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JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
c/o Info Age, 2201 Marconi Road, Wall, NJ 07719
Phone 732-506-6565 Fax 732-506-6975
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June 2024

JCAA Hi-Roller Raffle

July 11th • \$3,285 in Prizes

JCAA Heavy Hitters Tournament

August 1st - 4th

JCAA Annual Fluke Tournament Suspended



Jersey Coast Shark Anglers **2024 Tournament Schedule**

Kids Fishing Fever - July 20
Flukin' Fiesta - August 17
Striper Fever - November 2-9

For information go to www.jcsa.org

Forked River Tuna Club **2024 Tournament Schedule**

War at the Shore Meeting - March 17
Fishing and Hunting Flea Market - April 6
Bi-Club Fluke Tournament - July 27
Tuna Tournament - August 24, 25
Tournament Rain Date - August 31, Sept. 1

Mark Your Calendar

(p) 201.836.2100 x2118
(c) 201.446.9047
(f) 201.227.5026

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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
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George S. Smith Jr., Morganville, NJ
Phil Simon, Skillman, NJ
South West Science, Roebbling, 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

www.FISHHAWKS.NJ.com

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

\$250+ JCAA SPONSORS

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

\$50 JCAA Sponsors

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Association of Surf Angling Clubs, www.asaconline.org
Barnegat Fishin' Hole, www.BarnegatFishinHole.com
Howard Beeferman, Monroe, NJ
Belmar Fishing Club, P.O. Box 38, Belmar 07719
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Dr. Joel Gelbman
The Geld Family, Elkins Park, PA
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Bob Lick, Cheyenne, WY
In Memory of Joe Kunz, Donated by David Strom & Laura
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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
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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

PO Box 511, Seaside Park, NJ 08752

Buggy Membership Info: Ken Hollins 732-814-7021

www.NJBBA.org

Fighting for Beach Access & Conservation Since 1954



Manasquan Fishing Club

PO Box 513, Manasquan, NJ 08736

Meetings held first Friday of the month at 7:30pm

Manasquan Woman's Club, 62 Main Street

www.manasquanfishingclub.com

JCAA NEWSPAPER JUNE 2024

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on May 27th, 2024)

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING

May 28th, 2024, 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, June 13th

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

c/o Info Age, 2201 Marconi Road
Wall, NJ 07719

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

May 28th JCAA General Meeting

June 13th JCAA Board Meeting

June 25th JCAA General Meeting

July 11th JCAA Board Meeting

No General Meetings in July & August

August 1st-4th Heavy Hitters Tournament

August 8th JCAA Board Meeting

JCAA Hi-Roller Raffle

By Paul Haertel

Once again, this year we will be having our Hi-Roller Raffle and as you can see there are some really nice prizes. This is one of our major fundraisers so please buy some tickets. If you buy tickets, I absolutely guarantee you will have a chance to win. If you want tickets call the office at 732-506-6565 or email jcaa@jcaa.org. The prizes listed below have a **total value of \$3,285**.

The drawing will be held on **July 11, 2024**, during the July JCAA board meeting. Please note that the drawing will take place at the old JCAA location in Toms River NJ.

New Jersey Amin. Code § 13:47-8.7

Location:

**At the JCAA office located at:
1594 Lakewood Rd., Unit 13,
Toms River, NJ 08755**

Drawing Date: **July 11, 2024, at 7:30 pm**

NJLGCCC Identification: **#475-4-32152**

Municipal Raffle License: **#9702**

Beneficiary: **Jersey Coast Anglers Association**

Price of Ticket: **\$2 each, 3 for \$5, or a book of 7 for \$10**

List of Prizes & Retail Values

1. Jersey Nutz Six Man Charter (6-hour, 6-man inshore weekday charter) – **\$1200**, *Donated by Captains Robert and Cody Melton*
2. 7' Palmarius Model 1/Canyon HS 16 Conventional Combo – **\$545**, *Donated by Palmarius Rods and Canyon Reels*
3. \$500 Gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters – **\$500**, *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
4. 10'6" Tsunami Airwave/SaltX 4000 Spinning Combo – **\$500**, *Donated by JCAA*
5. 7' Magictail/Penn Battle III DX Spinning Combo – **\$390**, *Donated by Magictail Outfitters and Penn Fishing*
6. 7' Penn Battle II 4000 Spinning Combo – **\$150**, *Donated by Penn Fishing*

Note: No substitution of the offered prize may be made and no cash will be given in lieu of the prize.

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

As the summer fishing season is starting off to a great. Different fishing tournaments dates have been set or are coming out soon. If you are a person that looks which tournaments you are going to be in, do not miss the JCAA Heavy Hitters Tournament. Read more details about this in Paul Haertel's article in this newsletter. This will be the only fishing tournament that JCAA has planned as of now. Reminder that the statewide JCAA Annual Fluke tournament has been cancelled for this year due to statewide participation the last few years. Reminder to read Paul's article and participate in the outstanding Heavy Hitters tournament in August.

