

# JCAA NEWSPAPER MAY 2018

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on April 16th, 2018)

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

## JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

**Tuesday, April 24th, 2018**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick**

## NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, May 10th, 2018**

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

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

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

**JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote**

**JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi**

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

Anyone wishing to reproduce any part of this newsletter has the permission of the JCAA and the authors. Wherever possible, please credit the JCAA Newsletter as your information source.

~~~~~  
**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.**

## 2018 OFFICERS

~~~~~  

<b>President</b>	Mark Taylor	732-245-9445
<b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b>	John Toth	732-656-0139
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b>	Bill Browne	732-929-9112
<b>Treasurer</b>	Doug Tegeder	732-575-2661
<b>Rec. Sec.</b>		
<b>Cors. Sec.</b>	Paul Turi	609-660-2126
<b>Mem. Sec.</b>	Kyren Dooley	609-713-7712
<b>Tournament Dir.</b>		

**Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page**

## IMPORTANT DATES

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting  
**April 30** MAFMC/ASMFC Joint meeting of Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Boards  
**May 1<sup>st</sup>** ASMFC Spring Meeting Week  
**May 10<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting  
**May 20<sup>th</sup>** Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament  
**May 29<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting  
**August 4<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Fluke Tournament  
**August 9<sup>th</sup>** Fluke Tournament Awards Presentations

## President's Report

*By Mark Taylor*

Summer flounder (fluke) and Black Sea Bass regulations were set for 2018 at the April 5th New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council Meeting which Past President Paul Haertel was there representing JCAA. Paul did a great job summarizing what went on at that meeting which is in this newsletter and also on our Facebook page.

Hopefully, you got a few High Roller Raffle tickets at one of the shows that JCAA had a booth. If you were in our fluke tournament last year you will be receiving a few tickets in the 1st mailing of the tournament which will be mailed at the end of April. Fill them out and get them back before the drawing which is going to be held on May 29th. Good luck to all that enter and thanks for your continuing support.

The JCAA Fluke Tournament is coming up fast so mark your calendar for August 4th. As I mention, the 1st mailing will be going out by the end of April to remind all those who participated last year and prior years. If you supplied us with an email in the past the reminder may come by email. We will have a new online way to sign up for the tournament. There will be more about this in months to come.

The registry is an important tool that will help fishermen and policymakers work together to better

account for the contributions and impacts of saltwater anglers on ocean ecosystems and coastal economies. It is part of a national overhaul of the way NOAA collects and reports recreational fishing data. The goal of the initiative - known as the Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP - is to provide the most accurate information possible that can be used to determine the health of fish stocks. Reliable, universally trusted data will in turn aid anglers, fisheries managers and other stakeholders in their combined efforts to effectively and fairly set the rules that will ensure the long-term sustainability of recreational fishing. This Registry is not a license. New Jersey DOES NOT have a saltwater license. There are people that fish saltwater in New Jersey that need to have this and there are people that are exempt. You can get more information from the NJ Division Fish and Wildlife [website](#). I am asking you whether you are exempt or not to get this saltwater recreational registry certificate to show how many of us actually fish recreationally. Remember, it is FREE and you can print it on your own printer. You can go directly to the website at [this link](#).

The Sportsman of the Year Dinner will be held in November at the Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. It is time for your club to start thinking of who they would like to nominate for this important honor. The club should talk it over and email a short bio of 150-250 words explaining the accomplishments of the nominee to the JCAA Office and myself at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com).

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Tom Fote*

I spent a week in Washington, DC again at the ASA Government Affairs meeting and at the NOAA Recreational Summit.

### **ASA Government Affairs Meeting**

The American Sportfishing Association Government Affairs Committee consists of a Commerce Committee, Freshwater Committee, Saltwater East Committee and Saltwater West Committee. The members of the Committees are from the companies that ASA represents, NGO's, federal and state agencies, and ASA staff. Before

the meetings began I made a visit to speak with the fisheries staff for Senators Menendez and Booker and Congressman Pallone, thanking them for their support of the *Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017*. We discussed other issues like offshore drilling, black sea bass and summer flounder. I had just gotten word from ASMFC that there was an appeal from some of the Northern states about the black sea bass quota.

At the ASA meetings, we have members from all regions of the country. There are CEO's, tackle store owners, and groups like JCAA, all discussion that impact states from Alaska to Maine on saltwater issues. There are also discussions about freshwater fishing in all fifty states. The Commerce Committee discusses issues such as lead ban, soft bait bans, California's extremely intrusive warning labels, some of which are designed by lawyers to the detriment of manufacturers.

