



JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

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

Phone 732-506-6565 Fax 732-506-6975

Web Site <https://www.JCAA.org>

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**November 2024**

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## JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner

November 10<sup>th</sup> • Captain's Inn

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

363 Cedar Lane Teaneck,  
NJ 07666

sandel@otterstedt.com  
[www.otterstedt.com](http://www.otterstedt.com)

Charles (Chuck) Santoro  
Insurance Specialist

### ***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](http://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**

## \$500+ JCAA SPONSORS

### Full Business Card AD

Chuck Santoro  
Fisherman Headquarters  
Fish Hawks  
Forked River Tuna Club  
Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat Association  
Hi-Mar Striper Club  
Janice and Joe Blaze  
Jersey Coast Shark Anglers

## \$100+ JCAA SPONSORS

Bayshore Anglers Assoc., P.O. Box, 94, Middletown, NJ  
Berkeley Striper Club  
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](http://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

[www.FISHHAWKSNJ.com](http://www.FISHHAWKSNJ.com)

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

## \$250+ JCAA SPONSORS

### Half Business Card AD

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

## \$50 JCAA Sponsors

Asbury Park Fishing Club, Asbury Park, NJ 732-988-0121  
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Barnegat Fishin' Hole, [www.BarnegatFishinHole.com](http://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  
Michael Colucci, Brick, NJ  
Jim Davis, Port Monmouth, NJ  
Daniel DeChurch, Moorestown, NJ  
David Dowd, Orange, NJ  
William M. Feinberg, Ocean City, NJ  
Exton Window Cleaning & Exton Building Maintenance, Exton, PA  
Fortescue Captains & Boat Owners Assn, NJ  
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](http://lagoonviewyachtclub.org)  
Bob Lick, Cheyenne, WY  
In Memory of Joe Kunz, Donated by David Strom & Laura  
Greenwald Bruce Halstater, Norwood, NJ  
Michele A. Kohler  
James Krauss, Atlantic Highlands  
Richard Lippo, Mount Laurel, NJ  
Wilson L. Mathis, Barrington, NJ  
Randy Minix, Gibbstown, NJ  
Picatinny Saltwater Sportsman Club  
Point Pleasant Fishing Club, [rmazz1428@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.manasquanfishingclub.com)

# JCAA NEWSPAPER NOVEMBER 2024

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on October 26th, 2024)

**"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"**

## JCAA REGULAR MEETING

**November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7:30pm**

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

or via Zoom, for link contact:

[tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net) or [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com)

## NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**

## 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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## 2024 OFFICERS

|                            |                  |              |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>           | Mark Taylor      | 732-245-9445 |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b> | Steven Machalaba | 908-588-1426 |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b> | Don Marantz      | 908-347-1434 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Doug Tegeder     | 732-575-2661 |
| <b>Rec. Sec.</b>           | Karen Noe        | 732-245-2751 |
| <b>Cors. Sec.</b>          |                  |              |
| <b>Mem. Sec.</b>           | John Toth        | 732-656-0139 |

*Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page*

## IMPORTANT DATES

**October 29<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting**

**November 10<sup>th</sup> JCAA Awards Dinner**

**November 14<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting**

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

**December 12<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting**

## Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>

*By Paul Haertel & Karen Noe*

Save the date! Our Sportsperson of the Year Dinner is going to be held on **Sunday evening, November 10<sup>th</sup>**. Once again, the dinner will be held at the Captain's Inn located at 304 E Lacey Rd., Forked River, NJ. This is a dinner you don't want to miss, just ask anyone who attended last year what they thought of it. It's going to be even better this year. Cocktail hour with hand-passed Hors d'oeuvres will begin at 5 PM with bacon wrapped scallops, mini crab cakes, coconut shrimp, and Philly cheese sticks. A cheese and cracker platter along with bruschetta and toasts will be placed at each table. That will be followed by a sit-down dinner beginning with penne ala vodka sauce and a salad. Then you will have your choice of 4 Entrees, prime rib, chicken cordon bleu, Chilean sea bass with pesto or a broiled seafood combo. All entrees will come with potatoes and vegetables. Finally, dessert will consist of Tartufo & mini pastries. Coffee, tea and soda are also included and there will be a cash bar.

