

JCAA NEWSPAPER DECEMBER 2014

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on November 24th, 2014)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, November 25th, 2014

Starting at 7:30 PM

AT JERSEY COAST SHARK ANGLERS

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 11th, 2014

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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Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

December 11th JCAA Board Meeting

December 30th JCAA General Meeting

January 8th JCAA Board Meeting

January 8th -11th Garden State Outdoor Sports Show

January 17th Salt Water Sportsman Seminar

January 27th JCAA General Meeting

February 4th -8th Atlantic City Boat Show

February 26th -March 1st Greater Philly Outdoor Sports Show

March 5th -8th Suffern Show

March 20th -22nd Saltwater Fishing Expo

President's Report

By Paul Haertel

The big day for stripers and striped fishermen was on 10/29 when the ASMFC voted in favor of a 25% reduction in striped mortality and decided that this must be done within a one year time frame rather than a three year plan. The commercial sector got off with somewhat less than a 25% reduction. Please read Tom Fote's article to see exactly how that happened. However, the ASMFC did vote against allowing the transfer of commercial quota from one state to another.

Regarding the recreational measures, the ASMFC voted in favor of conservation equivalency meaning that states may come up with their own options provided they have sufficient data to prove that they will result in the mandated reduction. At our last meeting, JCAA member clubs voted to support a two fish option rather than one fish at 28" which would result in a 31% reduction. More specifically, JCAA supports an option that was previously approved under the addendum by the ASMFC, one fish from 28"-34" and a second fish

over 36". More preferably, however, would be a similar option that does away with the 2" gap. The gap is problematic for law enforcement officials as well as fishermen, particularly those who spearfish.

The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council has taken a similar stance and the New Jersey Bureau of Marine Fisheries is working on various options that will be submitted to the ASMFC for approval. Not all of these options have been fully developed yet but there is one in particular that I believe might garner a lot of support if it is approved by the ASMFC. That option would be for one fish from 29"-39" with a second fish at over 39".

The NJBMF has until 11/30 to submit its options to the ASMFC for approval. The NJMFC will be hosting another advisors meeting in early December which I plan on attending. At that time we will discuss which options may best serve the fishermen of our state. The NJMFC would like to narrow their list of options down to just a few. A public hearing will then be scheduled after which the NJMFC will choose which option they will support. I do not have a timetable for any of this though as the ASMFC is not expected to review and approve or disapprove any of our states' options until late January.

Another important aspect of this situation is that while the NJMFC has the authority to set regulations for most species, it does not have the authority to do so for striped bass. Regulations for stripers must be set through legislation. JCAA intends to work with other influential groups with hope that we can reach a consensus and push a bill through that we all can live with. We would like to avoid what happened a number of years ago when there were several competing bills. That was a real problem and it was not until the ASMFC found New Jersey out of compliance that one of the bills was finally passed. The consequence of being out of compliance is that our striped bass fishery would be shut down. The addendum requires that all states have their new regulations in effect by 3/1/15 so we will have to urge our legislators to act quickly once we decide which option to support.

Nominations for all JCAA officer positions are being accepted by our nominating committee. Please contact Don Marantz, John Toth or Jason Estelle if you are interested in serving. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at our November and December meetings. The vote will take place at our meeting on December 30th.

Our Sportsperson of the Year dinner was held at the Crystal Point Yacht Club on Sunday, 11/9. The dinner was a huge success so I would like to thank our co-chairmen, Paul Turi and Dan Miller for their hard work. Congratulations to Sportsperson of the Year, Fred Bogue and Youth Education Award winner Don Marantz!

JCAA Comments on Comprehensive Summer Flounder Management Amendment

By Paul Haertel

Below is a letter I sent to the ASMFC and MAFMC regarding the Comprehensive Summer Flounder Management Amendment. My letter is based on positions that JCAA had previously taken.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission,
Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council,

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association is based in New Jersey and composed of approximately 75 clubs. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Comprehensive Summer Flounder Management Amendment.

The JCAA believes that the 60/40 split of the summer flounder quota favoring commercial fishermen is unfair. It was based on years that the commercial fishermen devastated the stock rather than more historic years when recreational fishermen caught a higher percentage of the fish. This split needs to be changed so that recreational fishermen receive at least 50% of the quota.

In 2014 New Jersey was forced into a regionalization program and more specifically into a region with New York and Connecticut. Much of the projected underage of fluke was taken from New Jersey and more southern states and given to New York. Though New Jersey is now in a region, it was given a lower target quota than it would have received under conservation equivalency and that was without any of the projected underage that should have been added on as it was in 2013. The end result was that NJ has overfished its target quota while New York and Connecticut have underfished

theirs. Many believe that the MRIP numbers were manipulated that way to prove to New Jersey that regionalization works.

Further there is evidence that the fluke biomass has shifted further northward which was part of the reason this reallocation of fish was approved. However, even with New York's size limit being reduced to 18" from 19" while New Jersey's was increased from 17 1/2" to 18", New Jersey still caught far more fluke than New York. New Jersey has the most fluke, the most fluke fishermen and the highest percentage of fluke trips to overall fishing trips and yet it received a lower percentage of the overall quota than in the past.

