

# JCAA NEWSPAPER APRIL 2013

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on March 12, 2013)

Monthly Meeting at JCAA Office, 1201 Rte. 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River  
**"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"**

## JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

**Tuesday, March 26th, 2013**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**At JCAA Office**

## NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

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

## OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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**JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote**

**JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi**

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

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

## IMPORTANT DATES

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

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

**April 14<sup>th</sup>** Sportsperson-of-the-year Dinner

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

**May 9<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**May 28<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**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, Atlantic City

## JCAA 2013 High Rollers Raffle

*Drawing Date: May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

8 Raffle Prizes & you do not have to be present to win and the drawing date is May 28th, 2013. Support JCAA. Only \$2.00 a Ticket.

1. Fin-Nor Santiago SA25 Reel & Fin-Nor Sportfisher rod & spool of 30lb Ultracast FluroBraid Spiderwire  
Value \$680 *Donated by Zebco, Fin-Nor & JCAA*
2. Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor Model RT 55/SE/L&D  
Value \$670 *Donated by Johnson Outdoors, Inc.*
3. \$500 Gift Certificate to Fishermen Headquarters  
Value \$500 *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
4. Penn 965 Reel & Lamiglas XTC704 3 piece travel rod  
Value \$500 *Donated by Penn & Lamiglas*
5. 2 Cans of Interlux Micron CSC Paint  
Value \$400 *Donated by Interlux*
6. 2 Cans of Interlux Micron CSC Paint  
Value \$400 *Donated by Interlux*
7. Canyon Reel HS-15 & Profile Rod GLC 7108  
Value \$310 *Donated by Canyon Reels & JCAA*
8. Shakespeare Ugly Stik SP1166 1MH 6' 6" Rod with Penn Battle BTL 4000 Reel  
Value \$160 *Donated by Penn & Shakespeare*

**Total Value \$3,620**

## President's Report

*By Joseph Puntasecca*

Show season is winding down. Our last show will be The Saltwater Fishing Expo in Somerset NJ from March 15<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> at the Garden State Exhibit Center. We will have raffle tickets for our annual High Rollers Raffle which will be drawn on May 18<sup>th</sup> this year.

The 2013 summer flounder regulations were set this past week by the NJ Marine Fisheries Council. The 2013 season will run from May 18<sup>th</sup> through September 16<sup>th</sup> with a minimum size of 17.5" and a five (5) fish bag limit.

As many of you may have heard by now there is a proposed compromise from the Commissioner's office for Pots Off the Reefs. Please make sure you attend our next general meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> as we will have a lot to discuss about this proposal.

The New Jersey Fish and Game Council, in coordination with the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, and the Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife, have modified the regulations for American shad in marine and fresh waters of the state. Click [this link](#) for complete details.

### 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!

### 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 [this link](#).

You can also check regulation 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](#)!

### REMINDER

FEMA is operating out of the Brick Civic Plaza. Our February General Meeting will be held at the Jersey Coast Anglers Association office, 1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ. FEMA announced that they are closing all of their temporary offices. They are still operating in Brick. If this changes by our meeting date we will email the club representatives to notify them of a change in meeting location.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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.

# Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

*By Thomas Fote*

## **Pots Off the Reefs: No Compromise!**

I am asking all the member clubs of JCAA to say no to the compromise proposed by DEP. That compromise does not eliminate pots from all of New Jersey's artificial reefs. It sets a bad precedent for our hope to remove all pots from the federal reefs as well. JCAA is always committed to fighting battles for the long term and to look at the future of fishing for our children, not just ourselves. We should not give away our children's legacies just because we are tired of the fight. I have been dealing with legislation and regulation for 35 years and my recommendation is that JCAA does not change our existing vote and continue to support the removal of all pots from New Jersey's 15 artificial reefs. Please read the information below for a brief history. I hope this will help you understand why I am not supporting this compromise.

