.org). For more information about the Cheesequake State Park facility, visit [this link](#).

### **BARNEGAT BAY PARTNERSHIP GRANT**

On January 3, 2013 we applied for the Barnegat Bay Partnership Grant. If the grant is approved we will be working with Dr. Eleanor Bochenek, Director, Fisheries Cooperative Center,

Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University. I would like to personally thank Eleanor for donating her time over the holidays to submit the grant before the deadline. The grant will be utilized to reprint two thousand books entitled: “Youth Fishing, Crabbing, and Clamming Guide to Barnegat Bay” authored by Eleanor. A number of the books will be translated to Spanish. The JCAA Youth Education Committee will distribute the books at 2013 Island Beach State Park surf fishing clinics and at the Interpretive Center along with providing books at JCAA member club HOFNOD seminars and other aquatic education venues.

### **SEND US YOUR EVENT INFORMATION**

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association’s Youth Education Committee is asking JCAA member clubs/organizations for a listing of scheduled youth and family events that are going to be held by your club or organization during 2013. The purpose of this request is to alert other fishing clubs and organizations that would like to participate in your youth and family event. The JCAA Newspaper is a way to get the word out about what’s happening in your club. Use this opportunity to inform others about events your fishing club/organization is doing to promote fishing. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association’s Youth Education Committee will support your event with “Hook On Fishing Not On Drugs” materials. Please contact Greg Kucharewski with your listing of youth and family events and don’t forget the Sportsmen Shows and include your booth location, fishing club or organization that will attend. By providing this information your fishing club or organization can improve membership and increase consumer participation.

### **HELP RESTORE THE SHORELINE**

The NJBBA has already been working on dune replenishment since their recent successful event on January 19th at Island Beach State Park. This is a great way to teach our youngsters about donating a little time to rebuild our shoreline and help communities regroup. NJBBA members and non-members having open rear bed 4x4 pickup trucks are needed to transport the trees from the bathing pavilion parking lot onto the beach and to remove debris when leaving the beach. Also needed are 4x4 vehicles capable of transporting volunteers to the clean-up and dune replenishment areas. Member and volunteers will meet at IBSP Bathing Pavilion #1 at 8:30AM on each of the scheduled

dates. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and donuts will be served in the mornings.

If you would like to volunteer, there are two more scheduled dates, February 2nd and February 16th. You can be added to the list by contacting: Tim Burden at 201-983-2300 or tb2fishon@aol.com or Paul Harris at 732-269-8878 or firstfishingpox@comcast.net . Please do not try to get into the park if your name is not on the list, you will not be allowed to enter, you will only be delaying the efforts of this project. All groups are limited to the amount of volunteers that will be allowed into the park.

We know it will be hard for families to purchase fishing equipment in the spring for their children, let alone themselves. If you know of a child that lost fishing equipment due to the storm, please contact the JCAA Youth Education Committee or help them directly. Storm victims will need time to heal and we can assist by getting people back on the water to enjoy one of our greatest gifts, the recreational water resources of the Jersey Shore. If you would like to donate fishing equipment (small freshwater and back-bay rods and reels,) please contact Greg Kucharewski, 732-785-9278.

*NOTE: The following articles were put in last month's JCAA Newspaper for two shows after we mailed out and distributed other printed copies. For those reasons we are including them in this month's newspaper*

## MAFMC Report

By Chris Zeman

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) met jointly in Baltimore on December 10-13<sup>th</sup> to set recreational measures for summer flounder, scup and black sea bass for the 2013 fishing year.

**Summer Flounder:** Wave 5 MRIP data showed that only New York and New Jersey exceeded the 2012 recreational catch quota by approximately 15%. As most other states were under their respective quotas, it is not clear whether any reduction will be necessary. The Council approved conservation equivalency and the ASMFC and individual states will determine state-specific size,

season and bag limits to control catch to not exceed the 7.63 recreational harvest limit.

**Scup:** The preliminary scup catch estimate for 2012 is 4.63 million lbs. and significantly below the 2012 recreational catch limit of 7.55 million lbs. Therefore, the Council approved less-restrictive management measures for 2013. Scup management is a hybrid of both conservation equivalency and coastwide management. For federal waters, the Council manages scup with coastwide measures and voted to recommend a reduction in the minimum fish size from 11 inches to 10 inches, an increase in the possession limit from 20 to 30 fish, and maintained the year round open season. The ASMFC voted to continue conservation equivalency in state waters and states will develop state-specific management measures for approval at the Commission's February meeting.

