

JCAA NEWSPAPER JUNE 2016

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on May 24th, 2016)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, May 31st, 2016

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Jersey Coast Shark Anglers

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 9th, 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

Phone 732-506-6565 Fax 732-506-6975

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.**

## 2016 OFFICERS

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President	John Toth	732-656-0139
1st V.P.	Ken Warchal	908-715-0791
2nd V.P.	Mark Taylor	732-245-9445
Treasurer	Doug Tegeder	732-575-2661
Rec. Sec.		
Cors. Sec.	Paul Turi	609-660-2126
Mem. Sec.	Kyren Dooley	609-713-7712
Tournament Dir.	Paul Turi	609-660-2126

Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

May 31st JCAA General Meeting

June 9th JCAA Board Meeting

June 28th JCAA General Meeting

July 7th Menhaden Public Hearing in NJ

July 14th JCAA Board Meeting

August 11th JCAA Board Meeting

September 8th JCAA Board Meeting

September 27 JCAA General Meeting

August 6th JCAA Fluke Tournament

November 13th JCAA Sportsperson of the Year
Dinner

No JCAA General Meeting in July and August

2016 High Roller Raffle

NOTICE

Our High Roller Raffle Drawing will take place on **Tuesday, May 31st** at 7:30pm at the JCAA office in Toms River. Our General Membership Meeting will still be at the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers bldg. 385 Hervertsville Rd, Brick, NJ.

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 see your club rep. or 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.

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

JCAA 22ND Annual Fluke Tournament

By Paul Turi, Tournament Director

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

Entries have been coming in. Affidavits will be mailed soon.

In this edition of our newspaper there is a four-page insert advertising our fluke tournament. Contained within that insert is an application. You can fill that out and either mail or fax to our office.

I apologize that our website does not yet contain our 2016 tournament information and our online entry form is not yet ready. There is major work being performed on the server and it is a major undertaking to switch all the websites from the old server to the new server. The work should be concluded soon and we will have everything up on the site.

As I wrote last month, we have some exciting changes this year! There will be the normal 1st 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. **This year we are offering \$50,000 cash to one lucky angler who catches a fluke over 12lbs by 1/100 of a pound!**

Some facts from last year's tournament:

- We paid out **\$10,800** in 1ST place prize money
- Other port prizes paid out = **\$16,776**
- Total port prize money paid out **\$27,576**
- We paid out **\$19,643.75** in calcutta money
- Port prizes, calcuttas given away = **\$47,219.75**
- Plus Door prize value: Approx. **\$3,500**
- Total: **\$50,719.75**
- Plus Boat, Motor & trailer = Approx. **\$10,000**
- In total we paid out over **\$60,000** in cash and prizes!!! The overall tournament winner won **\$11,000** plus a free \$500 mount of his fish!

The **Grand Prize** Drawing at the Awards Presentations this year will again be a 14' G3 boat, 20hp Yamaha engine and a trailer.

Our Major Sponsors this year are:

- **Yamaha Outboards**
- **G3 Boats**
- **Tica Fishing Tackle**
- **Canyon Reels**
- **The Fisherman**
- **Interlux Paints**
- **Costa Sunglasses**

We have three 1st Place Port Sponsors for this year. Please support our sponsors! They are:

- **Hoffman's Marina**
- **South Harbor Marine**
- **Fisherman's Headquarters**

For the first time this year, we will be having **FREE** food and drink at the Awards Presentations on August 11th 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!

President's Report

By John Toth

The Governor's Surf Tournament was held on May 15th and boy was it a windy day! It was one of those days that when you opened your car door, it was tough to close it with the wind holding it open. In spite of the strong west wind, approximately 600 anglers showed up for this tournament. Over 245 blues were caught, but only three striped bass were landed. The biggest blue was 38 inches! Dakota Hahn won the Governor's Cup with a 43 1/2-inch striped bass!

Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno was there along with her kids who also were in this tournament. Our Lt. Governor really enjoys fishing and she is really into it! She had to go to Rutgers University in the afternoon to greet President Obama who was invited to give their graduating class an address or she would have spent the rest of the day with us.

One of the things I really enjoy about this tournament is watching the participants receive their prizes for catching the biggest fish in each category and there were really some nice rods and reel combos given out to them! There are three divisions: Child, Teen and Adult in this tournament. When you see kids around 7 years old (plus or minus) receive their prizes, they look like they are holding a million dollars and **nobody is going to take that away from them!** Also, I saw a teenage girl who was really dressed up to do surf fishing with her boots and fishing clothes that made her look like she has been surf fishing for many years beyond her age! This tournament really gets kids turned on to fishing and that is what this tournament is all about! DEP Commissioner Bob Martin presented the prizes to the lucky winners and he told me that he really enjoys doing this!

