

JCAA NEWSPAPER NOVEMBER 2017

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on October 23rd, 2017)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, October 31st, 2017

Starting at 7:30 PM

At JCAA Office

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 9th, 2017

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

October 31 JCAA General Meeting

November 9 JCAA Board Meeting

November 12 JCAA Sportsperson Dinner

November 13th-14th ASMFC Menhaden Meeting
Baltimore

November 28th JCAA General Meeting

December 12th-14th Joint ASMFC & MAFMC
Meeting Annapolis

Sportsperson of the Year Dinner

By Paul Turi, Co-Chairman

On Sunday, November 12th, 2017 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 this year 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.

Tom Siciliano has been elected this year's sportsperson of the year. Here is the nomination for Tom presented by the Point Pleasant Fishing Club.

"The Point Pleasant Fishing Club nominates Tom Siciliano for the JCAA 2017 Sportsperson of the Year.

Tom Siciliano has been involved in fisheries management for over 25 years, attending NJ Fisheries Council meetings and providing valuable input. As President of the JCAA, he fought for recreational anglers on Salt Water Fishing Licensing, subway cars on reefs and improving the data collection and science used by fisheries managers, continually challenging managers on their science. In 2004, he participated in the initial meeting of the new data collection method now known as MRIP where he provided valuable guidance and ideas on how to maximize the data collection methods. He advocated for the inclusion of all variables such as weather, number of boat

registrations, and number of boats moored at marinas. He has also called for the use of data from Vessel Trip reports that party and charter boats have been required to submit for many years and data mining those reports to compare data over many years.

Tom has served as president of the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County; corresponding secretary of the Manasquan Fishing Club; and corresponding and recording secretary of the JCAA; and as treasurer of the Sunrise Bay Fishing Club. He is currently treasurer of the Point Pleasant Fishing Club.

Data collection is of paramount importance to Tom. He has provided the state with catch vs. effort data from the Sunshine Foundation fishing tournament for the past 13 years as well as the Point Pleasant Fishing Club boat, "Ideal", for the past six years. To say that he is obsessed with data collection might be an understatement. He has often said that the three most important things for accurate and effective fisheries management are: data, data and data. Recreational fishermen will never be hurt with too much data. It is the lack of sufficient data that has been the cause of questionable fishery management decisions for many years.

Tom has volunteered at the Jacques Cousteau Reserve and Rutgers Marine Field Station for the past 13 years helping with the study of larval fish abundance in the Great Bay Estuary. Also with striper and fluke tracking studies, trawl surveys and several black sea bass studies. One of those studies has the potential to show that hook and line fishing is a better indication of the health of the fishery and a better way to evaluate the size of the stock. In 2011 he was volunteer-of-the-year.

He has also been a frequent judge at the Science Fair put on by the future scientists at the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science."

As always 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.

Remember, bring your significant other. I always have prizes for the ladies too.

President's Report

By John Toth

JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner will be held at the Crystal Point Yacht Club in Point Pleasant on November 12th (Sunday). This is a dinner that is enjoyed by all with good prizes and good food. More importantly, it is an opportunity for us to recognize those individuals who have made contributions through their time and energy to improve in some way the sport we all love. Mr. Tom Siciliano will receive this prestigious prize and the Federation of Sportsmen Club will receive the Youth Education Award.

This dinner starts at 4:00 p.m. and ends around 8:00 p.m. Tasty appetizers are available to start this meeting and our dinner starts around 5:00 p.m. A cash bar is available. This is a fun night to be with your fishing friends and enjoy their company as well as their fishing stories! We usually end the night with a sizeable 50/50 drawing. Have your club representatives call Dan Miller at (609) 641-7821 or email Dan at blueangray@comcast.net to order your tickets and enjoy the dinner as well as supporting the JCAA in its efforts to protect the rights of all anglers who fish in New Jersey's waters.

We all know the importance of menhaden to our fisheries and its role in the eco-system of our ocean. In this newsletter, you will see a column that is addressed to the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission from the JCAA that comments on their Draft Addendum 3. Most of these comments were written by our Habitat Chairman, Paul Eidman. I only wrote the preface to his comments. It is good that we have Paul to keep track of this most important fishery! Your voice can be heard on this Draft Amendment 3 by going to: (www.menhadendefenders.org). Comments are due by October 24th.

Finally, Our Legislative Chairman, Tom Fote, received the Conservation Champion Award from the American Sportsfishing Association (ASA) at its recent Award Dinner Ceremony. Mike Nussman, ASA Executive Director, presented its Conservation Champion Award to Tom "in recognition of his life-long commitment to fisheries conservation and recreational fishing's future."

This is a well-deserved award since Tom has been very much involved with the effects of endocrine disrupters and its injurious results to our fisheries. Tom has also been involved with the cleanup of

Barnegat Bay. All of these efforts involve being at many meetings, interacting with many stakeholders and countless hours on the telephone with follow-up issues. Congratulations, Tom!



