

JCAA NEWSPAPER JUNE 2020

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on May 18th, 2020)

Monthly Meeting Via Zoom Meeting Until Further Notice "WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

May 26th via Zoom Meeting

Starting at 7:30 PM

385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, June 11th, 2020

Via Zoom Meeting

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.

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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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2019 OFFICERS

President	John Toth	732-656-0139
1st V.P.	Mark Taylor	732-656-0139
2nd V.P.	Bill Browne	732-504-9344
Treasurer	Doug Tegeder	732-575-2661
Rec. Sec.		
Cors. Sec.	Paul Turi	609-709-9215
Mem. Sec.	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Tournament Dir.	Paul Turi	609-709-9215
Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page		

IMPORTANT DATES

May 26th JCAA General Meeting (Zoom)

June 11th JCAA Board Meeting (Zoom)

June 16th-18th MAFMC & ASMFC Joint Meeting

June 30th JCAA General Meeting (Zoom)

July 9th JCAA Board Meeting (Zoom)

August 4th-6th ASMFC Summer Meeting

August 13th JCAA Board Meeting (Zoom)

September 12th JCAA Fluke Tournament (*new date*)

September 18th JCAA Tournament Award Ceremony

October 25th Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

JCAA High Roller Raffle 2020 \$3000 Plus in Prizes!

By Don Marantz

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association is a charitable non-profit 501(c)3 organization that was formed in 1981. The original objective of the JCAA, that continues today, was to combine a group of marine sportfishing clubs in order to form and promote a united consensus on issues relevant to saltwater anglers in New Jersey. JCAA works to protect the rights of New Jersey's recreational fishermen by seeking fair and equitable fisheries management. It fosters conservation and education while seeking to do what is best for our fisheries to ensure they will be sustainable for future generations. JCAA also strives to create increased angling opportunities and better public access. Further, it is involved with issues concerning our marine environment, such as fighting for better fisheries habitat, keeping our waters clean, and protecting our forage species while supporting an ecosystem-based management approach. JCAA works in concert with New Jersey's legislature, many major local, state and national organizations, congress and federal agencies to advance its objectives.

JCAA has evolved into one of the most powerful and unified organizations of its kind.

JCAA's strength comes from its volunteer members and donations. If you or your fishing club is interested in becoming a member or making a tax-deductible donation, please call (732) 506-6565 or visit www.jcaa.org.

Another way you can help support us is to buy some of our raffle tickets. Normally, we would mail tickets along with the Express Entry form for the upcoming fluke tournament, but since we are not sure at this point whether or not we will even be allowed to have a tournament, we will be doing a separate mailing just for the High Roller Raffle fundraiser. *Also, the drawing date for raffle, with the permission of the State, has been changed and will be held on 8/13 at 7:30pm at our office.* Tickets are just **\$2 each, 3 for \$5 or 7 for \$10**. Thank you for your anticipated support!

List of Prizes (retail values)

1. Jersey Nutz Six Man Charter (6 hour, 6 man inshore weekday charter) – **\$850**, *Donated by Captains Robert and Cody Melton*
2. ODM 11' NXF1102 Spinning Rod/Canyon Salt 7500 Reel – **\$639**, *Donated by Canyon reels and JCAA*
3. \$500 gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters – **\$500**, *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
4. Shimano 6'6" Teramar TMC-E66MH Conv. Rod/Shimano HG14 Reel – **\$380**, *Donated by Grumpys Tackle and Shimano*
5. Quantum 7' QSW5701H Spinning Rod/Quantum Boca BSP60 Reel – **\$260**, *Donated by JCAA*
6. Costa Blackfin Sunglasses – **\$259**, *Donated by Costa*
7. Tica 7' WIGA70MHJ2S Spinning Rod/Tica CS4000 Reel – **\$147**

President's Report

By John Toth

At the time I am writing this report, I have just learned that Governor Murphy has allowed the for-hire fleet to sail again with certain restrictions! This is such welcome news! The for-hire fleet lost the entire blackfish season during April and the prospect of not

being able to sail during the May 22nd opening of the summer flounder season would be so economically devastating for these captains! With their being able to sail, these captains will start seeing income come in to pay fees for dockage, insurance, maintenance and other expenses.