The regionalization program was also supposed to correct the disparity from states fishing in similar waters. Allegedly, it was unfair for New Jersey to keep fish at 17 1/2" in the New York Bight area while New York anglers had to abide by a 19" size limit. However, all the ASMFC did was transfer the problem. Now New Jersey anglers fishing in Delaware Bay have an 18" size limit while those fishing similar waters from Delaware have a 16" size limit. This has hurt the party and charter boat industry as well as tackle stores and other businesses as people are now going to fish out of Delaware rather than New Jersey. Perhaps a portion of southern New Jersey should be placed in a region with Delaware, if we do not go back to conservation equivalency. This problem needs to be somehow corrected in time for the 2015 season.

JCAA also urges the ASMFC/MAFMC to develop more accurate science. The MRIP numbers would be laughable if they were not so negatively impacting the fishermen of our state. Boat sales, registrations, numbers of fishermen and the number of trips taken are all significantly down yet the MRIP numbers still show that we often overfish our quota. The saying that only the good fishermen are still fishing was started as a sarcastic joke but there are fisheries managers who actually believe this. With less than 1% of the fishermen being surveyed the data collected is often skewed by fishermen who were surveyed and happened to make a good catch on that particular day. The number of people surveyed has to be increased and there should be more contacts with those listed in the saltwater registry. A better method of counting the number of fishermen and trips they take must be developed.

There are far too many fluke being lost due to discard mortality. This is due to the high discard

ratio of shorts to keepers. A shorter size limit for a fish or two would help but not at the cost of reducing the season length. People want to fish and want longer seasons but more importantly shorter seasons for some species create too much pressure on other species. For example in recent years, the fluke and sea bass seasons were closed at the same time leaving charter and party boats little to fish for. Many of them never used to target striped bass but began targeting them as they needed to fish for something and lo and behold many of them became proficient at it. Now these boats target stripers regularly and are contributing to the decline of our striped stocks.

The lack of something to fish for is severely hurting our economy. Earlier this fall, fluke and sea bass seasons were both closed while at the same time we were only allowed to keep one blackfish. Stripers had not yet arrived and blue fishing was sporadic and not everyone wants to fish for blues anyway. The end result was that many people did not fish while some bottom fishing boats targeted offshore wrecks heavily pressuring cod just as they are starting to make a nice comeback in our area.

Sea bass are another big problem. The overall biomass is severely underestimated. Their range and size has increased significantly and we are overfishing our coastwide quota almost every year. New Jersey was forced to have regulations so strict in 2013 that it underfished its target but was forced to have even stricter regulations in 2014 because the region overfished. The end result is that New Jersey is harvesting a far lower percentage of the overall catch than it used to. The fact that the coastwide quota continues to be overfished shows that there is an abundance of fish and the quota is far too low. The coastwide quota for sea bass needs to be significantly increased.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

The summaries from the ASMFC meetings for winter flounder, summer flounder and striped bass are at the end of my report. I left out some of the motions on striped bass because they were very lengthy. If you want the full report, email me or go to the ASMFC webpage.

Winter Flounder

There was a long discussion at the ASMFC meeting about the sorry state of affairs on winter flounder. Some of us are still in shock that the NMFS through the New England Council allowed 5,000 trip limits last year. The Council allowed for the harvesting of more fish in Federal waters in one year than I will see in state waters in my lifetime under the present regulations. This made no sense to any of us and the Commission is asking the Council and NMFS to work with us to collaborate on future management. We cannot basically have a moratorium in state waters and allow for a large catch in Federal waters. They need to remember there was a total moratorium in Federal waters until they made this change. There was no science to justify this decision.

Summer Flounder

Wonders will never cease! Last year none of us could figure out how we went over our summer flounder quota in 2013. In New Jersey we had 900,000 fewer directed summer flounder trips, 2,000,000 recreational trips, fewer boats, fewer people in the saltwater registry and fewer party and charter boats registered. Many marinas were still closed, particularly in the time period where we registered the largest catch. It made no sense last year and it makes no sense this year. I do not have the total figures but there is no reason to expect an increase in any of these numbers. The only thing we did increase was the size of the summer flounder we can catch in New Jersey. This is counter-intuitive. But NMFS data always seems to be that way. In the Jewish faith during the Passover service they say, "Why is this night different from all other nights?" In fisheries management we ask, "Why is this year different from all the other years?" The unfortunate answer is that it is not. If there is any difference it is that the data gets worse. The poor decisions remain the same. I have talked to a number of scientists and they all realize there are problems with the new data program. It doesn't give us data that matches reality in any way. I understand there will be workshops to attempt to deal with some of these problems. It cannot happen soon enough.

