

JCAA NEWSPAPER APRIL 2019

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on March 21st, 2019)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, March 26th, 2019

Starting at 7:30 PM

385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 11th, 2019

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

1594 Lakewood Road (Rt. 9), Victoria Plaza Ste. 13

Toms River, NJ 08755

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

JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote

JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi

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

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

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

2018 OFFICERS

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

Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

March 26th JCAA General Meeting

April 11th JCAA Board Meeting

April 29th–May 2nd ASMFC Meeting Week

April 30th JCAA General Meeting

May 9th JCAA Board Meeting

May 18th IBSP Fun Day

May 19th Governor Surf Fishing Tournament

May 28th JCAA General Meeting

June 15th JCAA Fluke Tournament

June 20th JCAA Tournament Awards Presentation

JCAA 25th Anniversary Fluke Tournament June 15th

By Paul Turi, Tournament Director

On March 11th and March 12th tournament entry forms were mailed out to past entrants of the tournament. Our online system through Eventbrite is now up and running. From our website (JCAA.org) click the secure on-line entry link at the top of the page.

There are several ways to enter. You can use the mailed Express Entry Form, online through our website, download an entry form and either mail or fax to our office or you may simply call the office and we will take your entry over the phone. Frankly, the best way to enter is through our website using our secure online system through Eventbrite. You will automatically receive a receipt confirmation of your order and an affidavit/weigh-in slip will eventually be emailed to you.

Don't forget, if you want to participate in any of the calcuttas or the doormat fluke category or order hats and t-shirts, be sure to look carefully for "additional items". Some entrants seem to miss this.

For our fluke tournament over the last five years we have been paying out over \$60,000 in money and merchandize prizes. Starcraft Boats, Yamaha Motors and Yacht Club Trailers have donated a boat,

motor and trailer and you don't even have to catch a fish to win the prize. We give it away in a raffle drawing at our awards presentations.

We also offer \$50,000 for the largest fish over 12lbs. **Someone is going to win that \$50,000! But you have to enter to win.**

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

There are a few species and issues on the radar that the recreational community should be concerned about. We all need to pay attention to the issues on what the size and catch limits options that are being proposed. We can't rely on only a few voices but we must be there in many voices to get the fair share of the resource or access. We at JCAA attend many meetings each month to get the latest update information and put it together and then get it out to each of the clubs. I hope there are others that are not in a club that do their research and get involved. In the JCAA Newsletter there are articles written by the people that are attending all these meetings for you, so read them carefully because there is a lot of important information for you to understand.

On February 26th we had for the first time an open meeting to invite any associate member or non-member club that is interested in seeing how JCAA holds its meeting. We had a nice crowd that attended this special meeting and a lot was accomplished that night. The people that were there asked a few important questions and they are amazed of all the things that have to deal with fisheries. I will hold another one of these open meetings later in the year, so pay attention to the JCAA Newsletter, website and Facebook Page for that date. I would like to thank Past President Paul Haertel and his wife Linda for coordinating all the refreshments. Special thanks to Linda for the homemade cookies.

The show and flea market season has come to an end for JCAA. I would like to thank all the volunteers that put hours at all the shows manning the JCAA Booth. As you should know, JCAA was at the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association Flea Market (Jan. 26), 2019 Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series (Feb. 9), Atlantic City Boat Show (Feb. 27 to Mar. 3), Fish Hawks Fishing Club Flea Market (Mar. 9) and The Saltwater Fishing

Expo (Mar. 15 to 17). This year for the 1st time at the Atlantic City Boat Show we had the Fluke Tournament's grand Prize on display. It was the 14' StarCraft powered by a Yamaha outboard and it was sitting on a Yacht Club Trailer. I would like to take this time to give a special thanks to the major sponsors StarCraft, Yamaha and Yacht Club Trailers for their endless efforts working to have the grand prize at the show. I give Paul Turi a lot of credit during this whole process with coordinating between the sponsors and the Atlantic City Boat Show making sure we had a booth big enough for the boat and our booth. I take my hat off to him for all the hours he spent handling it.

This year's Annual Fluke Tournament will be held on June 15th. The Fluke Tournament Committee has mailed out the 1st mailing to anglers that have participated in past years. In that mailing is the entry form and some of the JCAA High Roller Tickets. The High Roller this year is going to be drawn on May 9th, so if you want to be in the drawing make sure you have the tickets filled out with the proper amount and returned before May 9th. There are Fluke Tournament entries coming in as I am writing this column. Make sure to enter early to take advantage of the early entry fee. If you have any questions about the Fluke Tournament, please call the JCAA Office.

I have been at some of the member clubs to speak. If you would like me or an officer to speak at your club, please send an email to mtsport64@aol.com and in the subject put "Speak at Club."

The next JCAA General Meeting is April 30th at 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick NJ, 08724. Make sure you mark your calendar. Remember, JCAA is always here for you, but we need more people to get involved to help protect the future of our fisheries.

