

# JCAA NEWSPAPER APRIL 2016

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on March 21st, 2016)

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

## JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

**Tuesday, March 29th, 2016**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**At Jersey Coast Shark Anglers**

## NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, April 14th, 2016**

**Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office**

**OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE  
JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.**  
1594 Lakewood Road (Rt. 9), Victoria Plaza Ste. 13  
Toms River, NJ 08755

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**JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote**

**JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi**

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

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

## IMPORTANT DATES

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

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

**April 26<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>** ASMFC Spring Meeting

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** Governors 25<sup>th</sup> Surf Fishing Tournament

**August 6<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Fluke Tournament

**November 13<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner

## 2016 High Roller Raffle

The JCAA High Roller Raffle for 2016 is now ready! Below is a list of this year's 8 prizes. We have special prices on the tickets this year. The price options for tickets are:

- \$2.00 Each
- 3 for \$5.00
- 7 for \$10.00

In order to get tickets call the office and we will mail you tickets. Drawing Date - **May 31st**, 2016 at 7:30 PM at the JCAA office located at 1594 Lakewood Rd., Ste. 13, Toms River, NJ 08755.

- **You do not have to be present to win**
- **8 chances to win a great package**

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

1. 7'6" Century I-SS 905 spinning rod/Canyon DJR 3500 reel **\$590** *Donated by Century Rods and Canyon Reels*
2. \$500 Gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters **\$500** *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
3. Tony Maja Wire Line Rod/ Canyon Signature Series trolling reel **\$499** *Donated by Tony Maja and Canyon Reels*

4. 7' Seeker BCSW 708-7S spinning rod/Canyon Salt 5000 reel **\$394** *Donated by Grumpys Tackle and Canyon Reels*
5. Underwater Green Fishing Light **\$359** *Donated by Underwater Green Fishing Lights*
6. 12' Tica UEHA936502S surf rod/Tica Abyss & TL5000R spinning reel **\$310** *Donated by Tica*
7. 5'6" Profile Tuna Stopper TS 520L conventional rod & Shimano Triton TLD 25 **\$280** *Donated by Profile and Shimano*
8. 7' Tica WISA70H1 conventional rod/Tica Caiman GT200 reel **\$225** *Donated by Tica*

**Total Value: \$3157**

## President's Report

*By John Toth*

We have some exciting changes coming to our upcoming Fluke Tournament this summer on August 6th. We will have a **\$50,000 prize money category** for the lucky one angler who catches a fluke weighing over **12 lbs.**, in addition to the other prizes that will be available! Now that should interest you fluke sharpies! Also, think about the times when you are on the boat and you see an angler using the wrong bait or all balled up and the person ends up winning the pool, so that person can win this prize just having dumb luck! I remember a woman telling me that she anchored her boat and dropped the line and immediately hooked up with a 10 lb. fluke that took first place at a port in one of our fluke tournaments (she must have hit that fluke on the head when she dropped the line). So, anybody can win some **big money** with a lot of skill, dumb luck or a combination of both of them. More details on this tournament follow in this newsletter.

We became aware of a bill (**HR 3070**) sponsored by Representative Lee Zeldin that would open up the EEZ for striped bass fishing in a small area around Block Island since the boat operators indicate that they have difficulty in determining if they are in the EEZ or local waters. A letter was sent to our New Jersey's legislators indicating that they should oppose this bill. See the JCAA letter to Senator Robert Menendez that is in this newsletter.

### Access

I reported on this issue in our February newsletter and I attended a sub- committee meeting

in Trenton on March 15th that focused on many of its issues. I wrote a column about it and it is also in this newsletter.

### Sandy Hook Bay Natural Marine Sanctuary

I attended a presentation of it given by the person proposing it (Rik van Hemmen) at the Red Bank library on March 16th. About 200 - 250 anglers showed up to voice their opposition to it. This is a **HOT** issue since it can have a very negative effect on our fishery. My report is also in this newsletter. We need to stay on top of this! Come to our March 29th meeting to hear my report on this important issue so that you can be aware of this threat to our fishing in one of our most productive areas.

### Letter to Senator Menendez

Hon. Robert Menendez  
One Gateway Center, Suite 1100  
Newark, NJ 07102

3/7/16

Senator Menendez,

On February 2, 2016, Representative Lee Zeldin sponsored Bill HR 3070, and its title is "The EEZ Clarification Act". The purpose of the letter is to inform you that the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) is strongly opposed to this legislation. Let me explain:

The JCAA is an association of approximately 75 fishing clubs that has fought hard to protect the stocks of striped bass, especially when the stocks of this fishery were decimated during the 1970's and early 1980's. The JCAA was chiefly responsible for making striped bass a no-sale or game fish in New Jersey, so that it could not be harvested by commercial anglers or sold in our state. This designation helped the coastal stocks of striped bass to recover significantly.

