

# JCAA NEWSPAPER APRIL 2015

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015)

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

## JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

**Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**AT JERSEY COAST SHARK ANGLERS**

**NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**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 973-943-8201 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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<b>Mem. Sec.</b>	John Toth	732-656-0139
<b>Tournament Dir.</b>	Paul Turi	609-660-2126

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**March 31<sup>st</sup> JCAA General Meeting**

**April 4<sup>th</sup> Opening Day Trout**

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

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

**May 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> ASMFC Spring Meeting**

**May 14<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting**

**May 17<sup>th</sup> Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament**

## **High Roller Raffle**

The JCAA High Roller Raffle for 2015 is now ready! Below is a list of this year's prizes. The drawing will be held on **May 26<sup>th</sup>**, 2015 at the JCAA offices located at 1201 Rt. 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River. JCAA will be selling tickets at our booth at the Saltwater Fishing Expo or you can call the office and we will send you a book.

### **Support JCAA - Only \$2.00 a Ticket**

1. Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor RT55/SE/L&D Value **\$670** *Donated by Minn Kota*
2. 11' Lamiglas Triflex TF11MHSsurf rod/Shimano Spheros SW10000 reel Value **\$520** *Donated by Lamiglas and Shimano*
3. \$500. Gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters Value **\$500** *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
4. 6'6" Shimano Trivala TVC-66MH jigging rod/Canyon HS-15 reel Value **\$462** *Donated by Shimano and Canyon*
5. 11' Tica UEHA93502S surf rod/Tica Samira Longcast SBAT10000 reel Value **\$325** *Donated by Tica*
6. 5'6" Profile Tuna Stopper TS 520L rod /Shimano Triton TLD 25 Value **\$280** *Donated by Profile and Shimano*
7. 7' Penn Allegiance 1220S70 rod/Canyon 3500 reel Value **\$200** *Donated by Penn and Canyon*
8. Standard Horizon VHF Marine Transceiver HX260 H Value **\$170** *Donated by Standard Horizon*
9. 7' Penn Slammer rod /GT320 reel Value **\$130** *Donated by Penn*

# JCAA 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament

*By Paul Turi, Tournament Director*

It's getting close again to that time of year for our annual fluke tournament. The JCAA 21<sup>st</sup> Annual fluke Tournament this year will be held on **Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>** and our awards presentations will be held on the evening of **Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>** again at the Holiday Inn in Manahawkin (Stafford Township), NJ

**What's new this year?** This year we are going to have Optional Cash Categories of \$50.00 and \$100.00 for each port. In addition, we are also going to have Optional Cash Categories of \$50.00 and \$100.00 for the overall tournament. 7/8ths of all the money collected for each category will be paid out to the winner of each port who joins that particular cash category and 7/8ths will be paid out to the overall winner of each category for the overall tournament. 1/8<sup>th</sup> of the money will be retained by JCAA to help JCAA continue its work on behalf of recreational anglers. Remember, this tournament is a major fundraiser for JCAA and keeps us going year after year to do what we do on behalf of you, the recreational angler. A lot of volunteers put in a lot of time and a lot of their own money to do what we do not only on behalf of the recreational angler, but also the environment, youth education, access, etc.

Also new for this year will be vendor booths at our awards presentations for our major sponsors.

At this time we are also contemplating a cash prize to anyone who catches and weighs in a fish of 12lbs. or larger. I will report more on this in a future column.

Again, this year we will be offering in a Grand Prize Drawing a boat, motor & trailer package. Remember, you do not have to weigh in a fish to be eligible to win the Grand Prize. You just have to be registered in the tournament and be present the night of the awards presentations on the evening of Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. And as always there will be thousands of dollars in door prizes given out also. There will also be a 50/50 drawing. Last year was the first time we had a 50/50 and the winner walked off with over \$2,000 in cash!

The boat this year will be a 14' G3 boat. The boat is being donated to JCAA by G3 and four

G3 dealers: Salem Boat Exchange, Spring Garden Marine, Mercer Marine Supply and Mayberry Sales and Service. Yamaha is again donating the engine.

Our T-shirt design is near completion. As soon as that is done I will have it up on our website along with all the other pertinent information for this year's tournament.

Major sponsors so far this year are: Interlux, Yamaha, G3, the four G3 dealers mentioned above, Salem Boat Exchange, Spring Garden Marine, Mercer Marine Supply and Mayberry Sales and Service, Costa Sunglasses, Underwater Green Fishing Lights & Canyon Reels.

Elsewhere in this newspaper is an article on Underwater Green Fishing Lights.

Port sponsors so far this year are Fisherman's Headquarters for the LBI port; RJ Marine Service for the Cape May port, South Harbor Marina for the Barnegat Bay port. We are still waiting to hear from others as to whether or not they will be port sponsors. I will report on this in a future article.

Our first mailing for the tournament with an entry form will be going out the end of April along with ticket books for our High Roller Raffle and a T-shirt ordering form.

This year's tournament promises to pay out a lot of money and prizes, so mark your calendar for August 1<sup>st</sup> and August 12<sup>th</sup> and let's hope we have a nice day to fish this year!

## JCAA Fluke Tournament Sponsor Profile

### **Underwater Green Fishing Lights, LLC**

Underwater lights are growing in popularity, due to the maintenance free design, extremely safe operation coupled with the ability to attract fish and turn your dock / waterfront property into a virtual aquarium. Whether your passion is fishing or simply wanting to enjoy nature from the comfort of your dock under water lights will be the best investment for your entire family.

At Underwater Green Fishing Lights we pride ourselves on our award winning easy to install design that takes the worry of the additional cost of having an electrician to install the product. This is a true plug and play engineered system that simply plugs into an ordinary 110 volt plug. Underwater

lighting will keep you and your guest entertained for hours and at the same time are efficient to run. Installing the lights are almost as easy as deploying a simple anchor off a boat. The easy installation process is simply the beginning as we offer several different models to choose from using both LED and HID light technology. We have the perfect system for you. At Underwater Green Fishing Lights LLC we build the brightest, most advanced lights on the market. At the same time we stand behind all of our products with a best in class warranty. We have been building underwater lights for almost 10 years using only the highest quality of UL listed parts available on the market. Our lights are extremely safe with the use of GFIC plugs and a super quick fused capacitor for circuit protections so you can buy with confidence.

