

JCAA NEWSPAPER NOVEMBER 2016

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on October 24th, 2016)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, October 25th, 2016

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Jersey Coast Shark Anglers

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 10th, 2016

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

**OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.
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This publication is printed and mailed one week prior to each regular monthly meeting of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. One of the prime goals of JCAA is to get accurate information into public hands as soon as possible.

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

## **2016 OFFICERS**

|                            |              |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>           | John Toth    | 732-656-0139 |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b> | Ken Warchal  | 908-715-0791 |
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| <b>Tournament Dir.</b>     | Paul Turi    | 609-660-2126 |

**Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**October 25<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**November 10<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

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

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

**December 8<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**December 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>** Joint MAFMC/ASMFC Meeting  
Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Baltimore

**December 27<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

## **Sportsperson of the Year Dinner**

*By Paul Turi, Co-Chairman*

On Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 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. Tickets are \$75.00 per person and \$650 for a table of 10. To reserve your tickets call Dan Miller at (609) 641-7821 or email Dan at [blueangray@comcast.net](mailto:blueangray@comcast.net).

Pete Grimбилas, Chairman of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, will be honored as this year's Sportsperson-of-the-Year.

Carl Bruger will receive this year's Youth Education Award.

We will also be presenting JCAA Lifetime Achievement Awards to two deceased members of JCAA, Ed Cherry and John Koegler. Both men worked tirelessly for JCAA over the years and that service will be recognized at the dinner.

I am also in need of door prizes and Chinese Auction and Silent Auction prizes. If you have something to donate, please contact me at (609) 709-9215 or email me at [pturi72@gmail.com](mailto:pturi72@gmail.com). Remember, bring your significant other. I always have prizes for the ladies too.

## President's Report

*By John Toth*

Our JCAA Sportsperson of the Year dinner is scheduled for November 13th (Sunday) starting at 4:00 p.m. at the Crystal Point Yacht Club in Point Pleasant. We have two individuals who are most deserving of their awards and they are Captain Pete Grimbilas who is the Chairman of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) and Carl Bruger from the Hudson River Fisherman's Association (HRFA). Pete has worked so hard in freeing our artificial reefs from commercial traps among many of his accomplishments. Carl Bruger will receive the JCAA's Youth Education Award for all of his work in getting youths interested in fishing. Both of these fine gentlemen deserve our recognition for their efforts in promoting the sport we all love. So come on out to this dinner that has good food, be with your fishing friends and give your support to these two individuals who should be recognized for all of the good work that they do! More details on this dinner are in this newsletter.

At the October 5th meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council (MAMFC), there was an expectation that the 13 artificial reefs in federal waters would be classified as Special Management Zones and all commercial activity prohibited on these reefs. There was hope that this meeting would be the closing chapter on a long story about artificial reefs that has gone on for about 9 years. Now the MAMFC wants to hold public hearings and also receive public comments on the use of these 13 reefs. While disappointing, the JCAA and the NJOA will work together to hopefully bring this story to a satisfactory conclusion. More details on this October 5th hearing are in this newsletter.

On September 21st, I was invited to be on the Miss Michelle (sailing from Point Pleasant) to witness the sinking of the boat, **Austin**, that created a new reef on the Axel-Carlson reef. This boat was sunk in memory of John Grady, a beloved angler in the fishing community, who died at 39 years due to leukemia. His friends built a **12 foot cross made of black walnut** that was affixed to the **top of this vessel** and it had their personal messages to him engraved on the cross. We all have lost fishing friends and some very good ones, but I have never

heard of friends doing this type of beautiful remembrance for their fellow angler.

On board the Miss Michelle were his family, DEP Commissioner Bob Martin and his staff, Grady's friends, and staff from the JCAA and NJOA. This sinking of the Austin was also covered by TV channels 2, 5 and 12. It was also very touching to see a number of boats circled around the Austin to witness its sinking (the Gambler, Jamaica, private boats, etc.). As the Austin went below the waves, all of these vessels blew their horns out of respect for John Grady. I will keep this scene in my memory for quite some time!

## Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

*By Thomas Fote*

### Annual ASMFC Meeting Preview

By the time you read this newspaper, the Annual Meeting for ASMFC may be completed. I will cover the content of the meeting in the next newspaper but you can read the meeting summaries and press releases at the ASMFC website. You can also sign up to receive them by email. We will be discussing Striped Bass, Menhaden and many other species.

The meeting that concerns me the most is Summer Flounder. I received an email before I left with the preliminary data on Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass catches. According to the preliminary table I received, New Jersey needs to reduce its Summer flounder catch in 2017 by 21%, New York's reduction needs a 59% and Connecticut's 66% reduction. If the new addendum puts New Jersey back in a region with New York and Connecticut, the overall region reduction will be 56%. We are actually subsidizing them by allowing them to fish on smaller fish while we confine our catch to a greatly reduced catch. It should be an interesting discussion since the management tool for Summer Flounder expires annually and another addendum will be required. It is interesting the NMFS allowed Massachusetts to leave a region with Rhode Island thus allowing them not to have to subsidize Rhode Island. But they did not allow New Jersey to leave the region with New York and Connecticut. Read what comes out of the meeting. There will probably be the start of an addendum for a vote at the December or February meetings and there will be public hearings and a comment period. You

need to make your voice heard by attending the public meetings.

