

# JCAA NEWSPAPER DECEMBER 2016

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on November 21st, 2016)

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

## **JCAA REGULAR MEETING:**

**Tuesday, November 29th, 2016**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**At Jersey Coast Shark Anglers**

## **NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, December 8th, 2016**

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

## **OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.**

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**JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote**

**JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi**

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

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

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**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

**February 25<sup>th</sup>** Saltwater National Seminar Series

## **President's Report**

*By John Toth*

### **JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner**

What a great time was had by all! We had 148 attendees at the Crystal Point Yacht Club in Point Pleasant for this dinner that had a lot of door prizes, Tricky Trays and signup sheets offering special prizes.

In addition to having fun by rubbing elbows with our fishing friends, we gathered together for the main purpose of this dinner and that is to honor those among us who have made special contributions to the sport we all love. Captain Pete Grimbilas was honored for his many contributions to the fishing community, especially his continuing efforts to create new artificial reefs and his relentless efforts to have the 13 artificial reefs off our coast in federal waters declared Special Management Zones (SMZ) to benefit recreational anglers. I had the honor to read his list of accomplishments at this dinner and Pete was so happy to receive his award. Pete invited his family and friends to see him receive his award and those guests filled up two tables.

Carl Bruger received our Youth Education Award that was presented by our Greg Kuchareski who manages our youth education efforts. Among many things cited for Carl's contributions to get more youths interested in fishing, Carl built and refurbished about 100 fishing rods for these kids to use. Carl (from the Hudson River Fishing Association - HRFA) is just

one heck of a nice guy and I and many others were very happy that Carl received this prestigious award!

Ed Cherry, a former JCAA Board member who was deeply involved in menhaden and blackfish issues, received a Lifetime Achievement award posthumously that was presented to his family members who were so pleased to receive it!

Mark Taylor did a superb job in his role of Master of Ceremonies; Dan Miller and his wife, Heather, organized the seating and ticketing arrangements; and Paul Turi did a great job in organizing this dinner. Don and Al Marantz along with Frank Richetti handled the tickets for the prizes and 50/50. Approximately \$800 was received by the lucky 50/50 winner! The JCAA is proud to host a dinner in an elegant facility to honor our fishing colleagues who have used their special talents to promote our sport and also have a nice time in doing it!

I want to give a *thank you* to JCAA's Board members who again have made our JCAA Sportsman of the Year Dinner a success!

### **NJ "SMZ" Reef Status**

The Mid - Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAMFC) held a public hearing on November 16 at the Clarion Hotel in Toms River to receive public comments on New Jersey's request to designate 13 of its artificial reefs as Special Management Zones (one was held in Brooklyn on November 15th and another in Cape May on November 17th). I attended this meeting along with Ken Warchal, Kyren Dooley, Paul Haertel and Dan McGivney. I will not go into the details of this meeting since Ken Warchal wrote a letter on behalf of the JCAA to the MAMFC explaining why these reefs in federal waters should have SMZ status. Ken has been our point person for the JCAA on this issue since he has a wealth of knowledge on why these reefs should have the traps removed from them. His letter to the MAMFC is in this newsletter for your review. A few observations on this meeting from my perspective:

### **No Conflicts**

A commercial captain said that there were no conflicts on these reefs with recreational and commercial anglers! Well, that was quickly blown out of the water (not to use a pun) by recreational

anglers detailing their run-ins with the commercial ones.

### **Only \$25,000!**

This is the amount of money the commercials claim that they made on **all of the 13 reefs in 2015!** Do you think that they may have not reported all of their revenue to possibly escape the tax man? Well, this \$25,000 has come back to bite them since if this is all of the revenue they made from these 13 reefs, then they would face minimal financial losses if these reefs were designated as SMZs.

### **Testimony Given to the MAMFC for the reefs to be SMZs**

Ken Warchal represented the JCAA, Paul Haertel spoke on behalf of the Berkley Striper Club, and I spoke on behalf of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) since I am its president and I also spoke on behalf of my club, the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County. Pete Grimbilas, Chairman of the NJOA, who has been leading this SMZ effort for the 13 reefs, did a great job in making the case why these reefs should be SMZs.

### **My Take on this Meeting**

The majority of the comments presented to the MAMFC were for SMZ status. The comments made by the commercial representatives included: we can come to some type of compromise with recreational anglers instead of going to SMZ status; and that is not fair that the commercials cannot put traps on the reefs anymore. Given the comments that were overwhelming for SMZ status for the 13 reefs, I am **guardedly optimistic** that these reefs will receive SMZ designation. A meeting will be held in December by the MAMFC and possibly a decision on this issue will be rendered by them. Keep your fingers crossed!

