

JCAA NEWSPAPER JUNE 2019

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on May 20th 2019)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Starting at 7:30 PM

385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 13th, 2019

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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

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

May 28th JCAA General Meeting

June 8th JCAA Board Meeting

June 15th JCAA Fluke Tournament

June 20th JCAA Tournament Awards Presentation

June 30th JCAA General Meeting

No General Meeting in July & August

July 9th-12th ICAST

July 11th JCAA Board Meeting

JCAA 25th Anniversary Fluke Tournament - June 15th

By Paul Turi, Tournament Director

This year will be the **25th anniversary** of the JCAA Fluke Tournament. When we started this tournament 25 years ago, we held the tournament in the middle of June every year. For our anniversary tournament this year we have decided to move the tournament back to June. The tournament will be held on Saturday, June 15th and the Awards Presentations will be held on Thursday, June 20th at the Clarion Hotel in Toms River, NJ.

The Fluke Tournament committee felt this is the right thing to do. It will level the playing field for the bay fishermen and especially for fishermen in south Jersey who get the fish early.

Also, when we started this tournament 25 years ago, this was a more family-oriented tournament. The 1st place prize has always been \$1200. In the last five years we have gravitated towards a more money-oriented tournament, but the biggest prize has always been the boat, motor and trailer door prize drawing.

The tournament is for everyone, the family-oriented fisherman who likes to fish with maybe his spouse or spouse and children and the big money fisherman who wants to win a lot of money. It attracts the novice to the "sharpie." It's \$150 to enter the tournament and you can have up to six fishermen with

six lines in the water. Split six ways it's \$25 per man to fish and have a shot at winning either the \$1200 1st place prize or one of the other nine prizes for each region. We estimate that the average boat has four fishermen on board which split four ways would be \$37.50 per man. And remember, you don't have to buy into the calcuttas. You have the option to opt out of that category or maybe you'd like to add one or more of the calcuttas; the choice is yours. But one thing I would do is definitely enter the Big Fish \$50,000 prize category. That to me is a no-brainer. You never know when you're going to drop your line in the water and hit that big guy in the head. We've all been there and done that at one time or another; just dumb luck. Basically, it's \$25 for insurance. As we saw last year, a fisherman caught a fish over 12lbs. but was not entered in the Big Fish category.

As I also said in last month's column, last year we combined Great Bay, Ocean City, Atlantic City, Cape May and Fortescue into one region with one set of 10 prizes for that region. We could no longer continue to pay out all the prize money for those five ports individually. We do not have a 1st place prize sponsor for any of those five ports who is willing to donate the \$1,200 1st place prize. Last year we only had three sponsors who donated the \$1200 1st place prize for their regions/ports: Fisherman's Headquarters for the LBI region, Liberty Landing Marina for the Jersey City region and South Harbor Marina in Waretown for the Barnegat Bay region. JCAA has to payout the \$1200 1st place prize money for each of the other regions.

Again, there were a few people in the Southern Region who were not happy with combining those five ports into one region. Here are the entries by region for each port in the southern region so you understand why we had to do it.

Manasquan Region	43 entries
Sandy Hook Region	41 entries
Barnegat Bay Region	35 entries
Shark River Region	25 entries
Long Beach Island Region	18 entries
Jersey City Region	18 entries
Southern Region	43 entries

- Great Bay (16)
- Ocean City (15)
- Cape May (9)

- Atlantic City (3)
- Fortescue (0)

As you can see, not one of those five ports in the Southern Region brings in enough entries to justify paying out the \$1,200 for the 1st place prize money and also any money we have to spend on any of the 2nd thru 10th place prizes we have to purchase if we don't have a sponsor.

Jersey City only had 18 entries last year but Liberty Landing Marina donated the \$1,200 1st place prize. Long Beach Island only had 18 entries but Fisherman's Headquarters has been donating the \$1,200 1st place prize money for as long as I can remember and I've been with JCAA 21 years.

So, since we are celebrating our 25th Anniversary this year, we have decided to move the tournament back to June.

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!**

So, if you want to help recreational fishing in NJ, help JCAA help you and the other 1,000,000 fishermen in NJ by getting involved and fishing in the tournament this year.

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

It's time to enter the 25th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament. The date of the tournament June 15th is fast approaching. Don't wait to the last minute to enter because that is when you may not fill out the entry form correctly. Make sure you enter the Calcutta's you want and don't forget the Largest Fluke Category because this does happen. Remember also, the entry fee is \$150 until June 3rd. After June 3rd the entry fee will be \$180. So get your entry in before the price rises. Reminder that the Award Ceremony is on Thursday, June 20th at the Clarion Hotel in Toms River. On displayed outside at the Awards Ceremony there will be a brand-new StarCraft Boat powered by a Yamaha Outboard and sitting on a Yacht Club Trailer which will be given to a lucky individual and will have

their picture taken. These are amazing companies that come through for JCAA and the recreational community every year. I am looking forward in continuing to work together for years to come.

Year after year the recreational community is always in a tough situation whether it is with species size and bag limits or with having access. Every one of us must voice our individual opinion at public meetings. We may not like the options or the outcome but we must be heard. I would like to see more people attend these public meetings and write letters to the proper people. Get involved before it's too late. There will be public meetings coming up on Striped Bass in early fall so plan on attending. When the dates are made available we will put it out there on our website and Facebook page.