**Mr. Vito Cardinale** will be honored with our Sportsperson of the Year. Vito was nominated by the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club. Vito has a long history of supporting our veterans and children with special needs.

**Mr. Kenneth Hollins** will be honored with our Youth Education Award. Ken was nominated by the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association. Ken has been a longtime member of both the NJBBA and the Berkeley Striper Club.

As always, we will have gifts and silent auctions along with a 50/50. We will have a lot of really nice prizes including some for the ladies. We are requesting that our member clubs and individuals donate something for our raffle and/or our silent auction, or perhaps a bottle for our basket of cheer. To make a donation, please contact Don Marantz (908) 347-1434. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$900 for a table of ten. Mickey Sherri and John Toth will be handling the ticket sales as well as the seating arrangements this year. Call Mickey at (732) 421-6668 or John at (732) 656-0139.

## President's Report

*By Mark Taylor*

Reminder that JCAA's next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for **October 29th** at 7:30pm and will be held in person at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724. (Hybrid Meeting). For those that may not have known, this past week was the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). Anyone could have and should have signed on to listen to what is coming for each of the different species we all fish for. I am sure Tom Fote or one of the other board members will write something in this newsletter or next. As soon as I get the summary of the meetings, I will be sending the link for all to review. There are a lot of things that we need to talk about at the General Meeting and for you to take back to your club. JCAA needs many more individuals to get involved by attending meetings and keeping on top of all the topics that affect the recreational community. There is not one person that can cover it all. Many in the recreational community think someone else will go, which is not always the case. If you or someone from your club would like to get involved, please let me or one of the board members know.

On **November 10th**, JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner will be held. If you or your club have not done so already, contact Mickey Sherry or Don Marantz. Please do so soon because it is rapidly approaching, and we need to get a head count and dinner selection at the Captain's Inn. There is more information in last months and this newsletter. I would like to take the time to congratulate two very dedicated individuals that put many hours into something they truly believe in and will be honored that night. The

recipients are the 2024 JCAA Sportsperson-of-the-Year **Vito Cardinale** and the 2024 JCAA Youth Education Award winner **Ken Hollins**. One of the greatest ways to show each of them that you truly honor and support their dedication is to be in attendance at the dinner on November 10th.

It is the time of the year when the summer species are migrating, and the colder weather species are starting to show up. For those that do not fish during the winter months, they are getting their boats and gear ready for the winter storage. The individuals that target the winter species are going full speed ahead to pursuit of those species. As always be safe and do not take chances.

As I mentioned in the last few newsletters, I have received the contracts for next year's show that JCAA would like to have a booth at. I will be signing and submitting the contracts in the next few weeks. We need volunteers to work at the booths. I am asking the clubs to ask their membership if anyone would volunteer their time. I am looking for individuals to volunteer for 4-hour shifts at the JCAA booth promoting JCAA which is your association. I will be emailing the show schedules with time slots that need to be filled. By volunteering a shift, JCAA pays for your entry into the show for that day. These shows are important to be at, talk to individuals that fish in our waters and keep them informed. Anyone that can volunteer please contact me at (732) 245-9445. The shows and dates are Atlantic City Boat Show February 26<sup>th</sup>–March 2<sup>nd</sup> and the Saltwater Fishing Expo March 14<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup>. I would like to get the list of volunteers done early.

We are still dealing with some issues at the new JCAA office in Wall Township. We are currently trying to work with the Info Age and Wall Township to rectify the issues.

JCAA is still looking for more individuals to get more involved with JCAA at all diverse levels. Let me know if you are interested at 732-245-9445.

