

# JCAA NEWSPAPER FEBRUARY 2021

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on January 19th, 2021)

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

### **JCAA REGULAR MEETING**

**January 26th via Zoom Meeting**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick**

**NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, February 11th, 2021**

**Via Zoom Meeting**

### **OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.**

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**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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### **2020 OFFICERS**

<b>President</b>	<b>John Toth</b>	<b>732-656-0139</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b>	<b>Mark Taylor</b>	<b>732-656-0139</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b>	<b>Bill Browne</b>	<b>732-504-9344</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Doug Tegeder</b>	<b>732-575-2661</b>
<b>Rec. Sec.</b>		
<b>Cors. Sec.</b>	<b>Paul Turi</b>	<b>609-709-9215</b>
<b>Mem. Sec.</b>	<b>Paul Eidman</b>	<b>732-614-3373</b>
<b>Tournament Dir.</b>	<b>Paul Turi</b>	<b>609-709-9215</b>

**Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page**

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**January 26<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting**

**February 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> ASMFC Winter Meeting & Joint Meeting with MAFMC**

**February 11<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting (Zoom)**

**February 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> MAFMC Meeting**

**February 18<sup>th</sup> NJ MAFMC/ASMFC public hearing on Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment**

**February 23<sup>rd</sup> JCAA General Meeting (Zoom)**

***March Saltwater Expo Canceled***

*??? We do not know at this time what shows will take place in 2021. We will keep you posted*

### **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. Several 2020 events and some upcoming 2021 events 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*.

***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.***

## **Note from Paul Turi, Office Manager**

On behalf of JCAA, I would like to thank all those who donated to JCAA last year to help us through a difficult time with the cancellation of all our yearly fundraisers due to the Covid-19 virus. We received donations from \$10 to \$500. Every little bit counts. The generosity of our many supporters is greatly appreciated.

## **President's Report**

*By John Toth*

Happy New Year!

Without a doubt, this will be a challenging New Year! The pandemic is raging across our country and there seems to be no let-up in sight! What really seems strange now is the shortage of vaccines! We heard that they were being rolled out during December, but for whatever reason, there is a shortage of them! Given the huge distribution network of the vaccines, it will take some time before all the bugs are cleared out of it! Hopefully, by summer, we will get back to something that makes sense in the world – like fishing!

During this time, we normally escape the winter doldrums by going to the trade shows like the Garden State Outdoor show in January and the Boat show in February. Unfortunately, both of these shows have been cancelled. As of this writing, the Salt Water Expo has not been cancelled and is scheduled for March 19-21. This is a popular show and I would hate to see this show cancelled, but the virus may shut this show down also.

I am (and I know that you are too) looking so forward to the time that we can go on a nice fishing trip this spring or summer and not hear about the growing number of infections and new viral strains! Keep your chin up and pray to God that it may come soon!

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Tom Fote*

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The first week of February will be a busy week. The ASMFC will have its winter meeting week from February 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> and there will be a joint meeting of MAFMC & ASMFC on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The agendas are below. All the information and briefing materials will be on the ASMFC web page. The big thing at the joint meeting will be to the review and consider approval of Addendum XXXIII and MAFMC Black Sea Bass Commercial State Allocation Amendment. I anticipate these plans will be approved unless something comes up at the last minute.

As you can see from the agenda below several boards will be meeting. The Striped Bass Board will be considering approval of the draft Amendment 7 Public Information Document for public hearings. You can look ahead and see the information about the public hearing document. If you do not see questions you want asked, you should send in a public comment or attend the webinar and make your comments during the public comment period. As I have pointed out many times before, there has not been much participation from the recreational sector. After the document is released, you and your organizations should study the contents and participate at the hearings. It always concerns me because if there is no immediate action, people have a tendency not to attend. We are also trying to get a better handle on the mortality of striped bass and that will be part of the discussion. Hook and release mortality plays such a large role in the status of the stocks and we need actual data.