Liberty Landing Marina is a weigh station for the 25th Annual Fluke Tournament and also a 1st Place Region Sponsor for Jersey City. Liberty Landing Marina had their 2019 Vendor Spotlight and Swap Meet Event on May 11th which they invited JCAA to have a table there to promote the tournament. The weather was great and there were a lot of people walking through the event. Thank you Liberty Landing Marina for inviting us to attend.

The 2019 Annual High Roller Raffle drawing was held on May 9th at 7:30PM in Toms River. Congratulations to all the lucky winners of this year's raffle. All the winners should have received a phone call by a JCAA representative and made the arrangements on how you will be getting your winnings. Thank you to all those that supported JCAA by purchasing a few raffle tickets. JCAA is greatly appreciated to all those that supported us by donating these great prizes for this year's raffle. Those companies or originations are: Capt. Mike Placko "Sign Me Up Charters," Fisherman's Headquarters, Grumpy's Tackle, Canyon Reels, Tony Maja, TICA, Shu Fly, Costa Del Mar, ICOM and JCAA. We all should support them because they go out of their way to support the recreational community.

If you belong to a fishing club that does not belong to JCAA, you should contact us so we can explain what we do. Even if you are an individual that doesn't belong to a fishing club and are willing to learn more about JCAA, you should contact us also. If you would like me or an officer to speak at your club, please email to mtsport64@aol.com and in the subject put "Speak at Club."

I hope everyone has a safe time doing what we all love and be a part of protecting it for the future.

The next JCAA General Meeting is June 25th 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.

Just a reminder, we are now accepting nominations for Sportsman of the year. You may present any nominations at the General Membership Meeting or by emailing Paul Turi at pturi72@gmail.com.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Tom Fote

Striped Bass Update

As you can see in the press release below, there is a new striped bass benchmark stock assessment. There was much discussion about how to proceed and it was decided to do an addendum first. In August there will be further discussion about an amendment to the striped bass bill which will consider many of the states' concerns.

The addendum will look at whether we do another reduction of the recreational striped bass catch. There will also be consideration of what should be done on the commercial side. Some states proposed doing nothing since they didn't think they were the problem. They forgot to mention the millions of pounds of fish that are poached with many court cases to prove this is happening.

I will be waiting to see how the board will deal with recreational discards since that makes up 52% of recreational mortality. The board cannot ignore this. I find it interesting that New York never discusses their poaching problem even though those of us who fish in Raritan Bay can attest to this problem. New Jersey and Maryland have pursued poachers but it is hard for us to do that for other states. New York needs to get its house in order.

I found it extremely interesting that the 2018 preliminary information about the catch is not included in the information being disseminated. I recommended that we use the 2018 data since it is the most current and it should be finalized before the August meeting. The catch figure is a 25% reduction.

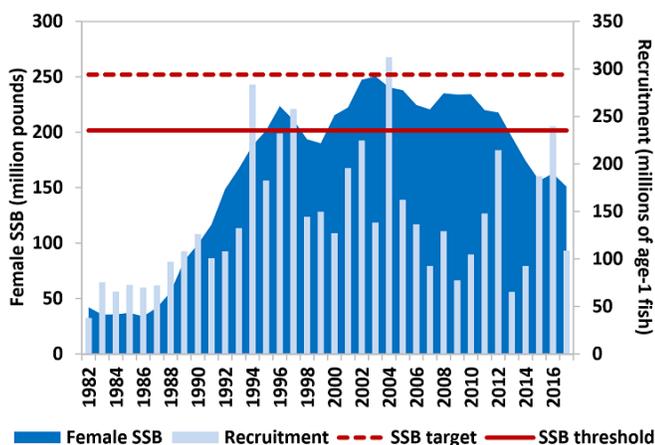
It is more than the 17% reduction being considered for the addendum. The states that are looking to be the most conservative are opposed since they said it wasn't included in the benchmark and want to ignore it. I asked them not to. If we have firm data for 2018, it should be included in any discussion about an addendum. I got little support for this approach and I will bring it up again in August and insist that it be included. Good fisheries management uses the best and the most current data for decisions.

Atlantic Striped Bass Benchmark Stock Assessment Finds Resource Overfished and Overfishing Occurring

Board Initiates Addendum to Reduce Total Fishing Mortality

ASMFC Press Release, May 1 2019

Arlington, VA – The 2018 Atlantic Striped Bass Benchmark Stock Assessment indicates the resource is overfished and experiencing overfishing relative to the updated reference points defined in the assessment. Female spawning stock biomass (SSB) was estimated at 151 million pounds, below the SSB threshold of 202 million pounds. Despite recent declines in SSB, the assessment indicated the stock is still significantly above the SSB levels observed during the moratorium in the mid-1980s. Total fishing mortality (F) was estimated at 0.31, above the F threshold of 0.24. The benchmark assessment and its single-stock statistical catch-at-age model was endorsed by the Peer Review Panel and accepted by the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board (Board) for management use.



