

JCAA NEWSPAPER MID-SUMMER 2015

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on August 27th, 2015)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, September 29th, 2015

Starting at 7:30 PM

AT THE JCAA OFFICE

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 10th, 2015

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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

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

IMPORTANT DATES

September 11th JCAA Board Meeting

September 22nd Tautog Public Hearing TR

September 29th JCAA General Meeting

October 8th JCAA Board Meeting

November 8th JCAA Sportsman of the Year Dinner

JCAA Super 50/50 Raffle

By Don Marantz, Chairman Ways & Means

How would you like to make a difference and support the organization that for over 30 years effectively fights for New Jersey's recreational fishermen? We understand most of you cannot devote the time to attend fisheries meetings in and out of New Jersey because of work and family commitments. Here is your opportunity to help fund the organization that does it for you.

Sending representatives to attend fisheries meetings, supporting our youth education committee, Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs program, running our office, and printing our up-to-date informative newspaper is costly. We have been operating in the red for many years now and the success of the Super 50/50 raffle can help put us back in the black but we need your help to do it.

This is your chance to not only help, but if everyone gets involved the payout will be huge. Let's make it happen.

50% of the amount received for all tickets sold will benefit JCAA and 50% will benefit the winners. Of the money paid out the winners will receive:

- 1st ticket drawn 50%
- 2nd ticket drawn 30%
- 3rd ticket drawn 20%

Drawing date will be **12/10/2015** at the JCAA office.

President's Report

By Paul Haertel

Sea Bass - The New Nuisance Fish

It just never seems to end with problem after problem with fisheries management. The two species I would like to devote this article to are fluke and sea bass. Starting with fluke, I am sure by now most of you know that we will be forced to cut the coast wide quota for fluke by 29% next year. Initially, the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries **Mis-Management** Council recommended a 43% cut so I guess now we are supposed to be happy that the reduction is not quite as severe. Still, it will be devastating to all the fishermen and businesses that depend on that fishery. If the stock was truly in trouble, I would be amongst the first to call for tighter restrictions. What triggered this draconian measure is the fact that the spawning stock biomass has declined and there has been poor recruitment during the last four years. However, the SSB is still at a high level and far above what it used to be a number of years ago when we had much more lenient regulations. When we started rebuilding the stock years ago, we were promised all sorts of relaxed regulations when the stock was rebuilt but all we got were stricter regulations. The traditional fall fishery has been taken away from us. I along with many of my friends used to fish for them well into October. Five fish at 18" and the season we have now is about as far as most of us can be pushed. People no longer get involved with the management process because they don't care what the regulations are; they just keep what they want. We need to have fair regulations if we want compliance.

Sea Bass are now considered by many to be the new nuisance fish. Again, we can thank the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Mis-Management Council for setting a ridiculously low quota. Their population is increasing so fast and their range has been expanding so far that our "best science" cannot keep up with it. There are tons of them out there and here in New Jersey we cannot keep any from 8/1-10/22. They are now causing problems in southern New England where they are eating the baby lobsters and may be contributing to a decline in lobsters. I cannot even fish some of my fluke wrecks now because they are inundated with sea bass. Further, they are eating

small fluke and competing for the same forage species with fluke. This is shades of what happened not too many years ago when the council restored the population of spiny dogfish. Now I can catch them while I am fishing for fluke in 75 degree water. Great job MAFMC!

Besides that, NJ continues to get totally screwed and our traditional share of the harvest of sea bass has declined significantly. Regarding sea bass, NJ is in the northern region along with New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. In 2004 NJ accounted for 72% of the sea bass (in pounds) harvested for those five states. From 2004 - 2008 NJ caught an average of approximately 56% of the harvest for those states. Then as sea bass expanded their abundance and range further to our north, those states began harvesting more fish. From 2008 to 2014 NJ was responsible for only about 25% of the harvest. When this region was created in 2011 a quota was established for the entire region. However, each state was given a target quota and forced to establish regulations that would likely result in not exceeding the regional quota. The problem is that NJ established regulations that were so strict that they resulted in us harvesting only 18% of the region's quota. One would think that because we underfished our target that year we would be able to relax our regulations in 2012. That would have been the case in state-by-state quotas but it does not work that way in regional management. States to our north caused our region to overfish the quota and then all states had to establish stricter regulations than were in place for 2011. Each state is required to cut back by the same percentage whether they underfish or overfished their target quotas.

The problem has snowballed with states to our north generally causing our region to overfish resulting in tighter regulations each year. New Jersey seems to have become the nursing grounds for sea bass. We are not allowed to catch them like we used to as the season and bag limits have been drastically reduced. Due in part to less fishing pressure they have become more abundant, grown larger and migrated to the north where those states now harvest them rather than us. As an example, NJ traditionally harvested 750,000 to over 1,000,000 million pounds of sea bass while Massachusetts traditionally harvested around 200,000 pounds. In recent years, NJ has been restricted to about 600,000 lbs while Massachusetts harvested over one million pounds in three of the last five years. A big part of the problem is that fisheries managers in states to our north have failed to set regulations that keeps

them under their target. However, I would like to re-emphasize that the real problem is that the quota is far too low. When there is a shortage of a particular species, quotas often go unfilled. Therefore, when the quota is overfished year after year, doesn't that show that the stock is robust? Yes, this is fisheries management at its finest.

Unfortunately, there is even more bad news on the horizon. It looks as though NJ is going to be forced into regional management for blackfish next year as well. I suppose that will result in further restrictions for us and work to the benefit of states to our north as well. Be sure to read the articles elsewhere in this newsletter for further details.

Lastly, the JCAA office will be moving to a new location in Toms River on 10/1. We would like someone to volunteer to do some mechanical drawing for us as we need to figure out exactly where we will be placing our shelving and other equipment. If you can help out please email me at anglerpmh@aol.com.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

NMFS and the MAFMC Destroying the Recreational and Commercial Fishing Industry for Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass

In the days before I leave for the August summer flounder meeting, I always convince myself that this year, perhaps, it will be different. Perhaps the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's SSC and NMFS will finally allow the recreational and commercial fishing communities to get the payoff for the years of conservation. And every year my hopes are dashed before the meeting even begins. Every year the numbers crunchers propose figures that demand a further decrease in quota. Two weeks before the August meeting I received a memo that proposed a 40% reduction in the summer flounder quota. This proposal outraged the commercial and recreational communities. Calls to NMFS from both communities and our elected officials demanded that NMFS reevaluate this proposal. Then we were supposed to be grateful when their revised proposal

was for only a 29% reduction. There were those who wanted credit for this reduction when in fact 29% is still devastating to the industry. Instead of credit, perhaps there should be more blame for not fighting harder for a lower reduction. I went to the joint ASMFC & MAFMC hoping that the Council and the Commission would finally tell the NMFS that we are not going to allow NMFS to further destroy the summer flounder fishery. Even though Council members and Commissioners complained about this proposal, NMFS refused to budge. And because they have the power to shut down the EEZ to all summer flounder fishing, the Council and Commission caved in again. The most outrageous comment was from the Northeast Regional Director, John Bullard. He stated that there has been a steady decline in summer flounder for the last 10 years. I will agree that in the last 10 years there has been a minor decline from the highest level ever in 2002. However, we have gone from 50,357 in 2003 to 40,323 in 2014. Just looking at those 12 years you would see a reduction in Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). But you need to look at Table 1 below and see how absurd that statement is. The spawning stock biomass (SSB) decreased from 24,134 mt in 1982 to 5,394 mt in 1989 and then increased to peaks of 50,357 mt in 2003 and 47,499 mt in 2010. Even though the current numbers seem lower, the increase since 1989 is a 7 times greater SSB. We are still double the number from 1982 which was the highest number ever recorded in the early years. Taking the long view, these numbers look significantly different and don't support NMFS relentless destruction of the harvest of summer flounder.

