

JCAA NEWSPAPER JUNE 2008

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on May 19th, 2008)

Remember New Monthly Meeting Room

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, May 27th, 2008

Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, June 12th, 2008

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753

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

JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote

JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi

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

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

~~~~~  
**JCAA General Membership Meetings are for club representatives and invited guests only. These meetings are not open to the general public. If you would like to attend as a guest, call the President at 732-446-6298 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
~~~~~

2008 OFFICERS

President	John Toth	732-6560139
1st V.P.		
2nd V.P.	Bruce Freeman	732-793-7871
Treasurer	Doug Tegeder	732-341-5674
Rec. Sec.	Tom Siciliano	609-296-3774
Cors. Sec.	Paul Turi	609-597-3193
Mem. Sec.	Bruce Smith	732-695-3431

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

May 27th JCAA General Meeting

June 12th JCAA Board Meeting

June 14th JCAA Fluke Tournament

June 20th JCAA Fluke Tournament Award Ceremony

Ten Great Reasons to Enter 14th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament on June 14th

By Phil Celmer

One - Over \$110,000 in cash and prizes!

Two - A great day of fishing fun with family and friends!

Three - A gala awards celebration at Trump Marina Hotel Casino!

Four - Twelve ports to fish from - each with a \$1,200 first prize!

Five - An evening at fun-filled Atlantic City!

Six - Your chance to win a four-stroke Yamaha powered Century fishing boat with a LoadRite Trailer & Fisher Canvas Cover!

Seven - A drawing for more door prizes than you can shake a graphite rod at!

Eight - A chance to take up to five of your friends or family fishing!

Nine - 120 fabulous port prizes! Ten chances to win at each port. Odds like this you won't see in Vegas

Ten - You'll be helping the Jersey Coast Anglers Association fight to protect your fishing rights and the marine environment!

Tournament Participation Means JCAA Support

How many times in recent years have you read about the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) lobbying in Trenton, Washington, or in the trenches at public hearings, standing up for anglers like you? JCAA. The name pops up almost daily in newspapers and fishing magazines around the state. It makes you feel good to

know we have such a strong group of knowledgeable people united in battle on your behalf. Doesn't it? Do you ever wonder how much it costs to keep the pressure on fisheries managers, politicians and lobbyists from the commercial fishing industry? How about the polluters and agencies that conspire to damage the ocean in the name of economic gain or political expediency? IT COSTS A LOT! Even for an all-volunteer non-profit group like JCAA. How many times have you thought about joining JCAA or making a donation to help the cause but didn't get around to it? Well, here's your chance to help and have fun in the process. And you'll have a great chance of winning one of hundreds of cash and product prizes from our generous sponsors who know that what JCAA does is especially critical to the saltwater angler.

The Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament is the largest boat-fishing tournament on the East Coast, with \$110,000 in cash and prizes. Last year, over 2,100 anglers fishing from more than 700 boats from twelve ports along the Jersey shore participated and all had a ball doing it. It's the only tournament that gives you a shot at winning the grand prize – a \$31,000 fishing boat package - without having to catch a single fish! That's because the grand prizewinner is selected at the final drawing at the awards ceremony sponsored by Trump Marina Hotel Casino in exciting Atlantic City. Fishing, prizes, Atlantic City, support the resource...not only sounds like fun...it is!

The proceeds go to support JCAA's work done on behalf of hundreds of thousands of saltwater anglers in New Jersey and neighboring states. JCAA was instrumental in stopping the decimation of eels in our rivers and bays, reducing the over-harvest of bunker in state waters, removing the menhaden reduction boats, supporting the artificial reef program and getting the best quota possible for summer flounder. Do you know why Striped Bass fishing is better than it was fourteen years ago? I know. It was because the JCAA and supporting memberships worked to keep Striped Bass as a game fish, assured reasonable fisheries management measures and fought to stop sand mining and toxic dumping in the ocean. Every penny this major fundraising event generates is well spent on your behalf. This year alone the JCAA has contributed over \$15,000 to summer flounder research. The JCAA needs your help all year long, but what better way to show you care than by entering this great spring fishing tournament.

You say you won't be able to fish that weekend? Enter anyway. You would be surprised at the number of anglers who register and don't fish. They just want to support the efforts of the JCAA and still have a chance at winning the grand prize and one of the many valuable door prizes. Simply enter and you are still eligible to attend the awards ceremony in Atlantic City on June 20th and win!

HUNDREDS OF CHANCES TO WIN

This event is actually twelve mini-tournaments in one. Each weighstation has its own set of prizes for the heaviest fluke brought to the scales including a \$1,200 cash for first place, \$10,000 donated by Trump Marina Hotel Casino for 10 of the ports, Fisherman Headquarters for LBI and JCAA the balance; a Raymarine Digital High Definition fishfinder for second, a \$750 gift certificate for third, donated by Boater's World; and seven other great prizes from these sponsors: ProFishCo, Minn Kota, Shimano Fishing, Canyon Gear International Outfitters, and New Jersey Angler and Nor'east Saltwater Magazines. That's a total of 120 port prizes! But there is more, much more! Contestants register in one of twelve ports from Jersey City to Fortescue, each with easy access weighstations. You compete only against those boats registered in that port for the generous list of port prizes.

Once again, Trump Marina Hotel Casino Hotel has opened its arms and its pocketbook to help us and we can't thank them enough! We hope you will remember they are concerned about your fishing and the ocean environment any time you are heading to Atlantic City because we sure do! This year the JCAA wishes to welcome aboard ProFishCo as a brand new port prize sponsor. Come and view the 1801 Century boat at the ceremony or at Pier 47, Wildwood NJ, Gateway Marine, Belford, NJ, or Green Cove Marina, Brick, NJ.

THE DRAWING WITHIN THE TOURNAMENT

In addition to your chance to win any of the port prizes by using your fishing skills, every boat entered has a shot at winning the Grand Prize fishing boat and a host of door prizes. These will be given away as part of a huge drawing at the gala awards ceremony hosted by Trump Marina Hotel Casino in Atlantic City on June 20, 2008. At least one member from your crew must be present for you to win these door prizes. There will be plenty of fun at the awards ceremony and you will have a chance to meet the JCAA volunteer staff. The Grand Prize will be on display along with dozens of door prizes. Tournament T-shirts and hats will be available.

Come early and meet the representatives from Century Boats, Yamaha, Raymarine, Boater's World, Shimano, ProFishCo, New Jersey Angler and Nor'east Saltwater Magazines and other sponsors. Port prizes will, once again, be presented at the event by our master of ceremonies, Pat Donnelly.