The JCAA had a booth at the tournament along with other organizations like the Beach Buggy Association, the NJOA and others. I have to give thanks to Tom Fote, Greg Kucharewski and Bill Browne for helping me set it up. Bill Browne and I gave out our JCAA newsletters and fluke tournament applications to anglers and answered their questions about the JCAA.. Bill is one heck of a salesman and who talked a lot of people in buying our High Roller and Super 50/50 tickets.

All in all it was a good and an enjoyable day, but I had to stop on the way home at a diner to get some hot chicken soup to warm me up since that cold wind never let up during the whole tournament.

Our High Roller Raffle Drawing will take place on Tuesday May 31st.

Bluefish Blitzes Liven 25th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife, May 16, 2016

The 25th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament was held Sunday, May 15 at Island Beach State Park (IBSP). A west wind kept it chilly but bluefish blitzes made for a great day of fishing for approximately 600 registered participants. On the beach anglers were busy catching a lot of fish with 245 fish entered into the bluefish category and 3 fish entered into the striped bass category. At tournament headquarters radio station NJ 101.5 had music and games for participants visiting partnering organization tables or grabbing a bite to eat. Overall the 25th Annual Tournament was an all-around great day of family fishing!

New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno was not able to participate in the tournament as in previous years, but did stop by in the morning to wish participants good luck. Once fishing had ended DEP Commissioner Bob Martin along with DEP Natural and Historic Resources Assistant Commissioner Rich Boornazian assisted with the awards ceremony.

Dakota Hahn of Toms River took the grand prize and NJ Governor's Cup by catching a 43.5" striped bass. Mr. Hahn received two rod-and-reel combinations, one of which was a 2016 TICA rod; a pair of Costa Del Mar sunglasses; a plaque; and will have his name engraved on the Governor's Cup, which is permanently on display at the park.

Governor's Cup Winner: Dakota Hahn of Toms River, for his 43 4/8" Striped Bass.

Two additional plaques were awarded this year to two men who have been great supporters of IBSP and the tournament. Paul Smith, former Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament Treasurer, was presented with a plaque by the Tournament Committee in recognition of his dedicated service to the tournament and to the sport of surf fishing. Paul had been involved with the tournament since its inception, and only this past year stepped down. The NJ Beach Buggy

Association (NJBBA) took the time to recognize DEP Compliance and Enforcement Assistant Commissioner Ray Bukowski, who had previously been the manager at Island Beach State Park. NJBBA recognized his support and hard work in restoring IBSP after Superstorm Sandy. Ray was awarded with a plaque and Honorary NJBBA Lifetime Member.



Governor's Cup Winner: Dakota Hahn

Everyone who registered for the tournament was entered into a raffle drawing with prizes donated from the following organizations: Costa Del Mar Inc., Chestnut Neck Boat Yard, Fish and Wildlife's Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs Program, Jenkinson's Aquarium, Legal Limits, Manns Bait Company, Silver Horde, and Stanley Jigs. Bass Pro Shops donated gift cards this year for the early entry prizes, which is for participants who were the first to mail in their registrations. Also all participants who mailed in their registrations were able to enter into an early entry raffle for a Coastline Surf System.

In addition to the grand prize, 19 anglers received rod and reel combinations for their prize-winning fish in the striped bass and bluefish categories. There were categories for children, teen and adult anglers, including sub-categories for male and female anglers. The event was sponsored by the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry, the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, the Jersey Coast

Anglers Association, and the NJ Beach Buggy Association.

More than \$130,000 has been raised since the inception of the tournament for conservation and education projects and improved beach access.

Winners of the 2016 Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament are:

Bluefish Category

Child (Male):

- 1st Place - Caden Michalski, Edison, 36"
- 2nd Place - Nathan Schwarz, Westchester, PA, 34 4/8"
- 3rd Place - Allen Magie, Haskell, 34 2/8"

Child (Female):

- 1st Place: Jacklyn Janiec, Bloomingdale, 32 4/8"
- 2nd Place - Mackenzie Gordon, Toms River, 32" at 8:55 a.m.
- 3rd Place - Olivia Boris, McDonald, PA, 32" at 10:45 a.m.

Teen (Male):

- 1st Place - Aiden (AJ) Elmore, Little Egg Harbor, 38"
- 2nd Place - Eric Mayers, Cranbury, 36"
- 3rd Place - Thomas Heffelfinger, Toms River, 34"

Teen (Female):

- 1st Place - Savanna Rodriguez, Reading, PA, 36"
- 2nd Place - Shanna Hudler, Toms River, 30 4/8"

Adult (Male):

- 1st Place - Justin Barbier, Woodland Park, 39 4/8"
- 2nd Place - Keith Scharago, Beachwood, 38" at 7:15 a.m.
- 3rd Place - Brandon Hewitt, Little Egg Harbor, 38" at 8:05 a.m.