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*Get Involved, Voice Your Concerns,  
Unite as a Community & Protect the  
Future of Recreational Fishing.*

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**Important Information:** The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for **November 26th** at 7:30pm and will be held in person at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724. (Hybrid Meeting).

# Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

*By Tom Fote*

To all, the first two things that are included in my report are two releases that I received from ASA. One is the court case that upheld the new way of managing recreational fisheries on species that are jointly managed by the MAFMC and ASMFC. The other release is on the Sportfishing Industry and Community Partners Release Policy Recommendations for the Future of Recreational Fishing. There are links to go to the PDF file on that document and you should download so you can read. This has gone out to both transition teams for the future president of the United States. It is good that the national groups are working ahead of time, so our agendas are on the list for the transition teams. That is the good news. ...now the bad news.

## **Striped Bass ASFMC Management Board**

Below is the press release from ASMFC on what the board decided. It is complicated and totally disappointing. As you know, I was there as the Atlantic Coast Conservation Act was passed in the early nineties. JCAA worked with Commercial Fishing Groups like The Maryland Waterman's Association and the North Carolina Commercial Fishermen Association and many recreational groups like ASA and CCA made sure that the bill included the involvement of the public in decision, the establishment of advisory committees and that the economic impacts would always be considered. The process for passing addendums and amendments allowed for much public input. That is why the addendum process should take some time and allow for multiple public input at points. When I sat at the board meetings as a commissioner, I would always remind the boards that we needed to encourage public input for every decision. I would ask the chairman that species board if we would get public input before a vote. Now that I am not there, no one is asking that question. I sat from 1:30 to 7:00 for a striped bass board meeting. At the beginning of the meeting public comment was allowed for anything not on the agenda. If you commented on an agenda item, you were cut off. As I listened on this striped board, no one asked about getting public opinion before voting on motions. At the

end, the chairman asked if there was any public comment from anyone present or online. There was only one hand raised in the audience and that person was allowed to speak. I raised my hand before they actually finished voting because I wanted to complain about the lack of public comment of any motions. With over 100 people online, the chair allowed only 3 people to comment even though there were more hands raised. I know I raised my hand early, but they decided to ignore me.

This is the tip of the iceberg. If we don't have a commissioner looking out for the public, we are just ignored. We need to remind our commissioners from each state to make sure the public is included if the chair does not do so. This is not the public process that was established, and the public is being eliminated more and more. We are now managing striped bass through an emergency action which does not allow for a full process and public hearings. The board decided to make a motion to have a special meeting in December to decide if we need to do another 15% reduction for striped bass to send out to public hearings. This is the worst time to have a meeting since it is one of the most important time for recreational striped bass anglers too and it is the holiday season. There is also a Joint ASMFC & MAFMC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Seabass in December dealing Recreational measures on those species. Because they are operating under this emergency action, they ignored that should have gone to the public with a scoping document but that was completely ignored. This is what I would have said I guess if they had let me comment, I probably would have been ignored. I have said these points many times. We need you to tell your fellow anglers and your clubs and they need to do something about these points:

1. Do we need a further 15% reduction before we fully know what the reduction accomplished in 2024?
2. At the beginning of the stock assessment report, when they talked about the impact of the 6-year poor recruitment, one of the commissioners reminded them that the recruitment is not based on the size of the spawning stock biomass since the spawning stock biomass is higher than when we had great young of the year index. That is a scientific fact. It is not the size of the biomass, but it is the environmental conditions and the other impacts that stop recruitment. We don't need

a bigger spawning stock biomass; We need to address the other factors.