Based on these findings and the tripping of Amendment 6's reference point management triggers relating to F and SSB thresholds (e.g., F in 2017 is above the threshold level and SSB is below the threshold level), the Board initiated the development of a Draft Addendum to consider measures aimed to reduce F to the target level. The Technical Committee estimates it would require roughly a 17% reduction in total removals (commercial and recreational harvest, including dead releases) to reduce F to the target in 2020 relative to 2017 levels. The Draft Addendum will explore a range of management options, including minimum size and slot size limits for the recreational fishery in the Chesapeake Bay and along the coast, as well as a coastwide circle hook requirement when fishing with bait. The Board also provided guidance on how to apply the necessary reductions to both the commercial and recreational sectors. The Draft Addendum will be presented to the Board for its consideration and approval for public comment in August. If approved, it will be released for public comment, with the Board considering its final approval in October for implementation in 2020. Additionally, the Board postponed a motion to initiate the development of an Amendment until its next meeting in August.

Atlantic striped bass experienced a period of strong recruitment (estimated as number of age-1 fish) from 1994-2004, followed by a period of lower recruitment from 2005-2011 (although not as low as the early 1980s, when the stock was considered collapsed). This period of low recruitment contributed to the decline in SSB in recent years. Recruitment was high in 2012, 2015, and 2016 (corresponding to strong 2011, 2014, and 2015 year classes), but recruitment estimates were below the long-term average in 2013, 2014, and 2017. Recruitment in 2017 was estimated at 108.8 million age-1 fish, below the time series average of 140.9 million fish.

A more detailed description of the stock assessment results is available on the Commission's website at [this link](#). The 2018 Atlantic Striped Bass Benchmark Stock Assessment, Stock Assessment Summary and Peer Review Report can be obtained via the following links:

- [Full assessment report](#)
- [Summary Report](#)
- [Peer Review Report](#)

For more information, please contact Max Appelman, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mappelman@asmfc.org.

ASMFC Coastal Sharks Board Approves Changes to Recreational Measures for Atlantic Shortfin Mako

ASMFC Press Release, May 2 2019

Arlington, VA – The Commission’s Coastal Sharks Management Board approved changes to the recreational size limit for Atlantic shortfin mako sharks in state waters, specifically, a 71-inch straight line fork length (FL) for males and an 83-inch straight line FL for females. These measures are consistent with those required for federal highly migratory species (HMS) permit holders under HMS Amendment 11, which was implemented in response to the 2017 Atlantic shortfin mako stock assessment that found the resource is overfished and experiencing overfishing. Amendment 11 also responds to a recent determination by the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas that all member countries need to reduce current shortfin mako landings by approximately 7279% to prevent further declines in the population.

The Board adopted complementary size limits in state waters to provide consistency with federal measures as part of ongoing efforts to rebuild the resource. The states will implement the changes to the recreational minimum size limit for Atlantic shortfin mako by January 1, 2020.

For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at krootesmurdy@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740. Information on federal HMS shark regulations can be found at [this link](#).

Secretary of Commerce Appoints Three New Committee Members to NOAA’s Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

NOAA Fisheries, May 1 2019

Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross has appointed three new advisors to NOAA’s Marine Fisheries

Advisory Committee, bringing the group’s membership to the full complement of 21. Terms for the three members commence immediately. The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, or MAFAC, advises the Secretary of Commerce and NOAA on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. These three individuals were chosen from a pool of highly qualified applicants who submitted nomination packages during an open, publicly announced process. A nomination process is announced when vacancies occur.

MAFAC members draw on their expertise to evaluate and make recommendations on national living marine resources policies. The members represent a wide spectrum of fishing, aquaculture, protected resources, environmental, academic, tribal, state, consumer, and other related national interests from across the U.S., and ensure the nation’s living marine resource policies and programs meet the needs of these stakeholders.

The three new members are:

Thomas Fote, Toms River, New Jersey
Retired veteran and longtime recreational fisherman advocate

Don McMahan, III, Pensacola, Florida
Owner, Pensacola Bay Oyster Company, LL, and Pensacola Bay Oyster Hatchery, LLC

Patrick Sullivan, PhD, Ithaca, New York
Professor and Chair, Department of Natural Resources, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University

MAFAC provides advice and recommendations on NOAA and Department initiatives and programs. MAFAC recently identified priority initiatives for incoming NOAA and Commerce leaders to improve seafood businesses and trade, support recreational opportunities, strengthen science and fishery data, enable adaptive management, and recover protected species.

In recent years, MAFAC has also provided advice and input on:

- Enhancing seafood production and promotion, and identified major challenges to healthy oceans and thriving industries that need addressing.
- The NOAA Aquaculture Strategic Plan for 2016-2020, highlighting the need to substantially

increase domestic aquaculture production, and supported the development of an effective national aquaculture initiative.

- Implementation of the Recreational Fisheries Policy.
- Improving species recovery and section 7 pre-consultation processes;
- How NOAA can best meet resource, habitat, and socio-economic resilience needs of fishing communities and sectors, particularly in a changing climate.
- Long term salmon and steelhead conservation and recovery through its Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force.

For more information about the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, visit this [web page](#).

Enviros Fault Army Corps' Plan for Defending NJ Back Bays from Rising Seas

By Jon Hurdle, NJSpotlight.com, May 9 2019

Groups say nature-based measures should be a bigger part of massive plan to protect communities

Environmental groups faulted some of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' latest ideas for defending New Jersey's back bays from the devastation of sea-level rise and the bigger storms that are expected to come with climate change.

