

JCAA NEWSPAPER MAY 2015

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on April 1st, 2015)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, April 28th, 2015

Starting at 7:30 PM

AT JERSEY COAST SHARK ANGLERS

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 7th, 2015

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi

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

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

## 2014 OFFICERS

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Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 28th** JCAA General Meeting
- May 4th-7th** ASMFC Spring Meeting
- May 14th** JCAA Board Meeting
- May 17th** Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament
- May 26th** JCAA General meeting and High Rollers raffle drawing
- June 11th** JCAA Board Meeting
- June 30th** JCAA General Meeting and vote on JCAA Sportsmen of the year
- August 1st** JCAA Fluke 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 26th**, 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

Sportsperson of the Year

By Paul Turi, Co-Chairman

We are now accepting nominations for our sportsperson of the year and will have a vote at our General Membership Meeting in June. The reason for this is because we don't meet in July & August and we vote at the October meeting, which is very close to our honoring dinner date and it does not give our honoree too much time to contact family and friends who may want to be present at the dinner presentation. A lot of family and friends may be out of town and it does not leave much time to make travel plans. In addition to that, it does not leave us much time to order our plaques for our Sportsperson-of-the-Year honoree and the Youth Education Award honoree. So all in all it seems to make sense to have the nomination and election process much earlier.

If you wish to nominate someone, please submit a bio of at least 250 words. Don't worry about typing and spelling, etc. When we have elected a nominee, if I need more or less words to make the bio fit in our brochure, I will work with the nominating club to accomplish this.

The dinner again this year will be held at the Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant on Sunday, November 9th, 2015. Ticket prices are the same as last year, \$75 per head or \$600 for a table of 10.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the JCAA office or by email at pturi6@comcast.net.

President's Report

By Paul Haertel

The new striped bass legislation and regulations are expected to become law by early May. 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 or if he does not sign it, the law will become effective in early May.

The Bonus Bass Program is being drastically changed as well. At their meeting on 4/9/15, the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council voted to change the program from one fish at 28" to one fish from 24"-28". However, there will be a limited amount of tags that will be given out and the program will only be in effect from 9/1-12/31. Further, 40% of the available tags are going to be given to charter and party boats. The new regulation is currently being written and reviewed. It will then have to be signed by the DEP Commissioner before it becomes law. This too is expected to become law in early May. The old regulations stay in effect until the new ones become law. Therefore, anglers may currently use the bonus tag for an additional striper 28" and greater. That will end as soon as the Commissioner signs the regulation and then the bonus season will be closed until 9/1. Some people seem to think that to use the bonus tag they have to keep the two other fish first but that is not the case. Anglers may catch the fish in any order, and may choose to keep one, two or three fish provided they are within the required size limits. Those interested in obtaining a bonus card may do so by going to [this link](#). There is an administrative fee of \$2.

Regarding 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 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The NJMFC voted to approve the season that will begin on May 22nd and continue through September 26th. The enhanced shore-based fishing program which allows a 2 fish bag limit of fluke 16" or greater for Island Beach will continue. The NJMFC and our Bureau of Marine Fisheries would like to expand this program to areas in northern and southern New Jersey in 2016. They are currently looking for suitable sites where the program can be properly monitored.

The NJMFC also voted to reduce our sea bass season by 49 days from what it was last year so that we did not have to raise the size limit to 13". Now we will be prohibited from keeping any sea bass from August 1st until the season reopens on October 22nd. Below are the 2015 sea bass regulations.

2015 Sea Bass Regulations

	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6
Dates	May 27- June 30	July 1- July 31	Oct 22- Oct 31	Nov 1 – Dec 31
Bag	15	2	15	15
Size	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5
Days	35	31	10	61

We need nominations for our Sportsperson of the Year and Youth Education Awards. Please submit nominations in 250 words or less so that they can be printed in our newsletter. We will be voting on these awards at our June general membership meeting.

