

JCAA NEWSPAPER OCTOBER 2018

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on September 17th, 2018)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, September 25th, 2018

Starting at 7:30 PM

385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, 11th, 2018

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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

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

## **2018 OFFICERS**

|                            |              |              |
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| <b>Tournament Dir.</b>     |              |              |

**Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

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

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>** MAFMC Meeting Cape May NJ

**October 11<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**October 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>** ASMFC Annual Meeting NYC

**October 30<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

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

**November 11<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Sportsperson Dinner

## **Sportsperson of the Year Dinner November 11th**

*By Paul Turi, Co-Chairman*

On **Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**, 2018 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 \$80.00 per person and \$650 for a table of 10. There will be a cocktail hour with a cash bar and a full course meal. To reserve your tickets, call Dan Miller at (609) 641-7821 or email Dan at [blueangray@comcast.net](mailto:blueangray@comcast.net).

We are accepting nominations for this year's sportsperson of the year. If you want to nominate someone, please submit a bio of approximately 250 words. You can email your nomination to me at [pturi72@gmail.com](mailto:pturi72@gmail.com) or you can present your nomination at the September General Membership Meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be voting for our sportsperson of the year at this meeting.

I am also in need of door prizes and Chinese Auction and Silent Auction prizes. If you have something to donate, please contact me at (609) 709-9215 or email me at [pturi72@gmail.com](mailto:pturi72@gmail.com). It would help if each of our member clubs donated a prize or solicited bait and tackle shops that its members

support. As it looks right now we are going to have to purchase a lot of prizes for the dinner.

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

## President's Report

*By Mark Taylor*

As the weather is starting to change and fishing seasons opening or closing, I hope everyone had a great and safe summer. There are a lot of things that have been happening that could affect the recreational fishing community. I hope all of you are following the issues by all different media sources. JCAA has been trying to build an email alert system for things like this.

If you want to get the most current issue alerts, send me your email address to [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com) and state that you would like to be added. We also have been putting things up on our Facebook page. If you didn't know about it check it out and follow it.

One of the issues is the Wind Mill Project in which JCAA sent in a letter back in July during the comment period which you can see a copy on our Facebook page.

At the JCAA meetings before the comment period I asked that you and your clubs send in a letter which I hope you did. We want to be at the table during this process and not in the back of the room. Another issue was the bluefish allocation, where basically they were looking to reduce the quotas for recreation and increase the commercial. There was a bill signed by Governor Murphy back in August that would allocate 1.2 million dollars to the Division of Fish and Wildlife to hire qualified personnel which has not been given. This money is much in need to perform tasks that are not being done. We all need to call the Governor's office and tell him to release these funds so they can hire people to do the necessary tasks needed to defend New Jersey Anglers.

The NJ Marine Fisheries Council has an open position with the resignation of Councilman Joe Zaborowski because he is moving out of state. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors. JCAA will be talking about this at the next meeting September 25<sup>th</sup>, so have your club representative

there. We need to act on this so we as recreational fishermen have a voice.

For those of you that participated in this year's Annual Fluke Tournament, I thank you. It comes with a lot of memories for all that participated and those that didn't. There were a lot of fish caught and three fish over ten pounds. One of the fish was over the 12 pound mark but unfortunately that individual did not enter that category for \$50,000. We also had one of our entries do a heroic thing by responding to a mayday of a vessel in distress at the Cape May Reef. The angler was Ray Trainor. We should all take a chapter out of his book to stop fishing and respond to fellow anglers in need. If you're in trouble you would want someone to respond.

The Sportsman of the Year Dinner will be held on November 11th at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. I would like to see more clubs being represented at this event so get your table tickets.

JCAA will have a booth at upcoming shows and we will be looking for volunteers, so contact me.

If you would like me to speak at your club, please send an email to [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com) and in the subject put "Speak at Club."

Remember, JCAA is always here for you, but we need more people to get involved.

## Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

*By Tom Fote*

In 1986, when I took over as vice president of JCAA, I decided we needed a newspaper or newsletter to replace our usual postcard announcing an upcoming meeting. In the 32 years the JCAA Newspaper has developed into a source of information for everyone concerned about the marine resource. We don't talk about just recreational fishing, we talk about the environment, fisheries management and other issues like renewable energy and endocrine disruptors. When I look at this issue, I also see the other way we've grown. Other writers are contributing so we have many other voices and a broader perspective. However, we have also stayed true to our mission, providing honest, timely information. You might not always agree but our JCAA positions are developed through consensus, using all the available science with

input from all our member clubs. *I am proud to be the publisher of the JCAA Newspaper.*

It has been busy since my last column. I am sorry to say much has not changed but we continue to try. The Joint Meeting of the MidAtlantic Fisheries Council and ASMFC and the Summer Meeting of ASMFC resulted in many motions passed. The problem is we might have to revise all those motions with data that will be available at the beginning of 2019. Keep paying attention. Look at the webpages for ASMFC and the MidAtlantic Council and we send alerts to keep you up to date.

Besides fisheries management meetings, there were meetings on windmills, protecting the back bays and the consequences of beach replenishment. Much discussion, little immediate action. You need to pay attention to the proposals from the Army Corp of Engineers as they will be asking for your comments and suggestions on how we can protect our beaches and our homes from future storms. Here is [the link](#).

There are two articles in the Newspaper about windmills. They make you aware of what is going on and some interesting concerns. **Remember, JCAA's position is to support renewable energy, including windmills.** That was voted on by our member clubs and has not changed for many years. What we are looking at is how do we minimize the impact on the marine resource.

