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JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
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Phone 732-506-6565 Fax 732-506-6975
Web Site <http://www.JCAA.org>
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December 2023

Addendum II Striped Bass Hearing Date Set
December 5th @ Stafford Township Municipal Building

Happy Holidays!

Jersey Coast Shark Anglers
2023 Tournament Schedule

Bluefin Fever - June 3-4
Kids Fishing Fever - July 22
Thresher Fever - TBD
Fluke Tournament - TBD
Month-Long Fluke Tournament Veterans - TBD
Fall Striper Tournament - TBD

For information go to www.jcsa.org

Forked River Tuna Club
2023 Tournament Schedule

White Perch Tournament - April 15
Sea Bass Tournament - May 20, 21
Ladies Catch of the Day - July 8
Tuna Tournament - July 15, 16
Fluke Tournament - August 12, 13

Mark Your Calendar



(p) 201.836.2100 x2118
(c) 201.446.9047
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Jersey Coast Shark Anglers

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Bayshore Anglers Assoc., P.O. Box, 94, Middletown, NJ
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Betty & Nick's Bait & Tackle, Seaside Park, NJ, (732) 793-2708
Jon Brunetti, Lakewood, NJ
Delaware River Shad Fishermens Assn., Allentown, PA, www.drfsa.org
Harold Dill, Bricktown, NJ
Bill Dolan, Waretown, NJ
Len Fantasia, Wave Dancer, Atlantic Highlands, NJ
Fins on Feathers Charters, Capt. Frank Tenore, (973) 763-2876
Fishin' Physicians
Bruce Freeman, Lavallette, NJ
John J. Gilchrist Architect PC Montvale, NJ
Mark Goehring, Indian Mills, NJ
In Memory of Betty Henze, Lafayette Hill, PA
In Memory of Tom Ortman. A great fisherman, a great guy!
In Memory of Randy Minix, Gibbstown, NJ
Hudson River Fisherman's Association, Cresskill, NJ
L Raymond Humphreys, Jr., Pennsville, NJ
Greg & Linda Jewell, Freehold
NJ Long Beach Island Fishing Club
Harvey Yenkinson, West Chester, PA
Capt. Frank Tenore, Fins on Feathers Charters
Leonardo State Marina
Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club
Manasquan Fishing Club
Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Co. 3
On Behalf of William "Bronco" Bell
Paul Olsen, Lanoka Harbor, NJ
Raymond Onofrio, Voorhees, NJ
Joseph Palumbo, West Orange, NJ
Todd Piasecki, Little Falls, NJ
Michael Revesz, SW-Life Science Lab Equipment, (877) 737-3211
Russell Samano, Millville, NJ
Richard Savacool, Lavallette, NJ
Paul Shafer, Bethel, CT
George S. Smith Jr., Morganville, NJ
Phil Simon, Skillman, NJ
South West Science, Roebling, NJ
Sunshine Organization
Village Harbour Fishing Club, Manahawkin, NJ
In Memory of Bruce Wagner
West Orange Anglers, West Orange, NJ, (793) 669-6799



A Saltwater Anglers Club

New Members Welcome

Go to www.FISHHAWKSNJ.com

Meetings are at 7:30 PM on the first Thursday of the month at the Lacey Elks, Forked River, NJ

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Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association
Bi-State Shad Fishing Contest, eric@shadfishingcontest.com, (610) 762-0440
New Jersey Beach Buggy Association
Raritan Bay Anglers Club

\$50 JCAA Sponsors

Asbury Park Fishing Club, Asbury Park, NJ 732-988-0121
Association of Surf Angling Clubs, www.asaonline.org
Barnegat Fishin' Hole, www.BarnegatFishinHole.com
Howard Beeferman, Monroe, NJ
Belmar Fishing Club, P.O. Box 38, Belmar 07719
Michael Blonske, Morrisville, PA
Bradley Beach Surf Casters, Neptune, NJ
Vito F. Cardinale, Red Bank, NJ
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F.U.B Divers, Neptune, NJ
Dr. Joel Gelbman
The Geld Family, Elkins Park, PA
Jean A. Hasslinger, In Memory of Ed Anderson
Lagoon View Yacht Club, Waretown, NJ, lagoonviewyachtclub.org
Bob Lick, Cheyenne, WY
In Memory of Joe Kunz, Donated by David Strom & Laura Greenwald
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Richard Lippo, Mount Laurel, NJ
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Randy Minix, Gibbstown, NJ
Picatinny Saltwater Sportsman Club
Point Pleasant Fishing Club, rmazz1428@gmail.com
Newark Bait & Flycasting Club
New Jersey Beach Buggy Association
Round Valley Trout Association, Lebanon, NJ
Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County
Louis Schott, Galloway Twp
Schuyler Tuna Fishing Club
Seaside Heights Fishing Club
Richard Secare, West New York, NJ
Shore Aquatic Club, Sea Girt, NJ
Silverton Fishing Club, Toms River, NJ
David Strom, Jr., West Orange, NJ
South Jersey Saltwater Anglers
Surf Kings Fishing Club
Douglas Vitale In Memory of Bruce Vitale
Women's Surf Fishing Club of NJ, www.wsfcnj.org



New Jersey Beach Buggy Association

P. O. Box 511, Seaside Park, NJ 08752
BUGGY Membership Info: Ken Hollins 732-814-7021 www.NJBBA.org
Fighting for Beach Access & Conservation Since 1954

Raritan Bay Anglers Club

PO Box 546
Perth Amboy, NJ 08862-0546
Membership Info: Don Beyer 908-494-0980
www.raritanbayanglersfishingclub.com

JCAA NEWSPAPER DECEMBER 2023

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on November 26th, 2023)

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING

November 28th, 2023, 7:30pm

Jersey Coast Shark Anglers Building
385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick, NJ 08724

or via Zoom, for link contact:

tothjohn@verizon.net or mtsport64@aol.com

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 14th

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

Publisher Tom Fote, 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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2023 OFFICERS

President	Mark Taylor	732-245-9445
1st V.P.	Greg Kucharewski	732-429-9637
2nd V.P.	Don Marantz	908-347-1434
Treasurer	Doug Tegeder	732-575-2661
Rec. Sec.		
Cors. Sec.		
Mem. Sec.	John Toth	732-656-0139

Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

November 28th JCAA General Meeting

December 11th–14th Joint ASMFC/MAFMC Meeting

December 14th JCAA Board Meeting

December 26th No JCAA General Meeting at this time

January 11th JCAA Board Meeting

January 30th JCAA General Meeting & Elections

February 3rd George Poveromo's Saltwater

Sportsmen National Seminar Series

February 8th JCAA Board Meeting

February 27th JCAA General Meeting

February 28th–March 3rd Atlantic City Boat Show

March 14th JCAA Board Meeting

March 15th–17th Saltwater Expo

March 26th JCAA General Meeting

JCAA Sportsperson-of-the Year Dinner Recap

By Paul Haertel



President Mark Taylor presenting the Sportsperson of the Year Award to Paul Schell

On Veterans Day, November 11, 2023, the Jersey Coast Anglers Association held its annual Sportsperson of the Year Dinner at the Captain's Inn in Forked River. There were 115 attendees who enjoyed great camaraderie along with a fabulous dinner and plenty of prizes. Our Keynote speaker was John Toth who gave a moving account of how he survived 9/11. John was working on the 65th floor of

one of the towers when they were attacked. Honored guests were Paul Schell who received the Sportsperson of the Year Award as well as Paul and Joyce Lenzo who received our Youth Education Award. The reasons these outstanding individuals were chosen can be found in the write-ups that were submitted about them. Also, you may click on [this link](#) to view a brief video of the dinner:

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association has chosen Dr. Paul Schell to receive our 2023 Sportsperson of the Year Award. Paul was chosen to receive the award based on the following nomination which was submitted by the Fish Hawks Saltwater Anglers Club:

The Fish Hawks Saltwater Anglers Club proudly nominates Dr. Paul Schell for the 2023 Sportsperson of the Year Award. Dr. Schell's dedication and contributions to both the club and the community make him an exceptional candidate.