Summer Flounder, The "Never Ending Saga"

By Tom Fote

Over the years I have walked out of many fisheries meetings shaking my head and wondering what just happened. Usually within a week or two I get a better sense of what drove the decision or not. Two weeks ago I attended the joint meeting (ASMFC and MAFMC) and it was among the most frustrating and perplexing I ever attended. I have thought I had seen everything that could happen at summer flounder but I

was surprised again. I was always concerned that a better method of computing the recreational catch might result in difficulties in interpreting the new data. I was pleasantly surprised that what I had been suggesting for many years had actually been implemented in the latest benchmark assessment for summer flounder in the recreational statistics. I have been preaching for years that they were underestimating our catch and underestimating the size of the stock. In this report, NMFS stated that they had been underestimating the recreational catch and the size of the stock since we began the management plan.

It is important to have a little history to better understand what this means. Before there was a NMFS there was the Bureau of Sportfisheries under the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries under the Department of Commerce. Each had the responsibility of trying to gauge the catch for their sector. The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries had a larger staff and much more money for these tasks since Commerce considered commercial fishing important for the national economy. The Bureau of Sportfisheries never had the money necessary to complete their mandated tasks, especially when it came to recording the recreational catch. But they had many excellent scientists and they tried to estimate numbers and the value of the recreational catch. There is a book Al Ristori references from the 70s that states the recreational catch is 70% and commercial was 30%. When the agencies were combined under NMFS, the recreational side became the stepchild and they continued to be understaffed and underfunded. Al Ristori has another document from the late 1970s that states that the recreational catch continued to be the majority. I was not involved during that time but becoming friends with Al in the 80s gave me access to this information. He would attend public hearings, bring out this information only to be completely ignored. NMFS gave little attention since this was not their data even though they gave great credence to the commercial data since it came from the Bureau of the Commercial Fisheries, home to many of NMFS employees. NMFS decided they needed to collect trends in recreational fishing and came up with the Marine Recreational Statistical Survey (MRSS). They spent a pittance on securing the data compared to what they were spending on commercial data. I feel very comfortable in saying it

was less than .01% of what was being spent by the states and NMFS collecting commercial data. The intention was never to get accurate data but just to show trends. In the early 90s MRSS data was used to account for catch and participation for the recreational sector though that was never what it was intended to do. The commercial quota was determined based on catch figures gathered through port agents and state landing records.

Using MRSS data recreationally and the more accurate commercial data to set up summer flounder quotas, recreational anglers got 40% of the quota and the commercial sector got 60%. Many people questioned the data used saying it ignored the Bureau of Sportfishing data and the historical records on summer flounder. NMFS refused any data they didn't collect. I was at the table in 1990 when we began to split the catch. Many of the managers and some of the audience members didn't think these decisions would much impact since there were not real regulations in place on the recreational sector except for striped bass, a size limit on summer flounder in some states and blue fin tuna regulations. Those were the days of no bag limits, no seasons and no quota on the recreational sector. I sounded an alarm in 1994 when we actually put the plans in place but even people in the recreational sector dismissed the idea of a bag limit on summer flounder, scup or black sea bass.

Fast recap, we set up a quota split using horrible data for the recreational sector that completely underestimated catch and participation. I am not going to restate the long history that brought us here. The JCAA newspapers are archived from 1995 to the present if you are interested. The question is, where are we in 2019?

In 2006 Congress told NMFS to get a system in place to better reflect the recreational data since no one had any confidence in the existing procedures. Of course, no money was allocated to complete this task. The present system is much improved but without sufficient funds there will always be gaps in the information available. So we have just switched from MRSS to MRIP. Summer flounder and striped bass are the first two benchmark stock assessments using this new way of collecting data. The results have been interesting. The new data reinforced much of what many of us have been saying: the recreational catch and participation were seriously underestimated. The

summer flounder numbers have changed dramatically. The good news is that NMFS did not say that overfishing was taking place and the stocks were not being overfished. NMFS listened to some of our advice and extrapolated the numbers to increase the stock size to account for the catch. I believe the figures they are using now are certainly more accurate but still do not reflect the actual recreational catch or harvest. What did these figures allow NMFS to do at this meeting? They stated the stock size is much larger than they have been estimating for almost 30 years because of what the data is showing for the recreational catch. NMFS proposed an increase of 49% for the commercial quota for 2019 and implemented it immediately. This required them to trust the data sufficiently to allow for this increase. At the same time they announced that coastwide the recreational fishery for last year was 7 ½% below what we could harvest based on the new data. Based on the old data we have been under more than 5% of our quota for the last 5 years. Understand, I have no problem with them increasing the commercial quota if the stock size allows for that. But I have a real problem telling the recreational community they must stay status quo because they don't enough confidence in the new data even though we were 7 ½ below. I will explain my concerns in the next paragraph. Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Mr. Clark made a motion to allow for a 3 ½ percent increase, less than half of the 7 ½% we were under last year. I do not ask for a roll call vote so I do not know which other state supported the motion besides NJ, DE and VA. This motion failed because of NMFS objection based on their understanding that the percentage of error could be up to 7%. NMFS seems to think we will go over this year even though we haven't for last five and did not mention any concern on using the data for the increase of the commercial fishery.

