JCAA NEWSPAPER OCTOBER 2020

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION* (Published on September 24th, 2020)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

September 29th via Zoom Meeting Starting at 7:30 PM 385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING Tuesday, October 8th, 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.

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.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

#### 2019 OFFICERS

| President                                      | John Toth    | 732-656-0139 |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> V.P.                           | Mark Taylor  | 732-656-0139 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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**

September 29<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting Online October 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> MAFMC Council Meeting October 7<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of ASMFC & MAFMC October 8<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting October 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>th</sup> ASMFC Annual Meeting October 27<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting Online

### **Note from the Board of Directors**

Jersey Coast Anglers Association hopes you and your family are all healthy during these concerning times. There have been a couple of calls the last few weeks about upcoming events that JCAA is running or involved with. There is a list at the end of this article listing the events that have been canceled. To keep informed, go to the JCAA web page or Facebook page for up to date information.

We are planning two more raffles to try and make up for the loss of revenue from our events. We need our member clubs to help in selling these tickets and increasing their sponsorship of JCAA to make up for loss of *revenue*.

Taking all the information and following the CDC protocols, JCAA had to make a very tough decision in cancelling most of our events. For these events we could not control certain CDC protocols and make sure that all the recreational community continues to stay healthy and safe.

Here is the list of events that have been **canceled**:

- The 2020 Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament
- The 2020 JCAA Sportsperson of the Year
- The 26th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament that was scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup>

As of this newspaper, the upcoming meetings of ASMFC, MAFMC & MAFAC NJMFC will all be online. You will be able to attend these meetings and ask questions without leaving your house. There could be important public hearings this fall, and I am fairly

sure they will also be online this fall and winter. You need to keep informed and the best way to do this is occasionally going to their web pages and asking to be added to their email list.

JCAA'S General meetings and Board meetings will also be done online. If you are the person designated to be the club's representative, please make sure you are on our JCAA email list as a club representative.

## **President's Report**

By John Toth

Needless to say, our world has been turned upside down by COVID-19 and God only knows when things, hopefully, will get back to normal again! When Governor Murphy allowed restaurants to open to 25% capacity, my wife and I finally enjoyed having a nice meal at a restaurant instead of takeout!

This COVID-19 has caused the JCAA and other organizations to cancel their fundraisers because of social distancing. Unfortunately, because of this we will not have our Sportsperson of the Year Dinner during November 15<sup>th</sup> of this year. At our regular September meetings, clubs normally put forward their nominations as to which of their club members should receive this prestigious award. However, this is not necessary during our upcoming September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting due to the cancelation of this dinner. I know that a number of you look forward to this dinner by having a good meal, winning nice Dark Horse prizes and especially seeing deserving individuals receive the attention they deserve for their contributions to advance recreational fishing. I have seen so many familiar faces over the years at this function and I hope to see you all again when we have this dinner in November of 2021!

By having the Sportsperson of the Year Award, the JCAA makes about \$8,000 after all expenses have been paid. This income has been lost and also the income we usually make with our annual Fluke Tournament and the Beefsteak Dinner that is put together by Paul Haertel. Speaking of Paul, I want to thank him again for running his Sharpie Fluke tournament on August 7, 8 and 9 that netted about \$9,500 income for the JCAA!

At this time, we are considering the sale of the boat, motor and trailer that we would have used for our canceled fluke tournament. Nothing is off the

table to raise funds to keep the JCAA as a viable organization. Also, the possibility of having a Blackfish tournament as a fundraiser in the fall is being considered.

With your support, the JCAA will get through this difficult time in its mission to represent the fishing rights of all anglers who fish in our state. Please send a contribution to the JCAA office located at 1594 Lakewood Road, Ste. 13, Toms River, NJ 08755 to help the JCAA stay in action to represent you in all the fishing battles we continue to fight for you! Any amount, large or small, would be most appreciated! Thank You!

# Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Tom Fote

#### **JCAA** Newspaper in the Future

The pandemic has made JCAA reconsider the way we do business. Most organizations have gone to online newsletters but JCAA has continued to print for those who requested it. We have always done our own printing so newspapers go out in a timely manner. We have learned that you can get information faster just using the internet through Facebook, the JCAA webpage or just personal emails. We are now considering a move to strictly online since the cost of printing and mailing is unsustainable at our present income level. The advertising in the newspaper used to cover the cost but that is no longer true. Within the next year the JCAA newspaper will be online and we may just print enough newspapers for the various shows we attend.

We have been holding our General & Board meetings on Zoom. I am not sure when we will be back to in person. As you see below, there are going to be many public hearings. We will need the input of our member clubs to come up with our positions. The public hearings will be via Zoom and I believe JCAA will need to hold Zoom meetings to develop our positions. At the next General Membership Meeting we will be discussing how to make this happen. We do not have club representatives for every club. It is imperative that your club send a representative to the next JCAA meeting. Email Captain Paul Eidman membership chairman at paulyfish@reeltherapy.com or call the JCAA office at 732-506-6565 and leave a

message to let us know who will represent your club. You can also email me, <a href="mailto:tfote@jcaa.org">tfote@jcaa.org</a>. Your club representatives need to do some homework before the meeting. The information is located on the webpages for ASMFC and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council. We are also considering open town meetings for the public.

## There is a Lot Going On

Below I have included the agenda for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Joint Meeting of Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council and ASMFC. Out of these meetings may come public hearings on the Recreational Reform Initiative, bluefish, summer flounder and striped bass. JCAA needs to develop positions on these important issues. We need the input from your club. As I mentioned in the paragraph before, you need to go to the webpage for ASMFC and the MidAtlantic Fisheries Management Council. Look at upcoming meetings, find the agenda and that will take you to the information about each meeting. Because of the Corona Virus, we have been keeping the newspaper to eight pages so one person can be in the office to get the paper out to you. If you want to be on the JCAA regular email list so you can get these positions before the public hearings, send an email to tfote@jcaa.org. You need to participate in the online meetings. If you have questions, there is a time in the meeting. And then you will need to participate in the online hearings.

## **ASMFC Annual Meeting Webinar**

October 19-22, 2020

#### Monday, October 19

- 9-10 am Atlantic Herring Management Board
- 10-11 am Break
- Noon 1:15 pm Winter Flounder Management Board
- Noon 1:15 pm Lunch Break
- 1:15 4:15 pm American Lobster Management Board

#### **Tuesday, October 20**

- 9 am Noon Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
- Noon 1:15 pm Lunch Break

• 1:15 - 4:15 pm - South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board

#### Wednesday, October 21

- 8-10 am Executive Committee
- 10-10:30 am Break
- 10:30 11:15 am Horseshoe Crab Management Board
- 11:30 am 12:15 pm Spiny Dogfish Management Board
- 12:15 1:30 pm Lunch Break
- 1:30 4:30 pm Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

#### Thursday, October 22

- 8:30 9:45 am Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council
- 10-11 am Business Session
- 11:15 am Noon Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board
- Noon 1:15 pm Lunch Break
- 1:15 2:15 pm Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board (continued)
- 2:15 2:30 pm Business Session

To view complete and detailed agenda, click here.

## **Joint Meeting of ASMFC & MAFMC**

October 7, 2020

#### Wednesday, October 7

- 9 am Council Meeting with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Bluefish Management Board
- 9 am Noon Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment
- Noon 1 pm Lunch
- 1 pm Council Meeting with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
- 1-4 pm Recreational Reform Initiative
- 4 pm Council/Commission Adjourn

To view complete and detailed agenda, click here.