Due to their decline, fishing for stripers in the Economic Exclusion Zone (EEZ) that is in federal waters, was prohibited by federal regulations. This was done so that the EEZ could provide a sanctuary for striped bass and to help ensure that the stocks would attain and remain at healthy levels. Opening up this EEZ to the harvesting of striped bass would threaten the stocks of this fishery to a level that we would not want to see again repeated.

In recent years our striped bass stocks have once again been decreasing and in 2015 both commercial and recreational anglers were forced by

the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to reduce their harvest by 25%. Therefore, it does not make sense that while the ASMFC is trying keep the stocks of striped bass healthy, the EEZ would be opened to allow more striped bass to be harvested. Opening the EEZ in this area would also set a bad precedent in that other states might seek to open areas of the EEZ off their coasts.

Please do not allow HR 3070 to become law. This letter is also being sent to New Jersey's Congressional delegates for their support on this issue.

Respectfully,  
John Toth  
President, Jersey Coast Anglers Association

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

You need to be counted so we can prove how many Saltwater Anglers are in New Jersey so don't forget to register or re-register with the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program for 2016. It is important for the politicians and National Marine Fisheries Service to see the large number of recreational anglers in NJ and how important recreational fishing is to the economy of New Jersey. So if you are thinking of going fishing in 2016 register. ***It is Free!!*** You can register or renew your registration for 2016 by going to [this link](#). If you do go fishing please consider filling out the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey to help the Bureau of Marine Fisheries better manage our resources by going to [this link](#).

**2016 JCAA 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Annual Fluke Tournament**  
*By Paul Turi, Tournament Director*

The JCAA 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament will take place on Saturday, **August 6<sup>th</sup>** and the Awards Presentations will take place on Thursday, **August 11<sup>th</sup>** at the Clarion Hotel on Rt. 37 in Toms River, NJ.

We have some exciting changes this year! There will be the normal 1<sup>st</sup> place prize of \$1200 cash and 9 merchandise prizes for each port. Last

year we introduced four cash calcuttas, a \$50 & \$100 calcutta for each port and a \$50 & \$100 calcutta for the overall tournament. We will continue the calcuttas for this year as they were very popular last year with a lot of interest and participation.

Last year we also offered a **\$25,000** cash prize for the largest fish weighed in over 12lbs by 1/100 of a pound. **Well, this year we are offering \$50,000 cash to one lucky angler who catches a fluke over 12lbs by 1/100 of a pound!** And, believe me, it is doable! We've had 13 and 14 pounders weighed in over the years.

And, as you know, we always have a Grand Prize raffle drawing at the Awards Presentations. This year we will either raffle off a boat, motor and trailer package or there will be a \$5,000 Grand Prize raffle. At this time, we are still working on trying to secure a boat, motor and trailer.

For the first time this year, we will be having **free** food and drink at the Awards Presentations on August 11<sup>th</sup> at the Clarion Hotel. We will have sliders, hot dogs, soft drinks, etc. Yes, **free!** So bring the whole family and crew and have some fun and let's load up the banquet hall and make a nice impression for our tournament sponsors!

Last year, we gave out over **\$60,000** in cash and prizes! The lucky overall tournament winner last year, Dan Nykyforuk, walked off with \$11,000 cash (\$1200 1<sup>st</sup> place prize & \$9800 in Calcutta money) plus a free \$500 mount of his fish.

Tournament entry forms and hat & T-shirt order forms will be going out to our mailing list the end of April.

**Public Access - Update**

*By John Toth*

As I mentioned to you in our February newsletter, Senator Smith is working on a bill (S-919) that would incorporate language to provide better and definitive rules for the DEP to implement access. Senator Smith indicated that he wanted the various groups (NY/NJ Baykeeper, American Littoral Society, NJ Chamber of Commerce, NJ Business and Industry Assoc.) to give him a list of what they had consensus on, and a list of what they did not have consensus and provide this information to him in 90 days to help him craft his bill. To get this project moving along, the first of three stakeholder meetings was held on February

9th in Trenton at the NJ Business and Industry Association building. At this meeting, the consensus was that we should focus our attention on three main categories for access and they are: **Policy**, such as the Public Trust Doctrine, **Threshold and Exceptions**, such as when developers want to build a high rise by a beach and the question of access comes into play, and **Access** like 24/7 access to beaches and public parks. Under these three categories there were subsets of issues. Subcommittees were formed to work on them and I volunteered to work on the Policy and Access categories. On March 15th, a subcommittee meeting on these two categories were held that I attended and the following is a brief summary of it.