Dr. Schell serves as a vital member of our club's leadership, acting as a Board of Director and overseeing key initiatives. He manages the Rod and Reel Raffle, serves as an alternate Club Secretary for the Board of Directors Meetings, and co-chairs our annual Indoor Flea Market. His commitment to the club's success has been unwavering for many years.

Moreover, Dr. Schell's selfless service extends beyond the club. He has been a devoted member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 74 for over two decades, dedicating over 18 years to volunteering for Coast Guard boat safety inspections.

Dr. Schell's remarkable career as a Navy Commander and later as a Gynecologist in South Jersey spans a total of 49 years. His dedication to healing reflects his deep commitment to both country and community.

In addition to his military and medical service, Dr. Schell actively participates in outreach programs involving the military. Notably, he plays a vital role in the Youth Seminar, teaching veteran's children fishing techniques. He's also involved with "Ma Deuce Deuce" (Ma22), an advocacy organization raising awareness about the veteran suicide epidemic by organizing fishing outings for veterans, particularly handicapped ones.

Beyond these contributions, Dr. Schell played a pivotal role in founding the Pebble Beach Homeowner Association and has faithfully served on its Board of Directors for over two decades.

His dedication to community service also shines through his involvement with the St. Vincent De Paul food pantry at St. Mary's church in Barnegat. Dr. Schell's countless hours of volunteer work exemplify his commitment to helping those in need and supporting his church family. He also participates in the Right to Life Ministry, assists in establishing a local Catholic Pregnancy Center, and volunteers for the Addiction Ministry, aiding those battling drug, alcohol, and gambling addictions.

Furthermore, Dr. Schell's spiritual commitment is evident through his regular attendance at the Adoration Chapel in Barnegat, where he spends hours with God every Sunday evening.

In addition to his humanitarian efforts, Dr. Schell is an accomplished and highly skilled fisherman who competes in various tournaments. He consistently participates in fishing tournaments, showcasing his expertise in catching a variety of saltwater species, from Fluke to Stripers. Dr. Schell is known as the go-to person for fishing advice within the Fish Hawks Membership. He also enjoys crabbing and clamming in the backwaters of Barnegat Bay.

In summary, Dr. Paul Schell's outstanding contributions to the Fish Hawks Saltwater Anglers Club, his extensive military and medical service, dedication to community outreach, and exceptional fishing skills make him an exemplary candidate for the 2023 Sportsperson of the Year Award. His selflessness and commitment to various causes embody the true spirit of a community leader and sportsman.

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association has chosen both Paul and Joyce Lenzo to receive our 2023 Youth Education Award.



JCAA VP and Youth Education Chairman Don Marantz presenting the Youth Education Award to Paul and Joyce Lenzo

Paul and Joyce were chosen to receive the award based on the following nomination which was submitted by the Forked River Tuna Club:

The Forked River Tuna Club proudly nominates both Paul and Joyce Lenzo for the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's prestigious Youth Education Award.

To begin, Paul has been an avid hunter and fisherman for most of his life. During his younger days, he enjoyed playing a variety of sports. He swam for the Snyder High School team for 4 years, a period of time when the team won county and state championships. He played four years of basketball at Jersey City State College, during which time he helped coach a CYO team which played nationally. Many of the players he coached went on to have successful college and professional careers. Paul and Joyce would meet each other while both attended Jersey City State.

During her youth, Joyce was quite a singer and dancer, performing at New York World's Fair and Carnegie Hall as a professional Scottish Highland dancer. Joyce's love of the arts led her to organizing productions at church, including producing backdrops, costumes, and musical events. This is where she began to incorporate children into the productions. Joyce began teaching Sunday school at 17 years old. This devotion set her on a course to become an elementary school teacher for a career that lasted 35 years. Joyce was awarded recognition as Teacher of the Year. Her students were always encouraged to follow their own paths. Joyce included field trips to many places in New Jersey always expanding the children's horizons and learning about the natural environment. Joyce is active in her Presbyterian church, and has held many positions over the years, such as an elder, deacon, Sunday school teacher, and superintendent, as well as overseeing the youth choir, pageants, and as a senior choir member.

Once married, Paul and Joyce lived on West Point Island, as both taught in our local Toms River schools. Paul started a girls and boys swim team at Toms River South High School and both teams were very successful. He also coached intermediate school basketball. He would always encourage youths to get out and enjoy nature. Eventually Paul and Joyce moved to Forked River where they have lived for the last 50 years. Initially, Paul joined the Fish Hawks and later joined the Forked River Tuna Club. Joyce joined the Ladies club of the FRTC. Paul often went to the local high schools to encourage the development of

their fishing teams. He also organized surf fishing competitions and other tournaments. Joyce was a founding member of a tuna club tournament which is now known as the "Ladies' Catch of the Day Fishing Tournament. This tournament includes a special Mermaid category for girls 12 and under. Paul and Joyce began organizing other events at the tuna club such as how to hook'em and cook'em seminars, comedy nights, wine tasting, and the Crab Fest. The fishing tournaments, which have been successful for 30 years, along with the various other fundraising functions, have raised over \$80,000. This money has been used to fund scholarships for Ocean County High School seniors. In fact, this year, the FRTC awarded four \$2,000. scholarships to students of MATES (Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science). This academic school accepts high achieving students from every sending district in Ocean County. MATES students often go on to attend some of the most prestigious academies and universities in our country. It is hoped that one day, some of these students will be in a position to help us with fishery and environmental issues.

This special couple and their family also donate to local food banks and other organizations. Paul and Joyce are blessed with each other as well as their three wonderful children and their families including three beautiful grandchildren.

Now, may we all join in in congratulating Paul and Joyce Lenzo as they receive the most deserved 2023 JCAA Youth Education Award!

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

As the year of 2023 comes to an end so does my presidency. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday season. The consensus of club representatives at the November General Membership Meeting that there will be no December General Membership Meeting held this year due to the date it falls on. The next General Membership Meeting will be January 30th. The January General Membership Meeting will be election night for 2024 officers. In order to vote your new officers it requires your attendance for a quorum. We are looking for dedicated individuals who are looking to get more involved and willing to fill one of the officers'

positions on the board. If you're interested, please contact me at 732-245-9445.

This year's JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner was held on November 11th at the Captains Inn in Forked River. Those that attended had a great time. I would like to thank Chairperson Paul Haertel and his committee for doing an outstanding job making this event a success. Thanks to all the people and sponsors that donated. Congratulations to the recipients that were honored. Read Paul's article for further details of this amazing event.

This is the time of the year that there are great bargains on all types of fishing and boating items that we all use throughout the yearly fishing season. First check out your local tackle shops. They are there all year making sure you have what you need to enjoy what you love. Also check out those that sponsor and support the recreational community at different events. Without all their support we wouldn't have what we need to enjoy Recreational Fishing.

At the October General Membership Meeting there was a motion to pause the current Wind Turbines projects until questions of concern from our clubs were answered. The motion was voted on and passed by the club representatives. This has changed the position that JCAA had in the past. John Toth has an article in this newsletter on this.

On Sunday November 5th, Membership Secretary John Toth and myself were invited by Marty Brooks President of Schuyler Tuna Fishing Club to give a presentation. We were well received and provided them with answers to their questions. I believe this club benefited from our presentation and will be getting more involved. It was a pleasure being invited and well received.

I sent email notification out to all club representatives about the new proposed 2024 regulations of the Striped Bass for Addendum II to Amendment VII. Some of you attended the recent online meeting, make sure you get your comments in before the deadline. There is still time to review the documents and get involved. Read more about this in Paul Haertel's article in this newsletter.