It has been an interesting two months in the continuing battle to remove all pots off the artificial reefs in New Jersey. There was great news from the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council when the Council moved forward to set up special management zones (SMZ) in federal waters for Delaware's artificial reefs. After 18 months of discussion, the Council sent its recommendation to the Northeast Regional Director, John Bullock, recommending that these special management zones should be set up and exclude fish pots from Delaware's artificial reefs in federal waters. The Council determined these reefs should be for hook and line and spear fishing. As an example, the Council cited that Delaware had already taken this step in state waters and this was a progression of the existing management for artificial reefs. I discussed this with the Northeast Regional Director and he commented that the reefs were built with recreational money and there should be no pots. After my conversation with him, I was confident that he would approve the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council and order pots off Delaware's reefs in federal waters.

As you all know, New Jersey's recreational anglers have been pushing for the same action for

our artificial reefs from both the state and federal government. Seven years ago, JCAA was asked to join a coalition under the banner of Reef Rescue to get the pots off New Jersey's reefs. Under this umbrella there were many recreational groups in attendance at the first meetings. I represented JCAA and stated our position. JCAA was clear that this new organization must commit to no compromise on removing all pots from the reefs and stay the course for the long haul. JCAA had experience with long term projects such as making striped bass a game fish and removing the menhaden reduction boats from state waters. In both situations other partners in the coalitions had changed their stand in favor of commercial fishermen. From the beginning, JCAA was clear that we would not commit our energy and time if this new organization could not commit to the many years it would take to resolve this issue in our favor. We were assured by Reef Rescue and its members that everyone was committed to the long haul. After the first year, the Recreational Fishing Alliance decided to work more with the commercial fishermen to find a solution that would allow the commercial fishermen to continue to put pots on portions of the artificial reef. They dropped out of Reef Rescue and the remaining organizations moved forward in this coalition to move all pots off the reefs.

After Reef Rescue was in existence for a period of time, the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance was formed. Eventually Reef Rescue, NJSFSC, NJ Dive Council and JCAA joined the NJOA and removing the pots from the reefs became a high priority for all organizations. Reef Rescue, JCAA, the Dive Association, and many other recreational groups worked tirelessly to develop the contacts in the NJ Legislature that would be necessary to pass a favorable bill. Under the direction of the Senate Presidents (Cody & Sweeney) the favorable bill was passed by the full Senate in 3 separate sessions, including almost unanimous passage in the current session. In these 3 sessions there has been overwhelming support in the NJ Assembly. A majority of the Assembly are cosponsors to a bill that would remove Pots Off the Reefs. However, the Speaker (first Roberts & now Oliver) has never posted this legislation for a vote. They have allowed Assemblyman Albano to hold this bill in his committee and never allow for a hearing.

Assemblyman Albano and Senator Van Drew introduced a bill that would allow fish pots on up to

19% of the 2 state reefs. At the hearing on this bill, JCAA, Reef Rescue, NJOA, NJSFSC and every recreational group that testified opposed this bill with the exception of the RFA that spoke in favor of the bill. The Albano bill moved through the Assembly committee but was never posted for a vote by Speaker Oliver at our request. NJOA and Reef Rescue organized demonstrations outside the offices of Assemblymen Albano and Senator Van Drew outside their Cape May offices to protest this committee vote. That is where we stand right now with the legislation. JCAA has continued to hope that during the upcoming election season there would be enough pressure in the Assembly to get the favorable Senate Bill posted for a vote. We hope the continued work of the coalition would result in a vote.

When we first started working on to get the pots off the reefs, we tried to resolve the problem by developing regulations that would need approval by the NJ Marine Fisheries Council. I spent much time at meetings to no avail. When the NJ Marine Fisheries Council Pot Committee recommended their suggested compromise, it went nowhere. The commercial fishermen on the Council recommended a substitute proposal that was more to their liking. JCAA had little hope that we would get a solution through the NJ Marine Fisheries Council, since recreational anglers representatives on the council are in a minority. We have had the same problems when trying to work on solutions for menhaden and striped bass because of the lopsided membership in the Council and JCAA had to do it through legislation. It took awhile for our colleagues, who had less experience with the NJ Marine Fisheries Council, to realize legislation was the only hope of a positive solution.