Tim Dillingham (Executive Director American Littoral Society) moderated this meeting that was attended by representatives from business, building groups, municipalities, county government, fishing and diving organizations, with me representing the JCAA and NJOA. Issues discussed included:

**From the business/building groups** - This whole effort is overly broad and beyond the Public Trust Document. It places tough burdens on businesses who want to open in New Jersey and they do not want to go through the permitting process of providing access, especially businesses that do lend themselves to it (large industrial ones) Exemptions should be made in these cases or done so on a case by case basis. Certain industrial sites should be totally exempt from access like the ones in Linden or South Amboy.

**County/Municipalities** -Some county governments do not have any control over the many municipalities. Some municipalities are very independent and do not want county influence. The many municipalities (about 375) that New Jersey has makes it difficult to come up with a uniform system to provide for and administer effective access.

**Enforcement by the NJ DEP** - came up as an issue. A person indicated that Edgewater has openly restricted access to a fishing pier that was previously open to the public. She called the DEP to complain about it but just gets the runaround. I indicated that enforcement is a problem because of funding problems.

**24/7 Access** - was opposed by municipalities and marina operators. Safety and loud noises were voiced by marina operators and municipal groups. Liability is another issue with people having access 24/7 - who is responsible?

**My take of this meeting** - both groups who want access and those who want to block it or at least restrict it made their cases. A lot this discussion is what I heard at the February 9th kick-off meeting that I attended. The two groups have somewhat "dug in" on their positions and these positions will eventually appear on what we agree and don't agree on. I did not see too much of anything that both groups agreed upon or embraced at this meeting that lasted over two hours. Access is a tough problem and cannot be resolved at a two-hour meeting with such disparate agendas that are both open and hidden by those in attendance.

**Next Step** - Tim Dillingham is going to do a summary of this meeting and present it to the Stakeholder's meeting scheduled for a March 22nd meeting. I will attend it and report on its progress at a later time.

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's  
Surf Fishing Tournament  
Sunday May 15, 2016  
By Tom Fote**

The Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament (GSFT) will take place in Island Beach State Park (IBSP), NJ on May 15, 2016. 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 third 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.

Anglers on the beach catch a variety of species which are eligible for entry in the tournament each year. Overall length determines the winner. All fish must meet minimum length tournament requirements.

The individual who catches the overall largest fish wins the "Governor's Award," and has his/her name engraved on the Governor's Cup, which is permanently displayed at the park. Fishing equipment is awarded to winners who catch the largest fish in each species category. Winners from the early entry drawing and the tournament must be present during the afternoon awards ceremony to claim their prizes or they will be forfeited.

Brochure and Registration Form and past tournament winners are available at [this link](#) and the direct link for the Brochure is [here](#).

Anglers planning to participate in the tournament should always register early: doing so entitles you to save \$5 on the adult registration fee, be eligible for special prizes and avoid delays when entering the park. The early entry incentive ends April 15, 2016. After this date, anglers will be required to register at the tournament.

*Note: Tournament anglers need to complete the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry prior to the event*

#### **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 5am on Sunday at Pavilion #1

Ages 18 and older: \$20

Ages 13-17 - \$5.00

Children 12 & under are FREE!

#### **Schedule**

6:30am-1:00pm	Fishing
1:30pm-2:00pm	Raffle Drawing
2:00pm	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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:fdar9@aol.com).

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

### **A Big Win for Fishing, Tourism, Ocean and the Jersey Shore**

JCAA and all the citizens of New Jersey owe a huge debt of gratitude to Senators Menendez and Booker and Congressmen Pallone and LoBiondo for their work in persuading President Obama to withdraw the mid-Atlantic from consideration for offshore drilling for oil and gas. We also thank Cindy Zipf for her hard work organizing the rally and other events and everyone who attended, called, emailed or wrote to the President about this issue. This is a big win for the ocean. Read Articles below with more info.

## Statement by Cindy Zipf, Clean Ocean Action, Executive Director

It's a great day for the Atlantic Ocean and the thousands of citizens who fought to protect the coast! The sea is spared from oil drilling and the horrific consequences that Big Oil brings-pollution, spills and industrialization. This ends a 10-year battle and preserves the shore, which is the "goose that lays the golden eggs" by supporting billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs in tourism and fisheries.



Photos from the rally (above)

It is a clear "David and Goliath" victory that proves the power of the people. Clean Ocean Action (COA) commends the coalition, businesses, citizens and national network of groups who never gave up, and fought hard to protect the ocean from drilling. While this is a great victory, there are still ocean realms threatened by drilling. Since there is truly only one ocean, drilling anywhere puts all regions at risk. COA also works to stop seismic testing which still looms.