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

### **2017 Another Year NMFS & MAFMC Killing Recreational Summer Flounder**

Below you will see the release on the specifications for summer flounder for 2017 and 2018.

Every time I see the new specifications, I get more and more aggravated. This is a fishery we started to rebuild in 1996. We have greatly increased the spawning biomass from what was available in the 1990s. Remember, we were fishing on 13 and 14-inch fish which meant we had only one or two-year-old fish. When we started rebuilding the stocks, we kept raising the size limit. We are now fishing on fish that have probably spawned 4 or 5 times since they begin spawning at 13 inches. We have year classes that are 12 to 13-year-old fish that are 24 to 26 pounds. A five-pound summer flounder is no longer considered a “doormat.” For that designation a summer flounder needs to be at least 10 – 12 pounds. For the last four years we have the highest spawning stock biomass ever recorded. Does this satisfy NMFS? NO! They claim that we have had poor recruitment the last few years but the stock assessment says recruitment is not directly linked to spawning stock biomass over a point we reached some time ago. When NMFS designed the original plan, the projections for what we could achieve were outrageous. The only people who did not see these projections as outrageous were the scientists who designed the plan. State directors, commercial and recreational fishermen were sure we could never reach these outrageous numbers. It only took us 16 years to get NMFS to cut the goals to about 1/3 of the original number. But the number they still shoot for is a number that has never been reached. It is just their unrealistic calculations that have no real relationship to the current environmental and habitat conditions. So we are fishing on a quota that is smaller than it needs to be to protect the spawning stock biomass or produce the desired recruitment. The simple fact is that the recreational sector has not been allowed to reap any of the benefits of an increasing stock that was created by the sacrifices made by anglers. The same is true of the commercial sector. Even if the quota was the same as the early 90s to the 2000’s, we would still be catching fewer fish because the minimum size has increased the weight of the fish we are allowed to keep three-fold. With the smaller quotas we are catching less than 25% of the number of fish. This has also forced the recreational sector to catch and release, thereby killing more fish by catch and release than by taking some home. Summer flounder is not striped bass and it was never intended to be a catch and release fishery. What does that mean economically to New Jersey? From 2007 to 2014 we

lost 2 million fishing trips in New Jersey. Since 40% of those trips are directed summer flounder trips, that accounts for a huge economic impact. That is one of the reasons that tackle stores and charter boats are going out of business in record numbers. That is one of the reasons the number of boat registrations have dropped by 50,000 boats from 2007 to 2014. This has created a billion dollar impact in New Jersey alone and is replicated in other states in the Mid-Atlantic region. What do we need to do? Write Congress and the new President and demand a solution to this problem. Identify NMFS as the source of the problem and insist on immediate action. Some of the scientists believe we need to fish down some of the summer flounder stocks to get a better recruitment. At the current rate, NMFS will have destroyed much of the recreational fishery in the Mid-Atlantic region and Congress cannot allow this to happen. Recreational angling organizations can do only so much without a groundswell of action from all the anglers. Looking forward to all of your help.

### **Environmental Concerns One Outcome of the Election**

In addition to JCAA’s mission to protect recreation fishing, we have also always had a commitment to protecting the marine environment from any negative impact. Anglers continue to see the impact of global warming. Yet with this election, we are confronted with incoming officials who deny the existence of global warming. No matter how you voted in this last election, you all know that global warming is a serious issue. In addition, we have come to rely on EPA to clean up the superfund sites that produce fish cannot safely consume. All you have to look at are the EPA clean-up projects in the Hudson River for the last 10 years to realize how important that has been to producing fish that are safer to eat. With this new administration we will need to be diligent in protecting the gains we have and the integrity of the EPA. We must challenge any attempts to roll back the ongoing clean-ups and make sure no additional superfund sites are created. We need to hold our officials accountable for their pronouncements on global warming and fight to maintain the Paris Accords. There has also been much talk about a return to fossil fuels. More coal pollution into the atmosphere will only create more long-term problems. If you are a fresh water angler in New Jersey you know that all of our fresh water lakes and

streams have advisories because of the contamination caused by the coal fired plants. This is not a time to go backwards. There is also talk about more oil drilling. Even under President Obama, it took much effort by New Jersey's Senators and Congressman Frank Pallone to deny the permitting for oil drilling off New Jersey's coast. With this new administration, there will be a more oil friendly atmosphere. That means we must redouble our efforts to make sure this doesn't happen. President Obama can create a moratorium on east coast drilling before he leaves office. Today write to President Obama and Senators Menendez and Booker and your Congressman and demand this action before the end of the year. Most of the members of JCAA are old enough that we fight these battles not for ourselves but for the next generation and the generations to follow. In the world we live in today, you can't be a responsible angler unless you are an environmentalist. When I was a young man my angling heroes caught the biggest fish and set records. Now my angling heroes fight the environmental battles with every bit as much enthusiasm and commitment as they ever had for catching a big fish. Now is the time to get involved.