While this is Great News for the for-hire fleet, it is also Great News for us anglers who have been cooped up in our homes for so long! We are looking forward to smelling the saltwater air and pulling in some nice fish! The prospect of our being able to go fishing on party/charter boats for sea bass now and summer flounder on May 22nd gives us some light at the end of the tunnel that our life is starting to look normal again.

How the for-hire fleet can endure this pandemic financially is the real question. A number of anglers, especially us older ones, may not fish for fear of catching this virus. As we all know, we do not see that many young people fishing since they do not have the time to do it with their increasingly busy schedules. Also, so many people have lost their jobs and they will not have the money to fish. Placing food on their tables is their first priority, not fishing.

What can the JCAA and other organizations do to help the for-hire fleet recoup the money they have lost so far and help them earn more money this season? If these businesses close and their related industries like tackle shops, most likely they will not open again.

Tom Fote has many legislative contacts and he has interfaced with a number of them to sign onto a letter that was sent to Wilbur Ross, our nation's Commerce Secretary, requesting financial assistance for not only the recreational fishing industry, but the commercial industry as well. Just about everybody has their hands out for money from the federal government and if the fishing industry does not ask for it, then it can get lost in the shuffle for these funds. This letter is a bipartisan effort and is in another section of this newsletter. It takes considerable effort to get legislators to sign onto a document like this with many phone calls to make and questions to answer. Tom deserves a lot of credit for making this happen!

I wrote an [email](#) to managers of our recreational fishing industry requesting their assistance to help our for-hire fleet by extending our fishing seasons and changing our fishing regulations so that captains have more days to fish and more types of fish that anglers can catch. For example, instead of

the summer flounder season ending on September 19th, extend the season to September 30th. The black sea bass stocks have been rebuilt to 240% so allow sea bass to be caught on October 1st, just as the summer flounder season ends so that anglers have something to fish for. Why wait until October 8th for this sea bass season to open! As mentioned earlier, the for-hire fleet lost April's blackfish season so allow blackfish to be caught during months when they are restricted. For example, allow blackfish to be caught in mid-September when the summer season is winding down. As you can see, there are a lot of options available to adjust seasons and regulations, but the whole point here is to have more days for captains to fish and more anglers to be on their boats so that they can earn enough money to survive this pandemic. The letter I wrote to fishing managers was turned into a JCAA Press Release and was sent out to the public to get their support for this effort. I want to **thank JCAA member Ken Warchal** for taking my email to fishing management and converting into a JCAA press release.

While the JCAA is trying to help the for-hire fleet with season extensions and changes to the regulations, the United Boatman and the RFA have petitioned Governor Murphy to let the for-hire fleet begin to sail ASAP so that they can financially survive during this time of social distancing. With their letter to Governor Murphy, United Boatman & the RFA also provided regulations that could possibly resolve the social distancing issues affecting the closure of the for-hire fleet.

With these different approaches by the JCAA and the United Boatman & RFA to get the for-hire fleet sailing again and with changes to the seasons and regulations, hopefully the for-hire fleet can financially survive COVID-19!

Assistance for Recreational Fishing Industry - Adjustments to Fishing Regulations and Seasons

COVID-19 is having a terrible effect on our recreational fishing industry with the for-hire fleet tied up to the docks due to social distancing. The for-hire fleet cannot sail, but that does not stop bills coming in for insurance, dockage and other fees.

The following is an email to commissioners who are directly involved in the decision-making

process requesting them to change fishing seasons and regulations to provide an opportunity for the for-hire fleet to recoup their losses due to COVID-19.

