

JCAA NEWSPAPER FEBRUARY 2014

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on January 20th, 2014)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, January 28th, 2014

Starting at 7:30 PM

AT JERSEY COAST SHARK ANGLERS

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 13th, 2014

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

High Roller Raffle

The JCAA High Roller Raffle for 2014 is now ready! Below is a list of this year's prizes. For 2014 we have added a 9th prize to the raffle donated by Oliso, Inc. Oliso, makers of vacuum food sealers, was kind enough to donate 4 machines to JCAA for use in our fluke tournament, our sportsperson of the year dinner, the Saltwater Sportsman Show raffle and our High Roller Raffle. The drawing will be held on **May 27th, 2014** at the JCAA offices located at 1201 Rt. 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River. JCAA will be selling tickets at our booth at the shows listed below or call the office and we will send you a book.

You do not have to be present to win

9 chances to win a great package

Support JCAA

Only \$2.00 a Ticket

1. Fin-Nor Sportfisher FSSU 5950RS Rod & Avet HX 2 Speed Reel, Value **\$580** *Donated by Fin-Nor & JCAA*
2. Lamiglas XTC 704 Travel Rod & Penn 975 International Reel, Value **\$560** *Donated by Penn & Lamiglas*
3. \$500 Gift Certificate to Fisherman's Headquarters, Value **\$500** *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
4. 2 Cans of Interlux Micron CF Pain, Value **\$440** *Donated by Interlux*
5. 2 Cans of Interlux Micron CF Paint, Value **\$440** *Donated by Interlux*
6. Yukon 50qt. Cold Locker Cooler, Value **\$330** *Donated by Igloo/Yukon*
7. Shakespeare Ugly Stik SP1166 1MH 6' 6" Rod & Penn Battle BTL 4000 Reel, Value **\$160** *Donated by Penn & Shakespeare*
8. Shakespeare Ugly Stik SP1166 1MH 6' 6" Rod & Penn Battle BTL 4000 Reel, Value **\$160** *Donated by Penn & Shakespeare*
9. Oliso, Inc. Vacuum Food Sealer, Value **\$150** *Donated by Oliso, Inc.*

Total Value \$3,320

IMPORTANT DATES

January 25th Saltwater Sportsmen Seminar
January 28th JCAA General Meeting
February 3rd-6th ASMFC Week
February 5th-9th Atlantic City Boat Show
February 13th JCAA Board Meeting
February 25th JCAA General Meeting
March 14th-16th Saltwater Expo

President's Report

By Paul Haertel

As I pen my first column as JCAA President, I am sitting home recovering from major back surgery. Sitting is the worst thing for my back so my reports might be a little short until I am feeling better. As your new president I will do my best to ensure that our organization continues to thrive and achieve our goals. I would like to thank all our past officers, board members, committee chairmen and all those who were involved helping JCAA one way or the other. Of course, a special thanks to Joe Puntasecca who just completed two years as our President. I would also like to thank all those who intend to continue working for our organization in the future. We do need to get more people involved, so please contact me if you or any of your fellow club members would like to serve on any of our committees. You can contact me 24/7 via my cell (973) 943-8201 as I turn the phone off when I go to bed. You may also contact me via email, anglerpmh@aol.com or on Facebook.

There are some issues that need our immediate attention as well as some that we will have to keep a close eye on. For starters, we have Addendum XXV as it pertains to fluke and sea bass. The ASMFC is considering regionalized plans, each of which would put New Jersey in the same region with New York. The ASMFC hosted a meeting on this issue on 1/13 and there was a nice turnout. It is good that all the major fishing groups in New Jersey are on the same page and are opposing the proposed regionalized plans. John Toth presented the JCAA – NJSFSS – NJOA position on this issue at the meeting. Additionally, New York's Senator Charles Schumer is attempting to force regionalization through legislation. Further, he is using his political influence to pressure the ASMF to adopt the

regionalized plans. Hopefully, some of our congressional leaders will come to our aid. Be sure to read the articles in this newsletter pertaining to this issue. On one hand we have Senator Schumer fighting hard for what he feels is best for his saltwater fishing constituents and on the other hand we have New Jersey Assemblywoman Marlene Caride introducing bills that would allow the processing and sale of wild striped bass in our state! That would certainly be a step backwards in striper management. Hopefully, we will be able to meet with her soon and explain why we are opposed to bills of this nature.

We had a booth at the recent Garden State Outdoor Sports Show. We talked to a lot of fishermen, passed out newsletters and sold some of our high rollers raffle tickets as well. We will have some tickets available at our next meeting on January 28th.

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 2014. You can start re-registering now for 2014. You can register or renew your registration for 2014 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!](#)

Governor's GSFT May 18, 2014
It's official, the 23rd Annual
Governor's Surf Fishing
Tournament (GSFT) will be held
at Island Beach State Park on
Sunday, May 18, 2014.

JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
Working for the Saltwater Resource and Marine
Anglers

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December 13, 2014

Kirby Rootes-Murdy
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 North Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Va. 22201

Kirby,

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association, the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance collectively represent more than 100,000 saltwater anglers throughout our state. We appreciate this opportunity to comment on Draft Addendum XXV to the summer flounder, scup and black sea bass fishery management plan.