Here is information about another meeting that you should get the information about and participate in. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will meet **Tuesday, December 12 – Thursday, December 14, 2023**, at The Notary Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (21 N. Juniper Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107; 215-496-3200) and via webinar. Portions of the meeting will be conducted

jointly with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board and Interstate Fishery Management Program Policy Board. Please see the [December 2023 Council Meeting Page](#) for webinar details, briefing materials (as they become available), and other updates.

Public Comments: Public comments will be accepted from in-person and remote participants on all major agenda items. Written comments can be submitted through the comment portal or by email to cmoore@mafmc.org. The deadline for comments to be included in the briefing book is 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 29, 2023. Comments submitted after this deadline and before 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2023, will be posted as supplemental materials on the meeting page. After the supplemental comment deadline, comments may only be submitted via the comment form (no email).

Two months have gone by since I mentioned the upcoming shows that JCAA will have a booth at in 2024. Atlantic City Boat Show February 28th to March 3rd and Saltwater Fishing Expo March 15th to 17th. I have received some volunteers but still need more to fill in open time slots at both shows. It is very important that JCAA is present at these shows and other events to talk to people and inform them who is JCAA and about also what is happening in fisheries. We always staff our booth with volunteers. If you are interested in being one of those volunteers let me know. I put the volunteer work list together and always I try to split the day into two shifts with three volunteers on each shift. I would need to have your name, date, shift, email, and cell if you plan on volunteering. You can contact me by phone, text, email or at one of the JCAA Meetings. I would like to have this list completed before the December meeting. I will be sending out a copy of the work list with the November 28th General Membership Meeting Agenda for you to find where you can volunteer.

*Get Involved, unite as a community so the future of recreational fishing as we know it will not be gone.
Have a great holiday season!*

Important Information: The next meeting is scheduled for January 30th at 7:30pm and will be held in person at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724. (Hybrid Meeting)

JCAA Votes to Pause on Windmill Development

By John Toth

At the JCAA's October 31st General Membership meeting, club representatives voted overwhelmingly that offshore windmills should have a **"Pause"** on their development until questions on key issues can be satisfactorily answered. Some of these questions include: the electromagnetic effects given off from the cables, noise levels created by vibrating windmills over 800 feet high and blades over 300 feet long that may have a negative impact on whales, Cold Pool, death of birds and bats and what would be the electric bill for the average household with windmills that need subsidies. The overall **major concern** is that the windmills are on a fast track to go up without the environmental review needed to ensure that they do not harm our environment and especially our fisheries.

During the night of this October 31st meeting, we also learned of the stunning news that the developer, Orsted, announced that it is stopping all work on two of its offshore wind farms near Ocean City. Orsted pulled out of its windmill projects due to inflation, high labor costs, and supply chain problems. These same issues will affect other windmill developers and how this affects their ability to continue with their windmill projects remains to be seen.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Tom Fote

Atlantic Striped Bass Board Draft Addendum II Public Hearing Date Set for December 5th

We now have the date for New Jersey's in-person Striped Bass hearing. The in-person hearing will be held on **December 5th, 6-8pm at the Stafford Township Municipal Building** (260 East Bay Avenue, Manahawkin, NJ). I hope we will have a big turnout to let the ASMFC & New Jersey know our displeasure with this Addendum. Paul Haertel has included his thoughts on the proposed options, and we will be voting on a position at the upcoming JCAA

General Meeting on Tuesday, November 28th. Below I will give you my thoughts on this addendum. I do not support any of the proposed options.

Tom Fote's Thoughts on Addendum II

I attended NJ's virtual striped bass hearing on November 15th. There was not a lot of support for what ASMFC is doing with striped bass. I did not comment on the options then and I will not comment on them now since they are totally unacceptable. I think we should go back to 28 – 35 but that is not listed as an option. Here are the reasons why:

1. I am still a member of MAFAC, and I attended their meeting virtually. The three executive directors of the three commissions always give a report. Bob Beal gave his report for ASMFC to describe what is being done with striped bass. He stated the reductions are being proposed because of a lack of recruitment. One of the MAFAC committee members asked if the spawning stock biomass is really having an impact on recruitment. Bob responded as I would have responded that it is not the size of the spawning stock biomass but environmental conditions that are having a negative impact on the recruitment. That is what I have been saying for years. Any manager on ASMFC knows that. But in order to placate the people who believe "the sky is falling" the managers continue to restrict the recreational catch.
2. The commissioners stated they want to protect the 2015-year class, but they did just the opposite. Again, history tells us what they should have been done was the same thing we did when we rebuilt the stocks in the 80's and 90's. At that time, we had a great year class coming up and we were counting on that year class to rebuild the stock. What we did was raise the size limit to keep protecting that specific year class from being harvested. During that time, I represented JCAA and testified in the NJ Legislature as they changed the striped bass regulations in order to meet the new requirements. In increments of 2 inches we went from 28 inches to 36 inches to make sure 95% of the females in that year class reached sexual maturity. The last two addendums have targeted the 2015 years class they claim to be protecting. If we were doing this right, we would have kept raising the recreational size limit to 36

inches or above to stop harvest a that year class. The commercial fishery should be at the same high level. That is not what we have been doing. Why have we not learned from experience?

3. What is proposed in this addendum by having separate size limits for party and charter boats and leaving the remains of the recreational community to fish on a much smaller slot. This is really an environmental justice issue. If NMFS was managing this fishery, they would be required to consider environmental justice. That would clearly consider to eliminate this option. The reason this is different from what was done with bluefish is NMFS and ASMFC allowed for the harvesting of the same size fish, just a different bag limit. This proposed regulation limits the opportunity for many anglers to catch even one fish to keep for food. ASMFC is telling us if you are poor and cannot afford to fish on a party boat, you are just out of luck. What this also does if this pits the party and charter boats against other recreational anglers and keeps us from working together. I have watched states do this and I have watched NMFS do this and I have always opposed this possibility. NJ has always opposed this type of regulation. This will also hurt the recreational fishing industry in NJ in tackle stores, private marinas, and tourism. This option will keep anglers from spending money to fish from the surf or private boats. This is against NJ law. The Governor and our Legislature has confirmed their commitment to regulations that consider environmental justice. We should consider suing if this comes to pass.
4. Years ago, when the striped bass board was meeting on Amendment 5, Bruce Freeman and I had to leave the meeting early to catch an 8 PM flight. When we left, the NY delegation proposed to eliminate the Delaware River and the Hudson River as producing areas. NJ was not consulted. Virginia, Maryland, and Potomac River all agreed. This was also supported by other states that did not want specific regulations on their producing areas. This change only restricted NJ, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York. Since New York didn't have a commercial fishery in the Hudson River due to PCBs, this served their needs as well. NJ realized we were being disadvantaged and we tried to make the change at the next board meeting and put Delaware and Hudson Rivers

back as producing areas. Because we were trying to reverse a position taken at a previous meeting, we would need a 2/3 vote. We were unable to get that since many other states were advantaged by the earlier decision. New Jersey never proposed to manage the producing areas differently than the ocean. But we wanted to have credit for what we were producing. This had an interesting impact on how we allocated the 25% of the coastal fishery to the producing areas.