To: Chris Moore, Ex. Director, Bob Beal, Ex. Director, Peter Hughes, Tony DiLernia, MAFCC Council Board, Adam Nowalsky, ASMFC Board Chairman

From: John Toth

Date: April 29, 2020

Subject: Assistance for Recreational Fishing Industry - Adjustments to Fishing Regulations/Seasons

COVID-19 has changed the world we live in, especially with the recreational fishing industry. Social Distancing has basically shut down the charter/party boat industry and boat captains are facing financial ruin. We are in this lockdown situation until May 15th when Governor Murphy is expected to make his decision on whether our state will continue to be in this lockdown mode or relax his current restrictions on COVID-19.

Because of COVID-19, our state's blackfish season for April has been lost and while the current striped bass fishing season is red-hot, our recreational fleet is tied up at dock. What is not tied up are the costs associated with running fishing boats such as insurance, dock fees, and maintenance costs. Faced with these costs and no business to offset them, the prospect of going out of business becomes more realistic and the only way out. Also, even if Governor Murphy lifts his present COVID -19 restrictions, a number of anglers may still be fearful of contracting this virus and delay or even stop fishing resulting in less business for the for-hire fleet. Given how many people have lost their jobs, many anglers will not have the income to go fishing, even if they want to.

What can be done to help this industry by Commissioners and Council Members that is fairly quick and without involving financial compensation? Consider adjusting fishing regulations/seasons so that there are longer seasons in the fall and have the possibility of different bag limits; anything to provide better opportunities for party/charter boat captains and the related industries that depend on them for summer flounder and black sea bass to recoup some of their losses. This consideration should also be extended to species that closures have had an effect on like the

April 2020 season for Tautog that was essentially lost because of Social Distancing.

The joint MAMFC and ASMFC meeting scheduled for a webinar meeting on May 6th and the June 16 to June 18 meetings in Virginia Beach can provide a perfect opportunity to place this loss of business caused by COVID-19 on the meeting's agenda for discussion and resolution. This issue needs quick attention so changes can be made in time to help make the recreational fishing industry recoup some of its losses before the 2020 fishing season ends.

Your support to assist the recreational fishing industry during these trying times would be most appreciated by the entire recreational community!

John Toth
President, Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA)
Trustee, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA)

Cc: Joe Cimino, Ray Bukowski, Tom Fote

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Tom Fote

NJ gets 9TH Highest Amount of the 30 Participants but it is Not Enough

We have to thank our Congressional delegation for fighting for New Jersey's fair share of the \$300 million in CARE funds. I know people are not happy with the way the funds were distributed and neither am I. But we are dealing with the House and Senate and politics will be involved. This fund was for states impacted by Corona Virus and not all states were impacted equally. I was told the allocations were made strictly on the size of the fishery, both commercially and recreationally, not the impact of the virus on that particular state or entity. This was not a case where all states were equally affected. Washington State and Alaska share a fleet and captains. The seasons of their big fisheries (pollack, king crabs, and other crab species) were essentially over and shipped before the worldwide shut-down. The salmon boats are out to sea for an extended period of time, not returning daily or even weekly to be exposed to the virus. Yet they received \$50 million apiece, one-third of the total. Florida has a huge recreational fishery which impacted on the amount of

money they received. The Governor of Florida never shut down the fishery so the impact on that was not as dramatic as here in New Jersey or other states that closed all the party and charter boats. Yes, the lack of tourists may have had an impact but not in the same way we experienced here. The same is true of the states along the Gulf, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. There were also different impacts on the private boat and shore-based anglers. For the most part beaches and marinas were closed here. That was not true in many other states.

I am not complaining about the measures taken by our Governor. New Jersey and New York remain number one and number two in cases and deaths. I live in Toms River. We are currently at 1200 cases and over 100 deaths in Toms River alone. That is more than Hawaii and some other states statewide.

