

JCAA NEWSPAPER JULY 2013

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on June 19th, 2013)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday June 25th, 2013

Starting at 7:30 PM

AT JERSEY COAST SHARK ANGLERS

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Monday, July 8th, 2013

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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

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

June 25th JCAA General Meeting (last until September)

July 8th JCAA Board Meeting

July 10th-12th ICAST

July 11th NJMFC Meeting (Summer Flounder Vote)

August 5th-8th ASMFC Summer Meeting

August 8th JCAA Board Meeting

August 24th JCAA 19th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament

September 6th JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony at Golden Nugget AC

September 12th JCAA Board Meeting

September 24th JCAA General Meeting

October 6th Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

October 10th JCAA Board Meeting

October 29th JCAA General Meeting

November 10th JCAA 2013 Sportsperson of the Year Dinner

President's Report

By Joseph Puntasecca

The High Roller Raffle was drawn on May 28th at our General Meeting in the JCAA Office in Toms River, NJ. Congratulations to all of this year's winners. I would like to thank all of the sponsors for our raffle: JCAA, Zebco, Fin-Nor, Johnson Outdoors, Fisherman's Headquarters, Canyon Reels, Penn Reels, Lamiglas, Shakespeare and Interlux Paints. I would also like to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets in this year's High Roller Raffle in helping support Jersey Coast Anglers Association, as well as all the volunteers who helped in selling the raffle tickets. The High Roller Raffle is one of our major fundraisers which keeps your Association running for you. A list of the winners is below and will also be posted on our website.

Our Sportsperson of the Year Dinner will be held on November 10th at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. We are looking for nominations for this important honor. Please send a short biography of 250 words or less detailing the accomplishments of the nominee to the JCAA Office. It is not too early for your club to start planning on getting a table for this great event. All of us together can make this event a great success! Look for more information from our Sportsperson of the Year Dinner Committee in future editions of the JCAA newspaper.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 19th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament. The Tournament takes place in August this year on the 24th instead of in June.

We will be holding a Fluke Tournament Meeting on July 30, 2013. While we don't typically have a General Membership Meeting in July, we thought it would be helpful with our Fluke Tournament being held in August this year. We will have tournament flyers, entry forms and material available and go over last minute details at the meeting. This meeting is not mandatory but is encouraged so you can receive the latest information on the Fluke Tournament since we won't have a General Membership Meeting until after the Tournament is held.

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

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. 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!](#)

REMINDER

FEMA is still operating out of the Brick Civic Plaza. Our June General Meeting will be held at the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers Clubhouse, 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick, NJ.

High Rollers Raffle Winners

The Raffle winners were drawn on May 28th, 2013. The following is a list of the winners. Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to the thousands who participated.

1. Bill Thomas

Fin-Nor Santiago SA25 Reel & Fin-Nor Sportfisher rod & spool of 30lb Ultracast FluroBraid Spiderwire
Value \$680, donated Zebco, Fin-Nor & JCAA

2. Rich Secare

Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor RT 55/SE/L&D
Value \$670, donated by Johnson Outdoors, Inc.

3. Bill Browne

\$500 Gift Certificate to Fisherman's Headquarters
Value \$500, donated by Fisherman's Headquarters

4. Kurt Fredrickson

Penn 965 Reel & Lamiglas XTC704 3 piece travel rod
Value \$500, donated by Penn & Lamiglas

5. Joe Amaro

2 Cans of Interlux Micron CSC Paint
Value \$400, donated by Interlux

6. Joe Wiater

2 Cans of Interlux Micron CSC Paint
Value \$400, donated by Interlux

7. David Temple

Canyon Reel HS-15 & Profile Rod GLC 7108
Value \$310, donated by Canyon Reels & JCAA

8. Jean Martinelle

Shakespeare Ugly Stik SP1166 1MH 6' 6" Rod with Penn Battle BTL 4000 Reel
Value \$160, donated by Penn & Shakespeare

JCAA 19th Annual Fluke Tournament

By Paul Turi, Tournament Director

As I reported last month, the JCAA 19th Annual Fluke Tournament will be held this year on **August 24th, 2013**. If there is a hurricane we will have the tournament on August 31st, 2013. **Other than a hurricane we are having the tournament on August 24th rain or shine.** The awards presentations will be held on **September 6th, 2013** at the Golden Nugget Hotel/Casino in Atlantic City.

We are currently working on the port prizes for the 2nd place through 10th place and those prizes will be announced in the near future.

Our major sponsors this year are:

- **Berkeley Gulp**
- **Costa**
- **Golden Nugget**
- **Interlux Paint**
- **Minn Kota**
- **Nor'East Saltwater**
- **Penn**
- **Shakespeare**
- **Spiderwire**
- **West Marine**
- **Igloo/Yukon Coolers**

Right now we only have three port sponsors. **Fisherman's Headquarters** is sponsoring the LBI port and putting up the \$1,200 1st place prize money and **Canyon Reels** is sponsoring the Manasquan port and putting up the \$1,200 1st place prize money for that port. **The Golden Nugget Hotel/Casino** is sponsoring the Atlantic City port and putting up the \$1,200 1st place prize money for that port. As of right now **JCAA** is putting up the \$1,200 1st place prize money for the additional 7 ports. If you know of any individual, company or entity that is willing to put up \$1,200 and be a port sponsor, or even part of the \$1,200, let me know and I will follow up on it. JCAA is also putting up the Grand Prize drawing money of \$5,000. Again, if you know of any individual, company or entity that would be willing to put up the Grand Prize Drawing money, let me know.