5. How do we allocate the ocean striped bass fisheries? The states that fish in ocean waters get 75% of the quota of the migratory stock since the mature striped bass spend 25% of their time in the producing areas and the rest in the ocean. When the addendum was passed to eliminate the Delaware and Hudson Rivers as producing areas, the Chesapeake Bay producing areas go the entire 25% for their use. That was many years ago when we were estimating that 75% of the coastal migratory stocks were coming from the Chesapeake and only 25% from the other producing areas. The Delaware River just started recuperating from the oxygen block from Camden and Philadelphia sewer systems. The stocks in the Delaware River have risen significantly. The Hudson River has always been a good producing area and has not seen the recruitment problems the Chesapeake Bay is currently experiencing. Tagging studies in the last 10 years have shown that at least 40% of the coastal migratory stock is coming from areas other than the Chesapeake Bay. We can use DNA from the Hudson River stock to prove where certain fish come from. Because of the canal between Delaware and Maryland, there is a greater mixing of stocks. If you contribute less, you should get less.
6. Because of climate change and other conditions in the Chesapeake Bay, I think other areas are producing a greater percentage of the striped bass. Because of the warming of the water, this may continue to increase. I have been waiting to see what happens to the stocks in the Kennebeck River since that has always been considered a producing area. It is also interesting to see if Connecticut's waters are becoming producing areas. We know that Canada is having a problem with wild Atlantic Salmon being eaten by striped bass and that may indicate more production further north. We need to do the research to find out what

is happening with the coastal migratory stocks and not just continue to see the Chesapeake as the only producing area. At the last striped bass board meeting I attended as a commissioner, I requested we include Delaware and Hudson Rivers as producing areas. I wasn't a commissioner at the August meeting and I didn't attend because of health problems. There was no one there to champion that cause. Why am I not surprised.

7. One of the biggest problems we are having with striped bass is hook-and-release mortality. It has been as high as 51% of the overall mortality including both the commercial and recreational fisheries. Nowhere in this addendum does it address this issue. Could it be that the catch and release anglers are dead set against even discussing this issue? I found it extremely interesting that a release by Stripers Forever included this quote, Striper Forever Action release on 11/15/23: To be honest, we still believe that an equitable (commercial and recreational) harvest moratorium is the most efficient and full proof way to rebuild the Striped Bass stock to abundance. Why was I not surprised? I helped start Stripers Forever and was the first vice president. After a few years I resigned because they were becoming elitist, just wanting catch and release and not considering subsistence fishermen. The catch and release guys know they have been able to stop seasons being put in and they continue to fish even if there is a moratorium. They will say they are fishing for bluefish or another species with their light tackle and causing the same catch-and-release mortality. They are selfish and don't care about the rest of the community. They have no regard for subsistence fishermen and everyday anglers who just want to take home a fish for dinner. They want to privatize a catch-and-release fishery for their enjoyment while eliminating everyone else. Years ago, at a meeting with a number of environmental groups, as we were introducing ourselves, the ASA representative stated that there were 40 million anglers in the United States. One of the representatives from an environmental group stated we had so many recreational anglers was because the United States is a rich country. When I had a chance, I said the reason we have 40 million anglers is not because we are rich but because the fish do not belong to the royalty or the wealthy. The fish belong to the

public. The catch and release anglers seem to have forgotten that.

In closing, on paper this addendum looks like it will accomplish something but in reality, it will just make things worse. It will needlessly penalize both the commercial and recreational fisheries without protecting the long-term health of the striped bass stocks. I can't believe we strayed this far from the original plan.

What we should do about the Upcoming Joint ASMFC & MAFMC Meeting December 12th-14th

We now have exact days during MAFMC meeting week that the Joint Meeting will take place to set the recreational limits on Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass and Scup. This meeting will take place **December 12th through December 14th at the Notary Hotel** in Philadelphia (21 North Juniper Street). It will be an in-person meeting with a virtual option. Council members, other meeting participants, and members of the public will have the option to participate **in person at The Notary Hotel or virtually via Webex webinar**. Webinar connection instructions and briefing materials are available at [this link](#). The final agenda can be found at [this link](#).

I am not expecting any good news and no relaxing of the regulations. I will be attending the two days of meetings for JCAA. Below are my comments from last month's JCAA Newspaper. If you cannot make the meeting, you can attend online. If you can make the meeting, please use our voice. Don't just listen. Let them know your displeasure with how they are regulating these species. We should remind them of our thoughts and concerns on how ASMFC & MAFMC are destroying the recreational industry for summer flounder, black sea bass and scup.

1. These regulations have not improved recruitment and just do not work since even after peer review stock assessments for summer flounder has stated the low requirement have nothing to do with size of spawning biomass since it much higher than need to produce great recruitment it is not happening. You think the managers would realize they need to do something different like what I put forward below.
2. They don't produce the results that modelers say that models will. The computer simulation models are only as good as the information they use, and

we do not spend the money needed to get accurate information. Computer simulation modeling only works when models have accurate data that does not continually change.

3. After more the 15 years we have not seen a relaxing of regulations. It does not help that all these years of tweaking with recreational surveys and models for recreational data gathering has not solved the problem. The data collection is still not trusted and reliable. It continues to either overestimate or underestimate recreational catches. This causes the recreational anglers to lose quota when adjustments are made and face more reductions. Look what happened in the Gulf of Mexico when Congress appropriated the necessary funds to do a in depth study of the number of red snappers there. They discovered that NMFS was greatly underestimating the size of stock. Spend the money and get better information.
4. The biggest problem is that Congress and the Administration did not give NMFS the fifty million dollars requested in 2007 in order to correct these problems. We need to spend the money to get better recreational data.

Even when the data shows that the recreational quota should be increased, the overwhelming commercial makeup of MAFMC and ASMFC Boards keep it from happening. A couple of years ago the Council and Commission were supposed to do quota adjustment that invested couple of years to compile the data. Even then when they got the necessary information, they did almost no quota transfers.

Summer flounder is the perfect example of the problem. Just look at this year's regulations and next year is going to be worse for summer flounder. The MAFMC and ASMFC reviewed the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) recommendations using both approaches and ultimately selected the constant approach, resulting in an ABC of 19.32 million pounds for both years. ***This represents a 42% decrease compared to the 2023 ABC.*** The reasons given were:

Summer Flounder 2024-2025 Specifications The 2023 management track assessment indicated that the summer flounder stock was not overfished but overfishing was occurring in 2022. While the overfishing limit has not been exceeded in recent

years, it appears the projections associated with the previous assessment were overly optimistic. The assessment has been slightly underestimating fishing mortality and overestimating stock biomass, the effect of which was compounded by adding three years of data to the assessment model (2020-2022). In addition, stock recruitment has been below average since 2011 and the high estimate of 2018 recruitment in the last assessment was revised downward to recent below-average levels with the new assessment results.

Again, changing the data and model information has yearly consequences. How many more times can we raise the size limit, cut the bag limits and shorten the season to increase the spawning stock biomass to getting an increase recruitment when it has not worked. This has not had any effect on increasing recruitment since MAFMC and ASMFC went down this road.

Just the opposite has taken place. They do not pay attention to their own stock assessment reports that state over years that the size of the spawning stock mass is not the problem with recruitment. The Board and the Council just keep putting more and more restrictive management in place, killing both the recreational and the commercial fishing industry. They keep denying recreational anglers fishing opportunities from stocks that have grown. The Council and Board should refuse to keep doing this at the direction NOAA through the NMFS. If this was business and managers kept making the same mistake repeatedly, they would have been fired. Halibut, a flat fish on the west coast, was having the same problem and scientists told the manager to try fishing the spawning stock down and see what happens since it might have reached a bell shape curve. It was a novel idea and took a couple of years to convince the managers to give it a try but since what they were doing was not working, they did. **Low and Behold it Worked!!** We know the effects of climate change and pollution on the environment are causing significant problems with every species so NMFS needs to start thinking outside the box if the recreational and commercial industries are going to survive.

[Click here](#) to see the Summary of the August Joint Meeting. Presentations, briefing materials, motions, and webinar recordings from the Council's August Meeting are available at [this link](#).