3. The reference points need to be looked at what can be reached under the current environmental conditions.
4. Since the board has no control over the environmental factors, they punish both the commercial and recreational industries needlessly.
5. The board has not done an economic study for both the commercial and recreational fishing communities for all the reductions taken since the last benchmark stock assessment. The information I have from personal conversations with charter and party boat captains tells me the impact is huge. But they don't seem to care. All they seem to care about are their charts and graphs that they use to make projections. The charts and graphs reflect only what is happening in the commercial and recreational sectors but totally ignore the other factors that are causing the problem. These actions will not solve the problem. But commissioners can go back to their states saying they did something even though it will have no effect on the problem. What they do know is their decisions will cause more pain for the recreational fishing industry and the commercial fishing industry.
6. When a commercial only lobster fishery had no recordable recruitment in the Southern New England stocks for about 15 years and continues, they did not do anything by emergency action. They had multiple meetings with all those sectors listed in the Lobster Fisheries Management Plan explaining what was happening and getting input. I was there when we punted because we knew that any decision we made would have no impact on the problem. It wasn't the fishermen that were causing the problem, it was the environmental factors. Since it was a commercial fishery only fishery and lobster fisherman were standing together and working as a single group unlike the fractured recreational community on the management of striped bass they did not further reduce the catch. I agreed with the decision

since nothing we could do would make it happen.

7. We have allowed a certain sector of the recreational community that does only catch and release fishing because they are very vocal and seem to have more money to pay lobbyists and people to go to meetings to have undue influence on how the board operates. Because this pits recreational fishermen against one another, it gives the board an out.
8. One of the commercial governor's appointees on the board complained that the commercial fishery is supplying everyone who does not fish with striped bass thus allowing them to eat striped bass for a price. He then stated that the recreational fishery is mainly playing with their food. What I wanted to say in my question was the only reason we are playing with our food is because the regulations are not allowing us to take a fish home to eat. He ignored the fact that subsistence fishermen and people who want to take home fish to eat are being forced out of the fishery. This impacts people who have historically fed themselves and their families by fishing the same way we do by hunting. When you go to a fish market, check out the prices. This is an environmental justice issue which ASMFC just ignores. Most of those impacted by these regulations cannot afford to attend meetings due to travel or work obligations.
9. What ASMFC is also failing to do is look at both climate change and the impact that endocrine disruptors and other chemicals are having on reproduction. We know that we are finding more females than males in many of the estuary dependent fisheries. When we look at the male to female ratios we know the stocks have a larger female population. The study in the Potomac River showed that some small mouth bass males were actually exhibiting both male and female reproductive organs. This has shown up in other studies as well which have been listed in previous JCAA Newspapers. There was also a study done on winter flounder in Jamaica Bay that showed the male to female ratio was dramatically female in their samples. JCAA has been in the forefront of this battle. I have testified several times in the last 20 years



at numerous meetings, boards and in Congressional testimony. There is no work being done to find a solution to this problem.

I have listed some of the problems. I have said much of this before. I often feel like I am repeating myself and no one is listening. I have gone to a number of environmental groups about these issues, but I don't see them stepping up to do this work. I have talked to EPA a number of times and gotten nowhere since it would mean upgrading sewer plants across the USA. We know now these environmental issues are impacting on males and their sperm count. In previous newspapers I have included studies done in China and Western Europe. Both studies show a steep decline in the last 20 years of the viability of men's sperm. We need to stop kicking the can down the road and deal with the real problems that are not the recreational and commercial industry.

### **What has Happened with the Recreation Fishing Community Working Together**

In the 80's the recreational community was working together for the rebuilding of striped bass stocks. The community included catch and release fishermen, party and charter boats, subsistence fishermen and people who wanted to take home a fish to eat. The community spoke with one voice and made that voice heard. As soon as the stocks were rebuilt and the fishery was open, some of the members of a certain part of this community looked at striped bass as only a species for catch and release. When the stocks were at an all-time high and when New York went to open up the fishery to 2 fish at 28 inches like most of the rest of the coast, the catch and release community fought against that plan. When New York planned to give the party and charter boats 2 fish per angler, some of the catch and release community fought that plan as well. They also fought against allowing subsistence and recreational anglers to take a fish home to eat. They won that battle because they were the loudest voices at the table. This fracture in the recreational community led to extremes across every issue. The whole atmosphere has become a "we're right, you're wrong" mentality. The lack of cooperation means none of us have the impact on the decisions ASMFC makes while we are fighting with each other. After JCAA and its member clubs in New Jersey succeeded in making the Striped Bass Gamefish bill (no-sale) in NJ, JCAA spent a lot of time and money trying to help other states in passing their own bill. JCAA, with the help of ASA organized coastwide