Tom Fote (R) accepts ASA's Conservation Champion Award from Mike Nussman

Atlantic Menhaden Draft Amendment 3 Comments

JCAA, October 18, 2017

Dear ASMFC Commissioners,

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) is an association of more than 75 saltwater fishing clubs that represents the position of marine sport anglers, champions their causes and protects their rights in matters pertaining to fishing, fisheries, and environmental quality.

Professor Bruce Franklin, from Rutgers University, detailed the value of menhaden to the ocean's eco-system and its commercial value in his book "The Most Important Fish in the Sea". This fish filters the ocean's waters and whales, bluefish, striped bass and other fish depend on menhaden as an important food source. It has many commercial uses such as paint etc., but it is extremely important to us recreational anglers since we know that when menhaden are not around, neither are other fish that we seek such as stripers and bluefish. "No bunker – no bass," is a phrase we are very familiar with. The importance of menhaden for the ocean's eco-system and for the fishing opportunities it presents to anglers cannot be understated! The stocks of this fish must be conserved and enhanced. The current

approach that ASMFC uses for setting catch limits does not effectively meet this goal. The following comments addresses specific points in this amendment and are offered in the spirit of protecting the stocks of this important fish.

Issue: Reference Points

Ecological management is right for menhaden, so Option E is the best solution now. Menhaden must be managed conservatively to 75% of virgin biomass.

The current management system risks huge increases in catch which could have a direct impact on the striped bass recreational fishery and potentially many other fisheries.

Issue: Quota Allocation

Tier 1: Option C, Jurisdictional Allocation with a Fixed Minimum, Sub-option 3 allocating a fixed minimum of 2%, is the best option on the table, but an even larger reallocation is appropriate.

The current quota allocation for menhaden gives more than 85% of the fishery to Virginia, leaving the remainder of the states to split the rest. This is inherently unfair and must be fixed.

Reduction fishing has been banned in every state on the E. Coast, except Virginia, so it makes no sense that the one state that still allows it gets 85%.

At the same time, commercial bait harvesters outside of VA are begging to catch more fish.

If option C is not possible, a reasonable alternative is a 70/30 split for reduction/bait coastwide, and no increase in catch.

Issue: Quota Transfers

Quota transfers encourage horse trading of fish and they should not be allowed.

Issue: Quota Rollovers

Option A - No quota rollovers – is the most appropriate option.

Issues: Incidental Catch and Small Scale Fisheries

Option F - All catch to be included in cap.

Issue: TAC set aside

Option C is the best option with a 0% of TAC set aside

Issue: Chesapeake Bay

The Chesapeake Bay is an important nursery for menhaden that eventually migrate across the coast. Option B-Reducing the cap and set at 51,000 MT for the Chesapeake – should be adopted along with Option B- No rollover of unused cap. Over the preceding years, catch in the bay has fallen drastically. This option is an opportunity to further protect the nursery.

Thank you again for doing what you did back in 2012. We have all seen what can happen when the bunker are given just a little chance to recover. As fishermen and concerned citizens, we thank you in advance for voting in favor of the above conservation options in November!

John Toth, President, JCAA

CC: Governor Christie, NJ Commissioner Bob Martin, Asst. NJ Commissioner Rich Boornazian, Larry Herrightly, Director, NJ Fish & Wildlife

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Tom Fote

Summer Flounder

From the 10th of October to the 19th of October, I was at the ASA Summit and the ASMFC meeting. It was interesting that at both meetings the big topic of discussion was what New Jersey did on summer flounder. I find it disingenuous that many states are upset that New Jersey did what it was supposed to do. In the last few years, the states at the Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass and Scup Board have not treated New Jersey equitably. They said they wanted to create regions on summer flounder but all they did was drag New Jersey into a region with New York and Connecticut. This was for their advantage, not New Jersey's. When Rhode Island and Massachusetts were placed in a region at the same board meeting that New Jersey was placed in the region with New York and Connecticut, they were allowed a different outcome. At the follow-up board conference call a few weeks later, Rhode Island was allowed to drop out of the region with Massachusetts. When New Jersey could not get our

motion seconded to leave the region with New York and Connecticut, New Jersey filed an appeal on the 2017 regulations. The Commission's appeal process in its present state is a joke. New Jersey wrote a comprehensive appeal that covered a number of points. The only point the sub-committee would allow was our weakest point. The appeal process needs to be changed so all commissioners are made aware of what a state has to say. This should not be decided by a small group. New Jersey took the only course of action open to us and decided to go out of compliance and made a case to the Secretary of Commerce. This is allowed under the law. We did nothing wrong. With the Secretary of Commerce, we worked out a conservation equivalency that would meet the requirements of the plan. Bottom line is, so far the numbers show that New Jersey accomplished the 30% reduction required by the addendum. We actually obtained a 34% reduction with the pounds of fish. The additional requirements to come into compliance forced us to develop an education process for hook and release. NMFS gave us credit for a 7% reduction for this process. Based on the numbers so far, we actually accomplished a 41% reduction. In the next newspaper I will cover what will happen at the joint meeting of ASMFC and MAFMC in December. Read Paul Haertel's article below that does an in-depth analysis of the numbers for black sea bass and summer flounder. Sign up for JCAA alerts so you will know when everything is posted and the meeting date is finalized.