JCAA Officer Elections

JCAA finally did have its election of officers for YR2024 at the April 30th General Membership Meeting. Congratulations to the individuals that stepped up and were elected.

- **President** - Mark A. Taylor
- **1st Vice President** - Steve Machalaba
- **2nd Vice President** - Don Marantz
- **Treasurer** – Doug Tegeder
- **Membership Secretary** – John Toth
- **Recording Secretary** – Karen Noe
- **Corresponding Secretary** - Vacant

New JCAA Office Update

There is movement on the tasks that need to be done. A special thanks go to Frank Macalik along with Don Marantz for volunteering hours over a few days to complete all the spackling and painting of one room. They did an outstanding job completing it and it looks great. There are other rooms and tasks that need to be done. Looking for people to volunteer with. If you can volunteer, please give me a call or text at 732-245-9445, so arrangements can be made. Another hurdle that had been a stressful process is the new gas line to be installed. With all the red tape and paperwork.

JCAA High Roller Raffle

Currently JCAA has a fundraiser in full swing. If you have not purchased raffle tickets at one of the shows, flea markets or the Governors Surf Fishing Tournament last Sunday, please reach out to JCAA to purchase a book or two. This drawing is July 11th so do not miss these great prizes and help support JCAA.

Important Dates to Remember

- **July 11th** – High Roller Raffle Drawing
- **August 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th** – Heavy Hitters Tournament
- **November 10th** – Annual JCAA Sportsman of the Year Dinner

Get Involved, unite as a community so the future of recreational fishing as we know it will not be gone.

Important Information: The next meeting is scheduled for June 25th at 7:30pm and will be held in person at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724. (Hybrid Meeting)

JCAA Heavy Hitters Fluke Tournament: August 1st – 4th

By Paul Haertel

JCAA has suspended its traditional fluke tournament, so the Heavy Hitters Fluke Tournament will be the only one we will be running this year. We are in transition, moving to a new office in Wall. We have additional expenses and there is much renovation work that needs to be done. We are trying to do much of the work by ourselves to save money, but we really need you to help by supporting this tournament as well as attending our Sportsman-of-the-Year Dinner on November 10th and buying some of our Hi-Roller Raffle tickets.

The tournament format will be similar to last year, though we will not be having a 25 K doormat fluke category because it has become too costly, and it did not add enough entrants. We are going to use some of the money saved to up the prizes for those who catch the biggest fluke. Better still, the entrant who catches the largest fluke will win a brand new 9.9 H.P. engine donated by YAMAHA and a still to be determined amount of cash. Second Place will be a custom rod valued at \$950 donated by Richard Hunzinger and cash. We are working at the prize structure for other places as well, but they will be a combination of cash, gift certificates and merchandise.

The tournament will be run from **August 1st – 4th**. We realize that not everyone can fish two, three, or four days so to be fair to everyone, each boat will be limited to fishing only one day. However, each entrant will be able to choose the day they fish. We are hopeful that we will have nice weather on at least one of those days. As we did last year, prizes will be based on the weight of the single largest fluke. However, we will still have 1 fluke and 3 fluke Calcuttas for those who want to compete in that more skilled category. We will also have sea bass Calcuttas. Further details are still being worked out but they will be posted soon on our website and on our Facebook page.

JCAA has worked for recreational anglers on fishery and environmental issues in the past and will continue to do so in 2024 and beyond. In order to continue our work on these issues and better represent you, we need you to support our fundraising efforts. We are all volunteers who work tirelessly on the many

issues that come up. We attend many meetings, participate in conference calls, write letters, make phone calls and meet with various key individuals in regard to many of these issues. We need your help in ensuring the success of these important issues. We are one of the very few recreational saltwater advocacy groups that work exclusively for New Jersey anglers. As in past years, our fundraising efforts have a strong influence on our budget and what we can accomplish throughout the year. It costs money to send delegates to meetings, to meet with legislators, print newsletters, pay office expenses and fund day-to-day operations. Our finances were negatively impacted by the pandemic, and it will take time for us to fully recover. Please support us by entering our tournament, attending our Sportsman of the Year Dinner and purchasing some of our Hi-Roller Raffle tickets. Thank you for your anticipated support!

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Tom Fote

MAFAC Meeting: May 15-16

MAFAC says this is a two-day meeting, but it is actually a three-day meeting. The 14th was an orientation for the eight new members and a compulsive ethics briefing for everyone. We also discussed where we were and where we were going. I wish luck to the eight new members because this is not a great time to be dealing with fisheries issues. I will leave MAFAC in April of 2025 and I hope they will find another recreational person to replace me.