# **Adjustments to Fishing Regulations & Seasons**

By John Toth

To stem the spread of COVID-19, Governor Murphy would not allow the for-hire fleet to sail until some social distancing regulations could be established. Unfortunately, the for-hire fleet lost the entire blackfish season during April when anglers could have kept four of them as our bag limit. Also, striped bass fishing was red-hot and the for-hire hire fleet lost some of this season until the governor allowed it to resume fishing with certain restrictions.

Additionally, 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. Given this scenario, how can the for-hire fleet and tackle shops survive during this pandemic is a real question?

On behalf of the JCAA, 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 30<sup>th</sup>. The black sea bass stocks have been rebuilt to 240% so allow sea bass to be caught on October 1<sup>st</sup>, just as the summer flounder season ends so that anglers have something to fish for. Why wait until October 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

At the time of my writing this report, there has been no movement by fishing managers to change

fishing regulations or seasons to help the recreational fishing industry to better survive this pandemic. We are already into mid-September, so I do not see these adjustments to regulations and seasons for the recreational industry to happen.

These are the type of battles the JCAA continually fights on behalf of recreational fishing. While it seems that we are losing this one, we will continue with our efforts to help the recreational fishing industry to recover from this pandemic.

## **Public Access**

By George Browne

This will be a short public access column this month. Not sure what is going to happen with the pandemic or what the towns' reactions will be. We did see some towns close parking and waterfront access this past spring. We will have to monitor what is happening and see if we can prevent shutdowns. Closing off public access does not just affect the beach or waterway in the town that shuts down access; it puts additional fishing pressure on adjoining towns. This is where your participation becomes important. If your town is considering closing public access, it is important you let the elected officials know you are opposed to closing the beaches to fishing. This is not the same circumstance as it was in the spring when everyone wanted to get out, go to the beach and beach use was increasing. As we go into the fall, beach use should be declining and, by the November run, it may only be anglers on the beaches. We social distance as we fish because we must. Local bait and tackle, as well as other businesses that we support (restaurants, hotels, etc.), should make sure the elected officials know it affects their businesses too.

In late August or early September, a homeowner in Long Branch created their own "official" looking "Emergency No Parking This Side" signs. Whoever created the signs added duct tape to hold an official looking paper with the ordinance number on the sign. When another public access advocate saw the signs, they contacted the City of Long Branch and the signs were taken down. It turns out the signs were not official, but a ploy by a homeowner to limit on-street parking and deny public access. If you see new No Parking Signs call the city and ask about the parking restrictions.

Clean Ocean Action will be coordinating beach cleanups on Saturday, October 24th. Go to this link to find out where beach sweeps are being conducted near you. Wear something that identifies you as an angler and consider making it a club event for your fishing club. We need people to see anglers care about the beach and actively contribute to making the beach better.

The Edwin B. Forsythe NWR Fishing Plan has been approved and is now available. We have been successful in improving shore-based access in The Refuge. The following is a synopsis of what is in the fishing plan and was included in an email from Virginia Rettig, the Refuge Manager.

"We have approved the opening of 6 new sites for fishing on the refuge in the future. These include: Middle Branch in Lacey Township; Parker Run in Eagleswood Township; deCamp Wildlife Trail and a new Mantoloking Fishing Trail near Traders Cove in Brick Township; a new trail at Cedar Bonnet Island in Stafford Township; and a new trail that will require significant development at Good Luck Point in Berkeley Township. To be clear, none of these new sites is open now, but we will begin to open them in the next few months. Some are fairly straightforward and require few resources; others will be fairly large projects and require permits and funding beyond the refuge's annual budget and may take years to implement. However, we think they are all great opportunities and many of them came from YOU, so thank you very much.

The final plan includes the eventual implementation of a refuge-wide lead ban. I recognize there is much concern about this type of transition, but the health-related concerns about lead are undeniable.

Our intention is to develop a lead-free fishing program so that actual implementation would occur at the end of 2025. The refuge will be working with partners (including any of you that are interested!) to develop an education program, find reasonable alternatives, and work towards improving access to lead-free gear."