There has been a lot of talk about what the circle hook regulations for striped bass really means. Some states tried to get exemptions for certain lures and the way they are used with live bait. There were some consequences that we need to revisit to make sure the regulations work. I had no idea that the interpretation of the rules would not allow the use of a bucktail with pork rind. I fished this many times and you just do not gut hook a striped bass with this type of rig. I can understand that we do not want to leave loopholes but we need to review the impact.

## Upcoming Public Hearings

Within the next two months there could be three public hearings on three different documents. We are moving ahead with many management measures without face to face meetings. I know how difficult it is to get your thoughts on paper to send written comments instead of making comments in public. But this also means you need to be computer literate and have access to the internet. You still can call into these meetings just using your phone and you can participate that way. I would hate to miss your opinions because of COVID and the way meetings are being held. If you belong to a club or organization, get together, form a committee, and put a position forward. These fisheries that are going to public hearings are especially important to the recreational sector. If you care about the outcomes, you need to get involved. Again, check the ASMFC and MAFMC websites for the meeting materials. If you have questions, you can call the staff or email one of the commissioners from the state. When you do come up with a position, let your commissioner know.

### Agenda for ASMFC Winter Meeting & Joint Meeting with MAFMC

The agenda is subject to change. Bulleted items represent the anticipated major issues to be discussed or acted upon during the webinar. The final agenda will include additional items. The agenda reflects the current estimate of time required for scheduled Board meetings. The Commission may adjust this agenda in accordance with the actual duration of Board meetings. Interested parties should anticipate Boards starting earlier or later than indicated herein.

As of the posting of this electronic newsletter, the most recent agenda can be found at [this link](#) on the ASMFC website. Full winter meeting details can be found at [this link](#).

### MAFMC and ASMFC to hold Public Hearings for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment

*MAFMC News, January 15, 2021*

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) are seeking public

comment on the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment. Comments may be submitted at any of five virtual public hearings to be held between February 17 and March 2, 2021 or via written comment until March 16, 2021.

The Council and Commission are developing this joint amendment to consider adjusting the allocations of catch or landings between the commercial and recreational fisheries for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. The commercial and recreational allocations for all three species are currently based on historical proportions of landings (for summer flounder and black sea bass) or catch (for scup) from each sector. Recent changes in how recreational catch is estimated have resulted in a discrepancy between the current levels of estimated recreational harvest and the allocations of summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass to the recreational sector. Some changes have also been made to commercial catch data since the allocations were established. This amendment considers whether modifications to the allocations are needed in light of these and other changes in the fisheries. The amendment also considers options that would allow a portion of the allowable landings to be transferred between the commercial and recreational sectors each year, in either direction, based on the needs of each sector.

We encourage you to visit the Council's Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment web page or the Commission's Public Input web page, where you can read the Public Hearing Document, the Draft Amendment, and watch the public hearing presentation (to be posted by Friday, February 12, 2021). The Council's Public Hearing Document is an abbreviated version of the amendment which summarizes proposed management options and impacts. The Commission's Draft Amendment is a more comprehensive management document that will resemble the Commission's final amendment once approved. Both documents contain identical options for public input, but each have been developed according to each management body's differing requirements.

### Written Comments

Written comments may be submitted through March 16, 2021 by any of the following methods:

1. ONLINE: [link here](#)
2. EMAIL: [kdancy@mafmc.org](mailto:kdancy@mafmc.org)
3. MAIL or FAX:

Dr. Christopher Moore, Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 North State Street, Suite 201  
Dover, DE 19901  
FAX: 302.674.5399

Please include “Fluke/Scup/Sea Bass Allocation Amendment” in the subject line if using email or fax, or on the outside of the envelope if submitting written comments. All comments, regardless of submission method, will be compiled into a single document for review and consideration by both the Council and Commission. Please do not send separate comments to the Council and Commission.

### Virtual Hearing Schedule

You are encouraged to attend any of the following five virtual public hearings and to provide oral or written comments at these hearings. While we encourage you to attend the hearing that is targeted toward your regional groupings of states or an individual state, anyone is welcome to participate in any hearing.