In March, the Corps proposed measures including sea walls and storm-surge barriers, as well as nature-based programs like building up coastal marshes, as ways of keeping ocean waters out of vulnerable back-bay communities.

The handily titled New Jersey Back Bays Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study Interim Report invited but did not publish reactions from stakeholders including municipalities, other government agencies, and environmental groups. New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection is cooperating in the project and sharing the cost with the Corps.

The comments, obtained from some of the groups individually, welcomed the investigation into ways of protecting the back bays from rising waters but said the plan missed the mark in some important respects.

Crucial role of coastal marshes

The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey, for example, said the proposals did not give enough weight to nature-based measures — called 'NNBF' — such as coastal marshes and living shorelines that play a crucial role in absorbing storm surge.

"We were disappointed that NNBF has not been fully integrated into the flood-risk management alternatives," the conservancy wrote. "We strongly urge the USACE to more comprehensively utilize NNBF as a flood-risk management strategy along the NJ coastline."

It offered its own research into which coastal habitats are already helping to mitigate sea-level rise; said it was ready to identify which salt marshes in Ocean, Atlantic and Cape May counties would benefit from an increase in sediment, and proposed to share its ideas on building different kinds of living shorelines to defend different parts of the Jersey Shore.

Flood barriers like sea walls "may provide a false sense of security" because they encourage new development and increasing population in low-lying areas, and may distract from the need to encourage people to move away from flood-prone areas, the conservancy said.

While some man-made infrastructure will likely be needed to protect the back bays, features like storm-surge barriers could hurt natural resources, and that isn't fully recognized by the corps' report, said Patty Doerr, director of the conservancy's coastal and marine program in New Jersey.

She said conservancy scientists have found that salt marshes, for example, play an important role in protecting the coast from storms, including superstorm Sandy in 2012 when coastal marshes reduced property damage by \$450 million, according to a study by the conservancy and others.

Impact of new barriers on habitat

"We're going to need some great infrastructure but keeping salt marshes in place and keeping beaches and dunes healthy is going to be key," she said. "We're really concerned about the impact of storm-surge barriers and flood walls on those habitats."

Doerr also said the slow pace of the study — which is not expected to be implemented until 2030 at the earliest, depending on Congressional appropriations — could mean that its conclusions will be out of date by the time it is finalized. "What the coast looks like in 10 years could be different, and

does that all make sense in terms of what they are proposing?” she asked.

A spokesman for the Corps said it is working with the conservancy on ways of integrating nature-based measures into the plan. It’s not likely that those measures alone can defend the back bays from rising waters, but they may be able to play a role, he said.

New Jersey Sierra Club director Jeff Tittel also criticized plans for infrastructure like sea walls, saying they just divert rising waters and storm surges into unprotected areas.

“The problem with sea walls and gates is that water goes around them,” he wrote. By preventing tidal movement, such measures stop pollutants flushing out of the system and hurt fisheries, he said.

Focus on buying out rather than building?

Rather than building sea walls, New Jersey should focus on buying out the most vulnerable homeowners, elevating properties in flood-prone areas, and building up dunes, Tittel said. He called the Corps’ report “a recipe for disaster” that does not recognize the realities of sea-level rise.

Responding to Tittel’s criticism, the Corps said it is working to understand how storm-surge barriers affect tidal flows and salinity, and is working with other agencies on a “conceptual ecological model” to evaluate the impacts of the barriers.

According to Rutgers University scientists, the consensus projection for sea-level rise at the Jersey Shore is that seas will be 1-2 feet higher in 2050 than they were in 2000. By 2100, seas will be 2.5 to 5 feet higher, the estimates say.

The Barnegat Bay Partnership, representing federal, state, municipal, academic and business groups working to protect the bay, said it is concerned about impacts to natural features like wetlands from the Corps’ plan.

The partnership commended the Corps for its “substantial undertaking” but said the report had omitted data on issues such as water-quality modeling around storm-surge barriers and so had made some decisions based on “little information and/or a limited understanding.”

It welcomed the Corps’ consideration of managed retreat and relocation as one response to coastal inundation but questioned why that option was not given a higher score in an assessment of

feasible approaches, while man-made structures got a higher rating.

Bias toward ‘structural components’

“These inconsistencies appear to bias upwards the rankings of structural components,” the partnership’s submission said.

And it accused the Corps of underestimating how much a 5-10-foot storm-surge barrier would restrict access to coastal waterways for boaters.

“To suggest that the ‘potential effect would require further evaluation to determine the extent of this impact’ is to ignore the obvious fact that the impact may be significant,” it said.

Comments were also submitted by Surfrider Foundation, a nonprofit that represents beach and ocean users. It accused the Corps of not doing enough to include all stakeholders in its discussions.

“Considering the scale of the potential project and the far-reaching impacts to the environment, human uses and coastal communities, outreach for the study requires a slower, more in-depth approach,” it said. “We can say with certainty that the majority of affected stakeholders do not know that the study exists.”

About a quarter of the 112 comments, the biggest proportion, addressed the environmental impacts of structural features like storm-surge barriers, the Corps said in a summary of the responses. Others called for more attention to be paid to sea-level rise projections, and how to manage its risk.