Importantly, we thank New Jersey's bipartisan congressional delegation that almost unanimously and consistently fought against drilling offshore, and for the leadership of the team: US

Senators Menendez and Booker, US Representative Frank Pallone and US Representative Frank LoBiondo.

## Drilling Plan Undergoes Big Change Feds remove Atlantic coast from ocean-floor oil exploration program

By Amanda Oglesby, Asbury Park Press,  
March 16, 2016

WASHINGTON - The Atlantic coast has been removed from a plan that would have opened the ocean floor to oil exploration and drilling, a move that environmental groups and New Jersey elected officials said would have imperiled the Shore economy.

U.S. Sens. Cory Booker and Robert Menendez, U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone and various New Jersey organizations announced Tuesday that federal officials heeded their protests and removed the Atlantic coast from the leasing program.

The federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management was considering oil and gas exploration off the coasts of Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina. The Atlantic's inclusion in the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program worried groups throughout New Jersey.

If another disaster like the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon explosion happened in the Atlantic, they said, New Jersey's \$40 billion-a-year tourism industry would be crippled by tarslicked beaches and oilcoated animals.

"I'm pleased the administration heard our voices and put the values of New Jerseyans ahead of the financial interests of the oil industry," Menendez said in a news release. "Standing together, we proved we can beat Big Oil and protect our Jersey Shore for generations to come."

Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, said even a spill off the coast of Virginia would make its way north to the Jersey Shore.

"One quart of oil pollutes a million gallons of water," he said in a news release. "Coastal states surrounding the Gulf of Mexico are still impacted by the 170 million gallon spill from BP's Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion in 2010. We don't want the same thing to happen here on the East Coast."

The mission of the leasing program, according to a draft, is to increase domestic oil and gas production, promote energy security and create jobs.

## Toxic Passaic River to Get \$1.38 Billion Cleanup over 10 Years

By Noah Remnick and Rick Rojas,  
New York Times, March 4, 2016

In an early draft of the proposed drilling plan, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management stated: “Working with a host of stakeholders, USDO (the U.S. Department of the Interior) has developed and implemented reforms and improvements designed to reduce the risk of another loss of well control in our oceans, and enhance our collective ability to respond to such incidents. With strong regulatory oversight and appropriate measures to protect human safety and the environment, offshore oil and gas development can be conducted safely and responsibly.”

Those assurances aren’t convincing state leaders or environmentalists.

“A blowout or malfunction in the southern Atlantic, with currents that move north along the coast, would likely threaten the health, safety, and livelihoods of people in New Jersey and even further north,” Pallone said in a statement. “To the small businesses and fishing communities in New Jersey — still recovering from Hurricane Sandy — that I have the privilege of representing, the Interior Department’s decision is welcome news.”

House Speaker Paul Ryan said the exclusion of the Atlantic will mean fewer jobs, slower economic growth and smaller tax coffers. “President Obama is so intent on solidifying his radical climate legacy that he has backed out of his commitment to a large, bipartisan coalition of state leaders. These states simply want to explore their own energy potential, but the president’s reversal has disenfranchised them of this chance,” Ryan said in a news release. “This is a lost opportunity for new jobs and economic growth in these coastal states, not to mention much-needed revenues for the federal treasury.”

Environment New Jersey Director Doug O’Malley said in a statement that tourism and recreation earn three times more money for coastal communities than oil and gas drilling would provide.

“The Atlantic Coast — and the Jersey Shore — should never have been potential sacrifice zones,” he said. “As summer beckons, the president ensured his legacy will not include a future BP-like disaster oil-slicking our beaches.”

*Amanda Oglesby 732.557.5701, aoglesby@gannettnj.com*

NEWARK — The Passaic River was once the backbone of an industrial corridor, snaking through this stretch of northern New Jersey and sustaining the factories and plants that cropped up alongside it. But now, the river’s banks are dotted by deserted manufacturing sites while the waterway remains scarred after decades as a dumping ground for industrial pollutants that linger in the water and have seeped into the soil.

“Please understand that there should be yellow crime-scene tape around the Passaic River right now,” Senator Cory A. Booker, a Democrat and the former mayor of this city, said in a news conference on Friday. He lamented “the damage that has been done, the lives that have been affected, the disease that has been spread, the theft from opportunity” — costs he said were borne by the people of New Jersey.

Senator Cory A. Booker said at a news conference on Friday, “Please understand that there should be yellow crime-scene tape around the Passaic River right now,” he said. Credit Dave Sanders for The New York Times.