meetings for those organizations in other states. We were instrumental in the formation of the NY, Virginia and Maryland CCAs and then working with them and National CCA and the existing CCAs of Maine and Connecticut to work on making striped bass a coast wide gamefish. We were a united community with a single goal.

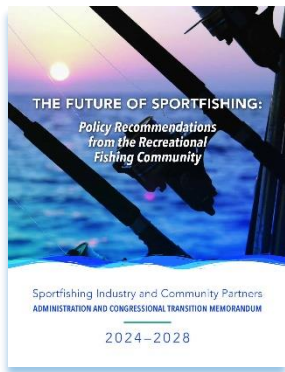
Today is just the opposite. A perfect example is the American Guides Association. They have spent a lot of time attacking New Jersey's bonus tag program saying we should not have the extra fish we got converting the commercial fishery. New Jersey's recreational anglers took a commercial quota and turned it into a supplement for the recreational community. But what we really did was establish a quota that made sure there would never be a commercial striped bass fishery in New Jersey again. New Jersey's anglers have had the option to harvest that quota and over the years we have harvested only a small part of that quota. If that quota had been a commercial quota, we would have lost millions of pounds of striped bass to a commercial harvest that remains protected and keeps down the illegal commercial fishery harvest that happens in other states that do allow a commercial fishery in their state. Look at the millions of pounds landed illegal in Maryland that happen by just a couple of commercial fishermen. These same groups have suddenly become quiet about striped bass gamefish along the whole East coast. Because they failed in making striped bass a game fish in their states, some of these groups started attacking subsistence anglers and those who want to take home a fish to eat. Instead of going after the commercial fishermen in their states, they focus the attention on other recreational anglers who want to take home a fish to eat. That is where we are today.

It would be interesting to put all this energy into coastwide game fish status. Remember, because of the effort that was made with the help of ASA, CCA and other groups working with local groups, an executive order was signed by President Bush that if the EEZ was ever opened, it would be open only for recreational fishing. We need to get back to working as a united community, working to protect every facet of our community, not just for your own interests. I am looking forward to hearing the guides association taking on the commercial fishermen in their own states and doing what we did in New Jersey. If you are not protecting your own state, leave New Jersey alone because we accomplished what you could not.

## Sportfishing Industry and Community Partners Release Policy Recommendations for the Future of Recreational Fishing

*By Rob Shane, October 10, 2024*

**Alexandria, Va. – October 10, 2024** – The American Sportfishing Association (ASA), the trade association for the sportfishing industry, along with 16 conservation partners released a roadmap for the next Administration and Congress to support the interests of the sportfishing industry and the entire recreational fishing community. [The Future of Sportfishing: Policy Recommendations from the Recreational Fishing Community](#) was a collaborative effort aimed at guiding science-based conservation, growth in trade in commerce, increasing access and education, and advocating for the rights of the American angler.



This document was a collaborative effort by a group of recreational fishing industry, conservation, and community stakeholders. The supporting organizations are widely recognized leaders in habitat conservation, access protection, and recreational

fishing policy advocates. These sportfishing community partners collectively represent thousands of businesses and 57.7 million American anglers.

“Each year, one out of six Americans go fishing – contributing \$148 billion to the U.S. economy,” said Mike Leonard, Vice President of Government Affairs at ASA. “The next Administration and Congress should clearly understand what issues our constituency cares about, and this report gives them a roadmap on how they can best support our community’s needs.”