The management of Trump Marina Hotel Casino is ready to welcome all tournament entrants to come and enjoy their fantastic facilities. Want to make a night or weekend out of it? Trump's Marina Hotel Casino has set aside a limited number of specially priced rooms for contestants. For reservations call 1-800-777-8477 and mention you are coming for the Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament and reference group code: Fluke08

HOW TO ENTER

Entry fee for this year's event will be \$120 per boat. After June 7th the entry fee will be \$150 per boat. Each boat is permitted up to six anglers. Remember, all weighstations have additional entry forms or you can have them mailed to you by calling the JCAA office at 732-506-6565. Fax us at 732-506-6975 or download a form by clicking here. You can even register using a MasterCard or Visa credit card by phone! Check out the JCAA web page for further information: www.jcaa.org

VALUABLE TIPS

Mark the date of the Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament June 14th on your calendar. Six anglers per boat are allowed to fish. Ask your family and friends to join you and increase your chances to win port prizes. Why wait to sign up when you could be cutting bait and preparing strategies. Check out the JCAA web page for further information: www.jcaa.org.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By John Toth

WELCOME – My first order of business is to welcome a new fishing club, **The Fortescue Anglers Association**, into the JCAA! **We are glad to have you come on board!**

JCAA Fluke Tournament – This June 14th tournament is rapidly approaching and we have **\$110,000 in prizes** to give away including a **Century Boat** with a center console (1801 model) that has a **Yamaha 4-stroke engine and also a LoadRight trailer** as the Grand Prize! This is not just a new boat. It has a complete package with a

motor and trailer so that the lucky winner is good to go! The value of this boating package is **\$31,000!** Also, we have about **\$48,000** in great prizes to give away to anglers who place in the top ten positions with the heaviest fluke at the 12 ports.

Another event to look forward to is the **Gala Ceremony at the Trump Marina Casino** in Atlantic City on June 20 (Friday evening) where we give away cash and prizes to the top ten place winners from each port and a big bundle of great door prizes. This event will take place in Trump Grand Cayman Ballroom where we had 1,700 anglers and their friends show up last year. This is truly a first-class event and one for all anglers and their friends to enjoy!

I also want to make an important point and that is **you can still be a winner even if you enter the tournament and don't even get your boat in the water!** The entry fee is \$120 for a maximum of 6 anglers for each boat. For example, what if you have engine problems and you can't get your boat in the water or even if you don't place in the top ten winners with the biggest fluke at your port? **Your entry fee is not lost.** All you have to do is to have at least one of your crew show up at the Trump Marina for our Gala Awards ceremony with your tournament documents and you can still have a chance to win the numerous and great door prizes we have to give away along with a chance to win the grand prize of the Century boat. One of your crew has to show up at the casino since we have so many prizes to give away and it is very difficult for us to place all of them in the mail!

Also, remember that you and your friends can stay over at the Trump Marina **at a special discounted rate.** Just mention that you are in the JCAA Fluke Tournament and say that you want the **group rate Fluke 08.** Come and enjoy the JCAA fluke tournament and **Good Luck to all of you!** I will be at the Clarks Marina weighing fish so say hello to me and remember that **you have to weigh your fish at the marina before the official 5:00 p.m. closing of the tournament.** There is more detailed info on the tournament in the newsletter and entry information.

Footnote: I was invited to talk about the JCAA Fluke Tournament at the Comcast Newsmakers studio in Trenton on May 12th and I had to get all of the above info out in a space of 5 minutes! **It was the fastest 5 minutes of my life** and it was my first entry into the TV world with

makeup and all. This taping will appear on CNN's Headline News (channels 30 or 57) and at a time that the broadcasters determine at their discretion. This is great PR for the JCAA and at no cost to us!

Fluke Research – Our best shot at the moment to possibly delay or stop the slide to more stringent fluke quotas placed upon us by the National Marine Fisheries Service is to question their data and science used on the models to justify their quotas. To this end, we along with other groups, the Garden State Seafood, RFA, and the Save Our Summer Flounder Group have contributed funds (\$15,000 by the JCAA) to hire specialists to review the data that NMFS uses for their stock assessments. This review is expected to wrap up in June with a final assessment following shortly thereafter. More detailed information on this issue can be found in Bruce Freeman's column in this newsletter and he represents the JCAA in this fluke stock assessment effort. I must also add that Bruce is volunteering his time toward this important effort. We owe you a big debt of gratitude, Bruce!

Fluke Questionnaire - Additionally, the JCAA is paying \$10,000 for a research specialist to analyze all the numbers of fluke that are caught during our one-day tournament so that we can develop a snapshot of how many and the various sizes of fluke that anglers typically catch during a day. This is not guesswork and this information is probably the best data available that fishery management can use for statistical purposes to input in their models that determine our quotas. So please fill out the questionnaire that comes with your entry package and help us to provide the best data available for fluke management purposes.

When will the rancor and bickering end! – So much time, energy and even hard feelings have resulted within the recreational community with The Fisherman's questioning the JCAA's membership in the Marine Fish Conservation Network (MFCN) and subsequent articles on the same subject that have appeared in John Geiser's columns in the Asbury Park Press. The Fisherman, as well as others, have every right to question the actions of the JCAA. However, as mentioned in our May newsletter, we sometimes have to work with others that we are in direct conflict with such as The Garden State Seafood Association who is upset with recreational anglers who want to get traps off the artificial reefs. Yet, the Garden State Seafood Association is working with us by donating \$5,000 to get better

science on the fluke fishery so that we can challenge the NMFS on their fluke modeling and resulting draconian quotas. There are different points of view on JCAA's relationship with the MFCN and they are expressed in this newsletter by the editors of NJ Angler and Nor'East Saltwater publications respectively. Even major fishing organizations around the country, like the International Gamefish Organization (IGFA), support the JCAA's membership in the MFCN since we bring a different point of view in an environmental network that is not always tuned into the issues of the recreational community. This bickering has not helped us and only serves to divide the recreational community at a time when we need to stick together to face the many challenges that are coming at us from different directions. It is placing a smile on our enemies of the recreational community. We are fighting among ourselves when we could better use our time focusing together on getting pots off the reefs, making striped bass a game fish and other important issues. I say **ENOUGH ALREADY! Let's Move ON!** I am tired of writing about this issue and I hope that I don't have to do it again! If any of our club members want our Board members to further discuss or explain our membership in the MFCN, please call our office at (732) 506-6566 or at WWW.JCAA.ORG or my residence at (732) 656-0139 or at tothjohn@verizon.net

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Thomas Fote

I have been on the road a lot since the last meeting. I attended the American Sportsfishing Association Government Affairs, Saltwater and Fresh Water committee meetings in California. As of this writing, I am in Colorado attending the National Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting. I have discovered the true meaning of altitude sickness, so brevity is the rule.