There is a hearing on summer flounder on September 24. The release is below. The release says the meeting is about managing the commercial quota. Don't be fooled. Other states are looking enviously at both the commercial and recreational quotas in New Jersey and trying to take some of that quota for their benefit. They are not interested in the best outcomes for New Jersey for our commercial and recreational communities. I attended the American Fisheries Society Stakeholders Day and attended the summer flounder workshops. What was interesting was the graph that showed the northern migration of summer flounder according to current data. It was based on poundage rather than number of fish, giving heavier fish more importance. The graph showed summer flounder migrating into New Jersey as well as New York and the New England states. This refutes the Amendment to the plan's proposal to place the north south line between New York and New Jersey. This information showed that there was no biological reason for placing the line there. When I asked why the line was proposed

there, I got blank looks. When I suggested it was politics, no one challenged my statement. The commercial and recreational communities need to work together to fend off these attacks on our quota. Sign up for JCAA alerts and pay attention to what is going on both at this meeting and with our state and federal representatives.

## MAFMC and ASMFC to Hold Public Hearings for Summer Flounder Commercial Issues Amendment

Latest News, MAFMC

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) are soliciting public input on a draft amendment to address several potential changes to the management of the commercial summer flounder fishery, as well as modifications to the fishery management plan (FMP) goals and objectives for summer flounder. Ten public hearings will be held between September 10 and September 27. Written comments will be accepted through October 12, 2018.

The specific issues under consideration in this amendment include:

1. Requalifying criteria for federal commercial moratorium permits to address latent effort in the fishery: The amendment includes options to reduce the number of eligible commercial federal moratorium permits by implementing requalifying criteria for existing permits.
2. Modifying commercial quota allocation: The amendment proposes several options for revising the current commercial allocation to the states, which has been in place since 1993 and is based on average landings from 1980-1989.
3. Adding commercial landings flexibility as a framework issue in the Council's FMP: This action does not consider implementing landings flexibility policies at this time but considers allowing the Council to implement landings flexibility through a future framework action instead of an amendment. The Commission's adaptive management process already allows for landings flexibility.
4. Revising the FMP objectives for summer flounder: This amendment proposes revisions to the current

FMP objectives for summer flounder management to provide more meaningful and up-to-date guidance to managers.

### Learn More

Additional information about the amendment and the management alternatives being considered can be found on the [Council's website](#) and on the [Commission's website](#). This information includes three documents: (1) the Public Hearing Document, which includes all proposed management changes and was developed to solicit public comment; (2) the Commission's Draft Amendment; and (3) the Council's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Both the Commission's Draft Amendment and the Council's DEIS are required under their respective regulatory processes.

**Note:** NJ Hearing will be on **September 24<sup>th</sup> at 6PM.** It will be at the **Ocean County Administration Building 101** Hooper Ave, Toms River NJ 08753.

## 13 Artificial Reefs in Federal Waters Finally Cleared of Traps

*By John Toth*

**Background:** A number of readers may be under the impression that the 13 artificial reefs in federal waters off New Jersey's coast have already been cleared of commercial traps. Others may have totally forgotten about this issue. Other readers may not even know that it was a problem since removing commercial traps off 15 of New Jersey's artificial reefs has taken **over 12 years to do!** Our memories tend to grow dull when resolving an issue like this over a 12-year period that has taken so many twists and turns. Let me highlight some of the major points in the struggle of recreational anglers to remove these traps.

Under the direction of Mr. Bill Figley, our state DEP in the 1980's began the development of creating 15 artificial reefs, two in our state's waters and 13 in federal waters. These reefs provide a habitat for a large number of salt water species and they also enhanced fishing opportunities for recreational anglers. These reefs were built with funds provided by the federal government under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program and by

various fishing clubs and private monies. The federal monies come from excise taxes on our fishing tackle. Essentially, these reefs were built with funds from recreational anglers and were intended to be for general use, like a public park system for everybody to use. It is estimated that 20% of the fish caught in New Jersey come from these 15 reefs.

Unfortunately, these reefs were so successful in attracting fish and lobsters that they also attracted commercial fishermen who completely covered these reefs with their traps. Recreational anglers got their gear continually snagged by these traps, rendering the reefs virtually unusable for them.

Recreational anglers, fed up with their inability to use the reefs, organized to take these reefs back by forming **Reef Rescue**, a group of recreational anglers, clubs and divers pushing for new rules to remove commercial traps from the reefs. Removal would be through new state regulations and the reefs declared as Special Management Zones (SMZS) that would prohibit the use of traps on the reefs.

Reef Rescue, a Council Member of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA), spearheaded a number of initiatives to remove the traps by galvanizing anglers to sign petitions, sending emails to their legislators and meeting with them to get legislation passed for the removal of these traps. On several occasions, Reef Rescue was successful in getting a majority of New Jersey's senators and assemblymen and women to support this legislation, but the Speakers of the Assembly (Albano and Roberts) would not post the bill due to their ties to commercial anglers. Angered by this frustration, Reef Rescue organized an official protest in front of Assemblyman Albano's office in Cape May on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> of 2011 with anglers (including JCAA members) carrying posters with the message "**Give Us Back Our Reefs**"! Close to 100 anglers were at these three demonstrations. In addition to these demonstrations, funding for reefs from the federal government was suspended due to recreational anglers not being able to use them according to the regulations of the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program.