Adult (Female):

- 1st Place - Kaitlyn Bach, Toms River, 37" at 7:35 a.m.
- 2nd Place - Donna McConnell, Somerset, 37" at 11:10 a.m.
- 3rd Place - Alyssa DiMarco, Delran, 36 5/8"

Striped Bass Category

Adult (Male)

- 1st Place - Dakota Hahn, Toms River, 43 4/8"
- 2nd Place - Rich Bergman, Atco, 38 6/8"
- 3rd Place - Zoltan Eayed, Trenton, 31 4/8"

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

Paul Smith is Honored at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

This was the 25th anniversary of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. Two articles about the tournament are included. Those articles don't cover the hard work that it takes to make this tournament happen, volunteers and judges in particular. When I thought about the 25th anniversary, I thought about Paul Smith. Having a Governor's Tournament was an idea I had to prove to the Governor that recreational fishing is important to the economic health of New Jersey. Bruce Freeman, from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Bill Vibbert, the Superintendent of Island Beach State Park at that time, both agreed this was a great idea. We convinced the Commissioner of DEP, Scott Weiner, to go to Governor Florio with this plan. New Jersey Beach Buggy Association got involved to provide the judges and New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmens Clubs also provided support. Ideas are cheap but every great idea needs a manager. We were lucky to have Paul Smith. Paul organized all the details for the first tournament as the tournament director. He and his wife Eileen, both former presidents of JCAA, made everything run smoothly. Every detail, from designing the brochure, securing the judges, ordering the T-shirts, organizing meetings and troubleshooting on the day was overseen by Paul. He and Eileen were at the registration booth at 4:00 AM. After 13 years as tournament director, Paul handed the reins to Frank Dara but remained as treasurer with many other jobs. When JCAA, the Beach Buggy Association and the NJFSC wanted to honor someone at the 25th, there was no other choice but Paul. Paul was there at 4:00 AM for registration this year but managed to go home before the presentation. So much for our plans for a surprise! I was honored to read the plaque and Commissioner Martin was there to thank Paul as well. Not to worry, Paul will get his plaque and all of our accolades. Next year, no escape.

ASMFC Week - May

I attended another 4 days of ASMFC meetings the first week in May. It was interesting that there were no discussions about striped bass, scup, black sea bass and summer flounder. Those topics will be covered in the August meeting. We spent an entire day on lobsters dealing with the situation in southern New England (which includes the mid-Atlantic as well). The next day we spent on climate change. Politicians can argue about whether or not there is climate change and debate the cause but it is a fact that the water and air temperatures are changing and this is having an impact in the ocean and on the land. On the land we see plants species moving further north as the climate becomes more conducive for them. The same is true of agricultural products and the impact on the growing season. But our emphasis is on the ocean. Our first warning of the impact of climate change in New Jersey was surf clams and quahogs. Now the lobster fishery is giving us a second warning. The surf clam fishery was one of the largest commercial fisheries in New Jersey. In the more than 40 years I have fished at Island Beach State Park, I have always seen the surf clam boats. I could also see the spat for surf clams on the beach. After any northeast storm there were surf clams on the beach and many of us got clamming licenses so we could harvest them for bait. Now I do not see spat, we do not see surf clam boats working inshore, we do not see the shells on the beach after a northeast storm. Since Sandy we see hardly any clams on the beach. Surf clams have been moving deeper and further north in a search for colder water. The industry had to adjust to these conditions.

On the South Atlantic Board we discussed the problems with cobia. The South Atlantic Council has closed this fishery in federal waters during a season when it is normally most productive in North and South Carolina. Those fish are moving north and having an impact on Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and New York.

Some members of the Board have as little confidence in the stock assessment as many of us have on red snapper. The Council is not managing this stock with an understanding of their changing range. I suggested at the South Atlantic Council that we take the management of cobia and move it to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The reason I suggested this change is that the majority of cobia are caught in state waters and under the old guidelines the ASMFC could manage cobia like it manages striped bass. ASMFC is not locked into the same bureaucracy

as NMFS and the states can work more cooperatively and adjust more readily to these changing conditions. With climate change happening, many of the fish that migrate along the coast will expand their range and need to be managed by ASMFC.

The Federal Government divides the coast into 3 management councils that don't always work well together because of competing interests. ASMFC has been in existence since 1942 and has refined the options for states working together. With the passage of the Atlantic Coast Conservation Act in the 90's, the Commission became even more effective in managing interjurisdictional fisheries.

I just turned 69. In 20 years, when I am 89, I anticipate the fisheries along the coast will be entirely different. We need to plan for that change. I need the young anglers to get involved since they, along with their children, will need to deal with the consequences. Millennials, it is up to you.