The two meetings brought together individuals with different backgrounds but surprisingly similar agendas, protecting the natural resource and guaranteeing the resources are available for harvesting now and for future generations. At both meetings the topic of global warming was important. It is one of the highest priorities for the

National Wildlife Federation. I was always aware that a few degrees drop in ocean temperature would impact on our harvest dramatically. For example, I don't see surf clammers off Island Beach State Park anymore despite the fact that historically it was a thriving business, supplying clam strips to most of the country. Because of warmer water temperatures the surf clams have moved far off shore and further north. Now I learn that it is not just the ocean fisheries that will feel the impact of the temperature change. All the natural resources will be forced to change and adapt or disappear. I am looking at Colorado's beautiful snow-capped mountains and dead trees. The warmer temperatures have allowed for an infestation of pine beetles that never existed before. Millions of acres are being destroyed in Canada and the Northwest United States. That will affect every bird, fish and mammal that depends on the pine forests. Trout, steelhead and salmon runs along the west coast have already changed. JCAA and NJ State Federation of Sportsmens Clubs are eager to work with the National Wildlife Federation on this important issue.

At the ASA meeting I learned more about the MPAs along the west coast and the loss of recreational and commercial salmon fishing due to water quantity and quality issues and El Nino. We realize how much the recreational fishing industry has been hurt by unfair summer flounder quotas but on the west coast some of the fisheries are completely shut down.

Bruce Freeman will have a report for us at the next general meeting on the summer flounder research project. He will be attending a meeting at Woods Hole the week of May 19th.

There has been no movement on the Pots off the Reefs and the Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs Bills in the NJ Senate. The Assembly has not heard either bill. We need to keep the pressure on and you need to keep writing letters to your Senators and Assembly people. The NJ Outdoor Alliance is helping focus attention on these bills. JCAA greatly appreciates all the work they are putting into making these bills a reality. I will have more information to share at the general meeting.

JCAA FLUKE TOURNAMENT JUNE 14TH

Summer Flounder Stock Assessment Technical Update *By Bruce Freeman*

This year is especially important for assessing the stock of summer flounder, known locally as fluke. Stock assessment scientists from coastal states, federal government, academic institutions, Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will present and review the most up-to-date biological information and catch data for this species. This process is termed a benchmark assessment. The results of this assessment will be used over the next several years in setting catch limits for fluke, both recreationally and commercially.

Three workshops are being held this winter and spring leading up to the final fluke benchmark stock assessment this June. The previous benchmark assessment completed in 2006 utilized a Virtual Population Analysis (VPA) model for determining the allowable coast-wide harvest. While this model has been used for many years, not only for fluke but many other fishes, it has several shortcomings. Its basic design relies upon a retrospective view, i.e., it uses data we know to have already occurred. For example, by monitoring the catch of both the recreational and commercial fishing we know fairly accurately the least number of fish that existed. By determining the size of these fish, we can approximate the age. If we go back in time and add what we estimate to be those fish which die from natural causes and those which have died incidental to fishing, we can determine the number of fish that make up a particular year class. We can then add the various year classes together to gain an insight into the total stock of fluke.

The VPA model is useful in looking backwards in time to determine what has occurred, but it is poor in predicting what will occur in the future. The most recent information shows that the VPA model under estimated fishing mortality by about 30%, over estimated the number of young fish entering the fishery by about 5%, and over estimated the total number of fluke by about 10%.

So far as the February and April workshops are concerned, it has been agreed that the VPA model is not adequate for making future stock

projections and needs to be replaced. Three other models were considered with one of them being rejected outright. The working group is considering two possible models, the SS2, now used for Pacific Coast fisheries and the ASAP model. Each has its strong points and weaknesses. It remains to be decided as to which will be used for the fluke stock assessment.

More important than selecting which model to use are the variables used in the model. Either model appears to give the same outcome given that the same variables are used in the calculations. One of the variables used is the number of fish removed by recreational and commercial fishermen, both those landed and those killed incidentally. While the NMFS stock assessment scientists feel that the landings from both the recreational and commercial fisheries are reasonably accurate, recreational fishermen remain very skeptical that the MRFS fishery landings data used in the assessment are correct.

Since the New Jersey catch of summer flounder accounts for about 40% of the coast-wide total, any inaccuracy in the NJ numbers will have a large impact on the overall stock assessment. In addition, there remains concern that the 10% incidental mortality for the recreational fishery and 80% for the commercial fishery may not be correct.

However, even more important is the rate of natural mortality (M). Prior fluke stock assessments have used $M = 0.20$ or an 18% annual mortality rate. Some biologists argue that M is set unreasonably low and it should be set at 0.3 or 0.4. Some argue that we need to use sex specific mortalities since males mature earlier in life than females and do not reach as old an age. Just four years ago no fluke over seven years old were found, now males as old as 12 years and females to 14 years have been aged. Any assigned mortality rate by sex can lead to very different model results. Nevertheless, the scaling effect of natural mortality has the most impact on the results. For example, if we use as M 0.2 vs. 0.4 and run the models, we see that in the first instance the fluke stock would be about halfway to our goal of maximum sustained yield. In the second instance the fluke stock would be near the maximum sustained yield level and we would not be over fishing the stock.

The working group will meet one last time in late May in an effort to resolve the mortality issue as well as several other technical issues prior to the

June Stock Assessment Workshop meeting. I will be at the May meeting and will report the progress.

Note: Bruce Freeman is the chairman of the JCAA Scientific Committee and one of the principal scientists working for the Partnership for Mid Atlantic Fishery Research. Bruce was there when this group met for three days in February and for three days at Woods Hole, MA in April.

New Jersey Angler
By Bill Donovan
JCAA editorial
May 2008 issue

The April 3, 2008 issue of the New Jersey Edition of *The Fisherman Magazine*, contains an editorial by Executive Editor Jim Hutchinson attacking the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) for their membership in the Marine Fish Conservation Network (MFCN), one of the Pew-sponsored organizations that has been a major thorn in anglers' sides with respect to the fluke problems we've written about so much over the past few months.

In the article, Hutchinson is openly critical of JCAA for their continuing membership in the MFCN, stating that, "...without fishing groups, the Network is just another radical environmental business organization partially funded by Pew, lobbying in support of marine protected areas and represented purely by its founding members like the Ocean Conservancy, a group which openly opposes the creation of artificial reefs for fishing and tourism."

Hutchinson goes on to say, "Because forged alliances such as these [JCAA, MFCN] only help strengthen the credibility of radical environmental organizations in both the public perception and at the state and federal legislative level ... we have made the difficult decision not to renew our JCAA fiscal sponsorship in 2008."

In a nutshell, *The Fisherman Magazine* has publicly discontinued its fiscal support of JCAA because they disagree with the decisions made on this particular issue.

Since then, we've gotten quite a bit of correspondence from our own readership about JCAA and their involvement with MFCN. Some folks wanted clarification, but most were simply curious as to our take on it. Thus, I thought it might be appropriate to use this space to address it publicly.