The recommendations are divided into three categories: federal funding requests, marine policy proposals, and freshwater policy proposals:

### National Conservation Funding

- Adequate and dedicated funding for federal land management agencies
- Reauthorization of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund
- Enhanced funding for state-led collaborative conservation

### Marine Fisheries Policy Proposals

- Improve data and access
- Investments in marine technologies
- Effective fisheries management
- Species habitat and recovery

### Freshwater Fisheries Policy Proposals

- Legislation to protect habitat and support restoration
- Strengthen interstate partnerships
- Conserve waterways and protect public access
- Invasive species management and removal

Recreational fishing is one of the most popular and accessible ways to connect the public, especially diverse audiences, to the outdoors. The recreational fishing community also provides substantial investments toward the conservation of our publicly shared resources. License sales, the federal excise tax on the sale of fishing equipment, and direct donations contribute \$1.8 billion towards aquatic resource conservation each year.

“We’re proud to stand alongside so many influential voices in the sportfishing community to make our voice heard and we look forward to working with the next Administration and Congress to support these critical initiatives,” added Leonard.

With continued support from Congress and the White House, we can continue to grow our sport’s economic contributions while also protecting our fisheries and restoring our cherished waterways.

[Hear more from our supporting partners](#)

## ASA Highlights Legal Validation of Alternative Management Approaches for Recreational Fisheries

*ASA, September 24, 2024*

**Alexandria, VA** – The [American Sportfishing Association](#) (ASA) is pleased to announce that Judge Beryl Howell of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia has upheld the legality of the Harvest Control Rule (HCR) under Framework 17 specific to the recreational fisheries for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. ASA was accepted as an intervenor in the Framework 17 lawsuit.



This ruling affirms that the HCR and the Percent Change Approach, implemented in the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions, comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The overall goal of the Percent Change Approach is to provide more stability for the recreational sector by iteratively adjusting management measures to achieve the Recreational Harvest Limit, while minimizing potential overreaction (overcorrection) to annual variability in the harvest estimates.

“This ruling reinforces the progress made in developing alternative recreational fisheries management that still adheres to the conservation ethic of the MSA and highlights the significance of innovative strategies like Framework 17,” said Mike Wayne, ASA’s Atlantic Fisheries Policy Director. “Such measures are essential for addressing inherent imprecision in recreational fisheries data, providing predictability for anglers, and supporting a robust recreational fishing sector.”

The court concluded that Framework 17 not only fulfills the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) requirements of the MSA but also aligns more closely with National Standard 1. This standard establishes two key targets: (1) preventing overfishing and (2) consistently achieving optimum yield (OY). While the ACL acts as a guideline for preventing overfishing, National Standard 1 emphasizes a wider approach, indicating that the ACL alone should not be the only measure used to assess the effectiveness of recreational management strategies. The court’s holding recognizes that the National Marine Fisheries Service can adopt management approaches that better address the inherent variability and uncertainty present in recreational fisheries compared to commercial fisheries and that are consistent with the [Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018](#).

This comprehensive approach fosters a more effective and stable regulatory environment, benefiting both fishery resources and the angling community. Framework 17 was developed collaboratively over multiple years with stakeholders, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and NOAA Fisheries and is part of a broader [recreational reform initiative](#) in the region.

For more information about ASA and its commitment to sustainable fisheries management, please visit [our website](#). The courts memorandum opinion can be accessed [here](#).