ASMFC Summary Reports

ASMFC Approves Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog

Norfolk, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has approved Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Tautog, which includes new management goals and objectives, biological reference points, fishing mortality targets, and stock rebuilding schedules. The Amendment institutes a fundamental change in tautog management, moving away from coastwide management towards regional management. Specifically, the Amendment delineates the stock into four regions due to differences in biology and fishery characteristics: Massachusetts – Rhode Island (MARI); Long Island Sound (LIS); New Jersey – New York Bight (NJ-NYB); and Delaware – Maryland – Virginia (DelMarVa).

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board Meeting Summary - October 19, 2017

The 2016 stock assessment update indicated that all regions except MARI were overfished, and overfishing was occurring in the LIS and NJ-NYB regions in 2015. As such, LIS and NJ-NYB would be required to take harvest reductions, while MARI and DelMarVa would not have to take harvest reductions, but are proposing regional measures.

Amendment 1 replaces the goal of the FMP to sustainably manage tautog over the long-term using regional differences in biology and fishery characteristics as the basis for management. Additionally, the Amendment seeks to promote the conservation and enhancement of structured habitat to meet the needs of all stages of tautog's life cycle. The plan objectives were modified to achieve this new goal.

Under Amendment 1 the four regions will implement measures to achieve the regional fishing mortality target with at least a 50% probability. No consistent schedule is required to achieve targets, but if the current fishing mortality exceeds the regional threshold, the Board must initiate corrective action within one year. A stock rebuilding schedule can be established via an addendum.

In addition, Amendment 1 establishes a commercial harvest tagging program to address an illegal, unreported and undocumented fishery. The tagging program will be implemented in 2019. Reports of illegally harvested fish have been documented in cases against fishermen, fish houses, and at retail markets and restaurants. The tagging program, which will accommodate both the live and dead commercial markets, was recommended by the Commission's Law Enforcement Committee to increase accountability in the fishery and curb illegal harvest. Tags will be applied by the commercially-permitted harvester at harvest or prior to offloading. Tautog must be landed in the state that is identified on the tag.

The states will submit implementation proposals by December 1, 2017 and all measures in the Amendment except for the commercial tagging program will be implemented by April 1, 2018. The commercial tagging program must be implemented by January 1, 2019.

The final Amendment will be posted to the Commission's website on the Tautog webpage the week of October 31st. For more information, please contact Caitlin Starks, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at cstarks@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

As the Atlantic Striped Bass Technical Committee (TC) and Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS) continue their work on the 2018 benchmark assessment, they request guidance from the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board (Board) regarding the management plan objectives to facilitate development of biological reference points (BRPs) that best meet those objectives.

While some Board members are comfortable with the current BRPs, other Board members expressed concern that the BRPs are too conservative for various biological, ecological and socio-economic reasons, and are restricting fishing unnecessarily. These differing opinions raises questions about whether the objectives of the Atlantic Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP) have changed since the implementation of Amendment 6 in 2003. Determining the best balance between preserving stock biomass and allowing fishing is ultimately a management-level decision. Accordingly, the Board chose to convene a workshop to discuss the direction of management in more detail and to establish a working group of the Board to continue those discussions and provide the necessary guidance to the TC and SAS. The exact timing of the workshop is yet to be determined, but the final guidance to the TC and SAS is expected to occur at the May 2018 Board Meeting, or the August Meeting at the latest. The Board also approved the 2017 FMP Review and State Compliance.

For more information, please contact Max Appelman, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mappelman@asmfc.org or 703-842-0740.

Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board Meeting Summary - October 18, 2017

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board met to consider Draft Addendum XXX; receive an update on preliminary recreational harvest estimates through wave 4 (July-August 2017); consider a wave 1 recreational black sea bass fishery for 2018; and consider state compliance and FMP Reviews.

The Board was presented the updated Draft Addendum XXX, which proposes options for management of the recreational black sea bass fishery based on the recommendations of the Black Sea Bass

Recreational Working Group. The Draft Addendum offers alternatives for recreational black sea bass regional management and allocations. The main recommendation was to delay considering approval of the Draft Addendum for public comment to allow more time for developing an additional management option focused on improving data collection, compliance with the management measures, and an evaluation of the recreational fishery performance. The Board agreed and will consider the Draft Addendum at the joint meeting with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) in December.