## **NJ Bureau of Marine Fisheries in Trouble**

Brandon Muffley is leaving as Director of the Bureau of Marine Fisheries to take a job at the Mid Atlantic Council. I also understand there are three senior staff members who may retire in 2017. Because the NJ Bureau of Marine Fisheries has not received a proper budget allocation in many years, we don't have staff to step into these jobs and fill the jobs behind them. It is my belief that the lack of sufficient personnel to do the job required is demoralizing and that we continue to lose good people. In 1981 there was a 3.1 million dollar budget for Marine Fisheries. In 2016, we would need much more than 3.1 to just remain status quo but just the opposite has happened. The current budget is actually about half of the dollars allocated in 1981. We have lost at least 25% of the personnel who are doing a job I believe that is at least 10 times harder and requires more staff and not less because of the management plans that were not in existence in 1981. In 2017 we are electing a new Governor and all the members of the Senate and the Assembly. This is our opportunity to ask every candidate about their plans for the Bureau of Marine Fisheries and their commitment to a budget that would sustain the work that needs to be done. The current Senate and Assembly will have created the 2017 budget before the next election. You need to attend the budget hearings this winter and hold their feet to the fire. Some of the people running for Governor are currently in the Senate, Assembly or the Governor's Office and could have an impact on this budget. Watch what they do carefully.

## **First Two Articles Below Are a Must Read**

The first article below is by Jeff Angers and is about EDF and its goal of privatization of the public resource. EDF's real goal is the reduction in number of recreational anglers, party boats and charter boats and also the reduction in the number of commercial fishermen and their boats. After reading Jeff's article you should go to [this link](#) and read the excellent in depth articles by Ben Raines of EDF's actions in the Gulf.

JCAA has always realized the reason we have a strong recreational and commercial fishery in the United States is because all wildlife are a

resource that belongs to the public. Unlike Europe and other parts of the world, the wildlife is not owned by the wealthy or the rulers. It belongs to all of us. That is why the number of recreational anglers is larger in the United States than any place else in the world. Many years ago, NMFS began to privatize the resources by giving individual fisheries quotas in certain fisheries. This allowed individuals or companies to own resources by permits and suddenly the permits became valuable commodities. The first example in the United States was the surf clam fishery. What I saw was a few people acquiring permits and using those permits to make money without compensating the public. As corporations began buying or leasing the permits, consolidation of the permits drove hundreds of commercial fishermen and boats out of the fishery. The owners of the permits were focused only on the short-term gain without looking at the long-term impact on commercial fishermen. NMFS pushed this plan since managing a few permit holders is easier than managing a larger commercial fishery.

As NMFS widened the number of species for which they issued permits to reduce their workload, they began to focus on the recreational fishery as well. EDF decided this was a great way to manage the fishery and reduce the number of commercial and recreation anglers. Unlike other environmental groups, EDF does not care that fish are a public resource that should not belong to a few. Other NGO's felt that safeguards were needed to safeguard the concept of a public resource. They encouraged auctions, a clause that would not allow a monetary value for permits if they were sold or leased, and recurring auctions to disallow the creation of monopolies. EDF broke with the other NGO's to support privatization with no safeguards. Some of you might not remember that EDF supported the Port Authority of NY and NJ in dumping Agent Orange into the Atlantic off New Jersey. There was also a proposal from one of their environmental lawyers to dump the contents of the Gowanus Canal at the Mud Dump. EDF lost all of its credibility with recreational anglers from New York and New Jersey with their lack of environmental concern and they have done nothing since to repair that lack of credibility.

In the Gulf, EDF started pushing for IFQs (Individual Fisheries Quotas). What they found was that there were some party and charter boat captains and commercial fishermen who were willing to support EDF because there was a monetary gain for

them. The three articles by Ben Raines discuss this in great detail. EDF plans to expand the areas where they encourage this process. This would be very bad for recreational anglers. It would cut back on their choices, it would make party and charter boats more expensive and it would privatize the resource. The recreational fishing industry and many of its organizations are pushing to increase the recreational anglers in the United States with the 60 Million in 60 Months initiative. This was a big topic at the ASA Summit and the initiative received overwhelming support from everyone in attendance. By turning the recreational fishery into IFQs, the number of anglers will decrease and the number of party and charter boats will decrease.