Regarding summer flounder in section 3.1 **we support option 1: Status Quo: Coastwide or Conservation Equivalency.** We believe that the state-by-state measures under the conservation equivalency are the fairest way to divide the quota. While quotas are, in fact, based on harvest estimates for a single year (1998), there was sound reasoning for this. When the Management Board first considered how to equitably allocate the quota, and, thus, the conservation burden among its member states, it spent considerable time in analyzing various time periods. After much discussion it was agreed by the states that the single year of 1998 was the most representative and fairest.

Additionally, state-by-state measures allow our state to be flexible in setting regulations. Our state is often divided between back bays and southern New Jersey fishermen preferring an earlier shorter season with a smaller size limit and central and northern New Jersey fishermen preferring a later and longer season with a higher size limit. State-by-state measures allow the public to have input and the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council considers all of this before voting on the compromise they feel meets the needs of the majority of our fishermen. We would lose this flexibility under any regional plan.

We also support Option 2: Utilization of Additional RHL. This option would allow New Jersey and other states facing a reduction to not to have as severe a cut. This worked out well last year in that it allowed New Jersey to extend its season and allowed New York to lower their size limit. Though New Jersey was granted an extra 88,000 fish which should have been more than ample to extend our season by 11 days, the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council chose to only extend the season by 8 days. That was because the Council justifiably does not trust the numbers generated by the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey (MRFSS) or Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). The Council's concerns were confirmed again in 2013 by the distorted MRIP numbers that were changed several times.

We are strongly opposed to any mandatory regionalization plan as described in option 3. The existing FMP allows for states to voluntarily combine their quotas with neighboring states, i.e., regionalize, yet none have done so. While we sympathize with the tougher regulations that our fellow fishermen in New York have, we are concerned that regionalization may result in some of New Jersey's target quota being reallocated to New York. Most likely, any regionalized plan would result in New York's regulations being liberalized at the expense of New Jersey's regulations being made more stringent. Further, under the adaptive regional approach outlined in option 3, if a region was to over fish, that region would be penalized the following year. If we opted to go back to conservation equivalency the following year "the technical committee will use the harvest from 2014 to predict the harvest in 2015 and compare that to the 2015 state harvest target (derived from the state's 1998 based portion of the 2015 RHL). If a state's predicted harvest is higher than the target, the state

must adjust their regulations to constrain harvest to the 2015 target.” It is almost a certainty that with relaxed regulations, New York would harvest far more fish in 2014 than in 2013. Then New York would be forced to make draconian cuts in 2015.

We also suggest that New York or anyone else develop a plan that shows how each state would benefit from a regional plan and then it could be considered. More specifically, pertaining to the stated problem in section 2.1., we would like to see studies showing how the distribution, abundance, and size composition of fluke as well as the abundance and distribution of fluke anglers along the coast have changed over the years.

Addendum XXV suggests that under a regional approach we might have an 18" size limit with a 4 fish bag limit and a season from May 1st - September 30th. However, that is based on the current MRIP numbers that might change yet again. We also believe that these potential regulations would cause New York to significantly overfish their target quota which would negatively impact the entire region the following year. Consider the fact that in 2013, New York overfished its quota with a 19" size limit. For a regionalized plan to work, any region with New York in it would have to receive a substantially higher quota than the sum of what each state in that region would receive under state-by-state measures. Again, any regionalization plan should be voluntary and it should be mutually beneficial to all the states within a particular region.

We also question why you would consider making a small state like Massachusetts its own region. They should be in a region with other states. If any state should be its own region, it should be New Jersey because we account for the most fluke. There are also vast differences in the times and sizes of fluke that are available in different parts of our state.

NJ has the most fluke and the most fluke fishermen. A higher percentage of our fishing trips target fluke than any other state. Still we are forced to have a shorter season than almost all the other states. In many of the more recent years our traditional early spring and late fall fishing has been taken away from us while other states are open year round. How is that fair?

We would also like to point out that the commercial quota is divided up on a state-by-state basis. It is simply the fairest way to do things

whether it applies to commercial or recreational fishermen.

Regarding sea bass, we believe that they should be managed on a state-by-state basis through conservation equivalency as well. Since that is not an option, **regarding section 3.2, we reluctantly support option 1: Status Quo.** We are aware that over fishing has occurred in many years but believe this is due to an unrealistically low RHL. We also do not agree with the fact that the overall coastal quota is being reduced due to over fishing that occurred in Massachusetts state waters.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Haertel, President
Jersey Coast Anglers Association

Frank Virgilio, President
New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs

Anthony Mauro, Chairman
New Jersey Outdoor Alliance

cc: Governor Chris Christie
cc: DEP Commissioner Bob Martin
cc: Division of F&W Director Dave Chanda
cc: BMF Chief Brandon Muffley

Fluke Regional Management Plan Rejected

By John Oswald
Asbury Park Press, January 16, 2014

New Jersey anglers attending Monday night’s meeting on proposed regional management measures for summer flounder unanimously rejected the plan.