I know many of you are confused. Let me try to explain what these figures actually mean. The quota we have been using is like a small 5 dollar pizza. Now we have a larger 20 dollar pizza. We get 40% of the pizza and the commercial sector gets 60%. We have been fishing on the bigger pizza for all these years since NMFS never recognized our total catch. Because they underestimated our total catch, they have been making the commercial community fish on the little pizza's 60% and that is why I supported the 49% increase. I understand why they

didn't relax the regulations currently in place based on the recreational sector 40% of the quota. But since recreational sector have been under their quota for the last 5 years no matter what data they have been using, it seems only fair that we get the 7% increase in the coastwide quota next year. Increasing our quota would have no impact on the 60% the commercial sector gets. I know New Jersey could do this since we were under by even more than 7%. One or two states did go over but that only resulted in a total 7 ½ underage figure coastwide. I should not have been surprised since the recreational community always gets the short end of the stick. We spent a lot of time at this meeting trying to figure out how we could bring up the commercial catch of some states at the expense of others based on what NMFS thinks the stocks look like now. But we spent no time trying to address the issue of increasing the recreational catch.

Now here comes the 2000 pound gorilla!

We have been underestimating our catch since NMFS started collecting the numbers. You have already read the history in the beginning of this article. That means when they set the quota at 60/40 commercial/recreational it was based on the flawed data of MRSS without using any of the data from the Bureau of Sportfishing. If we had used the data from the Bureau of Sportfishing and the data the MAFMC had from the early 70s, the split should have been 70/30, recreational/commercial. So every decision made subsequent to that has been based on a flawed original split. This had continued to operate to the detriment of the recreational fishery for years.

I can only imagine the discussion at the next meeting Summer Flounder Meeting when many members of the recreational community have had time to digest all this new information. I look forward to reading the letters you write to the ASMFC, MAFMC, NMFS State and federal legislators, Governors and the Secretary of Commerce.

Motions on Summer Flounder Recreational Measures

Move to allow for a 3.5% liberalization in summer flounder measures for 2019 relative to preliminary 2018 MRIP harvest estimates, in pounds. Regional proposals will be submitted to ASMFC staff by March 20th, 2019. The technical committee will review proposals, methodologies used, and provide

recommendations to the Board during the week of March 25th, 2019. The Board will consider final approval of regional proposals in early April 2019. Motion made by Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Mr. Clark. Motion fails (4 in favor, 7 opposed).

Move to allow regional proposals to establish the 2019 summer flounder recreational measures as specified under Addendum XXXII. Regions may submit proposals that maintain status quo harvest relative to preliminary 2018 MRIP recreational harvest in pounds. Regional proposals will be submitted to ASMFC staff by March 20th, 2019. The technical committee will review the proposals, methodologies used, and provide recommendations to the Board during the week of March 25th, 2019. The Board will consider final approval of regional proposals in early April 2019. Motion made by Ms. Meserve and seconded by Mr. Reid Motion carries (8 in favor, 3 opposed). Roll Call: In Favor – MA, RI, CT, NY, MD, PRFC, NC, NMFS; Opposed – NJ, DE, VA.

Table 8: Summer flounder commercial and recreational fishery performance relative to quotas and harvest limits, 2013-2017

Year	Comm. Landings (mil lb)	Comm. Quota (mil lb)	Overage(+) / Underage(-) Pct	Rec. Landings (mil lb)	Rec. Harvest Limit (mil lb)	Overage(+) / Underage(-) Pct
2013	12.49	11.44	9%	7.36	7.63	-4%
2014	11.07	10.51	5%	7.39	7.01	5%
2015	10.68	11.07	-4%	4.72	7.38	-36%
2016	7.81	8.12	-4%	6.18	5.42	14%
2017	5.83	5.66	3%	3.19	3.77	-15%
5-yr Avg.	-	-	2%	-	-	-7%

Save the Date

JCAA 25th Annual Fluke Tournament

Saturday June 15

ASMFC & MAFMC Set Summer Flounder 2019-2021 Specifications

Benchmark Assessment Finds Resource Not Overfished & Overfishing Not Occurring

Virginia Beach, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) approved revised specifications for the 2019 fishing season and set new specifications for 2020 and 2021. The revised specifications are based on the results of the 2018 benchmark stock assessment, which found the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The new limits are consistent with the recommendations of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee. The Commission's actions are final and apply to state waters (0-3 miles from shore). The Council will forward its recommendations for federal waters (3-200 miles from shore) to NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Administrator for final approval. The table below summarizes commercial quotas and recreational harvest limits (RHL).