On Friday, environmental officials announced that they had made final a plan to remove more than a century’s worth of industrial toxins from the lower eight miles of the Passaic, the most dangerously tainted ribbon of the river. The project, officials said, would be among the most ambitious and expensive cleanup efforts in the 35-year history of the federal Superfund program.

It will cost about \$1.38 billion to dredge more than 3.5 million cubic yards of sediment laden with chemicals, pesticides, heavy metals and other contaminants, said Judith A. Enck, the regional administrator of the federal Environmental Protection Agency. She noted the volume of dredged contaminants would be the largest ever under the Superfund program, enough to fill Red Bull Arena, a soccer stadium along the river, three times.

The portion of the river covered in the cleanup plan, stretching from Newark Bay to the Belleville-Newark border, would then have a protective cap laid at the river bottom from bank to bank to prevent the flow of any remaining contaminants, and the noxious residue will be shipped to a licensed disposal site.

With the E.P.A.'s Superfund program, created in 1980 to manage the cleanup of some of the most hazardous waste sites across the country, officials said polluters, rather than taxpayers, were expected to pay for the work. The dredging on the Passaic will not start until officials have negotiated with the offending companies to either do the work or pay for it; officials have identified about 100 of them that are potentially responsible for generating and releasing the pollution.

Among the most serious polluters, officials said, was the old Diamond Alkali Company's Newark plant, which produced the herbicide Agent Orange that was used to defoliate forests during the Vietnam War and produced particularly toxic sludge that drained into the river.

"I'm not expecting 'Kumbaya,'" Ms. Enck said in the news conference. "But I do know that their lawyers know what their legal responsibilities are under the federal Superfund statute."

Michael Turner, a representative of Maxus Energy Corporation and Tierra Solutions, the former and current owners of the Diamond Alkali Company site along the river, said the companies were still evaluating the plan and could not comment on it. But Mr. Turner said the companies had been deeply involved in efforts to study the environmental impact as well as corrective actions.

In recent years, the E.P.A. has turned its attention to waterways ravaged by pollution, cleaning up the Hudson River and adding to its list the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn and Newtown Creek, which runs between Brooklyn and Queens.

The Passaic River runs through 80 miles of North Jersey, past rural, suburban and urban enclaves, including horse country and historic colonial towns, and along the perimeter of Newark. Clear and idyllic in some places, the Passaic, once it reaches its mouth at the Newark Bay, has a reputation marred by the toxins mixed in the water and the bodies pulled out of it. It was once named the second most-polluted river in the United States.

The E.P.A. removed 40,000 cubic yards of the most highly contaminated sediment in the river near the Diamond Alkali plant in 2012, officials said, and in 2013 and 2014, the agency oversaw the removal of another 16,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from a mud flat near Lyndhurst.

The plan announced on Friday will take more than a decade to carry out, including up to four years

to finish its design and an additional six years for the dredging and related construction, officials said.

Even so, Representative Bill Pascrell Jr., whose congressional district includes part of the river, said the plan was a critical step in improving the environmental conditions. "Under this plan, the Passaic River can be an asset for the community instead of a hazard," Mr. Pascrell, a Democrat, said.

Some countered that the plan was not enough to cover the damage done as well as guard against future impact.

Jeff Tittel, director of the Sierra Club of New Jersey, said that "something was better than nothing," but that the plan did not go far enough in protecting against pollution. He contended that officials should invest in more dredging because the caps will fail, but that they compromised because of speed.

"We think the Passaic River cleanup was more about expedience than doing what's right for the river," Mr. Tittel said. "It's more about political science than it is about sound science."

In Newark, some residents were frustrated about the state of the river, but they welcomed what sounded like progress.

"Sure, it costs money," said Sal Banks, 50, a lifelong resident of the city, who said he did his best to avoid the river. "But this is people's health at stake here."

## **MSA in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

By Jeff Angers,  
Center for Coastal Conservation

Commercial and recreational fishing interests gather on Capitol Hill in a month to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA).

On hand will be NOAA Administrator Kathy Sullivan; former Congressman Norm Dicks (D-Wash.), who back in 1976 served as chief of staff for the late Senator Warren Magnuson; Catherine Stevens, widow of the late Senator Ted Stevens, among a slate of other dignitaries who recognize the importance of this landmark legislation. MSA pushed foreign fishing fleets 200 miles from our shores, Americanizing the commercial fishery and has sought to end overfishing.

As the Congress looks to the next iteration of MSA, we are hopeful that the legislation which brought better management to commercial fisheries will now, finally, likewise bring better and more fair



federal management to recreational fisheries. The two fishing sectors are fundamentally different and require different management models.