Please also support our high roller and new super 50/50 raffles. Our high roller raffle has nine prizes having a total value of over \$3000. Tickets are just \$2 each and the drawing will take place on 5/26/15. Our super 50/50 will have three cash prizes. Of the money paid out, the first place winner will receive 50% of the money, 2nd place 30% and third place 20%. Tickets are \$10 each and the drawing will be held on 12/10/15. Tickets will be mailed along with our fluke tournament applications. However, if anyone else would like some tickets, just call the JCAA office at 732-506-6975.

Also, we have some exciting new features for our fluke tournament which will be held on 8/1/15. One is that there will be a 25K cash prize to the early entrant who catches the largest fluke in the tournament, provided it is over 12 lbs. We will also be having port and overall Calcuttas. All told, cash and merchandise prizes could exceed 80K. Be sure to read Paul Turi's article for more details.

Lastly, just a reminder, most anglers are required to register or renew their NJ saltwater recreational registration for 2015.

To renew:

- Go to [this link](#). Then scroll down and click on "Access current year"
- Enter requested info.
- Click on your ID number
- Click on renew

For those who were not previously registered, initial registrations may be completed at this same link.

The registry is free and there is an explanation as to who needs to register on the web site.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

ASA Government Affairs Meeting

I attended a well-run ASA Government Affairs meeting in Washington, DC on May 14 & 15. On the 14th we had a long day reviewing many topics that impact on both fresh and saltwater anglers around the country. With the reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Act and a few other saltwater issues, our day was full. We spent the following day on Capitol Hill, meeting in a room in the Hill Complex. We had important Congressmen from the Natural Resources join us with their staff for discussions on important issues. We also had one of the Senators from the Commerce Committee that will deal with many of the issues that follow.

- Sportsmen's Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization
- Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund Reauthorization

After the morning meetings, I met with Congressman McArthur's staff and the staff from both Senator Menendez and Senator Booker. Senator Booker will be an important ally since he is the ranking Democrat on the Fisheries Subcommittee. It will be important to write his office to make them aware of your opinion on important fisheries issues.

Mike Leonard, Scott Gudes and Melanie Sturm did a fantastic job organizing the two-day meeting. I was impressed with the way the meetings were run and the opportunities we had to meet our elected officials while on the Hill. The ASA staff did a great job with other members, helping them visit Congressional offices throughout the day. Many members of ASA come from the business community and were able to represent their company and describe the economic impact of recreational fishing. I am looking forward to ICAST and the Recreational Summit to follow up on these issues.

Seismic Blasting

I received a copy of a letter written by Senators Menendez and Booker and Congressman Pallone asking for an extension of 60 days for the comment period on seismic blasting. Clean Ocean Action has been doing a great job coordinating this effort and keeping everyone informed. I wonder how the students at Rutgers would feel if they knew their University was moving forward with a project under the guise of climate change that will primarily be searching for opportunities for oil and gas drilling. I also think they would be upset when they find the proposed seismic blasting will have a negative impact on whales, porpoises and other marine mammals as well as the fish. Go to Clean Ocean Action's webpage to sign the petitions and keep informed.

Island Beach State Park Walkway

A greater use of the Fisherman's Walkway by the boaters from Tice's Shoals is creating a number of problems at Island Beach State Park. It is important to understand that the Fisherman's Walkway was designed to provide access to handicapped anglers. Area 7 is not a swimming area and has no life guard. The boaters from Tice's Shoal now walk across and swim in area 7. This allows significantly less access for handicapped anglers. It is also creating a dangerous situation since there is no life guard available. There are frequent demands placed on park staff and first responders from the responding towns when there is a problem. The Commissioner of DEP and the Division of Parks have been seeking a solution. JCAA has been involved with the Fishermen's Walkway since its inception. The money for the plans came from the first year of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. Along with JCAA, the NJ Beach Buggy Association and the NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs were invited with other organizations to a meeting to discuss options. The press release contained in this newspaper includes the recommendations.