The hot topic was the *Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017*. The Fly Tackle Association came out against this bill even though every other major recreational organization and the NGO's support it, including IGFA, CCA, RFA, JCAA and too many others to list. The Fly Tackle Association received their information from the same people who believe NMFS is doing a great job managing the summer flounder, scup, red snapper and many others. Many of the opponents want only catch and release. They believe that the experience should be enough without actually taking any fish home to eat. The opponents convinced Orvis to announce their opposition to the bill in a post on their webpage. We were planning actions against Orvis but Orvis must have gotten enough feedback that they changed their mind. The letter is no longer on their webpage. If you want a copy of their original letter, send me an email. To get more information about the meeting, go to the ASA webpage to find their press releases.

It was with mixed emotions that I attended the retirement party for Mike Nussman. Mike and I have known each other since the inception of ASA. In the early 90's when I wanted to bring groups from Maine to North Carolina together to talk about making striped bass a gamefish, Mike was always eager to help. ASA would give us small grants to help defray some of the costs. He also started getting the industry to work with the NGOs and cemented the relationship between ASA and NMMA. Through his leadership, he put the American Sportfishing Association in the best financial position in its existence. Other trade

associations look to ASA for how to make things work. I will miss Mike but it is time for him to enjoy his family and go fishing.

### **NOAA Recreational Summit**

At the NOAA Summit you had representatives from all the states with saltwater regions. I spent much time with the Hawaii representatives talking about how differently their recreational fisheries are managed. There were many interesting panel discussions. We also had representation from the recreational fly community that again supported NOAA's fisheries management decisions.

Three of the people promoting the fly fishing philosophy were two past Council members and one current Council member from New York. One is still a proxy to ASMFC from New York. They missed an opportunity to support not raising quotas. I find it extremely interesting that they have no problem going after New Jersey's quotas on black sea bass and summer flounder. As Paul points out in his article, they continue to poach our quota. They never go after the real problem, the restrictive quotas on summer flounder and black sea bass which are based on faulty science. Please read Paul Haertel's article below.

I think one of the most exciting presentations was from Kelly Denit & David Van Voorhees, Ph.D. They are co-chairing the statistical committee that is looking at how to rectify the discrepancy between the mail-in and phone statistics on recreational trips. The mail-in surveys are showing more participation. My concern has been once we got numbers that were higher they would be used to decide we were overfishing. From their presentation, it does not seem that is the intent. They are using both sets of figures and determining that we have underestimated participation and therefore underestimating the stocks. That could lead to adjustments to previous stock assessments. I have been pointing out this problem since in 2003 New York had a statistical jump in recreational participation because of better data collection, not more anglers. NMFS refused to consider this data then, just decided New York was overfishing. I am hopeful that this new procedure will have a positive impact on how decisions are made. I think Kelly and Dave are finally getting it right.

Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce, was a keynote speaker. He talked about fishing as a kid on

the Jersey shore. He said his two biggest fisheries accomplishments thus far were dealing with the red snapper issue last year in the Gulf and dealing with New Jersey's problem with the summer flounder regulations. Michael Pentony, the new head of GARFO, attended the meeting and we had an opportunity to discuss greater outreach to recreational anglers from Maine to North Carolina. Since he is a Point Pleasant boy, I am hoping he will return for the JCAA dinner.

After talking with people from many different saltwater regions, I found the common thread is that we need more accurate recreational catch data. We also need better stock assessments. When I complain about NMFS, I never complain about scientists doing their jobs. Unanimously, they would like better data so they could make more accurate estimates of stocks and recreational participation. It is clear that Congress needs to budget the money for more accurate data. Hopefully, under this new administration this will happen. I have been hopeful with every administration since 1980 and have yet to have my hopes realized.

### **Upcoming Joint ASMFC & MAFMC Meeting & ASMFC Spring Meeting Week**

There has been an additional day added to the meeting week to allow for a joint meeting of ASMFC and MAFMC. The agenda is below. We will be dealing with summer flounder and bluefish issues on Monday. I still have great reservations about opening the bluefish management plan. My fear is because the recreational sector has been conservative and not caught our quota and have transferred our unused quota to the commercial sector, we will be punished when that becomes a new quota split. So our reward for being conservative is to move our quota permanently to the commercial sector. How will this impact on the striped bass quota when the new benchmark assessment is available and there is excess quota reported. I have always feared the same move on striped bass.