What these demonstrations accomplished was to draw public attention to this issue that eventually led to Assemblyman Albano chairing a meeting of the Assembly Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee on March 8, 2012 proposing that the two reefs in New Jersey's waters (Sandy Hook and Axel Carlson) be split for use by both recreational and commercial anglers. It became apparent to Reef

Rescue and NJOA Council members that further efforts to remove all of the traps on these two reefs through legislation would go on endlessly since the commercial industry had important ties to legislators that would thwart total removal of the traps. So a compromise was reached in 2015 whereby these two reefs would be split for usage by both commercial and recreational anglers. To appease recreational anglers for the loss of their space on the two reefs, agreement was also reached that the New Jersey DEP would build a new artificial reef for use only by recreational anglers by the Manasquan Inlet that would occupy approximately one square mile.

While the usage of the two reefs in New Jersey's waters was resolved, what about the 13 reefs in federal waters? Would they also be split for usage like the Sandy Hook and Axel Carlson reefs?

In 2016, our state DEP petitioned the Mid-Atlantic Council (MAMFC) to designate these 13 artificial reefs as Special Management Zones. The MAMFC Steering Committee reviewed this issue and it recommended that the 13 reefs should have SMZ status. One issue that did not help the commercial sector is their claim to the IRS that they only made \$25,000 in profits a year from using the 13 reefs! This bolstered the argument that the commercial anglers would not be adversely affected if these reefs became SMZ's.

At a December 12th MAMFC meeting in Baltimore a vote was taken on whether to have the 13 reefs designated as SMZ's and it passed (9 votes for and 8 against). The usual suspects on the MAMFC who vote against recreational anglers did not prevail – including the New York representative who said we need to study this issue more even though thousands of anglers signed petitions to have the traps removed!

However, before the reefs could be finally declared SMZ's, public hearings and input from both the commercial and recreational communities had to be received by the MAMFC. A final decision was delayed with the departure of John Bullard being replaced by Mike Pentony.

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) finally ruled that the 13 artificial reefs can be fished with hook & line and spears by divers. All traps must be removed by August 8, 2018.

This whole story could be made into a book, but I have tried to give you 12 years of our struggle to remove the traps off our reefs in a few pages. I

want to **THANK ALL** of the **JCAA clubs** and NJOA Council members, especially **Reef Rescue**, for making this happen! **Sometimes, recreational anglers win one!**

## Trouble Comes to Town

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

This past week our waters, specifically the NJ/NY bight off of Sandy Hook NJ, had some visitors that we have not seen in a very long time. Omega protein Inc., the Atlantic menhaden (Bunker fish) processing giant, decided to take advantage of the calm seas and steam 250 miles north from Reedville, VA up to our waters. I am sure that the presence of whales and pictures and videos on social media brought attention to Omega and they decided to send some spotter planes up for a look. They were able to determine from above that there were millions of older, oil-rich bunker in giant schools.

For the past couple of months, this area has been the home to 13 juvenile humpback whales and countless pods of bottlenose dolphins. Last week, an organization, Gotham Whale, was onboard the party boat American Princess out of Jamaica Bay, NY enjoying a whale watching trip. As the whales and dolphins were lunge feeding on the abundant adult menhaden, they watched in awe as the Omega vessels pulled up nearby and proceeded to wrap the nets around millions of pounds of bunker and suck them up with vacuum hoses. No whales were entangled and there was no reported incidence of bycatch of any kind.

It was this event that has sparked an outpouring of renewed interest in Menhaden, and now local folks want the harvest to be stopped completely since they are removing all the whale food from the area. Fishermen want to know if the fall striped bass run is in jeopardy due to these ships fishing in the bight. Note that It is our contention that since this year's young of year (peanut bunker) are being seen at super saturated levels in our back waters, that we are going to have an outstanding fall striper season, especially for the surf angling crowd.

Over a four-day span, there were four massive vessels, each capable of holding over a million bunker, some hold closer to two million fish. The vessels are named as follows:

The Rappahannock, 194 ft  
The Calcasieu Pass, 154 ft  
The John Dempster, 166 ft  
The Fleeton, 184 ft

This is all legal, by the way, and they are, in fact, operating in the EEZ (past the required 3 mile line) and within the harvest limit which has not been met for 2018 as of yet.

Folks are asking what they can do and what can be done to stop this harvest so that the whales will stay in the bight. Reality is that there is nothing we can do within the existing framework of the ASMFC except wait for the next meeting session to voice our concerns. But even this is ineffective because they have already voted AGAINST implementing ecosystem-based management methods as well as INCREASING to keep the catch limit another 8% to 214 MT for 2018 and 2019. Note that this level EXCEEDS the quota that was in place when overfishing was occurring back in 2012.

If you are not familiar with it already, please make a concerted effort to learn about ecosystem-based management. Bunker should NOT be managed the same way you manage a striper or a fluke or any other "single species." The role bunker play in the marine food web is far too important to be managed the same way other fish are. This is the key message that is most important for all to grasp. It's all about leaving enough menhaden in the water so they can provide the ecosystem-based services (like water filtration and converting algae into gamefish growing protein) that are filled by no other species!

If anglers and other concerned citizens were to do anything now, it would be to find a politician that would like to champion our cause. They could in turn implement a bill that would eliminate reduction fishing (The process that is used to make fish meal and oil) in the EEZ or push Omega reduction boats out 12 miles to make sure coastal waters could remain vibrant and abundant with Menhaden and gamefish. A buffer zone could help struggling coastal ecosystems and businesses thrive.