I think that the recommendations are a step in the right direction. I fully support what DEP and the Division of Parks are proposing. We need to pay attention as the regulations are determined and implemented. We will be discussing this further at the JCAA meeting because the present system is not

working for handicapped anglers and we need to support a change.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Meeting Week – May 4-7

Last month I published the preliminary agenda for the upcoming ASMFC meeting. There will be many interesting topics for discussion during the four days of meetings. I am often asked how you can become more involved. Usually the week before the meeting many of the materials for the meeting will be posted on the ASMFC webpage, with supplemental materials posted on the Thursday before. You can download the same documents that I receive as a commissioner. I know some of the documents are more than 100 pages but you can read the summaries. Once you have the meeting materials and the agenda, you can listen on the internet from your home or office. This does not allow you to answer questions but you can certainly be informed. If you have a particular interest in a species, just read the full document and listen to the discussion. The board meetings are archived if you are not available in real time. I meet a lot of anglers in my travels and many of them know I am a commissioner. They start giving me their opinions on how fish should be managed. The first question I always ask them is, "Have you looked at the science?" The second question is, "Did you attend the public hearings and make comments?" And third, "Have you listened to the discussion from the Board meeting?" Your comments carry greater weight and have more credibility even if you disagree when you can answer yes to these three questions. Some of the chronic complainers can't answer yes to even one.

JCAA 21st 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 21st Annual fluke Tournament this year will be held on Saturday, **August 1st** and our awards presentations will be held on the evening of Wednesday, August 12th 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 or calcuttas of \$50.00 and \$100.00 for each port.** In addition, we are also going to have **Optional Cash Categories (calcuttas) 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 or calcutta and 7/8ths will be paid out to the overall winner of each category for the overall tournament. 1/8th 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.

The big news this year is that we will also pay out \$25,000 cash to one angler only who weighs in a fluke exceeding 12 lbs.! Only entries received by July 20th will qualify for this prize.

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 12th. And as always there will be thousands of dollars in door prizes given out. 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 Boats** 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 now complete. Very shortly we 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.

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.

Our first mailing for the tournament with an entry form will be going out shortly 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 1st and August 12th and let's hope we have a nice day to fish this year!

24th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

By Paul Smith

The Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament (GSFT) will take place in Island Beach State Park (IBSP), NJ on **Sunday May 17, 2015.** This event is one of the most popular surf fishing contests for the individual angler on the East Coast. It is sponsored by Jersey Coast Anglers Association, New Jersey State Federation Of Sportsmen's Clubs, NJ Beach Buggy Association, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, NJ Division of Parks and NJDEP.

This year's GSFT will be the second to be held in the spring. The 2014 event in May proved to be a success with more fish caught by the contestants. The most important part in planning this tournament is always to provide the most enjoyable day of surf fishing possible for the participating anglers.

Mail-in Registration Fee

Ages 18 & older - \$15

Ages 13-17 - \$5.00

Children 12 & under are FREE! Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult, and are still required to register

Day of Tournament Registration Fee

Registration opens at 5:00 am on Sunday at Pavilion #1.

Ages 18 and older: \$20
13-17 - \$5.00
Children 12 & under are FREE!

Schedule

6:30 a.m.-1:00p.m Fishing
1:30 p.m.-2:00p.m Raffle Drawing
2:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony

Special arrangements are available for handicapped anglers. Balloon tire equipped beach wheelchairs are available for anglers with disabilities. Volunteers will be needed to assist anglers with special needs who fish on tournament day. To volunteer, or to make arrangements for a handicapped angler, please contact Greg Kucharewski at: gkucharews@aol.com

We need your help, so please sign up to be a judge in the tournament. Each judge will receive a special issue Governor's Cup Surf Fishing Tournament judge's hat. In addition, a stipend is available to help offset the cost of fuel burned while judging on the beach. Also, the IBSP beach pass is not required for judge's 4x4 vehicles during the hours of the tournament. Please contact Mark Pantle at: pantlesr@yahoo.com for more information.

Tournament t-shirts and hats will be available for sale inside the pavilion area after 10:00 am on tournament day.

There will be a raffle drawing for registered anglers in the tournament. Participants in the drawing must be present at the award ceremonies to qualify to win.

The GSFT Committee and several other organizations have donated funds to provide IBSP with 15 new beach accessible wheel chairs to replace the well-worn units that have been in use at IBSP. These chairs will be on display at the Pavilion at OBA#1 during the day of the tournament. More information on this program will appear in the tournament follow-up article in an upcoming JCAA Newsletter.