### **Black Sea Bass**

Paul Haertel did a good job of pointing out the history of black sea bass. I want to add that in the early 2000s when we were trying to get the plan in place, and the states kept on fighting over the commercial quota, New Jersey was willing to give up 20% of its permanent commercial quota to make the plan work. That is the only time I have ever seen that

happen. None of the other states have ever made that offer. Because New Jersey always had the largest recreational quota, the other states have always wanted to move New Jersey to a region that would improve their quota with no thought given to New Jersey's issues. The North seems to forget how many times the South has bailed them out of issues with black sea bass and summer flounder quotas, sharing unused quotas. I have never seen the North reciprocate. It is like having a relative who always borrows money but never offers when you need something.

Some of the states are threatening to go out of compliance, using New Jersey's actions in 2017 to justify their demands. They are threatening the South with coastwide numbers that would hurt the South but not the Northern states if they went out of compliance. The Northern states seem to forget that we didn't go out of compliance because we asked for more quota. We just wanted to manage our state's quota in a way that was best for New Jersey and our anglers. We accomplished a 10% greater reduction than was required and a bigger reduction than we would have seen if we left the ASMFC requirements in place. We were being more conservative while the North wants to be less conservative.

## Spring ASMFC Meeting Week Agenda

### Monday, April 30

**10am - Noon, 1pm - 3pm:** Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board Jointly with Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

- Consider Approval of Summer Flounder Draft Amendment for Public Comment
- Review Alternatives for Black Sea Bass Framework/Addendum on Recreational Issues
- Review Black Sea Bass February Recreational Fishery Harvest

**3:15 - 4:45pm:** Bluefish Management Board Jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

- Review and Consider Approval of Public Information Document/Scoping Document for Allocation Amendment

### Tuesday, May 1

**9:00 - 11am:** Coastal Sharks Management Board

- Review Results of North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Stock Assessment
  - Discuss Potential Management Response
- Review Results of Sandbar Shark Stock Assessment
- Update on Endangered Species Act Listing Status for Oceanic Whitetip Shark
- Review and Consider 2016 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports

**9:00am - 5:00pm:** Law Enforcement Committee (A portion of this meeting may be a closed session for Committee members only)

- Review and Comment on Ropeless Fishing Technologies
- Review of 2018 Action Plan Items
- ASMFC Species Management Issues
- Federal Agency Reports
- State Agency Reports

**11:15am - Noon:** Shad & River Herring Management Board

- Consider Approval of Shad and River Herring Sustainable Fishery Management Plans
  - Technical Committee Report
    - Massachusetts (Merrimack River)
- Report on the Funded Research Proposal on Blueback Herring
- Review and Consider 2018 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports

**Noon - 1:15pm:** Legislators and Governors' Appointees Luncheon

- Introductions
- General Comments/Discussion
- Discuss Non-compliance

**1:15 - 2:45pm:** Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

- Provide Guidance to Stock Assessment Subcommittee Regarding Biological Reference Point Development for the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment

**3:00 - 3:45pm:** Atlantic Herring Section

- Discuss Potential Impact of River Herring/Shad Caps and Mackerel Fishery Possession Limits on Atlantic Herring Fishery

- Review Technical Committee Report on Scaling Up of Spawning Fish Samples Involving Less than One Hundred Fish

**4:00 - 5:00pm:** Northern Shrimp Section (Meeting will not be available via webinar but interested parties may listen to proceedings via conference call)

- Discuss Potential Inclusion of a Second Management Issue in Draft Addendum I to Extend the Current Fishing Season

**4:00 - 5:00pm:** Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Coordinating Council

- ACCSP Status Report
  - Program Status and Committee Updates
- Review and Consider Approval of FY19 Request for Proposals Package
- Accountability Standards

**6:00 - 8:00pm:** Annual Awards of Excellence Reception

### Wednesday, May 2

**8:30 - 10:30am:** Executive Committee (A portion of this meeting may be a closed session for Committee members and Commissioners only)

- Report of the Administrative Oversight Committee
  - Presentation of FY19 Budget
- Discuss Appeals Process
- Discuss Conservation Equivalency Process
- Discuss Commissioner Conflict of Interest
- Future Annual Meetings Updates
- CLOSED SESSION: Executive Director Performance Review

**10:45am - 12:30pm:** Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

- Review and Consider Approval of Terms of Reference for the 2019 Atlantic Menhaden-Specific and Ecosystem-Based Benchmark Stock Assessments and Peer Reviews
- Review and Consider Approval of Stock Assessment Subcommittee Membership
- Review and Consider 2018 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports
  - Review Final 2018 Commercial Quotas

**1:15 - 3:15pm:** American Lobster Management Board

- Review Lobster Conservation Management Teams Proposals to Reduce Latent Effort
- Law Enforcement Committee Report on Enforceability of Ropeless Fishing
- Plan Development Team Update on Development and Timeline of American Lobster Draft Addendum XXVII