I have been spending much of my time on MAFAC committee meetings on how we make management plans climate resilient, plans that will work in this changing environment. I am very familiar with what climate change has done to NJ's fisheries. I have talked about the studies done in 1955 and what fisheries were important to the recreational fishing community. If you want a copy of the report, email me. This report was done by NJ Fish and Game and completed in 1955. As I have said before, I asked George Howard, one of my mentors, why did the director of Fish and Game do this comprehensive study on recreational fishing in NJ. At that time there was no DEP and Fish and Game was under the Department of Commerce. George said the director

decided that recreational saltwater fishing would be more valuable than freshwater, hunting and commercial fishing. He has been proven correct since recreational fishing has a higher economic value to NJ than any of the other items. In the last 15 to 20 years, we have varied from 1.3 million to 900,000 saltwater recreational anglers in NJ. We have the third highest number of trips of the states on the Eastern seaboard.

What I found interesting was the MAFAC discussion on the snow crab issue in Alaska. I know that fisher collapsed in 2021 but did not know the reason why. I assumed it was because of the warming water which impacted the reproduction of those species. Many have disappeared or moved further north from the NY Bight because of warming waters. What I learned was that warm water did not directly impact the crabs. What happened is that the warming water killed the food source. The large body of crabs starved to death. This could not be ascertained immediately because most fisheries managers and biologists are not accustomed to thinking in this fashion. Someone asked why we didn't harvest the stock, leaving enough crabs for the amount of food available. This was a waste of public resources. That is expected since most fisheries managers had not seen this type of situation before. It was interesting to hear one of the managers say we could do nothing since this stock was listed as overfished and the rules didn't allow for that harvest. That is why we need to build in flexibility. We should be able to act in a situation like that in an expedited manner.

Of course this was no surprise to me. I have been talking about a similar situation along the East coast. Everyone assumes I got involved in ASMFC meetings because of striped bass but it was the anticipated 10 fish bluefish limit that got me involved. When I asked why there would be a 10-fish limit, I was told there was no problem with the resource, recreational fishing industry didn't need more than 10 bluefish limit. This was done with no economic study on how it would impact the number of trips. In the 50's, 60's, 70's, and 80's tackle store owners and party and charter boat owners said that striped bass might be the glory fish but bluefish paid the bills. If you read the report from 1955, the bluefish stock started recovering and the stock began to grow. I was surprised to learn from Stan Blum who had fished for all types of species including bluefish before WWII, that bluefish were scarce in the 30's and into the 40's. We started seeing the recreational fishery direct more attention to bluefish beginning in the late 50's. They

were plentiful. Party and charter boats in Sheepshead Bay went out on 2 trips each day. My dad would take me on party boats and no bluefish was wasted. If you couldn't catch a striped bass or summer flounder, you could surely catch a bluefish or a large snapper. One of my fondest memories was fishing with my uncle, my father on a party boat when I came back from Vietnam. I was still on crutches, but it was a great day of fishing. When I was at Fort Dix, I helped organize a trip with one of the local VFWs to take soldier patients on charter or private boats for a day of fishing for bluefish and followed by a spaghetti dinner. There were lots of smiles on the soldiers' faces that day catching the 5 to 10-pound bluefish. The 70's and into the 80's saw the average bluefish greatly increase in size. We went from 5-pound bluefish in the 60's to in the 80's we were seeing 15-to-20-pound bluefish. If you look at most of the saltwater records on bluefish, they come from that era with some over 30 pounds. I really got involved since I knew how important bluefish were to the surf fishermen, the charter and party boats. It was the money fish driving the recreational industry. I remember periods of time that we had a 10-mile blitz on Island Beach State Park that lasted for days. When I first got my four-wheel drive vehicle, I took my dad to the Outer Banks to fish for bluefish in November and December. Ken Lauer, a local guide, allowed me to follow him and he led us to huge blitzes for a couple of days.

History is important when we look at fisheries. I fought against the 10 fish bag limit recreationally and a commercial quota since there was no biological reason. It was more of an education problem. The irony is when the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council and ASMFC finally imposed a 10 fish bag limit in a joint plan. As they put in the 10 fish bag limit, the stocks started decreasing. It was not because we had been overfishing or taking too many bluefish but the winters of 1988 – 2000 were the warmest winters ever experienced. I live on the water in Toms River. I bought my house in 1979 and for the first 9 years I needed to resink the pilings on my dock every Spring. There were 9 – 10 inches of ice on the lagoon every winter that would raise them up. Island Heights NJ has a big warehouse containing ice boats for the winter races on Barnegat Bay. There were also some who drove their cars on the ice on Barnegat Bay. Beginning in 1988, the water in the ocean did not drop below 38 degrees and no ice on my lagoon. Bruce Freeman let me know it was too warm for the sand eel population to reproduce in the NY Bight that had been