The problem has been that NMFS has always tried to build a spawning stock biomass to this imaginary number that has no scientific basis in existing stock assessment. In 1995, as this plan was being developed, NMFS set a goal of 160 million metric tons for the spawning stock biomass. Many of us asked where they got this number and what scientific basis was used to support this number. There was never a reasonable answer given. Over the years they have continued to lower this number. This number has never reached NMFS' expectation despite the fact that in 2003 we reached a peak of 50,357 metric tons. Even though that was more than double the all-time high figure of 1982 (24,134 metric tons), NMFS was still not satisfied. The 2013 Benchmark Assessment determined summer flounder was not overfished and overfishing was not taking place. But in 2015 there is not a new Benchmark Assessment but

an update determines that we were overfishing in 2013 and we need to raise the expectation for the spawning stock biomass.

If this is not confusing enough, the Benchmark Assessment says the spawning stock biomass is not tied to recruitment. That means that the spawning stock biomass is clearly high enough to create good recruitment. The following statement comes directly from the 2015 updated stock assessment. "The average recruitment from 1982 to 2014 is 41 million fish at age 0. The 1983 and 1985 year classes are the largest in the assessment time series, at 75 and 62 million fish, while the 1988 year class is the smallest at only 10 million fish. After four below average year classes in 2010-2013 (36, 20, 23, and 27 million fish), the 2014 year class is currently estimated to be average at 41 million fish." (Table 1) This statement tells us that we had below average recruitment from 2010 – 2013. Remember, that in 2012, as summer flounder was coming in to the bays and estuaries, we had superstorm Sandy. In 2013, water continued to pour out of the bays discouraging the summer flounder from coming into the bays and estuaries in New York, New Jersey and other states impacted by Sandy. As the impact from Sandy lessens, the projected numbers for 2014 have been average or above. The stock assessment said there is no relationship between spawning stock biomass and recruitment. I want you to look at Table 1 and see if you reach the same conclusion that I have. As a person with years of experience, I infer from Table 1 that there seems to be a relationship between the size of the spawning stock biomass and recruitment. That relationship is a negative one. With a larger spawning stock biomass, the average recruitment drops. That makes scientific sense because we know when stocks are depressed; more young are produced to replace the stocks. We also know when stocks are large there is more competition for food. We also know that summer flounder does not exist in a vacuum and when other stocks like black seabass are at their highest recorded level, there is more competition for food. The question I asked the SSC representative at the meeting was, "Do the numbers of summer flounder spawning stock biomass represent a bell shaped curve?" This would mean there is a maximum number that could exist in a stock and then it would begin to decline. He responded that was a possibility. We might have increased the stocks of summer flounder, black seabass and scup but we

have done nothing to increase the food sources. The only thing NMFS does is restrict fishermen since they are unable to impact other factors including forage species and the environment. NMFS has done just the opposite in New Jersey by the signing off on the destruction of the lumps that provide important fish habitat and on seismic blasting.

The SSC states that they only make scientific decisions, not management decisions. That is far from the truth. When the SSC changes the confidence levels or puts in a reduction of quotas based on their lack of confidence in NMFS data, that is a management decision. To prove my point, in the SSCs deliberation on black sea bass, three members of the SSC wanted a lower percentage reduction based on their confidence level while three other members wanted a higher percentage. They made a decision to use the higher confidence level which meant a lower quota. The ASMFC and the MAFMC were forced to implement a quota based on that reduction. We are stuck with the new lower quota based on their confidence level. That is clearly a management decision.

The greatest shame in this whole process is that if the SSC was required to make decisions based on the stock assessments the quota would be larger than currently for summer flounder, scup and black sea bass. But the SSC punishes NMFS because they lack confidence in the data they put in the models. Actually, they aren't punishing NMFS but rather the commercial fishermen and recreational anglers and all businesses that they support. The commercial and recreational communities had been calling for better data before I started going to MAFMC meetings in the mid-eighties. I have been calling for better data on summer flounder, black sea bass and scup since I first started managing these species. I know that since the late eighties when I first got involved in the reauthorization of the Magnum/Stevens Act (MSA) up to the current reauthorization, the NGO community and the recreational and commercial communities have been calling for more money for stock assessment data and have been ignored.

From some of the emails I received there were members of the Council and Commission and the public who were puzzled that the commercial and recreational interests were working together on this issue. I was not since I remember both of those communities working together in the early years for conservation. Without both of those committees there would be no MSA to start with. Those of us who have

been working on these issues for over 40 years, both commercially and recreationally, are committed to building sustainable fisheries. That is also part of the ASMFC compact. We are also working together to build sustainable recreational and commercial fishing industries. Unlike NMFS, some of the environmental organizations and some within our own recreational community, we don't see those two issues as mutually exclusive. We believe we can work together for sustainable fisheries and sustainable fishing communities at the same time. To do anything different would be a travesty and a repudiation of the intent of the Magnuson/Stevens and the Atlantic Coast Conservation Act.

Where are we now with the summer flounder fishery for 2016?