**3:30 - 4:15pm:** Winter Flounder Management Board

- Review and Consider Rhode Island's Conservation Equivalency Proposal
  - Technical Committee Report

### Thursday, May 3

**8:00 - 10:00am:** Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board

- Review and Consider Northern Region Appeal of Addendum XXX to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan
- Committee Reports
  - Law Enforcement Committee
  - Artificial Reef Committee
- Horseshoe Crab
  - Update on 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment and Timeline
  - Consider Approval of Non-traditional Stakeholder Nominations

**10:00 - 10:15am:** Business Session

- Consider Noncompliance Recommendations (If Necessary)

**10:30 - 11:30am:** Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board

- Consider ISFMP Policy Board Recommendation Regarding Northern Region Addendum XXX Appeal, If Necessary

**11:45am - 2:15pm:** South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board

- Review Public Comment on Draft Addendum I to the Black Drum Fishery Management Plan
  - Consider Draft Addendum I to the Fishery Management Plan for Final Approval

- Consider Management Action Based on Technical Committee/Plan Review Team Recommended Updates to the Annual Traffic Light Analyses for Atlantic Croaker and Spot
- Updates on SEDAR 58 Cobia Stock Identification Workshop and Board Tasking of Cobia Technical Committee from February 2018 Meeting
- Discuss Request to the Secretary of Commerce to Implement Cobia Regulations in Federal Waters in the Absence of a Federal Fishery Management Plan
- Elect Vice-Chair

## EPA to Convene National Leadership Summit to Take Action on PFAS

EPA Press Release, 3/19/2018

WASHINGTON – Today, in a letter sent to governors of 56 states and territories, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced plans to host a National Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. to take action on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). PFAS is a category of man-made chemicals that have been widely used to make products because of their stain-resistant, waterproof and/or nonstick properties.

“EPA’s leadership summit will bring together stakeholders from across the country to build on the steps we are already taking and to identify immediate actions to protect public health,” said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. “Through this event, we are providing critical national leadership, while ensuring that our state, tribal, and local partners have the opportunity to help shape our path forward.”

“The states have been on the front lines of addressing PFAS issues, so ECOS is glad to see EPA recognize their urgency and engage the states early in its process,” said ECOS Executive Director Sambhav (Sam) Sankar. “Many states cannot take action on PFAS issues until EPA makes a regulatory determination, and all states would like to see continued federal research and leadership in this area.”

“It is critical that responding agencies at all levels are effectively communicating and coordinating efforts to protect the public’s health,” said Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder. “We need a national effort to review the expanding scientific

research on these contaminants, as well as possible responses and remediation. Having a national dialogue on this growing concern could be instrumental in establishing standards, protocols and best practices that will allow all state and federal partners to comprehensively address these contaminants across the country.”

The National Leadership Summit will be hosted in Washington, D.C. on May 22-23, 2018. During the summit, participants will work together to:

- Share information on ongoing efforts to characterize risks from PFAS and develop monitoring and treatment/cleanup techniques;
- Identify specific near-term actions, beyond those already underway, that are needed to address challenges currently facing states and local communities; and
- Develop risk communication strategies to address public concerns with PFAS.

Following the summit, EPA will travel to states with communities impacted by PFAS to further engage on ways the Agency can best support the work that’s being done at the state, local, and tribal levels. Using information from the National Leadership Summit and community engagement, EPA plans to develop a PFAS Management Plan for release later this year.

EPA has also updated the PFAS website to highlight ongoing work by the Agency, including the development of additional toxicity values, analytical methods, and treatment options for PFAS in drinking water. Details on the National Leadership Summit and community engagement events will be posted on the website as materials become available.

*Additional information [here](#).*

*[Contact Us](#) to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.*

## JCAA 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament

*By Paul Turi, Office Manager*

The JCAA 24th Annual Fluke Tournament will take place on Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> and the Awards Presentations will take place on Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at the Clarion Hotel on Rt. 37 east in Toms River, NJ.

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

Our Eventbrite [online registration](#) is now on our website. I would strongly recommend using the Eventbrite site to sign up for the tournament. You will automatically receive a confirmation email and you will have a paid receipt for your records. Soon registrants will be able to download and print their own affidavit/weigh-in slip. Our IT person is now in the process of making that happen. Once it is operational, a registrant will receive a confirming email with a link to a site to download the affidavit/weigh-in slip. If you sign up by mailing in a registration form, an affidavit/weigh-in slip will either be mailed to you or you will receive an email with a link to download and print it. Again, it is highly recommended that registrants sign up using our Eventbrite online registration method. This not only serves as a receipt, but it saves JCAA manpower in having to manually enter everything into our computer system, print & mail an affidavit/weigh-in slip.