**The second article** is an excerpt from The Atlantic that looked into flaws in the trawl surveys. When I first got involved in fisheries management almost 40 years ago, we knew that the way we always sampled was flawed, especially on certain species. With the first management plan for Black Sea Bass in 1990, we realized the present surveys were not getting a good estimate of the stocks of Black Sea Bass and Scup. Twenty-two years later we still have the same problem because we have not improved the way we sea sample. Instead we keep designing models to manage the flawed data. The [full article](#) in The Atlantic covers this issue in depth. Anyone who has ever questioned the trawl surveys needs to read this article. Anyone who has questions about how we manage this species will better understand the problems we face after reading this article.

## EDF Has Gone Rogue

by Jeff Angers, Center for Coastal Conservation

It sounds like something straight out of a George Orwell novel.

The federal fisheries management system subverted by token commercial operators paid for by a radical environmentalist group. Their mission – build an elaborate system of shell organizations to profess their desire to work for the greater good. Revise history to match their narrative. Pay the few to pretend to speak for the many. Buy science to support the facade. Transform the entire process from the inside and label non-believers the enemy.

“War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength.” This quote from Orwell’s classic 1984

aptly sums up the upside-down world of federal fisheries management very well.

In Orwell’s dark vision of the future, the world is dominated by a power structure led by a few at the top that seek to subvert the truth for their greater good. We can certainly see shades of that at the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, where it is often difficult to tell the environmentalists and commercial fishermen from those who are supposed to manage our marine resources for the public.

Many of us have watched the Gulf Council tie itself in knots and are baffled by the results of this transformation. How can it be that a small group of commercial operators bankrolled by an environmental group has been allowed to exploit the federal management system not for the greater good, but for the greater good of their own pocketbooks? How is it possible that a few are allowed to be owners of public marine resources?

The road to this dark present is finally exposed in an excellent article by Ben Raines, How a 'rogue' environmental group transformed American fisheries. This is the third AL.com feature in an ongoing series by Raines that attempts to shine a light on the corruption of the federal fisheries management system. Here is [the link](#).

It should be the stuff of fantasy, but the Raines article shows that the reality is grim. If we don’t find a way to derail the current direction of federal fisheries management, we risk handing control of America’s public marine resources to a small, shadowy cadre of operatives bent on enriching themselves and leaving the rest of us tied to the dock.

## How Many Fish are in the Sea?

by Nicola Twilley and Cynthia Graber,  
The Atlantic, 10/5/2016

For more than five decades, research ships have sampled the seas. In the 1960s, the organization that would become the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, began counting fish. They set up a system that was, at the time, achievable and cost effective: For any given region, NOAA scientists charted a specific path through the ocean to trawl and sample the fish in exactly the same spots every year, and using the same type of nets. This way, any changes they observed in the size of the catches would most likely be due to declining or increasing fish populations overall, rather than because the trawl had stumbled upon the



spawning grounds of a particularly populous school of cod, or because a new type of net inadvertently picked up more hake than the previous net did.

There have been some advances in NOAA's counting technology over the decades, most notably in the transition away from a waterproof pencil-and-paper system. Until 2001, ankle deep in sloshing water, fish, and fish guts, with the boat rocking with the wind and waves, biologists had to record the species, sex, length, and weight of each fish by hand. Once ashore, they submitted the papers for input into computers, which took up to three months to complete. "There were a lot of avenues for errors to creep in," said Nancy McHugh, a fishery biologist at NOAA.

McHugh, one of the developers of FSCS (Fisheries Scientific Computer System), the onboard computerized system used today, recalled that in 1999, she and some colleagues sat around a restaurant table in Mobile, Alabama, on a work trip to study electronic data capture systems. "While eating fried pickles, we took all the sugar packets and hot sauce and ketchup and mustard, and we created a set-up of what happens to fish as it goes from the net to a basket, to being weighed, to being measured." Ketchup and mustard bottles moved like chess pieces across the table as the scientists played out their data needs and processes. Two years later, she and her colleagues launched the first iteration of FSCS (pronounced "fiscus"). Today, as we saw aboard the *Miss Emily*, FSCS can automatically capture weight and length, and scientists tap buttons on a touchscreen to fill in all the other necessary data about each animal. But aside from these computerized systems for logging catches, and advanced sensors that are attached to trawl nets to make sure the net is functioning properly, the NOAA count is essentially unchanged from the original 1960s trawls.

The data that emerges from those trawls is, of course, a sample rather than a census. "The ocean is a big place," says Chris Legault, who studies population dynamics for NOAA. "We can't go out and count each individual fish. And so we have to get at it indirectly in order to figure out how many fish are out there." Over the decades since the trawls began, NOAA researchers have developed models that combine trawl results with commercial catch statistics, as well as what they know about that species' biology, to arrive at an estimate of how many fish can be pulled out, while still maintaining

healthy stocks. (In other parts of the world, unlike in the U.S. where a scientific agency is tasked with counting fish, governments rely solely on the data from fishermen themselves. It's called "catch per unit effort" basically how many fish are caught given a certain amount of time and effort spent fishing. That number is included in decisions in the U.S. as well, but it's primarily a supplement to the numbers that come from the scientists.)