Species	Year	Commercial Quota (millions of pounds)	Commercial Minimum Fish Size (TL)	Commercial Diamond Mesh Size	Recreational Harvest Limit (millions of pounds)
Summer Flounder	2019	11.53	14"	5.5"	7.69
	2020	11.53	14"	5.5"	7.69
	2021	11.53	14"	5.5"	7.69

The Council and Commission decided to set commercial quotas and RHLs for all three years, with the intent to maintain regulatory stability. The revised commercial quota was approximately a 49% increase over the previously set 2019 quota.

While the revised RHL represents an approximate 49% increase over the previously set 2019 RHL, the Commission chose to maintain status quo recreational measures, which are projected to achieve a harvest level close to the revised RHL based on the calibrated

recreational harvest data from the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). As a result, regions established under Addendum XXXII may submit proposals to make minor adjustments to their 2019 recreational measures, such as adjusting the start and end dates of the season, but must hold projected 2019 harvest at 2018 levels. These proposals will require Technical Committee review and Board approval. Additionally, the Commission and Council approved the use of conservation equivalency, allowing state measures to be extended into federal waters, pending acceptance of final state measures by the Regional Administrator.

Based off of the findings of the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review, the stock was not overfished nor experiencing overfishing in 2017. Spawning stock biomass (SSB) in 2017 was estimated to be 98 million pounds, approximately 78% of the biomass target of 126 million pounds. The fishing mortality rate was estimated to be 0.334 in 2017, below the fishing mortality threshold of 0.448. Recruitment in 2017 was estimated at 42 million fish at age 0, below the time series average of 53 million fish at age 0. Recruitment has been below average since 2011.

Data analyzed by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center for the assessment indicate increasing relative abundance of older fish and an expanding age structure. However, the data also indicate a decrease in relative total abundance since the late 2000s, as well as decreasing trends in average lengths and weights at age for both sexes, suggesting slower growth and delayed maturity which impacts the biological reference points. The assessment shows current mortality from all sources is greater than recent recruitment inputs to the stock, which has resulted in a declining stock trend. Additionally, the assessment found the spatial distribution of the resource is continuing to shift northward and eastward.

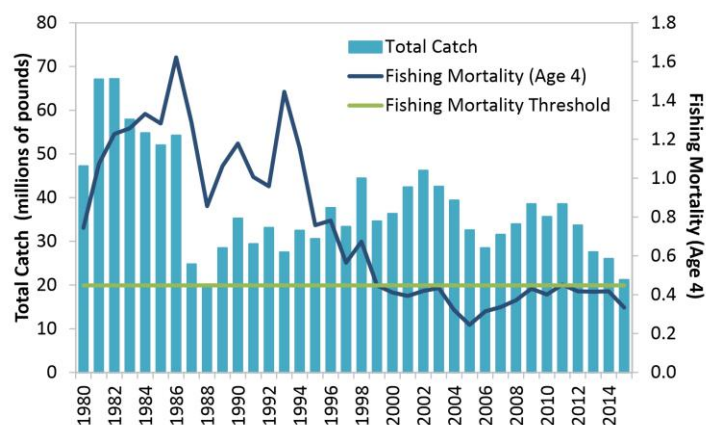
A key attribute of the assessment is the incorporation of revised recreational catch data. In July 2018, MRIP revised the previous recreational catch estimates with a calibrated 1982-2017 time series that corresponds to the new MRIP survey methods. For comparison with the previous estimates, the revised estimates of 2017 recreational landings and discards are over three times the previous estimates.

The revised recreational catch estimates increased the 1982-2017 total annual catch by an average of 29 percent, ranging from 11 percent increase in 1989 to 43 percent increase in 2017. The increase in estimated removals resulted in an increased population estimate compared to previous assessments.

For more information about please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior FMP Coordinator, at krootesmurdy@asmfc.org.

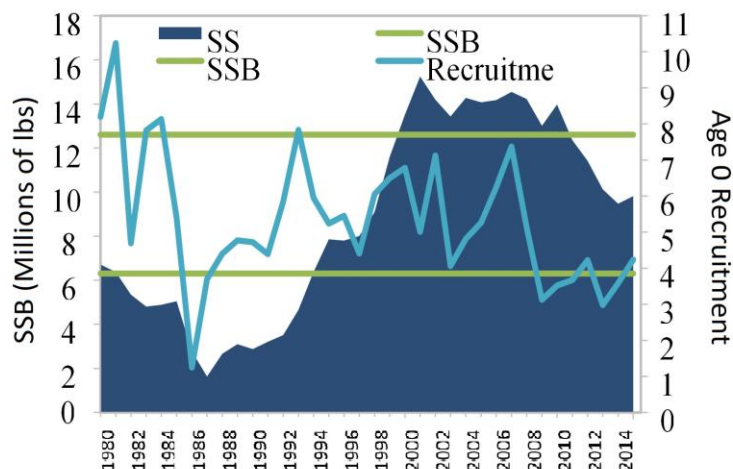
Summer Flounder Total Catch and Fishing Mortality

Source: 66th Northeast Stock Assessment Workshop, 2018



Summer Flounder Spawning Stock Biomass and Recruitment

Source: 66th Northeast Stock Assessment Workshop, 2018



Update on Offshore Wind Forum with Recreational Anglers

By John Toth

This forum was held on March 6th at the Ocean County Library and scheduled to start at 6:00 p.m. It was hosted by Paul Eidman, Anglers for Offshore Wind Power, and Helen Henderson from the American Littoral Society. In attendance were representatives from windmill developers: Equinor, Orsted, and EDF Renewables/Shell. Approximately 50 anglers were also in attendance.