flourishing for the last 40 years. During the 70's and 80's I would come out of Barnegat Inlet and head north to Manasquan and on my chart recorder I would see nothing but sand eels from top to bottom beginning in October. As the waters warmed, the sand eel population tumbled. Instead of bluefish spending 3 – 4 months in the NY Bight gorging themselves on sand eels and gaining weight and migrating to North Carolina weighing 15 – 20 pounds or more, we began to see what we call runners. Runners are bluefish with big heads but much smaller, thinner bodies. We would see these fish in the Spring as they headed North to Maine for Atlantic herring but we had never seen them arrive in North Carolina that thin until after 1990. The point is we know wildlife needs body fat to reproduce. When the body fat is not high enough, no energy is available for producing eggs. This is what happened to the bluefish stocks. What we saw from the 50's to the 90's was the greatest bluefish stock ever. That is what the old timers told me when I was the kid. That is what the early surveys showed. We are now down to a 3 fish bag limit, going from 10 fish to 5 fish to 3 fish. The commercial quota has also been reduced. None of these plans have done anything to rebuild the stocks. We have many stocks facing the same problems, competing for forage species because of warming water and harvesting for lobster bait.

I started telling the story at the meeting. While I was basically ignored, but no one said I was wrong. Not one scientist or fisheries manager disagreed. We need to realistically look at how we manage fish without destroying commercial and recreational fisheries. We also need to be realistic about our rebuilding goals since the warming water, loss of forage species and habitat loss has affected the carrying capacity of the bay and estuaries. We need to be more flexible and until we start doing that the commercial and recreational communities will be punished unnecessarily even though they are doing the right thing. Below you see the report from the ASMFC Spring Meeting. The huge impact of climate change is still being ignored. Read the articles below.

ASMFC Spring Meeting

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's 2024 Spring Meeting occurred this past April 29th to May 2nd. Here are some of the Summaries below. JCAA is still looking for chairpersons for the species committees that will attend the meeting virtually and write a report on the meeting. I was not at all the meetings so JCAA had no presence at those meetings

If you cannot attend the meeting on the ASMFC schedule, you can listen to the tape of the meeting that is recorded and read the summary on your time schedule. This information is usually posted the week after the meeting on the ASMFC web page. If you have any questions, please give me a call and I will walk you through it. Striped bass are again being impacted by the warm water and the harvesting of forage species in Chesapeake Bay. Maryland put out a press release a few months ago stating that 90% of the coastal migratory stocks come from the Chesapeake Bay. As I have previously stated, this is not possible, and we believe the other areas could contribute up to 50%. As we notice in the striped bass report, we still are not dealing with the hook and release mortality. We know hook and release mortality is 51% of the recreational mortality. But it is also 49% of the overall mortality including commercial fishery. The managers need to address these issues and get the information they need to create a proper plan. I was very concerned about the eel plan. I was hoping they would cut back the glass eel fishery in Maine. If you read the report below you will notice that this stock is in terrible shape and yet we are still harvesting glass eels at an astounding rate. We won't know the impact of the current harvest for 17 years since that is when the current stock spawns and returns. We also do not know what the Gulf Stream will be like in 5 – 10 years. We didn't think the water would warm this quickly. We are missing the illegal fishery that NOAA is worried that could be about 10 times the legal harvest. I wish there were easy answers to these issues. Most of the problems are outside the realm of fisheries management and are associated with climate change and environmental issues. Put the blame where it belongs and not on commercial and recreational fishermen.

Atlantic Menhaden Management Board [Meeting Summary](#)

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board met to review a report on an acoustic survey of overwintering Atlantic menhaden offshore of New Jersey; receive updates from Maryland and Virginia on work relating to the study and management of menhaden in Chesapeake Bay; and receive progress reports on the ecological reference point (ERP) benchmark stock assessment and single-species stock assessment update.

The Board reviewed the results of an acoustic survey ([Nesslage et al., 2024](#)) that aimed to generate

estimates of biomass and characterize size, age, and sex, and maturity of the portion of the Atlantic menhaden stock that overwinters off the coast of New Jersey. In addition to confirming that a portion of the adult stock resides overwinter along the shelf in the Mid-Atlantic region, the study demonstrated alternative acoustic survey designs can effectively account for the patchy distribution of large schools across the landscape and may prove useful in future monitoring.

The Board received updates from Maryland and Virginia on recent developments in the study and management of Atlantic menhaden in Chesapeake Bay. Maryland representative Lynn Fegley updated the Board on an upcoming communications tool that synthesizes Maryland data to describe the status of predator-prey balance in the Bay. The communication tool is expected to be released in fall 2024. Virginia representative Pat Geer updated the Board on the proposed and enacted legislative and regulatory changes since 2022; more information can be found at [this link](#).

The Board received progress reports on the ERP benchmark stock assessment and the single-species stock assessment update. The ERP Workgroup met in October 2023 to conduct a Data and Methods Workshop to review new data sources; discuss high priority updates to the ecosystem models, including identifying potential new predators to add to the model; and discuss ongoing ecosystem indicator work in Maryland and Virginia. The Board also reviewed the needs and time frames for potential spatial components to the ERP models. The ERP benchmark stock assessment and single species stock assessment update are both scheduled to be presented to the Board at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Under other business, the Board requested staff to coordinate a presentation by US Geological Survey staff for the Summer Meeting regarding osprey abundance, spatial and temporal distribution, dietary demands, and timing of fledge in the Chesapeake Bay region.