JCAA urges recreational anglers to support these **Major Sponsors** and **Port Sponsors** as they support you and the JCAA in support of the work that we do on behalf of recreational anglers.

For more information on the tournament this year see the 4-page Fluke Tournament insert in this newspaper. Included in the insert is an entry form which can be filled out and faxed to the JCAA office.

I also need a lot of door prizes for the Awards Presentations in Atlantic City. If you or your club can donate a nice door prize that would be greatly appreciated. I would like to give out door prizes in a value of between \$50.00 and \$100.00. If you have something of lesser value I can always combine one or more prizes together.

For more information or to donate a prize, contact Paul Turi, 609-660-2126 (H), 609-709-9215(C) or email pturi6@comcast.net.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

How Do We Manage Recreational Fisheries

The way we are trying to manage recreational fisheries at the Federal level is not working. The problem is that, unlike the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the National Marine Fisheries Service does not allow the flexibility necessary at the Council level to manage recreational fisheries. The Councils have allowed the Scientific and Statistical Committees to set the quota. The scientists who sit on these committees are not the same scientists who sit on the Technical Committees for ASMFC. They don't have a day-to-day understanding of these species. They rely on the "art" of modeling. The reason I call it an art is because the data is so weak that it is the interpretation that sets the quota, not the data. This has created a yo-yo effect in the management of recreational fisheries. Instead of having consistent regulations like the ASMFC striped bass management for the past 20 years, the Mid-Atlantic Council changes the regulations yearly. Before we can have a timeline to determine how specific regulations are impacting management, the regulations change. Dick Brame presented a paper at

this year's Managing the Nations Fisheries Conference. Because of the ridiculous cost, I did not attend. But Dick sent me his paper which I have included below. He gives a perspective on managing recreational fisheries differently. I am hoping that many others will write similar papers and share them with us. Then there should be a workshop that just focuses on managing recreational fisheries. We are continually told we should wait for the new recreational statistical program is put in place as though that will solve the problems. Without the Federal government spending much more money to collect better stock assessment data and recreational catch data, there will be no solution to the problem. If we are going to have permanently flawed data to use in decision-making just because there is not enough money for something better, we need to find another way to make decisions on the recreational sector. I hope Dick's article will generate considerable discussion about these issues. I have also asked others to write similar articles and will share them as they are available.

ASMFC Spring Meetings

The ASMFC Meetings are now on the internet. Instead of having to travel and incur that expense you can sit at home or work and listen to what we are saying and you can also see the presentations. It is ironic that I go on the internet when I am at the meeting since it is easier for me to see the charts and graphs. The ASMFC's 2013 Spring Meeting Press Releases, Meeting Summaries and Motions can now be accessed at [this link](#). Presentations and audio files of the Board and Section meetings will be posted to [this page](#) early next week.

ASMFC Winter Flounder Board Meeting

If you were online listening to the Winter Flounder Board Meeting, you are aware that I was furious about the decisions that were made by NMFS Northeast Center and the New England Fisheries Management Council that allowed for a 5,000 pound bycatch per commercial boat on the depleted winter flounder stocks. Let's put this in perspective. The New Jersey pound netters that fish in state waters are allowed 38 fish or 50 pounds per day. In order to harvest 5,000 pounds they need 100 trips. This means commercial boat fishing in Federal waters from New Jersey will be allowed to land in one day

more than a New Jersey pound netter can land in an entire year of fishing. At best, a recreational angler will land 5 pounds/2 fish in one day of fishing. That angler would need 1,000 days of winter flounder fishing to match the catch of one boat fishing in Federal waters. Since the recreational angler has only a 60-day season, at most he can catch 300 pounds. If this recreational angler actually fished 60 days and maxed every day it would take him more than 16 years to match the catch of a boat in Federal waters in one day. This makes no sense. What upset me the most is that these same directors who represent New England on both the Commission and the New England Council overwhelmingly supported a complete moratorium in state waters for winter flounder. The stocks don't look better. This suggests to me that they have little or no concern for any recreational anglers and for their in-state commercial anglers. I tried to get a justification for this action and got no response that made any sense. This is an example of fisheries management at its worst. Below is the summary of the ASMFC Spring Meeting. When the materials are available for the August meeting, there should be a transcript of the minutes of the Winter Flounder Board Meeting. Please read carefully.

The Board discussed the significant increases in federal annual catch limits (ACL) for the SNE/MA stock, which had been under a fishing moratorium since 2009. Specifically, there was concern about the 5,000-pound trip limit (5,000 pound days-at-sea/15,000 pound trip limit) for common pool vessels that would land in state ports, compared to the 50-pound trip limit for non-federally permitted commercial vessels fishing in state waters. It was noted that the trip limits are bound by ACLs and sub-ACLs. The total ACL is 1,612 mt (a 167% increase from 2012), while the state water sub-component is 235 mt (34% increase from 2012).

The Board maintained existing management measures for the 2013 fishing season for the SNE/MA stock due to its continued poor stock status and for the GOM stock because of its unknown stock status. This action is consistent with the Technical Committee's catch advice.