You will also notice on our application form this year instead of having 9 ports we are having 7 regions with 11 weigh stations. This year we have combined the ports Great Bay, Ocean City, Atlantic City, Cape May and Fortescue into the southern region. Each region will have 10 prizes. There will be a \$1200 1<sup>st</sup> place prize for each region and 9 2<sup>nd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> place merchandise prizes for each region. Therefore, for the southern region there will be one set of prizes for those five combined ports within that southern region.

There will be a \$50 & \$100 calcutta for each region and a \$50 & \$100 calcutta for the overall tournament. We will continue the calcuttas for this year as they have been very popular with a lot of interest and participation.

There will again be a \$50,000 cash prize for the largest fish weighed in over 12lbs by 1/100 of a pound.

Last year in total we paid out over \$60,000 in cash and prizes!!! The overall tournament winner, 10-year-old Dylan Cole, won \$12,881!

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

The boat is again being donated to JCAA by **Starcraft Boats** and **Yamaha** again is donating the engine.

Again, we will be having **FREE** food and drink at the Awards Presentations on August 9<sup>th</sup> at the Clarion Hotel. We will have sliders, hot dogs, soft drinks, etc. Yes, **FREE!** So bring the whole family and crew and have some fun and let's load up the banquet hall and make a nice impression for our tournament sponsors!

## 2018 Fluke and Sea Bass Regulations Set

*By Paul Haertel*

At the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council meeting on April 5 the following regulations for fluke and sea bass were set.

**Fluke:** May-25 – Sep-22, 3 fish at 18"

### **Sea Bass:**

May-15 – Jun-22, 10 fish at 12.5"

Jul-1 – Aug-31, 2 fish at 12.5"

Oct-8 – Oct-31, 10 fish at 12.5"

Nov-1 – Dec-31, 15 fish at 13"

However, there may be a problem with the sea bass regulations as states to our north have filed an appeal with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and they are threatening to go out of compliance. The process is pretty complicated but they are going after a portion of New Jersey's quota. To recap what happened, on 2/8/18 the ASMFC's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board approved Addendum XXX that established a regional allocation of the coastwide Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL) as opposed to Coastwide Measures. Allocations will now be based on both historical harvest and exploitable biomass rather than just historical average which had been done in the past. JCAA supported using this new method as it addresses changes in the resource's distribution and abundance. In recent years this fishery was managed by a two-region approach but there are now three regions. The three management regions are defined as Massachusetts through New York, New Jersey as a state-specific region, and Delaware through North Carolina. JCAA supported that option as well because New Jersey is a

transitional state in which its sea bass fishery doesn't really fit in with the states to its north or to its south. This option will allow the NJMFC to set regulations that best suit our fishermen while allowing them to address spatial variation in size and abundance. However, there could be more volatile regulatory consequences if we over fish our regional quota.

The timeframe for setting allocations at the ASMFC meeting was a contentious issue. JCAA recommended using the ten-year time frame from 2006-2015 as it more accurately captured our historical share of the harvest. States to our north preferred using the five-year timeframe from 2001-2015 as those were the years when their share of the harvest had skyrocketed. Tom Fote was away on vacation for this meeting and his proxy was unable to attend due to a family emergency. That left Adam Nowalsky to carry the torch for our state and he did an outstanding job representing us. The states seemed hopelessly deadlocked on the timeframe issue until Adam made a motion to combine the allocations from each timeframe and then take the average of the two. This hybrid approach resulted in an allocation of 65.35% of the recreational harvest limit for the northern region (Massachusetts-New York), 30.24% for the New Jersey Region and 8.41% for the southern region (Delaware-North Carolina). While the compromise was not the best solution for us as our historical share of the RHL was much higher, it is probably about the best we could have hoped for under the circumstances.

At that time, though, it appeared that New Jersey might have to significantly tighten its regulations this year. None of the states to our north seemed to care about that. However, now that NJ is being allowed to liberalize significantly while the states to our north have to cut back, there seems to be a big problem and they want a portion of our quota. What happened was that the new addendum allowed for a "smoothing over" approach. Since the MRIP data for NJ seemed way too high for wave 3 (May-June) in 2017, we were allowed to smooth it over using wave 3 data from previous years. That is what allowed us to be able to liberalize our regulations.