If you are interested in details of wheel chair use at the park, please contact the Island Beach State Park office at (732) 793-0506

We hope you are planning to fish in the GSFT this year. If not, why not volunteer to help on the day of the tournament. Help is always needed at the registration desk, with sales of tournament hats and t-shirts, assisting anglers with special needs, and judging. Please contact Frank Dara at: fdar9@aol.com.

New Southern Swimming Area at Island Beach State Park Announced

Lifeguard Protection Available this Summer
Near Popular A-7 Area

In another effort to make visits to New Jersey's state parks a safer and more enjoyable experience, Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin announced today the start of a new, lifeguarded swimming area near the popular A-7 section of the park for the summer season.

Lifeguard protection for swimmers and waders has traditionally been located behind the main pavilions at Ocean Bathing Areas 1 and 2. The new southern swimming area will be located about four miles beyond the entrance to the park, just to the north of the recently reconstructed Fisherman's Walkway access point. It will accommodate all visitors, including those who arrive by boat at Tices Shoal and enter the park from a new designated entry point on the west side of the walkway.

Swimming at all other unguarded sections of Island Beach State Park remains prohibited.

"The safety of our park visitors is our first priority," said Richard Boornazian, DEP Assistant Commissioner of Natural and Historic Resources. "Emergencies in unguarded sections of the park often results in compromised lifeguard resources at our main pavilion areas where swimming is permitted. So providing this additional protection at the popular A-7 section will benefit all users of the park."

The designation of a new southern swimming area will also give anglers who traditionally enter at Fisherman's Walkway a more defined area to fish, without the intrusion of swimmers. These anglers, who use the walkway to enter the beach on foot or by wheelchair, will have a delineated area open exclusively for fishing south of the swimming area. Fishing will be permitted in the swimming area when lifeguards are not on duty.

Mobile sport fishing access at A-7 will also remain and not be affected by the swimming area. Those vehicles must park south of the pedestrian anglers fishing section.

"Our goal is to provide safe and equitable access to all of our visitors," said Island Beach State Park manager Ray Bukowski. "The addition of this

new swimming area will not only create a safe haven for swimmers with some of the best lifeguards at the Jersey Shore, but will also eliminate any conflicting use of distinct areas of the park."

Once again, summer gate entry fees (\$6 New Jersey resident/\$12 non-resident on weekdays; \$10 New Jersey resident/\$20 non-resident on weekends and holidays) remain unchanged.

Menhaden Talking Points by the Menhaden Coalition

2015 Quota and Ecosystem Management

On May 5, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) will make pivotal votes about the 2015 Atlantic menhaden quota and could begin work to change future management, including conservation and allocation decisions. The ASMFC could increase the quota for this year with no understanding of the impact on predators like striped bass, or managers could adopt ecosystem goals and advance responsible management of this most important fish in the sea. **Managers should not increase the 2015 quota for menhaden unless they leave enough in the ocean as food for predators. Current quota shortages should be addressed by reallocation or trading, not by sacrificing coastwide conservation.**

Despite some positive trends, Atlantic menhaden is still in need of conservation

- A new stock assessment shows that coastwide Atlantic menhaden biomass (the combined weight of all fish) has increased in recent years after a steep decline in the 1990s.
- The stock assessment also finds that the actual abundance (number of fish) remains well below historic levels. This is what matters most to predators like striped bass.
- Recruitment (the number of fish surviving past 1 year) remains low.
- The menhaden population has not recovered throughout its historic range from Maine to Florida.
- Fishing effort is highly concentrated in the Chesapeake Bay and mid-Atlantic which risks localized depletion.

- See below for charts from the assessment showing biomass and abundance trends (Figure 1), then recruitment (Figure 2).