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species News

NMFS has launched a free app for iPhone and iPad that allows fishermen to share information about releasing North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks. Using the "Release Mako" app, fishermen can now report live releases of shortfin mako sharks by using their iPhone or iPad. The new iPhone version of the Release Mako app complements the already developed Android version of the app. The app gives fishermen the ability to report live releases of shortfin mako sharks with their mobile devices while still on the water, and both versions support the shortfin mako shark live release web page. To learn how to get the free Release Mako app and for more information, go to [this link](#).

NMFS announces Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops and Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops to be held in July, August, and September of 2013. Please see the attached announcements for additional details. For further information regarding workshop requirements, please visit [this web page](#) or contact Rick Pearson, HMS Management Division, (727) 824-5399.

Tom McCloy Retires and Receives ASMFC Award

I was present when the ASMFC presented Tom McCloy with their Award of Excellence. It is both a joy to see Tom get this award but a sadness at the loss of this presence at the New Jersey Bureau of Marine Fisheries and ASMFC. I have worked with Tom since 1984. He was on the staff at the Bureau of Marine Fisheries and eventually became the Administrator of Marine Fisheries. I have really enjoyed working with Tom for almost 30 years. Tom could have retired with an early buyout several years ago. It cost him money to stay but he wanted to stay to lead the Bureau through these economic times. He brought dedication and common sense to decision-making. At Tom's retirement party there was an interesting statement made by the Director of Fish and Wildlife. He pointed out that because of the salary freeze many administrators actually make less money than the people they direct. It is now getting hard to get people at the caliber of Tom McCloy to take an administrative job since they get more responsibility for less money. I hear people talk about "high priced" bureaucrats. Tom was in this job because of his love of the work, the people

and the resource. He sets a high standard for administrators and he will be missed.

At the ASMFC Spring Meeting, Thomas W McCloy was presented the Commission's Annual Awards of Excellence in the management and policy category for his contributions to the success of fisheries management along the Atlantic coast. "Every year a great many people contribute to the success of fisheries management along the Atlantic coast. The Commission's Annual Awards of Excellence recognize outstanding efforts by professionals who have made a difference in the way we manage and conserve our fisheries," said ASMFC Chair, Paul J. Diodati of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The ASMFC release is below.

Mr. Thomas W. McCloy has spent his entire career, now extending into its 40th year, working for the betterment of New Jersey's marine resources and the fisheries they support. He began his career in the early 1970s as a biologist, conducting some of the first comprehensive population and habitat assessments for the state's various shellfish resources. He was promoted to Bureau Chief for New Jersey Marine Fisheries in 1990 and Administrator for New Jersey Marine Fisheries Administration in 2001.

In the 1990s, Mr. McCloy became engaged in broader coastal resources issues, serving as his state's administrative proxy to both the Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. At the Commission, he played a key role in developing many of the Commission's initial FMPs in response to the requirements of the newly enacted Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act. These documents serve as the foundation for much of the Commission's management policies today.

For the past 12 years as Marine Fisheries Administrator, Mr. McCloy has been a key link between upper management within the state's resource agency and its diverse fisheries constituency. His expertise and experience has guided these groups in ensuring that the appropriate and prudent actions are taken to the benefit of the resource first and the fisheries that rely on them second.

However, Mr. McCloy's greatest and most enduring success has been the mentorship of his staff. He demands the best of them, expecting excellence, professionalism, and a commitment to safeguard fisheries resources for their sustainable

use. In turn, he invests significant time in training staff on how to fairly evaluate the issues before them, listen carefully to all affected parties, understand the full scope of the problem, and use the best scientific information to make an informed decision. Due to this mentorship, a good number of his staff has served in important leadership roles, from chairing the majority of the Commission management boards to serving as vital contributors on species technical and stock assessment committees as well as the Management & Science Committee.

Summer Flounder Update

I can't believe the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council is still debating adding 11 days to the fishing season. The article from last month discusses the reason for approving the additional days. Since Sandy the conversation all revolves around jobs. With that in mind, let's look at this addition from an economic view. What does 11 additional days of summer flounder fishing mean for the economy? It means people spending money on additional trips. That is bait and tackle sold at a local tackle store. That is gas and oil and other boat expenses. That is lunch or a stop at a convenience store for supplies. All of that is more sales tax. It means more charters and every dollar a charter boat captain makes means more money entering the economy. Some of this money comes from out of state. This is the best time for surf fishermen in the northern part of New Jersey to catch summer flounder from the surf. The summer flounder come for the mullet run that begins in September. It might be the only opportunity to catch a keeper from the surf. This means trips to the beach, beach buggies buying gas, picnic lunches and other incidental purchases. This is a win for everyone. Perhaps the fact that most of the Council members are from the southern end of the state makes them less aware of the tremendous positive economic impact for the northern end of the state. You need to write letters to Commissioner Bob Martin and the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council and insist on the approval for the additional 11 days on July 11th. Please read Paul Haertel's article elsewhere in this newspaper. If you can and care to, attend the July 11th meeting. He gives you all the information you need to make your voice heard at the July Council Meeting.