New Striped Bass Regulations on the Horizon

Addendum II to Amendment VII

By Paul Haertel

New striped bass regulations are on the horizon as the ASMFC intends to take action in an attempt to restore our striper stocks by 2029. Though our 2022 regulations are listed as an option, I believe that there is no chance of the ASMFC allowing that. It is through their mismanagement of the species that we are in the position we are now in. Had they listened to JCAA and the vast majority of fishermen up and down the coast when they were considering Amendment VII, we would have had a minimum size limit of 35" or so which would have protected the abundant 2015-year class. Raising the size limits was the strategy that worked well in the past. What happened is that the 2015-year class grew to legal size and removals from the biomass dramatically increased in 2022 due to both harvest and C&R mortality. That lowered the probability of restoring the stocks by 2029 to just 15%. There are many other factors in play now as well such as pollution, blue catfish taking over Chesapeake Bay, lack of menhaden and weather patterns that have not been conducive to successful spawns in the Chesapeake for the last 5 years. Unfortunately, ASMFC has little or no control over these things so they can only attempt to restore the stocks by further restricting commercial and recreational fishermen. There are two links below that will further explain the options we have. One is the complete addendum and the other is a slide presentation which may make it a little easier to follow. Both links have instructions as to how you may give your input. All comments must be submitted by 12/22/23. JCAA clubs will discuss the addendum and form a position on it at our November meeting. Below is my personal opinion on the various options which is just a guide. Feel free to disagree if you like. There is much more that I will probably include in my personal comments to the ASMFC. There may be a number of things each individual or club would like to add to their comments as well, but for now I'm going to stick to just the options that are included in the addendum.

Section 3.1-1 Ocean Recreational Fishing Options

I favor option B, a slot of 28" – 31" rather than Option D which is 30"-33". It is a tough choice between the two, but I believe it gives shore-based anglers a little better chance of catching a fish that they can bring home to eat. Also, the 30"-33" fish are reaching prime breeding size. I don't like options C or E as they give a wider ranged slot to the for-hire sector. I'm adamantly opposed to sector separation but if anything, more lenient regulations should be for shore-based anglers who fish for sustenance and can't afford to go on a boat. What happened to the Environmental Justice that NOAA had been talking about?

Section 3.1.2 Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery Options

I prefer Option B1 which includes a slot of 19"-23" fish for all bay jurisdictions. Options B2, 3, and 4 all have wider slot ranged. It is imperative that we try to protect these smaller fish particularly from the last two decent spawning year classes in 2017 and 2018. I do not like option C1 or C2 because once again they create sector separation by giving a wider ranged slot to the for-hire fleet.

Section 3.1.3 For Hire Management Clarification

I prefer Option B. In the unfortunate event that sector separation is chosen the measures should only apply to the patrons. The captains and crews should be restricted to the private vessel/shore-based regulations.

Section 3.1.4 Recreational Filleting Allowance Requirements

I prefer option B which will require states that authorize filleting at sea to establish minimum requirements such as saving racks and leaving the skin on.

Section 3.2.1 Commercial Quota Reductions

In my opinion striped bass should be a no-sale or gamefish in all states. It is unfathomable that the ASMFC allows commercial fishing while the recreational sector is limited to a 3" slot. It is also disgraceful that the ASMFC allows the commercial hook and line boat fishermen in MA to harvest 15 stripers per day with a minimum size of 35". Much of the 2015-year class is now approaching that size and you are supposed to be protecting them! However, since these changes are not currently options, I prefer option B with a quota reduction of 14.5%.

Section 3.3 Response to Stock Assessment Updates

I prefer Option B which would allow the Board to swiftly respond to stock assessments without having to go through the more time-consuming Amendment or Addendum process. However, this should work not only for when the assessments call for more restrictive measures but also when measures may be liberalized.

You can find additional info on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 7 in the following documents:

- [Draft Document for Public Comment](#)
- [Public Hearing Slides](#)

Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series Returns to Atlantic City

Series Presented by Bass Pro Shops & Mako Boats

After three years of televised seminars due to COVID, the Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series returns to the road in 2024 - and to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Saturday, February 3. Hosting the 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. event will be **George Poveromo**, Host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on Discovery. **Nick Honachefsky**, a noted writer, author, TV personality and New Jersey fishing authority, will co-host. Joining Poveromo and Honachefsky in Atlantic City will be:

- **Matt Upton** – Renowned authority on how to use ocean-circulation features and water surface temperature breaks to catch more fish, with Rof's Fishing Forecasting Analysis!
- **Captain Kyle Chudzinski** - Noted deep-dropping specialist for trophy class Golden tilefish and cod, and an accomplished trophy fluke and seabass pro!
- **Captain Mike Villanova** - Renowned Waretown-based specialist at catching tautog, striped bass and fluke, with No Limits Sportfishing!
- **Captain Tom Frey** - Noted authority on fishing New Jersey's offshore waters for tunas, marlin and swordfish, aboard the Dialed In!
- **Sloane Endick** – Authority on fishing the jetties and surf for fluke, tautog, and striped bass!
- **Captain Tom Daffin** – Premier trophy striped bass, fluke, wreck and offshore fishing authority, with Fishin' Fever Sportfishing!

- **Captain Steve Purul** - Barnegat Light-based pro specializing in fishing the back bays and inshore waters for striped bass, fluke and weakfish and coastal waters for tautog, seabass and tuna, with Reel Fantasea Charters!
- **Harry Vernon III** – Premier South Florida-based offshore trolling, live-baiting and bottom fishing pro!
- **Captain Al Crudele III** - Veteran South Jersey light-tackle fishing specialist, with Bayhound Charters!
- **Captain Alan Wenzel** - South Florida-based authority on deep-drop bottom-fishing and offshore trolling!

"The National Seminar Series has become the nation's longest running and most popular educational course on recreational marine angling tactics and techniques," says Poveromo. "This is year number 37 for the tour. The backbone to its success has always been the vast amount of cutting edge and pertinent how-to information on catching more and bigger game fish within the waters of the respective Seminar Series stop. This information is explained in great detail by some of the very best saltwater anglers, and each session is backed by elaborate visuals that include video bytes, technical- and action-oriented images and on-stage demonstrations. One can't help but to walk away from the seminar with numerous new tricks and techniques, regardless of their experience level".

Courses for the February 3 seminar will encompass the how-tos and where-tos of catching the regions inshore, near shore and offshore saltwater game fish. The Seminar Series kicks off at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude by 3:00 p.m., with a one-hour break at noon. Considered to be the best bargain in sportfishing, a seminar series ticket is only \$65.00.

The ticket price covers five hours of instruction from the best pros in the business, a course textbook, a one-year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman, one Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, Star Brite boat care products, bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, a \$10.00 discount card off any purchase of \$75.00 or more from Bass Pro Shops and chances to win thousands of dollars' worth in door prizes! The grand prize at the conclusion of the New Jersey seminar is a Florida Keys fishing trip with one of several premier Florida Keys guides. The super grand prize, to be awarded two weeks after the

conclusion of the 2024 series, is a new Mako Pro Skiff 17 cc!

At the conclusion of the seminar, an After Seminar Party will be held inside the Bass Pro Shops in Atlantic City. Beginning at 4:00 p.m. and concluding at 7:00 p.m., seminar participants and a guest of their choice can enjoy socializing with many of the seminar faculty, Poveromo included. There will be complimentary food, soft drinks and music. A cash bar will be on hand.

How to Register – To register, purchase tickets, or learn more about the seminar, please visit the site at www.nationalseminarseries.com.

About the Salt Water Sportsman's National Seminar Series: In its 37th year, the Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series is the nation's longest running and most popular educational seminar on recreational marine angling. Featuring George Poveromo, SWS's Editor-At-Large, and Host of "George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing" on the Discovery Channel, Poveromo will take the stage at each location, along with teams comprised of Salt Water Sportsman editors, nationally-recognized anglers and some of the region's top guides. Their job: Cover in explicit detail the how-tos and where-tos of catching the most popular game fish within a specific Seminar Series region, along with the latest rigging and fishing techniques.