The purpose of this meeting was to have recreational anglers hear what the developers had to say about their windmill operations and to ask questions about how these new windmills could affect their fishing opportunities. Before this meeting started, attendees were asked to write their questions for the developers on a piece of paper and the developers would then be asked to answer them in the order that they were presented to them.

After opening statements by Paul Eidman and Helen Henderson, each developer was asked to give background information on their respective companies in developing windmill projects. I have to say that I was impressed by their solid backgrounds in this industry. For example, Equinor has developed a huge windmill farm off Denmark and EDF Renewables also off the coast of Holland. They are not newcomers to this industry, and they have a lot of experience in developing and implementing windmills at many offshore locations around the world. While Denmark and other European countries have developed thousands of windmills as an alternate energy source, we have only five offshore windmills in our region located off Block Island, by Rhode Island's coast.

Question – asked by Glenn Arthur representing the Diving community – can divers be allowed to do their diving activity by the windmills?

Answer – No problem, diving activity is not restricted by the windmills.

Questions – by John Toth, representing the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) and the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) – Can anglers be allowed to fish by the windmills? Also, as a follow-up question: Do you see this access being restricted

in the event of terrorist activity; possibly resulting with all access restricted and resulting (as an unintended consequence) in the creation of a Marine Protected Area (MPA)?

Answer – Anglers will be allowed to fish by the windmills. In regard to terrorist activity, the developers do not see this type of activity happening since there are so much better targets on land that would be far more effective in causing mayhem, such as bombing subways that a lot of people use.

Note: The offshore windmills in European waters do not allow any types of fishing by them with the exception of England that allows them.

Question – Have developers researched other forms of energy production alternatives besides windmills such as energy that can be produced by harnessing the motion of waves?

Answer – No, but it is an interesting concept and may be developed as an alternate energy source in the future.

Question – These windmills have a projected lifespan of 20 to 25 years and what are your plans to decommission them? Will you just leave them at their locations when they are not producing energy?

Answer – the developers intend to remove them. They will have a bond in their contracts to pay for their removal.

(Interestingly, there were some comments made to keep them at their location even when they are passed their energy production so that they still could be used as artificial reefs!) These unproductive windmills could become navigation hazards and the commercial fishing industry would want them removed.

Questions: By Bob Rush (member of New Jersey's Marine Fishery Council who spoke on his behalf and not on the Council) – Why has there not been more science introduced to first answer the negative effects that these windmills can cause with fish migration patterns, whale activity, electromagnetic effects of the cables on fish life? It seems to me “that we are building the windmills first, and then figuring out later the negative drawbacks that they pose on marine life”.

Answer: An Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is being conducted presently to review possible negative impacts that the windmills can have on marine life. They will cover the effects of noise generated by the installation of the windmills by pile driving (that may have to stop when whales are located nearby) and the effects of the cables (that will be buried seven (7) feet

underground). Presently, this EIS is in progress, but final results have not been concluded and there is not a projected time when it will be concluded.

Question: What kind of security will be provided by the windmills?

Answer: The Developers do not have any plans to provide security. They indicated that most likely the US Coast Guard would provide it.

Question: How much space will there be between windmills?

Answer: The spacing will be .7miles.

A number of attendees thought that this spacing is just too tight with both recreational and commercial ships using this narrow path.

Note: in a prior windmill meeting I attended with commercial anglers present, the commercial industry wants at least two (2) miles spaced between windmills to make navigation much easier.

Question: Will the windmills be able to withstand the hurricanes the USA has almost on annual basis and storms like we had with Sandy?

Answer: We have put up thousands of windmills and we have not lost any of them, especially the ones in or by the North Sea near Denmark. The North Sea is very rough on many sailing vessels.

Question: How much will taxpayers have to subsidize these windmills?

Answer: This subject is not part of this forum. It will be addressed at future windmill meetings.

Unfortunately, time did not allow me to ask other questions that I would like to have answered. Windmills are planned to be placed on productive scallop and clam grounds. The commercial industry plans litigation to prevent this from happening and, consequently, this litigation will possibly delay implementation of the windmill project. I want to know if there are any plans to change the location of these windmills. Why should we lose a valuable food source when these windmills can be placed in another location?

The developers talked about a substation that is part of this windmill project and they did not explain how it ties in with the windmills. I want to know more about it and will ask for clarification of this substation at another meeting.

I plan to attend future windmill meetings and keep you informed of all the latest developments.