Summer Flounder Add On

(Reprinted from last month's JCAA Newspaper)

As I reported, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission voted on a conference call to allow New Jersey to add days to the end of the summer flounder season. I voted for this because I thought it would help the heavily impacted recreational fishing industry. I also realize that the way these days are added it does not affect our original quota except to add on to the quota. I read some interesting comments in the newspaper and I think some people have a difficult time grasping how this addition is implemented. The easiest way to understand is to look at this addition of days as though it is a commercial transfer of quota from one state to another. When we transfer commercial quota it is because one state has an underused quota and allows another state to harvest that quota. It is separate poundage of fish that is transferred and has no impact on the existing quota. If that commercial fishery goes over its existing quota it is not because of the added days but because it exceeded both the original and the additional quota. In order to do the transfer of recreational quota, ASMFC and NJ had to tabulate how many pounds of fish would be needed for each of the added days. ASMFC and New Jersey calculated that we could add a specific number of days based on the poundage available in relation to the historical catch figures. That means that in order to exceed quota, we would have to exceed the original quota and the additional quota both. Remember, those quota and catch figures are based on a normal year. Given the impact of Sandy with boats destroyed or damaged and marinas not yet in operation, there seems little possibility that this will approach a "normal" year. I know this is a stretch, but recognize that common sense would suggest that this year we will have less participation, fewer boats in the water and fewer trips than in previous years. I need to add a qualified since we are dealing with the National Marine Fisheries Service and their fatally flawed data collection system. I still continue to give good odds that we will not exceed our summer flounder quota this year. I could be surprised but I can't believe even this system is sufficiently flawed to measure us at above quota or increasing trips. In my judgment, we should avail ourselves of the additional days.

The other reason I am supporting this addition of days is because it has the greatest impact on those who fish from the beach. When we raise

the size limit, the beach anglers have very little access to legal size summer flounder except in September, October and November. We have lost October and November but adding a few days in September will give them an opportunity to catch a few summer flounder. For the boat fishermen, these additional days will give them something to fish for until the black sea bass season opens. It is a win/win.

Managing Recreational Fisheries: A New Perspective is Needed

by Dick Brame, Managing Our Nations Fisheries
Conference 2013

Commercial and recreational fisheries are fundamentally different activities, with dissimilar harvest data collection systems and thus require different management approaches. Yet the last reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Act, for all intents and purposes, uses the same management strategies for both. A Blue Ribbon Panel was convened in 2010 to examine recreational data and management, one of the key recommendations was *“it may make more sense from both fiscal and management effectiveness standpoints to adapt management approaches, tools and strategies to reflect available information rather than doing the reverse.”* (Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Recreational Fishing Data, TCRP 2010)

Commercial fisheries are managed for yield. They are prosecuted by relatively few fishers, all with the same goal – to catch as many fish as possible as efficiently as possible, in order to maximize profit from the sale of whatever species they pursue. Commercial landings can usually be counted or weighed in real time, thus quotas can be enforced in real time. This allows managers to close a fishery before the allowable catch is exceeded. In short, a commercial fishery’s catch can be managed in real time, based on verified landings.

Recreational fisheries, on the other hand, are dynamic in nature, prosecuted by millions of individuals with diverse goals; some try to catch fish for food, some like to catch and release fish, some just fish in order to enjoy the outdoors. They are responding to stock abundance, weather, the economy or any of a myriad of factors. Catch is estimated, not counted, with a significant time lag for producing such estimates. Landings estimates, at

best, are compiled 45 days after the end of each two-month sampling wave; thus 2 months pass before any real knowledge of what anglers are catching in a particular fishery can be developed.

Real-time quota management under the current recreational harvest information system is, as a practical matter, impractical. In reality, managers actually manage the catch of recreational fishermen by managing anglers’ behavior.

It is telling that poundage-based management is not contemplated when managing upland game, waterfowl or most inland fisheries, where similar challenges to developing accurate data exist.

Though recreational fishermen do not directly value fish caught in dollars per pound, they do produce a lot of economic activity and value, which is often far in excess of that generated by competing commercial fisheries.

Such recreational fisheries should be managed for expectation as opposed to yield. Anglers need to believe they will have opportunity to encounter fish, with the hopes they may catch some, possibly including some large enough to take home, and perhaps even catch a trophy sized fish. Instead of yield, abundance and age structure are key elements to recreational fisheries, since those factors govern both the rate of encounters and the size of the fish caught. Maximizing yield has little meaning in most recreational fisheries; since more conservative fishing mortality targets produce increased abundance and a better age structure, they actually lead to a greater number of satisfied anglers.

Current law includes the requirement of calculating, where possible, and managing towards Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). The concept of producing the most yield in pounds is antithetical to managing for most recreational fisheries. MSY-based management is a risk-prone management strategy, and is inappropriate for a fishery which emphasizes encounters over yield. An angler who manages to land a limit of fish over the course of a day, and releases a dozen others, will be far more satisfied than an angler who bags a limit, but catches nothing more. In general, the recreational fishery should be managed for abundance and age structure, which maximizes encounters, not yield. This dictates an approach that sets mortality targets below F_{msy} , sometimes far below. Such a concept is embodied in the definition of “Optimum,” which is already a part of federal

fisheries law but, unfortunately, is seldom employed effectively in practice.

The MSY approach, and particularly the practice of setting ACLs just below MSY, arises largely from the commercial sector's desire to efficiently remove fish from a population. MSY management, by definition, attenuates the age structure and produces a population dominated by younger fish, so that a fishing rate set slightly below F_{msy} will result in a large stock of young fish and nearly the same yield as a population with more larger fish which, by definition, must be left in the water longer before being harvested from the larger stock. It is analogous to management for a high-yield pine forest as opposed to a mature oak/hickory forest. One is purely for yield and the other incorporates other values: aesthetics, wildlife, etc.