NJ's New Personal Floatation Device Regulation

By Paul Haertel

As most of you probably know by now, New Jersey has a new regulation pertaining to the wearing of personal flotation devices which was set by administrative code as shown below:

N.J.A.C. 13:82-1.4 Personal flotation devices (f) No owner or operator of a recreational vessel less than 26 feet, including rowboats, canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards shall permit its operation between November 1st and May 1st, unless each person on board such vessel is wearing a securely fastened United States Coast Guard-approved wearable personal flotation device of an appropriate size while such vessel is underway. A person inside

the cabin of a cabin vessel shall be exempt from this requirement.

However, there were a couple questions that came up regarding the new law. One was how is underway defined. Many people believe that to mean when the boat is under engine power or sail. That is not the case though, as underway is defined as a vessel not at anchor, aground or made fast to land. That means that a boat drifting or even being held in place by a trolling motor is considered to be under way.

Another question was how a recreational vessel is defined and whether or not the regulation applies to the for-hire sector. A recreational vessel is defined as a vessel being manufactured or operated primarily for pleasure or leased, rented or chartered for another for the latter's pleasure. So yes, the new law does apply to the for-hire fleet as well.

The last question I received was whether or not this new law applies to federal waters as well. The answer is no, it does not. It is a New Jersey regulation which applies to all waters within our state. However, there are separate regulations in Federal waters. One in particular states that "On a vessel that is underway, children under 13 years of age must wear an appropriate U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket unless they are: Below deck or within an enclosed cabin". You may read more about both state and federal regulations as well as safety in the boating guides listed below by clicking on the following links:

- [2022 NJSP Boat Safety Manual](#)
- [Federal Requirements for Recreational Boats](#)

The Captain for Wind Turbines and Whales

*by Amy S. Rosenberg, The Philadelphia Enquirer,
October 26, 2023*

Is Capt. Paul Eidman the last fisherman in favor of wind energy? Sometimes it feels that way.

Aboard the Jersey Girl off Point Pleasant Beach — The whale showed its humpback first, then its tail flukes in a graceful, low-key exhilarating loop-de-loop through the ocean's light chop.

On board the Belmar-based whale-watching boat on Friday the 13th, naturalist Danielle Brown knew those flukes immediately.

“This is a new addition for this year,” she announced on the mic from her perch in the Jersey Girl captain’s wheelhouse. “This is number 332 in the Gotham Whale Catalog.”

Brown, a Rutgers Ph.D. student who has also participated in the necropsies of some of the 50 whales that have washed up on Jersey beaches since last December, was quick to ID the whale as NYC0332 by the fingerprint-like black-and-white pattern that features a mark resembling a handwritten capital E.



A close view of the tail flukes of whale NYC0332 in the Gotham Whale Catalog, identified by the "E" on the left fluke by Danielle Brown, a naturalist and Rutgers University Ph.D. student aboard the Jersey Girl whale-watching boat. Photo: Danielle Brown/Gotham Whale

A view of tail flukes of a humpback whale off the coast of the Jersey Shore.

The whale, she said, is a recently weaned humpback, less than 30 feet long. Like their human teen counterparts in Jersey Shore beach towns this summer these juveniles like to hang around the Shore without their parents.

Charter boat Capt. Paul Eidman, 63, had a big smile on his face. He’d been smiling since the boat left the Belmar Marina, where he’d stood waiting with something approaching a scowl.

The ocean is where he lights up.

“That’s it,” Eidman says as No. 332 showed its telltale flukes.

Then, in a conspiratorial pirate-y voice, he adds with a hearty laugh, “Wait all day for a good fluke.”

He wants you to know these whales are all right. Look at them: There’s hundreds of them, a recovery he partially credits to the resurgence of the Atlantic menhaden, the species of herring found in Atlantic coastal waters, also known as “bunker.” The whales rely on bunker for food.



Captain Paul Eidman says If wind energy projects were harming whales, he would be right there with the people holding hands on the beach in protest. Photo: Tyger Williams / Staff Photographer

He knows the “antis” — those opposed to New Jersey’s planned ocean wind turbines — have tried to link the whale deaths to preconstruction sonar mapping conducted by wind energy companies Ørsted and Atlantic Shores. These companies are planning wind farms that will place hundreds of turbines in the ocean off Jersey’s coastal communities.

Eidman says he has been looking the whales in the eye for more than a decade and following the science. If wind energy projects were harming them, he would be right there with the people holding hands on the beach in protest, getting arrested in Ocean City.

Eidman wants you to know that wind energy is what will save the whales from the effects of climate change, not harm them. But is anyone listening?

‘I lost everybody’

Eidman is watching one of the whales push its way through the plankton. He says, “On four different occasions, I’ve had them come close to my boat and turn sideways and look literally into my eyes.”

Eidman supports Anglers for Offshore Wind and is the founder of Menhaden Defenders, a group active in the successful quest to bring back the bunker.

A self-described unicorn in the tangle of whales and wind, Eidman is a light tackle recreational fishing charter boat captain — his boat is the “Reel Therapy” — and a longtime advocate for wind energy. He’s been for wind energy since the Jersey Shore’s now-anti-wind congressman Jeff Van Drew was also for it.

Van Drew is now one of the numerous elected officials and residents fighting the wind farms with news conferences, resolutions, lawsuits, protests, lawn signs, and the old lit-up message board posted on causeways of Cape May County beach towns. Van

Drew's signature red signs against wind energy dot the front lawns of coastal towns.

Cape May County has filed lawsuits to stop the project, and members of Protect Our Coast New Jersey have gotten arrested in Ocean City trying to stop Ørsted from working on onshore construction linked to the farms.

Members of Defend Brigantine Beach filled a council room in Atlantic City this summer and shouted down pro-wind energy speakers, including Caren Fitzpatrick, an Atlantic County commissioner now running for the state Senate, and staff for the League of Conservation Voters. LCV campaigns director James Thompson, who is Black, described the heckling as having "racist and intimidating undertones," in a widely distributed email.

Robin Shaffer, a spokesperson for Protect Our Coast New Jersey and also a Moms for Liberty-endorsed member of the Ocean City School Board — a confluence of two issues that are also dominating New Jersey state and local elections this fall — has been critical of media coverage of the turbines.

But he says he accepts the possibility that the whale deaths are not related as "the necropsies are not able to show definitively whether any of the noises that the whales were exposed to damaged their ability to echolocate or hear sound in the ocean." His group has also gotten traction stressing the aesthetic impact of the turbines, to be located between 10 and 20 miles from the coast, and predicting the coastal economy would suffer.

In the midst of this relentlessly noisy fight against wind turbines, Eidman has held fast. But he's increasingly alone.

"We had five years of support, then all of a sudden this became politicized," Eidman said. "A lot of the fishermen are conservative. I have plenty of Republican friends. Some are more aggravated than others. The knee-jerk, red-hat far-right-wing types are prevalent in fishing. I lost everybody. Everybody's gone. Now everybody hates me."

Whale boat politics

Eidman says you can smell the whale before you see it. "It smells really bad," he said. "It comes out like steam out of the side of their mouth. It's enough to melt your eyebrows, clean off your face."

Again, he lets out a big laugh.

"Total bunker breath, you know?"

Whales are now so common in New Jersey that the whale-watching industry has expanded. A staple in Cape May, boats with reliable whale sightings are now hosted out of the more northern Belmar Marina.

Bill McKim, owner of the Jersey Girl, says he has been pegged as the pro-wind energy whale boat owner. Other boats, like the nearby Miss Belmar, are known for their anti-turbine talk.

"I am concerned about global warming, rising sea levels," McKim says. "That's the front line of the whole issue. It bothers me to see people use these beautiful creatures to advance something they haven't proven."