Yet, depending on how states vote on the issue, the measures may still be put in place.

The meeting was held to collect public comment on Draft Addendum XXV, which proposes three options for the management of summer flounder.

Option 1 is to keep the status quo, which is conservation equivalency and allows states to set their own size, season and bag limits. Option 2, which is designed to be used in conjunction with Option 1, allows for the sharing of under-utilized quota.

Option 3, Adaptive Regional Management, proposes managing the stock on a regional basis. The two regions proposed are (1) Massachusetts; Rhode

Island to New Jersey; Delaware to Virginia; and North Carolina or (2) Massachusetts and Rhode Island; Connecticut to New Jersey; Delaware to Virginia and North Carolina.

The ASMFC's rationale behind the plan is to provide a more equitable access to a shared fishery. However, the regional push is widely recognized as New York's effort to get more fish to catch.

"If this is about equity, consider the fact that the regions that have been chosen make no sense whatsoever," Ray Bogan, a local attorney long-involved with fishery issues in New Jersey said at the meeting. If anything, he said, New Jersey should be in a more traditional region with the southern states.

Regional measures, he said, "would result in a massive shift of fish and the addendum would build up one state at the expense of another," namely, New Jersey. Bogan favored Options 1 and 2.

Chris Zeman, one of the state's representatives to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, said the message from New Jersey's anglers was loud and clear.

"New Jersey fishermen are pretty smart. They know a political fish grab when they see it. It's an effort by one state using political pressure and threats of litigation to get what it wants and, for that reason alone, I'd oppose it," he said.

If regional measures are approved, one scenario has New Jersey going from a five fish limit at 17½ inches to four fish at 18 inches.

Sportmen's groups, charter captains and individual anglers all voiced their opposition to regional fluke management. Among those endorsing Options 1 and 2 were the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, RFA-New Jersey Chapter, the Hi Mar Fishing Club, United Boatmen and the Save the Summer Flounder Fishery Fund.

"The SSFFF wants to get as many fish for the people of New Jersey, not only this year, but in years to come," said Greg Hueth, one of the fund's founders. "We feel Option 1 and 2 are the best way to continue to have a fishery that is equally divided along the Atlantic Coast States," he said.

The whole problem, he said, comes down to science and as far as summer flounder are concerned, it is still broken. "Until we fix the science, nothing is going to change."

Hueth was not alone in his assessment of the current state of fishery science. Nearly all those commenting on the fluke options had an opinion to offer on the poor state of fishery data. Ray Bogan called the difference between the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) and MRFSS, the program it replaced, as the difference between "ugly and very ugly."

Capt. Adam Nowalsky, chairman of the N.J. Chapter of the RFA, who helped lead the meeting, listened to the litany of complaints about the lack of reliable data and took the opportunity to remind anglers there is a way to improve the current information.

It's called the Volunteer Angler Survey and it provides a mechanism for fishermen to submit catch data at www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/marinesurvey.htm.

"Anglers have to recognize that the state has put something in place that they need to take advantage of," he said.

A final decision on regional measures will be made in February when ASMFC member states vote on the Draft Addendum. The vote is expected to be close.

Public comment is being accepted until 5 p.m., Jan. 24, and can be emailed to: krootes-murdy@asmfc.com.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

Below is a reprint of the article included in last month's newspaper. When you read the other articles in this month's newspaper, you will see that there is no support in New Jersey for mandatory regionalization. Regionalization was designed to benefit states to come together for the management of species. It was not designed to reallocate quota of fish from one state to another. It is important in an amendment to spell out how you will deal with overages by one state. None of this is spelled out in the current amendment.

I can understand why Senator Schumer is calling this a victory for New York. It is really just taking New Jersey's fish and allowing New York to relax their regulations on New Jersey's anglers' backs. Again, the irony is that this is not necessary. The NMFS estimated recreational catch in 2013 is so

unbelievable that it further reduces the credibility of the entire recreational statistical program. Those figures are still preliminary and until we get an estimate of the number of boats registered in both New York and New Jersey and can compare those figures with previous years, we should status quo. The three states that are estimated to have exceeded their quota are New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, all states severely impacted by Sandy. I see that NMFS just got 75 million dollars for disaster relief. Maybe we need to spend that money on a real disaster, MRFSS and MRIP. If you look at the agenda you will find the schedule for the summer flounder meeting. If you want to listen in and hear if New Jersey is treated fairly by ASMFC, go to the ASMFC webpage and sign up to get connected. You will also be able to hear all the other commission meetings taking place that week. The agenda is below.

Summer Flounder: Another NOAA (NMFS) Disaster

A little history is in order. The Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey (MRFSS) was started to show trends in recreational fishing. With the passage of the Striped Bass Conservation Act and the Atlantic Coast Conservation Act, we began using MRSS for fisheries management. MRFSS was never designed for use as a fisheries management tool and that use began to create problems with the flaws in the data. In the 2006 reauthorization of the Magnuson/Stevens Act, NOAA and NMFS were required to reform the system and develop a more accurate count of recreational catch by 2009. For almost 3 years there was much talk and some planning meetings but little results. Recently they have been working on the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) to reform the system and have a more accurate count of the recreational catch. We have been told this new system would correct the problem. There have been many more meetings, much bureaucratic staff time, lots of conference calls and press releases talking about all the progress being made.

