

JCAA NEWSPAPER JANUARY 2007

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on December 16, 2006)

Remember New Monthly Meeting Room

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, December 26th, 2006

Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

TUESDAY, January 16, 2007

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote

JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi

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

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JCAA General Membership Meetings are for club representatives and invited guests only. These meetings are not open to the general public. If you would like to attend as a guest, call the President at (732) 506-6565 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.

## 2006 OFFICERS

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Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

Meetings And Other Dates

December 26th JCAA Meeting

January 4th NJ Marine Fisheries Council

January 6th Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar

January 11th -14th Garden State Outdoor Show

January 16th JCAA Board Meeting

January 29th – February 1st ASMFC WEEK

January 30th JCAA General Meeting

January 31st - February 4th AC Boat Show

February 13-15 MAFMC Holiday Inn Select, 630 Naamans Road, Claymont, Delaware; 302-792-2700.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Bruce Smith

I know we said we were going to cancel the December but we decided to meet. Members in attendance at the general meeting on December 26th will vote for officers for 2007.

Show Schedule

Mark Taylor needs volunteers to help man the JCAA booth at the following events:

Garden State Outdoor Show Jan. 11 to Jan. 14

Atlantic City Boat Show Jan. 31 to Feb. 4

We expect to have 2007 Fluke Tournament Shirts and a new generic shirt on hand for these venues. If you can help, contact Mark at 732-929-2591

Busted!

JCAA ran two buses with 90 members and other interested stakeholders from the Forked River and Asbury Rest Areas on the GSP to NYC on Monday, December 11th to demonstrate to the ASMFC how important the fluke fishery is to New Jersey's anglers and to the recreational fishing community. John Toth was transportation coordinator. Thanks, John, for a job well done.

Members from clubs north of the Raritan River used public transportation.

Our thanks to Congressmen Saxton, Pallone and LoBiondo and Senators Lautenberg and Menendez for their efforts resulting in saving our Summer Flounder Fishery and for the benefits that will be provided to the recreational and commercial fishing communities and, indeed, to the entire state.

Thanks, Congressman Pallone, for attending the meeting in NYC to advocate so effectively for us. Read the inserted newspaper articles for details.

Stay Informed. Between JCAA Newspaper Issues, read your newspapers and fishing magazines.

Fluke Tournament 2007

Yes, Anglers, There is a Fluke Tournament.
Happy Holidays: Clear Skies, Calm Seas, Tight Lines

Blackfish Plan Addendum IV Hearing Dec 7th

Fluke Management begets – Blackfish Management. Watch out! The same folks that brought us the wonderful Summer Flounder Management Plan are trying to cook up a Blackfish Plan. Using the same scientific tool, the MRFS Survey and their innate knowledge of the historic fish population as a bedrock for assumptions and projections and in disregard of the empirical data and anecdotal evidence, the impacts of the illegal live market effort, predation by dogfish, habitat decrease, forage stock decline, competition from recovering stocks and other factors, the ASMFC is seeking approval of recovery targets for a Blackfish Management Plan. The unanimous opinion of 20 stakeholders representing both commercial and recreational interests in attendance was STATUS QUO until the illegal live practice is shut down and until the survey deficiencies are corrected resulting in increased confidence level. Stay alert, don't get hurt

The Garden State Preservation Trust, (GSPT) the funding mechanism that pays for the preservation of parks, farms and natural and historic sites, will run out of money in 2007. The Outdoor Recreation Alliance (ORA) campaign to renew and strengthen this program is underway. For information or to join this effort, visit www.outdoorrecreationalliance.org

**START THE NEW YEAR
OFF RIGHT GET IN
INVOLVED IN JCAA**

Perception is Reality

If perceived by the public as unreasoned, illogical, unfair or punitive, NMFS's dogmatic and inflexible policies, dependent on dubious survey data and in blatant disregard of the empirical data and anecdotal evidence, will threaten to undermine the compliance cornerstone of fisheries management. The result will be diminished acceptance of overly stringent regulations and will encourage disregard, defiance or disobedience of unreasonable, indefensible federal and/or state regulations

Are the national regulators so out of touch with reality that they are unaware or in denial that the public has lost respect for them and are becoming less compliant with each illogical move they make? Maybe it is time to take a survey on something measurable like "public confidence in fisheries management" and if the confidence is less than 50% they should disband the regional councils and save the taxpayers' money.

Who do the fish belong to when they are in state waters, in federal waters, in international waters?

What is the legal justification for different legal lengths for commercial and recreational regulations?

What makes it legal to harvest a 14-inch fluke by net (60% of TAL) and not legal to harvest the same fish by angling? (40% of TAL 16 to 18 inches min.)

How is it less damaging to the biomass to take 14-inch fish by net rather than by hook and line?

Has the legality of the length disparity ever been tested? Has the 60 / 40 split ever been tested?

Now there is a new wrinkle that the NMFS is relying on to restrict the harvest of summer flounder, the apparent severe decline in the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB). Another example of the "Best available science" at work.

August 2, 2006

We are faced with the prospect of having NMFS impose a TAL of 5.2 million pounds (60% Commercial, 40% Recreational) summer flounder for 2007. And if we accept that, there will be dire consequences imposed upon both recreational and commercial fishing communities.

November 2006

Well, things got a little better with the NMFS proposing a TAL of 12.98 million pounds for 2007.

That is still not enough. Anything less than 19.9 million pounds will impose great hardship on the recreational and commercial fishing communities in the areas in which summer flounder are important as a food and recreational resource.

December 11th 2006

New NMFS Number: 17.11 million pounds (More or Less) with State Quotas and Regulations to follow. Big Deal. In my opinion, ASMFC should have adopted a TAL of 19.9 million pounds.

If the recreational size, bag, and season regulations for 2007 are perceived as too restrictive due to a punitive TAL, you can expect the practice of high-grading to increase and, due to catch and release of "sub-legal" (as defined by recreational, not commercial, standards), greater mortality. In my opinion, that is not good conservation.

In recent years, in New Jersey, even at a 16-1/2" size, 8 fish limit, and without high-grading, the ratio of caught and released fish to retained fish is so great that with average mortality more fish are being destroyed than are being harvested by angling. What kind of conservation is this? Is it good conservation to target larger summer flounder, normally females?

The self-fulfilling prophecy of increased size resulting in over-fishing, greater mortality and a subsequent increase of size, decreased bag limits, etc. is perceived by most anglers as dumb, repressive, punitive and bad conservation.

I think that anglers should be permitted to harvest smaller fish, not forced to harvest larger fish. I believe the resultant reduction in discard mortality would foster better resource utilization and better conservation.