The Corps said it hopes to hold more public meetings in winter this year, and then in spring 2020 to mark the release of a draft feasibility report as the next stage in the massive, multi-year project that covers 3,400 miles of shoreline in five counties.

Debunking the Offshore Wind EMF Barrier Myth

*By Capt. Paul Eidman, Kyle Kingman,
Submarine cable systems expert*

The topic of offshore wind development in New Jersey waters has created three main groups of people: Those all for clean, responsible, and affordable renewable energy growth, those against it for any and all reasons, and the silent majority who are waiting to see regardless of the outcome, and pretty much fine with either as long as their bills

don't rise too much. I'd like to focus here on those who are against offshore wind development.

Recently, there have been some fearful concerns being raised regarding the electromagnetic fields (EMF) produced by the submarine power transmission cables.

Specifically, there is a misleading claim that the EMF of a submarine power cable will create an electromagnetic barrier that fish, namely Summer flounder (Fluke) will not cross. The contention is that this would affect their annual migration inshore from offshore wintering areas and ultimately lead to the collapse of an important fishery, which is clearly a bad thing. As a result, they demand that offshore wind farms should be halted.

As a fisherman and not an offshore wind power expert, I reached out to folks outside of the offshore wind development companies and went down the supply chain to speak with experts in the field of underwater cables and electrical engineering. This is what I found out:

We must carefully acknowledge concerns which are based on direct observation, history, facts, and studies. However, this is not one of them. This selective reporting to elicit fear and create doubt about the future of wind farms is intentional and hollow. **Very few studies have been done on the effects of submarine power EMF on bottom-dwelling fish such as flounder because no significant observable impacts have ever been reported with the existing offshore wind farms or submarine power cable systems, anywhere around the world.**

Had the Fisherman Magazine chosen to report on this with accuracy in its April 2019 issue, they would have concluded exactly what the 2006 Danish study found as well. The study concluded that there were no definitive responses or significant negative impacts observed. Flounder continued to cross the cable but may have been observed at times to go slower across the cable during the study, but it never interrupted the fish's travel.

It is important to note that the scientists could not conclusively attribute changes in behavior to the EMF. This can be for a host of reasons. Perhaps fish were reacting to the observation methods. Fish may have sensed a slight remnant of a cable trench (structure) or even some thermal effects of the cable. Speaking to

someone who is in the industry, they personally have witnessed thousands of flatfish in the North Sea crossing submarine power cables, swimming along them, and even using the remains of the cable trench as structure to hunt and hide for prey. A cable trench sometimes remains for a time following installation depending on the bottom conditions.

The bottom line as to why EMF is extremely unlikely to cause an effect on fish behavior and or migration patterns offshore New Jersey (or elsewhere) is because modern AC submarine power cables are heavily sheathed and shielded. The sheath blocks all electric fields, although the magnetic field remains. The cables used for offshore wind farms have 3 power cores bundled together inside a common armor layer. The current in the 3 cores is phase-shifted so that the magnetic fields from the cores oppose each other and thus the external magnetic field is very low. **Finally, these cables would be buried to a depth of 2-3 meters (80 to 120 inches).**

Where does this concern stem from? It seems to be rooted in a misunderstanding of the technology.

If EMF or specifically the magnetic field of the cables did, in fact, block fish from migrating, then there would be no flounder currently caught inside many estuaries, bays, tidal rivers, fjords, and seas. We have many examples around the world where submarine power cables of all types and sizes stand between these water bodies and the open water. The fish would not move in and out to breed and we would no longer have those fish after a few years. However, there is simply no practical evidence of an EMF barrier. Fully developed large scale wind farms overseas have been in operation for many years now with no reported related issues from the fisheries.

We can conclude that people with special interests against offshore wind development, against anything for that matter, will use any argument they can to stop it, even false arguments. They will use those arguments to gain support from whomever they can, even if the issue is completely invalid, as is with this EMF case. The irony to me is this EMF concern is being raised by a recreational fishing magazine that relies on selling advertising space to marine manufacturers and tackle trades.

One would think that these guys would dive head first into this, using the publication to

encourage participation in the stewardship process.

We all need to stand together and make sure that the offshore wind developers take our input during the early planning stages and site turbines correctly. We should be using our collective voice to ensure we have access to project sites and raise real potential issues early to avoid conflict in the future. It seems there is another motivation beneath all of this, to help fan the flames of opposition that we are currently seeing from the profitable and influential commercial bottom trawling fleet and from folks that want to keep the natural gas supply pumping.

Burning fewer fossil fuels leads to cleaner, healthier waters which benefit us all. More structure in the water means more fish habitat and aggregation of key gamefish species like Black Sea Bass, Summer flounder, blackfish and many more. This leads to increased fishing opportunity, increased trips out on the water with more paying customers on party boats, and more folks feeling confident enough with the fishing to buy more tackle, boats, and trucks to tow them.

Overall, it leads to an improved and sustainable coastal economy. Looking at the long-term gains instead of short-term profits, offshore wind power could help stem the tide of rising water temperatures and help to hold our gamefish species along our shores and slow many species' northward progression. All this while adding thousands of American jobs, sustaining our coastal economy and building the recreational fishing business!

Kyle Kingman is an expert in high voltage submarine cable systems, installation, and protection. He has worked with numerous large energy companies and Transmission System Operators around the world including providing the lead representation of the two largest HVDC Power Interconnector projects in history, which represents a 4 Billion Euro combined investment.