Each Underwater light consists of two basic components, a power control box that contains a ballast/transformer, photo cell timer which automatically turns the light on and off daily and a bulb assembly that has a (standard) 75 foot water proof cable attached to a sealed bulb that is designed to be underwater for the life of the product. The bulb assembly easily attaches to the control box by a waterproof plug.

Underwater Green Fishing lights is a family run business that has been recognized as one of the fastest growing companies in the Underwater light market selling lights all over the world. Our product line continues to evolve and grow, with several new products to include using different color options such as blue and red, lights for boats and portable high power 12volt LED lights. We also have several ideas in development, along with continuous enhancement of existing products. We always welcome input from our customers for ways to enhance our existing products. We also offer custom solutions for any underwater lighting projects both residential and commercial. Please give us a call at (281)724-9914 or check out our [web site](#).

### **In Memory of John Koegler**

by Tom Fote

John Koegler, a long-time member of JCAA's Board of Directors and the Chairman of the JCAA Highly Migratory Species Committee, passed away on February 23, 2015 at age 79. It will be

impossible to replace the knowledge John brought to any discussion about tuna, shark and billfish. When I first got involved with JCAA, I knew little about sharks, tuna and billfish. The person I always turned to for information was John Koegler. John was highly respected and his engaging personality made it possible for him to bring together people with diverse opinions and experiences. When JCAA created the first tuna symposium and invited the head of NMFS, John was the leader in organizing the event. In the early 90's John would bring together recreational anglers from Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island and Virginia to seek common understanding and agreements on important issues. Despite the inherent frustrations in dealing with highly migratory species, John's commitment never wavered. Until his death, he continued to work on issues that were important. He would go to Washington, DC for every advisor's meeting, bring back the information and write columns for the JCAA Newspaper. He was planning to attend the April ICAT meeting. When we needed someone to staff a booth at a show, John was always available. As a way to honor his work, we are reprinting below a column from 1996.

Every member of JCAA will miss John's warm personality, his expertise and his willingness to work with everyone. He was a true coalition builder. The JCAA Board of Directors is like a family. Most of us have known one another for more than 25 years. Losing John is like losing a member of our own family. Every time an HMS question comes up, I will be reminded of the tremendous loss. He will be missed. JCAA extends our condolences to his wife and four children. They will be in our thoughts.

## **Tuna Committee Report**

*by John Koegler*

*(from JCAA - October 1996 Newspaper)*

### **Yellowfin Tuna**

MRFSS (Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey) records yellowfin tuna as one of their surveyed fish. MRFSS catch data is better documentation for the rod and reel catches of yellowfin tuna. Yellowfin tuna catches, harvests, and landings are being grossly under counted in NMFS's Large Pelagic Survey used to report United States

rod and reel catches to ICCAT. ICCAT has proposed international management of yellowfin. Since ICCAT's 1995 meeting these details are being worked out. Before ICCAT manages yellowfin tuna, NMFS must establish what the historic rod and reel fishery actually caught.

We will not tolerate the same under estimate of the actual historical rod and reel numbers, that were used for Bluefin Tuna management.

NMFS 10 year average (1985-1994) based on their March 1996 Federal Registry yellowfin tuna notice is only 1,689.2 metric tons. Assuming the current increase in Atlantic Tuna permit holders comes to 31,000 then a rod & reel quota based on NMFS numbers would be 2 yellowfin tuna per season per permitted boat. The 1995 Atlantic Tuna permit is New south of Cape Hatteras. The total permitted boats in future years will increase.

1,689.2 10 yr MT avg X2204.6=3,724,010 lbs -60 lb fish = 62,006 YFT. 62,006 YFT - 31,000 permit holders=2.002 YFT per season per boat.

Those who have worked on bluefin tuna management with NMFS remember that this is EXACTLY the method NMFS used to regulate rod and reel anglers OUT of their traditional and historical bluefin tuna school, large school and small medium fisheries. NMFS flawed LPS system used to estimate recreational bluefin landings if applied to yellowfin tuna would decimate the recreational industry. NMFS is determined to short change the recreational industry again! Until NMFS can prove there is any shred of correctness in their LPS survey, they should use MRFSS survey data. This is the survey The New England, Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Councils plus The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission use to manage fisheries along the Atlantic seaboard.

The use of MRFSS data in place of the LPS would greatly increase rod and reel 1985 catches of yellowfin tuna , from 30 Metric Tons reported by LPS to 6,277 Metric Tons. MRFSS 197.708 fish for area 92 and a 70 pound average size typical of that time equals 6,277 Metric Tons. We are not asking for minor adjustments to a known flawed survey, but realize major changes are needed to accurately account for rod and reel catches.

It will take a major effort to change NMFS's rod and reel yellowfin tuna numbers. MRFSS supported data could go a long way toward getting an honest count for rod and reel anglers. This is not a request for minor changes to NMFS's rod & reel

yellowfin tuna data, but a need to make major corrections based on MRFSS numbers. These corrections would substantially increase the last ten years of reported rod and reel yellowfin landings substantially. We actually did catch these fish. The fact that NMFS has never reported correctly the rod and reel yellowfin tuna catches is not our problem.

NMFS must understand many rod and reel boats with tuna permits have diverted their fishing towards the "other" tunas. They are now seeking yellowfin, big-eye, true albacore plus an occasional marlin, swordfish and shark. That there are a substantial number of trips made offshore is documented by NMFS 1995 bluefin tuna report showing over 97,006 trips were made in the Northeast by rod and reel anglers seeking HMS.

Let NMFS provide rod & reel anglers with an honest yellowfin tuna count.

A meeting of JCAA tuna committee will be announced at the September Jersey Coast meeting.