The \$11,337,797 we received is more than 5 times what we received after Sandy. Now comes the difficult part, how do we divide the money fairly? If I remember correctly, after Sandy we split the money equally between the recreational and commercial communities and developed a different formula for each community. When we look at the commercial finfish fishery and the shellfish fishery, the economics of each are smaller than the combined recreational fishing and boating industries. However, I believe trying to do anything other than a 50/50 split between the recreational and commercial communities would be counterproductive and leave us arguing for months when there is serious work to be done. Many in both the recreational and commercial industries are in dire economic straits and can't wait while we arbitrate a different split. We don't have the final rules so it is difficult to be specific. However, I will share some general guidelines. Unlike Sandy, you will need to prove a 35% loss of business. The good news there is some flexibility in the time period for the 35% loss. I think this could be an accounting nightmare, take months and cost a great deal of money for accountants and lawyers. My suggestion for the recreational community is gather the information for all participants who can show a 35% loss and divide the money equally. I also understand that NMFS guidelines do not contain guidelines for tackle stores and other marine recreational fishing industries. We are part of the recreational community and I believe New Jersey will have the flexibility to include all sectors of the recreational community. Charter boat captains are an independent lot. Unlike the party boat captains who have the United Boatmen, most of the

charter boat captains do not have that kind of group. I am suggesting if you are in the Highlands you work together to contact your legislators and speak with one voice. The same should happen in other areas of New Jersey. Each area may have unique issues to deal with and will need to share those issues with your legislators. I have been dealing with trying to organize groups for 35 years. If you need my help, just give me a call. I will just be a resource as you form your own groups. As soon as I receive more information from NOAA, New Jersey and ASMFC, I will distribute that as widely as I can. When I was on a call with the NJMFC for their May 14th meeting, they asked New Jersey to form advisory groups for both the recreational and commercial communities to deal with this money. Some of you missed out on Sandy money because you didn't do the required paperwork and get more involved. Don't let that happen this time.

JCAA 26th Annual Fluke Tournament

By Paul Turi, Fluke Tournament Director

Due to the Coronavirus, JCAA has moved the date of its annual fluke tournament to **Saturday, September 12th** and the awards presentations to **Friday, September 18th**.

The good news for this year, among all of the bad news of the day, is that our Awards Presentations this year will be taking place at the Resorts Hotel Casino in Atlantic City. Hopefully, if all goes well with cornering this virus, we will be able to have the Awards Presentations as planned.

I would like to give a shout-out to Resorts Hotel Casino for giving us the opportunity to have our Awards Presentations in their hotel. They are excited to have us there and we are excited to be back there.

In addition to donating the use of their facility, Resorts will also be giving every attendee \$10 in slot play or \$20 in Match Play plus \$10 in food credits. There will also be a reduced room rate for those wishing to stay over. They will also be donating a package for each of our 7 regions. Each package will contain a free overnight stay in their hotel, show tickets and \$40 in food credits. In addition, they will also be taking an ad in our monthly newspaper.

Of course, all of this is dependent on whether or not the casinos can open and have large gatherings

in September. I will keep everyone up to date and informed in future newspaper articles. In the meantime let's all be careful and abide by and practice social distancing.

Public Access

By George Browne

This month's public access column will be addressing six public access items. We have had some public access success stories this past month.

First, public access at Bay Point Condominiums in Point Pleasant Borough has been restored. I am still waiting to hear about the final resolution from DEP, but you can now fish that area along the Point Pleasant Canal. Once informed of the public access violation, both the borough and DEP took on the problem and quickly resolved it. I'd like to thank both Point Pleasant Borough and the DEP for protecting access.