Capt. Paul Eidman is an NJ based small business owner of Reel Therapy fishing charters and an advocate for fisheries conservation and habitat. He represents Anglers for Offshore Wind Power, a group that is speaking up for responsibly developed offshore wind power. AFOWP's key principles are Angler access, angler input, and science before, during and after construction.

Omega Protein's Reduction Fishing on the Ropes

By Capt. Paul Eidman, & Forage Fish Committee Chairman

Scapegoating ecosystem overfishing by the largest reduction fishing operation in the US, Omega Protein (parent Canadian Company Cooke Inc.), attempts to justify their unsustainable fishing practices by attacking the conservation messenger. Responding to an [editorial](#) by Doug Olander in Sport Fishing Magazine, Omega Protein once again attempts to distract the public from their reckless fishing operations.

Omega Protein Claim: Sport Fishing Magazine Defames MSC

Fact: MSC deserves to be defamed! Numerous fisheries certified by the MSC fail to meet basic sustainability standards and numerous organizations and scientists have complained about the lax certification system. [NPR investigation](#) of the MSC labeling scheme makes it clear how dubious this sustainability label is.

One of the worst aspects of the MSC certification process is that MSC allows certification even when the sustainability standards are not met by the fishery. They do this by certifying the fishery with "conditions." Conditional approval is like giving a student a diploma before the student enrolls in school. This is exactly how Omega Protein is getting certified and it is a sham.

Omega Protein Claim: Sport Fishing Magazine relies on unsubstantiated claims.

Fact: The only claims that are unsubstantiated are Omega Protein's. Sport fishing Magazine simply points out the obvious: the MSC process is a "pay to play" system. If you do not pay substantial sums of money to seek your certification, then it will not be granted. Third party "auditors" have no incentive to not certify a fishery. In fact, quite the opposite. MSC is set up to certify fisheries and companies that pay for that service.

Omega Protein Claim: Omega Protein does not impact striped bass populations

Fact: The best available science shows that Omega Protein's industrial fishery removes so much

menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay region that the striped bass populations are depleted by nearly 30% because there is not enough forage for them to eat. This impact could be even greater if menhaden catch limits were increased. This is a travesty for the recreational fishing community and for the striped bass population on the East Coast. Omega Protein should be held accountable for the impact they have on other species like striped bass.

Omega Protein Claim: The MSC process is based on objective criteria

Fact: The MSC process requires substantial interpretation and qualitative judgement. Each of the performance indicators are scored on a 100-point scale and the reviewers make their own determinations as to what score to give the fishery for each performance indicator. Given the misaligned incentives, when there is a judgement call, which way will the reviewers lean? Toward the industry paying their bills, not toward the ecosystem. As they say, never bite the hand that feeds you.

Omega Protein Claim: Reduction fishing is a sustainable practice

Fact: Every east coast state except Virginia has banned reduction fishing because of the adverse impacts this kind of fishing has on local ecosystems. Virginia should ban the practice too. Reduction depletes the base of the food chain and it is a relic of the 19th Century. Products produced by reduction fishing are unnecessary. The one industry that may still require fish oil from menhaden is salmon farming and that is a dirty, unsustainable business too. It's time to end this barbaric cycle of sucking up forage fish to feed to farmed animals. Let's leave menhaden in the water to feed the whales, birds, and striped bass.

Protest MSC. Protest Reduction Fishing.

Increased Funding for Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs (HOFNOD)

By John Toth

Background: The JCAA, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA), and the NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs have been lobbying legislators for many years, perhaps 10, to pass the HOFNOD

bill (Hooked on Fishing and Not on Drugs). In September of 2012, it finally received legislative approval. The purpose of HOFNOD is to get kids and young adults, especially from high crime city environments, interested in fishing. Individuals are trained through this program to reach out to schools and community organizations to get kids on fishing trips and show them the benefits of getting in touch with nature that is all around us. The funding for HOFNOD (\$200,000) comes from the Drug and Demand Reduction Fund that is continually replenished from cars, monies and other items seized by police from people involved in the drug trade or from DWI. Funding for HOFNOD comes from this fund and **NOT** from taxpayers. HOFNOD is administered by our state's DEP and through the Division of Fish & Wildlife.

Since its inception, HOFNOD has expanded its goals from community-based organizations and after school programs to the development of HOFNOD curriculum in high schools. A Health and Physical Education teacher in Brick High School (Tim Brennan) was recently awarded "Teacher of the Year" for introducing HOFNOD to combat the growing drug epidemic in Ocean County. To increase the effectiveness of HOFNOD, more money is needed for this program to the amount of \$450,000.

On December 17, 2018, the NJOA members held a Caucus in Trenton with New Jersey's legislators to talk to them about a number of issues concerning hunting and fishing in this state. I also attended this Caucus and I talked to a number of legislators about HOFNOD and every one of them knew about it and spoke favorably to the increase of its budget from \$200,000 to \$450,000. Talking directly to legislators about HOFNOD or any other issue is very effective since you are face-to-face and can answer any of their concerns.