But there are problems with NOAA's trawl system. Trawls are most efficient when the seabed is flat. Yet many commercially important species live in untrawlable rocky, craggy habitats. In addition, highly migratory species, such as tuna, range too widely and spend most of their time higher in the water column to be sampled using the trawl method—and so the numbers used to inform regulations of those species depend entirely on fishermen's catch. But scientists say that relying on catch numbers from fishermen presents an inherent sampling bias: Fishermen tend to congregate where the fish are, and avoid areas devoid of fish, so commercial catches could remain high even as fish disappear from their former habitats.

There's yet another issue. While the sample captured by research trawls is a small fraction of the overall commercial catch, some scientists say it's wasteful, as most of the fish, after being hauled up to the surface, die even when thrown back overboard. This becomes a more significant concern in areas where fish populations are particularly low.

The biggest problem, however, is that scientists need to be able to accurately track trends over time, and so the methodology needs to be almost exactly the same, year after year. In effect, NOAA locked themselves into the 1960s counting system. "It's old technology," says Elizabeth Clarke, senior scientist at NOAA Fisheries in Seattle. Today, however, NOAA's fish counting technology is finally on the verge of entering the 21st century albeit with the 1960s trawl still in tow.

Read the [full story here](#) at The Atlantic.

## **New Report Urges Modernization in Federal Fisheries Management**

ASA Press Release: October 19, 2016  
Contact Mary Jane Williamson, 703.519.9691 x227

*Series of recommendations for next Administration and Congress urge improvements to public access that create jobs and enhance conservation*

Alexandria, VA – October 19, 2016 – The Center for Coastal Conservation, along with the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) and the nation’s leading marine conservation and trade associations, today released a landmark series of recommendations for the incoming Administration and the new Congress that strive to balance improving access to public waters, creating economic growth and enhancing the conservation of marine fish stocks. The guidance for federal policy makers in A Vision for Marine Fisheries Management in the 21st Century: Priorities for a New Administration calls for an end to antiquated federal policies that have inhibited a vital source of economic growth and a proud American tradition.

We are deeply committed to ensuring a bright future for marine recreational fishing, said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Coastal Conservation. It’s a critical component of our economy, and it’s a proud part of America’s heritage of conservation. The recommendations in this report will ensure that we as a nation do all we can to continue this legacy. •

The Vision report highlights the economic value of recreational fishing in coastal waters. Today, 11 million American anglers fish for recreation in saltwater. From license sales to retail sales, the recreational saltwater fishing industry contributes more than \$70 billion annually in economic activity and generates 455,000 jobs. However, outdated federal management policies threaten to stem this positive economic trend.

The report recommends a shift away from using the same tools to manage commercial fishing and recreational fishing at the federal level. New approaches should reflect the reality of demand for recreational access to our marine fishery resources, the current economic activity associated with that access, and the scientific data of the light footprint recreational access has on our fishery resources.

While progress has been made in recent years to improve saltwater recreational fisheries management, many important opportunities and challenges remain, said ASA President and CEO Mike Nussman. We look forward to working with the next Administration to fully develop our outdoor economy including embracing the important role that saltwater recreational fishing plays in creating jobs and promoting sustainable enjoyment of our nation’s fisheries resources. •

Fishing is a treasured pastime and tradition for millions of Americans and needs to be treated as such, continued Angers. The new Administration and Congress should take steps to keep this tradition alive for the benefit of all those who enjoy fishing, for the hundreds of thousands employed in the recreational fishing industry, and for future generations of anglers who will fall in love with the sea. •

## **New NOAA Fisheries Guidelines Should Improve Federal/Marine Fisheries Management**

ASA Press Release: October 13, 2016  
Contact Mary Jane Williamson, 703.519.9691 x227

*Agency takes several steps toward addressing concerns with overly-rigid management approaches*

The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) today applauded NOAA Fisheries for updating and improving the guidelines it and the regional fishery management councils use for developing fishery management plans for the nation’s federal marine fisheries. The final revisions to National Standard 1 and related guidelines of the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) address several challenges that have arisen in marine fisheries management over the last decade due to requirements in the law and the agency’s interpretation of them.

We commend NOAA Fisheries for making meaningful improvements to the National Standard guidelines, which should improve recreational fishing opportunities for federally managed marine fisheries while ensuring the nation is still achieving our strong fisheries conservation standards, said Mike Leonard, ASA’s Conservation director. Many of the proposed changes address issues identified through the engagement that NOAA Fisheries has made with the recreational fishing community in recent years, and more specifically the recommendations of the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management, more commonly known as the Morris-Deal Commission. •

The revised guidelines address many of the recommendations offered by ASA and others in the recreational fishing community, including:

- Allowing changes to catch limits to be gradually phased in over up to three years, as long as overfishing is prevented.
- Increasing latitude, based on the biology of the fish stock, in setting timelines for rebuilding programs.
- Providing flexibility for better managing data-limited stocks while adhering to conservation requirements.
- Allowing for greater stability in fishing regulations through guidance on considering multiple years when determining overfishing status.