## Presidents Report

*By Paul Haertel*

### **Fluke, Sea Bass and Striper Regulations to be Decided**

The new striped bass legislation is on the verge of becoming law. The bill that will allow one bass at 28" to just under 43" with a second fish at 43" or greater has now passed in both the Assembly and the Senate. The bill will also allow the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council to set regulations pertaining to striped bass seasons, size and bag limits in the future so that it will no longer have to be done legislatively. The legislation will become law as soon as it is signed by the Governor.

The next New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 4:00 P.M. at the Stafford Twp. Municipal Building, 260 East Bay Ave., Manahawkin, NJ 08050.

The regulations for fluke, sea bass and our striped bass bonus program will be set at this meeting. Some tough decisions will have to be made regarding these species but I would like to point out that those serving on the council are volunteers who are dedicated to doing what is best for the majority of the fishermen in our state. I would also like to point out that despite being severely underfunded, the NJ Bureau of Marine Fisheries Council does an

outstanding job of trying to accommodate us. However, their hands are often tied by quotas set by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

JCAA encourages all who are concerned about the regulations pertaining to these species to attend this meeting and voice their opinions. JCAA realizes that fishermen, particularly striped fishermen are very passionate and opinionated about their sport. We hope that you speak in favor of the JCAA position at this meeting but we respect your opinion even if it is different than ours. The NJMFC will make their decision on these species after listening to all the public comments at the meeting. They usually select the options that are favored by the majority of those in the audience so it is really important to voice your opinions. It is fine to give the reasons you favor a particular option but it is also fine to simply state which options you prefer. That having been said, here is the JCAA position on these three species:

**Striped Bass** - The preferred option of the NJMFC is to change the Bonus Bass Program and have a 1 fish bag limit with a size limit of 24-28". However, JCAA supports leaving the program as it is now with one fish at 28" or greater. We believe it is crucial to conserve the last good year class of 2011. These fish will be reaching the 24-28" size during the next couple of years. We want to ensure that they are able to reach spawning size and spawn at least once before they can be harvested.

Most anglers know that the program currently allows one fish at 28". Changing it now at a time when we are also changing the primary regulations to one fish at 28" to less than 43" and a second fish 43" or greater will make the regulation more confusing. That would create even more problems for our law enforcement officers.

We are also concerned that if the bonus card is used for a small slot fish it will create an enormous demand for the cards. We are concerned that this will make the program more difficult to monitor and more likely that the quota could be quickly reached or even exceeded

Approximately 30 years ago JCAA led the fight to make striped bass a no-sale or game fish in New Jersey and we were successful in achieving that goal. However, New Jersey retained its commercial striped bass quota and decided to use it for its recreational fisherman in the form of trophy tag program where one fish over 38" could be retained.

We were fearful then and still are today that if we were to give up this quota it might be transferred to other states to add to their commercial catch. However, the intent at that time was to conserve striped bass. Just as it is now with groups such as Strippers Forever, our intent was not to simply let recreational anglers kill the quota instead of commercial fishermen but rather to conserve most of that quota while allowing a small percentage of the quota to be harvested by our recreational fishermen. Eventually our program developed into a bonus program where one fish over 28" could be retained. Over the years the program worked exactly the way we had hoped as we only harvested a small portion of our quota thereby conserving many thousands of striped bass.

Today we find ourselves in a somewhat similar situation as the ASMFC recently mandated a 25% cut in mortality and many people are calling for further conservation of striped bass. Still, JCAA supports the program not only to prevent the quota from being given to other states but also due to the valuable data being collected by our BMF.

However, we urge the BMF to monitor and enforce it more tightly. We know that there will be a higher demand for the bonus cards as the primary regulations have become more restrictive making it more difficult for fishermen to catch two legal fish. In 2013 we only harvested 6096 pounds out of a quota of 331,750 lbs.. This quota has now been reduced to 241,313 lbs. With the anticipated greater demand for bonus cards we do not want to make it any easier for people to obtain the cards. Therefore, we are opposed to giving them out to charter and party boats at this time.

In fact to insure we do not exceed the quota and hopefully to continue to conserve striped bass we suggest that the BMF make it more difficult to obtain the cards. We suggest limiting the number of cards that are issued and/or considering a shorter season for this program. We also recommend that to participate in the program it should be required for anglers to submit logs of all their striped bass fishing trips prior to receiving an additional card. We would also like to see jaw tags given out instead of cards and that regulations be created to require the tags to be placed in the fish immediately upon capture. Whatever the regulations are for the bonus program, we would like to see them rigidly enforced. We urge our law enforcement personnel to have zero

tolerance for those violating these regulations in any way.

**Fluke** - We are going to have a 128 day season with a 5 fish bag limit and a size limit of 18" as mandated by the ASMFC. However, the NJMFC will consider two options regarding the season. One option would be to begin the season on May 16<sup>th</sup> and extend it through September 20<sup>th</sup>. The second option would have the season begin on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and end on September 26<sup>th</sup>. JCAA supports the option with the later season ending. One reason is that there will be little else for inshore fishermen to fish for once fluke season is closed. Sea bass season will be closed at that time as well, there will be a limit of only one blackfish and not many stripers will have arrived. Also with the cold winter we have had, many expect it will take quite some time before our waters warm up and the fluke start biting. The enhanced shore based fishing program which allows a 2 fish bag limit of fluke 16" or greater for Island Beach is likely to continue but may be discussed at this meeting. JCAA supports this program and encourages it to be expanded to other areas, particularly in the southern part of our state. That area is still suffering from the effects of Hurricane Sandy and is also losing business to Delaware as that state has a year round season with a 16" size limit.

**Sea Bass** – On 3/19, I attended an advisors meeting hosted by the NJMFC. Much to my chagrin the vast majority of advisors recommended keeping the size limit at 12 1/2". Worse still is that the vast majority of advisors recommended Option #1. That option would result in entirely closing the season for August and reducing the bag limit to 2 fish in July. In exchange it would allow the season to open 14 days earlier but would result in a net loss of 16 days less than option 2. In 2014, we had a 186 day season but **if this option is approved, we will have a season length of only 137 days, a loss of 49 days!** In addition to losing a month and a half of fishing days, sea bass season will be closed from 8/1 to 10/22!