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board [Meeting Summary](#)

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board met to consider revisions to Addendum II state implementation plans; receive an update on recreational release mortality study results; consider tasks for a Board Work Group on recreational release

mortality; consider an Advisory Panel nomination; and elect a Vice Chair.

Three jurisdictions, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) submitted revised state implementation plans for Addendum II. States are required to implement Addendum II measures by May 1, 2024. In March 2024, the Board approved Addendum II state implementation plans with the following exceptions: 1) Pennsylvania's proposed timeline for implementing its new spring slot and bag limit; 2) Maryland and PRFC's proposed timeline for paying back any potential 2024 commercial quota overage. Pennsylvania's revised implementation plan specifies that it has implemented its new spring slot and bag limit as of May 1, 2024. Maryland and PRFC's revised implementation plans specify that they will monitor 2024 commercial landings and develop projections as needed to estimate whether landings will exceed the 2024 quota to inform 2025 commercial tag and permit distribution. The Board approved the revised implementation plans for all three jurisdictions.

The Board received an overview of a Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF) study to characterize striped bass recreational release mortality. The first phase of the study focused on the efficacy of circle hooks and comparing release mortality from J-hooks vs. circle hooks. The second phase of the study focused on comparison of release injury and mortality across various terminal tackle using citizen science data collected by striped bass anglers. Data collection for this phase will continue into 2024 with recruitment of citizen participants from other states. The third phase of the study will focus on a survey of striped bass anglers on terminal tackle use over the next few years. MA DMF noted that additional analysis of collected data and future publication will be pursued in the coming years. Visit [this link](#) for more information.

The Board discussed the establishment of a Board Work Group to discuss release mortality. The Board approved four tasks for the Work Group with an expected progress update from the Work Group at the 2024 Summer Meeting, and a report to the Board at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

The first Work Group task is to review existing no-targeting closures (state and federal waters), including any information on impacts to striped bass catch, effort, enforceability, and how

anglers may respond to no-targeting closures (i.e., shifting effort).

The second task is to review the MA DMF release mortality study and other relevant reports to evaluate the efficacy of potential gear modifications.

The third task is to identify stock assessment sensitivity runs to potentially inform Board discussion of release mortality as well as tradeoffs of reducing the release mortality rate vs. reducing the number of releases overall. The fourth task is to consider public scoping (e.g., survey) on potential measures to address release mortality.

For more information, please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at efranke@asmfc.org.

American Eel Management Board **Press Release**

American Eel Board Approves Addenda VI and VII Addenda Maintain Maine's Glass Eel Quota and Modify Yellow Eel Management

Arlington, VA – The Commission's American Eel Management Board has approved Addenda VI and VII to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Eel. Addendum VI maintains Maine's quota at the current level of 9,688 pounds for three years. Addendum VII reduces the coastwide cap for yellow eel commercial landings to 518,281 pounds, modifies annual young-of-year (YOY) monitoring requirements, and changes the policy for evaluating de minimis status.

Addendum VI

Maine's glass/elver eel quota of 9,688 pounds was established by Addendum IV starting in 2015 and maintained under Addendum V through 2024. The Board initiated Addendum VI to establish a quota for 2025 and beyond. The Board will review the quota before the 2028 fishing year and can extend it via Board action.

Maine commercial glass eel landings have not exceeded the quota since its implementation. The Maine Department of Marine Resources (ME DMR) manages the quota using a program that requires dealers to enter daily landings data and enables ME DMR to analyze those data within 24 hours of receipt. The quota management program allows ME DMR to track the glass eels from initial purchase to export out of the state.

Maine will continue to maintain daily trip level reporting and require a pound-for-pound payback in the event of quota overages in its glass eel fishery. Additionally, the state will continue to conduct the fishery-independent life cycle survey covering glass, yellow, and silver eels as required by Addendum V.

Addendum VII

Addendum VII responds to the findings of the 2023 Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report, which indicated the stock is at or near historically low levels due to a multitude of factors, including historical overfishing, habitat loss, food web alterations, turbine mortality, environmental changes, contaminants, and disease. The assessment and peer review recommended reducing harvest levels of the yellow eel life stage, while also recognizing that stock status is affected by other factors. The assessment proposed a new index-based tool, called I_{TARGET} , for setting the yellow eel coastwide cap, since there is not a statistical model for estimating the population size of American eel. Addendum VII adopts the use of I_{TARGET} to provide catch limit recommendations based on fishery independent indices of abundance and catch data with the goal of increasing abundance levels. The new coastwide cap of 518,281 pounds, a reduction from 916,473 pounds, can be updated after three years using the additional years of abundance and catch data.

“In approving Addendum VII and its reduced landings cap, the Board sought to balance responding to the recommendations of the benchmark stock assessment to aid in the recovery of American eel while also allowing for a commercial fishery,” stated Board Chair Kris Kuhn of Pennsylvania. “ I_{TARGET} provides the Board a much-needed tool for setting the coastwide cap.”