Remember the movie line, "Show me the money." So far they have not. The data they produced for New Jersey's 2013 summer flounder catch shows how flawed the system is. The wave 4 preliminary data was so bad even NMFS admitted an error and did the figures again, lowering the catch

figures to what we might have seen during a normal year with high catches. Then they review wave 3 and increased the numbers again. This puts New Jersey about 12 1/2% over our quota and then there is going to be an additional 8% coast wide cut for 2014. Therefore, we are looking at a 21% cut. 2013 was clearly not a normal year for recreational anglers in New Jersey. It is amazing that they could increase the numbers in wave 3 when many anglers had lost their boats or had not put their boats in the water, when many marinas were not open and many anglers were still repairing their homes rather than fishing. These issues continue through the end of 2013. I have not gotten the numbers for boat registrations in New Jersey for 2013 but I do know that New Jersey's Saltwater Registry was down by 42%. The party and charter boat registrations were also down by 34%. I would imagine private boat registrations will be similar and I will have the exact figures soon. The ironic part is that when we set the management measures for 2013, those measures were based on a normal year, without any of the consequences of Sandy. Sandy is a fact. Our exact catch figures should have been well below the measures put in place. New York's figures should have been lower as well. We need for Congress to call in NMFS and ask them how they have been spending our tax dollars. It is not possible to believe they are spending our money wisely when they ask us to believe their figures are getting more accurate. I might sound bitter but I am tired of hearing the excuse that this is the best available data. If this is the best data, we could save money and just pick a number out of a hat.

With this history in mind, we are now in the process going to public hearings for Addendum XXV. New York has been pushing for mandatory regionalization with New Jersey for the last few years. New Jersey and the Commission have rejected this course of action saying it should be voluntary. Given the differences in the fisheries among New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island, I have difficulty imagining how this would benefit New Jersey. I have also seen this as a veiled attempt to reallocate New Jersey's larger share of the summer flounder to the benefit of the other states. This Addendum attempts to circumvent this concern by calling for a one year trial period. There are no provisions that I have seen that would deal with overages by the region. This Addendum is being pushed through at a very quick pace. New

York has been threatening to sue the Commission and this may be an attempt to forestall that action. Perhaps New Jersey needs to threaten a legal action of our own if our allocation is moved to other states without a total reallocation process that impacts on all the states involved in summer flounder management. Maybe I'm cynical but if it walks and quacks like a duck, I believe it is a duck. We will have a February ASMFC meeting to act on this Addendum. The hearing information where to get a copy of the addendum is below. You need to read the articles by Chris Zeman and Paul Haertel included in this newspaper. JCAA will send an alert with our position soon. I will be listening to all the public comments before the meeting in February. It is important that you get involved in this issue.

Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board Approves Draft Addendum XXV for Public Comment and the Draft addendum is posted at the (www.asmfc.org) under quick links. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on January 24, 2014 and should be forwarded to Kirby Rootes-Murphy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (fax) or via email at krootes-murphy@asmfc.org (Subject line: Draft Addendum XXV).

10:15 – 11:45 a.m. Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
 12:45 – 1:45 p.m. Weakfish Management Board
 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Business Session (Strategic Planning)
 3:15 – 5:45 p.m. Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board

Thursday, February 6, 2014

8:00 – 9:30 a.m. American Eel Management Board
 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. Shad and River Herring Management Board
 11:00 – 11:45 a.m. Sturgeon Management Board
 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board
 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Horseshoe Crab Management Board
 3:45 – 5:15 p.m. South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board

Report on Fluke Management Meeting

By John Toth

On January 13th, a meeting was held by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to hear public comment on Draft Addendum XXV which proposes regional management measures for summer flounder for 2014. This addendum has the intent of providing more equity in recreational opportunities along the coast with the main target of having New York and New Jersey having the same size limit for summer flounder (fluke). Currently, NJ has a size of 17 1/2 inches and 19 inches for NY. This meeting was held at the Ocean County Administration Building in Toms River at 7:00 p.m.

Our JCAA President, Paul Haertel, wanted to attend this meeting since Paul and members of the **New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) and the NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Club** wrote a two-page prepared statement to be read at this meeting **strongly opposing** this addendum! Unfortunately, Paul could not attend it due to his back surgery that was scheduled on this date and Paul asked me to read the prepared statement on behalf of our three groups that collectively number **100,000 anglers!** By now, you may have read several articles on the results of this meeting, but my intention is to provide

**ASMFC Winter Meeting
 February 4-6, 2013**

Preliminary Agenda

Crowne Plaza Hotel Old Town,
 Alexandria, Virginia

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Atlantic Herring Section
 9:15 – 10:00 a.m. Winter Flounder Management Board
 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
 1:15 – 4:15 p.m. Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board
 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Executive Committee
 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. ACCSP Coordinating Council

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Executive Committee
 8:30 – Noon Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Board

you with a “fly on the wall” account of this meeting. For those of you who may not be familiar with this addendum, in a nutshell New Jersey sets its own size and bag limits for fluke. The addendum wants NJ to be in a **region** with other states such as New York so that these states have the same size and bag limits. This proposal **appears** to have merit since it would eliminate the confusion over size and bag limits among other states. But, New Jersey would **NOT** benefit from this addendum and the reasons follow.