About a year ago, DEP Commissioner Bob Martin made another attempt at a regulatory solution. There were many different proposals suggested, some of which were supported by JCAA, Reef Rescue and NJOA. The Commissioner asked if we would support creating additional artificial reefs that would allow for the inclusion of fish pots. The coalition would have supported this compromise. Of course, this proposal was turned down since a segment of the commercial community (scallopers, draggers and gill netters) oppose all artificial reefs. This is one of the reasons they are working with the potters, to keep them on the existing reefs and not have to deal with additional barriers as they fish. At

various times throughout this process, members of JCAA, NJOA and Reef Rescue have voted overwhelmingly to maintain the existing policy and consider no compromise that would leave any pots on the existing reefs. I was clear with Commissioner Martin that JCAA would not support any compromise that did not meet this criteria.

February 7<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Martin sent the NJOA a draft proposal for regulations for the artificial reefs. As the Albano Bill allows pots on segments of the inshore reefs, so does the draft proposal from Commissioner Martin. To placate the recreational groups, Commissioner Martin pledged to work for the establishment of an additional artificial reef in state waters that would equal the percentages of space allowed for fish pots on the two existing reefs. The letter is not legislation or actual regulation so it is a bit vague and not at all specific. As all of us know, the details are the crucial element in any settlement. The proposal is also for regulations which would need approval at the NJ Marine Fisheries Council. Our history there is not positive. It takes the Council forever to reach a decision and frequently what we thought might be a yes vote is changed to a no at the last minute. That starts the process all over again. This also delays any attempt to impact legislation since we can't really work on legislation to remove all the pots if we have accepted a tentative compromise. My real concern is that any agreement to allow some access by potters to the inshore reefs will send a message to the Mid-Atlantic Council that a compromise would be okay for the reefs in federal waters. This would set us back years! There are some who believe the compromise on the table would allow New Jersey to use Sport Fish Restoration Fund for our artificial reef program. This logic is flawed. First, the Sport Fish Restoration money is already in the Bureau of Marine Fisheries budget, it just can't be used for artificial reefs. Second, the administration could currently move money around in the budget to fund artificial reefs and the program. We just don't see the commitment given how little money is currently available. There is no way to find the level of funding that was available in the past unless new money is added to the budget to replace moving the Sportfishing money back to artificial reefs.

For the last 18 months, it has become obvious that some of the leadership in the coalition is tired and frustrated. Some would like to accept a compromise just to make the problem go away.

Unlike the members of JCAA who are accustomed to long-term battles, some of our allies have never been in this position before. At JCAA we don't fight battles for just ourselves but for future anglers. We measure time in accomplishment not just days. We have worked for years to develop relationships with legislators based on honesty and commitment. It sends a bad message to them when we have held them to a higher standard than we have for ourselves. They had an opportunity to accept this compromise legislation but we told them no. Will they really believe us the next time we ask them to take a hard vote? In my time at JCAA I have worked with 8 Governors and multiple DEP Commissioners. Things change but legislation is a better guarantee. For all the reasons stated above, I am asking you to protect JCAA's legacy and vote for the future.

## **Submerged Superstorm Debris Threatens Tourism**

By Wayne Perry, Associated Press, 2/18/2013

MANTOLOKING, N.J. — On the surface, things look calm and placid. Just beneath the waterline, however, it's a different story.

Cars and sunken boats. Patio furniture. Pieces of docks. Entire houses. A grandfather clock, deposited in a marsh a mile from solid land. Hot tubs. Tons of sand. All displaced by Superstorm Sandy.

"We did a cleanup three weeks ago. Then when we went back the other day, you could still see junk coming up in the wash," said Paul Harris, president of the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, which helps take care of beaches on which the group goes surf fishing. "They go and clean it again, and two days later, you have the same thing again. There's nothing you can do about it; you can't vacuum the ocean."

Coastal areas of New Jersey, New York and Connecticut are racing to remove untold tons of debris from waters hardest hit by the Oct. 29 storm before the summer swimming and boating seasons begin — two of the main reasons people flock there each year and the underpinning of the region's multibillion-dollar tourist industry.

The sunken debris presents an urgent safety issue. Swimmers could cut themselves on submerged junk, step on one of thousands of boardwalk nails ripped loose, or suffer neck or spinal injuries diving

into solid objects. Boats could hit debris, pitching their occupants overboard, or in severe cases, sinking.

The cleanup won't be easy, fast or cheap.