The Board received preliminary recreational harvest estimates through wave 4. Coastwide harvest estimates for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass were below the 2017 recreational harvest limits for all three species based on the preliminary information, as well as lower than harvest through this wave a year ago. Projections of recreational harvest for all three species will be presented to the Board and Council at their meeting in December as part of the 2018 recreational specification process.

The Board received a presentation on a possible wave 1 recreational black sea bass fishery for 2018. At their meeting last week, the Council approved a recommendation to NOAA Fisheries to open the black sea bass recreational fishery in federal waters for February 2018. As part of the recommendation, the 2018 RHL will be reduced by 100,000 pounds to account for expected harvest during the February season. After discussing the Council's motion and considering the process by which this fishery would be monitored and accounted for, the Board approved the same motion. Adjustments to the 2018 recreational measures to account for this estimated February harvest will be required only of states that participate in the February fishery. State participation will be discussed at the Board and Council joint meeting. As part of the Board and Council's approved motion, management measures for the recreational black sea bass February season (February 1-28) will be a 12.5 inch minimum size limit and 15 fish possession limit per person.

The Board was informed of inconsistencies between the FMP requirements for the scup incidental possession limit and mesh size requirements and Massachusetts' state regulations for participants in the small mesh squid fishery. The Board moved to postpone consideration of the Scup

FMP Review and state compliance until the 2018 ASMFC Winter Meeting in order for the state to address the issue. The Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass FMP Reviews and state compliance will be considered for approval by email vote following the ASMFC Annual meeting.

Last, the Board discussed recent reports of noncompliance in the recreational for-hire fisheries for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. The Board moved to task the existing Black Sea Bass Recreational Working Group with developing options aimed at reducing non-compliance in the summer flounder, scup, black sea bass for-hire fisheries.

For more information on summer and scup, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org and for information on black sea bass, please contact Caitlin Starks, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at cstarks@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

ASMFC/MAFMC Meeting Fluke and Sea Bass

By Paul Haertel

We know there are a lot of anglers out there who are very angry with our fisheries management process. There have been many complaints about poor science, mismanagement of certain species and unfair regulations. More specifically, people are really upset about the lower quota on fluke which forced NJ into a reduced bag limit and a season that was shortened by 24 days including three weeks of prime time this past September. After fluke season closed on 9/5 there was little left for inshore fishermen to fish for. At that time, we were only allowed to keep one blackfish and sea bass season was completely closed from 9/1-10/21. Furthermore, there were very few striped bass or bluefish around. Many charter, party and private boats particularly in central and southern NJ remained tied to the dock while at least some boats in the northern part of the state settled for porgies. It might not have been so bad if these species were really in trouble and further conservation was needed. However, sea bass are rebuilt to 230% of their targeted spawning stock biomass and we are still facing more stringent regulations just about every year.

However, outraged anglers will soon have a chance to do something about it rather than just

complaining on the internet. The joint meeting of the ASMFC and the MAFMC will be held from **12/11-12/14 in Annapolis, MD**. Amongst many other fisheries issues, new addendums and specifications for fluke and sea bass for 2018 will be discussed at this meeting. The agenda will not be available until about two weeks prior to the meeting so we do not yet know the exact time and date when fluke and sea bass will be discussed. A good showing by the public could influence our fisheries managers to make a positive change. In fact, JCAA is considering hiring a bus to transport people to the meeting provided there is enough interest. At the very least, we intend to schedule carpooling. We are hopeful that some of our member clubs or other organizations will chip in to help defray the cost of the bus trip. Those who are interested in helping or are in need of a ride may call JCAA at (732)506-6565 or send an email to jcaa@jcaa.org.

While much of the news for fluke and sea bass has been glum, there is some cause to be cautiously optimistic about the fluke and sea bass regulations for next year. The preliminary MRIP numbers for wave 4 (July-August) just came out on 10/16 and they appear to be favorable. Regarding fluke it seems that most states will harvest less than their intended target quota for this year. This could lead to somewhat more lenient regulations for next year but the numbers given so far are just preliminary. They are not yet final nor are they complete. Below are some of the numbers from NOAA's website that we might be most interested in since we could be in a region by ourselves or in a region with CT and NY. Wave 5 data (Sept.-Oct.) will add just a few fish for NJ since the season ended on 9/5. The fluke seasons for CT and NY ended on 9/21 so when the wave 5 data comes out, their numbers will increase but I don't expect it to be too significant.