## **One of the Most Important Stories on NJ Marine Fisheries**

Last month I wrote that Brandon Muffley was leaving as Director of the Bureau of Marine Fisheries to take a job at the Mid Atlantic Council. This happened! The 2016 election is over so JCAA is in the process of bringing together the major recreational groups, major commercial groups and environmental groups to work on the marine fisheries budget for 2017. Many of the major environmental groups made a commitment to deal with the shortfall of Bureau of Marine Fisheries budget when they worked on the present Green Acres Bill. Nothing happened and we are asking them to step up to the plate to get this done in 2017. At the JCAA Sportsman of the Year I spoke to the leaders of the NJOA and the NJSFSC to commit to this project. I will be reaching out to the rest of the groups in the next couple of weeks, looking to put together a meeting as soon as we can. I have included the article from last month's newspaper in case you did not see it.

I also understand there are three senior staff members who may retire in 2017. One of the

reasons was 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 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.

## **JCAA, NJOA and NJSFSC Working Together to Get the Pots off NJ Artificial Reefs in Federal Waters**

The work has started to get the pots off New Jersey's artificial reefs in federal waters and here is the next step. There were public hearings already but you still have time to submit in your comments. We will keep you posted on what needs to be done next. Here is the NJOA release on this topic and the JCAA comments.

This is a request from the *New Jersey Outdoor Alliance* to NJ's Sportsmen and women to support Special Management Zone (SMZ) status for New Jersey's offshore artificial reefs.

### **A Brief History**

NJ's artificial reefs are built with recreational angler dollars, either thru direct contributions or via Wallop-Breaux taxes on sporting goods. This is part of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. For more information

on Wallop-Breaux go to [this link](#). SMZ status is needed to limit fishing activities on NJ's artificial reefs to hook and line and spear fishing. This is part of almost a nine year effort to eliminate gear conflict and ensure hook and line and spear fishing access to New Jersey's Artificial Reefs.

The following excerpt is taken from the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) [press release](#).

*In November 2015, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) petitioned the Mid-Atlantic Council to designate 13 artificial reef sites as SMZs under provisions of Amendment 9 to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. The petition was based on the need to reduce gear conflicts between hook and line fishermen and fixed pot/trap gear at those sites. The SMZ designation could prohibit the use of any gear except hook and line and spear fishing (including the taking of fish by hand) within the 13 potential SMZ sites. The Council's SMZ Monitoring Team (MT) evaluated the NJDEP request and recommended that the Council designate all 13 artificial reef sites as SMZs. The MT analysis indicated that commercial fishing vessels deploying pot/trap gear off the coast of New Jersey would likely face minimal to no losses in ex-vessel revenue if the artificial reefs are designated as SMZs. The Council is scheduled to review public comments and make a decision relative to NJ SMZ designation at its December 2016 meeting in Annapolis, MD.*

The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance is requesting that you submit a written public comment which states the following... I support the MAMFC SMZ Monitoring Team's recommendation to designate all 13 artificial sites as SMZs.

Send your e-mails to Rich Seagraves at [rseagraves@mafmc.org](mailto:rseagraves@mafmc.org). Please be sure to include "NJ SMZ Request" in the subject line and be sure to submit your comments before November 25, 2016. Send comments via postal mail to address below and include "NJ SMZ Request" on envelope and submit before November 25, 2016.

Dr. Chris Moore,  
Executive Director, MAFMC,  
800 North State Street, Suite 201,  
Dover, DE, 19901

## **Why are your comments important?**

Based on the public comments and other inputs the MAFMC will take a formal vote and make a recommendation to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Target date is expected to be sometime in 2017.

The NMFS can be expected to generate a rule proposal and then put this out for public comment (once again) probably to the states which are affected (NJ, Delaware and perhaps NY, RI, MA?). Implementation of the new regulation can be as late as 2018.