Recreational fisheries respond to population abundance. As populations increase, and fish become easier to catch, they draw more anglers into the fishery and drive up recreational effort and catch; as populations decrease, effort and catch decline. In the example below, angler effort (in catch/day) and the estimated abundance of fully recruited (age 4+) South Atlantic black sea bass are illustrated from 1981 - 2011. In this example, there is a very good relationship between abundance and angler effort. It is worth noting that the fishing season was 365 days until 2011, when it was reduced to 180 and 95 days in 2012.

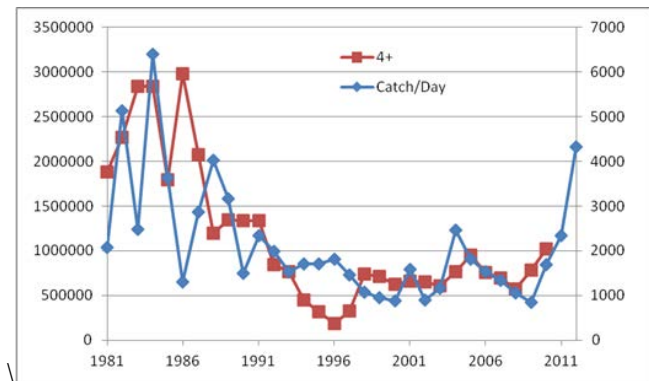


Figure 1. Black sea bass recreational catch/day and catch of 4+ fish over time. John Carmichael, SAFMC

Stock assessments on most popular stocks are done sporadically, usually every three to five years. This delay may lead to hard annual catch limits (ACLs) placed on a stock which are generated from a 3-year-old assessment, based on 4-year-old data, which likely no longer reflect the current state of the

stock (and the resultant allowable catch). Yet it is the current stock size that is driving the recreational effort and catch. This is especially problematic in a rebuilding plan where the recreational catch, driven by increasing abundance, is higher than an outdated assessment, and resultant ACL, would allow, but is not actually harmful given the current stock size.

The hard ACL requirement sometimes leads to management measures which are simply not credible. If stock size decreases, an ACL in a recreational fishery will likely not be met, and no management restrictions are taken. If the stock size decrease is transitory, that's fine. However, if the stock size decrease continues, it would seem some management restriction should be contemplated. Yet, if the stock size increases and catch rates go up, the ACL is more likely to be exceeded and management restrictions could be implemented. Thus the message to fishermen is that management success causes punishment and declining stocks are OK. That's just illogical, frustrating to anglers and kills managers' credibility.

In the example below we created a hypothetical stock (using mid-Atlantic black sea bass as the basis for the model). In our example, the stock had not been assessed in several years while a strong year class or 2 recruited into the fishery and increased the biomass above equilibrium conditions. Fishermen, responding to the large stock size, exceeded a poundage based ACL, and were reduced the following year. Once below the ACL, restrictions are relaxed and the recreational sector goes over once again due to the large stock size, thus creating a management "yo-yo" effect. After several years the harvest reduces the stock back to the long term equilibrium, yet the halting fashion in which they arrived there would have made anglers angry and frustrated.

Had managers been able to ascertain the current conditions of the stock, they would have known anglers were responding to increased abundance and not causing harm to the stock. Both management measures ended up in the same place, yet the latter would have had much more angler acceptance.

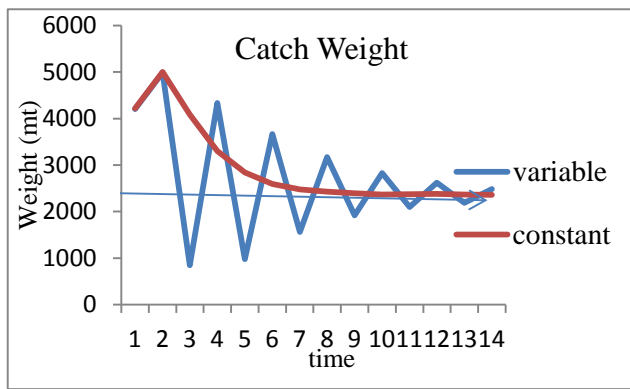


Figure 2. Hypothetical graph of exploitation over time of a stock that starts above MSY and is reduced back to equilibrium harvest. Dr. Gary Shepherd, NOAA Fisheries.

It is worth noting that few, if any, inland fish or wildlife species are managed at or near maximum sustainable yield. They are generally managed more conservatively. One reason this is more readily accepted by inland fishers and hunters is there is no commercial sector competing for the same resource. Most anglers would gladly forego harvest in order to keep a population healthy, but that is a much tougher argument when there is another sector competing for those fish foregone by anglers. For anglers, the concept of Optimum Yield may include fish left in the water.

Unfortunately, despite the inherent differences in the recreational and commercial fisheries, managers employ the same basic tools to manage both sectors – the use of an annual catch limit in pounds or numbers, tied in some way to maximum sustainable yield to constrain harvest, with closures used to prevent overages, and pound-for-pound paybacks imposed in subsequent years to compensate for whatever overages may occur. Using the same management tools to regulate two fundamentally different approaches to prosecuting a fishery, when most of the current management science and tools are geared towards determining and managing commercial harvest is now a thoroughly documented recipe for failure with respect to managing the recreational fishery.