JCAA's membership in MFCN is something that I became aware of last year, when the fluke issue was just beginning to take center stage, and it certainly piqued my curiosity. The MFCN is essentially a coalition of about 190 organizations - both environmental and fishing groups operating at the international, national and regional levels - the collective goal of which is to protect our oceans and the creatures that live in them. On the surface, their mission is an admirable one, but as is often the case with issues of an environmental nature, their implementation has proven to be disgraceful. Rather than working as a productive environmental watchdog group, MFCN has instead acquiesced to a Pew-driven, exclusionary agenda that seems to consist of little more than an attempt to keep anglers off the water.

So, as anglers, what should we make of JCAA's membership in this organization? That's exactly the question that I posed to several JCAA Board Members and to Legislative Representative, Tom Fote, in particular. Their response to me echoed their position that is described in detail in their January 2008 newsletter, which can be accessed on their website www.jcaa.org. I'd encourage all interested parties to go to their website and read this article in its entirety.

Essentially, the JCAA Board was asked by the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) to occupy their seat on MFCN in order to steer the organization away from Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and to represent the sentiment of the sportfishing industry from "within" the network, something that I believe JCAA has done. JCAA feels that their presence within MFCN is of great value for the sportfishing industry. They feel that, as part of the network, they have a greater chance of affecting change than they would as an "outsider". One doesn't have to look too hard to see the potential benefit to having JCAA as a member organization.

But there is a downside to JCAA membership within MFCN, and it concerns both credibility and influence. MFCN's effectiveness is likely to be greater, and possibly substantially so, with a number of sportfishing groups on its membership roll. Without these sportfishing groups, MFCN might be reduced to "just another radical environmental business organization" as Hutchinson suggests.

So, is JCAA's membership in the network helping us or hurting us? *The Fisherman Magazine* feels so strongly in the latter that they've decided to

issue a public statement withdrawing all support for JCAA, presumably in an attempt to muscle them toward pulling out.

But as is often the case with anything of a political nature, things may not be exactly as they seem. JCAA has written a formal response to the *Fisherman* editorial, published in the JCAA May 2008 newsletter and available online at www.jcaa.org. Again, I strongly encourage our readers to go to the JCAA website and read this response in its entirety.

In it, the JCAA Board of Directors discusses a "strained" relationship with *The Fisherman Magazine* dating back to 2002. According to the JCAA response, "The Fisherman demanded that they be given exclusive media sponsorship to the annual JCAA Fluke Tournament." *The New Jersey Angler* was a sponsor of the tournament at the time, just as we are now, and JCAA morally refused to drop our sponsorship in order to grant exclusivity to *The Fisherman*. According to the JCAA response, this pressure continued for years before coming to a head recently when *The Fisherman* decided to stop supporting JCAA financially. The JCAA Board addresses this sequence of events in more detail in their response, as a means of illustrating, and these are their words, "perhaps why *The Fisherman* wrote the editorial article in question."

I have watched this "exclusivity saga" unfold since I took over the reigns of this publication in 2002. At that time, as a naïve new publisher, my only motivation for sponsoring the fluke tournament was to support JCAA in my own way. I didn't have much to offer, but I did what I could, and I certainly had no problem with other "media entities" being involved. The exclusivity concept was both foreign and shocking to me, and to this day I still don't understand how it could ever apply to a non-profit organization's primary fundraiser.

Keep in mind, in 2002 *The New Jersey Angler* was just starting to experience the growth we've now come to expect and our influence was probably an order of magnitude smaller than it is today. I watched the JCAA Board in general, and Tom Fote in particular, put their collective neck on the line to do what they believed to be the moral thing, and I knew immediately that JCAA was an organization of principle. This is not to say that I don't disagree with JCAA on certain issues. Heck, I've had some real knock-down-drag-out battles with them over the years, but I would never question their

desire to do the right thing, and I will argue vehemently with those who suggest otherwise.

So, back to the question at hand; what should anglers across the region make of JCAA's involvement in MFCN? Nobody knows for sure whether the positives outweigh the negatives. Personally, having JCAA involved with MFCN makes me uncomfortable, and I have expressed these sentiments to Tom Fote and the JCAA Board. Truthfully, this is the reason RFA and SSFFF have gotten more coverage on the pages of this magazine with respect to all the goings-on with respect to fluke. But, I do believe JCAA is doing what they believe to be the right thing, and I really can't fault them for that.

Regardless of what decision JCAA eventually makes with respect to their involvement with MFCN, I trust that they will continue doing exactly what they've done since 1981, which is fighting for the rights of recreational anglers. Every person and every media entity has the right to question their approach to a particular issue, or even to try to steer them in a particular direction, but I believe we need to continue to support them in the grand scheme of things. There are too many threats out there, and there will be more every year. We need effective organizations out there fighting for our rights, and JCAA continues to be one such organization.

Of course, there are those within the angling community who have had their differences with Fote and JCAA over the years, and I'm sure some of those folks will resent my perspective. They will say in print and on internet message boards that I don't truly understand the issue, and they will talk amongst themselves that I am doing more harm than good. To these folks I say this - with respect to those issues that seriously threaten our industry, I have more to lose than anybody. *The New Jersey Angler* is not just my pastime, it is not just my job, and it is not just my career; it is my life. It is something for which I have sacrificed everything. As such, I believe a strong JCAA goes a long way toward ensuring the future of our industry, and I believe they deserve our continued support, regardless of whether or not they take the "mainstream" route toward achieving it.

JCAA FLUKE TOURNAMENT JUNE 14TH

NOR'EAST SALTWATER

Publisher's Angle

by George Scocca

May 7th Issue

When I first got into the fisheries management game back in the late 80's, it was quite intimidating to get up and give my view of how things should be handled. In those days you were noticed at that these hearing because there were few people in attendance and fewer that actually had something to say.

There was this one guy who seemed to be a pro at this fisheries stuff, and he was at every hearing I attended. He was always advocating for angler rights and I found myself agreeing with much of his views. Eventually he and I would become acquainted, and today I consider him to be a very good friend. Tom Fote is one of the few people that is still involved in fisheries management since then, and he has been more involved in saltwater fisheries management than anyone on the coast. I have seen many come and go, but Tom has someone managed to persevere through the continuous beating being given to us by the management agencies. He was a founding member of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, JCAA, and has given most of his life to supporting our right to fish. His state of New Jersey has better bags limits, size limits and seasons than any state in the northeast, but more on that later.

A few weeks ago I received a call from a friend telling me that the editor of *The Fisherman* magazine attacked the JCAA because of their affiliation with the Marine Fish Conservation Network. My first thought was "what is he nuts - JCAA?" and then my second thought was, "Yep, he's got to be." This guy, who has JCAA in his blood, has done more than anyone for his state of NJ, and has never had a bad thing to say, even to me about *The Fisherman*, is being attacked for what!