"The amount of debris that needs to be removed is mind-boggling," New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie said, ticking off the statistics in his state: 1,400 vessels sunk, broken loose or destroyed during the storm.

In just one shore town alone, Mantoloking, 58 buildings were washed into Barnegat Bay, along with eight vehicles, and a staggering amount of sand carried from the ocean beaches into the bay.

Everything you can imagine is sitting in our waterways," he said.

Barnegat Bay is likely to have some no-go zones in place for at least part of the spring and summer as cleanup work progresses. "Big Al" Wutkowski, a locally famous striped-bass fisherman who volunteers as the Barnegat Bay Guardian for the American Littoral Society environmental group, is worried about what still lurks beneath the waves.

"When people start putting their boats back in the water in April, I know they're going to start hitting stuff," he said. "It's impossible not to hit stuff. It's also a lot shallower in places now. A lot of the lagoons are filled in with sand. People can't get their boats in or out."

Florida-based contractor AshBritt Environmental removed 42 boats from New Jersey waterways in recent weeks. Others were corralled by the State Police, or by private salvage companies acting on behalf of owners.

Property owners are not being held financially responsible for debris that washed or blew off their property into waterways unless they hire a private company to retrieve a boat they plan to repair and keep, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

The state, which issue contracts last week for the water cleanup work, plans to seek full reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency as part of \$60 billion in Sandy relief approved by Congress.

Much of the work will involve cranes atop barges that pluck the largest debris from the bottom. Divers could be used for smaller pieces. Once that's done, many waterways will need to be dredged, with the sand placed back on beaches.

The private owners of an amusement pier that collapsed in Seaside Heights, N.J., pitching the Jet

Star roller coaster into the ocean, are working with insurers to devise a plan to dismantle the ride and get it out of the ocean.

Seaside Heights also plans to send teams of divers to scour the ocean bottom in popular swimming areas before letting people back into the water, fearing parts of the wooden pier, metal pieces from boardwalk rides and other debris still linger in the ocean. Cars from the pier's amusement rides were found on beaches as far as 8 miles away in the days after the storm.

The Polar Bear Plunge, in which swimmers briefly dash into and out of the frigid surf to raise money for charity, was moved this year from Seaside Heights to Long Branch, a beach 24 miles to the north where hidden debris wasn't a concern.

New York and Connecticut face similar problems.

"We have everything from floating oil barrels, gasoline tanks, household hazardous waste products, buckets, tires, bathtubs, you name it," said Adrienne Esposito, executive director of the Citizens Campaign for the Environment on Long Island.

"We're concerned not only about pollution, but boater safety," she said. "Come the spring, this stuff is going to be submerged partially or totally, but the boats are going to have some very serious issues."

Rob Weltner, president of Operation Splash, said the Freeport, N.Y., volunteer group has spent the past 20 years collecting 1 million pounds of debris, mostly from waterways on the south shore of Long Island.

"Twenty years is out the window," he said. "Gone, gone. Sandy hit us right at the time when we would normally be putting the finishing touches on our cleanups. Every place I look I go, 'Oh, my God, not again, man. We just had that place looking beautiful and it's going to take us another 10 or 15 years to get it back looking decent again."

Among the items found by the group since Sandy are hot tubs, floating docks, damaged boats, barbecue grills, patio furniture, umbrellas, hundreds of trash cans and the grandfather clock.

Crews in Hempstead, N.Y., have removed 379 tons of debris from waterways since Sandy hit. Neighboring Babylon has retrieved 50 tons, including two tool sheds fully intact, with tools still inside, and 24 destroyed boats.

Fairfield, Conn., needs to remove debris left in marshlands by the storm, including bicycles,

picnic tables and backyard furniture, said First Selectman Michael Tetreau. The town is waiting to use special equipment from the state to remove the debris without harming the marshes.

Fairfield also saw significant beach erosion and needs to dredge its harbor and marina because sand was pushed into the waterways. Tetreau doubts the work will be done before Memorial Day, and said there may be limits on boat traffic.

In Brick, N.J., the lagoon on which Mayor Stephan Acropolis lives is filled with junk, including the front door and part of a wall from one of three houses that burned during the storm. Also in the lagoon are a kids' picnic table, a 50-gallon plastic barrel holding who-knows-what, and two docks from homes two blocks away.