As many of you know, I run a small grassroots organization called Menhaden Defenders and we have been at this bunker thing for years. Most of all we need your engagement and support to stay afloat. What folks can do to help: Stay engaged, follow us online and share our posts, encourage others to like our page, educate others with facts. Don't just lurk around online, please speak up and let

others know how important these fish are to you in your part of the coast. Take pictures out on the water, in grocery stores, etc. When you see something bunker related, post it and use your experience to teach others. Learn how to insert tags into your posts so that you can make sure companies like @omega see what you are posting.

Consider making a small donation online at our website, buy a Menhaden Defenders T shirt, a sticker to help support our work. As a consumer, you can look at the products that you buy and ask questions. It's not all about taking fish oil pills! There are dozens of divisions of Omega corporation and bunker is used in too many things to list! Companion pet foods alone are a big part of this. We have found that the majority of dog food on the shelves use menhaden as a cheap protein source. 8 out of 10 brands and formulas contain fish meal or oil! If you are not sure about the protein source for your pet's food, call the 800 number on the bag and ask what kind of fish they use. And contrary to popular belief, we have found more fish in dog food than in cat food! Know that Omega corp is now owned by COOKE seafoods, a giant Canadian salmon fish farming company. Bunker is ground up for fish meal and oil and turned into fish pellets and shipped worldwide to feed fish for your table. Yes, now would be a good time to stop eating farmed salmon and switch over to either wild salmon or locally caught fish. Yes, the existing fishery management framework ASMFC.org allows the practice of reduction fishing to continue at this industrial scale. It will not stop until the annual catch quota is met. You need to stay informed, spread the word to regular people, as many people still do not even know what a bunker is and why they are so important. We need many more voices out there and educating your fellow man is key here in the long run. Please show up at upcoming meetings when called upon and speak your mind!

Remember No Menhaden = No bass, No Tuna, No Whales, No Osprey... No Nothing.

**Take Someone Fishing  
This Fall that has  
Never Fished**

## Windmills are Coming to New Jersey in a Big Way

*By John Toth, JCAA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, I attended a meeting in the Municipal Building at Belmar hosted by the NJ DEP and the Bureau of Energy Management (BOEM), a federal agency that is involved in determining windmill placements. Both of these agencies explained that Governor Phil Murphy issued an Executive Order mandating that he wants to see **3,500 Megawatts** of energy produced by windmills off New Jersey's coast by **2030**. These windmills would be placed in federal waters approximately 17 miles off New Jersey's coast. NJ's Bureau of Public Energy (BPU) would interface with potential developers in the leasing process, and the NJ DEP would focus on environmental issues involved in setting up these windmills.

For recreational anglers, there are two major concerns with these windmills and they are: we do not want them to be placed on prime fishing locations – and we want to be able to fish by them when they become operational. The concern is that these windmills can be like Earle Pier and we would get chased away by security guards if we get too close to them. We were told that we would be able to fish by them, but do we really know for sure? In Europe that has extensive windmill development and with the exception of England, all other European countries ban fishing by their windmills. In regard to prime fishing grounds, we will have to further review their recommended locations to determine if windmills should be placed on them.

BOEM showed four locations under consideration for these windmills: Fairways North, Fairways South, Hudson North and Hudson South. These locations were strongly criticized by commercial fishermen in the audience since they are in the areas they fish, especially for scallops and clams. They said that they would eventually be put out of business. In response to that, a BOEM representative indicated that a fund could be established to compensate commercial anglers for loss of their fishing business! I don't think any of us would like to be told that a new project will put us out of business! A number of commercial fishermen

and their families have been in the fishing business for generations and now they hear that they will be the casualties of these new windmills.

The commercial fishermen requested that there should be at least two nautical miles between the windmills to facilitate their dragging operations. BOEM did not respond positively to this request. The commercial fishermen were livid that BOEM would not at least do this for them and they loudly expressed their frustration over this issue.

I asked BOEM how many windmills they envision being built and the answer I got is that they don't know. I also indicated that a couple of years ago, Clean Ocean Action (COA) made a big fuss about seismic testing by one boat and the blasts it produced, harming whales and other species in their migratory patterns. Drilling the ocean bottom to establish pylons for windmill foundations will most certainly make a lot of noise to vastly exceed anything done by one boat doing seismic testing. The BOEM representative conceded that this is a major concern since it would especially affect whales. However, they are looking at a way to reduce this harmful effect.

A question was raised from the commercial anglers about the projected lifespan of these new windmills. The BOEM representative indicated that these windmills will have a **lifespan of 25 years**. This answer caused quite a stir among the crowd with someone yelling, "They won't last that long with corrosive salt water. Don't you people know that these windmills will be in the ocean!" Another person asked, "Who is going to monitor the operation of these windmills so that potential problems with them can be easily rectified such as broken wind blades?" The BOEM response was that they will resolve that issue in the near future.

This is an ongoing process and at this time this major project is in a public comment period. There is certainly more to come on this windmill program and I will keep you informed as it moves forward.

## Report on Windfarms

*By Paul Eidman, JCAA Board Member*

Back in May, I attended my first public meeting about the offshore wind farms planned for the waters off New Jersey's Coast. Little did I know I was entering into new and uncharted waters and I needed to ramp up fast just to keep up with the pace that all of

this was happening at. Despite hearing discussions about offshore wind power in New Jersey years ago, I thought the issue was asleep. I came to realize that when Gov. Christie left office, a new door swung wide open and offshore wind power development is back on in a big way. I was surprised that both Gov. Murphy and Trump's Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke were speaking from the same page.