MRIP Numbers for Fluke (pounds)

State	2015	2016	2017*
CT	337,194	678,479	278,138*
NY	1,569,139	2,281,086	625,6038*
NJ	1,442,827	2,323,874	1,227,619*

**The 2017 Numbers are through wave 4 which is up to August*

Regarding sea bass, NJ caught many more than it did in recent years and will probably go over

1 million pounds after waves 5 and 6 are factored in. NY will probably add a significant amount in waves 4 and 5 but should still come in way below what they caught last year. I estimate CT might add another 150,000 lbs. for waves 5 and 6, Rhode Island might add close to 300,000 lbs. and MA perhaps just 50,000 lbs. as they are closed during wave 6. (Estimates are based on what was caught during those waves in 2016) Overall, it seems like the northern region will end up catching significantly less seabass than in 2016 which is potentially good news for the 2018 regulations as well. Still, I have to emphasize that it is very important to attend the ASMFC/MAFMC meeting and request a higher quota. Below are some of the MRIP numbers for states in the northern region.

MRIP Numbers for Sea Bass (pounds)

State	2015	2016	2017*
RI	444,337	564,370	246,487*
MA	718,101	891,440	576,686*
CT	495,675	914,014	532,764*
NY	1,531,493	2,211,292	230,308*
NJ	428,319	98,481	843,920*

**The 2017 Numbers are through wave 4 which is up to August*

Canadian Aquaculture Giant Gobbles Up Last American Baitfish Grinder for Fun and Profit

By Captain Paul Eidman

In case you haven't heard, a multinational fish farming company (Cooke Inc.) has made a deal to purchase Omega protein Inc. and take them into the private sector. While we the ink is not dry on this deal, it is obvious that the American fishing community will not be part of this new portfolio. There is no doubt that new, private ownership will continue to disregard the needs of the ecosystem and coastal businesses and seek to increase harvest levels to feed salmon, sea bass and sea bream farms around the globe.

This move is clearly a game changer for the menhaden game as we know it. It will no longer be transparent and recreational anglers will most certainly get the short end of the stick once again. It doesn't take a fortune teller to reveal that it will be profit first, ecosystem last business as usual. We can only imagine what lurks beneath the surface of this deal. In any case,

it is very clear that American baitfish will be vacuumed up, exported to god knows where, then sold back to us as Salmon and other fish as our already suffering coastal ecosystems and businesses take yet another hit.

If you have been watching from the sidelines, now is the time to speak up. There is an upcoming decision in November and your voice needs to be heard NOW. It only takes a moment to visit our website (www.menhadendefenders.org) to submit comment by the deadline of Oct 24.

Menhaden Defenders mission is to restore, rebuild and sustain the bunker population from Maine to Florida so the entire coastline ecosystems and related waterfront economy can benefit from an abundance of these vital baitfish.

Atlantic Menhaden (Bunker, Pogy) are the backbone of the entire East coast and gulf of Mexico's ecosystems. Hundreds of small businesses, from tackle and coffee shops to marinas and boat dealerships along Jersey's coast depend upon the abundance of these baitfish to feed gamefish and keep people fishing. Jersey anglers targeting Striped bass, bluefish and summer flounder know just how important bunker are for these species to survive.

Bunker are clearly the glue that holds NJ's fishing together. Studies now show that there is a direct correlation between an abundant bunker population and a healthy striper population. No Bunker equals NO Bass! No bass equals no fisherman and the money that comes with them so the local economy suffers further.

For the past couple of years, we have finally seen massive schools of peanut bunkers (young of year menhaden) returning along our shoreline in the fall and surfcasters are able to enjoy catching bass in our boots right off the beach. This is due directly to the first ever catch limits that were implemented due to a lot of hard work and thousands of anglers speaking out back in 2012. The ASMFC heard us loud and clear and made the historic move to reduce catch. All of us can see on the water that with just a little moderation and reduction of catch, the bunker will multiply fast and bounce back stronger as time goes on. Additionally, we now have more dolphins, whales, osprey and eagles along our beaches feeding on the now more abundant bunkers!

All these signs tell us that it is clearly best for New Jersey is that we continue with the conservation momentum that we have. There is an important vote

coming up in November and you have until Oct 24th to make your voice heard to the ASMFC.

Instead of continually working to increase catch, we should manage more conservatively with ecological reference points next year. All of the three options on the table right now are far superior to our current management system and for the record, we support the most conservative option: Option E - With this reference point it is essential that catch be managed to the target of 75% of the virgin biomass and that the new reference points be implemented ASAP in the 2018 season. This is better for Jersey's fishermen, both commercial and recreational and a real win for the NJ economy.

Holding the catch limit right where it is right now makes a lot of sense. What doesn't make sense is why a single state continues to get 85% of the quota and refuses to share with the other states. If VA were to get a catch increase right now, New Jersey's Bunker Bait boats would get barely a micron of the quota. For years, Menhaden Defenders has advocated for a 70/30 split. That is, 70% for omega and 30% for the bait fleet. It's up to the reduction industry (Formerly Omega) to give up quota and share with the other players in the industry.

Back in 2007 NJ fishing organizations along with bait netters teamed up to get Omega's factory ships out of NJ state waters because we all knew that if we pushed them out we would all collectively benefit. Currently, the netters have decided to side with Omega. This makes no sense to me at all. Gluttonous Omega is not going to share a single fish more with the bait netters.