Lobster

The news is not good for the Southern New England and Mid Atlantic regions. In the 80's we had many boats fishing for lobster, making a good living with a decent harvest. In the 90's, when the water first began to warm, the Mid Atlantic and Southern New England saw an explosion in the lobster population. The number of boats expanded and many more were making a good living fishing for lobster. As the water warmed, the population of lobster grew due to the younger maturity. But as the temperature continued to rise, an exact opposite behavior in the lobster population became obvious. The warmer temperatures caused less recruitment. There was also an increase in the black sea bass population which is a predator of lobster. Perhaps the warmer temperatures caused the black sea bass population to rise. We also saw the Long Island Sound fishery for lobster collapse, with not only warmer waters but also significant environmental issues. The lobster fleet in Connecticut is at 25% its former size. That means a great deal of unemployment and economic hardship. The West Nile virus scare has increased the amount of spraying for mosquitoes. While that may be necessary, we should not forget the impact that will have on all fisheries, particularly lobster. We have also put electrical lines through Long Island Sound which many feel has a negative impact on the lobster population. Human needs, as usual, overrode the

long-term health of the fishery. There is clearly an impact on the lobster fishery in New Jersey but it makes up a smaller percentage of commercial fishing jobs in New Jersey. In Maine, the lobster fishery is the commercial fishery and the economic impact there will be catastrophic. Right now Maine is catching more lobsters than ever, a trend for the last 10 years. This reflects the early stages of warmer water. In the last 3 years the recruitment has dropped dramatically and this should result in a significant drop in catch within the next few years. They are also seeing a stock of black sea bass moving into the Gulf of Maine and New Hampshire. We should be looking at the lobster and surf clams as the canaries in the mine. They foretell the oncoming problems.

Weakfish

Sometimes being Commissioner to ASMFC is frequently depressing. Weakfish is a prime example. I have not come home with good news about weakfish in over 10 years. Because of concerns about weakfish, Congressman Carper put in a bill titled the Weakfish Emergency Bill. Instead we convinced him to introduce a more generic bill which ultimately became the Atlantic Coast Conservation Act. That legislation enabled ASMFC to produce fisheries management plans to rebuild stocks with the force of law. Weakfish was one of the first species ASMFC began managing. The plan included fish excluding devices in the shrimp fishery to avoid the bycatch. We also changed the size limits so every weakfish harvested would have an opportunity to spawn at least once. We raised the size limit in some states from 6 inches to 12 inches and some states decided to raise the size limit to 16 inches. We began seeing positive results. My friends from New England began to catch 11 to 12 pound weakfish again. We saw a great increase in catch in Barnegat Bay and along the Jersey coast. According to the recreational statistics program in place in 2003, even with its flaws, we harvested 1.3 million pounds in New Jersey recreationally. For no apparent reason, the fishery began to decline. The decline continued despite figures that suggested great recruitment. But we were not seeing fishing from the 9 – 12 inch size limit. The fishery has collapsed and we do not know why. For the last few years we have had a one fish recreational limit and a 100 pound bycatch limit on the commercial fishery. Despite these draconian management measures, there has been no improvement. The SAW review on weakfish has blamed a natural mortality, not fishing pressure, but

they are unable to define the causes of the natural mortality.

I actually fished last November and December on Island Beach State Park. One day I was enjoying catching 2-pound bluefish. I saw purple schools of bait and assumed it was rainfish. However, every bluefish I caught had a head or tail from their dinner. What I finally realized was the bluefish were feeding on 9-inch weakfish. No longer are weakfish the predator but have become the prey of many species. With the increase on dogfish, striped bass, bluefish and other species, we may have identified the reason the weakfish are in decline. We are harvesting a lot more of the historical prey species for our meals or for bait. Perhaps the predator species need to find another meal and that may be weakfish or even eating their own young. Maybe this is just a cycle with weakfish. But we also need to remember that perhaps we can't manage everything. So there is, once again, no good news on the weakfish. As an optimist, I continue to hope.

Menhaden

Many of the decisions on menhaden are postponed until the new stock assessment is complete. There is a public hearing scheduled for July 7th in New Jersey. The meeting notice is below. Please read this carefully to know the exact content of the hearing. Nothing is proposed that would dramatically change the management of menhaden or change the quotas. Those issued will be dealt with in 2017.

ASMFC Urges Transparency and Public Input in Proposed New England Offshore Canyons & Seamounts Monument Decision Making Process

ASMFC Press Release, May 12, 2016
Contact: Tina Berger, 703.842.0740

Arlington, VA – In a May 9th letter to President Barack Obama, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) urged the President and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) for transparency and a robust opportunity for public input as the Administration considers designating a National Monument through its authority under the Antiquities Act. While details on the specific

location of the monument remain unknown, one potential area discussed centers around the New England offshore canyons and seamounts.