Some people have begun to believe in a conspiracy theory, that NMFS wants our catch to go over quota every year so we agree to regionalization with New York. NMFS was very concerned by the

pressure directed at them by the Attorney General and the Senator from New York. So instead of addressing the problem, they threw New Jersey under the bus. It is also curious that Connecticut and New York are under quota even though New York went down in size limit. This forced regionalization had dire consequences for the recreational fishing industry in Delaware Bay. Recreational anglers from New Jersey had a small season and an 18 inch size limit while our neighbors in Delaware had a 360 day season and went down to a 16 inch fish. Why would any party and charter boat draw customers from Pennsylvania? They forced New Jersey into regionalization to accommodate New York's size difference with no regards for what would happen in Delaware Bay. This needs to be addressed in this current addendum that will put in the regulations for next year. It also needs to be explained why every state but New Jersey can opt out of regionalization. Either regionalization is voluntary for every state or mandatory for every state. One state should not be the sacrificial lamb. New Jersey wants the decision to be voluntary for everyone. Any regionalization proposed must consider fairness for every region of a state. What we have talked about for years is that regionalization should be regions that reflect the fisheries, not state boundaries.

Striped Bass

The Striped Bass Board voted for a 25% reduction on the coastal fishery and a 20.5% reduction on the Chesapeake Bay. I have been around long enough to know that the proposed reductions would not be equitable. As usual, I was proven right. I have included some tables so you have a better understanding. These tables were included in the draft management plans. But they might have been overlooked.

1. People were pushing for this reduction because they felt the spawning stock was collapsing and a bigger spawning stock was necessary to produce a high recruitment. If you look at the table below that shows recruitment and young of the year in Chesapeake Bay, you will see that the highest young of the year index was in 1994. The spawning stock biomass in 1994 was just under 100,000,000 pounds. In 2013, the spawning stock biomass was almost 140,000,000 pounds. We have an increase of 40,000,000 pounds to produce the young of the

year. That means there is no shortage of females to produce a record year class. The question that should have been asked was why with these high figures we have been seeing poor recruitment. Could it be the environmental issues in Chesapeake Bay?

2. Let's look at what is happening in the commercial fishery. The commercial catch will have a 25% reduction and will be based on the 1996 quotas. The reduction will come from those quotas. The 1996 quotas have not been reached by most states in many years. I have included a table below that will show the actual reductions from the 2013 catch. What this table shows is that if every state catches the quota they are now assigned, the total coastwise commercial catch will show an increase of 13.5%. I have done the math for many of the states so you can see the actual reductions or increases.

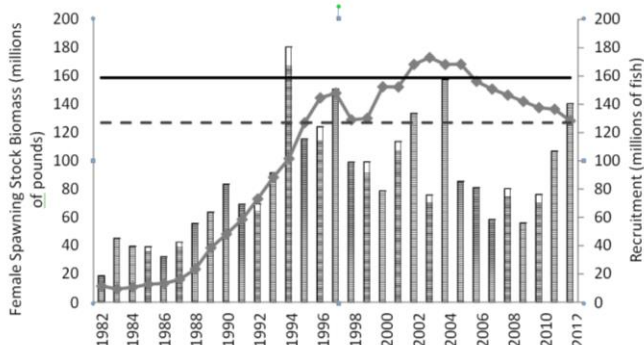
- MA will actually take a 13.2% reduction from its 2013 catch.
- RI will actually take a 20% reduction from its 2013 catch.
- NY will actually take a 3.39% reduction from its 2013 catch.
- DE will actually take a 24.2% reduction from its 2013 catch.
- ML will actually have a 5.4% increase from its 2013 catch.
- VA will actually have a 68.1% increase from its 2013 catch.
- NC had no catch in 2013 but will be allowed 360,350 pound harvest.

Coastal Commercial Fishery

Option B16: Takes a 25% reduction from the Amendment 6 quota. This option does not achieve the proposed 25% reduction from 2013 harvest if all states harvest all of their allowable quota.

	For Reference	Option B16	For Reference
State	Am6 Quota (lbs)	25% reduction from Am6 Quota (lbs)	2013 Harvest (lbs)
ME	250*	188	0
NH	5,750*	4,313	0
MA	1,159,750	869,813	1,002,519
RI	243,625†	182,719	231,280
CT	23,750**	17,813	1,479
NY	1,061,060†	795,795	823,801
NJ	321,750**	241,313	6,096
DE	193,447	145,085	191,424
ML	131,560†	98,670	93,532
VA	184,853	138,640	82,427
NC	480,480	360,360	0
Coastal Total	3,806,275	2,854,706	2,532,558
% Diff from 2013 harvest	+50	+13	0

Figure 2: Atlantic striped bass female spawning stock biomass and recruitment (age-1) from 1982 to 2012.



3. Let's look at what happened in the Chesapeake Bay. According to the release, the Chesapeake Bay will take a 20.5% reduction. I thought this would come from the 2013 figure. In 2013 Chesapeake Bay, since they manage under the harvest control model, was required to create a 14% reduction. But because the Board felt generous, they allowed the Chesapeake to take their 20.5% reduction from the 2012 quota. That means they are only going to reduce their 2015 fishery by 6.5% when compared to their 2013 and 2014 catch.