Back in 2012, Governor Christie sided with the former Governor of Virginia in exchange for political favors while selling out the recreational fishing community of NJ, something he promised that he would not do. Christie did it again at subsequent ASMFC votes in 2015 and 2016 to this day, Christie's team continues to make sure that NJ state ASMFC commissioners vote against menhaden conservation! With New Jersey's consistent anti conservation vote, they voted to increase catch from waters right at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, the very nursery that the overwhelming majority of coastal stripers come from!

The Implementation of ecosystem based management strategies will carry us well into the future and ensure that the base of the future remains healthy enough to feed ALL of the creatures in the sea and sustain coastal business.

2017 Sportfishing Summit Brings Recreational Fishing Industry Leaders Together

ASA Press Release, October 16, 2017

Alexandria, VA - October 16, 2017 – The American Sportfishing Association's (ASA) 2017 Sportfishing Summit, the sportfishing industry's premier networking and business management event, was held October 10-13, in Clearwater Beach, Fla.

This annual fall business meeting brought together more than 220 fishing and boating industry and community leaders to provide a venue to discuss the issues impacting recreational fishing during committee meetings, networking events, general sessions and the association's board of directors and committee meetings. For 60 industry members; this was their first time attending the Summit.

Before this year's Sportfishing Summit, ASA's President and CEO Mike Nussman announced his retirement as of March 31, 2018.

"The past 25 years have literally flown by. It's been a privilege to lead the American Sportfishing Association, especially when new pathways for strategic growth are now unfolding. The world is changing and our sport and our industry are changing along with it," said Nussman. "When we stand together to advance and protect our shared interests, the sportfishing industry has far greater influence than would otherwise be possible. This has always been true, and it's even more consequential today."

Glenn Hughes to take on role of ASA President

In light of Nussman's retirement, the board of directors, in a unanimous vote, announced that Glenn Hughes, ASA's Vice President for Industry Relations, has been hired to take on the role of President beginning April 1, 2018.

"I am honored that I was selected for this position," said Hughes. "I pledge to do my very best to serve the sportfishing industry and the broader recreational fishing community in my new role as ASA's President."

Hughes further said, "Thanks to ASA's President and CEO Mike Nussman, the board of directors, our

committee chairs and members, all our attendees and the ASA staff, this year's Sportfishing Summit was the largest and most productive ever. Each program committee was charged with developing ways to engage the industry in efforts to get more people into recreational fishing and many innovative ideas were generated."

Connecting the Dots

Over the past two years, the Sportfishing Summit has focused on introducing and educating attendees about the Recreation Boating and Fishing Foundation's "60 in 60" campaign to increase participation in our sport from 46 million anglers annually to 60 million annually.

During this year's Summit, ASA's program committees and keynote speakers focused on "connecting the dots" between what is happening now and how we can approach the future.

One of these objectives was to get a better understanding of the "experience economy" and what that means to our industry. The other was to dive deeper into the practical steps we can take to move the recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) process forward.

Board of Directors Appointments

During the Summit, ASA's board of directors appointed Neil Eibeler, CEO, Pure Fishing and Phil Lillo, owner, Don Coffey Group, as ex-officio board members. Neil and Phil bring with them a wealth of business and recreational fishing knowledge.

The Association Recognizes Industry and Conservation Leaders

During the Summit, ASA recognized several individuals who have given generously of their time and company resources in support of the industry and fisheries conservation.

Lifetime Achievement Award

ASA's most prestigious award was presented to long-time ASA member and industry leader, **Bill Shedd**, President, AFTCO Manufacturing Company, Inc. Bill was recognized for his extraordinary leadership and lifelong commitment to recreational fishing and the sportfishing industry.

Future of Fishing Award

ASA's Future of Fishing Award was presented to **Kenneth S. Hammond**, CEO of The Hammond Group, for his commitment to recreational fishing's future through growing participation in the sport and his leadership in the industry's trade association.

Conservation Champion Award

This year, ASA presented a Conservation Champion Award to **Thomas Fote**, Legislative Chairman for the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, Inc., in recognition of his life-long commitment to fisheries conservation and recreational fishing's future.

Thank you 2017 Sportfishing Summit Sponsors!

ASA thanks its generous sponsors for helping to make this year's meeting a success.

Premium - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Pure Fishing, Inc. and USDA - Forest Service.

Gold - Bass Pro Shops, Cabela's, Costa, Southwick Associates, TakeMeFishing/Vamos A Pescar and Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A.

Silver - Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, Center for Sportfishing Policy, Coastal Conservation Association, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Engel Coolers, Forbes-Tate Partners, Freeman, Map Your Show, National Marine Electronics Association, National Marine Manufacturers Association, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Wired2fish, Inc., and Womble Carlyle.