Currently, the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is drafting an Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment which considers protection of corals in and around the canyons of the Atlantic Ocean. At the request of the Council, the Commission conducted a survey of active offshore lobstermen to understand the potential impacts to the fishery should lobster traps be limited by the Draft Amendment. Preliminary results indicate a high dependence on the offshore canyons for revenue, with over \$15 million in revenue generated each year by fishermen targeting American lobster and Jonah crab in the canyons. Given that input from concerned stakeholders is a key component of the Council's decision-making process, the Commission strongly supports using the Council process to develop measures to protect the ecosystems within these deep waters.

If the President chooses to use the Antiquities Act to protect deep sea corals, the Commission requested the designated area be limited to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected. Additionally, the Commission requested the area be limited to depths greater than approximately 900 meters and encompass any or all of the region seaward of this line out to the outer limit of the exclusive economic zone. Further, the Commission asked that only bottom tending fishing effort be prohibited in the area and all other mid water/surface fishing methods (recreational and commercial) be allowed to continue in the area.

The May 9th letter to the President follows. For more information, please contact Megan Ware, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mware@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

ASMFC Releases Atlantic Menhaden Draft Addendum I for Public Comment

ASMFC Press Release, May 19, 2016
Contact: Tina Berger, 703.842.0740

Arlington, VA – The states of Rhode Island through Delaware have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum I to Amendment 2 the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Atlantic Menhaden. The details of those hearings follow.

Speak Up about the Bottom of the Food Chain!

*By Capt. Paul Eidman, Forage Fish
Committee Chairman*

**Mid Atlantic Council Unmanaged
Forage Fish Omnibus Amendment**
Public comment period ending 6/17/2016

Background and Timing

The public comment period for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC) Unmanaged Forage Fish Omnibus Amendment is under way. Feel free to use any of the below info in your letters.

The Goal of the amendment is: "To prohibit the development of new and expansion of existing directed commercial fisheries on unmanaged forage species in Mid-Atlantic Federal waters until the Council has had an adequate opportunity to both assess the scientific information relating to any new or expanded directed fisheries and consider potential impacts to existing fisheries, fishing communities, and the marine ecosystem."

In August 2016, the MAFMC will review public comment on the alternatives they have developed. This action should protect the marine food web in Mid-Atlantic waters, and ensure the conservation of many forage species.

Definition

Unmanaged forage species are "those which are not currently managed in any way by the Mid-Atlantic, New England, or South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, or by the ASMFC."

The MAFMC has proposed the following list of orders/families/species for protection: sand lances, anchovies, sardines, chub mackerel, false albacore, bullet mackerel, frigate mackerel, herrings, silversides, halfbeaks, greeneyes, pearlsides, lanternfishes, squids, cuttlefish, octopods, Atlantic saury, cusk eels, krill, copepods, amphipods, and all other species under one inch as adults.

The Draft Addendum proposes modifying the FMP's bycatch allowance provision. Specifically, it considers allowing two licensed individuals to harvest up to 12,000 pounds of menhaden bycatch when working from the same vessel fishing stationary, multi-species gear - limited to one vessel trip per day. Bycatch represents less than 2% of the total coastwide landings.

The practice of two permitted fishermen working together from the same vessel to harvest Atlantic menhaden primarily occurs in the Chesapeake Bay pound net fishery. This practice enables the fishermen to pool resources for fuel and crew. However, the practice is currently constrained by the FMP's bycatch allowance provision, which includes a 6,000 pound/vessel/day limit. The Draft Addendum seeks comment on whether the provision should be revised to accommodate the interests of fixed-gear fishermen who work together, as authorized by the states and jurisdictions in which they fish.

The intent of Draft Addendum I is to add flexibility to one element of the bycatch allowance provision while the Board prepares to address menhaden management more comprehensively through the development of Draft Amendment 3 to the FMP over the next two years. A subsequent press release on the public hearing schedule and Draft Addendum I availability will be distributed once state hearings have been scheduled.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The Draft Addendum can be obtained at [this link](#) or via the Commission's website, www.asmfc.org, under Public Input. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on July 11, 2016 and should be forwarded to Megan Ware, FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at mware@asmfc.org (Subject line: Draft Addendum I).

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
July 7, 2016 at 6:30 PM
Atlantic County Library (Galloway Twp. Branch)
306 East Jimmie Leeds Road
Galloway, New Jersey

Contact: Russ Allen at 609.748.2037.

Public Comment

Remember that each of your comments count

The MAFMC is taking public comment through June 17, 2016. Details on how to comment via mail, email and at public hearings, along with the list of species are at [this link](#).