There was no discussion regarding the ongoing amendment to reconsider the present scup commercial and recreational allocation of 78%/22% and I will continue to monitor this amendment and provide updates later in 2013.

**Black Sea Bass:** Black sea bass was the most controversial decision as MRIP Wave 5 data reported an overage nearly double the 2012 recreational catch limit, despite restrictive measures in place in both federal and state waters. The bad news is that, under the existing management plan, overages must be accounted for and deducted from the subsequent fishing year, which would be 2014, as final catch data for 2012 will not be final until mid-2013. If required, such a deduction could mean no recreational black sea bass fishing in 2014.

The good news is that both the Council and Board view the 2012 overage as strong evidence that the black sea bass fishery is rebuilt, very healthy and abundant and expanding into areas where black sea bass was rarely caught in past years. Therefore, the Council initiated a series of measures to avoid any significant catch reductions in 2014 including:

- a. a request to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to reconsider the 2013 allowable biological catch,
- b. a request that NOAA/NMFS re-assess black sea bass in 2013, and
- c. initiating an amendment to re-evaluate Accountability Measures (AMs) for the

## Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan.

In the meantime, the Council maintained generally the same management measures for federal waters in 2013, including a 20-fish possession limit (5-fish reduction in bag limit), a 12.5 inch minimum fish size (0.5 inch increase) and an open season from January 1st – February 28, May 19<sup>th</sup> through October 14<sup>th</sup>, and November 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. However, this is subject to the ASMFC ability to develop an addendum at its February meeting to allow for state-specific or regional approaches for management and set appropriate conservation measures for state waters in 2013. If the ASMFC is unable to take this action at its February meeting, the Council will have to modify federal waters measures and severely restrict black sea bass fishing in federal waters in 2013 to achieve the 1.85 million lbs. recreational catch limit. Obviously, both the Council and ASMFC’s meetings in February will be crucial to attend and/or monitor.

### **Broad Catch Limits are put on an Unglamorous but Essential Fish**

By Jess Bidgood, New York Times, 12/14/2012

BALTIMORE — Regulators on Friday voted to reduce the harvest of Atlantic menhaden by 20 percent, placing a broad catch limit on a critical fishery that has until now been largely unregulated.

Fishermen and their supporters waited Friday for the vote on whether to reduce the allowable commercial harvest of the forage fish menhaden.

A small, oily fish — also called bunker or pogy — the Atlantic menhaden is rarely eaten by humans, and little known outside of coastal circles. But for the Atlantic ecosystem as well as commercial and recreational fishermen, it is an essential fish. The question of its management drew hundreds of fishermen, processors and environmentalists to mobilize for a showdown in a windowless ballroom here.

“Menhaden’s one of the linchpins of the near-shore ecosystem in the East Coast,” said Peter Baker, the director of the Northeast fisheries program for the Pew Environment Group, who said that over the past 30 years, the stock of the fishery has fallen about 90 percent.

The fishery had never been subject to catch limits along the entire Atlantic coast — a rarity in

contemporary fishery management — allowing fleets to harvest virtually unlimited amounts from the ocean. “The Wild West fishery that’s been going on with menhaden — to have a fishery that’s essentially been unregulated, it’s unheard of,” said Darren Saletta, the executive director of the Massachusetts Commercial Striped Bass Association.

This unglamorous forage fish eats phytoplankton, cleansing ocean water. In turn, its flesh nourishes bigger, more edible and lucrative fish — like striped bass and bluefish — as well as seabirds and marine mammals.

It has long played a role in the American economy. Indians are said to have taught the Pilgrims how to use it to fertilize corn. Today, menhaden are important to commercial fishermen who use them for bait, as well as recreational fishermen who are after the species that feed on them.

“When there’s bunker in the water, I have striped bass, weakfish and bluefish for my customers to catch,” said Capt. Paul Eidman, a charter boat captain from New Jersey and the president of the advocacy group Menhaden Defenders. “Without abundant menhaden in the water, my game fish go somewhere else.”

The hallways outside the meeting here filled with chatter as commercial and recreational fishermen swapped anecdotes about what many claim is an obvious depletion of the species.