Acropolis is counting on the state to quickly remove the marine debris to prevent even deeper economic losses from the storm.

"Someone goes out crabbing; they buy gas for the boat, maybe they have to rent the boat in the first place. They buy bait, they buy lunch," Acropolis said. "It's a big economic impact. People live here because they want to be on the water, out on a boat. If we don't get this cleaned up, we're going to have a problem."

*Associated Press writers Frank Eltman in Freeport, N.Y., and John Christoffersen in Fairfield, Conn., contributed to this report.*

## **JCAA 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

*By Paul Turi, Tournament Director*

Mark your calendar for the JCAA 19<sup>th</sup> annual fluke tournament which this year will be held on Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013. If there is a hurricane on August 24<sup>th</sup> the tournament will be held the following week on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The awards ceremony will be held on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Golden Nugget in Atlantic City.

We have secured our 10 ports for this year. New this year will be the Atlantic City Port which is being sponsored by the Golden Nugget. They have informed us that they will be putting up the \$1,200 first place prize money for a port in Atlantic City.

Dan Miller has indicated he will be our weigh master at Atlantic City.

Since we are having a new port in Atlantic City this year, it was necessary to eliminate one port and after much discussion and looking at the numbers from previous years, the tournament committee has decided to eliminate the Jersey City Port.

Therefore, our 10 ports for 2013 will be:

- Atlantic City
- Barnegat Bay
- Sandy Hook
- Shark River
- Manasquan River
- Long Beach Island
- Great Bay
- Ocean City
- Cape May
- Fortescue

On the last page of this newspaper is an entry form for early entry into the fluke tournament. Enter by August 12<sup>th</sup> and the entry fee is \$120. Enter after August 12<sup>th</sup> and the entry fee is \$150. So enter early and save!

## Report on New Fluke Options

*By John Toth*

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, I went to the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council Meeting held in Galloway Township with the purpose of voting on one of the new options for fluke that the fishing club I belong to (Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County) voted for at its February meeting. There were six options available for anglers to vote on and they are listed below.

All options have a **5 fish** bag limit

- 17.5" May 11<sup>th</sup> - September 4<sup>th</sup> - 117 days
- 17.5" May 18<sup>th</sup> - September 16<sup>th</sup> - 122 days - **APPROVED**
- 17.5" May 24<sup>th</sup> - September 22<sup>nd</sup> - 122 days
- 18" May 25<sup>th</sup> - October 2<sup>nd</sup> - 131 days
- 18" May 18<sup>th</sup> - September 26<sup>th</sup> - 132 days
- 18" May 1<sup>st</sup> - September 12<sup>th</sup> - 135 days

My club voted for the third option, but we could have easily gone for the second one since they are almost the same. The **second** option was the one that received the most votes and it is the one that the Council approved and it will be our new regulation for fluke during 2013.

However, for many of you who could not attend this meeting, I want to give you a sense of the comments that were presented so that you can have a feel of what transpired since fluke is what so many of us like to fish for. The JCAA did **not** have a formal position on these options since we did not have a meeting in the timeframe to officially endorse any of the above options. I, and the JCAA, do not necessarily endorse or agree with the comments below, but these were some of the comments presented to the Council members by anglers who showed up to a packed room with many standees:

- Many of the tackle shops representatives voted for option # 2 because they want their shops to open **early** to sell tackle. So many of these shops and marinas suffered damage because of Sandy and they need to get back on their feet with some business as soon as possible.
- Sandy shut down so much of our 2012 fishing season and tackle shops could not sell much of anything.
- It is not good to have 18 inches as an option to get a longer season since if we go over our 2013 fluke quota, we will possibly have an 18.5 inch size limit for 2014!
- Boat captains want an early season to start booking charters.
- It is better to have a 17.5 minimum size so that we don't throw back so many fish that die while trying to catch fish at 18 inches.
- The 17.5 inch minimum size allows more anglers to take home fish for the table. If they can't take home fish and are frustrated at trying to catch fish at 18 inches, they will not come back on party and charter boats.
- Boat captains want anglers to take home fish for repeat business. If they don't catch fish, they don't come back. 17.5 inches is the way to go.
- A few captains said that they are not interested in having a longer season since the fluke are usually gone by early September, and earlier if there is a hurricane or very bad weather.
- It is frustrating for recreational anglers to choose among these bad options because the

information to arrive at our fluke quotas is so terribly flawed.