The Board slightly modified the requirements of the annual YOY survey by making the biological sampling requirement for YOY surveys optional, as recommended by the assessment and peer review. In addition, Addendum VII establishes use of a three-year average of landings to determine if a state qualifies for de minimis status and can be exempt from implementing fishery regulations and monitoring requirements.

Addenda VI and Addendum VII will be available on the Commission website on the American Eel webpage by mid-May. For more information, please contact Caitlin Starks, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at cstarks@asmfc.org.

ASMFC 2024 Annual Awards of Excellence Law Enforcement Contributions

*Deputy Chief Jason Snellbaker of the New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of
Law Enforcement*

Since becoming a member of the Commission's Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) in 2014, Jason has promoted the role of law enforcement in fisheries management. He has represented the Committee on a number of species management boards, including tautog; summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass; Atlantic sturgeon; and bluefish. He has been the voice of the LEC on critical topics such as commercial tautog tagging and the summer flounder research set aside program.

During Jason's time with the LEC, he was selected by his peers to serve in a leadership role as Vicechair and Chair. He accepted these roles during the pandemic, a particularly challenging time for the LEC as members were drawn to other responsibilities in their home states. Jason kept the flow of communication open and provided steady leadership by staying on as Chair for an extended period.

At the state level, Jason's exceptional leadership has been recognized by both NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement for his efforts in support of the Cooperative Enforcement Program, and by the Commission for his work as part of a team of officers working in the New Jersey Fish and Wildlife marine region. He has also promoted marine fisheries law enforcement in forums such as the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs where he took on an advisory role and participated in an exchange program with an agency in Belize.

JCAA Membership Report

By John Toth

Moving all of our JCAA equipment from our Toms River location to Camp Evans is a work in progress with painting to be done and carpets to be cleaned and still function to do the administrative things that must be done. On April 9th, Karen Noe, Paul Turi (our former office Manager) and I met at the Camp Evans office and worked on producing the invoices for club dues that will be sent to all clubs who have not paid their dues to date. To expedite this process, I have used our JCAA envelopes with our former address and covered them with Avery labels

that are not professional looking but are functional. All invoices for JCAA club dues have been mailed to member clubs. Please make your checks payable to the JCAA and mail them to the Camp Evans address and not at my home anymore.

Please send your dues to our new address at:

**Jersey Coast Anglers Association
c/o Info Age
2201 Marconi Road
Wall Township, NJ 07719**

I have received checks from these clubs as payment for their membership dues and sponsorships: **Hi-Mar Striper Club** - \$500, **Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County** - \$100, **Raritan Bay** - \$50, **Spring Lake Live Liners** - \$50 dues & \$50 purchase of JCAA Raffle Tickets, **Manasquan Fishing Club** - \$50 dues & \$250 Sponsorship, **Newark Bait & Flycasting** - \$100, **Seaside Heights Fishing Club** - \$100, **Sunrise Rod & Gun Club** - \$50, **Paul Shafer** - \$200 Sponsorship, **Jon Brunetti** - \$100 Sponsorship, **Menhaden Defenders** - \$100, **Surf Kings** - \$50, **Bill Browne** - \$100 Sponsorship.

If you are still interested in having a presentation to your club, please contact me at my email address or phone number mentioned below. To schedule a presentation, I need to know the date, time, and address of your club meeting and a contact person to coordinate with. I have been contacting clubs to schedule a presentation and I would appreciate your getting back to me at your earliest convenience.

Our next JCAA General Membership meeting be on **May 28th, 2024**, and it will be held as an in-person meeting at the Shark Anglers Building in Herbertsville and by ZOOM starting at 7:30 p.m.

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

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

GYOTAKU ARTIST REQUEST

A local school in Ocean County would like to instruct their students about the artwork of Gyotaku Japanese fish printing. The JCAA Youth Education chairperson provided many classes for youngsters to learn about fish printing. Due to relocating to another state, we

need someone to step-up from one of the JCAA clubs to teach students about fish printing. Below is a sample fish printing that was done during 2017 at the University of Toledo National Youth Sports Program. Please phone Karen Noe 732-245-2751 if you would like to volunteer to teach fish printing.



SUCCESSFUL IBSP SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

Many thanks to our volunteers that came to assist veterans and high school teams on the beach at the 34th Annual Governor’s Surf Fishing Tournament. Special thanks to IBSP Park Staff, NJ DEP Fish & Wildlife Karen Byrne, Liz Jackson, Alanna Newmark, Linda DiPiano, GSFT Committee Members, NJBBA, NJSFSC & JCAA members, Kevin Nolan, American Outdoor Warriors George Brown Berkley Striper Club, Gary Conk GSFT President, Ken Hollins and volunteer judges, Celebrity Ford of Toms River, and Members of VVA 12. The tournament winners and high school fishing challenge results can be found at [this link](#).