These changes to Refuge access will require support from fishing clubs to complete them. We will keep you informed as the plans move forward.

If you have any public access questions or issues, please email me at publicaccess@jcaa.org. Provide a phone number or other way to contact you and I will get back to you.

# Big Win! New State Fund for Fisheries Studies Funded by Offshore Wind Development

By Capt. Paul Eidman, Forage Fish & Habitat Committee Chairman

NJBPU announced this week that all offshore wind developers building projects for New Jersey must invest directly in fisheries research as a condition of their power contracts. The state is inviting bids for up to 2,400 MW of offshore wind power and if all are awarded it will generate \$24 million in research funding which could be directed toward efforts to study recreational gamefish, related habitat and other subjects vital to the health of New Jerseys recreational fishing economy. JCAA has been striving for a decision like this since we got behind increased usage of renewable energy and the related potential of improving our fishery and waters by burning less fossil fuels. New York State finalized a similar requirement for its next round (2,500 MW) of contracts earlier this summer, so together this creates nearly \$50 M of new resources for critical fisheries and wildlife research needed to advance our understanding of potential offshore wind energy impacts to the marine environment here and how to address them at each stage of the development process.

New Jersey's nearshore and offshore waters are biologically diverse and rich with fisheries and other species habitat that provide important natural resource and economic value to the State and its residents. While New Jersey has studied these resources the introduction of new onshore and offshore industry introduces new variables into both the natural and economic environment that must be well studied and understood as offshore wind developments constructed, operated, are decommissioned. Accordingly, conducting ongoing research and monitoring the effects of the offshore wind industry on the distribution and abundance of wildlife and fisheries resources is a priority for New Jersey.

Also, this fall, New Jersey finalized its Offshore Wind Strategic Plan which outlines this and other efforts the Murphy Administration will be taking to advance responsibly developed offshore wind projects. Offshore wind developers seeking contracts with New Jersey are required to submit a detailed Fisheries Protection Plan, along with a broader Environmental Protection Plan, with their bids to the BPU. This critical piece of the process offers opportunities to clarify for BPU key project details, including firm commitments to specific development practices important to NJ stakeholders that will be taken to ensure alignment with the state's vision.

We will be following the next steps with the research funding as the details unfold. All bidders will be required to commit financial and technical support to research initiatives and the regional monitoring of wildlife and fisheries-related to the introduction of offshore wind projects through a \$10,000 per megawatt of project nameplate capacity fee. NJDEP and BPU will collaborate with the selected project developers, research institutions, industry, regional monitoring organizations, and members of the New Jersey Offshore Wind Environmental Resources Working Group to identify and prioritize research and monitoring needs. Example studies could include but are not limited to: annual habitat surveys, regional studies and collaboration with neighboring states to develop and collect information, evaluation of the extent and attenuation of noise resulting from construction and operation of offshore wind energy facilities and its effects on the background biological soundscape, and assessment of the vulnerability of fisheries receptors.

We look forward to working together with the NJDEP and providing stakeholder feedback and support to ensure that these funds are directed and prioritized to the right places at the right times. We encourage the involvement of New Jerseys recreational angling/ boating community to get involved as much as possible before during and after construction.

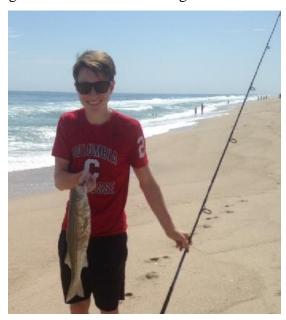
Tight Lines,
Paul (paulyfish@reeltherapy.com)

# **Youth Education Report**

By Greg Kucharewski

I was fishing next to Andrew Campbell at Bayhead beach when he landed a Striped Bass about 24 - 26 inches caught on metal. It is good to see youngsters fishing on the beach again. During the

current health situation, it seems like more people are starting to learn about surf casting.