Managers must finally recognize that recreational fisheries differ fundamentally from commercial fisheries, and management for predominantly recreational fisheries should be different from the way commercially dominated species are managed. Some states already manage recreational fisheries in this manner: red drum in the

southeast and striped bass in the mid-Atlantic and New England area. It is no coincidence that both of those species are among the five leading recreational fisheries in the United States.

Here are the specific recommendations:

1. This strategy is contemplated for fisheries that are either primarily recreational or have a high value to recreational fishers. Clearly this type of management would not be appropriate for primarily commercial species such as sable fish, butterfish, golden crab or even Atlantic croaker.
2. Institute F-based management for those species determined to be of high recreational importance. The ACL in such fisheries should be a contemporary estimate of permissible F based on the state of the stock, not a poundage-based ACL rooted in past harvest. This is the most critical issue for recreational fisheries. Make the F threshold the ACL and the F target the ACT, so that we are managing to a fishing mortality rate and not absolute removals. Estimates of F are likely to be more robust than estimates of biomass or Bmsy. From a biological standpoint, controlling the magnitude of F is more important than merely capping the poundage of removals, without reference to the size or age of the fish harvested.

ACL's based on poundage are largely inapplicable to recreational fisheries. They represent an archaic approach carried over from the times when only commercial fisheries were considered. ACL's based on the proportion of fish that are harvested from a stock, which must inherently account for the changing age and size structure comprising such stock, would represent a much more effective and informed approach to managing recreational fisheries.

This can easily be accomplished via the current MSA. The language in the Act does not specify pounds or numbers, it simply states a mechanism must be in place to prevent overfishing:

(15) establish a mechanism for specifying annual catch limits in the plan (including a multiyear plan), implementing regulations, or annual specifications, at a level such that overfishing does not occur in the fishery, including measures to ensure accountability. NMFS would have to adjust their guidelines to implement such a strategy.

3. F-based fisheries management ideally would require annual updates on the relative fishing rates, similar to the annual surveys currently performed for waterfowl, which base each year's harvest rates on a May-June pond index (i.e. habitat survey) and an annual breeding waterfowl survey (i.e. a harvest independent survey). These surveys are then used to determine each fall's harvest regulations.

An Example

There is a current example of such management: Atlantic striped bass. They are managed by the Atlantic coast states from North Carolina through Maine under a Fishery Management Plan adopted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The Atlantic striped bass stock was essentially collapsed in the late 1970's and early 1980's by the usual combination of factors – unrestrained harvest, ineffective minimum size limits, habitat loss and poor recruitment. In response to the precipitous decline in abundance, Congress enacted the Striped Bass Conservation Act in 1984, giving the ASMFC the authority to promulgate management measures. Ultimate enforcement of the management measures was vested in the Secretary of Commerce, with the authority to enforce a moratorium on any jurisdiction that violated the management measures.

The stock recovered to a high abundance in the late 1990's and early 2000's and has declined somewhat since, due largely to below average recruitment.

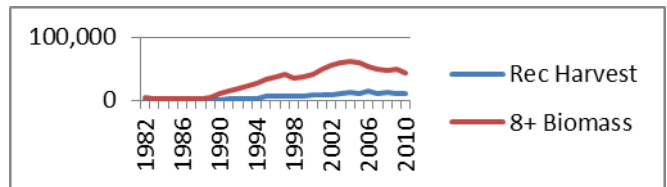


Figure 3. Striped bass recreational harvest and abundance in metric tons. Kate Taylor, ASMFC

The ASMFC recognized striped bass were one of, if not the premier recreationally sought species in the mid and north Atlantic regions. They set a commercial harvest at an historic level with a hard quota, and set an allowable harvest rate that allowed the recreational fishery to respond to abundance. The recreational fishery went from catching 5700 mt when the stock was declared recovered in 1995, to a high of 14,000 mt in 2006 a nearly 300% increase in harvest in 12 years. Yet the target fishing mortality rate was never exceeded.

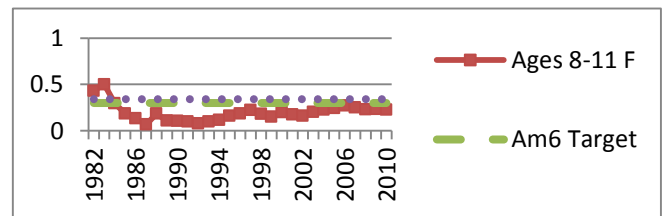


Figure 4. Fishing mortality on fully recruited striped bass in relation to the FMP fishing mortality threshold and target. Kate Taylor, ASMFC.

Imagine a hard quota scenario during that time period, set at 5700 mt for 1997, when 7300 mt were in fact caught. The paybacks, if implemented, would have caused great frustration and ultimately had little effect on resultant stock size. This important stock has recovered and largely done well for over 15 years, with recreational catch rising and falling with abundance, never exceeding the F target level.