McKim notes the Navy has been using higher-powered sonar in the region for much longer than the wind companies. He wants to talk about the speeds of the ferryboats that leave Atlantic Highlands to take executives to Wall Street. Slowing down boat speeds hasn't gotten the same traction as stopping wind turbines.

In Cape May, the Whale Watcher's Capt. Jeff Stewart also isn't convinced sonar work led to the whale deaths — he points out humpbacks are generally thought not to use echolocation, so any interference from sonar would not affect their ability to navigate the waters — but he nonetheless has serious concerns about the turbine projects.

"We are for the whales, against entanglements and against industrialization of the ocean," he said. "And not just windmills. That's beach replenishment. Oil rigs. I'm against them too. This whole idea that we can do whatever we want with the ocean, I'm against that."

"You're building permanent structures where they haven't been before," Stewart added. "They're in the path of where we regularly see whales. I don't see how that cannot have an impact."

The erosion of support for the wind energy farms can be seen on McKim's own boat — at the helm of the Jersey Girl on this day is the Hummer-driving Capt. Charlie Van Der Linde. He's a fossil fuel loyalist — those mega yachts he also captains burn upward of a thousand gallons of fuel an hour. (The Jersey Girl only goes through 25 to 50 gallons an hour.)

Van Der Linde has no doubt the turbines will be visible from the Shore. As he walks among the boat's whale-watching customers, he says, knowingly, "If you look straight ahead, you'll see the high-rises in Asbury. That's 18 miles. Think you'll see those windmills?"

‘The antis’

Eidman thinks it’s obvious and fact-based: Wind energy will save, not harm, the whales and, long term, will preserve the ocean ecosystem for whales, dolphins, and humans to enjoy.

“The ocean is dying in front of our eyes,” he says. “Do I want to see steel in the water? Not really. But it’s the fastest way for us to get renewables enough to feed the system.

“I’ve talked to protected species observers on board these vessels; these whales, turtles come right up to the sonar,” he said. “They’re curious. They make it sound like the sonar is not only breaking the shells of a turtle, they’re driving the whales crazy and thrusting themselves up out of the water onto a ship. It’s preposterous.”

Still, he has watched as members of his Anglers for Offshore Wind were peeled away one by one, succumbing to the noisy rhetoric, the reports of dead whales, the activities of groups who say they’re trying to save them, some of whom, like the Save Right Whales Coalition, are funded by fossil fuel interests.

A recent Stockton University poll showed plummeting support for wind turbines, from 80% of New Jersey residents in favor down to 50%. In Shore towns, support is down to 33%.

The claims come despite data showing most whale strandings and deaths_ _that can be determined are caused by vessel strikes and entanglement with fishing gear. Though the groups call for all offshore wind activity to cease until further studies are conducted, they make no such calls for cargo ships or fishing vessels.

In September, the Save Right Whales Coalition New Jersey hosted a press boat tour of its own, nine miles off the coast of Belmar, to demonstrate what it said would be the impact of offshore wind on the Shore, marine mammals, commercial shipping, and commercial and recreational fishing.

The Save Right Whales Coalition was cofounded by Lisa Linowes, a senior fellow at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, an Austin-based conservative think tank that’s anti-wind and pro-fossil fuel. In 2021, its last public filing for its nonprofit status, the foundation reported \$25.6 million in contributions. SourceWatch.org and others have detailed multiple fossil fuel-aligned entities as among the donors.

Eidman acknowledges the “antis,” as he calls them, have the momentum.

“We blew it,” Eidman says. “We’re not out there screaming like they are. Those people wake up angry. They’re protesting, getting press.”

All tied together

“I started doing this before the whales were even here,” Eidman said, of his advocacy for wind energy. “In 2010, we had five whales in our catalog. Now we have 300. We’ve only seen a handful that were more than 40 feet. The older ones go down to the Bahamas, hang out, have sex, whatever they’re doing. The younger ones are staying here. That’s climate change.”

He dismisses claims that the wind turbines will hurt the coastal economy.

“A healthier ecosystem is better for the economy, better for fishing, better for birding,” he says. “It’s all tied together. People don’t get that interconnection.”

New Office Needed for JCAA

By Don Marantz

The lease for the JCAA office will expire at the end of this year. Since we are no longer printing hard copies of our newsletter, we are seeking to downsize somewhat. We are still looking for an office from about 600 – 800 square feet somewhere in the Toms River area. We are hopeful that someone might want to donate the office to us or be willing to lease it at a reasonable rate. JCAA is a charitable 501(c)(3) organization, so a donation would be tax deductible. If you know of an office that might be available, please **contact Don Marantz at (908) 347-1434.**

JCAA Membership Report

By John Toth

We have received a number of checks for JCAA membership from the: Seaside Heights Fishing Club, the Fish Hawks, Surf Kings Fishing Club, the Beach Buggy Fishing Club (NJBBA) and the Hudson River Fishermen’s Association (HRFA) Bay Head Shores, Delaware River Shad Fishermen’s Association, Newark Bait & Fly Casting Club, Berkley Striper Club, NJ Shark Anglers Club, the Hi-Mar Striper Club with a \$500 Sponsorship, Saltwater

Anglers of Bergen County, Bradley Beach Surf Casters, Barrington Rod & Gun Club, Jersey Coast Shark Anglers, Forked River Tuna Club, Manasquan Fishing Club with a \$250 Sponsorship, and Sandy Hook Bay Anglers with a \$500 Sponsorship, the Bayhead Shore Flyrodders, the Sunrise Rod & Gun Club the Village Harbor Fishing Club, Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club, Staten Island Fishing Club, the Ocean City Marlin & Tuna Club, the Schuyler Tuna & Fishing Club and the Shore Surf Club.

Please let me know if I have missed your club with a dues payment or if I need to make a correction to your club's payment.

Mark Taylor and I visited the Schuyler Tuna Fishing Club on November 5th to give our presentation on what the JCAA is all about and the current issues we are involved with. It was a pleasure to meet with this club and its President, Martin Brooks, made us feel at home as soon as we entered this club located in Kearney, NJ.

If you are still interested in having a JCAA presentation to your club, please contact me at my address below. Most likely, with the holidays coming up, we will **not** be scheduling JCAA club presentations until 2024.

Our JCAA presentation can be customized to fit into your club meeting schedule either by in-person or by ZOOM. We have done it about 20 minutes or about 45 minutes. We cover a lot of ground starting with the beginning of the JCAA, what the JCCA has accomplished, what it is working on today and the fishing challenges all of us anglers face in the future. We also take questions and provide answers to them to the best of our ability.

To schedule this JCAA power point presentation, I need to know the date when your club has its meeting, the time of it, the address of the meeting location and the contact person to arrange your meeting with me. I have been contacting clubs to schedule this power point presentation and I would appreciate your getting back to me at your earliest convenience so that I can arrange our meeting with you.

Our next JCAA General Membership meeting is on **November 28, 2023**, and it will be done as an in-person meeting and by ZOOM starting at 7:30 p.m. **Note**, JCAA will **NOT** have a General Membership Meeting during December.

I can be contacted at tothjohn@verizon.net or at (732) 656-0139 if you have any questions.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

BRICK HIGH SCHOOL NJ HOFNOD

Brick Memorial High School Fishing Club students are finishing the fishing season with Tog fishing at the Point Pleasant Canal and scoring a few trips on the Miss Michelle charter boat.



[Click here](#) to view more pictures

A lot of excellent work is being done by NJ HOFNOD instructors throughout the state. Please view the NJ HOFNOD [website here](#) to see all the good work each county in New Jersey is doing. To become a volunteer instructor please contact please contact Liz Jackson or Alanna Newmark, NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07683, (908) 637-4125 x122.

JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

Paul and Joyce Lenzo from the Forked River Tuna Club received the 2023 JCAA Youth Education Award at the JCAA Sportsman of the Year Dinner. Paul and Joyce were honored for promoting youth fishing and conservation education programs for youngsters and their families. *(Please read Paul Haertel's article for detailed information.)*

The husband-and-wife team were involved in many club activities and always willing to teach families about the many Forked River Tuna Club fishing programs.