Fluke and Sea Bass Regulations Pending

By Paul Haertel

At the joint ASMFC/MAFMC meeting on March 6, members of the council and the ASMFC's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board voted for status quo measures for fluke for the 2019 season. At a previous meeting they had also voted for status quo measures for sea bass. New Jersey and other states are restricted to only making slight changes from their 2018 regulations. Therefore, it is anticipated that the NJMFC will adopt the following regulations for fluke and sea bass at their next meeting. There may be a special meeting to do this in April but it has not been scheduled at the time of this writing. Once the meeting date is set, it will be posted on our Facebook page so please check there for the particulars.

Sea Bass - 10 fish at 12.5" from 5/15 – 6/22, 2 fish at 12.5" from 7/1 – 8/31, 10 fish at 12.5" from 10/8 – 10/31 and 15 fish at 13" from 11/1 – 12/31

Fluke – A season 5/24 – 9/21 (We anticipate that it will open one day earlier so that it opens on the Friday before Memorial Day Weekend and also close one day earlier.) 3 fish at 18" for all marine waters except 3 fish at 17" for Delaware Bay and tributaries and 2 fish at 16" for Island Beach State Park.

Fishing by the Numbers

By Dan Radel, Asbury Park Press, 12/15/2018

New Jersey saltwater fishermen took 4.3 million fishing trips in 2016. That breaks down roughly to 183,000 trips on for-hire boats, 2.3 million private boat trips and 1.7 million shore-based excursions such as surf or jetty fishing. That is about 26,000 more trips than fishermen made in 2015, however, it's down from 7.2 million trips in 2007. New Jersey ranked third in the country behind Florida, 22 million trips and North Carolina 5.4 million trips.

New Jersey's recreational fishing industry brought in \$2.4 billion in sales and income in 2016. Fishermen spent the most on boat expenses, roughly \$700 million

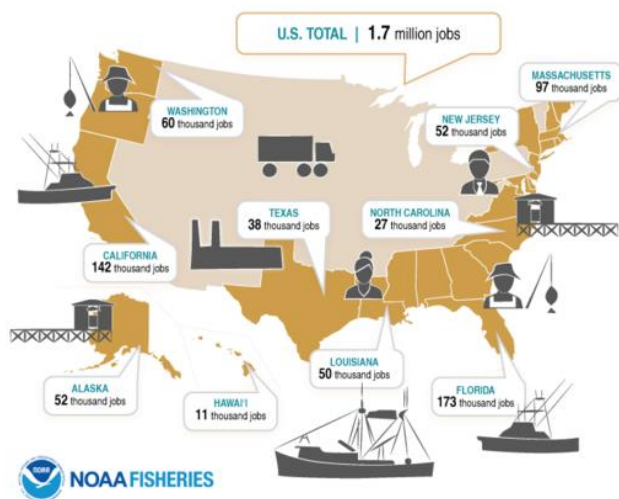
and fishing tackle, \$300 million. New Jersey was fourth behind Florida, \$15 billion, California \$3 billion and Texas \$2.7 billion.

Roughly 15,000 people were employed in New Jersey's recreational fishing industry in 2016. That was sixth in the country behind Florida 96,000, California 17,000, North Carolina 17,000, Alabama 16,000 and Texas 16,000.

The annual Fisheries Economics of the United States report provides economic information related to U.S. commercial and recreational fishing activities and fishing-related industries. Click [here for report](#).

Below, three charts from the report...

Total Jobs supported by Commercial and Recreational Fishing Industries, 2016

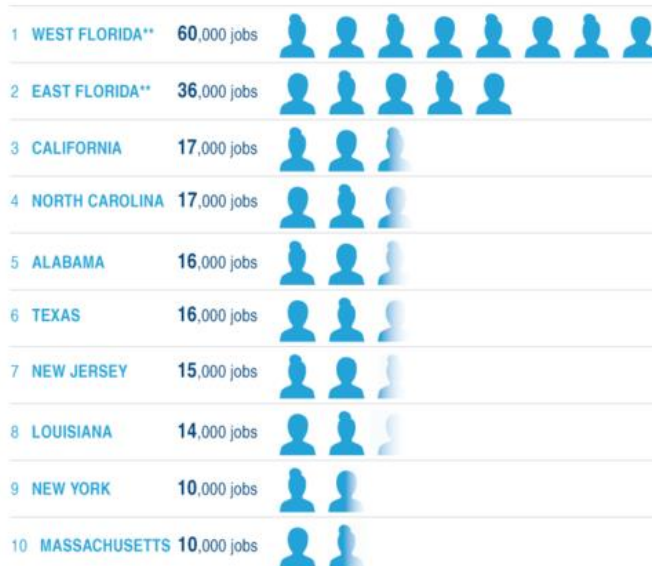


Total Sales* Generated by U.S. Recreational Fishing Industries by State, 2016**



* Total sales — The combined value of sales by businesses within the state affected by recreational fisheries.
 ** Estimates for Atlantic and Gulf states rely upon the original MRIP estimates and not on the revised estimates released in 2016.
 *** Recreational impacts are collected separately for East and West Florida.