Talking Points

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) should be commended for their effort to manage forage fish species in a forward thinking way. Forage fish are an important part any marine ecosystem, moving energy from the plankton they eat to the larger predators that eat them. Managing these species carefully in the U.S. Atlantic will help sustain the structure of the ecosystem, as well as ensure healthy managed fisheries for forage and predator species.

All of these species on the list (above) deserve protection under this amendment. Public comments can make the difference between species being included or left out. Explain the importance of particular species to you personally, your community, and your fishing experiences.

Recreational fishing is an important economic driver to coastal communities in the Mid-Atlantic region. Protecting unmanaged forage species from large scale fishing will help keep the regional ecosystem intact, and provide for abundant numbers of the predatory species anglers pursue. There is limited information on most of the species recommended for protections through this amendment. When data is not available, large-scale fishing should be prohibited until science and management are in place to make sure fishing levels allow for sustainability in the ecosystem. It is essential to understand impacts before directed fishing is allowed to occur.

Under current regulations, a fishery could open on any unmanaged forage species with no assessment of the impacts on the ecosystem or economy. These species are at risk from the growing demand for fish oil, feed for livestock and aquaculture, and bait, and there are currently no regulations to prevent industrial fishing. Boats that could easily start targeting these fish can pull in hundreds of thousands of pounds in one haul. A significant fishery could develop very quickly with completely unknown impacts to the species' own

population, the ecosystem, and the economy relying on sustainable fishing.

The economic impact of Recreational fishing is greatest when a large abundance of forage species and predators exist in a region for the longest period possible.

This action will ensure that fisheries managers can make sound decisions on the development of and expansion of forage fisheries, while limiting the unintended consequences on other predator based fisheries.

The MAFMC has developed wide range of alternatives. I support the following alternatives:

Inclusion of the Council's full list of Ecosystem Component Species as listed in the PHD:

- **Species:** *Scomberesox saurus* (Atlantic saury), *Euthynnus alletteratus* (false albacore), *Auxis thazard* (frigate mackerel), and *Auxis rochei* (bullet mackerel)
- **Families:** Engraulidae (anchovies), Argentinidae (argentines), Atherinopsidae (silversides), Ammodytidae (sand lances), Sternoptychidae (pearlsides, marine hatchetfishes), Chlorophthalmidae (greeneyes), Myctophidae (lanternfish), Clupeidae (herrings, shads, sardines, mullets), Moronidae (temperate basses), and Hemiramphidae (halfbeaks).
- **Orders:** Ophidiiformes (cusk eels).
- **Groups:** Copepods, krill, amphipods, and other species under 1 inch as adults: including the families of Calanidae (copepods) and Euphausiidae (euphausid krill), the orders: Amphipoda (amphipods) and isopoda (isopods), and the class Ostracoda (ostracods).
- **Pelagic molluscs including the families:** Ommastrephidae (arrow squid, all EXCEPT sharptail shortfin squid), Loliginidae (pencil squids), Sepiolidae (bobtail squids), Cranchiidae (glass squid), and Sepiidae (cuttlefish), and the orders: Octopoda (octopus), Gymnosomata (sea angels), and Thecosomata (sea butterflies).

Justification:

The continued inclusion of false albacore is of the utmost importance to the recreational fishing community. False albacore should be included by this

action until further protections are considered for these species through future council action. False albacore, frigate mackerel, and bullet mackerel are an important part of the regional food web as well.

Diet data does not capture a record of the forage role of false albacore, frigate, bullet mackerel because of the limited number of large pelagic predators that are sampled, and the inability to accurately identify silvery fish parts once consumed by predators. Not all forage is eaten whole, especially when consumed by toothy predators like bluefish.

We recognize that further management of HMS species like false albacore. et al. may be a future option for the Council to consider, but urge The Council to take this opportunity to protect these species now, instead of using limited staff resources to start another management action.

Alternative 2B:

Designate unmanaged forage as Ecosystem Component Species and implement an incidental possession limit, with a 1700-pound total cap and a 1500-pound cap on individual species.

Justification:

Incidental possession limits were derived through conversations at the Council, Committee, and AP level and represent a level of catch that will not burden already existing fisheries which interact with the species on the list, and are consistent with the Council’s intent to prevent the development of new fisheries, or expansion of existing.

Alternative 3Aii:

Manage chub mackerel as an Ecosystem Component Species, and enforce an incidental possession limit after an annual fishery-wide landings limit is met. The landing limit should be based on a 10-year average of landings, until further information about the roll chub play in the regional ecosystem, and biological data guides future changes of landing limits.

The incidental limit should not exceed 10k pounds.

Justification:

Chub mackerel abundance in the Mid-Atlantic Canyons coincide with a high abundance of predators which are the foundation of Mid-Atlantic large pelagic predator based offshore fisheries. The importance of chub mackerel to large pelagic

predators is understood by those who fish the region, but difficult to quantify.