It seems that we are on course to the one fish, 20 inch, one day recreational fluke season that I predicted in my December 2005 article NMFS (Not a Merry Fluke Story)

The ASMFC should have stepped up and joined the MAFMC to adopt a minimum of 19.9 million pound summer flounder TAL for 2007 in defiance to the NMFS dogma of 12.98 million pounds. If they roll over for the NMFS they might as well disband the council and save taxpayer resources.

If you would like to receive JCAA Email alerts email your Name, Club, if you belong to one, and your interest to <tfote@jcaa.org> or just go to the JCAA Web and subscribe from there.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Thomas Fote

JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner

If you didn't attend this year's JCAA dinner, you missed a great time. You also missed an opportunity to talk with Governor Jon Corzine, DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson, Deputy Commissioner Jay Watson, Assistant Commissioner Amy Cradic, and Acting Director of Fish and Wildlife Dave Chandler. The Governor attended the cocktail hour and spoke briefly to the crowd. He talked about how important recreational fishing is to all of New Jersey and shared his father's love of fishing. He suggested that one of his goals for 2007 is to find enough time to fish and perhaps participate in the Governor's Tournament. We all share the common dream to catch a winner! As you all know, we honored Eleanor Bochenek as our Sportsperson of the Year and the Hudson River Fishing Association received the Youth Education Award. I asked Commissioner Lisa Jackson to write up the speech she gave at the dinner,

Protection of Marine Ecosystems Requires Constant Vigilance

By Lisa Jackson Commissioner of DEP

Protecting water quality, clean beaches, and healthy wildlife habitat are key to sustaining tourism, a vibrant economy and a desirable quality of life in the Garden State. The sustainable resources we at DEP manage are a prime source of both revenue and jobs and provide countless recreational opportunities. Governor Corzine has noted studies showing that if wildlife-related recreation in New Jersey were a company, it would be a member of the Fortune 500.

Effective wildlife management may begin with solid science, but it often ends in tough negotiations. While pursuing policies to provide sustainable fish and wildlife resources, we in the Corzine administration are also conscious of the social and economic implications of resource management policies. That is why the Governor shared the concerns of the recreational and commercial fishing community regarding recent weakfish management proposals. While, in the end,

the limits adopted were not ideal, New Jersey's united voice helped avoid more drastic quota reductions, which would have severely and unnecessarily restricted weakfish catches in the state's waters.

Environmental protection managers and the recreational fishing community share common goals in many areas. We share the goal of protecting our rivers, bays and ocean. Our work together has built support for policies such as the state's storm water rules, which are the most comprehensive in the nation and will improve the quality of water in the state's storm water discharges. The new Flood Hazard Area Control rules will limit new development in flood plains and protect fish species that need the shelter of salt marshes and tidal flats during their early larval or juvenile stages, when they are most vulnerable. Our work together also helped assure passage of this past November's Parks Capital Funding ballot question, which will dedicate funds from the state's Corporation Business Tax (CBT) to maintain the state's parks, historic sites, and wildlife areas.

Improved public access to our coastline is another policy area where we find common cause. True public access is not a luxury; it is a legal right. Over the past few years, DEP has aggressively used our permitting and enforcement authority to ensure New Jersey citizens have full access to our beaches. New rule proposals to amend the Coastal Permit and Coastal Zone Management programs, published in the New Jersey Register on November 6th, will further ensure that the public's rights continue to be protected. The proposals include requirements for parking and restroom facilities to provide families and others a realistic and meaningful opportunity to enjoy the public's resources.

Despite many accomplishments that protect our shore and water quality, there is still more work to be done. We must work together to continue addressing sources of water pollution, including emerging threats such as endocrine disruptors. New Jersey is also especially vulnerable to sea level rise, due primarily to global warming and the resulting thermal expansion of the oceans and melting of polar ice caps. In addition, climate change threatens our shore with an increased intensity of extreme weather events. The threats to our coastline, left unabated, will affect fishing, as we know it. Shrinking coastal habitats could destroy our coastal fisheries and the potential effect on the fish and wildlife New

Jerseyan's have worked so hard to protect could be devastating.

Protection of marine ecosystems requires constant vigilance. It is the price we must pay if we wish to leave future generations a healthy coastal environment. Under Governor Corzine's leadership, policies and programs to expand protection and improve the environmental, recreational, aesthetic and economic benefits of the Jersey shore will remain a priority.

Summer Flounder Meeting

Tom Siciliano and John Toth have included articles in this newspaper about this issue. I have also included newspaper articles. From my perspective, it seemed that everyone in attendance supported an outside peer review. The only dissent was the no vote by the National Marine Fisheries Service. We can't make decisions that impact on the lives of over 6 million recreational anglers from Massachusetts to North Carolina using this kind of faulty science. The businesses that depend on recreational fishing will be devastated. The commercial fishery which lands fish for the consuming public will also suffer a huge economic impact. While all of the fishing interests will be impacted negatively, none of the bureaucrats participating in the decision-making will pay one single penalty. They will get their cost of living raises and collect their benefits no matter what decision they make. They don't face layoffs or job loss. I get tired of being asked for patience. I will admit that most of them take their jobs seriously and understand the pain caused by these decisions. But some of them have an incredibly arrogant cavalier attitude and simply dismiss the arguments made by the fishing community. The head of NMFS and his staff are particularly arrogant in their dealings with us, the fishermen and the United States Congress. Throughout this process they continued to dismiss questions and concerns expressed by members of Congress who have a long history with the Magnusson Act and participated in the last reauthorization. I have heard this song over and over again. NMFS endlessly promises to deal with the problem of summer flounder and only succeeds in making it worse. No wonder no one trusts them. I'm still waiting for the results of the 1998 workshop on summer flounder hosted by NMFS. JCAA will not relax the pressure and we are still exploring options.