Option 2 would allow us to retain the 12 1/2" size limit but would have a later starting date. This would allow us to fish though the month of August and at least have a 153 day season. This option would result in over two weeks more fishing days than option 1.

On the other hand if enough people speak on behalf of raising the size limit to 13" as shown in option 3, we could have a season of 175

days depending. **JCAA supports option 3 as the season would be 38 days longer than option 1.** Additionally, JCAA supports option 3 as the season would begin on the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend and extend though the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend. We believe that having the season open during that period of time is most beneficial to the majority of our anglers whether they fish on charter, party or private boats. Though there would only be a 3 fish bag limit from 7/1 – 9/6, it would allow families, kids, vacationers and even more experienced anglers to bring home some fish for dinner particularly on days where the fluking is slow.

### NJ MFC Advisory Committee Meeting Approved Options March 19, 2015

#### NJ 2015 Black Sea Bass Example Option 1

<b>137 Days</b>	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	% Redx.
2015 Example Season	May 27- June 30	July 1- July 31	Oct 22- Oct 31	Nov 1 - Dec 31	32.97 %
bag	15	2	15	15	
size	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	
days	35	31	10	61	

#### NJ 2015 Black Sea Bass Example Option 2

<b>153 Days</b>	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	% Redx.
2015 Example Season	June 10- June 30	July 1- Aug 31	Oct 23- Oct 31	Nov 1 - Dec 31	33.66 %
bag	15	3	15	15	
size	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	
days	21	62	9	61	

#### NJ 2015 Black Sea Bass Example Option 3

<b>175 Days</b>	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	% Redx.
2015 Example Season	May 25- June 30	July 1- Aug 31	Sept 1-6 and Oct 23-31	Nov 1 - Dec 31	33%
bag	12	3	3	15	
size	13	13	13	13	
days	37	62	15	61	

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

The NJBMF reported that many of our fishermen have failed to register in the NJ saltwater recreational registration program. Registration is mandated by law for most of our anglers and it is free so please register. Failure to do so can result in having a fish disqualified as a record or from a tournament and there is a possibility of being issued a summons as well.

Don't forget to register or re-register with the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program for 2015. You can start re-registering now for 2015. You can register or renew your registration for 2015 by going to [www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov](http://www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov). If you do go fishing please consider filling out the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey to help the Bureau of Marine Fisheries better manage our resources by going to this [link](#).

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

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

### **Striped Bass**

The Striped Bass bill has moved through both the NJ Assembly and Senate and at the time of this writing, we are waiting for the Governor's signature. When the bill is signed by the Governor, the regulations in New Jersey will change from 2 fish at 28 inches to 1 fish between 28 and less than 43 inches and a second fish at 43 inches and over. That two fish bag limit meets the 25% reduction required by ASMFC.

At the Saltwater Expo, I heard many comments about this new legislation both pro and con. There are those who blame me for this legislation. I need to be clear that this was not my recommendation. This legislation was designed by two of our legislators without my input. What they did was take their understanding of the opinion of

New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, JCAA and a majority of the clubs belonging to those organizations to make the 25% reduction. What I found interesting was that the most vocal opponents at the show did not write a letter to ASMFC commenting on the change nor attend any of the public hearings in New Jersey. I know that because I was at every public hearing and read every letter from New Jersey that was sent to ASMFC. When I asked these individuals if they had consulted the scientific information that was made available, their answer was no. They told me they did not care about the science but just about how they felt the fishery should be run. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion and sometimes personal experience enters into their feelings. That information is anecdotal but is not always confirmed by the science. We all need to be open minded enough to consult all the available data before disagreeing with others decisions. As you know I have frequent questions about the recording of recreational information. I question the weak science on black sea bass, scup and tautog all the time. However, because of the Striped Bass Act of 1982, there was a great deal of money allocated for gathering data about striped bass. The states have continued to gather that data and that is what is used to determine the status of the stocks. Hopefully, the article included below will provide the naysayers with more information to consider. The charts and tables were taken from the stock assessment available on the ASMFC webpage. Again, I will listen to every comment but these must be weighed against the majority opinions and the science available.

### **Striped Bass**

*(from the December 2014 JCAA Newspaper)*

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 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?

	For Reference	Option B16	For Reference
State	Am6 Quota (lbs)	25% redux 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
<b>Coastal Total</b>	<b>3,806,275</b>	<b>2,854,706</b>	<b>2,532,558</b>
% diff from 2013 harvest	+50	+13	0

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.

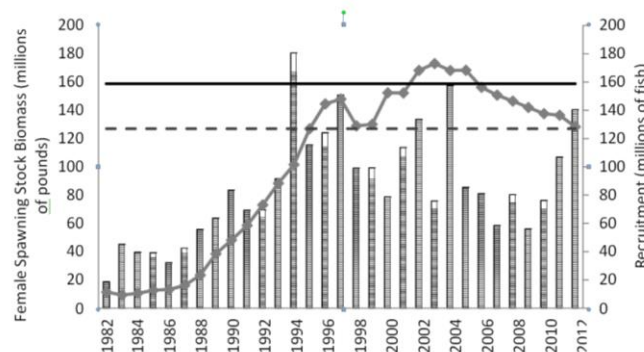


Figure 2: Atlantic striped bass female spawning stock biomass and recruitment (age-1) from 1982 to 2012.

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 are at an all-time high level 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.

### **States Take Over Intercept Programs**

At the ASMFC Spring Meeting, we will be continuing the discussion about how the states will take the responsibility for the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) intercept program currently run by outside contractors. This is a first step in the right direction because the state's marine biologists will either be doing the intercepts or training the people who perform these tasks. Hopefully we will begin to get more of a random sample instead of the questionable sampling that currently exists. One of the failings of the present system is the contractors fail to seek out anglers who have not caught any fish. They are looking for an opportunity to measure a fish. Not including the zero catch has a big impact on the final numbers.