For 2016 the commercial quota will be 8,120,000 pounds. The recreational quota will be 7,380,000 pounds. I do not have an earlier chart that would give us information back to the 90's. But if my memory is correct, this is one of the lowest quotas on record, even when the stocks were collapsed and the rebuilding period began. The only table I have available is the one from 2005 to the present. The difference between tables 2 and 3 is the table showing 2015, 16, 17 and 18 gives information in the millions of pounds. The table from 2005 to the present is in metric tons. You will need to multiply metric tons by 2.2 to give you the number in pounds. As you look at table 2 you will see that the quotas do not look any better for 2016, 17 and 18. I am hoping the benchmark assessment that is released in 2016 will indicate how wrong the current quotas are. What does that mean for New Jersey? I cannot tell you the exact reduction for the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut region that New Jersey strongly opposed. That will be determined when we see the wave data at the December Joint Meeting. Some of that data will still be preliminary in December. I am unwilling to make a prediction about the recreational catch. I learned my lesson in 2013. In 2013 I said we will be far under the catch in 2012 since we had fewer boats and trips due to Sandy. I wrote an article that is posted on the JCAA webpage that pointed out that we were down 900,000 summer flounder trips, had fewer boats and fewer anglers in the saltwater registry. Many of the marinas were still closed in May and June of 2013 and many boats were not in the water. How could I

be so naïve to realize that NMFS would find a way to determine that we had exceeded the quota in 2013 and the total numbers were larger than in 2012. In 2012, there were 1,130,407 summer flounder caught according to NMFS. In 2013 NMFS determined that there were 1,197,457 summer flounder caught. Even in May and June wave we were only about 26,000 fewer fish caught than 2012 despite the continued closure of many marinas. Since I can't predict what fairy tale NMFS will write this time, I can only suggest you stay tuned for the latest installment.

Black Sea Bass

Let's start with the bad news. Even though we all know the numbers of black sea bass have greatly increased and they have expanded their range into New Hampshire and Maine, SSC has recommended a quota of status quo. That was approved at the Joint Meeting. This quota will again guarantee that the recreational community exceeds the quota. Why is this? We know the stock is much bigger but the quota is designed on a stock that is much smaller. Again, the SSC does not trust the data that NMFS provides from the stock assessment. The other bad news is that NMFS has done nothing since 1994 to get better data. I know that since I have been requesting better data for all of those years. The only good news is that again the SSC is looking at a model that handles bad data and this might increase the quota. Most of you are not aware that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is getting strong recommendations from the technical committee to place a moratorium on the lobster fishery that takes place from Massachusetts to Maryland. One of the reasons is that there has been poor recruitment and survival. At the Joint Meeting, recreational and commercial fishermen testified that black sea bass love to eat baby lobster. One party boat captain pointed out that they gutted a black sea bass and found 12 two inch lobsters. I am not suggesting that black sea bass is the reason that the lobster fishery is collapsing in these areas. There could be other contributing factors such as pesticide spraying in Long Island Sound and climate change. However, it will be interesting to see what happens in the Gulf of Maine. The Gulf of Maine has seen a dramatic increase in lobster and in recruitment. Every year the harvest and the recruitment increase. Some of the scientists pointed out that the warmer water is having a positive impact on the lobster harvest in the Gulf of Maine. But this warmer water is also creating a climate that is

conducive to the black sea bass stocks. It will be interesting to see if the increase in the population of black sea bass has an impact on the number of lobster. Wait and see.

The tables 1 & 3 below were taken from the updated stock assessment. They were not referenced in the document as tables 1 & 3 but I numbered them to make it easier to understand. If you want a complete copy of the stock assessment, please send me an email or go to the ASMFC or MAFMC webpages. On the JCAA webpage there is a compilation of articles on these issues from earlier editions starting in the January 2012 edition and running in the next two issues. This way the articles are available without searching the webpage and some of the newer JCAA articles. Send me an email at (tfote@jcaa.org) and in the subject say “Send Summer Flounder Articles” and I will send the articles to you.

Table 1

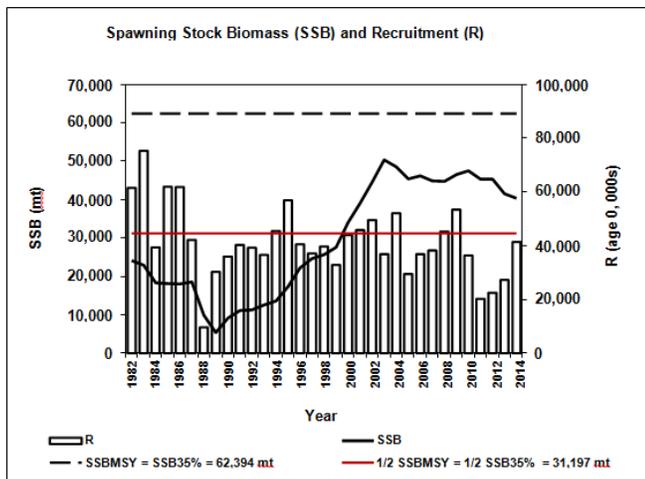


Figure 4. Summer flounder spawning stock biomass (SSB; solid line) and recruitment at age 0 (R; vertical bars) by calendar year. The horizontal dashed line is the 2013 SAW 57 biomass target reference point proxy, the horizontal red line is the biomass threshold reference point proxy.

Table 2

Species	Year	Commercial Quota (millions of pounds)	Commercial Minimum Fish Size (TL)	Commercial Mesh Size	Recreational Harvest Limit (millions of pounds)
Summer Flounder	2015	11.07	14"	5.5"	7.38
	2016	8.12	14"	5.5"	5.42
	2017	7.91	14"	5.5"	5.28
	2018	7.89	14"	5.5"	5.26
Scup	2015	21.23	9"	5"	6.80
	2016	20.47	9"	5"	6.09
	2017	18.38	9"	5"	5.50
	2018	17.34	9"	5"	5.21
Black Sea Bass	2015	2.24	11"	4.5"	2.33
	2016	2.24	11"	4.5"	2.33
	2017	2.24	11"	4.5"	2.33

Table 3

Catch and Status Table: Summer flounder (weights in 000s mt, recruitment in millions, arithmetic means)

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Max ¹	Min ²	Mean ³
Commercial landings	7.7	6.3	4.5	4.1	4.8	6.1	7.5	5.9	5.7	5.1	17.1	4.0	7.5
Commercial discards ³	1.5	1.5	2.1	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.8	2.2	0.2	1.1
Recreational landings	4.9	4.8	4.2	3.7	2.7	2.3	2.6	2.9	3.2	3.4	12.5	1.4	4.7
Recreational discards ³	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.2	0.1	0.7
Total Catch	14.0	12.1	10.0	9.3	8.8	9.5	11.4	10.3	10.3	10.2	26.3	7.9	13.4
Commercial quota	8.2	6.4	4.7	4.3	5.0	6.0	8.0	5.8	5.4	4.8	8.1	8.2	6.9
Recreational harvest limit	5.5	4.3	3.1	2.9	3.3	4.0	5.3	3.9	3.5	3.2	5.5	2.9	4.6
Spawning Stock Biomass ²	45.4	46.2	44.9	44.8	46.5	47.5	45.4	45.3	41.5	40.3	50.4	5.4	28.8
Recruitment (age 0)	29.5	36.8	38.2	45.2	53.4	36.4	20.3	22.5	27.3	41.4	75.2	9.6	41.8
F (age 4)	0.47	0.35	0.28	0.35	0.35	0.38	0.45	0.36	0.35	0.36	1.78	0.28	0.81

1: Over the period 1982-2014
2: On November 1 annually
3: Dead discards

Tautog Public Hearings Dates

Below is a press release from ASMFC about a public hearing on tautog with a public information document in September and October. You need to go to the ASMFC website to get a copy of the public information document. The link to the ASMFC webpage is on the JCAA webpage. One of the important decisions is trying to create regional management areas for tautog. The options are listed below. The best would be to have New Jersey with its own management plan but information that would make this acceptable to the technical committee is not available. The best option I see is option 4. The public hearing in New Jersey will be September 22, before the next JCAA meeting. It will be up to our president to hold a special tautog meeting before the general meeting or come up with a JCAA position to be voted on at our general meeting. If you want the public information document, send me an email at tfote@jcaa.org.