Report on NJ Angling, Hunting & Conservation Caucus
By John Toth

Our legislators have established a New Jersey Angling, Hunting and Conservation Caucus to hear firsthand the input of anglers and hunters about the issues that are important to them. This caucus enables our legislators to help them understand these issues and ask questions about them so that they can

possibly draft legislation or take action to improve fishing and hunting in New Jersey. On June 6th, a caucus was held in NJ's State House Annex. The first order of business was to introduce legislators to the meeting's attendees and they included: Senate Democratic Chair, Donald D. Norcross, and Senators James W. Holzapfel and Christopher Bateman.. On the Assembly side, Alison Little McHose, Assembly Republican Chair, John J. Burzichelli, Assembly Democratic Chair and Caroline Casagrande.

The Issue: Member clubs of the New Jersey's Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) and other fishing associations have identified the **lack of funding** for the Bureau of Marine Fisheries and its shrinking number of staff as a major problem making this Bureau increasingly unable to effectively manage our state's fisheries despite its important multi-billion dollar industry for our state. Without additional funding, New Jersey will also lose its competitive edge to other states that are well-funded and staffed and they are always seeking to take more of our state's fishing quotas from us. This issue was requested to be on the agenda of the caucus by NJOA's Legislative Liaison, Tom Connors, and this issue was the main focus for this caucus.

The first speaker was **Brent Miller** representing the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucus and he touched upon the economic importance of fishing and hunting in New Jersey to our state's economy. According to statistics compiled in 2011, 794,000 anglers and hunters (resident and non-resident) fished or hunted in New Jersey and spent more than \$1.26 billion while doing it. This spending supports 16,905 jobs and generates over \$151 million in local and state taxes, including \$176 million in federal taxes.

The second speaker was **David Chanda, Director, NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife** who told legislators of the increasing challenges he faces in trying to do more with less staff in managing our state's fisheries. His staff has to respond to the fishing management plans required by our federal management officials and he does **not have enough staff** to adequately respond to them. For example, in the case of blackfish (tautog) his staff could not do the necessary research to support the position that our state's stock of blackfish was healthy enough and did not need any reduction to its quota. Consequently, our state had to have its blackfish season reduced even though this action was most likely unnecessary. This same example applies to

river herring, sharks and winter flounder. The Bureau of Marine Fisheries has to respond to almost 20 federal management plans that require staff and time to do the stock assessments and technical research necessary to adequately respond to them. Staff members who retire are not replaced. We could possibly have better fishing in our state with possibly increased quotas for winter flounder or blackfish, but our Bureau of Marine Fisheries does not have the funding or staff to help us reach this goal.

The Bureau of Marine Fisheries receives \$900,000 from state appropriations and with license fees and other sources of revenues it has a current budget of \$4.1 million. In contrast to New Jersey, other states like New Hampshire or Massachusetts have budgets in the \$20 million range and even have twice the number of staff in comparison to our Bureau staff.

The third speaker was Chris Zeman, member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery management Council, who made the very eloquent but pointed remark "**lack of data means less fish**". Chris indicated that our state needs better technical data to defend its stock assessment of its fisheries and our Bureau of Marine Fisheries does not have the resources to do it. He told our legislators that each state is going after our quota for each fishery and it is a tough fight to defend our fishing quotas allocated by the federal management. Chris represents our state in this constant battle with other states that have better funding and staff to define the status of their fisheries and to make a case to federal management officials that they should have some of our fishing quotas. Data is necessary to defend what quotas we have and our state is having an increasing problem in handling this issue.

Chris said that our river herring season may have been unnecessarily closed recently because we did not have the necessary data to indicate to federal management that it should stay open. Chris asked for an additional \$ 1.2 million of state funding for the Bureau with more funding over the years to follow.

Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Legislative Chairman, Tom Fote, made the important point to legislators that in the 1980's, the Bureau of Marine Fisheries had a budget of \$3 million dollars. It should at least be funded to a level of up to \$5 or \$6 million to start with and increased each year thereafter. We all know that our state has budget problems, but this is an important economic industry

for our state and its importance should not be diminished due to the lack of funding by only several millions of dollars when it generates so much revenue for our state. He also pointed out that our Marine Fisheries is not attending important technical committees that help to determine fishing stocks and other related matters due to lack of staff.

We need to be involved in these technical committees to keep abreast of the latest fishing issues or we will not be able to shape or respond to them due to our lack of participation.

The last speaker was Ed Markowski, President of NJOA's Environmental Projects, who made brief remarks about upcoming hunting legislation. Ed commented that New Jersey's hunting associations are very mad about the proposal to replace firearms identification cards with a driver's license endorsement and it should not even be considered.

Assemblywoman McHose pointed out to the legislators present that the **Division of Fish & Wildlife is the only branch of NJ's government that has to pay rent to the state for its facilities and for the benefits of its staff.**

The legislators thanked all of us who attended this hearing and to the NJOA for organizing it. They also indicated that they will use the information generated from this caucus in determining the next budget for the Bureau of Marine Fisheries.

NJMFC to Consider Extending our Fluke Season

By Paul Haertel

The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (NJMFC) will decide whether or not to extend our fluke season at their upcoming meeting on 7/11/13. The meeting will be held at 4PM at the Galloway Twp. Public Library located at 306 East Jimmie Leeds Rd., Galloway, N.J.. Public comment will be accepted at the meeting prior to their decision being made. The three options being considered will be not to extend the season at all, extend it by just 6 days or extend it by the full 11 days that were approved by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMF). In the past the council has shown that they do listen attentively to the public and will usually choose the option that the majority

favors even if that option is not the council's "preferred option". Therefore, if you are interested in having our fluke season extended it is important to attend this meeting and voice your opinion.