Total Jobs Supported by U.S. Recreational Fishing Industries by State, 2016*



* Estimates for Atlantic and Gulf states rely upon the original MRIP estimates and not on the revised estimates released in 2016.
 ** Recreational impacts are collected separately for East and West Florida.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

28TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S CUP

Get ready to enter the largest surf-fishing tournament along the Jersey Shore. This year, it will be bigger and better than ever. The 28th Anniversary of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be on Sunday, May 19, 2019. Don't miss a day of family fun! Pick up a brochure about the tournament at Island Beach State Park or at your favorite tackle dealer.

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

For more information about the Tournament visit www.njfishandwildlife.com or call (609) 748-4347.

Register: All participants 16 years and older must register with NJ Saltwater Registry. Registration is free! You can register at [this link](#).

Date: Sunday, May 19, 2019

Location: Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park

Schedule:

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

The Governor has been invited to present the prizes during the awards ceremony. The individual catching the largest fish will receive the “Governor’s Trophy,” high end rod and reel combo, and have their name engraved on the Governor’s Cup, which is permanently displayed at Island Beach State Park.

Cost: Early Registration - Ages 18 and older: \$15, ages 13-17: \$5, ages 12 and under: FREE! Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult, and are still required to register. Same Day Registration opens 5am Sunday at Pavilion #1. Regular Registration - ages 18 and older: \$20, ages 13-17: \$5, ages 12 and under: FREE! Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Early Entry Incentive: If postmarked by April 22, 2019 you will:

- Save on adult registration fee!
- Be eligible for additional raffle prizes donated from local bait and tackle shops.
- Avoid delays! Pre-registration allows you to go directly to the beach.

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

HIGH SCHOOL SURF FISHING TEAM COMPETITION

Don’t forget to register early for the High School Team Competition for Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament on Sunday, May 19, 2019. How does the High School Fishing Team Competition work? Five school-age students that are part of a formal fishing club or members of a NJ “Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs” group or a non-formal angling group can register for the Governor’s Annual Surf Fishing Tournament.

Each High School will participate as a team with no limit to the number of anglers per each school. There must be one chaperone, 21 years or older, for every 5 high school students. Chaperones are not eligible to fish and must remain with their high school students during the entire Tournament. All angling team members will receive a t-shirt for registering.

GSFT committee members feel the expanded opportunity for youth angling groups to fish the GSFT will create more excitement and recognition for young anglers on tournament day.

For more information about New Jersey High School Team Surf Fishing, click [this link](#).



NJ HOFNOD NEWS

Since speaking to Ed Markowski, at the JCAA Annual Dinner last November, a lot of action has taken place. Ed Markowski and Frank Virgilio and others spearheaded the first HOFNOD bill. Now 17 years later, HOFNOD now has a bill sponsored that will expand the NJ state program to \$450K, from \$200K. HOFNOD bill (S3457 / A5113), is sponsored by Senator Steve Sweeney, Assemblymen John Burzichelli and Adam Taliaferro.

Ed Markowski, NJSFSC/NJOA and John Toth, JCAA testified on March 7th to expand the NJ HOFNOD program to \$450 K and the bill was read by Senator Bob Smith.

Arnie Ulrich, HRFA stated, "When the bills get legs and starts to move, we will need to communicate our support of the bills and urge our folks in Trenton that they need to end up on the Governor's desk to sign and put into effect."

Members of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association Committee encourage member clubs to attend 2019 New Jersey HOFNOD facilitator training hosted by the DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife at Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education in Waretown, NJ. The training date is May 17-19, 2019 and it is well worth the time to learn creative aquatic activities to teach youngsters the importance of becoming environmental stewards. During the training session you will learn the following activities: Conservation & Experiential Education Concept Mapping - Ecological Awareness & Wildlife Interdependence - First Impressions, exploring our "perception" about wildlife and ourselves, Rods and Reels - Know your Lures & bait, Exploring the water (hydrologic) cycle, and Fly Tying. HOFNOD is a great way to introduce youth to fishing, their local waters and other natural resources while supporting positive outdoor recreation and life skills. This workshop is for adult staff and volunteers of youth-centered organizations looking to offer a youth fishing program. The program is flexible enough to be tailored to fit most organizations. If you are interested in attending a NJ HOFNOD workshop, please phone or email Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Coordinator at 908-637-4125 x122 or at liz.jackson@dep.state.nj.us. Registration is required and due by May 1, 2019.

Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs, Youth Fishing Challenge will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2019. The Hooked on Fishing - Not On Drugs

Program's Youth Fishing Challenge is a statewide event to promote fishing among youths and their families. It is being held on the first of the state's two Free Fishing Days, Saturday, June 8, when no license is required to fish regardless of age. ["Hook-A-Winner" Program](#) will receive a special prize following the event. For more information and to register your group location visit: [Youth Fishing Challenge](#).