Ever since New Jersey was forced into the northern region in 2012, our state was treated very unfairly and our percentage of the overall harvest dropped a great deal. This was to the benefit of the states to our north as their share of the harvest skyrocketed. It seems that the restrictions placed on

NJ allowed the population of sea bass to grow to 230% of its targeted spawning stock biomass while at the same time their range expanded further to the north than ever before. In 2011 draconian regulations were forced upon us which resulted in New Jersey harvesting their fewest sea bass during this entire century though most other states were negatively impacted as well. There was a liberalization of the regulations in 2012 at which time New Jersey was placed in the northern region. Then for 2013, NJ was forced to establish harsh regulations that resulted in us harvesting only 61% of our target quota. At the same time, New York harvested 125% of its target and Connecticut harvested 150% of their target. NJ did its part but then the following year all states in the northern region had to cut back by the same percentage. In other words, CT and NY were rewarded for going over their target quotas while NJ was penalized for under fishing theirs. Those stringent regulations that NJ set in 2013 have hurt us just about every year since as they continue to be used as the basis for liberalizing or tightening our regulations based on each year's target quota.

Further, NJ's historical share of the harvest was 47.7 % for the period from 2001 to 2010 and probably even more than that previous to those years. Going back further, and for the 20-year period from 1991 to 2010, New Jersey harvested more sea bass than any other state except in 1998 when it harvested the third most and in 1999 and 2010 when it finished second. Yet, the states to our north want to use only the years from 2011-2015 when NJ finished first only once and finished fourth (its all-time lowest) in 2012. We believe it would be very unfair to base quotas on those years when New Jersey's share of the harvest was at or near its lowest and states to our north were at or near their highest levels. JCAA would have preferred an option that went back further in time and did not include the years of 2011-2015 at all. However, considering the fact that there were only two options, JCAA supported using the base years of 2006-2015. We believed that would have been the fairest to all states as it not only included a more historical average but also accounted for the northward shift in biomass during recent years. However, the compromise of using the average of the two timeframes was agreed upon. That resulted in NJ's share of the quota going down to 30.24% from its historical share of 47.7% or even more depending on how many years back you go. Still the states to our north want even more of our quota. It is a shame that



those states seem to be ganging up against New Jersey when the real problem is not New Jersey's share of the fish but rather the ridiculously low coastwide quota that is set.

Rather than fighting amongst ourselves, we should all be fighting together to take the power away from the Science and Statistical Committee (SSC) as they are the ones responsible for setting the unreasonable quotas.

## Memoriam of Noel Angelucci

*By John Toth*

There is saying that many of us know and that is: "You can't judge a book by its cover." When I first met Noel, I judged him too quickly due to his appearance. As many of you who have been acquainted with Noel, he dressed very informally and his bushy hair always seemed to need a comb to it.

I believe I first met Noel (born on Christmas Day and that is how he got his first name), I think it was about 10 years ago and we were trying to get rid of Senator Karcher and Assemblyman Panter for trying to stuff the Fish & Game Council with a lot of those animal rights activists and I saw him at one of those meetings. I looked at him and I thought who is this guy and how is he going to contribute to this important effort. Well, when somebody asked a question about a certain piece of legislation, Noel whips out his phone and with a little bit of scrolling belts out the exact status of this legislation! I thought to myself that **this guy is really on the ball and he has a heck of a lot to contribute!**

Noel showed up at a number of those management type meetings and was always well prepared with the issues at hand. He asked common-sense type of questions to fishing managers and all of us respected him for his presence at these meetings. We knew that Noel always had the best interests of us recreational anglers at heart.

Noel was always fun to be around and he had a good sense of humor. I always enjoyed his company and we often had a good laugh about something. Quite honestly, I did not have the opportunity to really get to know Noel, but I really liked him! When I heard of his untimely death, I took it hard and felt in the dumps all day. I even told my wife how badly I took this terrible news. Not

only me, but everyone I talked to about Noel's passing said "**OH NO**" and then mentioned how sad and shocked they were about losing him.

Noel in many ways touched all of us in some ways and I am not sure he even realized how much we respected and admired him. **Rest in Peace, Noel!**

Noel served his country in the US Army, was President of the Fortescue Anglers Club, he was his club's representative to the JCAA, member of the Bluefish Advisory Commission and a member of the South Jersey Salt Water Anglers.

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### NATIONAL FISHING & BOATING WEEK

NF&BW Free Fishing Day in New Jersey is Saturday June 9, 2018. Residents and non-residents may fish the public waters of New Jersey without a license or trout Stamp. All other regulations apply. For those anglers just starting out, the Division of Fish and Wildlife offers many programs and classes to advance from beginner to expert. The Pequest State Trout Hatchery in Oxford, Warren County offers free fishing programs. Pequest offers a Natural Resource Education Center with a variety of exhibits and displays on wildlife, a butterfly garden, picnic areas and hiking trails. There is also a handicapped-accessible fishing site along the Pequest River.