On March 7, 2019, Senator Bob Smith, Chairman of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee, held a hearing to discuss bill S-3457 to appropriate \$450,000 for HOFNOD. Ed Markowski, President, NJOA, and I testified on the merits of passing this bill. At the end of our testimony, Senator Smith remarked that HOFNOD is a great program that benefits so many people and this bill is one of the best that has come across his committee that day. A roll call followed and members of this committee passed it unanimously.

The next steps for final passage of this bill are to have it posted in the Assembly's Agricultural and

Natural Resources Committee for review. Also, Senator Smith may send this bill to the Senate for approval. Since money is involved, increased funding for HOFNOD may require review by the Budget and Appropriations Committee. Complicating passage of increased funding for HOFNOD is the present bickering that is going on with the Governor and the legislature over developing a new budget for our state that is supposed to be approved by June of this year. We may have to wait until this new budget is in place before the legislature considers increased funding for HOFNOD.

The key to getting approval of this HOFNOD bill or any other bill is to stay on top of it with legislators who have a multitude of bills that they have to consider. We will be watching for every opportunity we have to promote passage of increased funding for HOFNOD so that more youths will be exposed to fishing and the joy that it brings to all of us.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

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

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

NATIONAL FISHING & BOATING WEEK

NF&BW Free Fishing Day in New Jersey is Saturday June 8, 2019. Residents and non-residents may fish the public waters of New Jersey without a license or trout Stamp. All other regulations apply. For those anglers just starting out, the Division of Fish and Wildlife offers many programs and classes to advance from beginner to expert. The Pequest State Trout Hatchery in Oxford, Warren County offers free fishing programs. Pequest offers a Natural Resource Education Center with a variety of exhibits and displays on wildlife, a butterfly garden, picnic areas and hiking trails. There is also a

handicapped-accessible fishing site along the Pequest River.

Sign up for one of the Youth Fishing Challenges. It's a statewide event to promote fishing among youths and their families. It will be held on the first of the state's two Free Fishing Days, Saturday, June 8th, when no license is required to fish regardless of age.

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

NJ HOFNOD

The Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program's Youth Fishing Challenge is a statewide event to promote fishing among youths and their families. The Hooked On Fishing-Not On Drugs, Youth Fishing Challenge is Saturday, June 8, 2019. 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](#).

KID'S SPEND THE DAY LEARNING AND FISHING

Don't miss this opportunity to go fishing and learn about aquatic education. The International Game Fish Association will sponsor FREE sessions to learn about conservation and party boat fishing. Location is 1623 Whitesville Rd. Toms River, NJ. Parents, a \$25 refundable deposit will reserve a spot for each youngster. Event Days: On Saturday, August 3rd, 9am-3pm free sessions and lunch is included. Children will learn about conservation, watershed management, responsible angling, marine life biology, and environmental impacts. Attendance is required to participate in the fishing day segment on Wednesday, August 7th, 8am-4pm, the Bingo fishing boat in Atlantic Highlands. Lunch is provided along with bus

transportation from Ocean County Agricultural Center. Space is limited so sign up as soon as possible. Phone: 732-349-1227 and register.

Collaborators are: American Littoral Society, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and Ocean County 4-H.

GLOUCESTER NJ HOFNOD CATFISH TOURNAMENT

Gloucester NJ HOFNOD will hold its Ray Curry Catfish tournament for kids on June 8, 2019 at River Winds in West Deptford, NJ. Robert Johnston is the HOFNOD Gloucester Township director. If you would like to enter or support this program, please contact Robert at his number 856-491-5366, or visit [this link](#) at hofnodgt.com.

HUDSON RIVER FISHING ASSOCIATIONS JUNE YOUTH PROGRAMS

June 6th - Special Needs Children of Bergen County, June 12th - Special Needs fishing Bergen County at Englewood. Please visit their website for more information: www.hrfanj.org.

PLAY HOOK-e TAKE A VETERAN FISHING

On Saturday, May 4, 2019, Mr. Vito Cardinale, CEO/President Cardinale Enterprises LLC, hosted the 3rd Annual "Play HOOK-e" Take A Veteran Fishing Day to honor veterans. The concept for the fishing day was born several years ago by Mr. Cardinale and Don Marantz, Jersey Coast Anglers Association knowing that veterans with PTSD and physical disabilities needed a calm outdoor setting to relax with other veterans. The duo worked together to contact friends, veteran organizations, and groups that support veterans. In just three years the "Play HOOK-e" Fishing Day at Lake Julianna has grown to be a favorite outdoor event for veterans to attend and be honored.

This year's event was attended by over 100 with volunteers from several counties in New Jersey. Veterans traveled from New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland to fish with a wartime buddy at Lake Julianna. There was a World War II veteran fishing next to Korean War veterans both dropping a line to catch some nice size largemouth bass. Two veterans met lakeside were from the same Parris Island Platoon 1051, serving in the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) and stated, "There are very few of us left." The day was filled with many

surprises and veteran Joe Morrison's wife stated, "It made my heart sing to see my husband smiling and enjoying time with other veterans." There was plenty of fishing action for everyone to enjoy and volunteers taught fly casting, spin casting, and terminal tackle tips to catch that fish of a lifetime.