The ASFMC should not increase the menhaden catch limit without providing for predators

1. On May 5, the Commission should adopt interim Ecological Reference Points (accounting for predator needs) when making decisions about the 2015 quota and initiate an amendment to transition to long term ecological management.
2. Increasing the coastwide menhaden catch without consideration of the cost to predators would be irresponsible. Most menhaden predator populations are at best stable, and in many cases are declining.
3. The Commission just made a difficult decision to reduce the striped bass catch to address a decline. Other Atlantic menhaden predators that are important for recreational and commercial fishing include highly-depleted weakfish, cod, and bluefin tuna. The Commission must provide enough food for these predator populations to rebuild and thrive, and avoid future quota cuts.
4. Menhaden are also food for seabirds like osprey and eagles, and cetaceans like humpback whales which support ecotourism businesses. These wildlife species are economically important to Atlantic states.
5. Consider the potential value that a growth in menhaden abundance would provide for the local seafood supply and associated jobs along the Atlantic coast. Why risk undermining broader conservation efforts?

The ASMFC should adopt ecosystem-based management of menhaden

- The time has come for managers to transition to ecosystem-based fishery management for Atlantic menhaden. In 2001, the ASFMC's first amendment for menhaden included this objective: "Protect and maintain the important ecological role Atlantic menhaden play along the coast."
- The new stock assessment's peer review: "strongly encourages the [technical committee] and the Management Board to initiate a formal dialog, ideally inclusive of key stakeholder groups, to inform the development of Ecological

Reference Points...to develop a common perspective among scientists, managers, and stakeholders about the strategy for defining reference points that reflect a broader ecological perspective on the Atlantic menhaden fishery...The [technical committee] has done a thorough job of investigating and summarizing the options. Now it is time for managers and stakeholders to guide the way forward.” (Review Workshop Report, page 27).

- The Commission should heed this call and act now to advance ecosystem management for this important forage fish.

The ASFMC should not increase the catch without reallocation

- All states stand to benefit from effective conservation, and only one would benefit significantly from increasing the quota in 2015 (Virginia). A proportional increase to the 2015 quota (for example, even the maximum proposed 20 percent increase over the 2014 quota for each state), without reallocation, will not solve any state’s quota shortages or bait industry challenges. See below for a chart that shows the quota by state if the proposed 10 or 20 percent increases occurred without reallocation. (Figure 3)
- The ASMFC should not risk the health of the coastal ecosystem to give nearly all of the increase to Virginia, which does not need an immediate quota increase.
- The reduction fishery (Omega Protein) has 80 percent of the coastwide quota and continued to be successful in 2014, the second year under the current catch limit.
- From their 2014 performance press release: “Revenues in the twelve months ended December 31, 2014 increased 26% to \$308.6 million compared to revenues of \$244.3 million for the twelve months ended December 31, 2013.” ([link](#))
- Under the current (Amendment 2) management system, quota can be traded between states. Virginia could transfer a relatively small amount of quota and solve all other states’ current shortages without increasing the coastwide catch.

Figure 1: Biomass and abundance data for Atlantic menhaden from the most recent stock assesment.

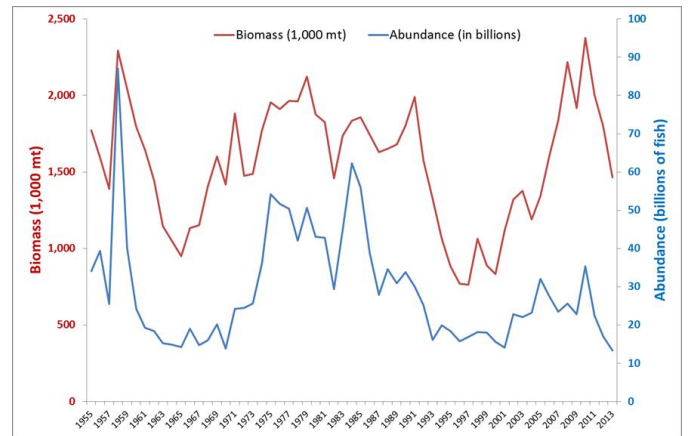


Figure 2: Recruitment (number of fish age one year and above) data for Atlantic menhaden from the most recent stock assesment.