The federal folks holding the meeting were from the BEOM, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, which as it turns out, would be the first of dozens of acronyms that were hurled at me for the next hour and a half. I remember BOEM from many of the sand mining meetings over the past few years. They are the landlord for the ocean floor from 3 to 200 miles out, or, as we know it, the EEZ, Exclusive Economic Zone.

I was the only recreational fisherman in attendance, and there were over 50 people in the room. It was clear to me by the end of the meeting that more of us need to be engaged in this process from the beginning so we can reap benefits for recreational fishing. We need more fish attracting structures in the ocean and these platforms, if they are anything like the rigs out in the gulf, would be kickass spots for everything from Black sea bass to Mahi Mahi. Each one of these platforms will become a "fish factory" in addition to providing a holding area for many migrating species. There were, however, many commercial guys, mainly the trawler guys in the commercial clam, scallop and squid business. While they are skeptical of what offshore wind farms will do to their ability to trawl in these areas, recreational fishermen need to speak up because it will likely make our fishing better.

BOEM was soliciting input on a "call area" – which is a proposed area for further development in the New York/New Jersey Bight. At first glance of the maps, I was frankly shocked by the size. However, that is exactly why BOEM was hosting this meeting. They were looking for feedback on which places to remove from potential development. In fact, previous call areas in Massachusetts and Rhode Island were shrunk before leasing due to angler feedback. That is why it is so important for us to be there.

As an angler, I do have particular concerns about development. First, we need to be able to fish these things. BOEM told me fishing would be allowed right up to the base of the turbines as long as we don't tie up. Access will be limited during

construction, understandably. Also, I was concerned about ongoing monitoring to fisheries. We know these artificial reefs can be great for fishing, but we should be tracking all of the impacts. Many developers and BOEM are committed to this type of activity. I came away a little more assured about offshore wind, but still concerned that recreational anglers needed to provide input.

But it isn't the last opportunity for us to provide feedback. Since this meeting I've learned a lot more about the process. First, BOEM creates a map for areas that could potentially be auctioned off for wind development. It then asks for input on where to or not to develop – which is what this meeting is. Then they will auction off pieces of this area to the highest bidder. Finally, that developer will submit a plan to BOEM that must be reviewed. Throughout these steps we will have opportunities to say what does and doesn't work for anglers.

In addition to the future leasing of the New York and New Jersey Bight, there is an existing lease 12 miles off Atlantic City. The developer, Orsted, is currently doing a site assessment to determine the best place to locate turbines. They will share their plan with the public and we can provide input. There is also a small-scale demonstration project proposed for state waters off of Atlantic City called Nautilus. While this development could be good for fishing in state waters, environmental organizations are concerned about impacts to birds like the iconic Red Knot. Personally, I want to make sure these things benefit the entire ecosystem and am concerned about unintended consequences.

We also have an existing demonstration project off of Block Island, Rhode Island. Back in 2016, we completed construction on the first offshore windfarm in the USA, the Block Island Wind Farm, a small project consisting of 5 turbines that are now powering 17,000 homes and businesses on Block Island. They sit about 4 miles off the SE corner of the island and are producing about 30 megawatts of power. The transmission line runs from mid-island back to the mainland and works both ways.

It was barely a few months before mussels and underwater growth began to form on the bases and each of them became an ecosystem quickly. Fishermen began catching black sea bass, summer flounder (fluke) and cod soon after the construction stopped. The coast guard and the developers have reassured the public can have full access for anglers, divers and

spearfishermen and that you can get as close as you want; you just can't tie off.

The Block Island wind farm replaced an antiquated power plant that ran on diesel fuel that was brought over in a tanker truck on top of a ferry! The islanders were paying some of the highest rates in the country because of this, and it was dirty to boot. There was some savings gained by shifting over to wind power, but because the new system is only 5 turbines, the savings as compared to a system that would feed NJ & NY is not that great. As in many things, larger scale will make offshore wind energy cheaper.

Recently, base cost estimates for the new wind farm planned off of Massachusetts were almost on par with fossil fuels in the area. That's what they call 'parity' in the renewable world and once that parity goal is achieved, there's no stopping renewables from becoming a bigger part of the current BPU portfolio and hopefully displacing many fossil fuels. Offshore wind has the potential to reduce carbon emissions drastically, increase America's energy independence and have a major impact on stalling climate change. In turn, this will help to keep many of our gamefish species hanging tight along our coast for all of us fishheads to enjoy! I look forward to staying engaged on these important developments on offshore wind in the coming months. I'll be sure to keep JCAA members and the board informed on where we can have the biggest impact to ensure recreational fishing opportunities are kept in mind as development moves forward quickly.

## **Say No to the Transfer of our Bluefish Quota to the Commercial Industry**

*By John Toth*

It seems to me that we always have challenges to our rights as recreational anglers. We have onerous regulations imposed upon us like black sea bass that has a 230% biomass, yet we can only catch two of them from July 1st to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Now, there is an effort by the Atlantic Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the Mid-Atlantic Council (MAMFC) to transfer more of our recreational bluefish quota to the commercial

industry. The ASMFC and the MAMFC held a June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Ocean County Administration Building in Toms River to hear public comment on this proposal. I attended it and gave the following comments as president of the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County, Vice President of the JCAA, Director of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance and the NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

In addition to a prepared statement that I read, I also mentioned that it is my observation that bluefishing has been very inconsistent from previous years. In the past, they would arrive in all sizes and stay until fall. Now, and especially in the past two years, blue fishing has been very inconsistent and sometimes even non-existent. So, how can we transfer more of our bluefish quota when it is so spotty? Party boat captains and even some of the commercial fishermen agreed with me that bluefishing is not what it used to be. One angler commented that there used to be seven boats in Belmar fishing for bluefish with day and night trips. Now there is only one boat in Belmar fishing for blues and it does not do any night trips.