We look forward to working with NOAA Fisheries and the councils to incorporate this new guidance into future management actions, including revisiting past actions, said Leonard.

While these revisions represent progress, they do not preclude the need for modifications to MSA to more fully address challenges with federal fisheries management, like providing limited exemptions for annual catch limits, allowing use of alternative management approaches in recreational fisheries and establishing a process for examining allocations. We continue to call on Congress to reauthorize MSA and fix these persisting challenges in federal fisheries management.

**Report on Ethanol going from  
10% to 15%**  
*By John Toth*

Fish Hawks' representatives Bill Browne and Marc Sherry (Mickey) asked the JCAA to get involved in stopping the Environmental Protection Agency from increasing the amount of ethanol in our nation's fuel industry from 10% to 15% in 2017. Marc Sherry has been in touch with a legislator who is leading the charge in Congress to stop this from happening. Working with Marc's input on this issue and receiving more input from JCAA's Paul Eidman, I wrote the letter below requesting our New Jersey's legislators to sign on to the legislative effort in progress to stop ethanol from going to 15% since we all know how destructive ethanol is, especially to our marine industry. I want to thank the Fish Hawks for bringing this important matter to JCAA's attention!

**Letter to all NJ Congressmen & Senators**

October 15 2016

Dear Congressman:

The purpose of this letter is to enlist your support of Bill H.R. 704 sponsored by Representative Goodlatte that amends the Clean Air Act "To eliminate the certain requirements under the renewable fuel program, to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from approving the introduction into commerce of gasoline that contains greater than 10-volume-percent ethanol." This request is on behalf of thousands of anglers that belong to the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) and other fishing organizations listed below.

While the intention of producing ethanol to lessen our country's dependence on foreign oil, especially from those that are hostile to America, there are unintended consequences from the use of ethanol. Ethanol is especially destructive in the marine environment. It damages marine engines, and is corrosive to rubber and certain metals. More specifically, it damages fuel lines, injectors, seals, gaskets, and carburetors to name a few. The cost to repair this equipment is not only a huge and unnecessary burden for all anglers, but it is also very frustrating to know that the EPA wants to raise the amount of ethanol from 10% to 15% in our fuel system in the very near future! This insanity has to Stop!

Not only is the marine industry adversely affected by ethanol, it has a domino effect that is hurting our nation's consumers, energy users, livestock producers, food manufacturers, retailers, and natural resources. This is a kitchen table issue - impacting every American family trying to make financial decisions. From higher food costs to wear and tear on the family car and other equipment that the family uses resulting in less money for other purchases. Our nation has hit the "blend wall" or the point which we can no longer blend more ethanol into gasoline at levels safe for all engines.

What is not discussed here in detail is the negative effects that ethanol has on our environment including more emissions than gasoline and the huge amounts of farm land required to produce it. Listing these negative effects would require more than one page, but they can be readily available through minimal research.

This is not a Democratic or a Republican issue. It is an issue that affects all Americans and we need your support to sign on to and to also promote Bill H.R. 704 with your Congressional colleagues across the aisles.

Sincerely,

John Toth, President, JCAA  
President, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA)  
President, Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County  
[tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net), 732.656.0139

CC: To All NJ Congressmen & Senators

**MAFMC Meeting**  
**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
*By Ken Warchal*

JCAA representatives were out in force at the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) meeting held on 10/05/16 at the Stockton Country Club in Galloway Twp., NJ. Individuals from member clubs present were John Toth, Paul Haertel, Bill Figley, Pete Grimbalis, Glenn Arthur, Ron Knachmann, Paul Eidman, Noel Angelucci, Tim Burden, Tom Trageser and myself.

Two major items of interest on the agenda were (1) granting SMZ status to the artificial reef located in federal waters i.e. the EEZ and (2) inclusion of river herring and shad as managed forage fish under the auspices of the Council.

In regards to the reef issue, the MAFMC's SMZ Monitoring Team studied the problem and recommended that all pots be removed from all reefs. It appears that the majority of the Council concurs.

Garden State Seafood Association (GSSA), representing the commercial sector, objects to this and suggested another option. They propose that the reefs be divided amongst the user groups as stated in their written comments: "GSSA recommends the MAMFC consider dividing the reefs equally among the four primary user groups (3 dive reefs, 3 For Hire Charter, 3 Recreational, and 3 Commercial) and set the one remaining reef as a scientific no take zone. Thus each user group would be allocated three reefs one north, one south, and one centrally located as equitably as possible."