“When we first started fishing for menhaden in Chatham, it was not a problem to go out with just a grappling hook and catch 20 in 20 minutes,” said Capt. Dale Tripp, who has operated commercial and charter boats in Cape Cod since 1973. “Now, you can’t go out with a gill net and catch 20 in two hours.”

Many blame the “reduction fishery,” which harvests about 80 percent of the menhaden that come out of the sea each year. It is for the most part operated by a single company, Omega Protein, which grinds up the fish for use in fish-oil dietary supplements, fertilizer and animal feed.

But Omega’s executives and fishermen say that they have not seen a problem with fish stocks and that overregulation could squelch industry jobs. “We’re catching more with less vessels, which, to us, means you can’t have a declining population if less effort produces more fish,” said Ben Landry, Omega’s director of public affairs, who said that the



company supported a 10 percent reduction in the catch, but nothing higher.

In 2011, stock assessments from the previous year led the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to commit to make reductions in the fishery, although they did not determine exactly how to do it. Questions about the long-range accuracy of the 2012 stock assessment, however, led the board to decide to take interim actions this year, and conduct another review when 2014 stock assessments are available.

The opaqueness of the latest assessment fueled tension at Friday's meeting. As the regulators debated catch limits ranging from 10 to 50 percent, commercial and recreational fishermen held up yellow signs in support of menhaden conservation, a group of Omega's union workers — also clad in yellow — circled the room.

The cut could be damaging to Virginia, where Omega is based, said John M. R. Bull, a spokesman for the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. "This is a very deep harvest cut that's being made in the absence of clear scientific understanding," said Mr. Bull, who added that he hoped future stock assessments would vindicate his home state.

And it will hobble the industry beyond those shores, said Robert Isaacson, a third-generation fisherman who, along with his brothers David and Richard, uses purse-seine nets to fish for menhaden off the coast of New Jersey. "It's going to be less repairs on the boat, less buying new equipment. We're going to have to work harder on nasty days, put our lives in danger," Mr. Isaacson said.

But many other fishermen at the meeting were heartened by the cuts.

"It is absolutely crumbling, what's happening to the fish," said Chuck Howard, a longtime striped-bass fisherman from Rockville, Md. "Anybody who thinks it's a better use to grind them up and send them to China, rather than have them swimming in the Chesapeake Bay and filtering our water, has to explain to me why that's a good idea.

## **Shark Rebuilding Plan Unfairly Places Most Rebuilding Restrictions on Recreational Fishery**

By Chris Zeman

During the December meeting, NOAA briefed the Council on the proposed Highly Migratory Species – Shark Rebuilding Plan. The Proposed Rule was published on November 26, 2012 in the Federal Register and can be found at [this link](#). I was very critical of NOAA's Preferred Alternative under the proposed plan and strongly recommend that recreational fishermen review the proposed plan and submit comments during the ongoing comment period that ends on February 12, 2013. NOAA's Preferred Alternative would impose an 8-foot minimum recreational size limit for virtually all managed large sharks. This is a 3.5 foot increase in the minimum size and applies to sharks that NOAA admits never to grow to that size. At the same time, the Preferred Alternative maintains near to status quo management for the commercial fishery and no minimum size limit. A side-by-side comparison highlights the inequity of NOAA's Preferred Alternative in imposing most of the rebuilding 'pain' on the recreational fishery.

My comments highlighted the need for this plan to comply with Magnuson-Stevens Act, Required Provision 14, which requires that any rebuilding plan must allocate "any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery." Based on my review, the Preferred Alternative does not meet that requirement. Also, NOAA's 8-foot minimum size limit is concerning, as it is overly broadly applied to recreational fisheries, but not applied at all to the commercial fishery, and it amounts to a recreational prohibition of retention for all sharks that do not grow to that size. As this rebuilding plan is expected to continue to the year 2070, any final measure may be around for decades, so weigh in now before it is too late.