- We should have one slot fish, say at 15 or 16 inches, so anglers take home something to eat. Then the rest of the minimum size can be higher.
- Why do we keep on getting a hit like this every year with less and less fish to catch?
- The NJ Marine Fisheries Council must keep in mind that anglers need something to fish for between the closings of different species like sea bass, blackfish, etc. Tackle shops hurt during these gaps when one species of fish closes and anglers have to wait until another one opens.

This meeting to determine our fluke option for 2013 was orderly and reserved. Some of the ones I have been to were anything but that and angry shouts were hurled toward Council members by anglers frustrated by reduced opportunities to catch fluke. Have a good fishing season for fluke and let's hope 2014 will be a good year for fluke without a reduction in our quota.

## **2013 Fluke Regulations Set, Sea Bass Regulations Delayed**

*By Paul Haertel*

On March 7th, the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (NJMFC) voted unanimously in favor of a recreational fluke season that will begin on May 18th and end on September 16th, with a 17 1/2" size limit and a five fish bag limit. This will result in a season that is 25 days shorter than in 2012. I represented the Berkeley Striper Club and New Jersey Beach Buggy Association at the meeting. JCAA did not have sufficient time to poll its member clubs for a position because the options were released too late. I spoke in favor of a longer season or at least one that extended the season further into the fall. However, the vast majority of those who spoke favored the option that was chosen. However, there is still a little ray of hope that the season might be extended further. After all states have set their regulations, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council (ASMFC) will review them. If they determine that the regulations are likely to result in a coastwide underage of the quota, they may allow

New Jersey and New York to liberalize their regulations somewhat. New Jersey and New York were the only two states who were forced to take a reduction due to overfishing their quotas last year. If the ASMFC does allow us to liberalize somewhat, the NJMFC may do so by adding a few days to the end of our season. However, there was some concern by council members that doing so could cause us to exceed our quota. I pointed out that we are more likely to underfish our quota this year because there will be far less participation. This is due to all the marinas, boats and coastal homes that were damaged or lost due to Hurricane Sandy. If we are given the option to liberalize further, the NJMFC will consider doing so at their next meeting on May 2nd.

The New Jersey Bureau of Marine Fisheries (NJBMF) is developing the sea bass options for this year. A 1/2 million pound increase in the coastwide total allowable catch for recreational fishermen was recently approved by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council. This resulted in New Jersey having to take a 32% reduction in its quota rather than the 42-53% reduction that was initially anticipated. Options are expected to be ready sometime in the near future. While the NJMFC did not indicate what they have in mind, I expect that we may have a lengthy mid-season closure unless the size limit is raised from 12 1/2" to 13". The bag limit may be reduced as well. The regulations are expected to be set at the NJMFC meeting on May 2nd.

## **New Jersey Outdoor Alliance Report**

*By John Toth*

Representing the JCAA, I attended a February 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA), and the following is a brief summary of this meeting:

Two guests from the "On The Water" publication were invited to sit in at this meeting to learn more about the activities of the NJOA. These guests included Jimmy Fee, Editor, and Richard Dunn, Advertising Manager. This publication covers many saltwater activities and issues.

Ed Markowski and Tim Burden discussed the results of their February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Division of Fish & Wildlife staff to develop the



administration needed to move forward with HOFNOD. Getting HOFNOD passed was a long struggle with members of the NJOA meeting with legislators and testifying in Trenton on the merits of HOFNOD. Now this program is starting to move into high gear.

The National Marine Services (NMFS) is concerned about the stocks of various sharks (Duskies, etc.) that we rarely see if at all in our waters and NMFS wants to prohibit anglers from bringing sharks into marinas that are **less than 96 inches!** If this proposal would become law, it would effectively shut down many, if not all, shark tournaments that we have during our fishing season. NMFS is obviously unaware of the implications of what they are trying to do with the shark fishing industry, and it received many comments and letters from the recreational community advising NMFS that they need to take another look at what they are advocating. NMFS got this message and has suspended their proposal concerning sharks. However, JCAA's Tom Fote pointed out that we still have to be vigilant over this issue since some misguided or headline-seeking environmental organizations may still want to resurrect this proposal in the near future.