A large level of managed forage species are harvested in the region at this time, and harvest levels are set based on single species assessments. Caution should be used when setting the levels of chub mackerel catch to ensure that the stability of the ecosystem is considered.

Alternative 4Cii:

For the development new fisheries and/or expansion of existing fisheries, the Council should develop a new policy for Council review of EFP applications.

Alternative 5B:

Requiring commercial fishing vessels to obtain a GARFO permit in order to possess any species designated as Ecosystem Component Species in the amendment.

Alternative 5Dii:

Define the southern boundary at Cape Hatteras.

Justification:

Cape Hatteras acts as a logical geographical and biological boundary, making it a more logical choice for this action rather than the NC/VA boundary.

Alternatives 5E i-iv: Framework-able items

- List of EC Species
- Possession limits and landing limits
- Spatial and seasonal closures
- Recreational fishing regulations

Justification:

By making the 4 items above framework able the Council can make future changes as necessary to stay within the intended scope of this action.

5Ei: The list of species was determined after a long and thorough process. The EFP process should be utilized for future changes to the list of species.

Questions and or assistance please reach out to:
Capt. Paul Eidman
paulyfish@reeltherapy.com
732 614 3373

NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

By John Toth

On behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, I attended the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) meeting that was held on April 25th. I also chaired this meeting as its president. The following issues were discussed:

Sandy Hook Bay Natural Marine Sanctuary

I briefed the NJOA member organizations that Mr. Rick Van Hemmen has not given up his quest to make the Sandy Hook Bay a sanctuary. He has been meeting with local municipalities to gain their support for it. While there is talk that he will never get this sanctuary off the ground, I indicated that we need to keep an eye on him. While environmental groups that we are familiar with have remained quiet so far about supporting him, that can easily change overnight and support for it can start to pick up steam. I think of the story about the tortoise and the hare and nobody expected the tortoise to win the race. Confident about winning the race, the hare took a nap while the tortoise slowly but surely inched away to cross the finish line and win the race. We cannot take a nap on this sanctuary issue and we will continue to keep it up on our radar screen.

Movement of the Department of Fish & Wildlife (F&W) under the Agricultural Natural and Resources Department

As reported in our March JCAA newsletter, there was discussion at a NJ Marine Fisheries Council meeting to move Fish & Wildlife under the Agricultural Department. Thankfully, this movement eventually lacked the political backing it needed to make it happen and the F&W will continue to remain under the NJ DEP. Placing it under the Agricultural Department makes no sense since it has no professional background or expertise in wildlife management. JCAA's Legislative Chairman, Tom Fote, and I have testified several times in Trenton against this movement that keeps on coming up over the years. It is not helpful for recreational anglers, but it is more beneficial for the commercial industry. While stopped at this time, I do

think, unfortunately, we will see this political power grab again and we will speak out against it.

Trap Survey on Two Artificial Reefs

I reported that our state's Division of Fish & Wildlife and researches from Rutgers University have deployed a series of fish traps on two reefs to focus on several species of great recreational and commercial importance that includes black sea bass, blackfish, lobster and other commercially important species occurring on the reefs. The two locations are the Little Egg and Sea Girt reefs. A total of 22 traps have been placed on the reefs and will remain in place until November 22nd. The results from this project will be useful for better understanding the workings of the artificial reefs and their future deployment at other sites. This survey is being funded by the NJ DEP.

2016 New Jersey Marine Digest

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife has made available the complete 2016 Marine Issue of the Fish and Wildlife Digest. To download the digest, find out more about it or other information related to it then visit [this page](#) at the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife.

For your convenience, here are some additional links:

- [Complete 2016 Marine Issue of the Fish and Wildlife DIGEST](#)
- [Marine Digest PDF Segments page](#)
- [2016 Marine Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary Sheet](#)
- [2016 Commercial Marine Fishing Regulations](#)
- [2016 Marine Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits and Seasons Summary Card](#)
- [Past Issues of the New Jersey Marine Digest](#)

Note: This Digest is available photocopied in an enlarged format for the visually impaired. To request a black and white, large format Digest, write to: NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, Large Format Marine Digest, Mail Code 501-03, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420.

Sportsperson of the Year Dinner

By Paul Turi, Co-Chairman

On Sunday, **November 13th, 2016** we will be having our Sportsperson of the Year Dinner. Again, the dinner will be held at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant from 4:00-8:00PM. We are now accepting nominations for this year's sportsperson of the year. We will vote at our September general membership meeting. If you want to nominate someone, please submit a bio of approximately 250 words. The nomination can be presented at any general membership meeting or can be emailed to the JCAA office or directly to me at pturi72@gmail.com. We will take nominations right up until the September General Membership Meeting.