Public Access Proposed Rules

Environmental Protection, Office of Policy, Planning and Science Coastal Management Office has proposed new public access rules. Lisa P. Jackson, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection, mentioned the new rules at our dinner. I have included the first couple of paragraphs from the common law doctrine. I testified at the hearing at Stockton College. We are working with the American Littoral Society on a response to the proposed rules and we will discuss this at our December 26 meeting since the comment period ends January 5th. I do have some reservations about the impact of the proposals for marina and we will reach out to the Marine Trades Association for their input. The proposal can be viewed or downloaded on the Department's website at <http://www.state.nj.us/dep> and the written comments need to be submitted by January 5, 2007 to:

Gary J. Brower, Esq.
Office of Legal Affairs
Attn: DEP Docket Number 19-06-09/482
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
401 East State Street
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Summary

As the Department has provided a 60-day comment period on this notice of proposal, this notice is excepted from the rulemaking calendar requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

The public's rights of access to and use of tidal waterways and their shores, including the ocean, bays, and tidal rivers, in the United States predate the founding of this country. These rights are based in the common law rule of the Public Trust Doctrine. First codified by the Roman Emperor Justinian around 500 AD as part of Roman civil law, the Public Trust Doctrine establishes the public's right to full use of the seashore as declared in the following quotation from Book II of the Institutes of Justinian:

"By the law of nature these things are common to all mankind-the air, running water, the sea, and consequently the shores of the sea. No one, therefore, is forbidden to approach the seashore, provided that he respects habitations, monuments, and the buildings, which are not, like the sea, subject only to the law of nations."

Influenced by Roman civil law, the tenets of public trust were maintained through English Common Law and adopted by the original 13 colonies, each in their own form. The grants that form the basis of the titles to private property in New Jersey never conveyed those public trust rights, which were reserved to the Crown. Following the American Revolution, the royal rights to tidal waterways and their shores were vested in the 13 new states, then each subsequent state, and have remained a part of law and public policy into the present time. Tidal waterways and their shores always were, and remain, subject to and impressed with these public trust rights

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Passes

I watched the House of Representatives take a voice vote on Saturday, December 9 at 1:22AM to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4956, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. A lot of discussion on Summer Flounder took place on the floor of the House at 1:00AM. The Senate passed the bill on Thursday. All we need now is for the President to sign the bill and we have the 3-year extension.

Representatives Jim Saxton, Frank Pallone, and Frank LoBiondo, and Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez, deserve credit for their bipartisan work in getting the three-year extension.

There is much more included in the Magnuson Act than the three-year extension for summer flounder. If you are interested in reading the entire Act, email me and I will send it to you. Some organizations have developed a side-by-side look at the differences between the new act and the previous one. I can also send that to you. There is a section on recreational statistics and how to get better recreational data. This includes an angler registration. It would also allow for a fee after 2011. JCAA will form a committee to look at all the provisions and develop plans to deal with any issues. What is missing in the Magnuson Act is an appropriation for all the work necessary. You can't get good science and good statistics without spending money. Congress needs to appropriate the money required.

Be a volunteer. JCAA needs your help. Call 732 506-6565 and ask what you can do!

DRAFT ADDENDUM TO THE TAUTOG MANAGEMENT PLAN

New Jersey had a public hearing on the draft plan and the comment period for the proposed addendum to the Tautog Plan which ends **5PM on January 16, 2007**. You can get to the ASMFC web page and under breaking news make your comment. At the hearing in Toms River there was a unanimous vote for status quo. It was one of the few times lately that everyone agreed. Most people did not support the concept that any reduction should impact only the recreational sector. They said that this does not happen in any other plan no matter how small the recreational catch is. This is especially upsetting since many of us feel that one of the major causes of the failure of the tautog fishery to rebound is the illegal live fish market. The price for illegally caught live tautog is so high that the profits make the fines less than a day's illegal catch. We need to outlaw this market since there is not enough law enforcement to keep it in check. This has been a major concern of JCAA for many years. In addition, no concern is included in the current models for ecosystem management. Since tautog spawn in and inhabit the bays and estuaries, they are impacted by the same ecological problems as summer flounder, weakfish and other species. I will have a hard time supporting any management plan that does not include consideration of ecosystem management in the modeling. JCAA will develop a position at our next meeting. Tony Bogan pointed out that NMFS and ASMFC continue to use the bogus NY 2002 numbers. The 2002 NY tautog numbers show that in one wave New York caught more tautog than they had in the combined previous 6 years. Remember, a wave is only 2 months. The draft amendment will be finalized at the winter ASMFC Meeting.

WEAKFISH ASMFC BOARD

The weakfish board will be voting on the weakfish catch at the winter ASMFC meeting. There was a good deal of posturing by North Carolina and Virginia at the last meeting. They contend that nets are in the water anyway, why not land the fish. It was interesting to hear North Carolina and Virginia state that under the last addendum there was an increase for the recreational sector. Their math amazes me. Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland actually had to put in more restrictive measures recreationally going from 14 inches and 14 fish to 13 inches and 8 fish. That

sounds like a decrease to me. Under the last addendum there was actually a larger bycatch allowed for the commercial fishery. North Carolina and Virginia generalized their own "sweetheart deal" that allowed an increase for recreational and commercial anglers in their states alone. They got 4 fish at 12 inches which was no reduction. They will continue to use the bogus 2005 weakfish numbers from MRSS to try to justify their grab. In the scientific world, outliers like the weakfish numbers in New Jersey or the blackfish numbers in New York, those figures are deleted from consideration. Real scientists are smart enough to figure out when statistics lie and honest enough to say so. The only reason I believe nothing was actually done is because the weakfish board could not come up with an acceptable story to justify what Virginia and North Carolina wanted. The only reduction would only take place on the recreational fishery.

ASMFC Winter Meeting Week January 29-February1

January 29, 2007

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

2:15 PM - 6:15 PM American Lobster Management Board

January 30, 2007

8:00 AM – 10:30 AM Tautog Management Board

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Committee on Economics & Social Sciences

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Management Board

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Sturgeon Management Board

2:45 PM - 4:45 PM American Eel Management Board

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

January 31, 2007

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM Commissioner Workshop on

Meetings Management

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Shad & River Herring Management Board

2:45 PM - 5:45 PM Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board

February 1, 2007

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Winter Flounder Management Board

9:15 AM - 11:45 AM Weakfish Management Board

11:45 AM Buffet Lunch for Commissioners & Proxies

Noon - 3:00 PM ISFMP Policy Board

3:00 PM - 3:30 PM Business Session

Star Ledger

Ristori: NMFS gets way on fluke quota

Tuesday, December 12, 2006

BY AL RISTORI

Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ) concluded his statement at yesterday's Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) meeting by reminding the commissioners they are independent and should make an independent decision on the summer flounder quota.

Yet, to the disappointment of three busloads of anglers transported to Manhattan's Skyline Hotel by the Jersey Coast Angler's Association (JCAA), the ASMFC didn't even consider a 19.9-million pound quota for 2007 that they'd come in to support. That quota, previously approved by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, wasn't brought up at all as the commissioners bowed to the threats of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to close federal waters to fluking. That would most heavily impact commercial fishermen, and they supported the NMFS position.