Before I get into any specifics about this meeting, I was struck with the **FRUSTRATION** and anger that anglers at this meeting expressed over the data used to develop the options for the management of fluke to Kirby Rootes-Murdy who chaired this meeting. The standard method that takes place at these meetings is that the presenter shows a power point presentation of the options available and then takes comments about these options and records them so that these comments are considered for a future decision on which options should be approved. When Kirby showed information that NJ’s anglers overfished our fluke quota by **27%**, the verbal attacks started. How could this have happened given the destruction of Sandy that damaged or destroyed thousands of boats! Usually there are grumblings about the bad data we are all familiar with, but not this time! Anglers, including a lot of boat captains and tackle shop owners indicated that they wanted **none of the options** because of the terrible data that drives the decision-making process of the ASMFC and other management agencies. The purpose of this type of meeting is to receive specific comments about options, but the attacks continued on the bad data and Sandy was the straw that broke the camel’s back! More comments were made about the faulty data than any options! Ray Bogan from the United Boatman, said something to the effect “Let’s call it what it really is – a political ploy to take our fish.” Ray received a big round of applause!

When we finally got around to specific comments, I read the comment that the **JCAA, NJOA and the NJ Federation of Sportsmen’s Club** strongly supports **Option 1** Status Quo (Conservancy Equivalency) that allows NJ to determine its own regulations concerning summer flounder (currently 5 fish at 17 ½ inches. If NJ would be lumped into a regional system that includes NY, then most likely we would see our size go to **18 inches** and reduced to **4 fish**. NY would drop to 18

inches under the regional plan (Option 3), but one of the real concerns is what happens if NY overfishes like it usually does? Our size limit would start to creep up to 18 1/2, 19 and more, so what do NJ’s anglers gain by going to a regional direction? I also read that our three groups support **Option 2** which is designed to be used with Option 1 that allows for the sharing of under-utilized fluke quota from other states.

Not one person in the room voted for **Option 3** (Adaptive Regional Management) that would regionalize NJ and NY with other states for fluke management. Given the mood of the room, that person would not win a popularity contest!

However, what Mr. Kirby Rootes-Murdy heard plain and very clear was that recreational anglers are tired of continually being penalized by the poor data that is driving the decision-making process of the ASMFC and agencies like it! He also took back with him that New Jersey wants to be responsible for the management of its own fluke fishery and does not want to see a massive shift of its fluke quota given to other states and also suffer the negative and unintended consequences that can emerge from it in the very near future.

Even though New Jersey’s anglers spoke against regional measures, a final decision on it will be made in February when the ASMFC member states will vote on the Draft Addendum. The vote will be close, especially since NY’s senator Chuck Schumer has been lobbying his political connections in favor of New York to have the same fluke size as New Jersey.

Animal Planet Carelessly Shows Slippery Audience How to Cash in on Depleted Baby Eel Stocks

by Capt. Paul Eidman
Forage Fish Committee Chair

The recent debut of Animal Planet’s new show “Cold River Cash” has anglers from Maine to Florida wondering if there is anyone with half a brain at this network. At a time when state fish and game enforcement budgets have been slashed to the bone, this show makes an already difficult 2014 eel poaching season potentially epic.

Cold River Cash gets up close and personal into the lives of legal eelers, and gives everybody a weekly lesson on how, when and where to catch and

sell immature American Eels, aka Elvers or Glass Eels. Catching these little eels isn't easy, but the return on investment has reached illegal narcotic levels. No doubt that state, local law enforcement and US Fish & Wildlife service has to become aware of the potential black market appetite. There is simply way too much incentive to go around the law, and the current penalties are weak at best.

The Asian demand for these little critters has recently skyrocketed, especially after the 2011 Tsunami destroyed many of the eel farms in Japan. This event, and a global increased demand for eel, has sent the street value of a pound of elvers from \$185 to over \$2,000.00 in the past three years. We are thankful that only two states currently have a legal elver season, Maine and South Carolina, but this doesn't mean that the harvesting will not be attempted elsewhere. Maine's 10 week season enables lucky permit holders to brag about quick six figure incomes.

Here in Jersey, we got a glimpse into the slippery world of illegal elver fishing last March when 3 "Mainers" got caught red-handed by NJDEP conservation officers at 2:45 in the morning. They were tending to an illegally set net on the Absecon creek in Absecon. These guys had 8,000 eels on them and further investigation led to a holding tank that yielded a total of approx. 24,250 eels. All told, the eels weighed about 9 pounds and were valued at \$22,500. Not bad for a cold nights work, huh? They wouldn't be doing this if they didn't have connections back home to get them on a plane and get paid.