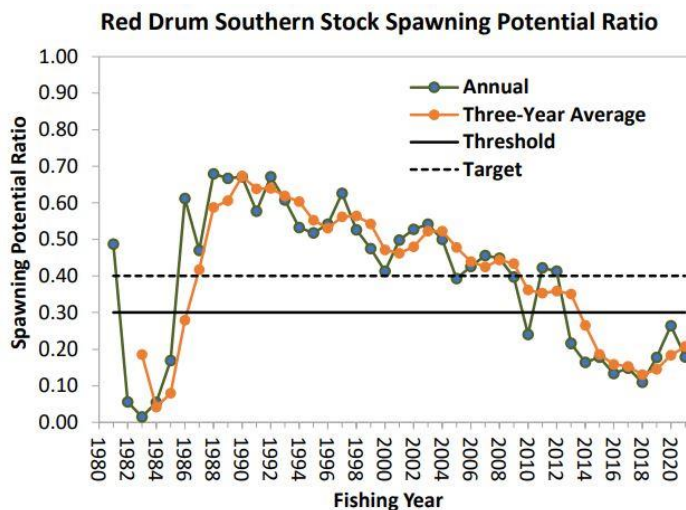
## Red Drum Benchmark Stock Assessment Finds Mixed Results for the Northern and Southern Stocks:

*Northern Stock not Overfishing and Overfishing Not Occurring; Southern Stock Overfished and Experiencing Overfishing*

*ASMFC Press Release, October 23, 2024*

**Annapolis, MD** – The 2024 Red Drum Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report indicates the northern stock of red drum (New Jersey through North Carolina) is not overfished and not experiencing overfishing, while the southern stock (South Carolina through the east coast of Florida) is overfished and experiencing overfishing.

The two stocks were assessed separately, using different methods. The southern stock was assessed using the Stock Synthesis (SS) assessment model. Stock status is based on the latest three-year (2019-2021 September-August fishing years) averages of population measures. The three-year average spawning potential ratio (SPR) is less than the 30% SPR threshold, indicating the stock is experiencing overfishing. Spawning potential ratio is a measure of spawning biomass expected under current fishing mortality levels compared to spawning stock biomass expected if no fishing mortality were occurring. The three-year average female spawning stock biomass (SSB) was 8,737 metric tons (19.27 million pounds), less than the SSB threshold of 9,917 metric tons (21.87 million pounds), indicating the stock is overfished.



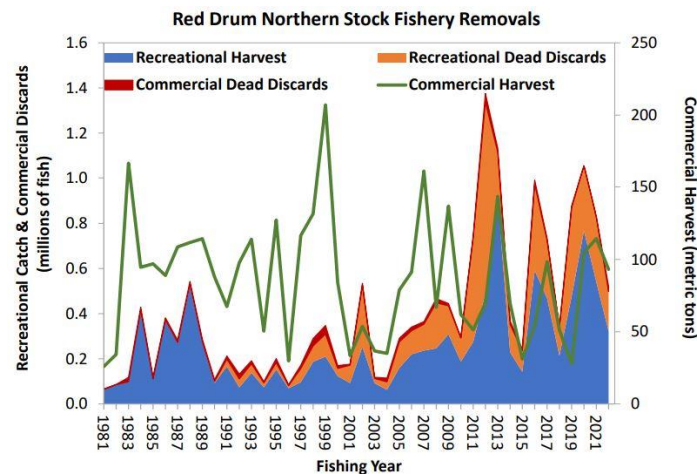
A robust, technically-sound SS model could not be developed for the northern stock, so the stock was

assessed using a traffic light analysis (TLA). The TLA assigns a color (red, yellow or green) to categorize relative levels of metrics that reflect the condition of red drum adult abundance and fishery performance (i.e., fishing mortality). Although these metrics were not red in the last three years of the assessment, indicating the stock was not overfished nor experiencing overfishing, consistent yellow fishery performance metrics indicated increasing fishing mortality in recent years. Continued monitoring of the northern stock and the increasing trend in fishing mortality is recommended in future years through updates to the TLA.

Red drum fisheries are predominately recreational. Removals (harvest + dead discards) increased to relatively high levels at the end of the assessment time series for both stocks. In the northern stock, removals have increased to time series highs. In the southern stock, they have increased to levels similar to time series highs observed in the early 1980s.