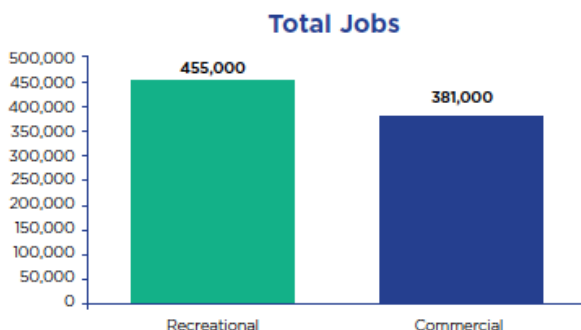
After all, marine recreational fishing contributes \$70 billion annually to the nation's economy and supports 454,000 jobs. It's a pretty popular activity enjoyed by over 11 million Americans.

We have encouraged lawmakers to look to recommendations set forth by the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management, also known as the Morris-Deal Commission named after co-chairs Johnny Morris, founder of Bass Pro Shops, and Scott Deal, president of Maverick Boats.

Many of the Morris-Deal Commission priorities for the future of saltwater recreational fisheries were incorporated in the House-passed reauthorization (H.R.1335, the "Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management" Act) that will give federal fisheries managers more authority to develop solutions that will take into account the special nature of recreational fishing.

The Senate recently held a hearing on MSA and is contemplating legislation. Our coalition of America's ten leading recreational fishing and boating organizations signed a letter reminding leaders of the Senate Commerce Committee of areas where MSA needs improvement. Proposed improvements would uphold conservation while adopting management that is better suited to the nature of recreational fishing. The Commerce Committee staff welcomes our groups for conversation in the coming week. I believe it will be productive.

### Total Jobs from Recreational and Commercial Fishing in the United States, 2011



In 2011, there were 455,000 jobs related to recreational fishing compared to 381,000 for commercial fishing.

*Fisheries Economics of the United States, 2011. NOAA Fisheries.*

## Report on Sandy Hook Bay Natural Marine Sanctuary

*By John Toth*

I attended a presentation given by Mr. Rik van Hemmen who is proposing to implement a Sandy Hook Bay Natural Marine Sanctuary that would stretch roughly from Sandy Hook to the Earle Naval pier and to parts of the Navesink and the Schrewsbury rivers. This presentation was given at the Red Bank library at 7:00 p.m. on March 16th and it was attended by approximately **200-250 anglers**. Only about 60 could fit in the conference room and the rest waited outside the library. This turnout was due to the threat that this sanctuary would have on one of our most productive fishing grounds for both recreational and commercial anglers.

Mr. Hemmen started his presentation by showing us a bunch of pictures of this area with boats and birds, but nothing concrete about **WHY** it should be a sanctuary. He did not stress **any** positive results we would expect to receive by having this sanctuary. He seems to love the area in question, but is oblivious to the repercussions that would result by having a sanctuary. In fact, Mr. Dan Ferrigno, a former and retired staff member of our NJ DEP with 30 years of experience, remarked that the sanctuaries we now have around our country (about 5 of them) all end up with tough restrictions on fishing, boating, jet skis and diminish the enjoyment people receive by having them. Others in the audience voiced over and over again that this sanctuary status would lead to more fishing restrictions and that **we do not need more regulations!** Hemmen responded that **he** is not trying to impose these regulations, but he seemed **oblivious** to this major concern voiced by the audience.

When one person asked why he is doing this, he incredulously responded at length that he was a Boy Scout leader and always picked up trash. Audience members volunteered to pick up trash in the rivers and discussion **strangely** turned to trash pickup! One audience member said, "this juice is not worth the squeeze," and walked out of the room in disgust. Obviously, Hemmen did not expect or did not know how to respond to this question and strangely came up with the trash issue.

One person told him that he lives by the affected area and that the waters are more clean than

they have been for a long time and more fish are in it and that he did not see a **need** for this sanctuary, but Hemmen blew off this remark. Building on this no need for the sanctuary, I remarked that "you obviously love the sanctuary concept to keep things the way they are **for you**, but **YOU HAVE NOT MADE A CASE WHY WE SHOULD HAVE IT!**" He responded that, "**we will have more fish!**" One person yelled out, "do you have the data to prove it," and he said that he did not. His answer to me like the one he made earlier about a trash problem seem to be made up as he goes along with his presentation since he has **no real answers** to the important questions raised about his sanctuary proposal.

My take on this sanctuary issue is that Hemmen does not understand the negative implications that a sanctuary has, but worse is that he is **not accepting** the comments that were made by anglers in the room. If I were him, I would be shook up by the comments made by angry anglers, but it did not seem to faze him that much. The danger I see is that in spite of what was conveyed to him about restrictions, he will still go forward with this sanctuary and, of course, like-minded organizations may back him and this can gain traction to move it further.