EARLE NAVAL PIER FISHING

We thank Sean Moley for all his time and hard work to keep our veterans learning about fishing at the pier. A new vetting program is in place at the pier. Between now and December 31, 2023, individuals needing access to the Waterfront area are encouraged to visit the Visitor Control Center at Building C-68 (where all fishing patrons went to have their photos taken and get their badge printed) to create their unique PIN. This service is available from Monday to Friday, between 0700 and 1500 (except federal holidays). During your visit, you will have the chance to register a personalized PIN number within your DBIDS profile. This PIN number will be your unique second factor for accessing the Waterfront AVG gate. This window is provided to ensure everyone's needs are addressed. Installation security kindly request that you avoid waiting until the eleventh hour to take action. If you have any questions please phone Naval Weapon Station Earle Moral, Welfare, and Recreation at 732-866-2448.



DISABLED VETERAN FREE MOBILE SPORTFISHING PERMIT

We remind all eligible disabled veterans to apply for an IBSP 2024 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. NJBBA offers a beach driving course at, info available at [this link](#). For more information about permits and hours contact Island Beach State Park at (732) 793-0506. Also, visit [VVA Chapter 12](#) for Play HOOK-e veteran news and discounts.

SUPPORT LOCAL TACKLE DEALERS

Don't wait till the fish are biting to have rod and reel repairs done. January, February, and March are the perfect months to get your equipment ready for the 2024 fishing season. During the holidays, please stop by your local tackle dealer and check out their bargain bins. You never know what you will find. Many dealers offer gift certificates for rods/reels and new gear. Tip: Shop locally and [visit our tackle dealers list](#) for veteran discounts.

TSUNAMI ROD AND REEL DONATION

We received another supply of new Tsunami rods and reels that will allow us to expand our Play HOOK-e from PTSD program to other organizations and veteran families. Thirty-four rods and reels will be distributed to our Play HOOK-e Volunteer Leaders. The leaders will monitor the loaner rods and reels and be sure the equipment is utilized to the maximum. We will also give rods and reels to veterans that are living on limited funds and are not able to afford fishing equipment. We have trained volunteers that know how to work with veterans and their families.



Please Support our Sponsors!

2023 Sponsors List

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- **Yamaha** - www.yamahaoutboards.com

Gold Sponsors (\$1000+)

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- **Liberty Landing Marina** – www.libertylandingmarina.com
- **Pure Fishing** – www.purefishing.com
- **Sea Owl Sportfishing** – (see on FB)
- **South Harbor Marina** – 116 Oregon Ave, Waretown, NY (609) 693-3658

Silver Sponsors (\$500+)

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- **Rich Hunsinger Custom Rods** – (732) 779-2604

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- **Captain's Inn** – www.captainsinnnj.com
- **Creekside Outfitters** – www.creeksideoutfittersnj.com

- **Forked River Tuna Club** – www.forkedriversclub.com
- **Grumpy's B&T** – www.grumpystackle.com
- **Imperium Outfitters** – www.imperiumoutfitters.com
- **Jersey Coast Shark Anglers** – Brick, NJ (see on FB)
- **Key Harbor Marina** – www.keyharbormarine.com
- **Natural Balance** – www.thenbpowerbracelet.com
- **Palmarius Rods** – www.palmariusrods.com
- **Playing Hooky** – www.playinghookynj.com
- **Tackle World (Jigging World)** – www.tackleworld.com
- **Alan Robinson** – www.themapguy.com
- **Viking Eyewear** – vikingeyewear@gmail.com

Raffle, Door Prize and Gift Auction Sponsors

- **24/7 Lures** – www.247lures.com
- **All American Tackle Company** – www.allamericantacklecompany.com
- **Atlantic B&T** – www.atlanticbaitandtackle.com
- **Avon Products** – Carol Ridgeway (609) 607-9702
- **Bait Mule Gulp Containers** – (see on FB)
- **Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association** – www.bhcfa.net
- **Betty and Nick's B&T** – www.betty-nicks.com
- **Bob's Bay Marina** – www.bobsbaymarina.com
- **Bob's Square Deal Hardware** – (see on FB)
- **Bonanza Fishing** – www.bonanza2.com

- **Captain Bill's Landing** – (see on FB)
- **Captain Crum Jigs and Rigs** – Bob Fitzpatrick (609) 536-2079
- **Catch All Tackle** – www.catchalltackle.com
- **Chatter Lures** – www.chattterlures.com
- **Dead Eye Dog's Custom Lures** – (410) 259-6580
- **DL Fender** – dlfender.com
- **Fin-Atics** – www.fin-atics.com
- **Fisherman Magazine** – www.thefisherman.com
- **Fishermen's Den** – www.fishbox.tv/Belmar/FishermansDen
- **Five Star Cutlery** – www.fivestarcutlery.com
- **FJR Lures** – (see on FB)
- **Gambler Fishing** – www.gamblerfishing.net
- **George Kalwa Fine Arts** – (see on FB)
- **Great Bay Marina** – www.greatbaymarina.com
- **Greever Custom Fishing** – (856) 381-7916
- **Hi-Mar Striper Club** – www.hi-mar.com
- **Hook House B&T** – www.hookhousebaitandtackle.com
- **Hudson River Fishermen's Association** – www.hrfanj.org
- **Island X Lures** – www.islandxlures.com
- **J&B Tackle** – (see on FB)
- **Jersey Jetts Tackle** – (732) 389-8343
- **Jim Levison Photo** – www.jimlevisonphoto.com
- **Jim's Bait and Tackle** – www.jimsbaitandtackle.com
- **Johnny's Tackle** – www.johnnyotackle.com
- **Kevin Bogan's Custom Rods** – www.kevinbogans.com
- **Lacey Marine** – www.laceymarine.com
- **Long Key Marina** – www.longkeymarina.com
- **M3Tackle** – www.m3tackle.com
- **Manhattan Tackle** – www.manhattantackle.com
- **Miss Belmar Princess** – www.missbelmar.com
- **Mistic Plugs** – Anthony Ricardo (609) 709-4147
- **Norma K III** – www.normaksportfishing.com
- **North Atlantic Jigs** – www.najigs.com
- **Northbar Tackle** – www.northbartackle.com
- **NY Damascus Cutlery** – www.nydamascuscutlery.com
- **One Stop Bait and Tackle** – (see on FB)
- **Papa's Plugs** – papasplugs@gmail.com
- **Pappy's Pride** – www.pappyspridefishing.com
- **Pell's Bait and Tackle** – Brick, NJ (see on FB)
- **Rich Metzger Studios** – www.richmetzgerstudios.com
- **Sporting Wood** – www.northbartackle.com
- **Tak Waterman** – takwaterman.com
- **Tony D's Bucktails** – Tony DeCicco (215) 359-5659
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Office Manager	Paul Turi	732-506-6565 jcaa@jcaa.org
Access: (North)	George Browne	732-674-7060
Access: (South)	George Browne	732-674-7060
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If you would like to receive JCAA Email alerts email your Name, Club, if you belong to one, and your interest to tfote@jcaa.org or just go to the JCAA Web and subscribe from there.

JCAA SPONSORSHIP

The JCAA has 4 levels of sponsorship \$50, \$100, \$250 & \$500

Dues paying clubs or individuals can also provide additional help by becoming Sponsors. Sponsors are recognized in our newspaper. For more information call JCAA at 732-506-6565.

Become a JCAA sponsor and help our cause. As you can see by our newspaper many of our member clubs are also JCAA sponsors. If your club is not contact us today to become one. With all the new battles we are engaged in, we need to raise more funds in order to be effective. Become a sponsor now and help us to continue the fight.

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