As a result, the ASMFC accepted the 12.983-million-pound quota proposed by NMFS that will result in a very limited season. Since Congress bailed them out Saturday by adding three years to the summer flounder rebuilding program, NMFS can buck that figure up to 17.11 million pounds at the same 75 percent likelihood of staying on track for the target.

If NMFS would go back to the 50 percent probability they've long claimed is the minimum the courts will accept, the additional three years could bring the quota up to over 19 million pounds. The motion that passed calls for adoption of no less than the 17.11 million pounds by March 1. While that's a lot better than the 12.983 million pounds, the public gets only 40 percent of that and there probably won't be much of a recreational fishery.

The 19.9 million pounds the anglers had come to support wouldn't solve the problem, but it was particularly disappointing that it wasn't proposed -- even by the suddenly silent New Jersey delegation that traditionally has stood up to NMFS threats.

The ASMFC is setting recreational regulations today. Preliminary indications were that Jersey ran over its recreational quota last year. Combined with a lower overall quota for 2007, that will require stricter regulations next year.

Anglers waiting for new limits

Posted by the Asbury Park Press on

12/12/06

John Geiser

Fluke fishermen will have to continue holding their breath until the new minimum sizes, possession limits and season for fluke are finally announced.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's summer flounder, scup and black sea bass board voted Monday to accept the National Marine Fisheries Service's preferred quota of 12.98 million pounds for 2007. The motion included the provision that, if NMFS can offer a higher quota, that number will supersede the 12.98 million pounds.

William T. Hogarth, director of NMFS, explained earlier that the service might be able to bump the quota up to 17.1 million pounds or more, since Congress passed the Magnuson-Stevens reauthorization bill at 1:30 a.m. Saturday.

The bill includes a special provision for fluke in which the stock rebuilding target is moved to 2013 instead of 2010. This allows for increasing the quota as long as overfishing is not occurring.

Overfishing is not occurring at 12.98 million pounds, but would be taking place at 19.9 million pounds, a figure the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and many who attended Monday's board meeting wanted. However, under the new law, which has been sent to President Bush for signing, Hogarth said his staff probably will be able to come up with higher numbers in the next two or three weeks through emergency action.

Thomas P. Fote, legislative chairman of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, said over 100 JCCA members and affiliates were at the meeting.

"The meeting room was packed — probably 200 people," he said. "Some of the guys, like the Hudson River Fishermen's Association and the people from Philadelphia, came in on trains. We had over 90 people on the buses we hired." Fote anticipates that NMFS will have some tables ready for ASMFC action at the commission's next meeting, scheduled for Jan. 29 through Feb. 1 in Alexandria, Va.

"We all — JCAA, Recreational Fishing Alliance, commercial fishermen — want outside peer review of NMFS fluke management," Fote said. "We want the National Academy of Science to do that as soon as possible."

NMFS has said that overfishing would not occur at 17.1 million pounds. The target figure for a rebuilt stock was lowered in September from 204 million pounds to 197 million pounds.

NMFS preliminary projections for quotas were 19.6 million pounds in 2008, 22.7 million pounds in 2009, and higher in 2010 and 2012.

James A. Donofrio, executive director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance, said he is disappointed at the reduction in quota from 23.6 million pounds this year, but is relieved that it is expected to be higher than the 5.2 million pounds NMFS proposed during the summer.

"It's the best option we could get," he said. "The RFA wants the maximum amount of quota and still remain in compliance with the new fisheries law.

"The RFA had to play defense throughout most of the legislative process on Magnuson. We were able to successfully defeat some incredibly harmful provisions. Unfortunately, we spent so much time on defense that we were not able to get as many positive pro-recreational issues into the bill as we would have liked."

Fisheries deal wasn't a fluke

Editorial

**Posted by the Asbury Park Press on
12/13/06**

Five New Jersey lawmakers helped snag the Catch of the Day over the weekend when they succeeded in adding protection for the state's popular summer flounder (fluke) industry into fisheries management laws. In legislation passed in both the House and the Senate, New Jersey's representatives were able to get the deadline for rebuilding stock levels pushed back three years.

That's good news for the industry, which generates about \$200 million annually for New Jersey's economy and contributes about 4,000 jobs. The take of East Coast fishermen was already reduced from 30 million pounds in 2005 to under 24 million pounds this year. The strict quota initially proposed would have reduced that to 5.2 million pounds, effectively wiping out the industry.

The reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act will enable a 2007 fishing limit of at least 17.1 million pounds. It will hopefully increase over the next several years, up to 29 million pounds in 2012.

Reps. Jim Saxton and Frank LoBiondo, both R-N.J. and Frank Pallone, D-N.J., and Sens. Frank

Lautenberg and Robert Menendez, both D-N.J., deserve credit for their bipartisan work, helping to forge a compromise between the environmental groups and the fishermen.

The summer flounder stock has been increasing. But conservationists and fishermen have differed on an optimal level and a timetable for reaching it. The overzealous goal to nearly double the stock by 2010 would likely have forced many party boats out of business and the shutdown of fishing-related shops. While next season's quota is the lowest ever, the changes supported by New Jersey's federal legislators likely averted disaster for those who make a living off this natural resource.

But the fight for the summer flounder industry hasn't ended. Anglers say the goal of rebuilding the East Coast stock from 112 million pounds to 197 million pounds by 2013 is excessive. New Jersey's delegation wisely focused on pushing back the deadline in the Magnuson-Stevens Act as its reauthorization loomed. Now, it should channel that same energy into finding a compromise to the rebuilding goal.

Bill may require saltwater fishing license

By RICHARD DEGENER Staff Writer,

(609) 463-6711

(Published: December 12, 2006)

AC Press

New Jersey anglers may get to catch more fluke, but it may cost them.

Those are a couple of highlights in a national fishery bill approved by Congress over the weekend. The bill, which is expected to be signed by President Bush, would relax proposed cutbacks in the fluke — or summer flounder — catch. The federal government wanted to cut fluke harvests from 23.6 million pounds this year to just 5.2 million in 2007. The bill would likely allow 17.1 million pounds to be landed next year, although anglers are still pushing for higher levels.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which the new bill amends, also create the strong possibility of a saltwater fishing license. That particular section of the 240-page bill was largely overlooked as fishing interests and environmental groups battled over other sections of the bill. This section calls for a registry program for recreational fishermen.

While the law specifically says no fee shall be charged before Jan. 1, 2011, such a fee could be

created after that and it would quickly turn the “registry program” into the saltwater fishing license anglers have fought for decades.

The plan is to eventually charge a fee to fund better data collection on fisheries.