For this sanctuary to go to higher levels in our federal government, it has to be first approved by our state government and that is our best hope to stop it. I will track the sanctuary issue and keep you updated. We all need to stay on top of this sanctuary issue and all be united against it!

## 2016 Fluke and Sea Bass Regulations Set

*By Paul Haertel*

The 2016 regulations for fluke and sea bass were set by the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council meeting on March 3rd. The NJ Bureau of Marine Fisheries worked hard to develop various options. A clear majority of advisors and others in attendance supported the following options. The council unanimously approved the following regulations:

**Fluke** – 5 fish at 18" with a season beginning on 5/21 and ending on 9/25 except for Delaware Bay where there will be a 4 fish limit at 17" and at Island Beach State Park where there will be a 2 fish limit at 16".

**Sea Bass** – 10 fish at 12.5" from 5/23-6/19, 2 fish at 12.5" from 7/1-8/31 and 15 fish at 13" from 10/22-12/31.

**Striped Bass** – An overview of the 2015 fishery was given but the regulations, including those for the bonus bass program will remain the same.

In 2014, marinas, tackle stores, charter and party boats as well as other businesses were negatively impacted by the fact that New Jersey had an 18" size limit on fluke while Delaware had only a 16" size limit. This was unfair in that anglers from both states were fishing essentially the same waters of Delaware Bay. Due to the 2" size limit many anglers opted to fish out of Delaware rather than New Jersey.

JCAA representatives worked hard to correct this inequity by testifying at various meetings sponsored by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries, the NJ Bureau of Marine Fisheries and the NJ Marine Fisheries Council. Written comments were also submitted. Though our complaints fell on deaf ears for 2015, an option for 17" fluke was approved by the ASMFC for 2016. The discrepancy in size limits between the two states is now only 1" rather than 2". While not a perfect solution, hopefully it will be enough to bring some business back to the southern portion of our state.

While JCAA played an integral part in establishing the improved regulations, credit has to be given others as well such as the NJMFC and particularly to Brandon Muffley, Administrator of the NJ Bureau of Marine Fisheries and his staff for developing this option. Brandon served as one of our commissioners at the ASMFC Black Sea Bass, Scup and Summer Flounder Management Board meeting this past winter along with Commissioners Tom Fote and Adam Nowalsky. All three lobbied hard for the new option while explaining the problem to various commissioners from other states. Ultimately, the board voted unanimously to approve our preferred option.

The situation for sea bass was also a tough one as we were forced to develop regulations that would result in a 23% cut in our harvest from 2015. Peter Clark, a marine biologist for the NJBMF, developed various options that would result with the mandated cut. They were presented at the advisors meeting where modifications were suggested. Most advisors were in agreement with beginning the season on 5/23 and extending it through 6/19. Even though the season will then close for eleven days the reasoning was that there will be plenty of sea bass biting in the early part of the season while fluke may be biting better towards

the end of June when the sea bass season will be closed. Also, the vast majority of advisors were in agreement that we needed to have the season opened for most of the summer even though there will be only a two fish bag limit. This will give anglers an opportunity to spice their catch with a couple nice sea bass during July and August which is particularly important when the fluke fishing was slow. This is an important improvement from last year when the season was closed during all of August. However, the size limit did have to be increased to 13" from 10/22 – 12/31 so that the bag limit during that time could remain at 15. Most sea bass are offshore at that time of the year and charter and party boat captains expressed concern that it would be hard to sell trips if the bag limit was reduced rather than increasing the size limit. There are predominantly large sea bass caught on these offshore excursions.

- New Jersey Beach Buggy Assoc.
- New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs
- Picatinny Saltwater Sportsman Club
- Schuyler Tuna Fishing Club
- Spring Lake Live Liners
- Surf Kings Fishing

Associate Members:

- Robert Berger
- Ronald J. Criel
- Daniel L. DeChurch
- Daniel DiPasquale
- John Zingis
- Charles Lynch

## Membership Report

*By Kyren Dooley*

Club membership dues are due on January 1, 2016 and invoices were mailed to your club. Please complete all the information on the forms provided to you so that we can have accurate information about your club.

Please note that our JCAA address has changed! The JCAA has moved to a new location and this new address follows:

**Jersey Coast Anglers Association**  
**1594 Lakewood Road, Unit 13**  
**Toms River, NJ 08755**

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 (609) 713-7712 or at dools702@comcast.net.