I would first like to point out that while Nor'east Saltwater and *The Fisherman* have butted heads over the years, they were very supportive of our family when my brother was battling cancer, and I will always be grateful for that. But Tom is a good friend and as I see it, this attack by their Executive Editor Jim Hutchinson, Jr., was unwarranted and potentially harmful to all recreational anglers in NJ.

First of all, the Marine Fish Conservation Network has over 200 member organizations from just about every coastal state in the nation, including the International Game Fish Association, IGFA. It's

pretty much a given that not all of these groups agree with each and every position

Tom Fote and JCAA have a long list of accomplishments that other states could only dream of. At a time when we were being convinced to conserve everything, Tom had the foresight of knowing that we would continuously see reductions and he fought hard for every fish. That is why they get to fish an 18 ½ inch fluke while New Yorkers are on a 20 ½ fish. That's what they get 3- striped bass, and a longer season, more weakfish, blackfish, and winter flounder. JCAA also spear-headed the drive to make the striped bass a game-fish in New Jersey and they had a representative at just about every ASMFC meeting for over 20-years! You can't find another organization to make that claim.

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association has the unbridled support of Nor'east Saltwater, and our family of websites - Noreast.com, Strippers247.com, Allcoast.com and 2coolfishing.com. We are strong supporters of their fine fluke tournament, and we're a newsletter sponsor, and most of all, we appreciate the great job they do in fighting for the rights of the New Jersey recreational angler. And you can count on us to be there

The only good thing that came from all of this is Nor'east Saltwater now has that great cover position advertisement on the JCAA Newsletter that The Fisherman gave up when they decided to no longer support them. Thanks Jim, I always wanted that spot.

I'M NO EXPERT, BUT!

BY TOM SICILIANO

The MRFS data for 2007 has been published. A Constituent Data Review Workshop was held in Alexandria, VA on May 5-6. I have complained about the data for a long time so I decided to spend a day and half sitting down with the authors, reviewing the data and listening to the explanations. I came away with more questions than answers.

When I got home I looked more closely at the data and even more questions come to mind. What did I find and does the information make sense to you?

As a scientist when I did an experiment and got a result that I did not expect or didn't make sense, I would repeat the test and try to find out why

the result varied from what was expected. I would not issue a report until I was sure of the result and had a clear understanding of what happened.

The top 5 species listed for NJ are Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, Summer Flounder, Tautog and White Perch. Notice anything missing? Can anyone really believe that more white perch are caught in NJ than striped bass? The numbers are even more confusing if you compare the individual pages of the report. On one page the total estimated harvest for striped bass is 1,700,759. On another page the White Perch total estimated catch is listed as 829,639.

I pointed out that it did not seem right that White Perch would be ahead of Striped Bass. I got an email with the White Perch catches for the past 4 years. The catches were 916,966 in 2003. In 2004 they dropped to 98,304. In 2005 they went up to 433,665 and up to 811,451 in 2006. It doesn't seem logical to me. How about you?

The experts talked about how good the quality review of the data is and yet the Striped Bass catch seems to me to be twice that of the White Perch. But then I'm not an expert.

But wait, it gets even more confusing. Have you ever gone fishing and not caught a fish? Now be honest, we all have. Guess what? According to the MRFS report that didn't happen because they only report trips where fish were caught. I fish with a friend who is probably the best fluke fisherman that I know. He will consistently be the high hook on every boat that he fishes. He also keeps meticulous records since he measures and tags all the short fluke that he catches using ALS tags. I asked him to compare the fluke data with his records. His average number of keepers per trip is 1.74 fish on 143 trips and the number of shorts averages 8.94 per trip. According to the 2007 statistics the average fisherman caught 6.87 shorts per trip and 1.83 keepers per trip. How can this be? Didn't the National Marine Fisheries Service ever hear that 10% of the fishermen catch 90% of the fish? One trip on a party boat would convince them of that fact. The MRFS survey only reports fish from those trips that were successful. If a fish was not caught on the trip it is ignored. This single item makes the data so suspect as to make it unusable.

Want more examples of the accuracy of the report? Let's look at the individual sources making up the catch for Summer Flounder. Charter boats harvested 98,269, party boats 52,811, private/rental boats 1,143,897 and shore anglers 31,011. I

personally find it a little hard to believe that shore anglers caught 60% of that caught on party boats. But then the figures don't lie.

Looking a little deeper into why some of the numbers don't make sense, let's examine what the data is based on. There were a total of 723 shore anglers intercepted, 1457 intercepts on party boats, 740 intercepts on charter boats and 1816 intercepts on private/rental boats for a total of 4736. This number is expanded to an estimated 7,416,270 angler trips. Doing the math that is a sampling rate of 0.000638. Seems a little light to me but then I'm no expert. Looking at it from another angle and assuming that most of the sampling is done over 300 days instead of 365, that is almost 16 samples per day. Wow, that many! Now let's consider the difference in the fishing from the Sandy Hook area to the Delaware Bay area. Where were those samples taken?

In contrast to this paucity of information let's take a quick look at the JCAA survey that has been conducted for the past 4 years. There have been between 800 and 930 boats fishing each year with an average of three anglers per boat. The survey return rate has been about 50%. The information is for one day in 12 ports from Jersey City all the way down to Fortescue. That is between 1200 and 1400 fishing results for one day. So what does NMFS do with this wealth of data? You guessed it - nothing!!! They don't know what to do with too much information. Makes sense to me!

**High Mercury Levels Are Found in Tuna Sushi
By Marian Burros, NY Times
January 23, 2008
Correction Appended**

Recent laboratory tests found so much mercury in tuna sushi from 20 Manhattan stores and restaurants that at most of them, a regular diet of six pieces a week would exceed the levels considered acceptable by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Sushi from 5 of the 20 places had mercury levels so high that the Food and Drug Administration could take legal action to remove the fish from the market. The sushi was bought by The New York Times in October.

"No one should eat a meal of tuna with mercury levels like those found in the restaurant samples more than about once every three weeks,"

said Dr. Michael Gochfeld, professor of environmental and occupational medicine at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway, N.J.

Dr. Gochfeld analyzed the sushi for The Times with Dr. Joanna Burger, professor of life sciences at Rutgers University. He is a former chairman of the New Jersey Mercury Task Force and also treats patients with mercury poisoning.

The owner of a restaurant whose tuna sushi had particularly high mercury concentrations said he was shocked by the findings. "I'm startled by this," said the owner, Drew Nieporent, a managing partner of Nobu Next Door. "Anything that might endanger any customer of ours, we'd be inclined to take off the menu immediately and get to the bottom of it."

Although the samples were gathered in New York City, experts believe similar results would be observed elsewhere.

"Mercury levels in bluefin are likely to be very high regardless of location," said Tim Fitzgerald, a marine scientist for Environmental Defense, an advocacy group that works to protect the environment and improve human health.

Most of the restaurants in the survey said the tuna The Times had sampled was bluefin.