The day before the tournament, 8 veterans learned about surf fishing instruction at the IBSP Nature Interpretive Center. Alanna Newmark, of NJ Fish and Wildlife, organized the workshop with George Brown and volunteers. Fishing instruction volunteers included: Berkley Striper Club, NJBBA, JCAA, and Hudson River Fisherman’s Association members.

NJSGC’s “JERSEY SHORE” PHOTO CONTEST



This is a wonderful opportunity for youngsters to experience photographing the beautiful Jersey Shore. If you have a photo that captures some of New Jersey’s beaches enter it in the NJSGC’s “Favorite Beaches of the Jersey Shore” photo contest! Ultimately, the top twelve photos will be used to create New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium’s annual desktop calendars for 2025. [Visit their website](#) for rules and how to submit your photograph.

8th ANNUAL VETERANS, DISABLED CHILDREN & ACTIVE-DUTY FISHING DAY

Save the date for the Play HOOK-e 8th Annual Veterans, Disabled Children and Active-Duty Military Fishing Day. This year, Kevin Nolan and Paul Hewitt from American Warrior Outdoors are joining us to assist Don Marantz to make the event bigger and better. The goal of the veteran, active-duty military, and disabled children fishing day is to encourage attendees to feel the health benefits of getting in touch with nature while making good memories with friends and family while fishing.

Veterans and families that have disabled children and other special needs are welcome to register for the 8th annual event. Attendees and their guests are invited to fish at Lake Julianna to catch and release big fish and then join Mr. Vito Cardinale and his staff of volunteers for a free BBQ that will provide soft drinks, pizza, hamburgers & hot dogs, and other goodies. Admission is free but registration is mandatory through [Eventbrite](#). Come join us at Ponderosa Estates Farm, Millstone Township. Don

Marantz, Event Chairman, Vito Cardinale, Cardinale Enterprises, and Randy Johnson, Laurita Winery always make this a fun event for children with disabilities and other special needs. The event includes a fishing fun day for children and honoring disabled veterans, along with active-duty military from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, on Saturday, August 24, 2024, 9:00am until 2:00pm.

We also thank WYLD Grant Format Imaging and Barry Hessinger for making this possible.



8th Annual "PLAY HOOK- e"
Veterans, Children with Disabilities and
Active-Duty Military Fishing Day
Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024
9:00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M.

FREE BBQ *Door Prizes*




Pizza Truck *Rods & Reels*
LOCATION LAKE JULIANNA
PONDEROSA ESTATES FARM, MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP, NJ

TO REGISTER VISIT
[Eventbrite>>](#)

For more information contact
Don Marantz or Kevin Nolan
 908-347-1434 732-504-5492

SODA, PIZZA, HAMBURGERS & HOT DOGS
WILL BE PROVIDED

9th ANNUAL HOFNOD YOUTH FISHING CHALLENGE

NJ Fish and Wildlife presents its ninth annual Get Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs Youth Fishing Challenge on the weekend of June 1st-2nd. The free event is held at multiple locations throughout New Jersey and each may have their own start and end times. For list of host sites and other information, monitor [this page](#) at NJ DEP.

Hooked on Fishing
SAVE THE DATE!

June 1-2, 2024

NJ Hooked on Fishing's
9th Annual
Youth Fishing Challenge!

YouthFishingChallenge.nj.gov



Disabled Veterans and children with mobility challenges will have use of 4x4 transportation around the lake, along with fishing assistance if needed. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Jersey Shore Chapter will assist with fly fishing instruction. New Jersey Fish and Wildlife will bring their mobile education trailer and "Hooked on Fishing not On Drugs" loaner rods and reels.

Don Marantz, Event Chairperson stated: "We have plenty of door prizes, terminal tackle, bait, and other fishing equipment available to ensure that participants have an enjoyable time at Lake Julianna. "Come out and catch a smile."

VETERANS FISHING CHARTER

Sandy Hook Bay Anglers and Play HOOK-e sponsored two free Veterans charters with Dark Horse Charter Captain Justin. Karen Noe, JCAA did an excellent job of organizing and scheduling the event.



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2023 Sponsors List

Grand Prize Sponsors

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

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- **Fisherman's Headquarters** – fishermansheadquarters.com
- **Jersey Nutz Sportfishing** – jerseynutzsportfishing.com
- **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

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

Bronze Sponsors (\$200+)

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- **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