The 2018 Sportfishing Summit is scheduled for October 9-12, at the Wild Dunes Resort in Charleston, S.C.

New JCAA Fluke Tournament Director Position Open

The JCAA is seeking a person who will manage its JCAA Fluke Tournament in 2018. This person in this position will promote the tournament with press releases, interacting with tournament sponsors to obtain prizes and recognition in promotional materials, handle promotional mailings to anglers concerning the tournament, distribute promotional material to tackle shops and port locations, enter

tournament applicants in the JCAA's data base and be responsible for the overall management of the tournament for its successful result. This position requires the following skills:

- Effective writing skills
- Computer expertise skills with Microsoft Office
- Good verbal skills
- Experience in dealing with the public
- Ability to be a self-starter to complete tasks.
- Organizational abilities to prioritize tasks
- Prior experience in managing an event is desirable

The JCAA Fluke tournament will take place in July of 2018. This position *requires* the applicant to work part time starting November 1st and attend Board and General meetings. Starting in April the position becomes almost full time. It becomes full time throughout the month of June 2018 and part of July up to the Awards Ceremony at the Clarion Hotel in July. (Salary ranges from \$3,000 up to \$5,000 with possible bonuses dependent on the Tournament Director's ability to increase the number of anglers entering the tournament.)

The JCAA is now accepting resumes for this position. All resumes should be sent to JCAA President, John Toth, by November 1, 2017 at the following address or at his email:

John Toth
24 Kings Mill Road
Monroe Township, NJ 08831
tothjohn@verizon.net

Youth Education Report By Greg Kucharewski

2017 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

The New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen Clubs was selected by the JCAA Youth Education Committee to receive the 2017 Youth Education Award. NJSFC was nominated by the oldest fishing club in New Jersey, the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club. Below is a brief summary of their nomination. The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club is proud to nominate the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs for the 2017 JCAA Youth Education Award.

The NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs was established since 1935 and represents more than 150,000 outdoor enthusiasts that fish, hunt, and trap throughout New Jersey. They work to ensure conservation education, wildlife management, hunter education, sport hunting, and all the principals of environmental stewards to manage valuable resources in NJ. Within their 20 chapters; their membership consists of environmental educators, NJ HOFNOD certified instructors, wildlife management and conservation experts. They meet with NJ State Officials, Legislators, and other environmental groups to recommend policy that will maintain healthy aquatic and wildlife resources through conservation education.

NJSFSC members have given countless volunteer hours so children will have opportunities to enjoy fishing and hunting in a safe environment, along with learning about conservation and becoming stewards of the outdoors. Their list of accomplishments is extensive so we will only mention a few: Over the years NJSFSC has spearheaded several bills and policies to protect wildlife, wetlands, and the needs of recreational sportsmen, women and youngsters – NJSFSC was instrumental in the passing of bill 638 and wrote policy for NJ HOFNOD; they also continue to make recommendations to expand NJ HOFNOD programs and increase learning opportunities in science technology, education art and math (STEAM) – Early on certified NJ HOFNOD, NJSFSC instructors worked with NJ Conservation Officers and were the first to provide classroom instruction for NJ HOFNOD. They also designed a NJ HOFNOD mobile fishing equipment cart to reach several school classrooms in NJ.

NJSFSC is a leader amongst organizations that strive to provide viable data to state officials to protect our resources and that includes youngsters that must know how to care for recreational sportspersons rights. We appreciate all NJSFSC has done over the years for NJ HOFNOD. NJSFSC members go above and beyond by volunteering many hours to carve out a future for our young people to follow and we know that their work will continue to protect our most valuable resources “our young people.” By laying out a foundation of superior sportspersons our young people have an opportunity to carry out the mission and values of NJSFSC as they grow to become the next generation of environmental caregivers.

SPEAKER REQUESTS

On Tuesday, November 7th we were invited to speak at The Jersey Shore Surfcasters meeting and present how NJ Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs ties in with the VVA Chapter 12 “Play HOOK-e program for veterans.

We will also speak at the American Legion Post 346, Women's Auxiliary in Neptune Township on November 16th. Then it is off to Sandusky, Ohio for the annual physical education and therapeutic recreation conference.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL NJBBA YOUTH FISHING EVENT

Children were excited to fish the NJBBA 24th Annual Children's Surf Fishing Tournament on September 16. According to Ken Hollins, Tournament Chairman, fishing was pretty good for the 94 children that participated on the beach at Island Beach State Park.

Youngsters were excited to catch fish and participate at the learning stations to understand the importance of protecting our coastal aquatic environmental resources and information about surf fishing techniques.

A lot of work goes into making this event successful and it takes many volunteers to make sure children have fun throughout the day. All the children receive tee shirts, goodie bags, and best of all each child gets to win a prize. NJBBA volunteers served lunch to the kids and there were plenty of smiles and full bellies.