Sign up for one of the Youth Fishing Challenge. It's a statewide event to promote fishing among youths and their families. It will be held on the first of the state's two Free Fishing Days, Saturday, June 9, when no license is required to fish regardless of age.

Registered youth participants will be eligible to receive prizes for the fish they catch during the event. Youths must be present at the conclusion of the event to be awarded prizes. Those who are lucky enough to catch a trout tagged as part of the "Hook-A-Winner" Program will receive a special prize following the event. Organizations interested in hosting an event, and individuals interested in volunteering at an event, should complete and submit an application form: Organization/Volunteer Application Form are available online.

Questions can be directed to this email address: [hofnod@dep.nj.gov](mailto:hofnod@dep.nj.gov).

## 27TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S CUP

Get ready to enter the largest surf-fishing tournament along the Jersey Shore. This year it will be bigger and better than ever. The 27th Anniversary of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be on Sunday, **May 20**, 2018. Don't miss a day of family fun! Pick up a brochure about the tournament at Island Beach State Park or at your favorite tackle dealer.

Remember, admission to the park is FREE for the tournament. We would like to remind our physically challenged anglers that there is an area at OBA 1 with beach wheelchairs available. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice and physically challenged anglers at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. World Jeep – Chrysler – Dodge - Ram, Shrewsbury, NJ will assist physically challenged anglers with a NEW 4x4 VIP vehicle to transport anglers that will be fishing the reserved area in front of OBA 1. Team World Jeep Chrysler will also be available to answer questions about 4x4 beach maintenance and fluids.

Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 12) and volunteer anglers from various fishing clubs will also assist physically challenged anglers. If you know a disabled veteran or angler that would like to fish the tournament, please phone Greg K at 732-785-9278 or email [gkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:gkucharews@jcaa.org).



## HIGH SCHOOL SURF FISHING TEAM COMPETITION

Don't forget to register early for the High School Team Competition for the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament on Sunday, May 20, 2018. How does the High School Fishing Team Competition work? Five school age students that are part of a formal fishing club or members of a NJ "Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" group or a non-formal angling group can register for the Governor's Annual Surf Fishing Tournament. Each High School will participate as a team with no limit to the number of anglers per each school. There must be one chaperone, 21 years or older, for every 5 high school students. Chaperones are not eligible to fish and must remain with their high school students during the entire Tournament. All angling team members will receive a t-shirt for registering.

GSFT committee members feel the expanded opportunity for youth angling groups to fish the GSFT will create more excitement and recognition for young anglers on tournament day. For more information about New Jersey High School Team Surf Fishing, please visit [this link](#).



*NJ DEP Photo: Tournament winner Kyle Brendel*

## **GLOUCESTER NJ HOFNOD CATFISH TOURNAMENT**

Gloucester NJ HOFNOD will hold its first annual Ray Curry Catfish tournament / flea market for kids on June 11, 2016 at River Winds in West Deptford, NJ. Robert Johnston is the HOFNOD Gloucester Township director, if you would like to enter or support this program, please contact Robert @ 856-491-5366, hofnodgt.com or visit [this link](#).

### **PLAY HOOK-e TAKE A VETERAN FISHING**

Mike and Debbie Bennett of Boating Education and Rescue will host a "Play HOOK-e Take a Veteran Fishing" at Turkey Swamp Park at 200 Georgia Road, Freehold, NJ 07728 on Thursday, May 24, 2018 10:00 am till 12:00 pm. The program will begin with what you need to know about freshwater fishing and how to fish freshwater areas in New Jersey.

The free program is for veteran's struggling with PTSD but all veterans are welcome to register. Veterans will learn about largemouth bass lures, catch and release methods, rigs and baits, and receive guidance about water safety. By working in small groups each month (10-15 Veterans) and sometimes one on one, veterans are able to gain the confidence needed to communicate about improving their quality of life.

The goal is to connect veterans to VA Service Offices/Outreach Centers, NJ Coastal Parks, Fishing Clubs, Veteran Organizations, and help Veteran men and women take time to heal by utilizing healthy outdoor activities, such as fishing. To register, contact Mike & Debbie Bennett at 732-492-4009 or bear@boatingeducationandrescue.org.

### **HUDSON RIVER FISHING ASSOCIATIONS MAY YOUTH PROGRAMS**

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> members will take the Englewood special needs children fishing. May 3<sup>rd</sup> is fishing with Hackensack middle school children. During May 5<sup>th</sup>, members will assist with the Ridgefield park earth day.