Table 1 - Alternative Stock Definitions

Option 1: Current Stock Definition	Option 2: Three Stocks	Option 3: Three Stocks	Option 4: Four Stocks
Single Stock Massachusetts - North Carolina	Massachusetts - Connecticut	Massachusetts - Rhode Island	Massachusetts - Rhode Island
	New York - New Jersey	Connecticut - New Jersey	Long Island Sound (Connecticut - New York)
	Delaware - North Carolina	Delaware - North Carolina	New York - New Jersey (excluding LIS)
			Delaware - North Carolina

ASMFC & MAFMC Approve Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, and Bluefish Annual Specifications

ASMFC Press Release: August 17, 2015

New York, NY – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) have established specifications for the summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish fisheries. The Commission’s actions are final and apply to state waters (0-3 miles from shore). The Council will forward its recommendations for federal waters (3 – 200 miles from shore) to NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Administrator for final approval.

The table below summarizes commercial quotas and recreational harvest limits for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass (2015 values are provided for comparison purposes). Please note that specifications for years 2016 and beyond may be adjusted based on changes in the fishery or new scientific information.

Species	Year	Commercial Quota (millions of pounds)	Commercial Minimum Fish Size (TL)	Commercial Mesh Size	Recreational Harvest Limit (millions of pounds)
Summer Flounder	2015	11.07	14"	5.5"	7.38
	2016	8.12	14"	5.5"	5.42
	2017	7.91	14"	5.5"	5.28
	2018	7.89	14"	5.5"	5.26
Scup	2015	21.23	9"	5"	6.80
	2016	20.47	9"	5"	6.09
	2017	18.38	9"	5"	5.50
	2018	17.34	9"	5"	5.21
Black Sea Bass	2015	2.24	11"	4.5"	2.33
	2016	2.24	11"	4.5"	2.33
	2017	2.24	11"	4.5"	2.33

Summer Flounder

For summer flounder, both groups approved an acceptable biological catch (ABC) limit of 16.26 million pounds, an approximate 29% decrease from 2015. After accounting for projected discards in the commercial and recreational fisheries, this ABC is divided into a commercial quota of 8.12 million pounds and a recreational harvest limit of 5.42 million pounds for the 2016 fishing year. This decrease in catch and landings limits responds to the

findings of the 2015 stock assessment update, which indicates that the summer flounder stock was experiencing overfishing in 2014. The fishing mortality rate in 2014 was estimated to be 16% above the fishing mortality threshold reference point. These results appear to be driven largely by below-average recruitment, as the assessment update indicates that the stock experienced four below average year classes from 2010 to 2013. The update also estimates that recruitment has been overestimated by a range of 22% to 49% for 5 of the last 7 year classes, which has contributed to an overestimation of stock size in recent years. According to the 2015 update, estimated biomass has been trending down since 2010.

Although reported landings have equaled or only slightly exceeded commercial quotas and recreational harvest limits in recent years, there is evidence of substantial illegal harvest in the form of unreported, underreported, or misreported landings. In 2013 and 2014, two separate investigations revealed that large quantities of summer flounder were being taken illegally under the guise of quota acquired through the Council’s Research Set-Aside (RSA) program (the Council subsequently suspended the program in order to consider alternative cooperative research options). There may also be substantial non-RSA related illegal/unreported landings, although fewer details are available on the extent of unreported landings outside of the RSA program. While the exact amount of illegally harvested summer flounder is not known, the effect may have resulted in substantial overages of the fishery’s annual catch limits (ACLs). For more information on the assessment update and its impacts on harvest limits for 2016, please see the Council’s [Summer Flounder Catch and Landings Limit Fact Sheet](#).

Scup

For scup, the Commission and Council approved an ABC of 31.11 million pounds. After accounting for projected discards in the commercial and recreational fisheries, this ABC is divided into a commercial quota of 20.47 million pounds and a recreational harvest limit of 6.09 million pounds for the 2016 fishing year. This represents a decrease from 2015 levels due to a slight decrease in spawning stock biomass (SSB) as projected by the 2015 benchmark stock assessment.

Black Sea Bass

For black sea bass, the Commission and Council approved an ABC of 5.50 million pounds. After

accounting for projected discards in the commercial and recreational fisheries, this ABC is divided into a commercial quota of 2.24 million pounds and a recreational harvest limit of 2.33 million pounds for the 2016 and 2017 fishing years. Catch levels for 2016 and 2017 are unchanged relative to 2015 levels. Both the commercial quota and recreational harvest limit may be changed pending further review by the Council's Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) in September 2015. The next benchmark stock assessment is scheduled to be peer-reviewed through the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Review Committee in late fall 2016.

Bluefish

For the bluefish fishery, the Commission and Council approved an ABC of 19.45 million pounds for the 2016 fishing season, an approximate 10% decrease from 2015 levels. The reduction responds to the findings of the 2015 benchmark stock assessment which lowered both the SSB target level (223 million pounds) and the SSB estimate (191 million pounds in 2014). The 2016 commercial quota and recreational harvest limit will be set once the final recreational harvest estimates for 2015 have been released in 2016.

For all four species, the Commission and Council actions are consistent with the Council's SSC recommendations regarding the level of total removals that cannot be exceeded based on the best available scientific information. For more information about the Commission's actions, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, FMP Coordinator, at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org.

stock assessment which, unlike previous coastwide assessments, evaluated stock status regionally to reflect differences in life history characteristics and harvest patterns. Based on its endorsed regional approach, the assessment also recommended associated biological reference points to guide management at the regional scale. Since tautog are currently managed on a coastwide basis, the Board initiated the PID to consider a new regional management approach.

As the first step in the development of an amendment, the PID seeks to gather information concerning the tautog fishery and to provide an opportunity for the public to identify major issues and alternatives relative to the management of this species. Input received at the start of the amendment development process can have a major influence on the final outcome of the amendment. Issues presented in the PID include FMP goals and objectives, adaptive management, monitoring requirements and illegal fishing of tautog. In addition, in order to streamline the development of the plan amendment, the PID seeks specific input on the selection of regional stock areas for management use.