As you can see, the only anglers who are going to suffer a full 25% reduction are the coastal anglers. Does that mean we will have more recruitment? If

you listened to the Board on the webinar, it was clearly stated that this reduction will probably not have any impact on recruitment since the level is high enough to produce the highest young of the year on record. What it shows is there are other reasons that we are having problems with recruitment, not only on striped bass but on bluefish, weakfish, winter flounder, summer flounder and menhaden. These are all species that depend on the bays and estuaries as a nursery. They are the same areas that produce the forage species that are the food source for these stocks. Many of these stocks were at all time high levels for spawning stock biomass and still had poor recruitment and dwindling stocks. Weakfish is the perfect example. If you really care about striped bass and other species, you need to care about the environment in the bays and estuaries where they live. I have been trying to find anglers to participate in the protection of the bays. This has been a huge challenge. They would need to get off their computers and into their communities to protect the watersheds and estuaries. There is much work to be done. If you want to see the table for the commercial fishery, just email me. The five column chart was just too much for the newspaper. It will be on our webpage when the newspaper is posted. Again, if you would like to get involved in protecting the bays and estuaries, give me a call or send me an email. If you are from another state, contact your local environmental group or estuary program.

Atlantic States Fisheries Commission 73rd Annual Meeting Summary

Winter Flounder Management Board (October 27, 2014)

Meeting Summary

The Winter Flounder Management Board met to receive reports on the recent stock assessment for the Gulf of Maine (GOM) winter flounder stock, spawning stock biomass trends of the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) stock, and fisheries status by the Advisory Panel.

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center completed an operational stock assessment update for the GOM stock in August 2014. It found the stock to not be experiencing overfishing, but the stock status remains unknown. The update was based

on three trawl surveys that cover a majority of the GOM stock's range. The Technical Committee produced spawning stock biomass and abundance indices for each state in the SNE/MA range based on state's fishery independent surveys (trawls). In all surveys, the trends are declining and the indices in 2013 are often the lowest on record. Recruitment is slow, if happening at all. NEFSC will conduct an operational SNE/MA stock assessment update in 2015.

The Advisory Panel provided a report on the status of winter flounder fisheries. In most states, there are so few winter flounder in recent years that some fishermen are no longer targeting this species. An AP member was involved in a Stony Brook University study of winter flounder spawning grounds, which found that contrary to common belief, winter flounder are spawning in nearshore, hard sand bottoms rather than estuaries. Although no consensus was reached because of low participation, the AP generally supports tightening regulations according to quota reductions, and even a moratorium of the SNE/MA fishery.

The Board did not set the 2015 specifications at this time. It will address the issue during the Commission's Winter Meeting, after the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) has had a chance to set its specifications for the 2015 fishing year. The Board discussed the management of winter flounder between NEFMC, NOAA Fisheries, and the Commission. The state-water sub-component is based on recent catch and is not an allocation of the annual catch limit. The Board is interested in a complementary management plan for more equitable allocation of the winter flounder resource. The Board is concerned about the depleted SNE/MA stock and moved that the ISFMP Policy Board send a letter to NEFMC and NOAA Fisheries in support of reducing SNE/MA winter flounder possession limits to bycatch limits.

The Board approved David Goethel (NH) as a member of the Advisory Panel.

The Board approved changing the deadline for state compliance reports from November 1 to December 1. For more information, please contact Melissa Yuen, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at myuen@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

The Board recommends to the ISFMP Policy Board to send a letter to the New England Fishery

Management Council and NOAA Fisheries urging a reduction in the SNE/MA Winter Flounder possession limit to bycatch limits only for federal vessels based on sea sampling data for trips targeting other species.

Motion made by Mr. Simpson and seconded by Mr. Grout. Motion carries (6 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention).

Move to nominate David Goethel to the Winter Flounder Advisory Panel.

Motion made by Mr. Grout and seconded by Mr. Bellavance. Motion carries unanimously.

Press Release

ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Board Initiates Draft Addendum to Address 2015 Summer Flounder Recreational Fishery

Mystic, CT – The Commission’s Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board initiated the development of Draft Addendum XXVI to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

The Draft Addendum will propose alternate regional management approaches for the 2015 recreational summer flounder fishery to continue to improve equity in recreational harvest opportunities along the coast. The Draft Addendum will include options to allow for the averaging of harvest estimates, mandatory regions, and the sharing of unused quota.

Draft Addendum XXVI is initiated to continue the use of regional management to harvest the coastwide recreational harvest limit for summer flounder. In 2014, the Board approved Addendum XXV which provided a shift away from state-by-state harvest targets used in previous years. Regional management allowed for the use of the same management measures within regions, as well as more similar management measures between regions. State-by-state harvest targets created difficulties for some states as overages occurred due largely to state shares and limits not reflecting local abundance of summer flounder and its availability to recreational fishermen. State targets were based solely upon the 1998 estimate of harvest from the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey. The 2014 management regions are: Massachusetts; Rhode Island; Connecticut-New Jersey; Delaware-Virginia; and North Carolina.