In the wake of the Newtown tragedy, many legislators are proposing all types of legislation to curb guns, permits and ammunition, and it is very difficult to sort out what laws have real value. NJOA members will try to make sense of them and recommend which of these proposals the NJOA should support and work with legislators for passage.

The subject of artificial reefs dominated most of the discussion of this meeting. Anthony Mauro, Chairman of the NJOA, received a letter dated February 7th from NJ DEP Commissioner Robert Martin proposing a compromise solution to the two artificial reefs in New Jersey's waters (Axel Carlson & Sandy Hook). Some of Commissioner Martin's proposals follow:

- The DEP will establish specific zones on these two reefs (not exceeding 16% of each reef) that will be dedicated to commercial anglers. Recreational hook and line users will have access to the entire reefs, including these commercial zones.
- The DEP will build a new reef for recreational anglers that will compensate or exceed the

commercial areas designated on the ACR & SHR reefs.

- Commercial anglers will have to follow various enforcement regulations concerning their use of the two reefs and also provide better markings on the areas of their use.
- The DEP will make a formal request to the MAMFC that the 13 artificial reefs outside of New Jersey in federal waters will receive Special Management Zone Status (SMZ).

These are some and not all of the proposals presented by Commissioner Martin to try to resolve an ongoing disagreement lasting about 7 years between commercial and recreational anglers over these two reefs. NJOA representatives heard Commissioner Martin's proposals at this meeting for the very first time, and discussed the pros and cons of the Commissioner's proposals. An **official vote** by NJOA representatives was **NOT** taken since NJOA representatives have to go back to their member organizations to receive their input and develop a position on these proposals. **The real issue here is:** Should recreational anglers continue to take a no-compromise stand to prohibit all commercial gear from the two reefs, or should recreational anglers pursue the proposals submitted by Commissioner Martin and possibly move on to a compromise solution involving both recreational and commercial use of the two reefs.

The JCAA's General meeting scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> will have this artificial reef issue on its agenda, and member clubs should make every effort to have their representatives at this meeting to give their club's input on this important issue.

## Membership Report

*By John Toth*

I have already received **2013** membership dues from the **South Jersey Saltwater Anglers, Newark Bait and Flycasting Club, Asbury Park Fishing Club, Berkeley Striper Club and Sandy Hook Bay Anglers.**

**The Berkeley Striper Club not only paid for their advertisement in our newsletter (\$500) but also included a donation of \$500 to support JCAA's activities. Thank You, Berkeley Stripers!**

I will be sending out invoices for 2013 club membership dues in the near future, but please feel

free to pay your club dues now. Also, when you do, please return not only your check but the names of your club officers (President, Treasurer and the member who will be representing your club at our monthly JCAA meetings). It is important to provide the name and telephone number 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!

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### INFORMATIVE HOFNOD TRAINING

Mark Gintert, Future Fisherman Foundation (F 3) Executive Director and Dawn Cook, Arkansas Fish & Wildlife Commission along with New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife Education Staff conducted a two-day "Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" (HOFNOD) workshop at Cheesequake State Park. The HOFNOD workshop was part of the DFW's education plan to expand NJ HOFNOD and restructure the program to better meet the expectations of measuring drug avoidance among school-age children that participate in HOFNOD multi-sessions. The NJ HOFNOD program will be conducted as an after school/weekend activity and also implemented by community faith-based organizations. The idea is to keep children engaged in the program over a period of time so that they may learn all the segments within HOFNOD. Participants will have a better understanding of HOFNOD and they can share their fishing and conservation experience with others to promote stewardship of the HOFNOD program.