The states of Massachusetts through Virginia have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on the PID. The details of those hearings follow.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
Tuesday, September 22nd from 6:30 – 9:30 PM
Ocean County Administration Building
Public Hearing Room 119
101 Hooper Avenue
Toms River, New Jersey
Contact: Russ Allen at 609.748.2020

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the PID either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The PID is available at [this link](#) and can also be accessed on the Commission website (www.asmfc.org) under Public Input. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on October 23, 2015 and should be forwarded to Ashton Harp, FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at aharp@asmfc.org (Subject line: Tautog PID). For more information, please contact Ashton Harp, at aharp@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

**ASMFC Releases Tautog
Public Information Document
for Public Comment: States Schedule
Public Hearings for
late September/early October**

ASMFC Press Release: August 21, 2015

Arlington, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Tautog Management Board is seeking public comment on the Public Information Document (PID) for Draft Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The PID responds to the findings of the 2015 benchmark

Sandmining of Prime Fishing Areas Moves Forward

By Ken Warchal, Vice-President

Despite objections from the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA), New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA), NJ Federation of Sportsmen, American Littoral Society (ALS), Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), other concerned fishing groups and individuals, these projects are moving forward. As in the case of the recent seismic blasting study, the powers to be won't consider any alternatives other than their plan. Requests to mine sand from areas other than Prime Fishing Areas have been denied.

The Harvey Cedars Lump has been eviscerated. Work is starting on the Sea Isle Lump. The 360 acre lump just outside of Manasquan Inlet inshore of the Axel Carlson (known as borrow area B), is slated for destruction commencing in 2016. Manasquan Ridge is being targeted for continued mining over a 50 year period. All these areas are designated as **Prime Fishing Areas** as identified in the Coastal Zone Management rules; rules that are designed to protect them.

Why are Harvey Cedars Lump, Sea Isle Lump, Manasquan Ridge, and borrow area B considered to be **Prime Fishing Areas**? In the early 80's, the NJ DEP commissioned a study to identify the most important fishing areas along the coast. Input was gathered, at great time and expense (i.e. taxpayer dollars), from recreational fishermen, charter and party boat captains, fishing clubs and organizations and commercial fishermen. They chose these areas because they are the **best fishing locations**; locations that contain the greatest concentrations of marine life.

As we all know, a flat ocean bottom is like a desert. It doesn't sustain much life. Prime Fishing Areas contain structure that creates habitat for a variety of species. The upwelling and movement of ocean currents around these structures support an ecosystem that, for the most part, wouldn't exist without them. The damage that sandmining will cause is irreversible. What took nature thousands of years to create will be lost forever.

The JCAA is very concerned that more and more of these Prime Fishing Areas and other lumps

will be taken in the future as demand for sand continues. There should be some recourse to compensate for the damage caused. Perhaps the NJDEP and Army Corp should be required to make reparations for the damaged habitat, loss of marine life, loss of the fishery and the resulting economic losses.

One thought is to build artificial reefs to replace the lost habitat on the damaged Prime Fishing Areas and all the effected lumps. What do you think? We'd like to hear your opinions and any thoughts on alleviating this situation.

NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

By John Toth

On behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), I attended a July 27th meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA), and I also chaired this meeting in the capacity of Acting NJOA-CF President. The following issues were discussed.

Seismic Testing - I reported that the ship doing the testing finished its testing and was in port during the first week in July. Consequently, the pending legal action to stop this testing became moot in the eyes of the court. The one positive win that resulted from this legal action is that any future testing on behalf of the defendant must provide better notification to the public of planned testing and also public hearings must be set up to receive input before the start of any testing.

NJ Outdoor Wildlife Exposition - this exposition, held by our Division of Fish & Wildlife, Division of Parks & Services, State Forestry Services and the Bureau of Conservation Info., will be held on September 12th to 13th at Colliers Wildlife management Area in Jackson Twp., Ocean County from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **IT IS FREE**, come rain or shine! This event attracts thousands of people who come to see the numerous exhibits concerning fishing, hunting, kayaking, rock climbing, hiking, shooting and a wide array of activities. Food vendors will be available, but visitors can bring their refreshments. Please leave your dogs at home.

Membership Report

By John Toth

A number of clubs still have not paid their club dues to the JCAA. At this point, I have not heard from a number of clubs who have paid their dues in 2014, but not in 2015. These clubs include: Silverton Fishing Club, Thousand Fathom Club, Central Jersey Anglers, Central Trout Unlimited, Picatinny Saltwater Sports Club, Spring Lake Liveliners, and the Asbury Park Fishing Club. However, we received two checks from individuals without any identification to club affiliation, so our records may be in error. If you are uncertain if your club dues have been paid, please check with your club treasurer. Your cooperation is most appreciated!

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

Thank You Forked River Tuna Club for sending in your dues and sponsorship of \$500!

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!

JCAA 21st Annual Fluke Tournament

By Paul Turi, Tournament Director

The JCAA 21st Annual Fluke Tournament took place on August 1st, 2015. There were 278 entries this year. After three years of running this tournament, I finally got a nice day. The last two years we had rain and wind to deal with. This year the weather was beautiful. There was some wind to deal with but overall it was a nice day. There were quite a few nice fish caught. The results are posted below of all the winners from each of the 9 ports.

This year we added a couple new features to the tournament. We added a \$25,000 prize for anyone who caught the largest fluke over 12 lbs. The entry had to be in by July 20th to be entered and be eligible for that prize. In previous years we've

had 14 pounders weighed in, but this year our largest fluke weighed in was 10.72 lbs. The fish was caught by Dan Nykyforuk and weighed in at the Sandy Hook port. We also added calcuttas to the tournament this year. We added a \$50 & \$100 port calcutta to each port and we added a \$50 & \$100 calcutta to the overall tournament.

In addition to the \$1200 1st place prize for the Sandy Hook port, Dan Nykyforuk also won all four calcuttas which totaled \$9,800. In total Dan won \$11,000! In addition to the money, Dan also won a free mount or replica of his fish from Marine Creations.

On Wednesday, August 12th we had our Awards Presentations to the winners at the Holiday Inn on Rte. 72 in Manahawkin. There were around 400 people in attendance. We gave out 72 door prizes.

We also gave away in our Grand Prize drawing a 14' G3 boat, 20HP Yamaha engine and a Trailer. The boat was donated by **G3, four G3 dealers, Mayberry Marine, Spring Garden Marina, Mercer Marine and Salem Boat Exchange**. The engine was donated by **Yamaha**. The winner was Bob Freyer from Cliffwood Beach, NJ.

We paid out in 1st place prize money \$10,800. For the other port prizes we gave away \$16,776 in prizes for a total port prize money paid out of \$27,576. In addition, we paid out \$19,643.75 in Calcutta money for a total of \$47,219.75 in port prizes and Calcutta money paid out. In addition to that, we gave away approximately \$3,500 in door prizes for a total of \$50,719.75. Added to that we gave away the boat, motor and trailer package which had a value of approximately \$6,500, plus a little over \$1500 in a 50-50 drawing.