New Jersey's recreational angling community has been working towards SMZ status for New Jersey's offshore artificial reefs for almost nine years. Help us land this fish. Thank you in advance for your help with this project.

## **JCAA Comments on SMZ Status for Artificial Reefs**

November 10, 2016

Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 North State St.  
Suite 201  
Dover, DE 19901

Re: NJ SMZ Request

Dear Doctor Moore

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

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 have been 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 cubic yards of sand. On this lump, only, and I say this facetiously, 5 million cubic yards 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  
Vice President

## Today NOAA is announcing the Proposed Rule for 2017 and 2018 Summer Flounder

Today NOAA is announcing the Proposed Rule for 2017 and 2018 Summer Flounder Specifications. This proposed rule would implement revised specifications including commercial and recreational summer flounder catch limits for 2017 and 2018.

The U.S. science-based fishery management process prevents overfishing and rebuilds fish stocks, helping strengthen the value of fisheries to the economy, our communities, and marine ecosystems and providing a long-term supply of seafood for the nation, including recreationally and commercially important summer flounder.

Because the July 2016 summer flounder assessment update indicated that overfishing continued through 2015 and that the biomass continued to decline, we are proposing a 30 percent reduction from those previously implemented for the 2017 fishing year and a 16 percent reduction from current 2018 allocations in order to ensure sustainability of summer flounder stocks for future generations of fishermen and consumers (see charts below).

NOAA works in partnership with the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and uses the best available scientific information to develop management measures that prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished summer flounder stocks.

### Proposed Rule for 2017 and 2018 Summer Flounder Specifications

	Summer Flounder (million lb.)	
	2017	2018
Overfishing Limit	16.76	18.69
Acceptable Biological Catch	11.30	13.23
Commercial Annual Catch Limit	6.57	7.70
Commercial Annual Catch Target	6.57	7.70
Commercial Quota	5.66	6.63
Recreational Annual Catch Limit	4.72	5.53
Recreational Annual Catch Target	4.72	5.53
Recreational Harvest Limit	3.77	4.42

	2016	2017			2018		
		<i>Curre nt</i>	<i>Propo sed</i>	<i>Differ ence</i>	<i>Curre nt</i>	<i>Propo sed</i>	<i>Differ ence</i>
Acceptabl e Biological Catch	16.26	15.86	11.3	-29%	15.68	13.23	-16%
Commerci al Quota	8.12	7.91	5.66	-28%	7.89	6.63	-16%
Recreatio nal Harvest Limit	5.42	5.28	3.77	-29%	5.26	4.42	-16%

## ASMFC Summaries for Annual Meeting

### Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board, October 24, 2016

#### *Meeting Summary*

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board (Board) met to review the Technical Committee’s (TC) report evaluating the variables affecting the harvest in 2015 under Addendum IV, and to review the 2016 stock assessment update.

The Atlantic Striped Bass Plan Review Team (PRT) conducted a preliminary review on the performance of the Addendum IV measures during the annual FMP review process to determine if the target reductions in harvest had been achieved in each region and sector. The PRT review indicated that realized harvest from the commercial fisheries, and on a coastwide scale, was very close to those estimated by the TC.

However, 2015 harvest from the recreational fisheries in the ocean and in the Chesapeake Bay diverged significantly from those estimated by the TC. At its August meeting, the Board tasked the TC to investigate a number of variables for the recreational fisheries to explain the large differences in the realized harvest in 2015 compared to those predicted by the TC. The TC concluded that changes in effort and changes in the size and age structure of the population, and the distribution of the 2011 year class along the coast relative to the Chesapeake Bay were the most significant variables contributing to the large differences in the realized harvest compared to those estimated by the TC. Effort (i.e.,

number of trips targeting striped bass) in the Chesapeake Bay recreational fishery increased by 50% in 2015 compared to the reference period, while effort in the ocean recreational fisheries decreased by 27%. Additionally, age and length structure of the recreational catch data suggest that the large 2011 year class was nearly fully recruited to the Chesapeake Bay fisheries, but only partially available to the ocean fisheries. In other words, not only are these fish just starting to migrate into the ocean populations, but a large proportion of fish from this year class are of harvestable size in the Bay (i.e., greater than or equal to 20” total length).