The Board appointed new members to its Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel. At the Commission’s Summer Meeting in August 2014, the Board moved to consolidate the individual advisory panels for each of the three species into one group. This action was prompted by recent declines in participation and engagement of advisory panel members. Commission staff will continue to work closely with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council as it repopulates its Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel with the intent of improving meeting efficiencies and cost, and coordination of the two advisory panels.

Draft Addendum XXVI will be presented to the Board for its consideration and approval for public comment at its joint December meeting with the Council in Baltimore, Maryland. At this meeting, the Board and Council will also consider management measures for 2015 black sea bass fishery. For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Main Motion

Move to initiate an addendum to the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries management plan to consider and develop alternate approaches for regional management of the recreational summer flounder fishery for 2015.

Motion made by Mr. Gilmore and seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passes.

Motion to Amend

Move to amend to strike the word “regional.”

Motion made by Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Mr. Bellavance. Motion fails.

Move approval of Michael Plaia, Frank Blount, Michael Hall, Aaron Gewirtz, Travis Barao, Kyle Douton, P. Wes Townsend, Clark Evans, Michael Hynson, John Martin, Allen “Buddy” Seigel, Steven Wray, Meade Amory, Ken Neill, Art Smith, Mark King, Arthur Kretschner, Robbie Mercer, and Michael “Jimbo” Ireland as members to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel.

Motion made by Dr. Daniel and seconded by Mr. O'Reilly. Motion carries unanimously.

Press Release

ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Board Approves Addendum IV for Implementation in 2015

Mystic, CT – The Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approved Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Addendum establishes new fishing mortality (F) reference points, as recommended by the 2013 benchmark stock assessment. In order to reduce F to a level at or below the new target, coastal states will implement a 25% harvest reduction from 2013 levels.

Chesapeake Bay states/jurisdictions will implement a 20.5% harvest reduction from 2012 levels since their fisheries were reduced by 14% in 2013 based on their management program. All states/jurisdictions will promulgate regulations prior to the start of their 2015 fisheries. "I congratulate members of the Management Board for making tough choices yesterday to ensure the long-term health and viability of our striped bass fishery resources," stated Board Chair Douglas Grout of New Hampshire.

"The Board struck an important balance in taking immediate action to reduce fishing mortality back to the target while also recognizing the unique characteristics of the Chesapeake Bay fisheries. The action will assure a more rapid increase in the abundance of spawning fish which has been declining in recent years."

The Addendum responds to results of the 2013 Atlantic striped bass benchmark assessment indicating F in 2012 was above the new F target, and female spawning stock biomass (SSB) has been steadily declining below the target level since 2006. This means even though the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, SSB is approaching its overfished threshold and stock projections show SSB will likely fall below the threshold in the coming years. In addition, a similar decline has been observed in total harvest.

The Addendum includes changes to the coastal commercial quota and the coastal recreational fishery to achieve reductions in 2015. Commercial quotas established in Amendment 6 will be reduced by 25% while maintaining current size

limits to minimize discard mortality. The Board also maintained no transfer of unused commercial quotas as a conservation benefit to the resource. The coastal recreational fishery harvest will be reduced by implementing a one fish bag limit while keeping a 28" size limit. Under Amendment 6, states may use conservation equivalency to develop state-specific measures that are different than a one fish bag limit and 28" size limit for their coastal fisheries but still achieve a 25% reduction in harvest.

The Chesapeake Bay states/jurisdictions will reduce their 2012 Bay commercial harvest level by 20.5% and will submit conservation equivalency proposals to achieve a 20.5% reduction from the Bay recreational fishery. The Technical Committee will continue to work on Chesapeake Bay specific reference points for future management.

The Addendum will be implemented on January 1, 2015. The Technical Committee will review any submitted conservation equivalency proposals by the states and the Board will review and consider approval of those proposals at the Commission's Winter Meeting in Alexandria, VA.

Addendum IV will be made available on the Commission's website, www.asmfc.org, under *Breaking News* by mid-November. For more information, please contact Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mwaine@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

For all three pages of motions, go to [this link](#) on the ASMFC web site.

NOAA Releases Draft National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy for Review

By Chris Zeman

On November 19th, NOAA released its Draft National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy for public review and you can submit public comments until December 31, 2014.

This process generated hundreds of comments from recreational fishermen attending public meetings as well as those that commented online. The Mid-Atlantic Council hosted a public comment period for this process earlier this year.

While I am generally appreciative that NOAA has committed to this process of establishing a national policy, the 3-page draft is very general and can be improved. I actively participated in the Mid-Atlantic Council's public comment hearing and do not see that the policy reflects the comments made that day by myself and the public attending the meeting.

I also questioned the introductory statement that "an increasing number of people are pursuing recreational opportunities afforded by this nation's expansive coastal and ocean resources." To the extent this is directly speaking to recreational fishing, it is misstating reality. In the Mid-Atlantic we are seeing a near crisis level of declining recreational fishing activity. Since 2007, recreational fishing trips declined by 8 million trips – a rate of decline that is over a million trips per year. It is my understanding that other regions are also seeing declines in recreational fishing activity. We are also seeing the loss of the infrastructure, like tackle and bait stores that support recreational fisheries.