Second, you can now email JCAA about public access issues. The email address is publicaccess@jcaa.org. If you bring a public access issue to our attention, we need your help. We cannot solve these problems alone. When you email information include the facts (location, town, what happened, was the PD there, etc.) plus photos and your contact information. I will follow up with you to make sure the information is accurate. We need local people to report the problems. We also need locals to help in identifying mayors or council members we can discuss the problem with. If the problem is the result of a misunderstanding, a failure to appreciate who is fishing in the area or not understanding how fishing supports local businesses, a phone call or email to the right person may solve the problem. If we cannot solve the problem locally, we will determine what the next steps are. I have no problem contacting DEP and filing a complaint. Remember, you can also file a complaint by calling 1-800-WARNDEP, but let's not go nuclear if a pea shooter will solve the problem.

Third, as a follow up to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge's (NWR) draft Recreational Fishing Plan, we have been invited to participate in an online meeting with Virginia Rettig, the Refuge Manager. She is interested in hearing what we have to say about improving fishing access in the refuge. In her email to me after we sent the JCAA comments on the plan, Virginia wrote this about improving access: "This is something I had hoped we would have gotten

more feedback/input on from anglers.” It is great to know we are being heard, but it would be much better if more people had submitted comments. Now I need to hear from you so that we can get this right in the plan.

If you would like to look at maps of the Forsythe NWR, there are several ways to do this. You should look at the NWR boundaries on these maps. You may be surprised by both what areas are in the NWR and what areas are not in the refuge.

This site is an [interactive map](#) showing the NWR boundaries as well as different types of hunting areas. "Paper" maps can be found on the NWR [hunting website](#) but are more difficult to read than the online version.

I plan on asking about the access hunters have and why anglers cannot have the same level of access.

Fourth, as many of you may know, some towns are attempting to restrict beach access. These restrictions include prohibiting parking in areas near the water, requiring a “residents only” emergency parking placard, banning parking anywhere in town, or trying to keep non-residents off the beaches. All of these are violations of Governor Murphy’s Executive Order No. 143 that was issued on May 14, 2020. The Executive Order addresses the safe access of parks and recreational facilities and includes a ban on public access restrictions under the public trust doctrine.

Item 5 of the order includes the following: “Except as otherwise provided herein, access to public beaches, lakes, and lakeshores shall be consistent with State law and regulations, and shall not be restricted in any discriminatory manner, including by offering only seasonal beach tags without a daily beach tag option, by restricting municipal or street parking, or in any other manner that expressly or implicitly discriminates based on residency, race, income, ability, or any legally protected status or class of persons.” The EO is available online at [this link](#). You can also Google NJ Executive Order 143 to view a copy.

This order can be used to get public access restored. You should read the entire order before trying to quote it to elected officials, but so far it has been useful in getting some towns to reopen parking and allow fishing access. If you want to report a public access violation covered under Item 5 to the Governor’s office, you can send a message to his office at [this link](#). Click on the “Contact Us” button, write a message to explain the problem and ask that they investigate it. If you have photos showing the problem, you can attach them as a file when you send

your message. You should also email me at publicaccess@jcaa.com so we are aware of the problem.

The Town of Point Pleasant Beach tried to restrict parking through a Residents Only Emergency Parking Placard. If you did not have one of the placards, you could not park anywhere east of the railroad tracks. That meant no inlet parking and no beach parking. The American Littoral Society took the lead on this issue and we worked with them to get the DEP involved. Surfrider Foundation talked with the PPB Mayor about the Executive Order and this problem may be resolved. If it is not please email me and we will work on it again.

The state does pay attention to JCAA and other beach user groups, but we need public access issues to be reported by individuals too. When a private citizen reports a public access issue and we can follow up, it gives more credibility to what is being said. It is not just another public access complaint from JCAA.

Fifth, Loch Arbour had proposed an ordinance permanently restricting parking near the beach. Once I was informed of the proposed ordinance, I emailed DEP to let them know we thought this would be a public access violation. DEP got back to me almost immediately and shared the email within DEP. The NJ Chapter of Surfrider Foundation, COBRA and the American Littoral Society also joined in. Together, we were able to get the ordinance removed from the agenda. This was a great group effort and we will continue to monitor the situation. Right now, Loch Arbour has said they do not plan on changing the parking.