The 2016 stock assessment update results indicated that although the Atlantic striped bass stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, spawning stock biomass (SSB) continues to decline towards the threshold level. SSB in 2015 was estimated at 58,853 metric tons with a 40% probability of being below the SSB threshold level of 57,626 metric tons. Fishing mortality (F) in 2015 was estimated at 0.16 which is below the threshold and the target levels (0.22 and 0.18, respectively). A primary goal of Addendum IV was to bring F back down to the target level. Since F was estimated to be below the target in 2015, the Board tasked the TC to determine the percent liberalization in harvest that would increase F from the 2015 point estimate of 0.16 to the target level of 0.18. As part of this tasking, and because Addendum IV continues to set the regulatory program for Atlantic striped bass (i.e., commercial quotas, and recreational size and bag limits), the TC will provide a recommendation to the Board on the preferred dataset using updated length-frequency data for states to use when preparing conservation equivalency proposals.

For more information please contact Max Appelman, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [mappelman@asmfc.org](mailto:mappelman@asmfc.org) or at 703.842.0740.

### Tautog Management Board, October 25, 2016

#### *Meeting Summary*

The Tautog Management Board reviewed the regional and coastwide assessment update results. The update includes data through 2015 for all regions which include Massachusetts-Rhode Island (MA-RI), Long Island Sound (LIS), New Jersey-New York Bight (NJ-NYB) and Delaware-Maryland-Virginia (DMV).

Stock Region	Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) or Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR)	Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) Target (mt)	SSB Threshold (mt)	SSB 2015 (mt)	Fishing Mortality (F) Target	F Threshold	F 3-year Avg (2013-15)	Stock Status
MA-RI	MSY	3,631	2,723	2,196	0.14	0.28	0.23	Overfished, Overfishing not occurring
	SPR	2,684	2,004	2,196	0.28	0.49	0.23	Stock not overfished, Overfishing not occurring
US	MSY	2,865	2,148	1,603	0.28	0.49	0.51	Overfished, Overfishing
	SPR	2,980	2,238	1,603	0.27	0.46	0.51	Overfished, Overfishing
NJ-NYB	SPR	3,154	2,351	1,809	0.20	0.34	0.54	Overfished, Overfishing
DMV	SPR	1,919	1,447	621	0.16	0.24	0.16	Overfished, Overfishing not occurring
Coastwide	MSY	14,944	11,208	6,014	0.17	0.24	0.38	Overfished, Overfishing
	SPR	9,448	7,091	6,014	0.25	0.43	0.38	Overfished, Overfishing not occurring

The Board provided the Plan Development Team with guidance on Draft Amendment 1 management options. Specifically, the Board discussed the following issues: reference points, projections to reduce fishing mortality, rebuilding plan, commercial and recreational harvest reductions, commercial quota, commercial harvest tagging program and management within a region. The Board elected to create regional working groups that will meet prior to the February 2017 Board meeting to further discuss the issues and the best approach relative to the region. Feedback from the working groups will be presented at the February 2017 Board meeting and Draft Amendment 1 for public comment will be presented at the May 2017 Board meeting.

The Board received an update on the tautog tagging trial that is underway. The research team will prepare a project report after the trial has concluded. It will be presented to the Law Enforcement Sub-Committee in the fall and to the Board at the February 2017 meeting.

For more information, please contact Ashton Harp, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [aharp@asmfc.org](mailto:aharp@asmfc.org) or at 703.842.0740.

### Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board, October 25, 2016

#### Press Release

ASMFC Summer Flounder Board Initiates Draft Addendum for Alternative Management Options for 2017 Recreational Fishery

Bar Harbor, ME – The Commission’s Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board initiated development of Draft

Addendum XXVIII to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan (FMP) to consider alternative management approaches, including regional options, for the 2017 recreational summer flounder fishery. The Draft Addendum will have options which are designed to achieve the 2017 recreational harvest limit (RHL).

Changes in summer flounder distribution, abundance and availability created problems under the static state by- state allocations, with overages often occurring. In response, states would implement regulations to reduce harvest, resulting in differing regulations between neighboring states. In 2014, the Board shifted away from traditional state-by-state allocations to a regional approach for managing summer flounder recreational fisheries. A benefit of the regional approach is it provides the states the flexibility to temporarily share allocations. The intent is to set regulations that account for shifting distribution, abundance and availability while providing stability and greater regulatory consistency among neighboring states as well as individual states in achieving but not exceeding the coastwide RHL.

In August, the Board and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) approved a 30% reduction in the 2017 coastwide RHL relative to 2016. This was in response the 2016 Stock Assessment Update which found fishing mortality was higher in recent years and population estimates were lower than previously projected. The Draft Addendum will be presented to the Board for its consideration and approval for public comment at its joint meeting with the Council in December in Baltimore, Maryland.