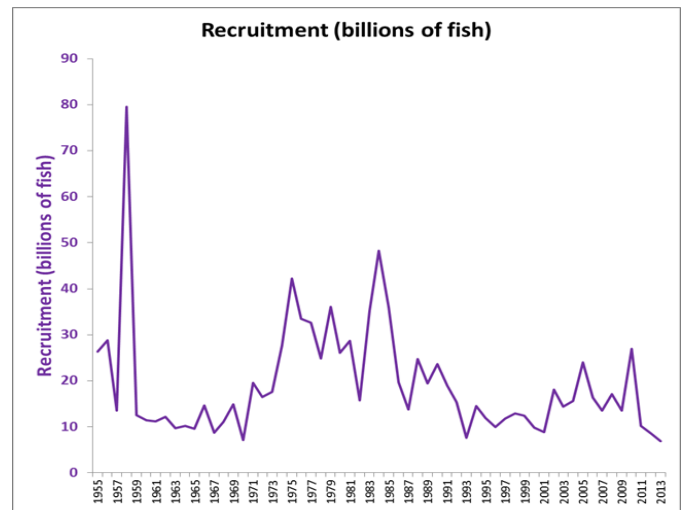
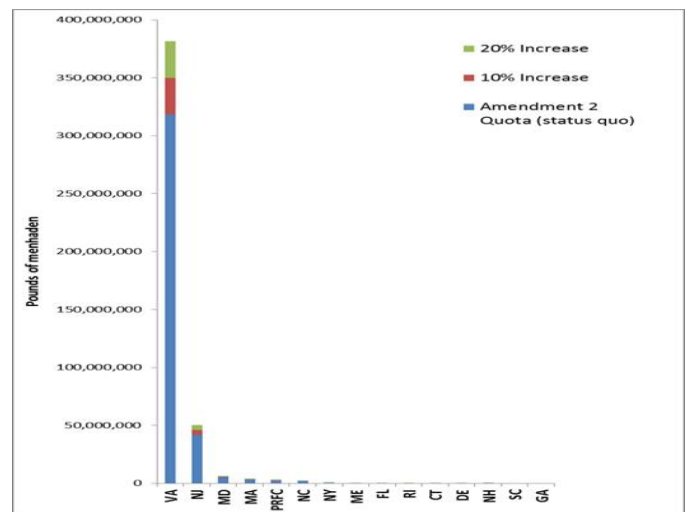


Figure 3: Quota by state with a hypothetical 10 or 20 percent quota increase without reallocation.



NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

By John Toth

On behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), I attended a March 30th meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) and the following issues were discussed:

April 27th Meeting - Commissioner Robert Martin to receive a special award from the NJOA for supporting many NJOA initiatives, especially the Artificial Reef Program.

Memorandum of Understanding - the NJOA has been meeting with various state agencies to streamline the building of artificial reefs for quite some time and a meeting will be held possibly in April with a number of stakeholders to come to a final agreement on this issue.

Island Beach State Park Walkway - access problem by Tice Shoals was raised by Beach Buggy President Tim Burden concerning access for disabled and possible fees for usage.

The NJOA is having a clay shoot at Hudson Farms as a fundraiser on May 17th and member clubs were urged to support it by attending it and paying for sponsorships to make this event successful. The Turkey Federation offered to support one of the sponsorships that was outlined by Frank Virgilio. Hudson Farms is a premier hunting location and is one of the best in New Jersey, if not our nation.

We also discussed the topics below from the Outdoors Writers Workshop.

Outdoor Writer's Workshop

By John Toth

I attended the Outdoor Writer Workshop representing JCAA.

This workshop pulled together by the Division of Fish & Wildlife (F&W) and sponsored by the JCAA and the NJ Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, is essentially a meeting to update sportswriters on a variety of current hunting and fishing issues for the benefit of their readership. This meeting was well attended by members of the press and it was held at the Assunpink Central Region Office. Members from various fishing and hunting organizations were also present.