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- **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)
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- **Fishermen's Den** – www.fishbox.tv/Belmar/FishermansDen
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- **One Stop Bait and Tackle** – (see on FB)
- **Papa's Plugs** – papasplugs@gmail.com
- **Pappy's Pride** – www.pappyspridefishing.com
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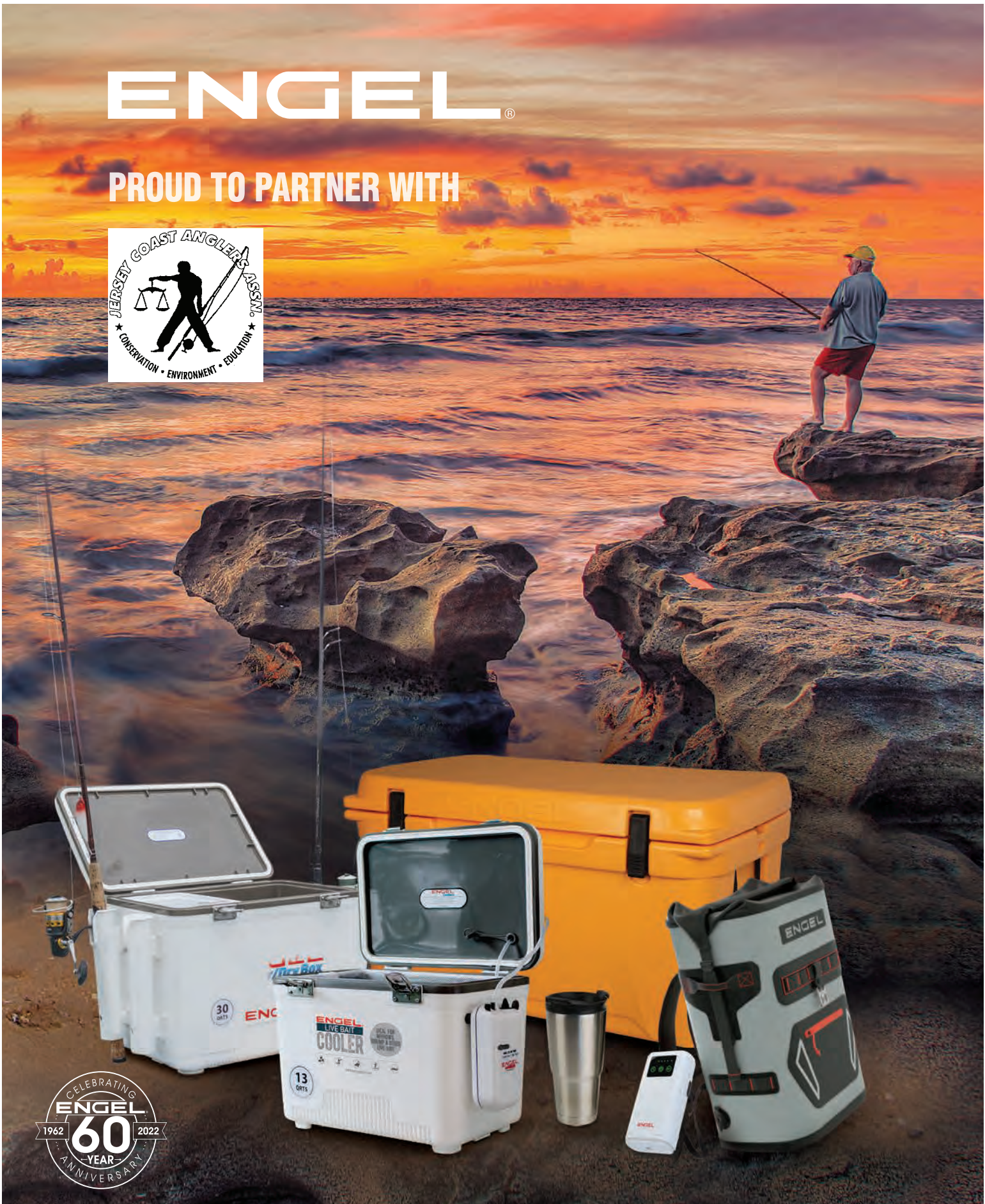
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Membership is now free! Sign up as an Associate Member and receive monthly JCAA News that gives you the most up-to-date news about Fisheries Management and Environmental Issues. If you would like to support the goals of JCAA, please contribute if you are able. Look for the [Subscribe](#) button on the JCAA home page or complete application below.

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Date _____ New ___ Renewal ___

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Ph. # _____

If contributing, please make check payable to JCAA

COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

Legislative	Tom Fote	732-270-9102 tfote@jcaa.org
Office Manager	Paul Turi	732-506-6565 jcaa@jcaa.org
Access: (North)	George Browne	732-674-7060
Access: (South)	George Browne	732-674-7060
Blackfish	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Blue claw Crab	Bill Browne	732-504-9344
Blue Fish	Al Marantz	732-859-0020
Habitat	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Fluke	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Forage Fish	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Highly Migratory Species	Eric Engard	609-913-2281
Science & Research	Bruce Freeman	732-793-7871
Seabass	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Sponsorship	Frank Richetti	732-477-3120
Striped Bass	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Ways & Means	Don Marantz	908-347-1434
Webmaster	Phil V. Celmer	jcaa@jcaa.org
Youth Education	Greg Kucharewski	732-840-9197

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.

Meetings:
1st Tuesday
of month
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