NJ HOFNOD FISHING CHALLENGE

The Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program's Youth Fishing Challenge statewide event will take place on the state's second Free Fishing Day, Saturday, October 17th, when no license is required to fish regardless of age. See the NJ HOFNOD Youth Fishing Challenge page for more information.

During 2020, think about becoming a HOFNOD instructor. New Jersey HOFNOD facilitator workshops are hosted by the DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife and it is well worth the time to learn creative aquatic activities to teach youngsters the importance becoming environmental stewards. This workshop is a great learning experience. 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.

#### **BRICK HIGH SCHOOL HOFNOD**

I spoke to Tim Brennan, Brick High School Health and Physical Education teacher, and he informed me the BHSFC postponed their NJ HOFNOD programs until the spring of 2021.

Students are encouraged to continue learning about aquatic education and practice fishing skills outside of school activities. Brick high school students that would like to participate in the NJ HOFNOD Fishing Challenge can attend an event with their parent or guardian. Visit the NJ HOFNOD website for program updates.

# LAKE JULIANNA FISHING RODEO A GREAT SUCCESS

On August 30, 2020, veterans, active-duty military personnel and youngsters along with their families enjoyed a fun day at Ponderosa Estates Farm in Millstone to catch and release fish at Lake Julianna. The goal of the Weekend Fishing Rodeo was to offer special needs children and disabled veterans a day to fish and feel the health benefits of getting in touch with nature while making good memories.

Due to weather advisories, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Play HOOK-e "Kid's Wish'n to go Fish'n" (KWTGF) Fun Day and Take a Veteran Fishing Day was combined to a one-day fishing event. Don Marantz, Event Chairman, Vito Cardinale, Cardinale Enterprises LCC, and Randy Johnson, Laurita Winery solved environmental improvements and parking logistics to provide a fun filled day for all in attendance. Over 350 attendees enjoyed the festivities at Lake Julianna. A special thank you to Danielle Wyant and Sarra Cardinale Enterprises Barker and for their communication skills to notify all attendees about event changes.

As children and veterans arrived at the event, they were greeted by Play HOOK-e welcome team volunteers that provided instructions for the day, temperature checks, welcome bags, loaner rods/reels, toys for children, KWTGF youth tee shirts, and goodie bags. Corporal Philip A. Reynolds Detachment Marine Corps League, Freehold, NJ helped set the tone for a patriotic fishing event by providing a Color Guard and music. Members of the 514 Mobility Wing helped gather families for the opening ceremony.

More than 30 fishing volunteers were available to assist children and veterans that came to fish. Veterans attending the event also helped youngsters cast a line. Participants had the use of loaner fishing rods and reels, rigs, and Spring Lake Freezer Bait Company made sure there was plenty of worms for catching fish. "NJ Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" certified instructors Mike and Debbie Bennett of Boating Education and Rescue provided fishing tips and bait rod/reel trailer. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Heroes On The Water,, Jersey Shore Surfcasters, Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club, New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, Hudson River Fishermen's Association, Berkeley Striper Club, NJ State Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, MA22, Trout Unlimited, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 all helped children and disabled veterans fish.

Youngsters enjoyed pony rides, NJ State Police K9 demo/vehicle display, hayrides, remote control flying model airplanes/ground displays and Millstone Township emergency vehicles. Immediate Care health care professionals set up their first-aid station and provided free COVID rapid testing. Friends and family of Mr. Cardinale served food to everyone in attendance at the BBQ area, Red Express Pizza, and Helping Hands of Jackson hotdog cart. We thank our gracious host and all the volunteers that assisted to make the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Play HOOK-e KWTGF and Take a Veteran Fishing Day a great success.