Sixth, and I am sure everyone’s favorite, is piping plovers. Island Beach State Park has some piping plover pairs in the park. There are four pairs in the northern natural area, but, right now, only one nest. I do not know where the nest is or how close it is to the Gillikens beach buggy access. If that nest or any other plover nest is within 1000 meters of Gillikens, the access point will be shut down until the chicks fledge. That could be a six to eight week closure. There were other plover pairs in the southern natural area (below A23), but these birds were flying back and forth between LBI and IBSP. They have not nested yet. I have volunteered to monitor the plovers in the past as that includes us in any closure discussion. Once the birds have fledged, I have pushed to get the access reopened. I plan on being a monitor again this year.

There are other areas in the state where there are plover nests and those nests may impact access, but I would like to take a minute to talk about the two different programs for nesting birds. There is the US Department of Interior program and the NJ F&W program. Areas in federal lands like national parks and national wildlife refuges are under federal rules. Non-federal lands in NJ are under NJ rules. The NJ program applies the rules differently than the federal program, but NJ must comply with certain parts of the federal rules.

Places like Holgate and Sandy Hook are federal lands. The federal program includes not only plovers, but other species of birds such as the American oystercatcher and black skimmer. The federal program automatically shuts down access in late March or early April when the birds are expected to nest in the area. Access is not opened again until September. That means these areas can be closed for up to six months.

The NJ program is about the piping plovers. The state is required by federal law to protect the plovers. NJ F&W observes known plover nesting areas to monitor the birds. Once the birds nest, access may be restricted. If there are eggs in the nest, that area is shut down to vehicles, dogs, and other activities that can jeopardize the eggs or chicks. Once the eggs have hatched, additional restrictions may go into effect. The state observes the nests and the chicks' health. They also watch for chicks that have died, are missing or that may have been taken by predators. If the chicks are missing before they fledge, F&W may wait to see if the plover pair produces more eggs. Once there are no more chicks or the chicks can fly on their own, access is opened back up. That's why there is a six to eight week closure but that is much better than the federal program's six month closure.

That's it for now. Get out and fish, but don't let access issues spoil your day. Be part of the solution.

VICTORY! NJ Governor Murphy Denies All NESE Permits

Clean Ocean Action Press Release, 5/16/2020
Contact: Cindy Zipf, 732-996-4613

Long Branch, NJ – Following the State of New York's denial of all permits for the Northeast Supply Enhancement pipeline project (NESE), the State of

New Jersey also denied all permits for the proposed project. In a letter on May 15, 2020, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) stated, "The NJDEP hereby denies the NESE Project applications and the referenced permits due to the applicant's failure to demonstrate compliance as described herein."

"NESE is finally dead in the water! Three cheers for the hard work of the coalition on both sides of the ocean in the NY/NJ region, and the thousands of citizens who rallied to stop NESE," said **Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action**. "We salute NJ Governor Murphy and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for recognizing that this project would have devastated the environment, and is and will always be UN-NESE-SARY!"

"This is a victory for the thousands of citizens and dozens of organizations that spent years and countless hours signing petitions, writing and sending comments, attending rallies, hearings, and meetings, and engaging their communities in actions to stop NESE once and for all," said **Kari Martin, Advocacy Campaign Manager of Clean Ocean Action**. "This is also a victory for our air, land, and water."

"In a sweeping victory for the environment, New Jersey doubled down on its commitment to a clean energy future by denying crucial permits for NESE," said **Peter Blair, Policy Attorney for Clean Ocean Action**. "If approved, the project would have resulted in drastic environmental damage and locked the region into decades of continued reliance on climate-altering fracked gas. This denial is a tremendous win, future-proofing our environment for generations to come. We applaud the leadership of Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection."