It is this reality that makes this national recreational policy such a necessity. Recreational fishermen should weigh in on the draft policy to ensure it has sufficient detail so it is an effective guidance document for NOAA employees and the public.

Comments can be submitted directly to Russell Dunn at 727-551-5740 or russell.dunn@noaa.gov or on NOAA's website at [this link](#). The deadline is December 31, 2014.

Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series Comes To Linwood!

For Immediate Release
Contact: 1-800-448-7360

The Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series will bring its 2015 New Jersey presentation to the Linwood Country Club (500 Shore Road, Linwood) on Saturday, January 17. The host of the 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. presentation will be George Poveromo – Host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on the NBC Sports Network, and Editor-At-Large for Salt Water Sportsman, with Nick Honachefsky – noted writer, TV personality and New Jersey fishing authority serving in the co-

host position. The Tour is being presented by Bass Pro Shops.

Joining Poveromo and Honachefsky in Linwood will be: Captain Adam Crouthamel – Distinguished Cape May-area authority on catching trophy fluke and striped bass, along with blackfish, sea bass and cod with *Adam Bomb Sport Fishing*; Captain Dan Schafer – Premier back bay fishing guide with Insomniac Guide Service; Captain Sean Reilly – Noted trophy fluke, blackfish, wreck- and bottom-fishing specialist who also excels at catching sharks and tuna; Captain Phil Leo – Deep water fluke, blackfish and tile-fishing pro, and authority on fishing the canyons with Duct Work Sportfishing; Captain Franz Hueber – Premier offshore and canyon fishing pro with his Libation Charters; Kaitryn Kelly – Inshore, back bay and land-fishing specialist for fluke, blackfish and striped bass; Captain Brett Taylor – Barnegat-based pro who specializes in fishing for fluke - inshore and offshore, and the Barnegat Bay system; and Captain Mark Finelli - Legendary trophy striped bass authority!

Courses for the January 17 presentation will focus on: Trophy stripers on ultra-light tackle; Live-lining for trophy stripers; Top trolling tactics for stripers; Chunking for bluefish; Bluefish on surface lures; Inshore wire-line techniques; Jetty tactics; How to catch more and bigger fluke; Targeting trophy fluke; Top southern tactics for jumbo fluke; Secrets of fishing the Cape May Rips; Trophy drum in Delaware Bay; Secrets of fishing Delaware Bay; Top tactics for big blackfish; Catching blackfish by the score; Jigging for blackfish; No-nonsense weakfish tactics; How and where to locate weakfish; 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; Chunking for tunas; Live-baiting for tunas; Advanced methods for bluefin and yellowfin tuna; Cutting edge lure-trolling tactics; Subsurface offshore trolling; 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; Specialized tactics that take more big-eye tuna; How to troll up more wahoo and white marlin!

The Seminar Series kicks off at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. Long considered the best

bargain in sportfishing, a Seminar Series ticket is only \$ 55.00.

The ticket price covers five hours of instruction from the best pros in the business, a course textbook, a one-year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman, one Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, bottle of Star tron fuel treatment, bottle of Star brite Boat Guard, bottle of Corrosion Block, a \$ 10.00 Bass Pro Shops discount card (off any purchase of \$ 75.00 or more), and chances to win thousands of dollars worth of door prizes! The Grand Prize at the conclusion of the Jersey seminar is a Florida Keys fishing trip! The Super Grand Prize, to be awarded two weeks after the conclusion of the 2015 series, is a new Mako Pro Skiff 17 cc!

HOW TO REGISTER: Get your tickets now, as the Atlantic City area seminar is always a popular venue. To pay with Visa, MasterCard and American Express, call (800) 448-7360, or register on-line, visit: <http://www.nationalseminarseries.com>.

Garden State Outdoor Sports Show

New Jersey Convention and Expo Center
January 8-11, 2015

The 32nd Annual Garden State Outdoor Sports Show (GSOSS) will be held January 8–11, 2015, at the New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center in Raritan, New Jersey. The event is proud offer more hunting and fishing seminars than ever before, tons of new family-friendly attractions and more than 140,000 square feet of exhibit space filled with vendors and exhibitors suitable to the outdoor enthusiast.

The Garden State Outdoor Sports Show's goal is to deliver seminars, attractions and exhibits designed to speak to sports enthusiasts of all ages with a focus on activities that the entire family can enjoy.

Attendees will have an opportunity to shop amazing show deals on fishing tackle, boats, archery, outfitters, wildlife art, hunting supplies, charters, lodges, tourism, rafting, gun safes and knives, taxidermy plus much more!

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Membership Report

By John Toth

Several clubs have still not paid their 2014 dues even though reminder notices have been sent to them. Please make every effort to send in your club dues so that your club membership does not expire. Also, please take the time to completely fill out the Dues and Sponsorship form and the Club Survey form that we need to update our mailing list.

Please send in your payments to our address: JCAA, 1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753.

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!

NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

By John Toth

On behalf of the JCAA, I attended the October 27th meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) and the following is a brief summary of the issues that were discussed:

Kelly Mooij, Vice President for Government Relations for NJ Audubon was the guest speaker to talk about State Public Question 2 on November 4th's ballot and ask for NJOA's support for it. This question asks voters to approve a constitutional amendment dedicating state funds for Open Space, Farmland, Underground Storage Tanks and Hazardous Site Cleanups.

Most of this meeting's discussion centered on this issue because the funds derived from this Open Space issue may not provide funding for our state parks and also for our NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife. There will be \$71 million raised from this Open Space initiative and at this point where the money will be parceled out has not been decided! Sounds familiar, pass a bill and figure out later where the money is to be spent!

Ms. Kelly indicated that the NJ Audubon is committed to our parks and the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife. She also pointed out that the Audubon

has been a supporter of NJOA with its forestry and hunting issues and has lost membership over it.

The NJ Audubon has been involved with the Keep it Green coalition that has been pushing for this ballot question. If passed, there will be public hearings on how the monies derived from this Open Space initiative will be dispensed and Ms. Kelly indicated that NJOA will be invited to the table to weigh in on where the monies will be dedicated.

Hudson Farm is a big contributor to the NJOA and it has a shoot next year that NJOA needs hunters to participate in or NJOA may lose this big contributor. More information on this to follow, but stay tuned and try to attend it.

NJOA Caucus tentatively scheduled for December 18th. The recent bear killing incident will be discussed since there is so much misinformation on it.

John Toth gave a report on the NJOA latest survey of 904 anglers. A new NJOA survey will go out when the options are made known.

Important - our legislators have to approve the 2015 striped bass regulations. Anglers need to respond to it since the Humane Society may try to make their voices louder than ours.

NJ overfished its 2014 fluke quota and we are waiting for the next wave report that will come out in December.

Sportsperson-of-the-Year Award Dinner

By Paul Turi, Co-chairman

On Sunday, November 9th, we held our annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year dinner. This year's honoree was Fred Bogue. Fred was nominated by the Berkeley Striper Club. Fred is an avid striped bass fisherman and a dedicated member of the Berkeley Striper Club. Fred has been a member of the club for over 20 years during which time he has been active in all committees including awards, banquets, picnics, tournaments and flea markets. Fred was elected to eight terms as an officer for collective service of three years as vice president and five years as president, and has served on the Executive Board for the past seven years. During his presidency, the membership grew from 50 to 200 as Bogue strove to maintain the balance between recreation and conservation. Fred is a two-time

recipient of the Bill Sculerati award, presented to members who exemplify sportsmanship and dedication to the Club.

Fred is an advocate of tag and release, and has managed the Club's database and program since 1993. He publishes annual studies to track size, migration and mortality, and has participated in tagging symposiums and workshops through NOAA and the ASMFC. Fred has promoted tagging within the Club by conducting how-to seminars and presenting his yearly studies. He established an annual tagging weekend with the primary goal to tag a body of fish for more meaningful return results. The Berkeley Striper Club has tagged 32,000 fish in total and Fred's personal record is 3,200.

Under his guidance BSC started a scholarship program in 1998 for students of marine biology at Stockton, which has, in recent years, evolved into the John Bushell Memorial Youth Education Program. This initiative is focused on underprivileged children from local communities. The program raises funds to purchase fishing equipment, prizes and food and involves club members in a day of hands-on. The children are taught knot tying, casting and safety, and after being fed lunch, are taken on the beach to work one-on-one with a club volunteer. The program has been active for five years, and this season each child went home with their own rod and reel. Fred is HOFNOD (Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs) certified through the Future Fisherman Foundation and the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Fred's dedication to his fellow fishermen was evident during the aftermath of Sandy when he organized a Club cookout to promote camaraderie among displaced members. He helped a fellow member clean out his flooded home and after collecting Christmas trees in his neighborhood, participated in the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association's dune restoration project at Island Beach State Park.

Again, congratulations to Fred on being elected this year's JCAA sportsperson of the year.

I'd like to thank Pat Donnelly again for another great job this year as our Master of Ceremonies. He always does a terrific job. I'd also like to thank those JCAA members who helped me make the dinner a success. Many thanks to Paul Haertel, Mark Taylor, Don & Al Marantz, John Toth, co-chairman Dan Miller, Tom Fote, Tom Siciliano, Jason Estelle, Greg Kucharewski.

I'd also like to thank our many sponsors for the donations they made to make the dinner a success:

Albivi's Restaurant
American Angler
Anglers Book Supply
Atlantic Bait & Tackle
Big Bass King Lures
Canyon Reels
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Carmine Tango
Costa
Creekside Outfitters
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Forked River Tuna Club
Guy Harvey
Harry's Army & Navy Store
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The Brunch Spot
The Castaways
The Fast Break
The Fisherman's Den
To & Rosalie Siciliano
Tony Maja
West Marine
Yamaha

A special thanks to Tom & Rosalie Siciliano for the many beautiful baskets they made and donated to JCAA for the dinner. A special thanks to Ron Zastocki and Yamaha Motors for their support over the years and their donations to help the dinner

be a success. A special thanks to Don Parr of Canyon Reels for his donation and support of JCAA.