Date	Regional Grouping	Contact(s)
Wednesday, February 17 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Massachusetts & Rhode Island	<a href="#">Nichola Meserve</a> (MA), 617-626-1531 <a href="#">Jason McNamee</a> (RI), 401-222-4700
Thursday, February 18 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	New Jersey	<a href="#">Joseph Cimino</a> (NJ), 609-748-2063
Wednesday, February 24 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Delaware and Maryland	<a href="#">John Clark</a> (DE), 302-739-9914 <a href="#">Sonny Gwinn</a> (MD), 410-208-1149 <a href="#">Scott Lenox</a> (MD), 410-430-1016
Monday, March 1 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Virginia and North Carolina	<a href="#">Ellen Bolen</a> (VA), 757-247-2269 <a href="#">Chris Batsavage</a> (NC), 252-241-2995
Tuesday, March 2 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Connecticut and New York	<a href="#">Justin Davis</a> (CT), 860-434-6043 <a href="#">Maureen Davidson</a> (NY), 631-444-0483

### Webinar Connection Instructions

To register for a public hearing please click here: [Public Hearing Registration](#) and select the hearing(s) you plan to attend from the dropdown menu. Hearings will be held via GoToWebinar, which can be accessed

using a computer, tablet, or smartphone. When connecting to audio, we strongly encourage participants to use computer voice over internet (VoIP) so you can ask questions and provide input. To attend the webinar in listen-only mode, dial 877-309-2074 and enter access code 128-060-916. Those joining by phone only will be limited to listening to the presentation and will not be able to provide input. For technical assistance setting up and logging into GoToWebinar, contact Savannah Lewis at 703-842-0715.

If you are connected only by phone in listen only mode, you will not show up as a webinar attendee. In the event that there are no webinar attendees, the public hearing will be cancelled unless state staff request that the hearing content is presented.

### Tips for Providing Public Comment

We value your input. To be most effective, we request that your comment include specific details as to why you support or oppose a particular alternative. Specifically, please address the following:

- Which proposed alternative(s) do you support, and which do you oppose?
- Why do you support or oppose the alternative(s)?
- Is there any additional information you think should be considered?

### Contacts

For additional information and updates, please visit [this link](#). If you have any questions, please contact either:

- Kiley Dancy, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, [kdancy@mafmc.org](mailto:kdancy@mafmc.org), 302-526-5257
- Dustin Colson Leaning, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, [dleaning@asmfc.org](mailto:dleaning@asmfc.org), 703-842-0714

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# Support our Troops

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## Upcoming Hearings

*By Paul Haertel*

Above is the public hearing notice for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment. Many of us have been working many years to adjust the allocation between the commercial and recreational sectors. This amendment has been in the process for about 10 years and is finally ready for the public hearing process. There was some movement at the last joint meeting of the MAFMC and ASMFC to postpone this addendum until the Recreational Form Addendum is finished.

Let's look at the reason why. The commercial representatives on the MAFMC and ASMFC do not want to transfer a single pound of any of the recreational species. They reap the benefits of the new MREPS numbers by getting a 49% increase in summer flounder because of the many years we underestimated the recreational catch. That means the MAFMC and ASMFC set the quotas using underestimated recreational numbers for these species. Thirty years ago, when this process began, some of the members of the recreational sectors brought forward documents from the old Bureau of Sport Fisheries that showed the catch on summer flounder was 70/30 (recreational/commercial), not 60/40 commercial. In some instances, NMFS and the MAFMC and ASMFC also used the years that the commercial fishery decimated the stocks, leading to allocations that favored their sector. The commercial sector was rewarded for causing the problem while the recreational sector paid the price.

As Tom Fote has pointed out many times, when the scup quota was set up, NMFS, the MAFMC and ASMFC took away 9% of the recreational quota and just gave it to the commercial sector. Their excuse was the recreational sector didn't need it. Thirty years ago they did not foresee the need for any regulations on scup. At the last meeting, ASMFC and MAFMC voted to allow MAFMC to have a vote on how the quotas are adjusted. The MAFMC has been very pro commercial and many of their members are commercial fishermen or have commercial interests. That means any adjustment to the quotas must be approved by both bodies using the exact same language.