The ASMFC and the MAMFC are holding similar public hearings on this transfer with other states on the east coast. Most of the comments made at this meeting favored the status quo and that changes to any bluefish transfer cannot take place until a benchmark assessment of bluefish stocks are made so we know the status of their stocks. (Does it not make sense that a stock assessment should be made first before any transfer of a quota is even considered?)

In the spring of 2019, the ASMFC and the MAMFC will hold another meeting to present their preferred options on this transfer of bluefish stocks to the commercial sector. These options will reflect the information they have gathered from their hearings to receive public comment on this proposed transfer. My comments follow:

The Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County, the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, the Jersey Coast Anglers Association and the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs have the following comments to offer on your Bluefish Management Plan (BMP) and its proposed Bluefish Allocation Amendment. We are totally against transferring an increased amount of our recreational quota of bluefish to the commercial sector.

1. Why do this now? Does a benchmark stock assessment of bluefish support this increased transfer? What if this assessment indicates that

recreational anglers have exceeded their bluefish quota? If that becomes the case, then our recreational quota could be significantly reduced resulting in a shortened season and even a closed season for recreational anglers to catch fish.

2. Because of efforts to conserve this fishery, we have not overfished our bluefish quota. We want to rebuild the stocks of bluefish and not reduce it! What do we get for our efforts to stay within our quota – we have to transfer some of it to the commercial sector. This is not fair and it definitely supports our impression that commercial fishermen receive better treatment from your management than recreational anglers.
3. Historically, the split for bluefish has been 83% for recreational anglers and 17% commercial. This has worked for many years and now we are contemplating changing it. What is going to be now? Will it get to 60% for recreational and 40 % commercial? What about the following years? An even split of 50/50 %? We have experienced confusing seasons for our fisheries and sea bass is a prime example. So, with changing allocations of the bluefish fishery between the two groups, we may end up with confusing fishing seasons for bluefish just like sea bass in the future.
4. The recreational fishing industry is dying a slow death in New Jersey with many charter/party boats going out of business, including marinas. Closed seasons and restricted seasons for sea bass, blackfish, and fluke mean anglers are taking less fish home and sometimes nothing. Why should anglers pay to go on party/charter boats under these circumstances? We have heard this from captains and an overwhelming number of recreational anglers!

Now, we are hearing that we should transfer more of our bluefish quota to commercial anglers! How much more punishment should we receive? Bluefish helps us get through those periods when fishing gets tough for fluke and other species. But, that safety valve can be taken away with this new allocation.

What's next – you can catch only five or 3 bluefish instead of 15?

An article in the June 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Record” points out that there have been fewer party and charter boat trips since 2016. Recreational fishing remains an economic engine for New Jersey that supports 20,000 jobs and contributes \$1.5 billion to New Jersey's economy. The Bluefish Allocation in question will contribute to the slow death of New Jersey's recreational community.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our comments on this Bluefish plan.

John Toth,

President, Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County  
Vice President, Jersey Coast Anglers Association  
Director, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance

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## **AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA**



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### **HRFA Nominates Arnie Ulrich for the JCAA Sportsman of the Year Award**

There is no other more deserving person than Arnie Ulrich for the JCAA Sportsman of the year award. This HRFA member has been a super-active participant from the year he joined in 1979! Arnie has held every office except treasurer including the maximum three years as our leader and president. Probably most importantly, he has served as our membership secretary for many years and has literally enrolled thousands of members over the years not to

mention keeping accurate tabs on those late with dues and getting timely renewal notices out every year.

Arnie also is a major organizer of fishing trips for both association members and their friends. He is responsible for annual trips to fish for cod, pollack, and haddock in Maine and has yearly local trips usually run out of Belmar for fluke, blackfish and flounder in their appropriate seasons. The man is an expert angler for all of these species with stripers and bluefish also in his bag of tricks. Arnie has frequently been a guest speaker for our group and others where he gives great advice to new anglers seeking to up their scores. His selfless and generous donation of time to the HRFA and NJ fishing in general probably exceeds any other person qualified for this superb honor.

Arnie Ulrich has represented the HRFA at the regular and special meetings of the JCAA. He has attended countless meetings all over the state that are in the best interests of salt water anglers from both New York and New Jersey. His love for the Hudson River is doubtless as sincere as his commitment to the HRFA and all the other fishing groups he supports. He has received HOFNOD training and is always helping kids such as our Hooked on the Hudson spring function where he cuts bait and helps the kids rig up.

Arnie is the most likeable man in the HRFA. He always has a smile and easy-going attitude that makes him a go-to guy whenever a project or campaign needs leadership. He has been in charge of our awards dinners on many occasions and also has been a key computer expert for our annual December HRFA auction. He's served on nominating committees, bylaws committees, and many groups and functions.

If there is a contest or function run by the club or JCAA, you can count on Arnie to participate. He just served as the Jersey City port weigh master for the 2017 fluke tournament where one of our members caught the biggest fluke of all. If his help or participation was needed for our Hudson River Striper/bluefish derby, Lake Ontario catfish chaos contest, or ASAC tournaments, Arnie will be involved every time!