Also, without mentioning them by name, a special thanks to all the clubs who were represented at the dinner.

I hope I haven't missed anyone. Donations don't always come to me the way I would like them to. People hand me things at meetings or drop things off at the office and don't tell me or bring them to the dinner and hand them to me or someone else and in the confusion of the day things don't get recorded. If I have missed anyone I apologize in advance. Thank you one and all for all your help. Without the support of our many sponsors and clubs the dinner would not be a success.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

SURF FISHING BRICK BEACH 1

On November 11th we assisted the Brick High School Fishing Club at Brick Beach 1 with learning the basics of surf fishing. Students learned how to cast, bait hooks, use artificial lures, and beach safety. During the three hour lesson, students practiced different casting techniques with lures to catch fish. Many fish were breaking water beyond the sandbar. One student did manage to hook his first Bluefish but after a struggle the fish won the battle and escaped capture. Everyone had lots of fun learning on the beach and we also had a chance to admire sea turtle sand art that was sculptured by students.

The JCAA Youth Education Committee provided loaner rods and reels for students that did not have surf fishing equipment. Students that participated in the program received Tica winter fishing caps and "Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs" high school fishing decals. During the winter months we will assist the Brick High School Fishing Club with aquatic education lesson plans and saltwater/freshwater fishing techniques. Mrs. Freedley and Mr. Wright, Brick High School Fishing Club Faculty Advisors did a great job of coordinating the surf fishing event for the students.

NJ HOFNOD LIGHTHOUSE CAMP

The New Jersey "Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" (HOFNOD) workshop held on November 14-15-16, 2014 located at Lighthouse Camp,

Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education in Waretown, NJ was a great success.

The JCAA Youth Education Committee supported the NJ HOFNOD workshop by providing fly tying instruction for attendees. The New Jersey Beach Buggy Association also assisted by providing instruction and snacks for the workshop.

To receive more information about becoming a NJ HOFNOD volunteer/facilitator, please contact Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Program Coordinator, at 908.637.4125 x122 or by e-mail at liz.jackson@dep.nj.gov.

HOW TO START AN AFTER SCHOOL FISHING OR ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

First and foremost, all clubs either civic or school-based programs should follow the guidelines of their governing body, which may be the town or school. The guidelines should be reviewed and approved by community leaders or school advisors before an environmental/fishing club can start operation. The most interested students and the club advisers may wish to brainstorm on how other groups have formed, received funding, and collaborated with local organizations. Considering how to involve students, businesses, the town or other aspects of the local community is useful. After creating the general framework, club members prepare a proposal that outlines the club's nature, function and projects.

The proposal also may contain a charter, mission statement, membership criteria, dues requirements, meeting times, possible activities or fundraisers and explanation of elected officers' duties and the election of officers. Club members present the proposal to the necessary directors or school principal. Members must be recruited to a first meeting, and finding reasons to recruit members is beneficial. For instance, science teachers may offer extra credit, or students may want to be involved in a specific town project, such as beach/waterway clean-ups and community environmental projects. The first meeting establishes the club as outlined.

Environmental and fishing clubs' projects may include creating a school campus nature trail and having environmental tips in the school newspaper or morning announcements to having guest speakers address the club. Such clubs also can work with a library for an environmental sciences section, begin or enhance composting and recycling programs, host community beach cleanup days or

other service projects, coordinate field trips for club members, and sponsor or establish gardens, ponds or trees on campus.

Remember, your policy of operation outlines the rules of for your environmental/ fishing club. Next month we will print an example of how to structure an after-school conservation fishing club utilizing Roberts Rules. For help with your club's policy of operation and learn how you can benefit by using NJ HOFNOD; contact the JCAA Youth Education Committee at gkucharews@jcaa.org.

DONATION OF HOOKS

We received a donation of assorted fishing hooks from Bobby Ray Bronkowski. Bob gave us the assortment of freshwater and saltwater fishing hooks to support the JCAA Youth Education Committee and NJ "Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" programs. Thanks much Bobby Ray.

NEW BEACH WHEELCHAIRS

During November, seven new beach wheelchairs were delivered to Island Beach State Park. The new beach wheelchairs were purchased with funds realized from the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and the following organizations: New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, Jersey Shore Surf Casters, Point Pleasant Charter Boat Captains Association, and John Mangiante Foundation.

NJBBA FISHING MENTORS

NJBBA's most recent youth based fishing activity is being chaired by Paul Harris and co-chaired by Tim Burden. NJBBA gladly accepted the offer of the NJBBA being added to the Toms River South High School Mentor Program.

NJBBA supported an after school surf fishing power point presentation on October 29th and followed up on November 8th with a half day of fishing on the beach at Island Beach State Park. NJBBA had a dozen plus Toms River South students and six faculty advisors at Island Beach State Park. Additionally, there were another dozen NJBBA members on hand to help the kids and teachers. Hopefully, this will encourage the faculty and students to start a high school fishing club and the NJBBA will continue to be their fishing mentors. Way to go guys and gals. We need more clubs and organizations to work with our youth in schools.