“The federal government wants to better define recreational fishermen and to collect better data. The fee is important so the taxpayer doesn't fund it. We want the user to fund it,” said Deputy Director Samuel Rauch of NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Fisheries.

Rauch said the agency has not discussed the amount, though he had heard of one proposal on Capitol Hill to set it at \$35 per year. He noted any fee would have to be approved through a rule-making process that would include a notice in the Federal Register.

“To establish the registration we'd have to do rule-making. In 2011, when we get around to starting a fee, we'd have to do it again,” Rauch said.

President Reagan and former President George Bush both unsuccessfully tried to implement such a license and the state of New Jersey has considered one. Environmental groups are pushing for a fee that would be used to gather better data on recreational landings. The initiative was endorsed by the National Research Council, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

Some anglers, who already pay taxes on fishing tackle, fuel sold at marinas, and other items, oppose it. Robert Jackson, an angler from Cape May County, is dead set against it.

“I think they're going to do it, but it hurts the subsistence fisherman. The guy fishing for his table is least able to afford it,” said Jackson.

Back in 1986 when a \$10 federal fee was proposed, the wealthier fishermen with expensive boats lobbied for it because they wanted less competition for the stocks. The saltwater license was defeated amid such arguments.

Some seem resigned to it this time. “We knew it was coming,” said Tom Fote, the legislative chairman of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, or JCAA. “It's almost inevitable, so how do we deal with it?”

Fote said his group supports the registration program but not a fee. He said setting up a Web site for recreational fishermen to log in data may be the cheaper answer.

The federal government now relies on interviewing anglers at the dock to compile what

most believe to be a woefully inadequate Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey, or MRFSS. Brooks Mountcastle, of the Marine Fish Conservation Network, said money from a fee would have to be earmarked for data collection.

“I think there will be a growing recognition we need a saltwater license. The MRFSS is severely flawed. We need to know how many fishermen are out there, what they are catching, and what they are throwing overboard,” Mountcastle said.

The National Resources Defense Council supports the registry but doesn't care how it is funded. If there is a fee, the NRDA's Roberta Elias said it should go to collecting fisheries data and not to the general fund. “If it ends up being free, fine,” said Elias.

The bill calls for a registry program in each of the eight coastal regions where the federal government manages fish stocks. The program includes identification and contact information to reach the anglers. It can also include information about their vessels.

It sets a Jan. 1, 2009, deadline to have a better data collection system in place. This is before a fee is established. One may not be established.

“That represents another battle for another day,” said Jeff Sagnip, a spokesman for U.S. Rep. James Saxton, R-3rd.

Saxton got the fluke provision included but opposes a saltwater fee and Sagnip noted the bill “does not guarantee one will take place.”

The Saxton fluke provision would add three more years to what had been a 10-year fluke rebuilding plan. It would likely allow landings of 17.1 million pounds next year, 19.6 million in 2008 and 22.7 million in 2009. These levels still must be approved by NOAA Fisheries.

The new levels go against the fluke rebuilding plan, and this was the only fish species treated this way in the bill. The JCAA and other groups are still pushing for higher harvest levels.

The bill, however, also includes much stronger language on future stock rebuilding plans. The regional fish councils in the past would get scientific data from the Science and Statistical Committees, or SSCs, but sometimes, due to pressure from fishing interests, ignored it when setting harvest levels. This will no longer be allowed. All catch limits must be based on scientific recommendations and at a level that prevents over-

fishing a species. The green groups backed off on the relaxation of the fluke plan because of this.

“We’re not happy about the summer flounder exemption but we are happy with the bill overall. This diminishes the role of outside pressure, hopefully,” Elias said.

**Congressman Pallone and JCAA asks
ASMFC to Stand up to NMFS and they
fail to do so.**

By Tom Siciliano

We tried. We pulled out all the stops. We brought two buses filled with anglers from South Jersey to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting in New York City on Monday, December 11, 2006 and many more anglers from North Jersey came into New York on their own. JCAA member club members accounted for over half of the audience of over 200 that attended the meeting. Frank Pallone made an impassioned plea to the Commission to do the right thing. What did it get us? Nothing. The National Marine Fisheries Service did it again to recreational anglers. They dictated to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission how they should vote.

Recreational fishermen must thank Congressman Pallone for the great job he did. It was through his efforts that language was incorporated into the Magnuson/Stevens Act reauthorization that provided additional flexibility for the Secretary of Commerce and gave an additional three years for the Summer Flounder stock to be rebuilt. The bill passed the house at 1:22 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Frank Pallone explained to the Commission what the intent of Congress was in passing this bill. He carefully explained how there was already enough flexibility in the current statute to increase the TAL to 19.9 million pounds with a 50% probability that the target goal would be met. The additional flexibility given in the new bill allowed them to be confident that they could do that without adverse consequences.

The NMFS recommended a quota of 17.11 million pounds of fluke for 2007. This number gives a 75% probability that the rebuilding target will be met by 2013. A 50% probability is all that is needed and had the NMFS used that we could have had a quota of nearly 20 million pounds.

Unfortunately, the Commission ignored the pleas of the audience and Congressman Pallone. What they voted for was the most confusing motion

imaginable. They approved a quota of 12.98 million pounds that would increase to at least 17.1 million pounds after the NMFS had reviewed the data. A lot of legalese was given for the convoluted motion, but what do you think the chances are that the quota will be greater than 17.1 million pounds? Do you give it a 75% probability, a 50% probability? I think a 0% probability is more realistic.

The new MSA requires that the best available science be used. I was hoping they would have said to use all available science and a little common sense, but I guess you can’t legislate the use of common sense.

So where do we stand for 2007? This year’s quota of 23.6 million pounds was exceeded. Here’s a thought. If you under fish a quota you can catch more fish the next year, but if you under fish isn’t it because there are not enough fish and shouldn’t the quota be lowered? If you exceed your quota doesn’t that tell you that there are more fish available to be caught? Sorry, I guess that is too logical. That would never be considered in fisheries management. So let’s see, the recreational quota last year was 9.29 million pounds and according to the infamous MRFS survey 11.74 million pounds are projected to be caught through the end of the year. New Jersey was 12% over its quota. Our target was 1,443,000 pounds and according to the survey we landed 1,642,888 pounds. New York was 34% over so they are in even more trouble than we are.

With a quota of 17.1 million pounds the recreational share is 6.84 million pounds for 2007. We face a reduction of 40%. What will that mean in terms of size limit, bag limit and length of season? We don’t know where the conservation equivalency will end up but, to give you an idea, if a state chose not to do any work they would have as the precautionary default regulation one fish at 18.5”. That will not happen in New Jersey because our Fisheries Council will come up with the best possible options for us.