In 2004 the Food and Drug Administration joined with the Environmental Protection Agency to warn women who might become pregnant and children to limit their consumption of certain varieties of canned tuna because the mercury it contained might damage the developing nervous system. Fresh tuna was not included in the advisory. Most of the tuna sushi in the Times samples contained far more mercury than is typically found in canned tuna.

Over the past several years, studies have suggested that mercury may also cause health problems for adults, including an increased risk of cardiovascular disease and neurological symptoms.

Dr. P. Michael Bolger, a toxicologist who is head of the chemical hazard assessment team at the Food and Drug Administration, did not comment on the findings in the Times sample but said the agency was reviewing its seafood mercury warnings. Because it has been four years since the advisory was issued, Dr. Bolger said, "we have had a study under way to take a fresh look at it."

No government agency regularly tests seafood for mercury.

Tuna samples from the Manhattan restaurants Nobu Next Door, Sushi Seki, Sushi of Gari and Blue

Ribbon Sushi and the food store Gourmet Garage all had mercury above one part per million, the “action level” at which the F.D.A. can take food off the market. (The F.D.A. has rarely, if ever, taken any tuna off the market.) The highest mercury concentration, 1.4 parts per million, was found in tuna from Blue Ribbon Sushi. The lowest, 0.10, was bought at Fairway.

When told of the newspaper’s findings, Andy Arons, an owner of Gourmet Garage, said: “We’ll look for lower-level-mercury fish. Maybe we won’t sell tuna sushi for a while, until we get to the bottom of this.” Mr. Arons said his stores stocked yellowfin, albacore and bluefin tuna, depending on the available quality and the price.

At Blue Ribbon Sushi, Eric Bromberg, an owner, said he was aware that bluefin tuna had higher mercury concentrations. For that reason, Mr. Bromberg said, the restaurant typically told parents with small children not to let them eat “more than one or two pieces.”

Koji Oneda, a spokesman for Sushi Seki, said the restaurant would talk to its fish supplier about the issue. A manager at Sushi of Gari, Tomi Tomono, said it warned pregnant women and regular customers who “love to eat tuna” about mercury levels. Mr. Tomono also said the restaurant would put warning labels on the menu “very soon.”

Scientists who performed the analysis for The Times ran the tests several times to be sure there was no mistake in the levels of methylmercury, the form of mercury found in fish tied to health problems.

The work was done at the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute, in Piscataway, a partnership between Rutgers and the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Six pieces of sushi from most of the restaurants and stores would contain more than 49 micrograms of mercury. That is the amount the Environmental Protection Agency deems acceptable for weekly consumption over a period of several months by an adult of average weight, which the agency defines as 154 pounds. People weighing less are advised to consume even less mercury. The weights of the fish in the tuna pieces sampled by The Times were 0.18 ounces to 1.26 ounces.

In general, tuna sushi from food stores was much lower in mercury. These findings reinforce results in other studies showing that more expensive tuna usually contains more mercury because it is

more likely to come from a larger species, which accumulates mercury from the fish it eats. Mercury enters the environment as an industrial pollutant.

In the Times survey, 10 of the 13 restaurants said at least one of the two tuna samples bought was bluefin. (It is hard for anyone but experts to tell whether a piece of tuna sushi is bluefin by looking at it.)

By contrast, other species, like yellowfin and albacore, generally have much less mercury. Several of the stores in the Times sample said the tuna in their sushi was yellowfin.

“It is very likely bluefin will be included in next year’s testing,” Dr. Bolger of the F.D.A. said. “A couple of months ago F.D.A. became aware of bluefin tuna as a species Americans are eating.”

A number of studies have found high blood mercury levels in people eating a diet rich in seafood. According to a 2007 survey by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the average level of mercury in New Yorkers’ blood is three times higher than the national average. The report found especially high levels among Asian New Yorkers, especially foreign-born Chinese, and people with high incomes. The report noted that Asians tend to eat more seafood, and it speculated that wealthier people favored fish, like swordfish and bluefin tuna, that happen to have higher mercury levels.

The city has warned women who are pregnant or breast-feeding and children not to eat fresh tuna, Chilean sea bass, swordfish, shark, grouper and other kinds of fish it describes as “too high in mercury.” (Cooking fish has no effect on the mercury level.)

Dr. Kate Mahaffey, a senior research scientist in the office of science coordination and policy at the E.P.A. who studies mercury in fish, said she was not surprised by reports of high concentrations.

“We have seen exposures occurring now in the United States that have produced blood mercury a lot higher than anything we would have expected to see,” Dr. Mahaffey said. “And this appears to be related to consumption of larger amounts of fish that are higher in mercury than we had anticipated.”

Many experts believe the government’s warnings on mercury in seafood do not go far enough.

“The current advice from the F.D.A. is insufficient,” said Dr. Philippe Grandjean, adjunct professor of environmental health at the Harvard

School of Public Health and chairman of the department of environmental medicine at the University of Southern Denmark. "In order to maintain reasonably low mercury exposure, you have to eat fish low in the food chain, the smaller fish, and they are not saying that."

Some environmental groups have sounded the alarm. Environmental Defense, the advocacy group, says no one, no matter his or her age, should eat bluefin tuna. Dr. Gochfeld said: "I like to think of tuna sushi as an occasional treat. A steady diet is certainly problematic. There are a lot of other sushi choices."

Correction: January 26, 2008

A chart with the continuation of a front-page article on Wednesday about high mercury levels found in tuna sushi in New York stores and restaurants referred imprecisely to what the Environmental Protection Agency deems to be an acceptable level of mercury consumption over a period of several months by an adult of average weight. The agency uses the phrase "reference dose" to refer to the daily level of mercury consumption it considers acceptable for a long-term diet; it does not use the phrase "weekly reference dose." (To find the acceptable weekly level of consumption over the long term, the reference dose is multiplied by seven.)

Real meaning of Earth Day

Friday, April 25, 2008

BY J.B. KASPER

OUTDOOR COLUMNIST

© 2008 The Times of Trenton

© 2008 NJ.com All Rights Reserved

Have you either celebrated or did something for Earth Day, which was on Tuesday?

I am writing this story after the fact for a specific reason. It has its origins in a chance meeting.

We live in a society that puts a lot of stock in symbolism. Singing Kumbaya, going green, wearing a particular color to show support for a cause, candlelight vigils, etc., may make people feel better, but in most cases the fact is they do little to correct a problem.

I'm not knocking Earth Day. In fact, I think it is a good thing, mainly because some people (actually most people) often need a fire lit under their backside before they do anything. Complacency is one of the big downfalls of this culture.

"If it doesn't affect you directly, why bother?" seems to be the modern creed. I had several

people e-mail me and ask me if I would go to different Earth Day events and celebrations. In every case, I e-mailed the party back and said thank you for the invite, but I could not attend, and added that Earth Day was every day for me. Since I have spent most of my life living and doing things in the outdoors, my respect for the earth goes a lot deeper than a one-day celebration.