His value to the club has always been recognized as proven by our most cherished internal award, the Pete Barrett plaque, which was earned soon after the award originated. If the HRFA had a Hall of Fame like pro baseball, Arnie would be one

of the original six inducted for at least six admirable traits that make him so deserving; loyalty, dedication, angling skills, longevity, organization, and pure hard work.

Arnie serves as NJOA membership secretary. The result is a more efficient system, current membership listings, timely renewal notices, timely responses to new members. (Same as he has done for the HRFA)

Arnie has consistently volunteered at NJOA events such as the Wild-game dinner and sportsman's shows.

He has and continues to work in the background providing the support needed to successfully complete projects such as "Pots off the Reefs," HODNOD and the Sparta Mountain issue.

Regarding the JCAA Fluke Tournament in Jersey City, Arnie volunteers. However, he is also the driver that makes it happen. Again he is working in the background.

With respect to being the JCAA rep. for the HRFA; few people appreciate the effort involved. For the JCAA, Arnie drives 2 to 3 hours for a 1-1 1/2 hour meeting.

Meeting attendance is important. Not only does it keep the HRFA involved in current issues, it also supports the JCAA so that it can continue to fight for NJ Anglers. Recently, Arnie volunteered to be the HRFA representative to the NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. He is one of the original contributors to HOH and still involved.

The HRFA proudly nominates Arnie Ulrich for this prestigious award. -

## **Youth Education Report**

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### **2018 KID'S WISH'N TO GO FISH'N**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Kid's Wish'n to go Fish'n" For Special Needs Children will be held at Ponderosa Estates Farms Lake Julianna, Millstone Township, NJ. We already have our "Play HOOK-e" veterans and member clubs of JCAA registered to come out again and help the special-needs youngsters fish.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 29, 2018 from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm. Special needs children ages 6 to 16 years old are invited to catch and release fish at Lake Julianna. Mr. Cardinale is providing plenty of fun surprises for all

special needs children and the event will include a hot dog and hamburger barbeque lunch for children and their guests, complements of Cardinale Enterprises, LLC. For more information visit The Fisherman magazine [calendar of events](#).

Local merchants and contributors are providing prizes, goodie bags and tee shirts for girls and boys fishing Lake Julianna's "Kids Wish'n to go Fish'n." All children go home winners and the fish win too. If you would like to volunteer at this worthwhile event for special needs children, please contact Don Marantz, JCAA Youth Education Committee at 908-347-1434.

### **2018 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD**

The JCAA Youth Education Committee is accepting nominations for the 2018 Youth Education Award. There are many NJ HOFNOD volunteers doing great work to bring successes to the fishing community but sometimes individuals and sport-fishing organizations go above and beyond to make the future of fishing better for our youngsters.

Youth Education Award Criteria: Promoting "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs (HOFNOD)," Certified HOFNOD instructors, number of fishing or aquatic education events, JCAA lending library usage, and creativity for promoting youth fishing events. Submit your nominations in writing (250 words) and email to [gkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:gkucharews@jcaa.org) or bring your nomination to the next JCAA general membership meeting.

### **HRFA YOUTH FISHING**

The Hudson River Fisherman's Association is going great guns with their youth fishing programs this year. They are close to completing 25 events that they ran or supported by providing HRFA kids fishing volunteers. Dan Harrison, President HRFA, shared some of the fan mail the organization has received for doing such a good job of getting youngsters involved in fishing. It takes a lot of work to have so many fishing programs running throughout the year. Congratulations to all the members that volunteered time to make the youth fishing program successful:

- **04-07-18** - Billy Joes in Newburgh, youth in Newburgh
- **04-19-18** - Hackensack Middle School. Assisted Hackensack Riverkeeper with HOFNOD

- **05-01-18** - Special Needs fishing Bergen County @ Englewood
- **05-03-18** - Assisted Hackensack Riverkeeper with HOFNOD at Pep Boys location
- **05-05-18** - Ridgefield Park Day
- **05-10-18** - Special Needs children of Bergen County, Wheelchair children
- **05-12-18** - Newburgh Wounded Worrier Project
- **05-24-18** - Mill Creek Park Secaucus. Assisted Hackensack Riverkeeper with HOFNOD
- **05-19-18** - Waterford NY Children fishing
- **06-02-18** - Yonkers Day
- **06-11-18** - Special needs children of Bergen County
- **06-11-18** - Assisted Hackensack Riverkeeper with HOFNOD
- **06-14-18** - Assisted Hackensack Riverkeeper with HOFNOD Lorel Park, NJ
- **06-23-18** - Kingston, NY River Day
- **07-17-18** - Assisted Hackensack Riverkeeper with HOFNOD Mill Creek
- **07-21-18** - Catskill United Way fishing
- **07-25-18** - Special Needs children of Bergen County
- **07-26-18** - Special Needs Adults of Bergen County
- **08-04-18** - The ARC school of Ulster-Greene county NY
- **09-08-18** - Croton Yacht Club Riverday
- **09-15-18** - Younkers, NY Riverfest
- **09-16-18** - Hackensack Riverkeeper day Laurel Park Secaucus
- **09-22-18** - Congers Lake, Rockland County Hunting and Fishing day

### **NJ HOFNOD BRICK HIGH SCHOOL**

Brick High School Mustangs and Dragons grades 11 – 12 will begin classes this September with NJ HOFNOD added to their physical education classes. Tim Brennan, Physical Education Teacher and NJ HOFNOD certified instructor, will work with other teachers and introduce students to NJ HOFNOD, safe boating, CPR, science, environmental stewardship and fishing skills.