David Chanda, Director of Fish & Wildlife, gave a brief introduction of DEP Commissioner Robert Martin and indicated because of time restrictions only members of the press were allowed to ask Commissioner Martin questions. The Commissioner made the following opening comments and then they were followed up with questions from the press:

- Science and data goes into the decisions of F&W on fishing and hunting management issues and not by politics.
- Regulations concerning the bear hunting season should come out in April and be followed up by a public comment period in June. This bear hunt can be possibly extended into December because of the increasing population of bears across NJ.
- 570,000 trout to be stocked in 88 streams during April. June 13th and October 17th are declared "**free fishing days**" to encourage the public to become more involved in fishing.
- Striped bass will be directly managed by F&W in the future and will not require approval by our legislators. This change will end the approval delays by our legislators and also end the nail biting involved in having our striper season opening on time.
- May 17th is the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. It was moved from October to May 17th to provide better fishing opportunities.
- Seismic testing is opposed by the commissioner and he indicated that our state is developing a case against it since it violates our Coastal Management Zone Act in addition to other environmental issues.
- Artificial Reefs - new regulations will be issued in June that provide for shared managements zones by commercial and recreational anglers on the Axel Carlson and Sandy Hook reefs. A new reef will be built for exclusive use by recreational anglers in the near future to replace the loss of fishing space on the above two reefs by recreational anglers.
- New Game Code out for public comment and comments are due to DEP's Fish & Game Council by May 15th.

Questions from the Press

- Will there be more funding for F&W? - Answer- Money is very tight right now and money for it is

not in the current budget for it. Need to find new sources like Rutgers to help with needed research projects.

- What is the status of the new archery facility in Sussex County? Answer - Still moving forward with this beautiful facility and design drawings for it are expected to be completed by fall.
- Why can't we get rid of bears that threaten us? The Commissioner explained that we cannot kill every bear that we see and that F&W follows a protocol that will kill dangerous bears, but remove nuisance bears with tranquilizers for re-location to other sites.
- Why can't F&W use credit cards more widely for possible service fees associated with archery/hunting courses? The Commissioner will look into this issue.

Other Workshop Agenda Items

Black Bear Management Policy - presented by F&W's Tony McBride who explained the protocols used by F&W to kill or remove bears who become a nuisance. He also indicated archery is very effective in killing bears and hunters from **30 states** come to New Jersey to hunt bears. Hunters can take two bears in October and December. Permits can be purchased in September.

Bureau of law Enforcement - was made by **Acting Chief, Mark Chicketano**, who talked about illegal activities concerning elvers (glass eels), undersized fish and bear killings for their gall bladders. Of special note was that **5 lbs. of elvers can fetch up to \$10,000** and with that type of money, criminals use every possible method to go undetected for this lucrative trade. A special police unit has been established to catch them.

Bureau of Fresh Water Fisheries was presented by F&W's **Lisa Barno** - who talked about their field surveys to capture and identify fish at various lakes to determine their status in regard to their stock and health. These surveys help to determine if a certain species is in decline and more of them may be needed to be stocked. The continual warming of fresh water lakes due to global warming is a growing concern since it may have a negative effect on fish reproduction. Another area of concern is that invasive species introduced by nature or mostly by humans into our fresh water systems may severely disrupt their ecological balance. Lisa strongly urged anglers to **NOT THROW BACK**

into the water diseased fish or a fish that is not recognizable. These fish will continue to degrade our fresh water systems. Either get in touch with F&W to report this problem or **Kill the Fish!**

Russ Allen, Bureau of Marine Fisheries - gave an overview of upcoming saltwater fishing regulations (they should have been in place earlier at the NJ Bureau of Marine Fisheries meeting in March, but it had to be canceled because of a snow storm. This meeting was moved to April 9th to discuss and approve 2015 fishing regulations). Russ talked about the upcoming Bonus Tag program for striped bass and indicated that only **1%** of the total amount of striped bass is caught under it. He stressed the importance of completing the Bonus Tag information since it is needed by F&W to help develop striped bass regulations for the following year. Anglers need to sign up for NJ's registry program. Other states have more registered anglers and these states are trying to get more representation and influence at management councils on how decisions are made to the detriment of NJ anglers.

Membership Report

By John Toth

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: Hi-Mar Fishing Club (\$500), Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County (\$100).