It makes people feel good to say they did this or that on Earth Day, and it shows how much they care about Mother Earth. The next day, most go back to their daily grind and forget all about Earth Day.

My point of this story is simply this: What is the real meaning of Earth Day?

A chance meeting on Earth Day put me in touch with a group of people who respect the environment. Three to four times a week I take my lab, Bedford, up the river, close to my home, and throw the decoy for him to retrieve. The 15-month-old, 85-pound dog is full of energy and would swim all day if I let him. Well, this past Tuesday, I was along the river just north of the Calhoun Street Bridge by the water treatment plant swimming the lab, when along came a pair of boats, with several people in them, loaded with tires and junk.

They docked the boats at a nearby dock and began putting the tires and bags of garbage into a couple of pick-up trucks. I hitched up Bedford to his leash and walked over and struck up a conversation with Tom and Jane Cooper of Yardley, Pa., who run Big Oak Exxon. They live right on River Road, a short hop from the dock where the boats put in. I asked Jane if the group was doing the clean-up as part of an Earth Day project. She smiled and said, "No, we do this every year. We clean up the islands on the river and have been doing it for the past seven years. We try and pick a day when we have good river conditions and do it early enough in the spring so the vegetation doesn't hide the junk, and that day just happened to be Earth Day this year."

The Coopers have been doing the river clean-up for the past seven years because Tom is a fisherman, and want to put something back into the river they both respect, and care about. Their house is right along the river and has been flooded out three times in recent years. Each time they put the pieces back together, and this last time they raised the house to protect it from flooding so they could continue to live along the river they love.

Each year they close their business for a half day in the spring and they, their employees and

several other friends use their boats to clean up the tires and other debris on the islands. They started the river clean-up with their sons Mike and Mark, who are now in college, to teach them respect for the river. They don't do it for publicity or expect anything in return. It's enough for them to know that they gave back something to the river they respect. It's only by my chance meeting that anyone would know about their efforts.

I guess my point is this: All the hoopla about Earth Day can't compare to the Tom and Jane Coopers of the world and their friends who participate in projects such as the river clean-up.

You don't need a special day to respect the environment.

You can reach us with your fishing or hunting reports, comments or questions by e-mail at jb.kasper@verizon.net or jbkasper@hotmail.com; or by mail at J.B. Kasper c/o The Times, 500 Perry St., Trenton, NJ 08605.

The 11th Annual Barnegat Bay Festival

The 11th Annual Barnegat Bay Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (rain or shine) on Sunday, June 1st, 2008, at the beautiful waterfront Wanamaker Complex, in Island Heights, New Jersey.

Join the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program in celebrating the environment at the 11th annual Barnegat Bay Festival. Enjoy an entire day of Free Family Fun. Participate in fish printing, face painting, seedling planting and so much more. Environmental groups from the area will be there to answer any questions you may have regarding the environmentally responsible ways that you can enjoy and protect the beautiful Barnegat Bay and its watershed. Join us for an all-day music festival featuring the Glimmer Grass Band. There will also be decoy carving and casting demonstrations, and free pontoon boat tours. Artisans and crafters will be selling custom fishing rods, jewelry, marine art, photography and much more. So pack up the family and spend the day celebrating the nationally recognized BARNEGAT BAY at the Wanamaker Complex in Island Heights, New Jersey. Please visit our website at www.bbep.org or call 732-255-0472 for more information.

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

By John Koegler

The Fish Committee

Fishermen Interested in Safe Hydrokinetics (FISH Committee), was formed to engage in the wave energy permitting process at PG&E's proposed 68 sq. mile project that is located in front of Fort Bragg.

The Town Hall Forum on Wave Energy sparked a community-wide outrage of the methodology of the wave energy permitting process. Local conservationists have taken up the cause and called for a moratorium on wave energy permits. The FISH Committee does not expect this to happen, but local fishermen have a chance to be public stakeholders with full legal status in the permitting process. Their report concludes with this comment, If you are not at the table, you are on the menu!

Their problem is wave energy equipment will not permit any fishing in their proposed 68 sq. mile project area. Is this an issue that will soon happen in New Jersey? The earlier meetings on offshore wind power all provided elusive answers about fishing access.

As fuel prices go insanely upward, our way of life and sport is not only being threatened but faces elimination. There is a deadly combination of proposed, restricted areas, closed areas, MPA's and the deadly combination of trip and season limits that combined makes our future look very dark.

Black Sea Bass

While everyone is concerned about fluke, Ocean angler's favorite food fish, Black Sea Bass, has had their 2008 TAC quota sharply reduced. This plan calls for a mandated stock rebuilding by 2010. Looking at the mandated biomass required by the plan, it appears unreachable without future major quota reductions or total closure. Last year anglers had a poor fishing season for this species. Given the big estimated size of the current adult population and the huge number of sub-legal fish released last year by anglers, it seems clear that anglers will go over their 2008 quota.

Eleanor Bochenek

Eleanor was featured in a quality 4 page article in the April issue of Northeast Boating Magazine. The article is titled "A Full Agenda." The

story is about a person with a very full agenda. As you read this story, you come to understand how many projects she is involved in. You must admire Eleanor who works hard on any project she is involved in. Congratulations, Eleanor, on a great positive article about your very busy life and work.

Jack R. Cathcart (1929-2008)

Jack passed away at the age of 78 on April 8th in Fort Meyers, Florida. Jack was a very active member in the Beach Haven Marlin & tuna Club. He served one term as Commodore. He was an active fisherman and Charter boat Captain. He has five of his catches listed in the World Book of Records. Jack was a long-time supporter of JCAA. Jack is survived by his wife Joyce, sons Jack and David and Daughter Patricia. Donations in Jack's memory can be sent to the Museum of NJ Maritime History, 528 Dock Road, Beach Haven, NJ 08008.

TWIC compliance date extended to April 15, 2009

The new Transportation Workers Identification Certificate previous compliance date was September 25, 2008. While this extends your compliance date, it is clearly in your best interest to apply for this card at your earliest convenience. Things may get interesting later in the year. The current TWIC card is not code protected as other government ID cards are required to be. Further, the USCG recently stated that Charter and head boats are considered a secure zone for the purposes of Homeland security! Does that mean we have to deny access to fish terrorists!

NMFS announces a proposed rule for Green-stick and Harpoon Gear

Currently, neither gear is legal according to NMFS since neither is listed as approved gear in NMFS HMS fisheries. "NMFS has determined that use of these gears would allow efficient harvest of Atlantic tunas with low bycatch and bycatch mortality." Please notice the emphasis on fishing efficiency. Nothing is mentioned about the economic impact on current fisheries. Your comments accepted until August 5, 2008.