Brick High Schools, NJ HOFNOD program continues to grow. They completed the following classes since starting NJ HOFNOD in both high schools during September 2018: Freshwater and Saltwater fishing trips (too many to mention), Brick Police Department Drug Awareness "Not Even Once" program, CPR First Aid, Safe Boating Course, NJ Motor Vehicle/Boating, Aquatic Conservation, Species Identification, Knot Tying, Water Safety, Fishing Ethics, Fish Biology, Fishing Equipment Maintenance, How to Tie Flies, NJ Rules and Regulations, Terminal Tackle, Baits and Rigs, Caring for your Catch, Casting Techniques, and Employment Opportunities. Tim Brennan, Health and Physical Education and his team of educators are doing a great job of connecting students to sport-fishing and away from drugs, alcohol, bullying, gangs, and violence. The school was recently featured in On the Water magazine. See more on their FB page: [Brick High School Fishing](#).

SPRING LAKE TROUT CONTEST

The Shark River Surf Anglers are proud to announce the 2019 edition of the annual Trout Contest for Kids at Spring Lake, NJ. Complete details on their [website](#).

STUDENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife and its partners is offering teens some exciting summer programs based at the Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center, located off Island Beach State Park in Barnegat Bay. These unique, educational and fun programs include fishing, research and field experiences in a beautiful location. Sedge Island Fishing Experience June and August, 2019. For more information about any of these programs contact Karen Byrne at karen.byrne@dep.nj.gov or 609-748-4347.

HOOKED ON THE HUDSON

The Palisades Interstate Park New Jersey and the Hudson River Fishermen's Association invite you to experience the Hudson River at the 34th Annual Hooked on the Hudson event. Join them at Ross Dock on Saturday, May 4, 2019 9 am-3:00 pm. Our fishing contest is FREE. There is no entry fee. There are no registration forms. Just come down to the park, throw your line in the water and enjoy yourself. They will supply all equipment and bait free for your children to use!

We continue our tradition of combining a fishing contest with exhibits provided by leading environmental conservation and sportsmen's organizations in our area. Food and Refreshments will be available. Fishing information and assistance will be available. Exhibits are from 9am-3pm. As in past years, we have invited leading environmental and conservation groups to join us.

Children Casting Contest is at 2pm-3pm with prizes at Awards Ceremony at 3pm.

For additional information contact Peter Musse at (201) 233-3119 or petemusse@gmail.com.

PLAY HOOK-e TAKE A VETERAN FISHING

On Saturday, May 4, 2019, 9:00 am till 2:00 pm, Mr. Vito Cardinale, President Cardinale Enterprises LLC, will host the 2019, Third Annual Take A Veteran Fishing Day at Lake Julianna, Ponderosa Estates Farm, Millstone Township, NJ 08535.

"Play HOOK-e from PTSD" is the theme for disabled veterans that will attend the third annual FREE Play HOOK-e Take A Veteran Fishing Day. The goal of the fishing day at Lake Julianna is to provide a chance to go fishing for disabled PTSD veterans and to relax while enjoying the peaceful surroundings of Lake Julianna with other veterans.

Disabled veterans are invited to fish at this private lake to catch and release big fish and then join Mr. Vito Cardinale and his staff of volunteers that will provide soft drinks, pizza, hamburgers & hotdogs and other goodies for the free BBQ. As in the past, Mr. Cardinale and his team are proud to serve our veterans that have given so much for our county.

Veterans with mobility challenges will have the use of 4x4 transportation around the lake, along with fishing assistance if needed. Freshwater fishing license is not needed because this is a private lake.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Jersey Shore Chapter will assist with fly fishing instruction and their members are also welcome to join in and catch some big fish on a fly rod. Boating Education and Rescue will assist with their mobile education booth and equipment.

We have door prizes, loaner rods and reels, terminal tackle, bait, and other fishing equipment available to insure you have an enjoyable time.

The event is sponsored by Cardinale Enterprises LCC and supported by Vietnam Veterans of America Shore Area Chapter 12, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Boating Education and Rescue and the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. To register and receive directions for this free event, please phone Greg at 732-785-9278 or email: vkucharews@jcaa.org.

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

NEWARK BAIT AND FLY CASTING CLUB KIDS FISHING DERBY

NB&FCC annual Kids Fishing Derby is held each year at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside, N. J. and is free for children 16 years of age and younger. Adults may enter for a nominal charge. The Derby runs for three weeks April 13 – May 4, 2019.

The registration booth is located at the gazebo on the lower lake and registrations will be accepted from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on the first Saturday of the derby only. Children that have registered will receive a gift bag at the derby location up until 2:00 P.M. on the first Saturday of the derby. Prizes for the derby will be awarded at the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club's meeting. For additional information email NB&FCC at info@nbfcc.org.

2ND ANNUAL VETERAN FISHING CHALLENGE

The 2nd Annual Veteran Fishing Challenge will take place early July 2019. Mike and Debbie Bennett, Boating Education and Rescue are working on the details for this event. We will have registration information available soon.