What does the future look like? The JCAA will continue the fight, question the stock assessment data, question the MRFS data and slowly but surely things will get better. We know we have the help of Congressmen Pallone, Senators Lautenberg and Menendez along with the entire New Jersey contingent of Congressmen to help us in the future. There are provisions in the new MSA that will help to make the science more credible.

**JCAA BUSSED TO NYC FOR FLUKE
MEETING
By John Toth**

In an effort to get the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to stand up to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and vote for a 19.9 million pound fluke quota for 2007, the JCAA chartered two buses to take anglers to make their voices heard at a December 11th management meeting in NYC at the Skyline Hotel. The ASMFC voted earlier to support a 19.9 million pound quota and that placed them in direct conflict with the NMFS who wants a much lower amount of 12.98 million pounds. The NMFS threatened to close federal waters to fluking if the higher quota was adopted. So these issues set the stage for the December 11th meeting and the JCAA urged its member clubs to come to the meeting and wear their club clothing to show their colors and support for the 19.9 million pound quota.

The room was packed with 200 anglers and possibly more. Approximately 100 of these anglers were from the JCAA who came by the chartered buses or through their own transportation. The anglers expressed their concern over the NMFS 12.98 quota and the comments included:

- Faulty data is used by the NMFS to come up with erroneous conclusions. Therefore, an independent peer review possibly by the National Academy of Sciences is needed. (Tom Fote)
- The NMFS has a blind eye toward the explosion of sharks that are decimating the fluke and something needs to be done (Marvin Oresky HRFA).
- The uncertainty and anxiety with the fluke quota is placing a big chill in the tackle industry and fishing related jobs throughout the state. (Jim Hutchinson – The Fisherman Magazine)
- The Commission needs to stand up to the NMFS and vote for 19.9 million pounds. The NMFS has lost its credibility (Senator Frank Pallone)
- We should stay with the status quo of 23 million pounds since the NMFS is all wrong (Tom Siciliano – JCAA & SWABC)
- We should be able to keep 8 fluke at 15 1/2 inches to end the senseless killing of

so many small fish to keep one at 16 1/2 inches. (Robert Howe, Lawrenceville Fishing Club)

- The room is filled with anglers who have taken a day off to attend this meeting. Obviously something is wrong with fishing management to bring these anglers to attend this meeting (John Toth - JCAA & SWABC)
- The NMFS are asses and should be fired. (Jim Lovgren –commercial industry)

These are only some of the many good comments that were made. Every possible point that could be made was made to encourage the ASMFC to adopt their 19.9 million pound quota.

An unexpected development occurred that affected the meeting's direction. Congress passed the Magnuson-Stevens Act at 1:30 a.m. on Saturday (December 9th) just before this meeting. The Act extends the fluke rebuilding period from 2010 to 2013. Consequently, the NMFS Director (William Hogarth) indicated that instead of the 12.98 million pound quota, the NMFS could support a 17.11 million pound quota for 2007 due to the 2013 extended date. This development kept the ASMFC focused only on the 17.11 million pound quota and nothing else seemed to matter. In the end, the ASMFC voted to accept the 12.98 million pound quota as a procedural matter since the Magnuson-Stevens Act has not been officially signed by the President. Once the President signs it (and he is expected to do so) the 17.11 million pound quota is expected to take effect in 2007.

While the result is not what we would like, since it is the lowest fluke quota anglers have experienced despite the fact that the waters are teeming with fluke, I, and I think many others, are proud that the JCAA stood up to the NMFS to make our voices heard and our presence felt. The NMFS knows who we are and that we will watch what they are doing. We will keep you informed as the fluke situation unfolds.

I would like to thank all of you for taking time to attend this important meeting either on our chartered buses or through your own means. It was a beautiful day, but you took the time to be counted. I want to also thank Frank Richetti and Mark Taylor for taking names and managing the charter buses under their control.

THANK YOU!

By John Toth

At the conclusion of our bus trip to NYC to attend the December 11th meeting on fluke quotas, Mr Robert Howe, President of the Lawrenceville Fishing Club, expressed his appreciation to me for the JCAA providing free buses for anglers to attend the NYC meeting. He told me “you guys are doing a great job” and then handed me a check to support the JCAA.

The check is certainly appreciated since financial support is needed to fund JCAA’s various activities. However, his moral support is equally if not more appreciated since it gave me the feeling of “we are behind the JCAA.” There are a lot of issues facing New Jersey’s anglers and the recent fluke issue is one that we need to continually monitor. However, it is good to know that fellow anglers appreciate what the JCAA is doing since most JCAA volunteers are not paid for what we do.

I heard positive comments on the JCAA from other anglers who were on the buses to NYC. However, Mr. Howe “made my day” and I want to thank him so much for it!

Highly Migratory Species

By John Koegler

2006 ICCAT Meeting Report

Why Oh-Why does the US position at ICCAT always seem like a total waste of time and at the same time the US delegates’ position continues to crush the US Bluefin tuna fishermen quota not only for the next year but for the next millennium. At the same time the US gets nothing from the other members of ICCAT that give value to the US sacrifice.

The ICCAT scientists have clearly stated that Eastern Atlantic stocks are beginning a collapse from which they may never recover if major reductions in European and African nations’ landings are not observed. The Eastern Atlantic nations accepted the ICCAT scientists’ report as valid, yet advanced a sham called the “Coherent Recovery Plan.” Their plan openly ignored the science, continued their unsustainable over fishing but then claims that their clearly unsustainable quota will restore the stock.

After more than 28 years of no Bluefin tuna management in the Eastern zone, the countries that are part of ICCAT have yet to observe any rules that monitor or control their bluefin tuna fisheries. Why anyone on the US delegation would expect anything different makes any US concessions not only suspect but an absurd strategy that would accomplish nothing.

Western Bluefin Tuna

The SCRS report for our bluefin stocks in 2006 found that stocks were lower than the last assessment. The huge 1994 and 1997 year classes were found now to be only average in size. The SCRS scientific advice was that the Western Atlantic nations, (US, Canada, Japan) should observe a new lower quota of 2,100 mt. down from the 2006 quota of 2,700 mt. This is a 20% cut for 2007/08. The US share will be 1,190mt down from the 2006 quota of 1,489 mt. Currently the US has a huge tonnage of uncaught bluefin from the last three fishing years. You might expect our huge tonnage of uncaught bluefin would permit a similar fishing quota as in the last three years. But surprise surprise there was a new ICCAT rule passed that limits rollover to 50% of a nation’s base quota.