Children received trophy awards for entering a fish in each youth division. Check out the [NJBBA website](#) for more photos and info about the event.



*NJBBA 24th Annual Children's Surf Fishing Tournament
(photo by Ken Hollins)*

1ST ANNUAL KID'S WISH'N TO GO FISH'N A GREAT SUCCESS

Thirty-three special needs children were hooked on catching fish and enjoying the outdoors at the first annual “Kids Wish’n to go Fish’n” located at Lake Julianna on the Ponderosa Estate Farm, Millstone Township, New Jersey. Mr. Vito Cardinale, President Cardinale Enterprises LLC., Don Marantz, Jersey Coast Anglers Association’s, Youth Education Committee and Greg Kucharewski, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 are already making plans with Mr. Cardinale and his team to make the event for special needs children bigger and better next year.

As children arrived at Lake Julianna and registered they received fishing instructions, “Kids Wish’n to go Fish’n” tee shirt, patriotic dog tags, goodie bags, fishing caps, and prize tickets for lots of toys along with rods and reels. Mike and Debbie Bennett, Bear Education and Rescue, played environmental games with the children and provided loaner rods and reels from their New Jersey “Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs” equipment trailer.

During the fishing segment of the outdoor fun day the focus was not on catching the biggest fish because it was catch and release only. Volunteer anglers from various organizations assisted children and their families with baiting hooks, releasing hooked fish, and setting up tackle. Dan Harrison, President of the Hudson River Fishermen’s Association who volunteered with other club members stated; “The smiles from the children, parents and caregivers was amazing. Everyone was having fun.” Every child was able to catch a fish and some youngsters had the experience of catching their first fish and received a “First Fish Award” certificate.

After fishing, everyone gathered around the BBQ picnic area for delicious pizza and food that was prepared by Mr. Cardinale and his team. Antsy the Clown had children flocking around her to receive balloon art and face painting. Children enjoyed hayrides, fly casting, and watching the NJ State Police K9 Unit demonstrate how dogs are used to stop bad guys and sniff out hidden drug targets.

The event could not be possible without the support of Mr. Cardinale and his team of caring volunteers. We also thank the following sponsors and businesses: Magnakron, Team Swish, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12, Boating Education and Rescue. Merchants – Dairy Queen, Dan The Tin Man, The Fisherman Magazine, Bagel Bistro, Monmouth Candy, Albivi’s, Bellanapoli, Tommy’s Bagles, Di Lucca’s, Vesuvio, Granmarco’s, Dunkin Donuts, Sportsmen Center, and local contributors.

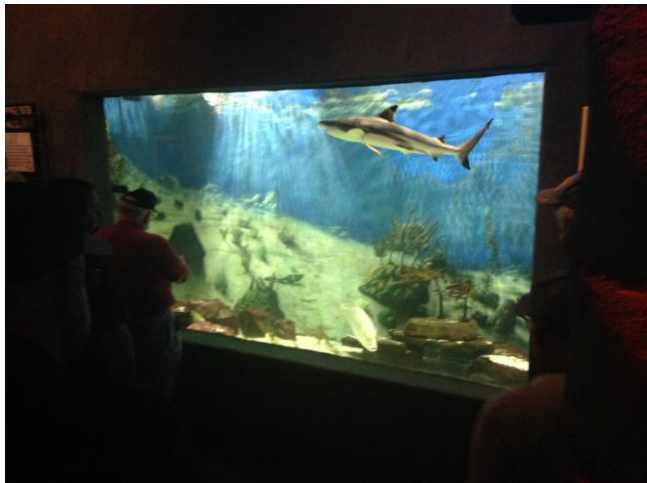
We also thank our amazing angling volunteers that assisted with set up and making sure everyone was safe by the water.



VETERAN'S "PLAYING HOOK-E"

During September, we presented a "Play HOOK-e" from PTSD Striped Bass workshop at Jenkinson's Aquarium for fourteen veterans.

Jennifer and Carol began our tour at 5:30 and explained every detail about aquatic species, reptiles, and wildlife. We also discussed what fish to eat and fish to avoid. How to properly catch and release Striped Bass without injuring the fish was demonstrated.



On October 17th fifty-one veterans attended our Play HOOK-e from PTSD at LZ 64 Monmouth Jet Center, Wall Township, NJ. The goal of the program was to introduce veterans to outdoor activities, connect with other veterans, and experience flying in small aircraft and helicopters.

6:30 pm, Tuesday, November 14th will be the next date to meet at LZ 64. Rich Thomas welcomes veterans to join their sessions that will offer fly casting, outdoor sports, oldies guitar music, model plane building, horse and art therapy, along with aviation interests, etc., over the winter months. Come out and enjoy some light refreshments and help us design a session you would like to attend at the Monmouth Jet Center LZ 64 group. Please encourage young veterans that you know to join us and help plan the session schedule.