Due to the amount of interest, the veteran fishing day has expanded to veterans helping special needs children at Lake Julianna. This September, Mr. Cardinale will host the 3rd Annual "Kids Wish'n To Go Fish'n" Fun Day, where veterans become volunteers that help special needs and disabled children fish at the lake. The original idea of fishing at Lake Julianna has really changed for the two user groups that merged to actually help one another go fishing and relax while enjoying the peaceful surroundings of Lake Julianna. Veterans and guests are always welcome to sit and have a BBQ/Pizza lunch compliments of Vito Cardinale Family, Randy Johnson Family and Danny Black Family. Vito's family and friends work hard to honor our veterans by preparing and serving food.

Contributors for this year's event has grown and included Jersey Coast Anglers Association, The Fisherman Magazine, East Gate Nursery, Bill-Jim Construction Co., SFC Enterprises, PDR designs LLC, Tom Zapcic Photography, Top shelf nursery, My 3 Sons HVAC, All Occasion Limousine, Sea Coast Chevrolet, Wood Fire Pizza/Blackie's Welding Service and Lauretta Winery.

Many organizations/businesses contributed and came out to volunteer and show support for our veterans, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Jersey Shore Chapter, Spring Lake Freezer, Bimbo Bakeries USA, The Reel Seat, Fisherman's Den, Bagel Bistro, Captain Cals, Norma K III, Immediate Care, JB's Diner, Press Communications, LLC, Tractor Supply, Chuck Phillips, Bogan's Bait & Tackle, Gabriel Bait & Tackle CO., Jersey Hooker Outfitters, The Tin Man, Bill Marantz, Boating Education and Rescue, Howling Woods Farm dog/wolves, 100.1 WJRZ, MA 22 Restore the Warrior, Central Jersey Rifle and Pistol Club Warrior Program, Jersey Shore Surfcasters, New Jersey Elks, Trout Unlimited, Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club, New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, Hoof Prints on the Heart, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 and several other veterans organizations.



Veterans Jim Velcheck and Craig Hasbrouck, Parris Island Platoon 1051 wear their veteran caps proudly with event contributors.

NEWARK BAIT AND FLY CASTING CLUB

Play HOOK-e at the 2nd Annual NB&FCC Disabled Veterans Fishing Trip will be on the Mi-JO II and will be leaving the dock at 7:00 A.M. and returning approximately 2:00 P.M. on Friday June 21, 2019. The Mi-Jo II is located on the long dock behind the restaurant restrooms upon entering the municipal parking lot. Lunch and drinks will be provided for Veterans (bagels, subs, salads, etc.). Note that this is a rain or shine trip so everyone should be prepared. Contact Rich MacDonald at 973-204-4073 or email [Rich MacDonald](mailto:RichMacDonald@nb&fcc.org) to make a reservation. Note that reservations will be limited to 30 veterans.

JENNA'S REEL WARRIORS – HIGHLANDS

Jenna's Reel Warriors is off to a great start this fishing season we had a total of 9 "Play HOOK-e" combat veterans aboard Jenna's Reel Warriors, Scott Policastro, President/ Captain of Jenna's P II Sportfishing out of Highlands, NJ. Captain Scott donates his time and services and was able to connect veterans with plenty of fish. The first trip caught 13 Striped Bass, the second trip was a mixed bag of Bluefish and Sea Bass. If you are or know a combat veteran suffering from PTSD/disabled veteran interested in a fishing trip at no cost, please visit [Jenna's Reel Warriors](http://Jenna'sReelWarriors.com). Scott and his family honor our veterans. Their goal is to provide combat veterans with an enjoyable stress-free day on the water, only fighting fish. Anglers must be a military veteran and a military I.D. is required to participate.



2nd ANNUAL VETERAN FISHING & BOATING CHALLENGE

Boating Education and Rescue along with Barnegat Bay Boat Captains will host the 2nd Annual Veteran Fishing & Boating Challenge at Foresberg's Boat Works, Point Pleasant, NJ.

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 "Play HOOK-e" Take a Veteran Fishing program, JCAA, and MA Deuce Deuce, are supporting this worthwhile event for our heroes. The Veteran fishing and boating challenge will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2019. Veterans will be paired with participating boat captains out of Point Pleasant, NJ.

Mike and Debbie Bennett, Boating Education and Rescue (B.E.A.R.) are the organizers of this fun fishing day on the water with Barnegat Bay boat captains. Veterans will enjoy a friendly fishing competition among veterans to catch Bluefish and Fluke in Manasquan River and Barnegat Bay.

Veterans must register to fish on assigned boats and each veteran will be eligible for door prizes and goodie bags. There will be rod and reel prizes for the largest Bluefish and Fluke. Loaner rods and reels will be available for veterans that do not have fishing equipment. Bait will be provided. Boat Captains and veterans are welcome to join the fun, win prizes, and have a chance to enjoy some BBQ/homemade food.

The "Play HOOK-e" Take a Veteran Fishing and Boating Challenge is geared towards veterans struggling with PTSD & TBI but other veterans are welcome to register. The goal is to connect veterans to VA Service Offices/Outreach Centers, NJ Coastal Parks, Outdoor Clubs, Veteran Organizations, and help Veteran men and women take time to heal by utilizing eco-therapy activities with other veterans.

To register, please phone Greg at 732-785-9278 or email skucharews@jcaa.org.

Registered veterans will receive email instructions about parking, start-time, and what is needed to have a safe time on the water.