There will be a series of public meetings and opportunity to comment. The dates and locations of the public hearings are as follows:

- Tuesday November 15, 2016, 7:00-9:30 p.m., Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Blvd., Brooklyn NY 11235, Room M239 of the Marina and Academic Center (The Lighthouse).
- Wednesday November 16, 2016, 7:00-10:00 p.m., Clarion Hotel & Conference Center, 815 Route 37 West, Toms River, NJ 08755.
- Thursday November 17, 2016, 7:00-10:00 p.m., Congress Hall, 200 Congress Place, Cape May, NJ 08204.

Written comments will be accepted until Friday, November 25, 2016, 11:59 p.m. and may be sent by any of the following methods:

- Mail to Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE, 19901 (include "NJ SMZ Request" on envelope);
- Fax to Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council at fax number 302-674-5399 (include "NJ SMZ Request" in the subject line); or
- Email to Rich Seagraves at [rseagraves@mafmc.org](mailto:rseagraves@mafmc.org) (include "NJ SMZ Request" in the subject line).

We will stay on top of this and keep you informed. Below is my testimony on behalf of all recreational anglers.

"My name is Ken Warchal. I live in Point Pleasant and have been a saltwater fishing enthusiast all my adult life. I am an active volunteer member in the following organizations:

- Jersey Coast Anglers Assoc., Vice President
- Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club, Trustee
- Ocean Reef Foundation of NJ, Co-founder, Secretary

"JCAA is an association of fishing clubs and organizations representing thousands of NJ salt water anglers.



“MRMTC is a fishing club having 225 members. We are very active in the artificial reef program having funded 11 deployments. The most recent one was NY Harbor Charlie which is a 65’ crew boat sunk on the Axel Carlson reef on August 8th of this year. It was a memorial honoring one of our past principal members.

“ORFNJ is a newly formed non-profit organization created to facilitate funding for reef deployments in NJ. On September 21 of this year we sank the Austin, a 68’ trawler, on the Axel Carlson reef. This too was a memorial to the son of a local fishing family.

My testimony today is on behalf of all three organizations.

“We fully support the SMZ Monitory Team’s recommendation to designate SMZ status to the 13 artificial reefs located in the EEZ. We urge the Council to accept their recommendations. We would like the potting conflict resolved so that funding may be restored for these reefs so that organizations such as ours can add deployments to these reefs.

“As you are aware, the numerous pots are a major hindrance to recreational fishing. I can say, from personal experience, that the pots on the Sea Girt and Shark River reefs prevent anglers from fishing the very structures that were sunk to create these reefs as they are surrounded by pot lines and traps. The pot lines are poorly marked and the markers are difficult to see. Many of the markers on the Shark River reef consist of plastic bottles strung together. While the income to the commercial fishing industry may be considered de minimis as pointed out in the SMZ Monitoring Team report, the interference with recreational fishing is very significant.

“Another consideration as to why the pots should be removed is due to current and proposed sandmining projects for beach replenishment and dune construction. Natural lumps are being mined causing loss of marine habitat. This reduces or eliminates very popular fishing areas. Recreational anglers are frustrated with the constant reductions of bag limits, size limits and length of seasons; some warranted; some not. Now we are faced with sandmining projects that are destroying the very habitat where fish aggregate. Just last week, the ACOE put out for bid the Manasquan Inlet to Barnegat Inlet beachfill project. Two natural lumps, Borrow Areas D and E have a combined area of 554 acres, will be destroyed. A third lump, Borrow Area

B is a “Prime Fishing Area” as designated in the Coastal Zone Management Rules. It is 360 acres in size and consists of 7.5 million cu. yds of sand. On this lump, only, and I say this facetiously, 5 million cu. yds will be removed. As more and more natural fishing habitat is removed, the greater the importance the artificial reefs become to the recreational angler.

“The reefs were built by virtue of the Sportfishing Restoration Act and the Sportfishing Restoration Program. The Program is funded with recreational dollars. Its’ sole purpose is to restore sportfishing, not commercial potting, as a “user pays; user benefits” program. The Artificial Reef Program was very successful up until this conflict was created. It’s now time for the pots to be moved off the artificial reefs and for us to get back to reef building.

“We urge the Council to join the ranks of Delaware, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida in designating New Jerseys artificial reefs as Special Management Zones.

“Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth F. Warchal 17 Bay Point Harbour Point Pleasant, NJ 08742 908-715-0791

## **Update on Sand Mining**

*By John Toth*

I reported to you in an earlier JCAA newsletter that a meeting was held on July 28th with Commissioner Bob Martin and his staff on our concerns with sand mining and the harmful effects that it has on historic fishing grounds. We were told that another meeting would be held with our stakeholders, including the commercial industry, to look at alternate locations for sand mining that would be much less harmful to productive fishing lumps/locations.

I have been in recent contact with a DEP engineer who is very involved in mapping the alternate locations that we are seeking. He informed me that a stakeholders meeting will be held around mid-November to review these locations. He also told me that this is a complicated process that includes the Army Corps. of Engineers, the NJ DEP, and the Federal Bureau of Energy Management (BOEM) who has a big say on taking sand in federal waters. This engineer has been in contact with the Corps and BOEM to receive their input on alternate locations.