The workshop was very informative and covered a variety of topics that included the following: Overview of HOFNOD by Mark Gintert F3 Director, Outline and Vision of NJ HOFNOD by Jim Sciascia, Chief of Information and Education,

About Fish, Fish Anatomy Drill, Where Fish live and why, Fish Interaction Exercise by Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Coordinator, Match the Hatch by Jessica Girglik, Design a Lure, and Education, Balance of Nature by Dawn Cook, HOFNOD Coordinator for Arkansas Fish & Wildlife Commission, Equipment Techniques, Knot Tying, Building your First Rig, Casting Practice, Backyard Bass, Casting Techniques, Fishing Safety, Where to fish in NJ, Rules and Regulations by NJ Conservation Officer, Catch and Release, Care and Harvesting Tips, Fish Cleaning, Pour a Pond/Scale Tale, Available Resources Support, Stewardship Role Playing, Teaching Tips and Techniques, Working with Volunteers/Background Checks, Media and Public Relations, HOFNOD High School Fishing ([highschoolfishing.org](http://highschoolfishing.org)), and Future HOFNOD Plans ([futurefishermenfoundation.org](http://futurefishermenfoundation.org)).

We thank Mark Gintert and Dawn Cook for traveling to New Jersey to share their teaching knowledge and experience about coordinating successful HOFNOD learning segments. It was a pleasure to meet them and learn about new teaching methods such as the classroom "Pour a Pond" and "Balance of Nature" activity. As we completed the second day of training, I heard many positive comments about the workshop and how everyone was excited to bring new information about HOFNOD back to their organizations.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife is in the process of organizing trained NJ facilitators who will then train group leaders and support volunteers. If members in your fishing club or organization would like TO become part of the NEW NJ HOFNOD expansion, please phone 732-785-9278 or email [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com) and leave your contact information. You will be contacted about meeting the volunteer criteria for NJ HOFNOD requirements.

### 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. Please come out and support the recipient of the 2012 JCAA Youth Education Award, Jeff Johnson, at the JCAA Annual Dinner on April 14, 2013 at Crystal Point Yacht Club. Visit [jcaa.org](http://jcaa.org) for reservations.

## **KIDS' FISHING FUN NIGHT A GREAT SUCCESS**

Over 35 children attended the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club's Annual Youth Fishing Fun Night. Paul Harris, President New Jersey Beach Buggy Association (NJBBA), was the guest speaker for the evening and spoke about surf fishing safety. He had youngsters wide-eyed, alert, and hands being raised for responses to questions as he demonstrated the proper handling of a toothy 16 lb. bluefish mount. He explained the reasoning behind using needle nose pliers stored on his surf belt and how to safely remove a hook (without getting any fingers bit); the purpose of using waders and wearing a jacket over top with a safety belt; using a once empty pill bottle. He reviewed the contents of his easily carried small pocket size first aid kit; fishing fillet knife, safety and proper storage in a sheath; protection from sunburn with sunscreen, proper clothing, and sunglasses. JCAA Youth Education Member Tim Burden, NJBBA, was the youth education speaker and conducted a presentation about Water Safety that included: how to properly wear a life jacket, boat capacity measures, and personal safety awareness. Children also had a chance to ask questions about water safety. Tim brought our JCAA "Passport to Fishing and Boating" boat-mat to explain the importance of wearing a life jacket that fits snug during time spent around the water. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association Youth Education Committee has supported this event for a number of years by providing a fishing activity for children and supplying "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" decals, pledge cards, and prizes.

## **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

During March, Brick Cub Scout Pack #47 learned how to tie fishing knots and make fishing rigs. Since December 2012, Cub Scout Pack #47 learned the following: Fishing Ethics and Conservation Stewardship, Fish Biology, Where Fish Live, HOFNOD Videos, Knot and Rig Tying, Handling and Releasing Fish.

I witnessed some of the water conservation posters that the Cub Scouts completed as part of one of their February badge requirements. The Cub Scout posters were very creative and sent a clear message about keeping our waterways and environment clean. Good job, guys....I like the way you used the stickers we provided to jazz up the conservation posters.

## **2013 SKILLFUL ANGLER AWARDS PROGRAM**

Don't forget about the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife, the 2013 Skillful Angler Awards Program. Each year anglers have a chance to submit freshwater and marine fish that are close or over New Jersey state records which are recognized through the Skillful Angler Awards Program. Participation is open to all ages and skill levels. For more information about New Jersey's Skillful Angler program, including minimum size requirements for entry, visit [this link](#).

## **Sportsperson of the year Dinner**

**April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Crystal Pt. Yacht Club**