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.

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

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

CAST A LINE FOR VETERANS

The JCAA Youth Education Committee and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 will have a learning booth for children attending the Monmouth County Armed Forces Day Open House on Saturday, May 16th at 3000 Kozloski Road behind the Monmouth County Agricultural Building. The Monmouth County Veterans Service Open House will begin at 9:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. Please pass it along that all are welcome to attend. Military vehicles and equipment will be on display.

Youngsters can test their casting skills by casting and reeling in a plastic fish targets to win small patriotic prizes. Members from Vietnam Veterans Chapter 12 and Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee plan to have plenty of information for veterans about local fishing clubs, NJ DEP/Parks Fishing Access, Veteran Outreach/Services and upcoming events to connect veterans with the outdoors. For more information please visit their [Facebook page](#).

BOY SCOUTS VOLUNTEER TIME AT IBSP

Thanks to the efforts of Kelly Scott, Island Beach State Park and Kevin Knutsen, that organized a Boy Scout outing during April. Kevin O'Shea, Boy Scout Leader of Troop 436 from Long Valley, NJ traveled to IBSP with his troop to volunteer for a beach clean-up, enjoy an over-night experience at the park, and learn about surf fishing. The troop bought and planted \$500 worth of beach grass to support dune replenishment at the park.

Troop 436 spent 3.5 hours learning about surf fishing. NJBBA Director John Walters, NJBBA members Kevin Knutsen & Frank Bovasso, and Tim Burden, President NJBBA instructed the Boy Scouts about surf casting, knot tying, terminal tackle, cutting bait, and cleaning fish. The Scouts also received an Ande knot guide and line from Captain Frank Bovasso to practice their knots. All the Boy Scouts had a chance to surf fish at A7's rebuilt fishermen's walkway to get on the beach.

The fish were not cooperating that day but everyone had fun surf casting and learning about

fishing. I'm sure that all the scouts learned new surf fishing skills and will return to fish the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament.

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 JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping disabled and novice anglers at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and this will require extra volunteer hours from member clubs in JCAA. We will also have a learning booth for youngsters and information about New Jersey HOFNOD.

NJ HOFNOD CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR

Sign up for the next New Jersey Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs Program (NJ HOFNOD) and become a NJ HOFNOD Certified Instructor. The fishing education program encourages school-aged youth to learn about fishing, aquatic ecosystems and positive life skills as an alternative to the pitfalls of drug and alcohol abuse.

This intensive training targets middle school to high school educators, aftercare providers and faith or community-based youth organizations seriously interested in incorporating a youth fishing program into their curricula or regularly scheduled program offerings. After the training, funding is available for program support.

To participate in the next NJ HOFNOD training, please send a cover letter on your organization's letterhead detailing your interest in the program, relevant contact information (name/address/e-mail and phone number), your goals and/or mission, and a draft plan of how you will incorporate or adopt the NJ HOFNOD program. If applicable, please also include a school, company, organization, or club brochure. Send your request to: Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Coordinator, NJDEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07683. For more information call 908-637-4125 ext. 122 or e-mail Liz.Jackson@dep.nj.gov.

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 NJ HOFNOD training. To receive an

application from JCAA email:
gkucharews@jcaa.org.

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.

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO HOFNOD VISIT

It is sixteen years that the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Chairman has visited the University of Toledo to assist the Merickel-Farley Trout Club with a HOFNOD clinic and fishing event. From June 24-26, 2015, we will assist with National Youth Sports Program NYSP,

Youth Fishing Program. NYSP is a program that helps children build the skills and the confidence they need to tackle future challenges. The University of Toledo's National Youth Sports Program provides summer recreational, sports, and educational enrichment programming for approximately 200 youths aged 10 to 16. During the three day clinic, our JCAA Youth Education Chairman will provide guidance about the Future Fisherman Foundation's Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs program and demonstrate a variety of angling techniques. Marine aquatic education will be discussed for children visiting coastal states during the remainder of their summer vacation.

2015 Offshore Open



\$175,000 in prize money*

August 28 to September 6

**Manasquan River
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