Lastly, there is a tiny amount of good news for recreational anglers. The despised 8% tolerance of bluefin tuna less than 30 KG was increased to 10% of the US quota. This was an attempt to allow a continuation of recreational opportunities under the reduced TAC (Total Allowable Catch).

Exact terms and conditions will be published shortly in the Federal Registry. Sadly this once great Eastern Atlantic fishery will not recover because the European and African countries are catching all US conserved bluefin that cross the Atlantic to the Western Zone waters.

There was a provision passed to take care of the US commercial fishermen. Fifteen percent of the US quota can be caught in another country and count against their nation’s quota. This allows US boats to fish in Canadian waters and their landings would be charged to the US allocation.

Those who have not followed this issue must remember that US landings of giant bluefin tuna have been terrible. In 2006 the commercial catches were only 138 mt. This was about 10% of the available US commercial quota.

SPORTSPERSON-OF-THE-YEAR DINNER/DANCE

By Paul Turi

On Sunday, November 19th, JCAA held its annual Sportsman-of-the-Year award dinner/dance at the beautiful Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. This year's honoree was Dr. Eleanor Bochenek. Dr. Bochenek was nominated for this award by the Newark Bait & Flycaster's Club and was elected by JCAA member clubs at our general membership meeting in October. On behalf of the JCAA and its member clubs, I would like to congratulate Dr. Bochenek on being elected this year's sportsman-of-the-year.

Our guest speaker this year was Lisa Jackson, Director of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Also in attendance was Governor Jon Corzine. The Governor spent a lot of time mingling with everyone during the cocktail hour and many in attendance got to speak with the Governor and voice their concerns about the fluke quota New Jersey is facing this year.

Greg Kucharewski, Chairman of JCAA's Youth Education Committee, presented this year's Youth Education Award to the Hudson River Fisherman's Association.

This affair is JCAA's second largest fundraiser, and as of this writing I can report that it was very successful. Having said that, it should be noted that this event could not have taken place without the generosity of the many people and companies that donated the many different items that were auctioned off and given away as door prizes. I would be remiss if I did not mention each and every one of them because JCAA could not exist without their generosity and support.

The following is a listing of all our sponsors who donated prizes, and on behalf of JCAA, I would like to thank each and everyone of them:

Guy Harvey Publishing, Shakespeare Fishing Tackle Co., Rat-L-Trap, Van Patten Industries, Inc., Flying Fisherman, Innovative Textiles, G. Mustad & Son, Inc., American Rod & Gun, Jonathan Paul Eyewear, Angler's Book Supply, Aftco Manufacturing Co., Inc., Carlson Machine & Tool, Inc., Lamiglas, Inc., Chambliss Marine, Jersey Coast Shark Anglers, Gateway Marina & Yacht Sales, Inc., Pier 47 Marina, Schneider's German American

Restaurant, Miss Belmar Princess, "Big Mohawk," "Suzie Girl," Fisherman's Den, Captain Cal II, Ocean Explorer, Angler Magazine, Penn Reels, Fisherman's Headquarters, Tom Siciliano, AA Worms, Frank Tenore, Roger & Janice Staib, Al Ristori, Forked River Tuna Club, Minn Kota, Belvedere Plumbing, Luick "E" Strike U.S.A., Profile Fishing Tackle.

Special thanks also to Dr. Pat Donnelly for the terrific job he did again this year as our Master of Ceremonies.

I would also like to thank all the fishing clubs that took a table: Newark Bait & Fly Casters, Berkley Striper Club, Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County, Jersey Coast Shark Anglers, High-Mar Striper Club, Village Harbor Fishing Club, Hudson River Fishermen Association, Sandy Hook Bay Anglers, Manasquan Fishing, 4 B's & Forked River Tuna Club.

I would also like to thank the many individuals and organizations who also attended and who have shown their support of the JCAA.

Also, special thanks to Dan & Heather Miller who handled the ticket sales and Ed Cherry who helped me with the many donations that came in. I would also like to thank Don & Al Marantz, Mark Taylor, Tom Fote, Tom Siciliano, Frank Richetti, Rich Pasko, Phil Celmer and Bruce Smith.

I hope I have gotten everyone and every company and organization that participated to make this event a successful one this year. If anyone has fallen through the cracks and I have neglected to mention them, I apologize in advance. I have made every effort to keep accurate records, but, unfortunately, not everything gets into my hands the way I would like it to.

Again, on behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, thank you, everyone!

SALT WATER SPORTSMAN NATIONAL SEMINAR SERIES 20- YEAR ANNIVERSARY TOUR COMES TO ATLANTIC CITY! January 6, 2007

Circle Saturday, January 6, 2007, on your calendar! That's when the Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series comes to the Trump Marina Hotel and Casino's Grand Cayman Ballroom! Hosting this special 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 20th Anniversary Edition seminar will be **George Poveromo** – Host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on ESPN2, and a Senior Editor for Salt Water Sportsman,

and **David DiBenedetto** – Editor for Salt Water Sportsman. The tour is being presented by Boater's World Marine Centers.

Regarded as the most comprehensive seminar on recreational marine fishing tactics, the New Jersey edition will be crammed full of the latest "how-to" and "where-to" information and techniques. Joining Poveromo and DiBenedetto in Atlantic City will be **Captain Fred Archer** – legendary pioneer of Southern California shark- and tuna-fishing techniques, and author of 11 books on big game fishing; **Captain Frank Crescitelli** – renowned South Jersey tuna, marlin and striped bass authority and owner of Fin Chaser Charters; **Captain John Oughton** – veteran offshore skipper with over 27 years of experience in catching tuna, billfish, wahoo and dolphin. Oughton skippers the Over Under Adventures charter boat; **Captain Andy Duffy** – Ocean City-based back-bay, beach and wreck fishing authority who specializes in catching trophy stripers, weakfish, bluefish, fluke and blackfish; **Captain Ray Szulczewski** – "Cape May Ray" has over 26 years of experience in fishing the back bays, inlets and beachfront areas around South Jersey; **Captain Al Crudele III** – a noted South Jersey trophy fluke and weakfish specialist, Crudele is also a premier shark, tuna and marlin pro aboard his Sea Isle City-based Bayhound Charters; **Dr. Mitchell Roffer** – the nation's leading authority on locating surface temperature breaks and ocean-circulation features that hold fish; and **Captain Bob Cope** – premier authority on catching trophy fluke and striped bass, monster drum, and weakfish by the score in Delaware Bay aboard his Full Ahead Sportfishing charter boat.