The states will not be getting enough money to increase the number of intercepts. We will still be making decisions on a small number of intercepts for a specific species, extrapolating data from those intercepts as a basis for making decisions. Our only hope is the intercepts they are making will better reflect what is actually happening. The only way to increase the confidence levels is to fund a greater number of intercepts. There will be grants to the states from NMFS and ASMFC to hire the necessary staff. The biggest problem will occur in the future when these grants are cut or deleted. We need to be aware that correcting the funding for the Bureau of Marine Fisheries will be a huge concern over the next few years. We all need to work together to guarantee that the necessary funding is available.

### **Gas and Oil Drilling off the East Coast**

I would really like to thank Clean Ocean Action in their hard work in putting together an alternative hearing in Atlantic City on gas and oil drilling off the East coast. The Bureau of Energy and Management had what they called a hearing. I define a hearing as including a presentation, a question and answer period and public comment. The public comment is either taped or recorded in some way. The BOEM had stations that advertised their achievements and promoted the safety of drilling off the East coast. It was not a public friendly opportunity since you could not be recorded on the record. You had to sit at a computer and type in your comments. Many of us are not great writers or did not have the time to work on an appropriate comment. For many of us, it is easier to express yourself orally and have someone record your thoughts. I helped conduct over 7 public hearings in New Jersey for ASMFC in the past year. The ASMFC, like most organizations, includes a presentation to share information with the attendees. This allows for a dialogue with questions and answers. There is always an opportunity for written or oral comments from everyone in attendance. In 2009, prior to the BP oil spill, BOEM had a hearing in Atlantic City. This hearing used the same format as ASMFC and most federal agencies. There were over 500 people in attendance, filling a huge ballroom. We have heard nothing about this proposal for 5 years. Do they think we don't remember what happened in Louisiana and the entire Gulf? Do they think we don't know they used millions of gallons of dispersant which is not being

ingested by the fish? I asked about the use of dispersants in a one to one conversation and was told that there was no commitment to eliminate this use. But this was not a comment that was relayed or shared with everyone in attendance, lessening the possibility that others would include this in their comments. After BP are they afraid to open themselves to public questions?

In response to this farce, Clean Ocean Action organized an alternative hearing. They had a microphone and allowed the attendees to voice their opinions, ask questions and share information. They will forward those recordings and transcripts to BOEM. We can only hope BOEM actually reads them.

## **ASMFC Spring Meeting**

*Agenda Subject to Change*

The agenda for the ASMFC spring meeting is below. You will notice the agenda includes only a tentative summer flounder meeting, depending on what the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council decides in their prior meeting. I was hoping to bring up the issue of summer flounder in Delaware Bay at this meeting but don't know if this will be possible. I am making a plea for information about the economic impacts of the 18 inch/16 inch disparity between New York and New Jersey. If anyone has data about how this had an impact on charter boat, tackle store or marine businesses, please send this information to the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife – Bureau of Marine Fisheries. Any other businesses that depend on recreational anglers, should collect and share the impact of the summer flounder regulations.

The other issue that will be of concern is what New England Fisheries Management Council will do this year on winter flounder.

### **Monday, May 4, 2015**

#### **12:45 – 2:15 p.m. Atlantic Herring Section**

- Review and Consider Approval of Draft Amendment 3 for Public Comment
- Review and Consider Approval of the 2014 FMP Review and State Compliance

### **2:30 – 5:00 p.m. American Lobster Management Board**

- Consider Final Approval of Draft Addendum XXIV
- Review and Consider Approval of the Draft Jonah Crab Fishery Management Plan for Public Comment
- Review and Consider Approval of Nominations to the Jonah Crab Advisory Panel

### **Tuesday, May 5, 2015**

#### **8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**

- Review Technical Committee Report on Biological Reference Points and Stock Projections
- Consider Approval of 2015 Fishery Specifications
- Discuss Next Steps for Management Based on Results of the Benchmark Assessment/ERP Term of Reference and the Technical Committee Report

#### **11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. Blank Rome Workshop**

- Budget Status
- Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization
- Horseshoe Crab Trawl Survey Funding
- Committee Membership Updates

#### **1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Law Enforcement Committee (LEC)**

- Review Draft Management Measures for Jonah Crab
- Review 2015 Action Plan Tasks
- Update LEC Representatives to Species Boards/Appoint Alternates
- Reports on Outside Law Enforcement Advisory Committee Activities (AFWA/NACLAC/Councils)

#### **2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

- Review Technical Committee Report on Progress of the Development of Reference Points for Chesapeake Bay, Hudson River, and Delaware Bay
- Update on State Implementation of Addendum IV

3:45 – 5:15 p.m. **NOAA Fisheries Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Update**

- Progress Report on Changes and Improvements to MRIP

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Annual Awards of Excellence Reception**

**Wednesday, May 6, 2015**

8:00 – 10:00 a.m. **Executive Committee**

- Review Suggested Changes to Commission Guidance Documents
- Update on Staffing
- Presentation of FY16 Budget
- Review Revised on Language on Appeal Criteria
- Update on 2015 Annual Meeting

8:30 a.m. – **Noon Law Enforcement Committee** (continued)

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board**

- Update from Executive Committee
- Review and Discuss 2014 Commissioner Survey Results
- Review and Approve Stock Status Definition Revisions
- Review and Discuss the Northeast Regional Ocean Council Spatial Characterization of Commercial Fisheries
- Committee on Economics and Social Sciences Report
- Assessment and Science Committee Report
- Law Enforcement Committee Report

12:45 – 2:15 p.m. **Legislative and Governor's Appointee Luncheon**

12:45 – 2:15 p.m. **Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Executive Committee**

- ACCSP Status Report (Program and Committee updates)
- Independent Program Review Progress
- APAIS Update
- Governance Review Update

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. **Shad and River Herring Management Board**

- Review the River Herring Technical Working Group Conservation Plan
- Update on Shad and River Herring Related Activities of the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils (If Necessary)

3:45 – 5:15 p.m. **ACCSP Coordinating Council**

- ACCSP Status Report (Program and Committee Updates)
- Independent Program Review Progress
- Review and Consider Approval of 2015 Request for Proposals and Funding Decision Document ACTION

**Thursday, May 7, 2015**

8:30 – 10:30 a.m. **Tautog Management Board**

- Review Technical Committee Report on Reference Point and Regional Stock Definitions
- Consider Initiation of an Addendum to respond to the 2015 Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review

10:45 – 11:45 a.m. **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board\***

\*This meeting is tentative pending a successful Mid-Atlantic Council SSC meeting the week of March 16th.