The JCAA Youth Education Committee will support the high school groups by supplying books, presentations, terminal tackle, and materials from the JCAA lending library. They also have a list of clubs and organizations helping within the community such as, Gabriel's Bait and Tackle, Grumpy's Bait and

Tackle, Jersey Hooker Outfitters, Geldhauser & Rizzo Attorneys at Law, Jersey State Controls, Jersey Shore Surfcasters, Knights of Columbus, Jersey Coast Shark Anglers, The Rotondo Family, The Aquaviva Family, and Bimini Bay Outfitters. Boating Education And Rescue (B.E.A.R.), Mike and Debbie Bennett ,Environmental Educators, will also support students at both high schools. Mike and Debbie are also NJ HOFNOD certified instructors.

I had the opportunity to tag along on their first NJ HOFNOD fishing outing at Manasquan Inlet, Pt. Pleasant side. The students were engaged with casting and fished in the rain. Tim Brennan, Physical Ed. Teacher and Certified NJ HOFNOD Instructor organized the trip and helped students that just learned to cast. The fish didn't cooperate but all had a great time.



*Rock On - Brick Mustangs First Fishing Trip 2018*

NJ HOFNOD is a great way to introduce youth to fishing, learning about their local waters and other natural resources while supporting positive outdoor recreation activities and life skills. For more information about the training, contact Liz Jackson for details. 908-637-4125 x122 or visit [this link](#).

### **NJBBA 25th ANNUAL CHILDREN'S SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT**

This is a fun youth fishing tournament for all so get the kids in the buggy and get them to Island Beach State Park for the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association's 25th Annual Surf Children's Fishing Tournament. The tournament will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2018, and registration is FREE for children age sixteen and under. Registration and education tables begin at 8:00 am till 10:00 am. Fishing begins at 10:00 am till 1:00

pm. Refreshments and lunch at 1:00 pm till 2:00 pm. Awards Ceremony will take place at 2:15 pm and then the fun begins at the prize tables. Children also receive a youth tournament tee shirt and Free hot dog and soft drink lunch. NJBBA members do a great job of making children and their families have a fun day fishing the surf at Island Beach State Park. NJBBA will supply a limited supply of bait and tackle. There is always lots of prizes, goodie bags, learning stations, and plenty of how to information booths about surf fishing and water safety. For Information about the event contact Chairman: Ken Hollins: Email [turkey.trot2@optimum.net](mailto:turkey.trot2@optimum.net) or call 732-278-7312. If you are a local business owner and would like to support this worthwhile event, please contact the tournament chairman. For more information, visit the NJBBA website [www.njbba.org](http://www.njbba.org).

### **NEWARK BAIT AND FLY CASTING CLUB PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club People with Disabilities Outing will be on September 22 with a rain date of September 23.

They need volunteers to help set up starting at 7:00 A.M. and to be available throughout the day to help with fishing, serving lunch, etc. and breaking down at the end of the day. The event starts at 10:00 A.M. but some participants start arriving about 9:00 A.M. and extra hands are always needed to help.

Please contact Rich MacDonald [rich@nbfcc.org](mailto:rich@nbfcc.org) if you would like to volunteer for this worthwhile program.

### **VETERAN AND FAMILY FISHING PROGRAMS**

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Jersey Shore Chapter offers all veterans with disabilities an opportunity to participate in and learn all facets of fly fishing. On Saturday, September 29, 2018 after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kid's Wish'n To Go Fish'n, members will hold their October meeting and fly casting program.

For information about the Jersey Shore Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing contact: Raoul Cordeaux at [jerseyshorephwff@gmail.com](mailto:jerseyshorephwff@gmail.com)

Throughout the year free fishing programs are offered to our veterans and active military. To learn more about Play HOOK-e Take a Veteran Fishing, read the Play HOOK-e newsletter. We also list programs from other veteran organizations that can help veterans and their families get outside and enjoy

the outdoors by utilizing Eco-therapy and other activities to limit PTSD symptoms.

If you would like to subscribe to the Play HOOK-e Newsletter, please click on [this link](#) to register. Unsubscribe anytime or update your information.

Look for our upcoming Free Play HOOK-e Take a Veteran Fishing programs in The Fisherman Magazine online [Events Calendar](#).

### **BOATING EDUCATION AND RESCUE**

We tagged along with Mike and Debbie Bennett on the following NJ HOFNOD programs in Ocean County: July 22, Ocean County Parks & Recreation held the "The Bunker Challenge" and annual crabbing contest at Mantoloking Bridge County Park in Brick, NJ. We assisted novice crabbers and had some dirty dogs at the B.E.A.R. booth.

Lake Riviera. The Annual Fishing Derby for residents ages 14 and under took place on Saturday, August 18, 2018 at Lake Riviera. Youngster caught a variety of fish and had lots of fun. Mike and Debbie

along with Tim Brennan were busy assisting with bait, fish measurements and rigging rods and reels.

On August 24<sup>th</sup> we assisted BEAR with a tour for youngsters and veterans at the Manasquan Coast Guard Station. After the tour we traveled to the park located at the railroad bridge and fished for snapper blues with the NJ HOFNOD group that Mike and Debbie runs out of Ocean County Park.

**Clubs: Buy a Table for  
your Members to  
attend the upcoming  
JCAA Dinner on  
November 11th**