I will update you on the results of this upcoming meeting. I just wanted to let you know that the JCAA and other groups are still on top of this important issue.

## **Tougher Fluke Regulations for 2017 on the Horizon**

*By Paul Haertel*

Unfortunately, things are not looking good for our 2017 fluke regulations. Based on the MRIP survey numbers and the 30% cut in the coastwide quota that was mandated by the MAFMC and ASMFC for 2017, it seems likely that our regulations regarding fluke will be significantly more stringent in 2017. Preliminary wave 4 data (July-August) recently came out and when included with the data from the previous waves, it shows that we have already harvested 5.67 million lbs. of fluke. That is slightly over the 5.42 million pound coastwide quota. Wave 6 (September-October) data will not be released until mid-December but I am projecting that it will push our harvest up to over 6 million pounds. The problem is that for 2017, the quota is a mere 3.77 million pounds. That may take draconian regulatory measures to attempt to ensure that the new quota will not be exceeded. A shorter season, an increased size limit and a reduced bag limit or combination thereof may be considered.

However, we do have some hope thanks to the Save our Summer Flounder Fishery Fund (SSFFF). They have been funding projects to obtain better data and to develop more refined stock assessment models. This year JCAA contributed \$2000 to help SSFFF fund a study conducted by Rutgers University entitled "Sex and Length of Summer Flounder Discards in the Recreational Fishery, NJ to RI.". In part the study showed that due to the high size limit, 95% of the fish harvested by recreational fishermen are females as they grow much larger than the males. The study suggests that fisheries managers consider a slot limit to distribute the harvest more evenly between both sexes. For example, a limit of two fish from 16"-18" and three fish over 18" might be something that could be considered. Something like that might provide some relief for back bay and shore-based anglers but it would anger many of the fisherman who prefer to

target larger fish. Anyway, it is only hypothetical at this point so we will have to see what happens.

## **Atlantic City Public Access Issue**

*By John Toth*

At our September 27th General JCAA meeting, we had a guest (Noel Filiciano) from One Stop Bait & Tackle seeking JCAA's assistance in resolving an access issue involving anglers who fish off 12 jetties in Atlantic City.

The issue is that the US Army Corps. of Engineers is in the process of building a wall to protect Atlantic City from storms like Sandy. However, in doing so, no provisions have been planned for access for anglers to pass this wall to reach the 12 jetties for fishing. It is like a new "Berlin Wall" for Atlantic City anglers.

I recently called Atlantic City's Chief Engineer to both get more information about this issue and how can it be quickly resolved. He told me that this wall that the Corps is building has some engineering issues that need to be resolved. He also said that he is "up to his eyeballs" in dealing with so many issues facing A.C. and that he has scant time in dealing with this wall issue.

I told him that the Public Trust Doctrine gives anglers the right to have access to their beach and provisions have to be made for it. While there are 12 jetties, only seven (7) access points need to be made at this wall for anglers to reach their jetties. I also recommended to him that he should visit Sea Bright that has a wall and wooded stairways for access. This type of wooden stairway can be erected to give this AC wall a "quick fix" for this access problem. This "quick fix" is also a much cheaper way to handle this problem given A.C.'s serious financial problems. Better access structures can be built later down the road.

He told me that he would visit Sea Bright and take pictures of what I am talking about. This conversation ended on a friendly note and I told him that I would like to visit AC in the near future to see this wall firsthand and talk to him about it.

The Berkley Striper Club requested the JCAA to help Atlantic City anglers with this access issue.

## **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 also sent out tickets by mail just recently. The drawing will take place in December, so there is plenty of time to get your tickets and get them back to us.

## **Youth Education Report**

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### **2016 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD**

Carl Bruger was selected by the JCAA Youth Education Committee to receive the 2016 JCAA Youth Education Award. The following is the nomination we received from the Hudson River Fishermen's Association (HRFA): It is the honor and privilege for the Hudson River Fishermen's Association to nominate HRFA lifetime member, Carl Bruger, for the 2016 JCAA Youth Education Award.

Carl Bruger was originally certified as a HOFNOD instructor on January 15, 2005. He was co-founder of the HRFA Youth Angler Program, working with core HRFA members and current Youth Coordinator Wayne Guider. Hooked on the Hudson has been just one of these teaching endeavors as well as the numerous HRFA catfish Derbies, boat and shore trips.

Carl has instructed both youngsters and adults, promoting safe and educational fishing experiences that have created a lifetime of memorable fishing trips for those involved. We know his involvement isn't limited to the HRFA's many youth activities.

He participates and works at numerous youth related fishing events and with other fishing clubs. His earlier days of teaching included coordinating what was, at the time, one of the oldest high school fishing clubs in America, his prized and beloved Leonia HS Fishing Club. This is just a starting point.