11:45 a.m. – Noon **ISFMP Policy Board** (If Necessary)

Noon – 12:15 p.m. **Business Session** (If Necessary)

**MAFMC Meeting Agenda**

*April 14-16, Long Branch, New Jersey*

April 14 - 16, 2015

Ocean Place Resort

One Ocean Boulevard, Long Branch, NJ 07740

Telephone: 732-571-4000

The public is invited to attend the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's upcoming meeting on April 14 - 16, 2015 in Long Branch, New Jersey.

**Briefing Materials:** All briefing materials will be posted at <http://www.mafmc.org/briefing/april-2015> as they become available.

**Webinar:** For online access to the meeting, enter as guest at <http://mafmc.adobeconnect.com/april2015/>.

## Meeting Agenda

### Tuesday, April 14th

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Executive Committee**  
(Closed Session)

- Review and approve Advisory Panel recommendations

2:00 p.m. **Council Convenes**

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management**

- Discuss management approaches which address climate change and variability
- Discuss regulatory alternatives to address unmanaged forage fish

### Wednesday, April 15th

9:00 a.m. **Council Convenes**

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. **Golden Tilefish**

- Review 2016 specifications
- Discuss timetable for Framework

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **2015 Implementation Plan**

- Consider initiation of Deepwater Complex FMP
- Review and approve possible revisions to the Plan

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Control Rule Clarifications**

- Review staff and SSC recommendations
- Approve changes in regulatory language

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Industry Funded Observer Amendment**

- Discuss and approve additional alternatives for Public Hearing Document

2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **River Herring Technical Expert Working Group (TEWG)**

- Update on recent activities

2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Delaware River Herring/Shad Recreational Fishery**

- John Punola

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Bycatch Reduction in Summer Flounder Recreational Fishery**

- Dr. Jim Salierno PhD, Fairleigh Dickinson University and Carl Benson

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Proposed Rule - National Standards 1, 3, and 7**

- Deb Lambert – NMFS

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Listening Session – Squid Capacity Amendment Scoping**

- Jason Didden - MAFMC

### Thursday, April 16th

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Business Session**

- Organization Reports
  - NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Office
  - NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center
  - NOAA Office of General Counsel
  - NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
  - U.S. Coast Guard
  - Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- Liaison Reports
  - New England Council
  - South Atlantic Council
- Executive Director's Report - Chris Moore
  - Review and approve changes to Council SOPPs
- Science Reports – Rich Seagraves
- Committee Reports
  - SSC
- Continuing and New Business

## Ocean Frontiers II Screening and Panel Discussion

When: Tuesday, April 21, 2015; 6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Where: Monmouth University, 400 Cedar Avenue, West Long Branch, NJ 07764. Event takes place in the Young Auditorium at the Leon Hess Business School in Bey Hall.

From Larchwood Ave., turn onto Scholar's Way Lake Rd. and park in lots 13, 14 or 15. Parking is free. Free admission & refreshments. RSVP to [bit.ly/OF2-Mon](http://bit.ly/OF2-Mon) or via Facebook to save your seat.

An interactive panel discussion takes place after the film, with:

- Liz Semple – Manager, Office of Coastal and Land Use Planning, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

- Kevin Pearce – President & Principal Engineer, Green Sail Energy
- Tom Fote – Commissioner, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Legislative Chair, Jersey Coast Anglers Association
- Tim Dillingham, Executive Director, American Littoral Society

Moderator: Tony MacDonald, Director, Urban Coast Institute

Come learn about regional ocean planning efforts underway and how we can protect wildlife habitat, enhance recreational activities and support sustainable commercial uses in our increasingly busy New Jersey waters.

This event is hosted by Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute, Surfrider Foundation, New Jersey Sea Grant, American Littoral Society, New Jersey Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and Green Fire Productions. More details at [this link](#).

## **Alcohol Justice Reports Drug Take-Back Program Forced on Big Pharma in San Francisco**

*AlcoholJustice.Org Press Release*

March 10

Contact: Michael Scippa 415 548-0492

Jorge Castillo 213 840-3336

Despite a major push by lobbyists for pharmaceutical corporations, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously today to hold drug companies financially responsible for a plan to take back and safely dispose of unused medications in the City. Alcohol Justice and the San Rafael Alcohol and Drug Coalition joined other groups and individuals today to thank the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for passing the Safe Drug Disposal Stewardship program. The ordinance goes for a second vote next week and then to Mayor Ed Lee for "likely signature" according to proponents.

"The SF Board of Supervisors made great public health policy today over aggressive lobbying by Big Pharma, building on a model program from Alameda County," stated Bruce Lee Livingston,

Executive Director / CEO of Alcohol Justice and a staff of the San Rafael Alcohol and Drug Coalition, which both supported passage of the ordinance. "Every year there are tons of excess prescription drugs posing a threat to public safety, the environment, and our children in particular. This legislation protects kids and seniors from excess drugs and reduces harm to the Bay and Ocean."

The ordinance was authored by Board of Supervisors President London Breed, and co-sponsored by Supervisors Eric Mar, Norman Yee, and Jane Kim. They followed the lead of Alameda County public health officials who passed a similar ordinance last year. That measure prompted a lawsuit by Big Pharma front groups. The U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco, however, upheld the law's constitutionality and rejected the lawsuit. The plaintiffs are still appealing further to the Supreme Court and have vowed to file lawsuits in San Francisco.

"For every one hundred pills that could be disposed of in this program, it costs approximately one penny," stated Hene Kelly, Legislative Director at the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA). "Our environment, our children, our elders, three things we have to protect, will be protected by this ordinance."