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

COVID-19 ANGLING ETHICS

As COVID-19 restrictions ease and we start to make our way back to our favorite fishing areas, let us remember to respect our environment. Over the past several months you might notice several new items of debris in your neighborhood and public spaces. Rubber gloves, wipes, paper masks, and their

packaging tossed along walking paths in parks and at beaches. Proper disposal of garbage is everyone's responsibility.

This fishing season we will be reintroduced to a new set of rules for fishing and boating. Let us try to make this work and respect not only our environment but our fellow anglers and tackle dealers. We can start with the following COVID-19 angling ethics: Keep a safe distance apart, wear face and eye protection around others, cough and sneeze in your elbow, if you are sick stay home, don't handle other anglers' property unless you are wearing gloves, do not litter, use restrooms, wash hands or use hand sanitizer, and make sure younger family members are protected and safe. See the Sportfish Conservancy [Code of Ethics](#).

The Take Me Fishing website has an interactive state map for fishing and boating activities during COVID-19, so please [view updates](#) before you start your fishing or boating trip.

HOFNOD LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

Get all the details to enter the NJ Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs new logo design contest. The contest is open to New Jersey students aged 21 and under (*must be under 21 by the end of calendar year 2020 to be eligible).

If you have an idea for a new HOFNOD logo design, please download a copy of the [rules](#).

EVENTS CANCELLED/POSTPONED

Due to COVID-19, the 4th Annual Play HOOK-e from PTSD Take a Veteran Fishing Day is postponed until August. Our hosts, Vito Cardinale, Cardinale Enterprises Inc., and Randy Johnson, Laurita Winery, decided to change the fishing theme and provide a weekend Fishing Rodeo at Lake Julianna, Ponderosa Estates Farm, Millstone, NJ. The weekend will include a fishing fun day for special needs children and a veteran/active-duty military family fishing day. Saturday, August 29th youngsters can attend the "Kid's Wish'n to go Fishing" fun day and Sunday, August 30th, Veterans and active-duty military and their family will enjoy a relaxing day fishing. Registration information will be updated on

the Play HOOK-e Eventbrite website and Vietnam Veterans of America Play [HOOK-e page](#).

4th Annual Conservation Celebration: Sedge Islands, June 13th is [postponed](#).

[Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club](#) has cancelled their youth and veteran fishing programs until further notice.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Jersey Shore Chapter has moved scheduled fly-tying programs to virtual meetings. Please visit their [FB page](#) for updates.

Hudson River Fisherman's Association check their [new website](#) for updates to their calendar of events.

The 28th Annual [Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament](#) is postponed until Sunday, October 25th.

Saturday, June 6, 2020, The Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program's Youth Fishing Challenge statewide event is cancelled until the state's second Free Fishing Day, Saturday, October 17th, when no license is required to fish regardless of age. Please check the [NJ HOFNOD webpage](#) for facilitator workshops. If you are interested in attending a NJ HOFNOD workshop, please phone or email Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Coordinator Phone: 908-637-4125 x122, email: liz.jackson@dep.state.nj.us.

PLAY HOOK-E PTSD VETERANS

Veteran groups and organizations are adapting to the mandated "Social Distancing" (SD) rules from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. For all of us to be safe we must comply with restrictions in our daily life at this time. I cannot stress how important it is to "Follow the Rules."

As a PTSD veteran, I know, for my own mental health, I need to get outside in open green spaces to breathe some fresh air. If not, I am like a cat in the house going from window to window. Eco-therapy is one of my coping tools to limit PTSD symptoms. As we all face the disruption and uncertainty related to Coronavirus, please remember to reach out and phone a veteran relative or friend to check that they are okay. All disabled veteran Play HOOK-e from PTSD boat trips, fishing programs and events are cancelled until further notice. Visit their [web page](#) for updated information. Visit [this link](#) to learn more about managing PTSD during these stressful times.