The squeaky wheel gets the most attention. The commercial sector has been putting a lot of pressure on the state directors who sit on both the MAFMC and ASMFC. We have been absent. We need to make sure they hear our voices. We cannot rely on the few members of the MAFMC and ASMFC who understand the recreational community and its value to carry all the weight. If you do not get involved there will be no reallocation.

At the last online general meeting for JCAA, I was put in charge of a committee to prepare documents for the upcoming public hearings. Right now, there are only three of us on the committee and we would like more participation from our member clubs. If you are willing to serve, let me know. You can reach out to me through our Facebook page or call or email me.

Paul Haertel  
973-943-8201  
AnglerPMH@aol.com

## Improving Public Access at Sandy Hook, NJ

*By John Toth*

I recently wrote an article about the closure of the False Hook at Sandy Hook, NJ and it detailed how the Army Corps of Engineers surprisingly showed up to dredge this area resulting in the closure of this prime fishing area for surf fishing enthusiasts. Anglers were not happy about this surprise and the Access Chairman of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), George Browne, and myself engaged the offices of Senator Booker and Congressman Frank Pallone to intervene with the Army Corps so that we could receive more information on when this dredging project would be completed and how we can be better notified when the Army Corps plans to dredge this area in the future. (The Army Corps responds more quickly to legislators). The dredging of the False Hook is expected to be completed by the end of January 2021.

The question came up of why the management of Gateway National Park did not reach out to the fishing community more quickly concerning the impending closure of the False Hook so that anglers would be aware of it and alter their plans to fish in this area. To receive a better understanding of this issue

and others related to Gateway Park, Zach McCue, Chief of Staff for Senator Booker, set up a telephone conference call on November 12th with George Browne, myself, and the managers of the National Park Service, Pete McCarthy and Patty Rafferty, to see if we can improve our lines of communication, especially for anglers using this recreational area. This conference call produced unexpected positive results and that included:

The National Park Service (NPS) will keep us updated on the dredging now in progress at False Hook and when it will be finally completed. Furthermore, the NPS will notify us of future dredging projects planned in this area so that we can quickly get this information out to the angling community.

This park is home to many species of birds, like piping plovers, that the park is required to protect as mandated by our federal government. The nesting areas of these birds and others are off limits to access by anglers. However, these bird nesting areas always change in their locations and result in confusion as to where anglers can and cannot fish. The NPS agreed to do a better job with their signage at the park to direct anglers to where they can fish while protecting the nesting areas of the endangered birds.

The NPS sends out permits to anglers who apply for them to fish in the park. The NPS indicated that they will develop a flyer that provides an overview of the park and the services it provides. This new flyer will accompany permits sent to anglers so that they have a better understanding of where they can fish in this park.

The NPS indicated that they will develop a power point presentation that they can take to fishing clubs and other organizations to better explain what the park has to offer not only for anglers but the public as well.

The NPS also agreed to produce a flyer that is tailored to anglers so that it shows fishing areas and what they also need to know about for birds and their restricted areas that are off limits to anglers. We agreed to place this information in our JCAA newsletter and it can also be posted in the Federation's newspaper.

I have been involved in a number of telephone calls with members of various organizations and, all too often, these calls do not result in the desired results or resolutions. Our call to the National Park Service was just to introduce ourselves to them and for the Park Service to give us advance information about when the Army Corps plans to do their future

dredging and the location of it. This call was one of those rare calls that achieved more than the intended result and a Big Thanks goes to Zach McCue from Senator Booker's office for bringing us all together so that anglers can have better use of the Gateway National Park.

## Public Access

*By George Browne*

Considering how quiet the beaches are this time of year, there is not much to report on public access. Of course, that does not mean there are not issues, just that there are not a lot of people looking to use the beach. With that said there are two issues to report on.

In Point Pleasant Beach there are three or four closed access points from the boardwalk to the beach. Some work was done in the area late last year and the access points have not been reopened. Point Pleasant Beach and at least one local beach owner (most of PPB's ocean beaches are privately owned) are involved in a lawsuit. My suspicion is that re-opening those public access points is collateral damage from the lawsuit. I will be checking with DEP to see if any of the beaches with the closed access points received beach renourishment money and if we can get them reopened. I will let everyone know what I find out.