"We talk to the public every day; people in San Francisco recognize that these pharmaceutical are getting in the Bay, and they are concerned when they flush or throw these chemicals into the trash and they are looking for solutions that are cost effective," said Andria Ventura, Toxics Program Manager for Clean Water Action (CWA). "Most of all we have heard that industry needs to take responsibility both for the physical creation of these programs and for the financial aspects."

"We are grateful that both Alameda and San Francisco have taken the bold step of holding the drug industry accountable for safely disposing the dangerous substances they create," added Livingston. "We look forward now to helping Marin County do the same within months."

For more information: [www.alcoholjustice.org](http://www.alcoholjustice.org)

# **JCAA FLUKE TOURNAMENT AUGUST 1st**

## Want to be the next U.S. Recreational Commissioner to ICCAT?

The Administration is seeking an individual to serve as the U.S. Recreational Commissioner for the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The individual should have knowledge and experience regarding recreational fishing in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico or Caribbean Sea.

Please submit expressions of interest or input concerning prospective candidates by April 17th to Russell Smith (Russell.Smith@noaa.gov) and Rachel O'Malley (Rachel.OMalley@noaa.gov).

Russell Dunn  
National Policy Advisor for Recreational Fisheries  
NOAA Fisheries  
Russell.Dunn@noaa.gov  
(727) 551-5740

## NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

*By John Toth*

On behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), I attended a February 23rd meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) and the following issues were discussed:

Senator Thomas Kean (R) representing Union, Morris, and Somerset counties received an award from the NJOA for his continued support of NJOA's legislative initiatives, especially relating to hunting issues.

Senator Kean stayed throughout the NJOA meeting to hear firsthand the issues raised by both the hunting and fishing groups belonging to it.

**Bonus Tag Program** - There will be a Bonus Tag program for striped bass anglers and there are two proposals being considered for it by our NJ Marine Fisheries Council. One is to have a Bonus Tag for a striper at 24 to 28 inches, **or** one at 28 inches and above. After discussing the pros and cons of both options, JCAA's President Paul Haertel made a motion that the NJOA should support the 28 inches and above option. This motion was tabled since member organizations did not have the opportunity to discuss the Bonus Tag issue with their members.

Also, the NJ Marine Fisheries Council was scheduled to meet three days later (2/26/15) to discuss this issue and NJOA members felt that they should first hear why this Council would favor one option over the other. (The February 26th meeting was canceled because of a snow storm).

Also, it is **very important** that anglers receiving their Bonus Tag need to complete the trip information that comes with it. This information is used by our Bureau of Marine Fisheries to develop what our striper season should be for the following year with federal regulators. Without it, this Bureau does not have the statistical information it needs to develop NJ's striper season with federal management staff for the next year.

**Funding for Fish & Wildlife Division (DFW)** - 15 states spend more money to manage their fisheries with NJ close to the bottom of this list with only Rhode Island in last place. This is a serious problem and one that is a high priority for the NJOA since the DFW does not have adequate staff to monitor and respond to approximately 24 federal fishing management plans. Due to this lack of staff, one of our blackfish seasons was closed since our DFW did not have the staff to respond to the federal mandated plan for it! Because of this issue and others, New Jersey is at a disadvantage in comparison to other states in attending technical conferences and other activities that it should be involved with. Senator Kean was told that DFW has to pay **rent** for its offices and also **benefits** for its employees. **No other NJ agency does that!** If rent and benefits were removed from DFW's responsibilities, it would have approximately **\$5 million** more in its budget to hire more staff and be more involved in programs for our hunters and anglers. Senator Kean indicated that rent and benefits costs are mandated by NJ's Treasury Dept. through a "**Treasury Circular**" and the rescinding of the rent and benefit costs of the DFW **does not require legislation**, but just a **rescinding** of this Treasury Circular. Senator Kean indicated that he would personally look into how he could make this happen! Getting money for anything in Trenton is not easy given the pressures for other needy programs.

**Open Space** - Approximately 71 million is available through this Open Space initiative that was recently approved by voters. Every agency/organization is vying for this money and exaggerating their needs at

## Membership Report

*By John Toth*

meetings hosted by Senator Smith. (I was present at two of these meetings and heard their cries for "desperately needed funds"). Senator Kean indicated that he thought that Governor Christie would veto any legislation coming from Senator Smith's committee concerning the disbursement of these funds. The monies from Open Space would most likely be placed in the General Fund and its distribution done more differently.

**Seismic Testing** - I brought up the issue of seismic testing to Senator Kean and he was unaware of its negative impact on fish, whales and other sea creatures. He applauded our efforts to stop it and supports the stopping of it.

**Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)** - the problems associated with it (disrupting fishing grounds, possible acts of terrorism etc.) was brought to the Senator's attention and he does not support moving forward with it.

**Tim Dillingham, Director of the American Littoral Society**, told Senator Kean about a bill moving through the senate (S.2143) that would extinguish our state's tidelands claims on private properties owned and occupied for more than 40 years. If successful, private property owners could severely restrict public access to beaches, especially for anglers. Tim is sending a letter to Senate President Sweeney urging him stop this bill and Tim's letter also includes comments provided to him by the NJ Beach Buggy Association.

**Sand Mining - Ken Warschal** brought up the issue of the Army Corps of Engineers taking sand from prime fishing areas in the Manasquan inlet and Axel Carlson reef areas and other prime fishing areas for beach replenishment. The NJOA voted to support Ken's proposal to stop this type sand of mining and its disruptive effect on our fisheries. Serge Radossi (member of the NJ Marine Fisheries Council) indicated that this Council sent a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers indicating that it should stop this sand mining at prime fishing locations immediately. Lawsuits from some coastal towns are expected to delay beach replenishments in their areas. This sand mining issue will have to be closely monitored given that the Army Corps of Engineers is not that responsive to concerns voiced by the public.

With the beginning of the new year, club memberships are due for payment and invoices have been mailed to member clubs. Club dues still remain at \$50, and sponsorships of \$50, \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available for publication in this newsletter and would be very much appreciated. Please completely fill out not only the Dues and Sponsorship form, but also the Club Survey form so that we can update information about your club and our mailing list.