All totaled, this year we gave out just under \$60,000 in money and merchandise prizes!

I can't thank our major sponsors and our port sponsors enough. JCAA encourages all our readers to support all of our sponsors. They support us so in return we should support them.

Here are our major sponsors for 2015:

- **Yamaha Motors**
- **Canyon Reels**
- **Costa Sunglasses**
- **Interlux Paints**
- **Tica Fishing Tackle**
- **G3 Boats**
- **Underwater Green Fishing Lights**

As a major sponsor these companies have donated to JCAA thousands of dollars worth of prizes to make this tournament a success. Without their generosity and support there would be no tournament and JCAA would not be able to do what it does on behalf of the recreational angler. I can't emphasize that enough. Therefore, again, I would encourage our readers to support these companies.

This year we had 4 port sponsors. A port sponsor pledges the \$1,200 1st place prize money to the winner of the port they are sponsoring. JCAA sponsored 5 of the ports and paid out the 1st place prize money. Our 4 port sponsors were the following:

- Hoffman's Marina for the Manasquan port
- Fisherman's Headquarters for the LBI port
- South Harbor Marina for the Barnegat Bay port
- RJ Marine Service for the Cape May port

Again, I would encourage our readers to support these port sponsors.

I would like to thank **Ron Zastocki and Tom Wingate and Yamaha** for all the Yamaha hats and t-shirts they handed out to those in attendance at the awards ceremony and for the Yamaha engine and for putting this boat, motor and trailer package together for us. Yamaha has been one of our biggest and longest supporters over the years and recognizes the work that JCAA does on behalf of recreational anglers in our state. Yamaha recognizes that any over-regulation by fisheries managers also affects their business.

I would also like to thank **Don Parr, owner of Canyon Reels**, for all the high quality reels he donated for each of the 9 ports; **Interlux Paint, Costa Sunglasses**, both long-time JCAA supporters, for the 9 port prizes they donated. I would also like to thank **Tica Fishing Tackle** for the rods and reels they supplied for each of the 9 ports. I'd also like to thank **Terry Boike**, owner of **Underwater Green Fishing Lights**, for all the lights he provided for the 9 ports this year. I'd also like to thank **Fisherman's Headquarters** for the 9 \$100 gift certificates they donated for each of the ports. I'd also like to thank the **Holiday Inn of Manahawkin** for donating the ballroom where we held our awards presentations.

Door Prize Sponsors:

- JCAA
- Fishermen Source

- Penn
- Gambler Deep Sea Fishing
- Bob's Bay Marina
- Glitter Plugs by Ron Mucci
- The Gambler
- Home Port Charts
- The Ocean Explorer
- Hook R. Lures
- Daiwa
- Jetty Ghost Tackle
- The Miss Belmar
- Johnny's Tackle
- Creekside Outfitters
- JP Plugs
- Pete & Elda's Restaurant
- Land & Sea
- Chambliss Marine
- Lemire's Plug Works
- Schneider's Restaurant
- Linsider69
- The Captain Cal
- Luna Custom Plugs
- Schuyler Tuna Club
- M Fisher Plugs
- Albivi's Restaurant
- MX Plugs
- Bagel Bistro
- Northbar Tackle
- Fisherman's Den
- NTA Custom
- The Sportsmen's Center
- Okiaya Rods And Reels
- Hoffman's Marina
- Old Man's Tackle Box
- Kevin's Lures
- RPW Lures
- Thundermist Lure Co.
- Right Coast Wood Works
- Al Gag's Custom Lures
- Runoff Lure Co.
- Anchorman Wreck Anchors
- S&S Bucktails
- A.O.K. Tackle
- John Skinner
- Backlash Fishing
- Shu-fly Custom Rods and Lures
- Big Rock Custom Lures
- Slammer Tackle

- Black Label Plugs
- Striper Bites
- Buzzard Wood Plugs
- Surf Asylum
- Couches Cedar Works
- 24/7 Lures
- Dave Arnold
- Tinman Tackle
- Davis Lures
- Tom Seibek Fishing Lures
- Den Mag
- Vertebrae Lures
- DT Lures

On behalf of JCAA I would also like to thank all of the participants in this year's tournament and I would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped out at the different weigh stations, volunteers helping me in the office, and all those who helped out at the Awards Ceremony. It's a huge effort by a lot of people to put on a tournament of this size. Thank you one and all.

Potential Harm to Marine Life lies Beneath Rutgers' Sea Level Study

By Cindy Zipf, Star Ledger, July 04, 2015

In direct response to Lincoln Hollister's June 10 op-ed titled "As N.J. sea levels rise, politics trumps science," how tragic for such a distinguished professor of geology to profess such bunk.

Let us all agree on one fact, geologists study non-living matter –rocks, soil, sand, minerals. Hence, they are not experts in the field of marine biology, and would not be the "go to" scientists to determine harm from a seismic ocean blasting study led by the Rutgers Geology Dept. Would you go to a plumber for heart surgery? So while it's a free country and they are welcome to an opinion about the effect of the Rutgers study on marine life – 250-decibel blasts, every five seconds, 24 hours a day for 30 days, in a tiny (as the ocean goes) area of ocean off Barnegat Light – it is not a studied one, and should be taken with a grain of salt.

At issue here is not the need for research about sea level rise. Clean Ocean Action has long been dedicated to protecting our shore communities from the effects of climate change. Rather, the outrage is that researchers put their study ahead of marine life and the livelihoods of fishermen and the

tourism industry. There are over 20 years of peer reviewed data about the harm that sound causes to marine mammals. There is strong and growing, albeit limited, evidence that sound also harms fish and shellfish. That's no surprise to most people—everyone knows not to tap on a fish tank. Based on these studies, the New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection found the study inconsistent with New Jersey's legal obligation to protect fisheries and demanded Rutgers cease any seismic surveying during peak migration of mammals and fish. In addition, New Jersey's Senators, coastal Congressmen and many state representatives also independently asked Rutgers to stop the study. To assert their concerns as "politics" discredits their experienced and knowledgeable staff's ability to research and render studied independent opinions.

Shockingly, the geologists have flatly rejected all requests to delay the study to another time of year when less marine life will be affected or even adopt more stringent mitigation measures to prevent further harm to marine life. They justify this decision, in part, by noting that they have to go back to school to teach class and make a living. Well, tell that to the fishermen whose livelihoods are impaired.

Truly, if ocean blasting is so safe, Rutgers would not be required to obtain permits to harm over 32 species of marine life, including 18,000 dolphins, four species of sea turtle and 19 species of whale to comply with the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act? These include endangered species such as the Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle and the North Atlantic Right Whale – two of the most endangered marine species on the planet.

Why is professor Lincoln Hollister so strident against those opposing the study anyway? Perhaps it is because a similar study he proposed in Canada in 2007 was terminated because the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency determined that there was not enough information to prove his study was safe for marine life.