Carl's volunteer coordination of the Methodist Church Summer Camp fishing programs has helped hundreds, if not thousands, of youngsters

embark on a lifetime hobby of fishing and conservation. Sadly, this camp closed (likely because of financial purposes) and we know Carl has great interest in having the camp reopened.

Carl has coordinated fishing excursions that led to the donations of thousands of pounds of fish fillets to CUMAC, feeding needy families in northern New Jersey.

In its second year of existence, Carl assisted the Toms River South High School Fishing Club, by donating over a dozen new and gently used surf rod combos to ensure these high school students were properly prepared to fish with their own rods and reels.

Carl's dedication to educating our youth through the decades goes beyond what has been written.

Just recently Carl volunteered to take charge at the "Pirates of the Hackensack" a Hackensack River Keeper sponsored fishing contest, September 2016, and provide 100 plus fishing outfits for all of the youth participating in this event. All outfits were put together by Carl from used, discarded equipment.

Carl Bruger's lifetime commitment to educating youth about fishing, and the conservation of all fisheries, both fresh & salt water, makes him a highly qualified member of the sport fishing community for this year's JCAA Youth Education Award.

Come join us on Sunday, November 13, 2016 to celebrate at the JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner to recognize a host of individuals that go above and beyond to make recreational fishing better for future generations. Please see more information about the dinner in this issue of the JCAA October Newspaper.

### **BRICK MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL**

Brick Memorial High School is seeking approval from the Brick Board of Education to add recreational fishing and aquatic education to their curriculum for 2017. If approved, it would help both high schools in Brick a chance to offer another alternative to drugs, alcohol, gangs, violence and bullying by keeping youngsters focused on healthy outdoor activities. The fishing program can also help students with physical disabilities compete with other students and give them a chance to be recognized for their fishing accomplishments.

High schools in NJ have already become part of the NJ "Hooked On Fishing not on Drugs" school fishing team. Aquatic resources in Ocean County are

excellent for school fishing programs. Freshwater, saltwater, river, stream, and bay fishing are a short distance from Brick schools. If this worthwhile program is approved, the JCAA Youth Education Committee plans to assist with the fishing programs in both Brick high schools.

This is also a great opportunity for both high schools to have educators become NJ HOFNOD certified instructors and become part an intra-scholastic NJ HOFNOD fishing competition at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament.

### **FISHING WORKSHOPS FOR VETERAN'S "PLAYING HOOK-E"**

On Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 monthly meeting we will present "Playing HOOK-E" from PTSD at VFW Post 2226, 212 Norwood Ave., Oakhurst, NJ. The presentation is geared towards veterans struggling with PTSD and how recreational fishing helps ease symptoms. We will give an overview of the presentation that was presented at the 2016 Florida Recreation and Park Association's Annual Therapeutic Recreation Institute. Fishing is a lifetime leisure activity and this presentation will provide attendees with an understanding of a fishing program that offers veterans a variety of outdoor recreation options.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Inc. will host a fly fishing workshop on November 6, 2016 Sunday, 10:00 till Noon at VFW Post 2226, 212 Norwood Ave., Oakhurst, NJ 07755. The workshop is geared towards veterans. Please join us to learn more about our innovative program that offers all veterans with disabilities an opportunity to learn to fly fish and participate in fishing trips.

Topics for the workshop include: Recommended fly casting gear basics – How to tie knots for fly fishing – Know how to select proper fly lines – Saltwater and freshwater fly cast demonstration and How to apply for NJ Veteran freshwater fishing license benefits. Coffee, Donuts, soft drinks, door prizes, and printed handouts are FREE.

Raoul Cordeaux, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Inc. Jersey Shore is the speaker, Veterans must register. To Register: Phone: 732-785-9278 or email [gkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:gkucharews@jcaa.org)

### **NJ HOFNOD NEWS**

This is a special message from Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Coordinator, for New Jersey's "Hooked

on Fishing-Not on Drugs" Program. NJ HOFNOD provides a great opportunity to get kids involved in positive recreational activities. Growing up in a big city, my parents saw value in having me spend my summers outdoors enjoying nature. These experiences afforded me the chance to discover that there is more to the world and my role in it than what the concrete jungle has to offer. Likewise, the goal of this program is to introduce youth to the fun and excitement of fishing and to engage them in meaningful life skills, so that they also can imagine unlimited possibilities for themselves.

Take a few moments to listen to the podcast on the NJ HOFNOD website and view the list of NJ HOFNOD teams throughout New Jersey. Please contact Liz if you would like to become a volunteer.

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

Members of the Hudson River Fisherman's Association did a great job of supporting the Hackensack Riverkeeper's first fishing event. HRFA supplied over 200 rods/reels and volunteers helped support the event on September 24, 2016 at Laurel Hill Park.



On September 17, 2016 members of the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club assisted participants and their chaperones at the annual people with disabilities fishing outing that is coordinated with Union County Dept. of Parks and Recreation. It's always a great day on the water for participants and volunteers.