At a recent Jersey Coast Angler's Association meeting our member clubs voted unanimously to support the option that would extend the season by the full 11 days. Most of the fluke fishermen I know support this option as well but there is some resistance. Some have expressed concern about the flawed MRFSS and MRIP surveys. More specifically, some believe that accepting these extra fish will somehow make us exceed our annual quota. However, these are bonus fish that are an addition to the quota that was previously set for our state. Tom Fote and our other representatives on the ASMFC fought hard to obtain this additional quota for New Jersey. If they had not done that all of the projected underage of the quota would have been given to New York. Representatives from these two states argued over this projected underage until a compromise was hammered out. In the end New York reduced its season by 1 day and gave it to New Jersey so that we could have the full 11 day extension that we had requested. Still, New York received the bulk of the projected underage which enabled them to reduce their size limit. For the NJMFC to accept anything less than an 11 day extension might embarrass our representatives on the ASMFC while angering those from New York. Something like that could affect our commissioners' ability to resolve other issues amicably in the future. Further, the ASMFC granted New Jersey 88,000 fluke to cover the additional 11 day season. Surveys from previous years have shown that fishermen in our state normally catch from 400-2000 fish a day during that time period. That should provide more than an ample buffer to ensure that this bonus quota will not be exceeded. Additionally, those catches were reported from normal years rather than a year like 2013 where participation in the fishery is expected to be down significantly due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy.

Our fluke season is currently scheduled to end on 9/16 but it could be extended to either 9/22 or 9/27. Even if the 11 day extension for the fluke season is approved it will still be 14 days shorter than it was last year. There is a similar situation with sea bass as that season was reduced by 30 days from what it was last year. After hearing of the ASMFC approval of an extension for our fluke season and in anticipation that the NJMFC would accept it,

biologists from the New Jersey Bureau of Marine Fisheries (NJBMF) worked hard to develop regulations for sea bass that would ensure that both sea bass and fluke seasons would not be closed at the same time. This resulted in the sea bass season being open during various periods of time this year. However, it will be closed from 8/9-9/26. If the fluke season is not extended until 9/27 there will be a number of days where the season for both species will be closed at the same time, leaving inshore fishermen little to fish for. Obviously, this would be detrimental to charter, party and private boaters as well as the tackle stores and other businesses that fishermen support especially in a year where many of them are struggling to recover from the hurricane.

Please also read Tom Fote's article for additional information about the fluke situation. Most importantly, though, please attend the NJMFC meeting and ask them to extend our season by the full 11 days.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

SURF FISHING CLINICS IBSP

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

Now is the perfect time to register for a fun-filled day of learning at Island Beach State Park. Pre-registration is required and a small fee to cover bait and terminal tackle for the surf fishing clinics.

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

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

NJBBA ASSISTING KIDS AND VETERANS

On June 5, 2013 members of the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association provided surf fishing equipment and volunteers to assist over 60 students from the New Egypt elementary school for a day of

fishing at Island Beach State Park. NJBBA members were also busy on Saturday, June 15, 2013 helping disabled veterans for a day of fishing in Stone Harbor. Lunch was provided for about twenty veterans from the Vineland Veterans Home. Great work, guys!

NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Chairman will visit The University of Toledo from June 24, 2013 till June 27, 2013 and assist their annual National Youth Sports Program (NYSP), Youth Fishing Program. NYSP is a program that helps children build the skills and the confidence they need to tackle future challenges. NYSP provides summer recreation activities and educational enrichment programming for approximately 200 youths aged 10 to 16. The University of Toledo's NYSP program received grants from local sponsors to keep the program self-renewing and fund educational field trips for youngsters participating in the NYSP Youth Fishing program. Our JCAA Youth Education Committee will provide guidance about the Future Fisherman Foundation's "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" program and information about the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation. Marine aquatic education will be discussed for children visiting coastal states during the remainder of their summer vacation. The Merickel-Farley Trout Club will assist with teaching NYSP youngsters to fish at Olander Park and has provided prizes for the event for sixteen years. I know all the kids appreciate your help and support.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Press Release

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife will be hosting the 10th Annual Teen Angler Youth Day on Saturday, July 20, at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center. The event is scheduled from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM and will be held rain or shine. National Teen Anglers is a non-profit organization that starts fishing clubs in middle and high schools throughout the country.

This program is open to anglers aged 8 - 20/college and there is no fee. Participants should wear sunglasses or another form of eye protection (required) and bring their own fishing tackle (barbless hooks only.) Worms for the trout and

lunch for you will be provided. Each participant may keep one trout 18 inches or greater, so those hoping to bring home a trout need to have a cooler & ice. Prizes will also be awarded to all participants thanks to the generosity of the Teen Angler Program sponsors. Registration is required. Interested anglers can sign up now at the Teen Angler Web site at <http://www.teenanglers.org>.

The Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center is located on Rt. 46 approximately 8 miles west of Hackettstown in scenic Warren County – go to [this link](#) for directions.

NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK

During National Fishing and Boating Week the JCAA provided a fishing clinic to disadvantaged youngsters in Monmouth County. Children learn about fishing opportunities local to their area, how to cast, make a rig, and New Jersey fishing rules and regulations.

2013 JCAA Fluke Tournament August 24, 2013

2013 JCAA DINNER November 10, 2013