At that meeting, the Board and Council will also consider extending ad-hoc regional approaches for 2017 black sea bass and scup recreational management in state waters. The Board and Council are scheduled to review the Black Sea Bass Stock Assessment Report and Peer Review Report and consider possible management responses at their joint meeting in February 2017 in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:krootes-murdy@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

#### Motions

**Move to initiate an addendum to consider adaptive management, including regional approaches, for the 2017 summer flounder recreational fishery.**

Motion made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Simpson. Motion passes (11 in favor, 1 opposed).



## **Ed Cherry Posthumously Awarded JCAA Lifetime Achievement Award**

Below are my comments from the JCAA dinner. There were fifteen members of Ed's family in attendance including his wife Marilyn.

Tonight JCAA is honoring Ed Cherry with the JCAA lifetime achievement award. Ed passed away on May 26, 2015. JCAA has a long-standing policy of not giving individuals who dedicate their time to JCAA the "JCAA Sportsmen of the Year Award" no matter how many years they volunteered to protect the marine resource. When we lost Ed Cherry and John Koegler we knew that policy had to change.

I got to know Ed many years ago when he starting volunteering his time at JCAA with his longtime friend and fishing buddy Paul Turi. I realized how fast he learned what was happening in marine fisheries and we would have deep discussions about what needed to be done. Sometimes he and I would disagree about policy matters and we would work together to find a compromise that was often better than our original ideas. Ed stepped up and took over the key positions at JCAA for the analyzing all the new proposed management changes of striped bass, menhaden and weakfish. As time passed I asked him if he would be NJ's ASMFC recreational advisor on menhaden and he gladly accepted the added work. I never had to do corrections to any of Ed's articles. Instead I would send my articles to Ed get his input and suggestions. I came to rely on his insight and knowledge on many environmental and fisheries topics. When he was fighting the long battle with cancer he never shied away from working on the many topics concerning the marine environment.

I would be remiss if I did not point out that Ed was a hell of an angler and teacher. If you ever fished with Ed you were going to get a lesson on how to improve your fish catching methods. I personally learned to harvest grass shrimp and use them to catch weakfish on one of the fishing trips on his boat. During his retirement, he became known as one of the best weakfish fishermen in Barnegat Bay. He was a championship caliber recreational fisherman, winning or placing in numerous fishing tournaments during his retirement. Ed was a multiple honoree of the New Jersey Division of Fish and

Wildlife Skillful Angler Award Winners. Ed helped form the Village Harbor Fishing Club. Ed had many loyal friends and made their lives better. Nowhere is his loss felt more than with members of JCAA. The loyalty Ed's friends showed to him during his long illness, spending time with him and making sure he could still go fishing, is a testament to Ed's ability to make and keep valued friends.

Ed is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marilyn, and their four sons and wives and his grandchildren some of whom are here tonight. I was honored to listen to some of the Cherry family stories at his memorial service last year. This is what I always knew about Ed's dedication to marine issues; it wasn't just for him or for the recognition. It was to insure that his children, grandchildren and every generation to follow could have the same opportunity to experience the joy that comes from catching that one great fish.

Ed was one of my valued critics. At every dinner he would critique my speech, was it too long, was it to the point? So in honor of Ed, I will keep it short. He was a friend, a fishing buddy and a valued member of JCAA.

## **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.

## **Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series Celebrates 30 Year Anniversary Tour with a Stop in Linwood!**

The Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series will bring a stop on its 30 Year Anniversary Tour to the Linwood Country Club (500 Shore Road, Linwood) on Saturday, February 25. The host of the 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. presentation will be **George Poveromo** – of *George Poveromo's World of*

*Saltwater Fishing* on the NBC Sports Network, and Contributing Editor for *Salt Water Sportsman*. **Nick Honachefsky**, a noted writer, author, TV personality and New Jersey fishing authority, will serve as co-host. The Tour is being presented by Bass Pro Shops.

Joining **Poveromo** and **Honachefsky** in Linwood will be:

- **Captain “Jersey” Justin Suarez** – Renowned Jersey City-based specialist at catching trophy striped bass, fluke, blackfish and sea bass, as well as dolphin, sharks and tunas with his *Jersey Justin Fishing Charters!*
- **Captain Trey Rhyne** - Veteran Avalon-based canyon and bluefin tuna fishing specialist with *Over-Under Sportfishing Charters!*
- **Gary Caputi** – Distinguished expert on fishing New Jersey’s near shore and offshore waters, author, and Field Editor for *Salt Water Sportsman!*
- **Captain Michael Yocco** – Innovative mid-Atlantic/Northeast offshore pro who specializes in rigging and trolling dead bait for tuna and billfish in the canyons and near shore bluefins, with his *MJ’s Sportfishing!*
- **Captain Alex Majewski** – Premier authority on fishing the flats and open waters of Barnegat Bay as well as its coastal waters for striped bass, fluke, bluefish and weakfish with his *Lighthouse Sportfishing!*
- **Mary Hinchcliffe** – Noted Cape May-based offshore fishing specialist, and authority on catching striped bass off southern New Jersey!
- **Captain Tom Ferarra** – Legendary Atlantic City-based wreck and bottom-fishing pro who excels at catching trophy blackfish, fluke and sea bass, with *TWrecks Charters!*
- **Captain Tom Daffin** – Veteran Cape May-based authority on catching trophy blackfish, fluke and sea bass, and noted offshore tuna pro with his *Fishin’ Fever Sportfishing!*
- **Captain David Wicker** – Acclaimed bottom fishing pro and specialist in using marine electronics to catch fish!

Courses for the February 25th presentation will focus on: Trophy stripers on ultra-light tackle;

Live-lining for trophy stripers; Top trolling tactics for stripers; Chunking for bluefish; Bluefish on surface lures; Inshore wire-line techniques; Jetty tactics; How to catch more and bigger fluke; Targeting trophy fluke; Top southern tactics for jumbo fluke; Secrets of fishing the Cape May Rips; Trophy drum in Delaware Bay; Secrets of fishing Delaware Bay; Top tactics for big blackfish; Catching blackfish by the score; Jigging for blackfish; No-nonsense weakfish tactics; How and where to locate weakfish; Variety fishing in and around inlets; How to locate and fish productive bottom (blackfish, sea bass, spot and fluke); Back-bay stripers; Can’t-miss tuna-trolling patterns; Chunking for tunas; Live-baiting for tunas; Advanced methods for bluefin and yellowfin tuna; Cutting edge lure-trolling tactics; Subsurface offshore trolling; Cutting edge spreader bar and dredge tactics; Secrets for catching more inshore tuna; Reading water temperature charts; Targeting trophy Makos; Basic and advanced sharking techniques; Offshore kite fishing for sharks and tuna; Specialized tactics that take more big-eye tuna; How to troll up more wahoo and white marlin!

**SUCH A DEAL!** - The Seminar Series kicks off at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. Long considered the best bargain in sportfishing, a Seminar Series ticket is only \$ 55.00.

The ticket price covers five hours of instruction from the best pros in the business, a *Brand New 30<sup>th</sup>* Anniversary course textbook, a one-year subscription or extension to *Salt Water Sportsman*, one Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, bottle of Star tron fuel treatment, bottle of Star brite Xtreme Clean, bottle of Corrosion Block, a \$ 10.00 Bass Pro Shops discount card (off any purchase of \$ 75.00 or more), and chances to win thousands of dollars worth of door prizes! The Grand Prize at the conclusion of the Jersey seminar is a Florida Keys fishing trip! The Super Grand Prize, to be awarded two weeks after the conclusion of the 2017 series, is a new Mako Pro Skiff 17 cc!

**A ROCKING GOOD TIME!** - As an added bonus, attendees of the New Jersey seminar are entitled to attend the After Seminar Party at the Bass Pro Shops in Atlantic City. A special area will be set aside for the 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. party. Seminar attendees must show their Seminar Series name badge to gain entry, and are entitled to bring one additional guest regardless if they attended the seminar. Complimentary food, refreshments and live music will

be provided. George Poveromo and several other faculty members will be present at the party.

**HOW TO REGISTER** – *Get your tickets now, as the New Jersey seminar sold out the last three years. To pay with Visa, MasterCard and American Express, call (800) 448-7360, or register on-line, visit: [www.nationalseminarseries.com](http://www.nationalseminarseries.com).*

## **Sportsperson of the Year Dinner**

*By Paul Turi, Co-Chairman*

On Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> we held the JCAA Sportsperson-of-the-Year dinner to honor this year's Sportsperson-of-the-Year, Pete Grimbilas. Also being honored at the dinner was Carl Bruger for the JCAA Youth Education Award. Also being honored posthumously was one of JCAA's very own, Dr. Edward W. Cherry. Ed was active with JCAA for many years, serving as a board member and serving on a number of committees. A Lifetime Achievement award was presented to Ed's wife, children and grandchildren.