The town of Spring Lake made the news in the last week with their 2021 season beach badge sales. While this does not directly affect anglers, it is a classic example of the games beach towns will play to deny public access.

1. Spring Lake had 5,500 season badges for sale at \$110 each for the 2021 season. The town put the badges on sale in December 2020.
2. The sale of the season badges was only announced in a borough newsletter. That newsletter is mainly read by residents or people who know that the borough newsletter exists.
3. The 5,500 badges sold out by the end of December. The only remaining badges for 2021 are daily badges that will be sold at \$10 per person/day. That means if you want to use the Spring Lake beach with your family of four, you will have to spend \$40 a day every time you want to use the beach. And you must go to the train station to buy the day badges.



4. The town claims that 52% of the badges were sold to non-residents. At first glance it seems that Spring Lake sold most of their season badges to out of towners. I wonder how many of those “non-residents” own second homes in Spring Lake but live elsewhere.
5. Last spring, during the first phase of the pandemic, Spring Lake banned all on street parking. You could still use the beach, but you had to park out of town and walk in. The town used the pandemic as the reason why they banned on street parking effectively keeping out of towners off the beaches in Spring Lake.

While Spring Lake is “offering” public access (wink, wink, nod, nod), they do not want to encourage you to use it. Other groups are following up on the Spring Lake badge sales and we are not involved, but as I said earlier, it is a good example of the games a town will play to keep the public off their beaches.

On a final note, there is a lot of discussion about the use of inline circle hooks while using natural bait to fish for striped bass. You should read Paul Haertel’s column on “Striped Bass Circle Hook Regulations” and you should comment on the proposals either during the webinar or in writing. I plan on doing so.

## Striped Bass Circle Hook Regulations

*By Paul Haertel*

While you may have read about the mandatory use of inline circle hooks when fishing for striped bass, the issue of how New Jersey’s final regulations will read once they are written is still slightly unclear. Our Bureau of Marine Fisheries is currently working on this but the actual law which is done by Administrative Code has not yet been completed. This past fall, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council (ASMFC) mandated that inline circle hooks must be used when bait fishing for striped bass. Various other stipulations regarding the use of circle hooks were included as well and each state was charged with developing their regulations. These regulations may be stricter than those that were mandated but may not be more liberal. Previously, some states were denied certain exceptions regarding the use of circle hooks. However, the ASMFC Striped Bass Board will be revisiting this issue at their meeting that is scheduled to take place from 1:45-3:45 on February 3rd. More

specifically, the prohibition against using pork rind, rigged eels, eel skin lures, and tube and worm rigs may be discussed further. New York intends to implement a law that would require all stripers caught while bait fishing with other than a circle hook to be released. While that is not currently mandated by the ASMFC, it could be discussed. While a law like that would help close the loophole for someone claiming to be snagging and dropping for bluefish, it would negatively impact someone fishing a mullet rig for bluefish or a fluke rig who inadvertently lucks into a striper.

You may submit comments via email on the circle hook situation at the following link. Instructions as to how to register and listen in on the webinar are also there. You may have an opportunity to comment during the [webinar](#) as well.

Additionally, JCAA board member, George Browne, submitted questions regarding the use of circle hooks to New Jersey Fish and Wildlife. Below are the questions and answers he received. While they are likely to become law, they may be revised depending on the outcome of the ASMFC meeting.

**Q1.** Will there be a clear definition of “natural bait” that Conservation Officers will be using in the field? And can you share that?

**A1.** Natural bait means any whole living or dead organism (animal or plant) or parts thereof.

**Q2.** Are natural baits only baits that live in salt or fresh water such as eels, clams, fish, etc.? Or do natural baits include animal products such as pork rind baits or other land-based animal baits?

**A2.** Natural bait includes all animal products, including pork rind and other land-based animals.

**Q3.** If I put a natural bait on a lure, must I then have inline circle hooks on the lure?

**A3.** Yes. When fishing for striped bass with natural bait, an inline circle hook must be used even if it is attached to a lure.