May 10<sup>th</sup> will be the Liberty State Marina gathering. May 12<sup>th</sup>, at Newburge with the wounded warrior project and May 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Waterford, NY kids fishing program.

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Summer programs for adults and children at Sedge Island are offered by the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, and a partner with the NJ DEP in many management, research and educational programs. Programs range from fishing to kayaking to professional development workshops for teachers.

To learn more, visit the CWF's Sedge Island web page [here](#).

## **27<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament Sunday May 20, 2018**

*By Tom Fote*

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament (GSFT) will take place in Island Beach State Park (IBSP), NJ on May 20, 2018. This event is one of the most popular surf fishing contests for the individual angler on the east coast. It is sponsored by Jersey Coast Anglers Association, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, NJ Beach Buggy Association, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, NJ Division of Parks and NJDEP.

This year's GSFT will be the fifth to be held in the spring. The 2017 event in May proved to be a success with more fish caught by the contestants. The most important part in planning this tournament is always to provide the most enjoyable day of surf fishing possible for the participating anglers.

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

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



day. To volunteer, or to make arrangements for a handicapped angler, please contact Greg Kucharewski at [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com).

We need your help, so please sign up to be a judge in the tournament. Each judge will receive a special issue Governor's Cup Surf Fishing Tournament judge's hat. In addition, a stipend is available to help offset the cost of fuel burned while judging on the beach. Also, the IBSP beach pass is not required for judge's 4x4 vehicles during the hours of the tournament.

Tournament t-shirts and hats will be available for sale inside the pavilion area after 10:00 am on tournament day.

There will be a raffle drawing for registered anglers in the tournament. Participants in the drawing must be present at the award ceremonies to qualify to win.

The GSFT Committee and several other organizations have donated funds to provide IBSP with 15 new beach accessible wheel chairs to replace the well-worn units that have been in use at IBSP. These chairs will be on display at the Pavilion at OBA#1 during the day of the tournament. More information on this program will appear in the tournament follow-up article in an upcoming JCAA Newsletter.

If you are interested in details of wheelchair use at the park, please contact the Island Beach State Park office at (732) 793-0506.

We hope you are planning to fish in the GSFT this year. If not, why not volunteer to help on the day of the tournament. Help is always needed at the registration desk, with sales of tournament hats and t-shirts, assisting anglers with special needs, and judging.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. **Early Entry incentive:** If postmarked by April 22, 2018 you will save on adult registration fee and be eligible for a drawing for the Coastline Surf System. For more information on the drawing visit their [website](#). Avoid delays! Pre-registration allows you to go directly to the beach.

The Governor has been invited to present the prizes during the awards ceremony. The individual catching the largest fish will receive the "Governor's Trophy," high end rod and reel combo, and have their name engraved on the Governor's Cup which is permanently displayed at Island Beach State Park. There will be prizes broken down by fish categories for adults and children.

Brochure and Registration Form and past tournament winners are available at [this link](#) and the direct link for the Brochure is [this link](#). Anglers planning to participate in the tournament should always register early: doing so entitles you to save \$5 on the adult registration fee, be eligible for special prizes and avoid delays when entering the park. The early entry incentive ends April 22, 2018. After this date, anglers will be required to register at the tournament.

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

### Early Registration

Early registration must be postmarked by April 22, 2018. Here are entry fees for early registrants:

- Ages 18 and older to \$15
- Ages 13-17: \$5
- Children 12 & under are **free!**

### Day of Tournament Registration

Registration opens at 5 am on Sunday at Pavilion #1.

- Ages 18 and older: \$20
- Ages 13 - 17: \$5.00
- Children 12 & under are **free!**

*Note: Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult and are still required to register.*

### Schedule

6:30 am - 1 pm	Fishing
1:30 pm - 2 pm	Raffle Drawing
2:00 pm	Awards Ceremony

Special arrangements are available for handicapped anglers. Balloon tire equipped beach wheelchairs are available for anglers with disabilities. Volunteers will be needed to assist anglers with special needs who fish on tournament



*Disabled anglers enjoyed a day on the beach during the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament.*

For more information about the tournament rules and eligible fish prize categories visit the NJ Fish and Wildlife [website](#) or call (609) 748-4347.

## **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 at the following address or at his email:

24 Kings Mill Road  
Monroe Township, NJ 08831  
[tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net)

---

## **JCAA ANNUAL FLUKE TOURNAMENT**

**AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**

---

## **TOURNAMENT**

## **AWARDS CEREMONY**

**AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**

---