Many organizations/businesses contributed and came out to volunteer their time, New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, Pro Tapes C.O.R.E., Big Brother Big Sister, **BEAR** Environmental Educators, NJ State Police, Hamilton Station, Millstone Fire Department, Boy Scouts, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, The Fisherman Magazine, Bogan's Brielle Bait & Tackle, Gabriel CO., Jersey Hooker Outfitters, Betty & Nicks B&T, The Tin Man Lures, Grumpy's B&T, Reel Seat B&T, Pell's Sport and Fish, Boating Education and Rescue, Central Jersey Rifle and Pistol Club Warrior Program, MA 22, Recalibrate, Jersey Shore Surfcasters, New Jersey Elks, Trout Unlimited, Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club, Hudson River Fisherman's Association, New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, and several other volunteers/veterans organizations.

Contributors: Cardinale Enterprises LLC. family and friends, Randy Johnson Laurita Winery, East Gate Nursery, Bill- Jim Construction Co., Immediate Care Inc., SFC Enterprises, Top shelf nursery, My 3 Sons HVAC, Sea Coast Chevrolet, Village Donut Shop, Wood Fire Pizza/Blackie's Welding Service, Model Flying Airplanes, Phinas Farms, Magnakron, Rosetto realty, PDS Engineering, Joint Base McGuire 514<sup>th</sup> Air Mobility Wing, Tom Zapcic Photography, DR Horton builders, Sea Coast, Jackson Helping Hands, Phil's Tree Service, Wagon Farm Stand, Spring Lake Freezer, Teddy Bears By the Seashore, Bagel Bistro, Suggs Nicholas Shea Inc, Dairy Queen, Frogbridge Day Camp, County All-Stars, Black Bear Day Camp, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans of America Shore Area Chapter 12.



#### SUPPORT LOCAL TACKLE DEALERS

We recently visited local tackle dealers to setup our Play HOOK-e display and inform veterans and their families about our "Play HOOK-e from PTSD" programs. All our Play HOOK-e veterans are encouraged to shop at local tackle dealers. Most tackle dealers offer discounts to veterans. Here is a link to a <u>dealer list</u>.

Veterans that stopped by our table received a welcome gift bag supplied by Vietnam Veterans of America Shore Area Chapter 12 and Jersey Coast Anglers Association. We informed veterans about our JCAA newspaper and Play HOOK-e bi-monthly newsletter. Many thanks to participating tackle dealers for supporting our magnet campaign and allowing us space to speak to veterans at their business. If your business would like us to setup a Play HOOK-e Go Fishing display, please contact Greg at 732-785-9278.

During October, we are offering veterans with PTSD an opportunity to relax for a few hours by the water and visit natural calming areas. If you would like to experience saltwater and freshwater fishing, we have a short one-to-one fishing program to get you outdoors to fish and boat. Connect with nature at Lake Julianna, LZ- 64, Island Beach State Park, and other open spaces. To schedule a day and time, please email Greg @ gkucharews@jcaa.org. Let us know what your interests are and we will do our best to get you outdoors.

# BIG FLUKE CATCH: IT PAYS TO VOLUNTEER

A few days before fluke season ended, Joe Scutro NJ HOFNOD instructor and Play HOOK-e volunteer caught his personal best big fluke 9.4 lb. 32 inches long at Manasquan Inlet Wall. It pays to volunteer! Joe usually helps other anglers learn to fish and most often takes time to mix volunteering with fishing. According to Tim Burden, JSS, NJ HOFNOD and Play HOOK-e volunteer who worked the extended long handle net to capture the huge fluke stated: "I was happy to be the net manager that day and it's not that often us surf casters get the chance to see fluke that size."

We meet a lot of veterans at the inlet and that same day I met combat veteran Gerard Walsh, Commander DAV Chapter 16 (former door gunner/command control) and told him about our Play HOOK-e one-to-one fishing program for veterans. I introduced Gerard to our Play HOOK-e volunteers Joe and Tim that take time to offer fishing assist and help with our JCAA Youth Education programs. Gerard liked the idea about small group fishing and looks forward to attending one of our fishing programs. Who knows maybe the next big fish will be a Striped Bass?



Photo by Henry Kline, Marine Veteran