On behalf of JCAA I'd like to thank all those who attended the dinner to honor these fine men. I'd also like to thank Dan Miller, co-chairman of the dinner, his wife Heather, John Toth, Don & Al Marantz, Greg Kucharewski, Frank Richetti, Tom Fote, Paul & Linda Haertel. I'd also like to thank Mark Taylor who did a great job as our Master of Ceremonies this year.

I'd also like to thank our many sponsors who are listed below:

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Left to right: Greg Kucharewski, Carl Bruger, Youth Ed. Award winner; Pete Grimbilas, Sportsperson-of-the-Year, and John Toth, President of JCAA



Marilyn Cherry, children & grandchildren

with “Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs” materials. Please contact Greg Kucharewski with your listing of youth and family events and don’t forget the Sportsmen Shows. Include your booth location, fishing club or organization that will attend. By providing this information you’re fishing club or organization can improve membership and increase customer participation.

### JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

A good time was had by all that came out to celebrate Pete Grimbilas, Chairman of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, and Carl Bruger, Hudson River Fishermen’s Association Youth Program. Both were honored at this year’s Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner at Crystal Point Marina.



L-R, Greg Kucharewski, Carl Bruger, 2016 Youth Education Award; Pete Grimbilas, 2016 JCAA Sportsperson of the Year; and John Toth, JCAA President.

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### SUBMIT YOUR YOUTH FISHING NEWS

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association’s Youth Education Committee is asking JCAA member clubs/organizations for a listing of scheduled youth and family events that are going to be held by your club or organization during 2017.

The purpose of this request is to alert other fishing clubs and organizations that would like to participate in your youth and family event. The JCAA Newspaper is a way to get the word out about what’s happening in your club. Use this opportunity to inform others about events your fishing club/organization is doing to promote youth fishing.

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association’s Youth Education Committee will support your event

### NJ HOFNOD NEWS

The second annual NJ HOFNOD Leader Gathering at Fairview Lake YMCA in Stillwater, NJ (Sussex County) is scheduled for March 31 to April 2, 2017 at Fairview Lake YMCA in Stillwater, NJ (Sussex County). The annual gathering is for team leaders and their volunteers ONLY. If you plan to attend please contact Liz Jackson before January 1, 2017.

The goals for this annual gathering are to: Provide an opportunity for you all to meet and share the strengths/challenges of your team; Allow time to peer teach/learn skills related to fishing: E.g. - rod building, lure-making; Brainstorm program needs/changes, and capacity-building to reach non-participating counties; and Update you on program events, guidelines, data collection, purchasing policies and procedures.

Another NJ HOFNOD Training Workshop for volunteers is scheduled at Lighthouse Point in Waretown, NJ. Please contact Liz Jackson, NJ

HOFNOD Coordinator, DEP Fish & Wildlife. Ask Liz about the benefits of becoming a NJ HOFNOD instructor. Phone 908-637-4125 x122 or email liz.jackson@dep.nj.gov.

### **MANASQUAN HIGH SCHOOL**

During November we met with Captain Jim Freda, Educator Manasquan High School and student fishing club organizer. Manasquan High School has over 50 students in their fishing club. They produce a newsletter, hold meetings and compete in fishing events. JCAA Youth Education Committee member Paul Smith is looking for high school fishing clubs in New Jersey that would like to participate in an intra-scholastic fishing competition next year, possibly at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament.

### **PLAY HOOK-E**

Our Play HOOK-e Veterans fishing program with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is catching on. During our November program we had a knot tying session and veterans learned some practical knots commonly used in fly fishing.

Jimmy Mack, Commander of VFW Post 2226 in Oakhurst, NJ, will support the veteran program over the winter months by providing space at the VFW Post Hall. We thank Jimmy and the following bait and tackle dealers for supporting our veterans this month. John Bushell from Betty & Nicks Bait and Tackle, Seaside Park, for donating all the fly tying materials and Pete Kupper, Charlie's Bait and Tackle, Normandy Beach for the gift certificates. Please remember to support our local tackle shops as they support us.

9:00 am until 10:00 am Sunday, December 4, 2016 is the next Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 "Play HOOK-e" program. We will discuss 10 Tips for Attending Boating and Outdoor Sport Shows. Immediately following, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Shore Chapter will present from 10 a.m. until noon, featuring an introduction to saltwater naturals and imitations, with fly tying instruction and casting practice. That two-hour session will be led by Raoul Cordeaux, with speaker Capt. John Isdanavage.

VFW Post 2226 is located at 212 Norwood Avenue in Oakhurst. For more information contact Greg Kucharewski at 732-732-9278.

# **Take a Kid Fishing**