We all know that Stripers depend upon a healthy eel stock for survival. Depicting a gold rush opportunity on national TV, for a species that is teetering on endangered species status, is enough to send some of us over the edge. From my perspective as a forage fish guy, the bad news about crashing fish stocks has been relentless. The story is always the same... don't manage the species until it vaporizes. We spend years fighting for changes at the fisheries management table, to no avail, while commercial interests continue to over-exploit vulnerable stocks, giving little to no consideration to the ecosystem impact. Many of the fish we count on in the recreational fishery are directly dependent on these forage species.

The American Eel is no exception. As of the 2012 benchmark stock assessment, American Eel was been declared "depleted." Several attempts over

the last decade to designate the American Eel an endangered species have failed. As eelers are gearing up for the 2014 season, the stock is at historically low levels due to a combination of overfishing, habitat loss, food web alterations, predation, turbine mortality, environmental changes, toxins and contaminants and disease. Now our valuable elvers are being exported to Asia.

You can do three things to help the cause.

1. Write a letter to Animal Planet and tell them how you feel--how environmentally irresponsible this show is--and how, at the very least, they should put a disclaimer up on the screen that lets viewers know that the American Eel population is on the edge of collapse. Exploitation is detrimental to the future of our ecosystem. Tell them that you are going to boycott the advertisers of the show and that you will be spreading the word.
2. Write a letter to the ASMFC and ask them to implement cautious harvesting rules this spring when considering Draft Addendum IV, which primarily focuses on management measures for the glass eel fishery and will be considered by the Management Board. Attention Kate Taylor, senior FMP coordinator ktaylor@asmfc.org.
3. On the local front, you can keep an eye out along our coastline from March thru early May. New Jersey law sets a minimum six inch, 50 per day limit so any catching of elvers is illegal. Anyone observing what they suspect to be illegal fishing activities should contact the 24 hr DEP hotline 877 WARNDEP (877-927-6337)

It is emphasized that these poachers are to be considered armed and dangerous and confrontation of any kind is to be avoided at all costs.

On the web at:

Anglersconservationnetwork.org

Menhadendefenders.org

Savetheriverherring.org

Twitter Feeds:

@paulyfish

@Menhaden_Defend

@AnglersConNet

Facebook links:

www.facebook.com/AnglersConservationNetwork

www.facebook.com/menhadendefenders

Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series Returns to the Jersey Shore on January 25, 2014

For Immediate Release
Contact 1-800-448-7360

Tickets for the January 25, Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series, to be held at the Performing Arts Theater inside Long Branch Middle School (350 Indiana Avenue, Long Branch), have officially gone on sale.

The 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. presentation will be hosted by **George Poveromo** – Host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on the NBC Sports Network, and Editor-At-Large for Salt Water Sportsman, and **Nick Honachefsky** – Noted fishing writer and authority on New Jersey's coastal fisheries.

Joining **Poveromo** and **Honachefsky** at the Jersey Shore will be **Dave Schunke** – Innovative trophy striped bass fishing authority who also excels at catching sharks and tunas; **Dr. Mitchell Roffer** – Noted authority on locating productive water surface temperature breaks and ocean-circulation features that hold fish; **Harry Vernon III** – Distinguished southern offshore fishing pro who specializes in live-baiting, trolling and day-dropping for swordfish; **Captain Lou Grazioso** - Veteran expert at catching trophy striped bass and fluke, bluefin and yellowfin tunas; **Captain Steve Purul** – Noted striped bass, fluke, and wreck fishing authority who runs Reel Fantasea Fishing Charters from Barnegat; **Captain Tom Daffin** – Veteran South Jersey specialist who excels at catching trophy striped bass, fluke, blackfish and sea bass, as well as bluefin and yellowfin tuna; **Captain Austin Perilli** – Noted trophy fluke fishing authority and innovative light tackle striped bass angler; **Captain Bryan DiLeo** – Renowned back bay and ICW fishing authority; and **Captain David Wicker** – Noted authority on using modern electronics to locate and catch more fish.

Courses for the January 25 presentation will focus on Trophy stripers on ultra-light tackle; Live-lining for trophy stripers; Top trolling tactics for stripers; Secrets of fishing Raritan, Sandy Hook, Silver and Barnegat Bays; Flutter-jigging for stripers and bluefish; Sure-fire weakfish tactics; Chunking for bluefish; Bluefish on surface lures; Inshore wire-line techniques; Jetty tactics; How to catch more and

bigger fluke; Targeting trophy fluke; Cutting-edge fluke tactics; Southern flounder tactics that will take more and bigger Jersey fluke; Top tactics for big blackfish; Catching blackfish by the score; Variety fishing in and around inlets; How to locate and fish productive bottom (blackfish, sea bass, spot and fluke); Back-bay stripers; Can't-miss tuna-trolling patterns; Cutting-edge tuna chunking tactics; Live-baiting for tunas; Advanced methods for bluefin and yellowfin tuna; Zeroing in on big eye tuna; Flutter-jigging for tuna; How to choose, rig and fish the best lures and natural baits for tuna; How to catch wahoo off New Jersey; Subsurface offshore trolling tactics; Cutting edge spreader bar and dredge tactics; Secrets for catching more inshore tuna; Reading water temperature charts; Targeting trophy makos; Basic and advanced sharking techniques; Offshore kite fishing for sharks and tuna; Daytime swordfishing off New Jersey.