Finally, with over 30 years of ocean advocacy based on science, Clean Ocean Action has a proven track record documenting and proving every issue it has tackled with a robust roster of Ph.D.-accredited analysts, attorneys and distinguished experts.

Harm is harm. Climate change harms our coastal resources. Marine life is harmed by seismic blasting. We do not have to choose one to prevent the other. Lincoln Hollister should get his facts right.

Cindy Zipf is executive director of Clean Ocean Action.

2015 JCAA Fluke Tournament Results

* \$50 Port Calcutta Winners, ** \$100 Port Calcutta Winners, *** \$50 and \$100 Overall Calcutta Winner

1. Jersey City

Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
Mitchell, Chuck	Wantage, NJ	15	8.48	28.00
Murphy, Thomas * **	Bayonne, NJ	160	7.91	28.00
Kelly, Robert	Jersey City, NJ	137	6.70	6.00
Karp, Harvey	Kearny, NJ	148	6.43	26.25
Gonzales, Tony	Bayonne, NJ	279	6.34	25.75
Masso, Cody	Fairview, NJ	172	5.77	24.50
Cordano, Daniel	Bayonne, NJ	187	4.22	23.00
Radossi, Sergio	Ridgefield Park, NJ	228	2.86	20.00
None				
None				
			48.71	201.50

2. Sandy Hook

Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
Nykyforuk, Dan * ** ***	Manchester, NJ	195	10.72	28.75
Crocker, Scott	East Hanover, NJ	267	9.17	27.50
Halley, Mike	Malvan, PA	65	6.70	26.75
Zastocki, Ron	Old Bridge, NJ	136	6.50	26.00
Moskal, Robert	Scotch Plains, NJ	145	5.46	25.25
Porter, Robert	Hanover, NJ	93	5.15	23.50
Van Winkle, Tom	Langhorne, PA	98	4.10	22.38
Swartz, Dale	Pottstown, PA	53	4.07	23.00
Flood, John	Sparta, NJ	108	4.06	22.50
Salerno, Frank	Jefferson, NJ	133	4.06	22.50
			59.95	248.13

3. Shark River Inlet

Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
Kutiak, Craig * **	Jersey City, NJ	139	7.45	26.50
Henry, John	Robbinsville, NJ	58	6.52	26.00
Kwack, Steve	Denville, NJ	131	5.71	23.50
Inzetta, Mike	East Brunswick, NJ	256	5.29	23.00
Yaccarino, John	Jackson, NJ	264	4.80	22.25
Bolz, Lenny	Bordentown, NJ	144	4.28	22.75
Carr, Ed	Wall Twp, NJ	130	4.14	22.75
Temple, Chuck	North Hanover, NJ	6	4.10	22.50
Hoyer, Chris	Chesterfield, NJ	217	4.09	21.50
Olsen, Hans	Franklin Park, NJ	28	3.98	22.00
			50.36	232.75

4. Manasquan River

Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
Ron Taglairino * **	Wall, NJ	208	6.29	25.00
Riccio, Mario	Brick, NJ	226	6.19	24.75
Catalano, John	Manahawkin, NJ	155	6.12	24.75
Eckhardt, Chuck	Plainfield, NJ	164	6.05	24.50
Soloman, Rob	Milltown, NJ	189	5.97	25.50
Cunlitte, Tom	Manasquan, NJ	89	5.70	24.75
Pangaldi, Dave	Hamilton, NJ	100	5.55	24.00
Miktus, Jack	Brick, NJ	32	5.29	24.00
Spinella, Bob	Boonton, NJ	281	5.20	24.00
Kruss, Dave	Barnegat, NJ	205	5.20	23.50
			57.56	244.75

5. Barnegat Bay

Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
Schacht, Walter *	Beachwood, NJ	20	7.56	26.00
Blackburn, James	Toms River, NJ	142	6.21	25.50
Heath, Brian	Roselle Park, NJ	62	6.06	24.50
Pasko, Rich	Lanoka Harbor, NJ	46	6.05	24.00
Fraser, Colin	West Orange, NJ	152	5.54	23.50
Dooley, Kyren **	Forked River, NJ	97	5.14	23.00
Osbourne, Bob	Springfield, NJ	109	5.05	24.50
MonteForte, Mark	Barnegat, NJ	72	4.45	23.00
Farrell, Jack	Burlington, NJ	101	4.29	22.25
Itjen, Doug	Barnegat, NJ	60	3.45	21.00
			53.79	237.25

6. Long Beach Island

Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
Clover, Keven	Sellersville, PA	255	6.82	25.50
Merlino, John **	Burlington, NJ	220	5.90	25.50
Paoella, Dean *	Springfield, NJ	77	5.50	23.00
Wolfberg, Jack	Fort Washington, PA	250	5.30	25.00
Costanzo, Nick	Jackson, NJ	190	5.19	25.00
Glover, Archie	Surf City, NJ	201	4.70	22.50
Meckley, Joseph	Marlton, NJ	275	4.66	23.50
McCarthy, Keith	Tuckerton, NJ	157	4.46	21.50
Phillips, Richard	South Hampton, NJ	191	4.35	24.00
Browne, William	Toms River, NJ	67	3.84	21.00
			53.72	23

7. Great Bay

Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
Muinos, Frank	Little Egg Harbor, NJ	176	4.68	22.75
Daunoras, Joseph *	Little Egg Harbor, NJ	135	4.55	24.00
Potts, Roger	Lanoka Harbor, NJ	99	4.50	22.50
Reese, Jeff	Mays Landing, NJ	265	4.28	23.00
Olszowski, Tony **	Florence, NJ	178	4.12	22.50
Hoffman, Pat	North Hanover, NJ	197	3.78	21.75
Hiott, William	Cinnaminson, NJ	105	3.41	21.00
Sullivan, Rick	Browns Mills, NJ	266	2.93	20.00
Kosty, Shannon	Philadelphia, PA	125	2.13	18.50
Quinlan, Larry	Linden, NJ	52	1.80	18.00
			36.16	214.00

8. Ocean City

Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
Burgess, Richard	Avalon, NJ	22	4.15	22.38
Smith, Brian *	Sewell, NJ	90	4.01	23.00
Fitzick, Tim	Somers Point, NJ	168	3.83	21.75
Sajtlava, Thomas	Monroeville, NJ	231	3.71	21.12
Hare, Kevin	Broomall, PA	41	3.03	20.12
Kasprzak, Francis	Collingswood, NJ	199	2.85	19.25
None				
			21.57	127.62

9. Cape May

Name	Hometown	Entry Number	Weight	Length
Slobodjian, George *	Aston, PA	73	7.17	26.00
McFarland, Jason **	Palerno, NJ	210	6.71	25.12
Steinberg, Howard	Ivylnd, PA	111	5.98	24.75
Wentz, Kain	Pennsburg, PA	219	3.87	21.88
Prescott-Ezickson, R.	Long Branch, NJ	33	3.03	20.63
Skipskipee, Greg	Berlin, NJ	116	2.97	20.63
Simcox, William	Northwales, PA	75	1.90	18.00
None				
None				
None				
			31.63	157.01
		Total Weight/Length-Ft	318.60	1488.26

Sportsperson of the Year

By Paul Turi, Co-Chairman

Our Sportsperson of the Year award dinner is fast approaching. The dinner this year will again be held at the Crystal Pt. Yacht Club on Sunday, November 8th, 2015 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Tickets are again \$75.00 per ticket or \$600 for a table of 10.