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

Club membership renewals (\$50.00) as of Mar. 19, 2016:

- Bayhead Shores Fishing Club
- Bradley Beach Surfcasters, Inc.
- Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat Association
- Jersey Coast Shark Anglers

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### COME AND CELEBRATE THE 25TH GSFT ANNIVERSARY

Get ready to enter the largest surf-fishing tournament along the Jersey Shore. This year, it will be bigger and better than ever. The 25th Anniversary of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be on Sunday, May 15, 2016. Don't miss a day of family fun! Pick up a brochure about the tournament at Island Beach State Park or at your favorite tackle dealer. The contest is reasonably priced. Register early and save. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice and physically challenged anglers at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. This will require extra volunteer hours from member clubs in JCAA, so please think about helping out for a few hours. Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 12) and volunteer anglers from various fishing clubs will assist physically challenged veterans at the tournament. Balloon tire equipped beach wheelchairs will be available to transport anglers in need to a reserved fishing area. Admission to the park is FREE for the tournament. Volunteers will be needed to assist anglers with special needs who fish the tournament. To volunteer or make arrangements for a disabled angler, please contact Greg K, at: 732-785-9278 or email [gkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:gkucharews@jcaa.org).

### IGFA NJ DINNER

The International Game Fish Association New Jersey Representatives are hosting their 19th Annual Banquet and Auction on April 18, 2016 at Doolan's Shore Club, Spring Lake, NJ from 7 to 11 p.m. The

banquet and auction benefits the IGFA Junior Angler and Conservation Programs.

Come out and enjoy a fun evening with fellow anglers and win auction items. Last year, over 150 guests attended this event to continue the IGFA's good work of promoting their junior angler and conservation programs.

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

### **JOIN THE 2016 NJ HOFNOD YOUTH FISHING CHALLENGE**

If you are working with a NJ HOFNOD youth fishing group get ready for June 11's Youth Fishing Challenge. The object is to get youngsters fishing so please consider how you might like to get kids hooked on fishing. There are three NJ HOFNOD groups that are strategically located by NJ HOFNOD Team Leaders. North: Ed Blevins - Highpoint; Natalie Burger & Rory Halpin - Sussex 4-H; Rhashonna & Donald Beyer & Mike Underwood - Linden Township; Veronica Taylor - City of Plainfield. Central: Jennifer Manuola - Scarlet Kids; Lacey Township HS; Mike and Deb Bennet—BEAR - Lakewood, NJ. South: Bob Johnston & Elisa Taylor - Gloucester Twp; Jeff Brown & Floyd Reynolds - Burl-Cam; Adam Erskine - Atlantic County HOFNOD Coalition; Joe Hasse-Cumberland County 4-H.

If you would like to volunteer time with a NJ HOFNOD group to support the Fishing Challenge, contact Liz Jackson for details. NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07683 908-637-4125 x122, [website](#).

### **NEWARK BAIT AND FLY CASTING CLUB**

NB&FCC annual Kids Fishing Derby is held each year at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside, N. J. and is free for children 16 years of age and younger. On Saturday, April 16, 2016 through Saturday, May 7, 2016. The registration booth is located at the gazebo on the lower lake and registrations will be accepted from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on the first Saturday of the derby only. The Derby runs for three weeks.

Children that register will receive a gift bag at the derby location up until 2:00 P.M. on first Saturday of the derby. Prizes for the derby will be awarded at the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club's

meeting on June 7, 2016 at 8:00 P.M. For additional information email: [info@nbfcc.org](mailto:info@nbfcc.org)

### **STUDENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY**

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife and its partners is offering teens some exciting summer programs based at the Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center, located off Island Beach State Park in Barnegat Bay. These unique, educational and fun programs include fishing, research and field experiences in a beautiful location. Sedge Island Fishing Experience June 23-26 and August 25-28, 2016.

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, is offering two sessions of this 4-day 3-night program open to students going into grades 8 and 9 in the fall of 2016. Students will spend the first three days fishing the area while learning about the surrounding ecosystem. On the final night a parent or guardian will join the group and spend the last night learning from the students, and the following day fishing with them. Cost is \$475.00 and includes all meals, lodging, instruction and equipment. The deadline for registration is March 31, 2016.

### **HOOKED ON THE HUDSON**

Save the date Saturday, May 7, 2016, the Hudson River Fishermen's Association will host the 31st Annual Hooked on the Hudson, at Ross Dock, Palisades Interstate Park. Fishing Fun for the whole family.

Hudson Riverfront located immediately north of the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee, New Jersey. For detailed directions check [njpalisades.org](http://njpalisades.org). Please go to the Hudson River Fishermen's Association's Web site [www.hrxfanj.org](http://www.hrxfanj.org) for more information. Volunteers for the Annual Hooked on the Hudson always do a fine job of making sure everyone enjoys a day of fishing fun.

## **JCAA 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL FLUKE TOURNAMENT SATURDAY, AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

## **AWARDS PRESENTATIONS THURSDAY, AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