A ticket to the Seminar Series costs \$ 55.00, and includes a course textbook, one year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman, one Roffers Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, one bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, one bottle of Corrosion Block, one spool of Sufix fishing line, one bottle of Star Tron Fuel Treatment, \$20 off on any purchase of \$150 or more from Capt. Harry's Fishing Supply, and chances to win thousands of dollars worth of door prizes.

At the conclusion of the Jersey Shore seminar, there will be a drawing for a chance to win an incredible Bahamas bonefishing excursion to the Bimini Sands Resort and Marina. The drawing will consist of the names of the attendees on hand that day, and one lucky person will win the trip for two!

In addition, the names of all attendees from the 2014 National Seminar Series Tour will be entered into the drawing for the Super Grand Prize - a brand new Mako ProSkiff 17! The drawing for the boat will take place one week after the completion of the final seminar on the tour, and one lucky winner will take home the boat. A New Jersey angler, incidentally, won the boat after the completion of the 2013 Tour!

There will also be drawings from pre-registered anglers, for VIP All-Access Pass upgrades. The winners will be permitted back stage at any time, to join the faculty for lunch in the Green Room.

For more information, visit:
www.nationalseminarseries.com, or call 1-800-448-7360.

Show Time

By Mark Taylor

Jersey Coast Anglers Association will be at the following shows in 2014.

- **Garden State Outdoor Sports Show** at the NJ Convention Center in Edison on January 9th to 12th
- **Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar** in Long Branch on January 25th
- **Atlantic City Boat Show** February 5th to 9th
- **The Saltwater Fishing Expo** in Somerset on March 14th to 16th

We are coming to the end of 2013 and I hope everyone had a great year. It's time to start thinking of things we need to do before the start of 2014. Some of them may be winterizing the boat, going through all the rods, reels and tackle boxes and inspecting everything and making a list to see what needs to be replaced or repaired. Once you have that list together then you start thinking which show am I going to get the best bargains at. By going to the shows you have the best chances of getting what you need from the best manufactures and vendors that attend these shows. So mark the dates in your calendar of each of the shows so you don't miss them. While you are at the shows stop by and say hello to the volunteers at the JCAA Booth. Don't forget to pick up your High Roller Raffle ticket for a chance on some very nice prizes. If you are wondering how to become a volunteer at one of the shows or get more involved with JCAA, please contact me at mtsport64@aol.com. I will answer every email that is sent to me. I am looking forward to hearing from you. Something about each of the shows below:

Garden State Outdoor Sports Show

NJ Convention Center in Edison on Jan 9th to 12th

Link: www.gsooss.com

The Garden State Outdoor Sports Show took place on January 9th-12th and I'd like to thank all those volunteers who covered the JCAA booth. Thank you, everyone.

Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar Series

Long Branch on January 25th 2014

Link: www.nationalseminarseries.com

This seminar is six hours of intense fishing instruction from George Poveromo, leading national and local angling authorities.

Atlantic City Boat Show

February 5th to 9th

Link: www.acboatshow.com

There will be a lot of great boats on display to tour. At the show they have seminars and a lot of vendors. So if you are in a mood to buy a new boat this is the place to be. This show will take you a whole day to see everything. Hope to see you there.

The Saltwater Fishing Expo

Somerset on March 14th to 16th

Link: www.sportshows.com

Over the past nine years this show has grown to become the fishing destination that kicks off the New Jersey and Tri-State coastline's saltwater fishing season. It's where avid anglers congregate to plot out their season and buy the gear they've been dreaming about all winter. With many of the major tackle manufacturers here to answer all your questions and local tackle retailers available to fill your orders, this is truly one-stop shopping. Meet face-to-face with guides and charters, compare and buy saltwater fishing boats and kayaks, and learn the latest techniques from local experts. Whether your saltwater fishing passion is surf casting, inshore or offshore, all are well represented through large and small manufacturers based up and down the east coast. Mark your calendars now and don't miss the 9th Annual Saltwater Fishing Expo in Somerset, NJ.

Membership Report

By John Toth

Club membership dues are payable at the beginning of the year. Invoices will be sent out to all member clubs in the very near future. Please make every effort to send in your club dues in a timely manner.

If there are problems with the JCAA sending newsletters to the wrong addresses or to the wrong club members, please let me know so that

corrections can be made. I can be reached at (732) 656-0139 or at tothjohn@verizon.net.

As always, **Thank You** for your continued support of the JCAA!

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

It's official, the 23rd Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament (GSFT) will be held at Island Beach State Park on Sunday, May 18, 2014.

The buzz from local tackle dealers along the Jersey Shore is they are hearing many positive comments about the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament date change. Anglers are already making plans and booking hotel accommodations for the 23rd Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament.

It looks like more fish catching opportunities in May vs. October is creating excitement among surf anglers to get out and fish early in the season. This is the time to start preparing your fish-catching strategies so that you can catch a trophy fish that will win the 2014 Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and win PRIZES. Don't forget, if you catch the largest fish your name will be inscribed on the Governor's Cup with the other twenty-two anglers that previously won the GSFT.