**Q4.** If my lure has multiple hooks on the body of the lure and I attach a natural bait to only the tail hook, do all the hooks on the lure need to be inline circle hooks?

**A4.** All hooks should be circle hooks.

**Q5.** Are products that use bait scent (i.e. Gulp) considered natural baits?

**A5.** Artificial or synthetic baits, such as Gulp, are not considered natural baits.

# Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

Use the icy cold days of winter to work on your fishing equipment. I do this every year and it gives me a chance to inventory my fishing arsenal and get everything in top notch condition before I wet a line. I start by inspecting my tackle boxes, surf bags, boots, foul weather gear and rods and reels. Look for worn straps on surf bags, gear in tackle packs, fishing belts, clothing, and boots/waders. Saltwater corrodes zippers, metal parts and makes plastic clips brittle. Replace anything that looks like it will not survive another season. Inspect waders with a flashlight in a dark area to locate small pinholes where water can seep in. Don't wait till your first day on the beach to discover you need a repair or new boots.



Examine each lure and hook. Is it time to refurbish these prize fish catchers before you buy a new lure? You will be surprised what a little touchup paint, hook sharpening or replacement will do to get that favorite lure back in the crosshairs of hungry fish.

Over the years I've witnessed anglers walking into tackle shops with reel parts in a bag. It is (another failed attempt at reel repair by the owner.) By the way, there is always something missing, either a screw or a spring that flew into orbit. When it comes to servicing fishing reels you must know how to service them correctly or you will pay dearly to fix or replace a reel. Visit your local tackle dealer before the fishing season starts. Tackle dealers can evaluate your reel and determine if it needs parts, cleaning, or lubrication. My advice: It is less expensive to have a professional look at your reel and decide what is needed. They will also check the line for wear and change it for you.

Check rod guides for grooves, cracks, and if they are loose. I use a cotton ball on metal guides and an Exacto knife on ceramic guides. If you are unsure how to examine your rod guides visit your local tackle dealer, they will show you how to check guides in a matter of minutes. Once you learn this simple

procedure you can check the guides after a few fishing outings. There is nothing worse than hooking a fish and having your line cut by a cracked guide or tip top.

If you drive on the beach it's a good idea to have your mechanic inspect your 4 x 4 vehicle for uneven tire wear, wheel bearings, axle, suspension, drivetrain, drive shaft and steering. Do this before your check engine light goes on and you will have an enjoyable time fishing and catching.

## **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament**

High school fishing clubs, along with other school-based fishing teams, are gearing up for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Cup School team competition. Due to COVID, last year the event was cancelled twice. This year, the event will be held on Sunday, May 23 and participants will follow NJ COVID guidelines. Please visit the JCAA Website for updates and don't forget to register for the free at [this link](#).

## **NJ HOFNOD - NJ Scientific Collection Permit**

We will assist Brick Memorial High School to apply for a 2021 New Jersey Scientific Collection Permit to continue their school-based research project that will record the growth rate of blackfish.

Tim Brennan and his team at the school did a great job of preparing a 90-gallon saltwater tank for this project. Students will learn about the process of applying for a NJ DEP collection sampling permit, required reporting correspondence to maintain a valid permit, recording data benchmarks, saltwater tank maintenance, fish feeding, controlled temperature growth effects, measurement tools and NJ DEP conservation rules and regulations.

## **Disabled Veteran Free Mobile Sportfishing Permit**

George Browne, JCAA Access Chairman, reminds all eligible disabled veterans to apply for an IBSP 2021 Mobile Sportfishing Permit to drive on the beach. Veterans must provide the following: Form DD 214 Honorable Discharge, Valid NJ Driver License and Registration, Veterans ID Card proof of service-connected disability. If you plan to fish on the beach you must [register for a Free NJ Saltwater Recreational Registration Card](#). It is suggested new beach drivers take a beach safety driving course - info at [this link](#). NJBBA offers a beach driving course. For more information about permits and hours contact: Island Beach State Park, 732-793-0506. [Visit VVA Chapter 12](#) for Play HOOK-e veteran news and discounts.