Super 50-50 Raffle

By Don Marantz

Our Super 50-50 tickets are on sale. Tickets are \$10.00 each. This will be an all cash prize. There will be three winners. Tickets can be obtained by calling the office and tickets will be mailed to you or see your club rep. We will also be doing a mailing in September with tickets.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

NJ HOFNOD YOUTH FISHING CHALLENGE

The Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program's Youth Fishing Challenge is a statewide event to promote fishing among youths and their families. In 2016 it is being held on the first of the state's two Free Fishing Days, Saturday, June 11, when no license is required to fish regardless of age. Registered youth participants will be eligible to receive prizes for the fish they catch during the event. Youths must be present at the conclusion of the event to be awarded prizes. Those who are lucky enough to catch a trout tagged as part of the "Hook-A-Winner" Program will receive a special prize

following the event. Extra volunteers will be needed at Leonardo State Marina, 102 Concord Ave., Leonardo, NJ 07737, phone: 732-291-1333, [website](#). Event locations and information are listed at [this link](#).

If you would like to volunteer time with a NJ HOFNOD group to support the 2016 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.

2016 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

The JCAA Youth Education Committee is accepting nominations for the 2016 Youth Education Award. It takes the support of many volunteers to bring successes to the fishing community but sometimes individuals and sport-fishing organizations go above and beyond to make the future of fishing better for our youngsters. Criteria: Promoting "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs (HOFNOD)," Certified HOFNOD instructors, number of fishing or aquatic education events, JCAA lending library usage, and creativity for promoting youth fishing events. Submit your nominations in writing (250-500 words) and email the JCAA Youth Education Committee, gkucharews@jcaa.org.

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO HOFNOD

This is the seventeenth year the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Chairman is invited to visit the University of Toledo and assist with their National Youth Sports Program NYSP, Youth Fishing Program.

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

NATIONAL FISHING & BOATING WEEK

JUNE 4 – 12, 2016

NF&BW Free Fishing Days in New Jersey have changed to June 11 and October 15, 2016. The first FREE day will be held on June 11, 2016. This

day is part of the National Fishing and Boating Week which highlights the importance of recreational boating and fishing to enhance peoples' quality of life and to preserve our country's natural beauty.

The second Free Fishing Day will occur after fall trout stocking on October 15, 2016 to bring attention to this great fishing opportunity. On these two days, residents and non-residents may fish New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations, including size and daily catch limits, remain in effect.

Residents and non-residents may fish the public waters of New Jersey without a license or trout Stamp. All other regulations apply. For those anglers just starting out, the Division of Fish and Wildlife offers many programs and classes to advance from beginner to expert. The Pequest State Trout Hatchery in Oxford, Warren County offers free fishing programs. Pequest offers a Natural Resource Education Center with a variety of exhibits and displays on wildlife, a butterfly garden, picnic areas and hiking trails. There is also a handicapped-accessible fishing site along the Pequest River. Last year the J.C.A.A. Youth Education Committee coordinated fishing and aquatic education programs for the week-long celebration of National Fishing Week. This year we will be working with students in Monmouth and Ocean County. Member clubs that wish to conduct a National Fishing Week program can phone 732-785-9278 and we will guide your organization through the process. Phone if you have questions and please record your event. Let the JCAA Youth Education Committee know how many National Fishing Week participants supported your program.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS

The Jersey Shore Chapter of Project Healing Waters is reaching out to veterans that would like to learn about fly casting. They will meet the first Sunday of every month – 10:00 – 1200 Noon at Lake Como, NJ. Everyone is asked to meet at the Gazebo on the Lake. For more information, visit their [website](#).

YOUTH ACTIVITIES JUNIOR MATES TRAINING PROGRAM

The Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association will have their organizational meeting for their Junior Mate Training Program at 7 p.m., Thursday, June 23, 2016 at the New Jersey Maritime

Museum, Dock Road West Ave., Beach Haven, NJ. The BHCFA Junior Mate Program is co-sponsored by Berkley Fishing and offers more opportunity for junior mates to become better anglers. Youngsters must register for the Junior Mate program and applicants must have parental signatures and permission forms completed. For more information about the Junior Mate program, please phone: Capt. John Lewis at 609-670-5980 or Capt. Jimmy Zavacky at 609-915-2498, visit www.BHCFA.com.

BOATING EDUCATION AND RESCUE (B.E.A.R.)

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will assist NJ HOFNOD Boating, Education, And Rescue (B.E.A.R.) by providing assistance during the NJ HOFNOD Fishing Challenge June 11, 2016.

Debbie and Mike Bennett are NJ HOFNOD certified instructors and host by-weekly boating/fishing and environment learning sessions for approximately 60 youngsters.

SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 6, 2016

JCAA ANNUAL FLUKE TOURNAMENT