Things to remember: May 18, 2014 at Island Beach State Park in Ocean County. Fishing will begin beach side 6:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and the raffle drawing starts 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. followed by the awards ceremony at 2:00 p.m.

Mail in Registration Fee must be postmarked by April 21, 2014 in order to save on the adult registration fee and be eligible for a special prizes offered to pre-registrants on the day of the tournament, including an early entry raffle for a surf rocket (www.surfrocketfishing.com).

Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult, and are still required to register. To register visit [this link](#).

TEN TIPS FOR ATTENDING BOATING & OUTDOOR SPORT SHOWS

This is the time to start looking for great fishing deals at upcoming boating and outdoor sport shows. Stop by the JCAA booth to learn what is

new with Fluke management data and other marine wildlife. Outdoor sport shows start in January and usually last till June but don't forget the fall fishing flea markets and remember to support your local tackle dealer.

1. **Arrive early.** It's always best to beat the crowds, you'll be able to see everything before others and have plenty of time to go back to a vendor to make a deal.
2. **Wear comfortable shoes.** I can't stress this enough, since you're likely to be on your feet for a good part of the day. Concrete floors are tough to walk and stand on without proper footwear. After working all week, you don't want your dogs barking and ruining your day. If you are with your family make sure they are comfortable. Strollers for small children are a must and they also help carry your stuff.
3. **Bring reusable shopping bags or a small cart.** It's always good idea to have reusable bags that can rest on your shoulder. Most merchants at the shows have small bags so bring a portable means to carry your purchases through the show.
4. **Don't be afraid to ask for a seller's best price.** Talk to the seller and get as much information as you can about the item. This is all part of the buying dance. Most of the time you can make your best deals at the end of the show. Make a reasonable offer and see if the seller will accept it.
5. **And don't be afraid to walk away.** If the price isn't right or a seller isn't being responsive, don't be afraid to walk away. Nine times out of 10, they'll say "I can do better!" And if they don't, move on and enjoy shopping for other stuff. Remember they are in business. When haggling, please be polite.
6. **Pack a lunch.** Eat healthy this will keep your energy up. Food courts and trucks usually offer fried food. If you're looking for an alternative to fried anything pack a lunch or look for healthy food choices at the show.
7. **Most people forget to bring water.** Stay hydrated and save another few dollars that can be spent on outdoor gear.
8. **Stay in touch with vendors.** If you find a vendor that carries a lot of items that you're interested in, grab their business card or contact information. If you ever regret walking away from that perfect find, you can reach out to them

and it's likely that they'll be back at the show next year. Most vendors have websites but remember you will have shipping charges.

9. **Ask dealers about their products.** If you have no idea what you're buying, ask the vendor. Most of the time, vendors will be experts on what they're selling and can give you insight into their merchandise.
10. **Learning Opportunities.** Remember to stop at some of the organizations that can teach you about your sport. Many organization members have a lot of knowledge about boating, hunting, fishing, and the outdoors. Spend time talking at their booth, they will keep you well informed about your sport of choice and environmental issues.

BRICK HIGH SCHOOL FISHING CLUB

56 students from Brick High School registered for the Brick High School Fishing Club. Joanna Scutro, Math Educator, stated, "students are excited about learning to fish and already set up a twitter page to discuss fishing club news."

The JCAA Youth Education Committee will work with Brick High School and support their High School Fishing Club. The next meeting is scheduled for February and the JCAA Youth Education Committee has provided a Marine Conservation High School Fishing Club template to use for conducting meetings. JCAA will also provide loaner tackle, fishing videos, books, and educational items from the JCAA lending library.

JUNIOR MATE TRAINING PROGRAM

We received the following news from Captain Lindsay Fuller: The Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association, Inc., in conjunction with Berkley Fishing, sponsors the BHCFA Junior Mate Training Program.

This is a great way for teenagers to learn the skills necessary to becoming a Certified Charter Boat Mate. Registration for the 2014 Junior Mate Training Program will be held on Thursday, June 26, 2014 at the New Jersey Maritime Museum, Dock Rd at West Avenue in Beach Haven. Check the BHCFA website at www.BHCFA.com for more details or Call Capt. Lindsay Fuller at 609-685-2839 or e-mail at JLinFuller@aol.com.

SEND US YOUR EVENT INFORMATION

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee is asking JCAA member clubs/organizations for a listing of scheduled youth and family events that are going to be held by your club or organization during 2014. The purpose of this request is to alert other fishing clubs and organizations that would like to participate in your youth and family event. The JCAA Newspaper is a way to get the word out about what's happening in your club. Use this opportunity to inform others about events your fishing club/organization is doing to promote fishing. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will support your event with "Hook on Fishing Not on Drugs" materials. Please contact Greg Kucharewski with your listing of youth and family events and don't forget the Sportsmen Shows include your booth location, fishing club or organization that will attend. By providing this information you're fishing club or organization can improve membership and increase consumer participation.

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AT
WWW.JCAA.ORG**