As always, there will be many door prizes, a Chinese Auction and Silent Auction. This year's honoree is Bill Mackintosh. Bill was nominated by the NJBBA and elected at our June General Membership Meeting.

The Youth Education Award will also be presented at the dinner to Tim Burden who was selected by the JCAA Youth Education Committee.

We have yet to secure a guest speaker for the dinner. As soon as we secure one I will let you know.

If you need tickets please contact Dan Miller at (609) 641-7821 or by email at blueangray@comcast.net.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

NJ HOFNOD TRAINING

During October 2-3-4 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.

NJ HOFNOD is coordinated by Liz Jackson, HOFNOD Coordinator DEP Fish & Wildlife. Please contact Liz to learn more about the benefits of becoming a NJ HOFNOD instructor: 908-637-4125 x122 or e-mail at liz.jackson@dep.nj.gov.

2015 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

Tim Burden was selected by the JCAA Youth Education Committee to receive the 2015 JCAA Youth Education Award. The following is the nomination we received from the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association: Tim Burden has been a devoted youth angler advocate, promoting and assisting in youth fishing and education programs for almost four decades. His willingness to help youngsters and families learn about the fresh or salt water fishing environment in New Jersey, New York, or other traveled locations have made those anglers more informed and experienced to pay it forward.

Before joining any fishing clubs in his early fishing years, Tim worked in newspaper home delivery departments and brought paperboys freshwater fishing, promoting Catch & Release. To this day, some of those youngsters (who are now parents & grandparents) call him to go fishing with their families!

Joining the Hudson River Fishermen's Association in 1996 and some years later pushing for more youth involvement, Tim and a couple of other Board members co-chaired the start of the HRFA Youth Angler Committee (Program). The expansion of the HRFA Youth Program and further involvement by other members ultimately led to the HRFA being JCAA Youth Education Award recipient in 2006. As a Berkeley Striper Club member, Tim has volunteered annually to help at their Youth Education Day and was on their BSC Youth Ed' Committee for a couple of years, until he became NJBBA's Children's Surf Fishing Tournament Chairman in 2010. During this time, his involvement has included speaking at Boy Scout/Cub Scout Troop outings, High School Fishing Clubs, arranging donations to support different youth programs, helping at Special Needs Children fishing events, and coordinating IBSP's "Beginning Surf Fishing Clinic" where most of the attendees are youngsters. Other related endeavors include: working with different fishing clubs, conservation groups, the IGFA-Jr Angler Program (NJ Chapter), Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Kids Outdoors.

Tim's first "Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" certification was as a member of the HRFA and he was recertified upon its revival in recent years. As an active supporter of HOFNOD, Tim's affiliations have resulted in countless aquatic and fishing educational sessions.

Tim Burden also serves on the JCAA Youth Education Committee for the past several years.

IGFA SECOND ANNUAL YOUTH FISHING CLINIC

Press Release: On Saturday, August 8, 2015 the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) conducted their 2nd annual "New Jersey Kids Fishing Clinic." The concept for the clinic was born several years ago by Pete Barrett and Dave Arbeitman, knowing that kids were the future of our sport. 2014 saw the first clinic being held.

This year's event was attended by 35 Boy Scouts from 12 troops across Monmouth and Middlesex counties. Due to amount of interest, a lottery was used to choose the scouts who attended.

Sponsorship for this year's event has grown and included The Fisherman Magazine, Dick's Sporting Goods, Ande Line, Bass Pro Shops, and NJ Sea Grant Consortium.

The classroom portion of the clinic was held at The Reel Seat in Brielle. Dave Arbeitmen, owner

of The Reel Seat, again donated the use of the conference room. The agenda consisted of Fish Identification, Reels, Line & Knots, and Fish Bones presented by the IGFA staff, Tag and Release Fishing presented by Jeff Dement of the American Littoral Society, Keeping the Ocean Clean presented by Clean Ocean Action, and Surf Fishing presented by Chris Lido.

On Wednesday, August 12, the second portion of the clinic was held - a fishing trip aboard Capt. Jeff Gutman's party boat, Voyager out of Point Pleasant, New Jersey.

It was a great day for the 35 kids on board who kept the mates busy while catching summer flounder, skates and dogfish. There was enough action to keep them at the rail for the whole trip. The kids had three keeper fluke to 21 inches. A touch tank was also set up. Jeff Dement from the American Littoral Society helped the kids tag and release 22 summer flounder.

For many of these kids, not only was it their first fishing trip, it was the first time ever catching a fish! There's nothing like the look on a kid's face when he catches his first fish.

Hopefully, this event will get more kids involved in our sport. Without them, the future of fishing is in doubt. With a little education in both conservation and practice the future will be guaranteed.

The IGFA will be looking to conduct future Kids Clinics. If you have a group, or know of a group that would be interested for 2016, please contact Capt. Gene Nigro at 908-208-4523.

NJBBA ANNUAL YOUTH SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

Hey kids get ready for the next NJBBA 22nd Annual Surf Youth Fishing Tournament. NJBBA members go all out for the kids' tournament and collect prizes all year long. So don't forget the tournament will be held on September 12, 2015. NJBBA members do a great job of making children and their families have a fun day fishing the surf at Island Beach State Park. There is always lots of prizes, goodie bags, learning stations, and plenty of how to information about surf fishing. For Information about the event contact Chairman: Tim Burden 201-983-2300, tb2fishon@aol.com.

NJ OUTDOOR EXPO

The NJDEP's sixth annual NJ WILD Outdoor Expo will be held Saturday and Sunday, September

12-13, at the Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area in Jackson Township, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, rain or shine. Admission and parking are free. All activities are free, with the exception of a \$3 fee to use the climbing wall. For more information, visit www.wildoutdoorexpo.com. This fun-filled family event is designed for visitors to discover new ways to appreciate and enjoy New Jersey's great outdoors. Participants have an opportunity to try a broad spectrum of outdoor activities such as fishing, kayaking, hiking, shooting sports, rock climbing, camping skills, geocaching and wildlife watching. Demonstrations of sporting and tracking dogs, historical re-enactments, SCUBA dives, turkey calling, nature photography and much more await.

2015 Offshore Open



\$175,000 in prize money*

August 28 to September 6

***Manasquan River
Marlin & Tuna Club***

Visit www.mrmtc.com for details