Shark species/group	Proposed Recreational Measures	Proposed Commercial Measures
Sandbar	8-foot minimum size limit (NOAA admits that sandbar sharks do not reach a size of 8-foot)	No proposed changes to current management – no minimum size limit
Atlantic Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks (incl. bull, lemon, nurse, silky, spinner, tiger)	8-foot minimum size limit	No proposed changes to current management – no minimum size limit
Scalloped Hammerhead	8-foot minimum size limit	1,000 pound reduction in commercial quota from 115,984 pounds to 114,840 pounds
Non-blacknose Small Coastal Sharks	8-foot minimum size limit	No proposed changes to current management – no minimum size limit
Atlantic Blacknose	8-foot minimum size limit (NOAA admits that blacknose sharks do not grow beyond 4.5 feet)	
Dusky	Status quo – no possession	Status quo no poses

striped bass, bluefish and blackfish. That was before October 29<sup>th</sup>. Like many of you, Hurricane Sandy changed our plans for this fall and the upcoming years. In my estimation the impact on the recreational fishing industry in New Jersey will last for many years. We have no idea yet what the long-term fallout will be. In the short term, people have lost boats, access to the beach and just the time to go fishing. But that’s the short term. We will need to wait to determine the long-term impact. Which recreational fishing businesses that were already struggling will survive Sandy?

Many tackle stores are located on barrier islands that have no current public access. The infrastructure that supports recreational fishing including the marinas has been devastated. Will these marinas be able to repair their facilities to accommodate the boaters of NJ? Will there be boaters for them to accommodate? BoatUS in its release on November 14<sup>th</sup> estimates over 32,000 boats were damaged in NY, followed by New Jersey’s 25,000. I have concerns that number is larger in NJ. With the loss of thousands of boats what will be the long-term impact? We used to have over 220,000 boats registered in NJ. When the bad economy hit there was a huge decrease in the number of registered boats. The number that I heard quoted for this year was 160,000 registered boats. What will that number be in 2013? The number one question I used to get asked is, what will the season look like for summer flounder, black sea bass and black fish? When are ASMFC & MAFMC going to loosen up the regulations? Some of the questions I now get asked everywhere I go are:

- Are we going to be able to boat next year?
- Is it going to be safe to boat next year with all the marine debris in the water?
- Will I have access to my surf fishing areas?
- How will Sandy affect the fish that depend on bays and estuaries for their nursery areas?

I wish I knew the answers to all the questions but I do not. At your hearing that I was at in Toms River I heard the Mayors from Brick and Toms River ask who is going to responsible for getting the marine debris out of the lagoons, bays, rivers and channels and I did not hear an answer. There was talk about beach replenishment but not about increasing public access. I hope you have found the answers to those questions and can share the answers with the anglers of NJ.

**JCAA & NJSFSC Testimony to the NJ Senate Budget Committee on Hurricane Sandy**  
*By Tom Fote for JCAA & NJSFSC*

December 11, 2012

I am testifying today as the legislative chairman for the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. JCAA represents 75 recreational fishing clubs in New Jersey and it has been in existence since 1981. The New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs represent 150,000 anglers, hunters and trappers in NJ. I have been testifying before committees about fisheries issues for over 35 years as a volunteer for sportspersons of NJ. Last March I testified before this Committee about the lack of funding for the Bureau of Marine Fisheries. Instead of getting better it actually went in the other direction so I have attached a copy of that testimony for next year’s budget consideration. Today I am here to discuss Hurricane Sandy’s impact on the Marine Resources, anglers and the recreational fishing industry of NJ.

I was looking forward to the fall fishing season. I was not traveling until December and looking forward to fishing for the great fall run of

Chris Zeman, member of the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, immediately called for disaster relief for the recreational and commercial fishing industry. He and others reached out to Governor Christie, senators and congressmen to call on the Secretary of Commerce to declare New Jersey's fishing industry, both commercial and recreational, a disaster. The Governor, Senators Lautenberg and Menendez and Congressman Pallone have already reached out to the Secretary of Commerce. One of the fastest actions I have seen is the approval of this disaster declaration and the subsequent funding by the Secretary of Commerce.

I recognize much of this money will be spent to resolve short-term problems. I am hoping the decision-makers will also realize that the impact on recreational fishing and the industries that depend on it will be astronomical