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

The JCAA has recently received club dues from: Women's Surf Fishing Club (\$100), NJ Beach Buggy Assoc. (\$50 club membership + \$250 newsletter ad), Fortesque Captains & Boat Owners Assoc.(\$100), Village Harbour Fishing Club (\$200 Club Sustaining Sponsorship), Beach Haven Fishing Charter Assoc.(\$50), Long Beach Island Fishing Club (\$100), Bay Head Shores Fishing Club (100), Surf Kings Fishing Club (\$50)`, Belmar Fishing Club (\$50), New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (\$500 Corporate Sponsor).

Thank you all for sending in your 2015 dues and sponsorships in such 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](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net).

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

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### **NJ HOFNOD TRAINING**

During 2015 the New Jersey DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife will be hosting Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs (HOFNOD) training for volunteers of youth-centered community and/or faith-based organizations looking to offer an ongoing or year-round youth fishing, conservation and

aquatic education program. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association will provide training funds for two members from each member club of JCAA that would like to participate in the HOFNOD training. To receive an application from JCAA email: [gkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:gkucharews@jcaa.org).

### **IGFA NJ DINNER**

The International Game Fish Association New Jersey Representatives are hosting their 18<sup>th</sup> Annual banquet and auction on April 17, 2015 at Doolan's Shore Club, Spring Lake, NJ from 7 to 11 p.m. The banquet and auction benefits the IGFA Junior Angler and Conservation Programs.

Every year we travel to the IGFA Education Center in Dania, FL and I am always amazed at when the buses of young students arrive to learn about conservation and fishing. All their heads are looking up at the fish suspended from the ceiling. It's good to see them looking up for a change.

If you would like to attend and support this event please contact Jeff Merrill at 908-451-1110 or email [jeffmerrill2@verizon.net](mailto:jeffmerrill2@verizon.net).

### **2015 SKILLFUL ANGLER AWARDS PROGRAM**

Don't forget about the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife's 2015 Skillful Angler Awards Program. Each year anglers have a chance to submit freshwater and saltwater fish that are close or over New Jersey state records are recognized through the Skillful Angler Awards Program. Participation is open to all ages and skill levels. Visit their web site and check out the 2014 [winners](#).

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

NB&FCC annual Kids Fishing Derby is held each year at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside, N. J. and is free for children 16 years of age and younger. Adults may enter for a nominal charge.

The Derby runs for three weeks starting from April 11 and going through May 2, 2015. The registration booth is located at the gazebo on the lower lake and registrations will be accepted from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on the first Saturday of the derby only. Children that have registered will receive a gift bag at the derby location up until 2:00 P.M. on the first Saturday of the derby.

Prizes for the derby will be awarded at the Newark Bait And Fly Casting Club's meeting on June 2, 2015 at 8:00 P.M. For additional information email: [info@nbfcc.org](mailto:info@nbfcc.org)

### **HOOKED ON THE HUDSON**

Save the date Saturday, May 9, 2015, the Hudson River Fishermen's Association will host the 30th Annual Hooked on the Hudson, at Ross Dock, Palisades Interstate Park, Hudson Riverfront located immediately north of the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee, New Jersey. For detailed directions check the park website [njpalisades.org](http://njpalisades.org). Please go to the Hudson River Fishermen's Association's Web site [www.hrfanj.org](http://www.hrfanj.org) for more information. Volunteers for the Annual Hooked on the Hudson always do a fine job of making sure everyone enjoys a day of fishing fun.

### **IBSP SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT**

Get ready to enter the largest surf-fishing tournament along the Jersey Shore. The Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be on Sunday, May 17, 2015. Don't miss a day of family fun! Pick up a brochure about the tournament at Island Beach State Park or at your favorite tackle dealer. The contest is reasonably priced. Register early and save. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice anglers at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and this will require extra volunteer hours from member clubs in JCAA.

### **NATIONAL FISHING & BOATING WEEK JUNE 6 – 14, 2015**

NF&BW Free Fishing Days in New Jersey have changed to June 13 and October 17, 2015. The first FREE day will be held on June 13, 2015 during the summer as is traditional. This day is part of the National Fishing and Boating Week which highlights the importance of recreational boating and fishing to enhance peoples' quality of life and to preserve our country's natural beauty.

The second Free Fishing Day will occur after fall trout stocking on October 17, 2015 to bring attention to this great fishing opportunity. On these two days, residents and non-residents may fish New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations, including size and daily catch limits, remain in effect.

Residents and non-residents may fish the public waters of New Jersey without a license or trout Stamp. All other regulations apply. For those anglers just starting out, the Division of Fish and Wildlife offers many programs and classes to advance from beginner to expert. The Pequest State Trout Hatchery in Oxford, Warren County offers



free fishing programs. Pequest offers a Natural Resource Education Center with a variety of exhibits and displays on wildlife, a butterfly garden, picnic areas and hiking trails. There is also a handicapped-accessible fishing site along the Pequest River. Last year the JCAA Youth Education Committee coordinated fishing and aquatic education programs for the week-long celebration of National Fishing Week. This year we will be working with students in Monmouth and Ocean County. Member clubs that wish to conduct a National Fishing Week program can phone 732-785-9278 and we will guide your organization through the process. Phone if you have questions and please record your event. Let the JCAA Youth Education Committee know how many National Fishing Week participants supported your program.

### **WINTER FLOUNDER FISHING**

During early spring, there are a number of places to try your luck fishing for winter flounder. The following locations are easy to access from shore: Point Pleasant Canal - Bay Avenue - Pinebluff Ave., and by the bridges. Manasquan Inlet - both sides - are productive and the Mantoloking bridge area: Shark River Inlet and Barnegat Inlet. You might also hook into a Striped Bass if you are using worms, but fresh clams work well for both species. Cut the clams into small strips and use a small hook. Winter flounder have a mouth about the size of a Cheerio.

Remember to check the New Jersey Marine Digest for rules and regulations.

# **JCAA FLUKE TOURNAMENT AUGUST 1st**