Courses for the January 6 presentation will focus on trophy stripers on ultra-light tackle, live-lining for trophy stripers, top trolling tactics for stripers, chunking for bluefish, bluefish on top water lures, inshore wire-line techniques, jetty tactics, how to catch more and bigger fluke, targeting trophy fluke, top southern tactics for jumbo fluke, secrets of fishing the Cape May Rips, trophy drum in Delaware Bay, secrets of fishing Delaware Bay, top tactics for big blackfish, catching blackfish by the score, no-nonsense weakfish tactics, how and where to catch weakfish, variety fishing in and around inlets, how to locate and fish productive bottom (blackfish, sea bass, spot and fluke), back-bay stripers, can't miss tuna-trolling patterns, chunking for tunas, live-baiting for tunas, advanced methods for bluefin and yellowfin tuna, cutting edge spreader bar and dredge tactics, secrets for catching more inshore tuna, reading water temperature charts, targeting trophy makos, basic and advanced sharking techniques, offshore kite fishing for sharks and tuna,

Southern California trolling tactics for sharks, specialized tactics that take more big-eye tuna.

A ticket to the Seminar Series costs \$ 55.00, and includes a \$ 50.00 Boater's World Gift Card (Via mail-in rebate with your next purchase of \$ 150.00), a Boater's World Duffle Bag, a One-Year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman Magazine, One Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis (offshore tuna, dolphin and marlin only), One year membership to the International Game Fish Association (new members only), a 16-ounce bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, and One spool of Sufix Elite, Clear Blue, 14-lb. test line.

The names of all attendees of the Atlantic City seminar will be entered into the Grand Prize drawing to win an incredible bonefishing excursion to the Bimini Sands Resort and Marina. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the seminar that day, and one lucky person will win the trip for two! In addition, the names of all attendees from the 2007 Seminar Series Tour will be entered into the drawing for the Super Grand Prize - a brand new Mako 212 Center Console powered by a Mercury 200 hp OptiMax Outboard and complete with a FLOAT-ON trailer! The drawing for the boat will take place one week after the completion of the final seminar on the tour, and one lucky winner will take home the boat!

To order tickets by phone with a major credit card, call 1-800-448-7360. To order tickets on-line and for more information visit: www.nationalseminarseries.com

Remember to order your tickets early, as this seminar sells out quickly!

YOUTH EDUCATION **BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI**

EDUCATORS PLEASE READ

The Future Fisherman Foundation, The American Association for Leisure and Recreation, The National Association for Sport and Physical Education and The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation are partnering to sponsor the Physical Education Grants - "Physh Ed" -Initiative. These grants provide up to \$5,000 to physical education teachers to help establish fishing and/or boating education program in their school. The grant recipient will attend a 3-day Physical Education Grants Training Workshop. Travel to and from the

workshop will be included in the grant award. Room and board will be covered by the Future Fisherman Foundation. The grant is open to all K-12 PE teachers who are members of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Applications for the 2007-2008 school year are due March 2, 2007. Information is available on the Future Fisherman Foundation's website at <http://www.futurefisherman.org/programs/pegrants.php> You can also access the information at <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pegrant.htm>.

Meet Physical Education Standards. The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) developed a set of standards for physical education that discusses what a student should know and be able to do as a result of a quality physical education program. All standards can be met by a fishing and/or boating program. Some of the standards that can be met include the following: Understand that physical activity provides opportunity for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and social interaction. Demonstrate competency in many movement forms and proficiency in a few movement forms. Applies movement concepts and principles to the learning and development of motor skills. Exhibits a physically active lifestyle. Preparing for a fishing education program. Act now to get a program started in your child's school or where you are a teacher.

JCAA JUNIOR ANGLER

During 2007 the JCAA Youth Education Committee will promote school programs and JCAA events with a new tabletop display that was donated by Mr. Samuel McCauley, a student at Jersey City University. The new display features a montage of color images showing children and their families enjoying freshwater and saltwater fishing. Mr. McCauley will also donate artwork and materials that will be used to teach students about aquatic education. This donation will make it possible for the JCAA Youth Education Committee to introduce the JCAA Junior Angler pilot program. We plan to promote the JCAA Junior Angler marine fishing program in schools to complement the FFF "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" and RBFF "Passport To Fishing and Boating programs.

The JCAA Youth Education Committee plans to partner with JCAA member clubs and organizations to promote the JCAA Junior Angler program. The JCAA Youth Education Committee has accepted an invitation to participate in the Fishing/Environmental Expo on Saturday, January 27, 2007. It will begin at 10 am at the Bolger Middle School, 100 Palmaer Place, Keansburg, NJ. We will set up our new tabletop display and utilize the new saltwater lure guide designed by Mr. McCauley to teach children how to catch fish with saltwater lures.

GET CERTIFIED

Take the time to get certified as a "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" presenter. Certification Grants will be available to JCAA member clubs. The following criteria must be met for a JCAA member club to sponsor a person/s for HOFNOD Certification: 1.) The member club must be in good standing with JCAA. 2.) Fiscal year dues must be paid. 3.) Only three members from your organization can be certified per fiscal year. 4.) Your club president signature vouching that the grant will be spent as described in the request. 5.) Complete the HOFNOD Certification Grant Application. Please e-mail Greg Kucharewski at gkucharews@aol.com for more information and training dates.

HOFNOD GRANTS, don't forget to place HOFNOD in the subject line of your e-mail.

HOW TO CATCH A "WHOPPER"

Hey Kids, look for this article in the 2007 New Jersey Marine Digest.

TAKE ME FISHING

Check this out if you like to go charter fishing <http://www.takemefishing.org/default.aspx?id=907>

If you would like to help with the JCAA JUNIOR ANGLER program and offer some of your time to teach children the joy of fishing, please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail gkucharews@aol.com. Please place HOFNOD in the subject line.

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Club Membership Application

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The JCAA has four levels of sponsorship, \$50, \$100, \$250 & \$500.

The sponsors are recognized in our newspaper. For more information call JCAA at 732-506-6565. Become a JCAA sponsor and help our cause. As you can see by our newspaper many our member clubs are also JCAA sponsors, if your club is not contact us today to become one. With all the new battles we are engaged in we need to raise more funds in order to be effective. Become a sponsor now and help us to continue the fight.

Join JCAA as an Associate Member

Only \$25 per year! Support the Goals of JCAA and receive a subscription to JCAA NEWS that gives you the Most Up-To-Date News about Fisheries Management and Environmental Issues

JERSEY COAST ANGLERS
ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICATION

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Check if you would rather receive newspaper by email instead of by regular mail. Yes ___

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