Oh joy, can we now expect to catch fewer tunas on every trip! Also to be discussed is new sea turtle release devices for the longline fishermen. The local public hearing on their proposal is on June 2, 6-8pm at the Ocean County Library, Stafford Branch, 129 N. Main Street, Manahawkin, NJ. 08050.

NMFS proposed rules for Blacknose sharks

Black nose sharks are part of the shark group known as Small Coastal Sharks. Under NMFS previous shark rules there were no limits on the SCS species. Naturally, NMFS refuses to accept the biological fact that no shark species can ever sustain a commercial fishery. This only supports NMFS HMS division's history of commercial bias regardless of the impact on the HMS stocks.

NMFS HMS Permit

Please remember to renew your HMS permit. This year the permit became good on January 1, a change that permitted North Carolina Bluefin tuna fishing to continue all winter long. The cost has returned to \$28.00. I have been informed it should be good for the 2009 season.

Gulf Stream Problems

The Gulf Stream is very important to east coast offshore HMS fishermen. Last winter England and Europe had several blizzards which based on past weather history is very unusual. The warm Gulf Stream waters normally increase their ocean temperature to the point that their air temperature is rarely cold enough to permit blizzards to form. Earlier in the year a big finger of hot Gulf Stream water came up from Cape Hatteras and traveled all the way to Nantucket by April. This water was so warm that several fishermen caught Bluefin tuna in New Jersey canyons on April 10 of this year.

Satellite pictures indicate that the Gulf Stream is being impacted in a major way by a very strong Labrador current. In a gulf stream picture it is obvious that the stream is being cut around 66 degrees of longitude. It is best seen on the Rutgers cool room Gulf Stream composite satellite temperature picture of May 15, 2008. As this picture shows, the stream is much closer to the US east coast than normal. What impact will this have on our weather is unknown. Based on past weather history, east coast hurricanes lose much of their strength when they pass Cape Hatteras and travel over the cold waters of the north coastal Atlantic. This results in hurricanes that hit New Jersey being rare. What happens now that the Gulf Stream is only a few hundred miles off our coast and the Gulf Stream's heat might sustain a hurricane's intensity?

Jersey Coast Anglers Association Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

FREE FISHING DAYS IN NEW JERSEY

National Fishing and Boating Week, June 1 - 8, 2008. Free Fishing Days in New Jersey are Saturday & Sunday, June 7 & 8, 2008. Residents and non-residents may fish the public waters of New Jersey without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations apply. Last year, the JCAA, Youth Education Committee coordinated fishing and aquatic education programs for the weeklong celebration of National Fishing and Boating Week. This year we will be working with disadvantaged students in Monmouth County. JCAA member clubs are encouraged to conduct a National Fishing and Boating Week program. Please record your event and let the JCAA Youth Education Committee know how many National Fishing Week participants supported your program.

NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will host a youth fishing clinic at the Fort Monmouth School Age Service Center on June 4th, 2008.

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO VISIT

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Chairman is invited to visit the University of Toledo from June 28 - July 3, 2008 and assist with their National Youth Sports Program NYSP, Youth Fishing Program. NYSP is a program that helps children build the skills and the confidence they need to tackle future challenges. The University of Toledo's National Youth Sports Program provides summer recreational, sports, and educational enrichment programming for approximately 350 youths aged 10 to 16. Our JCAA Youth Education Chairman will provide guidance about the Future Fisherman Foundation's "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" program and demonstrate a variety of angling techniques. Marine aquatic education will be discussed for children visiting coastal states during the remainder of their summer vacation.

FISHING WITH YOUR FAMILY

With fuel prices rising and vacation funds limited think about taking several short fishing trips close to home with your family. Fishing is a great way to connect with family members and New Jersey offers

some of the greatest saltwater and freshwater fishing locations throughout the state. Plan your trips early and decide the type of fishing your family will enjoy most. Keep it fun for children by offering prizes for the first fish caught. Prizes could be fishing lures, bobbers, terminal tackle, and other goodies for their tackle box. Hint: Buy the prizes before the trip and bring out a few prizes before each fishing adventure. The whole family can compete for prizes. Remember to bring a friend fishing and always practice water safety.

JCAA HIGH ROLLER RAFFLE

The Raffle winners were drawn on April 29, 2008. The following is a list of the winners. Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to the thousands who participated.

1. Shimano Tiagra TI-30WLRSA reel with a Shimano LCX8MHRSA rod Value \$805
Won by Robert Mc Cane
2. Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor, model RT 55/SE/L&D Value \$550
Donated by Johnson Outdoors Inc
Won By Pascual Rivera
3. Fisherman's Headquarters, Ship Bottom, NJ donates a \$500.00 Shopping Spree Value \$500
Won by Tony Cianci
4. U S REEL 240 SX reel with Lamiglas EXS 722 rod Value \$450
Donated by Lamiglas and US REELS
Won by Joseph Streko
5. Shimano TLD 30 reel with Profile GL5630 stand up rod Value \$430
Donated by Profile Rods
Won by Renee Hicks
6. Penn 850SSm Spinfisher reel with a Offshore Angler OMCP11SS rod Value \$300
Donated by Bass Pro Shops
Won By Larry Styles
7. Shimano Stradic - ST-5000FI Reel with Shimano Terramar TMS-70MH Rod Value \$280
Donated by Shimano
Won by Dennis Pellegrino
8. Tsunami TSSD 3000 reel and TFSBC-601MH rod Value \$150
Donated by Bimini Bay Outfitters
Won by Paul Konieczka

We need the support of your club and its members

Your club should be a member of JCAA and make a difference for only \$50 a year. Your club will have a voice in all JCAA positions that affect your fishing future. Your club will receive up-to-date info on vital issues each month.

Club Membership Application

Date _____

Club Name: _____

President's
Name: _____

Pres. Address:

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

Please make check \$50 payable to JCAA

JCAA SPONSORSHIP

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

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

Date _____ New ____ Renewal ____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

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

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

Legislative	Tom Fote	732-270-9102 tfote@jcaa.org
Office Manager	Phil Celmer	609-693-3414 jcaa@jcaa.org
Access: (North)	Ray Marione	201-843-1711
Access: (South)	Robert DeLeonard	732-793-8080
Blackfish	Pat Donnelly	732-295-1755
Blue claw Crab	Jack Miktus	732-477-5184
Blue Fish	Al Marantz	732-280-2643
Habitat	Pat Donnelly	732-206-1407
Large Pelagic	John Koegler	610-687-2208
Menhaden	Len Fantasia	732-872-1862
Science & Research	Bruce Freeman	732-793-7871
Sponsorship	Frank Richetti	732-477-3120
Striped Bass	Ed Cherry	edwardwc@verizon.net
Webmaster	Phil V. Celmer	philipc@highlandstech.net
Youth Education	Greg Kucharewski	732-840-9197

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.