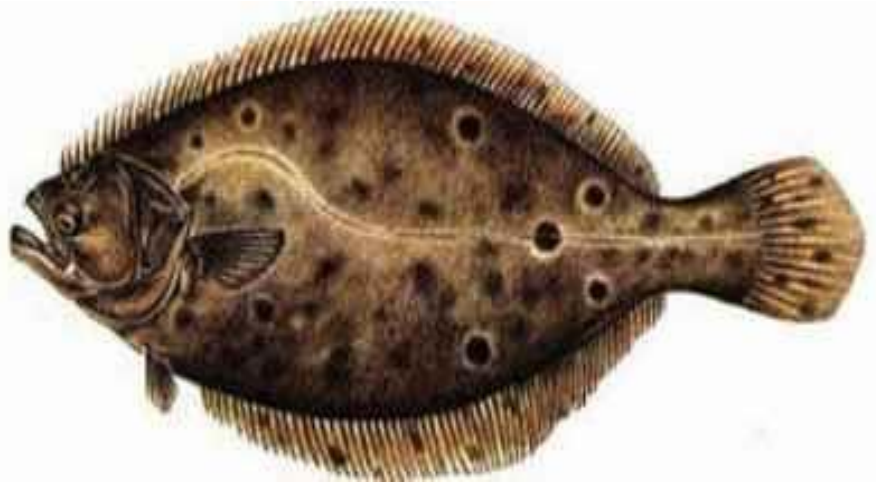
In speaking to my congressional delegation, I have indicated we also need to spend some money looking at the impacts on Raritan Bay, Barnegat Bay, and the other estuaries where the tidal surge has a tremendous impact on these nursery areas. Maybe we should be funding some research on the impacts on summer flounder, black sea bass and tautog. Previous hurricanes in other areas have caused ecological changes that have taken years to reverse. We have no BP to fund a clean-up. We need the Federal and State government to fund this research and recovery.

JCAA and the NJSFSC are asking you to really look at the impacts Sandy will have on the anglers, recreational fishing industry and the businesses that depend on the anglers coming to the shore to fish. I was down in New Orleans after the BP spill and watched how their governor and other politicians went fishing to publicize the great fishing off Louisiana. They also spent money promoting the great fishing and charter and party boats available to take people fishing and enjoying their beaches.

On a personal note I would like to share the main reason I live in Toms River. In 1970 when I was recuperating at Fort Dix from Vietnam I started dating a young lady who was volunteering her time helping wounded soldiers get their GEDs. This young lady who grew up on farm in NJ took this Brooklyn boy who could not drive down to Island Beach State Park. I fell in love with Lynda and the Jersey Shore. So after we were married we moved as close to IBSP as possible. Before I started volunteering my time sitting at meetings I was on

IBSP every day during fishing season. So I jumped at the chance about a week after the storm when Ray Bukowski, manager at Island Beach State Park, invited me to tour the park before a meeting with other stakeholders. It has been the only time I have been over the bridge since the storm. The feeling I had looking at the devastation I cannot describe. There are areas with devastating damage and other areas that appear to have had little damage. For example, the handicapped walkway at area 7 is gone. The blueprints for this walkway were funded by the second Governor's Tournament. Governor Whitman loved the project for the access it provided to so many who could not enjoy the beach otherwise for fishing and swimming. She was able to secure the funding. The walkway was also extended to Tices Shoal to allow boaters access to the beach. The bayside walkway is intact. The walkways from the bathing pavilions are also gone. There is much debris and exposed once buried debris that will make driving on the beach hazardous until the sands once again cover it up. Governor Christie and the DEP Commissioner are discussing when limited fishing access will be available. The limited access to the towns on the barrier island will be a factor in developing any plan. The one thing I know for sure is that Island Beach State Park will recover and the hundreds of thousands of NJ and out of staters will once again enjoy one of New Jersey's great treasures. We need to make sure that these treasured facilities are rebuilt and that the handicap access is again provided.

Thomas Fote  
Legislative Chairman for JCAA & NJAFSC



## 2013 Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament Saturday - August 24, 2013

Rain or shine except if there is a hurricane the tournament will be held on August 31, 2013

Traditionally our tournament was held in June but after soliciting input from many of our past participants we decided to hold it in August. In this way we will be able to accommodate the many fishermen who have been targeting stripers during June while also having the tournament near the peak of the fluke season for most of our coast.

**Fishing Hours:** Dawn until 5 P.M. To be eligible all fluke must be weighed in at one of the 10 official weigh stations (that you previously selected) starting from 12 noon, but not later than 5 P.M. and must be accompanied by your official weigh slip affidavit with entry number.

**Fishing Location:** Fish all ocean, bay and river waters stretching from Raritan Bay & Hudson Harbor in the north to Delaware Bay in the south.

**Awards Presentation & Celebration:** Friday, September 6, 2013 at the Golden Nugget in Atlantic City, N.J.

For additional information contact Paul Turi at [jcaa@jcaa.org](mailto:jcaa@jcaa.org) or visit

[www.jcaa.org](http://www.jcaa.org)