Commercial landings currently only occur in the northern stock, but are a small proportion of total removals and have fluctuated without trend.

The Commission's Sciaenids Management Board accepted the benchmark stock assessment and peer review reports for management use and tasked the Red Drum Technical Committee with additional analyses to evaluate possible paths forward for red drum management.



A more detailed description of the stock assessment results, as well as the Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Reports, will be available on the Commission website at [this link](#) under Stock Assessment Reports.

For more information on the stock assessment, please contact Jeff Kipp, Senior Stock Assessment

Scientist, at [jkipp@asmfc.org](mailto:jkipp@asmfc.org); and for more information on red drum management, please contact Tracey Bauer, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [tbauer@asmfc.org](mailto:tbauer@asmfc.org).

## New Jersey's Beach Badge Bill: What it Means for Recreational Fishermen

*By Capt. Paul Eidman*

The idea of beach badges has long been familiar to New Jersey beachgoers. These tags, required for access to many shorelines from Memorial Day to Labor Day, help municipalities cover the costs of lifeguards, beach maintenance, and public facilities. But on August 20, 2024, a viral moment in Belmar brought beach badges into the national spotlight. Surfer Liam Mahoney was asked to show his beach badge before heading out to the waves — a situation that most surfers outside of New Jersey had never encountered.

The controversy has sparked a broader conversation, one that now extends beyond Belmar's shores. On September 19, New Jersey Assemblywoman Margie Donlon introduced **Bill A4816** to the state legislature, which could change the way badges are enforced for two key groups: surfers and fishermen.

### FIGURES

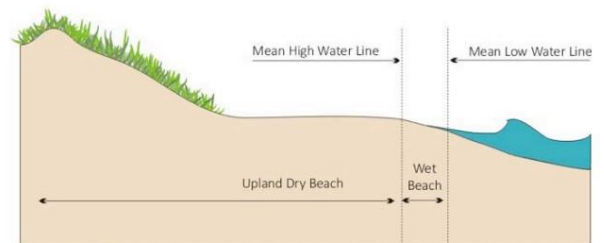


Figure 1: Portions of the Beach



Figure 2: Types of Access

The bill aims to clarify beach access for individuals who are not sunbathing or swimming, but instead engaging in activities such as surfing or fishing—activities that often take place below the mean high tide line, where the ocean and beach truly belong to the public. The proposed legislation would allow surfers and fishermen access to these areas without requiring a beach tag, though municipalities could still enforce badge requirements during guarded hours for other beachgoers.

Assemblywoman Donlon, herself a surfer and public health advocate, believes this is an issue of fairness and clarity. She explains, “The Public Trust Doctrine was meant to ensure New Jersey’s shorelines are accessible to everyone, but interpretation and clarity issues have led to confusion.” Donlon’s bill seeks to create uniformity across the state’s 40 coastal municipalities, ensuring that the rules are applied consistently while respecting the rights of those who use the beaches for surfing and fishing.

For recreational fishermen, this bill is a significant step in protecting long-held rights. Under the Public Trust Doctrine, the public’s rights to tidal waterways and their shores are protected for all people. Historically, fishermen have not been charged to access these areas, and Bill A4816 reinforces this principle. It recognizes that fishermen, like surfers, use the beach in a different way than other visitors—often at off-peak hours, and for purposes tied to the ancient right to fish on public trust lands and waters.

This is an issue the **Jersey Coast Anglers Association** (JCAA) has long championed. For years, the JCAA has fought tirelessly to ensure that recreational fishermen have free and open access to public waters along the Jersey Shore. Our efforts have helped secure the rights of anglers to fish along the coastline, reinforcing the belief that New Jersey’s beaches should remain accessible to all who enjoy the shore, whether for sport or relaxation. Bill A4816 is a natural extension of the JCAA’s work, pushing back against any restrictions that unfairly limit fishermen’s access.

Longtime activist and former mayor of Loch Arbor, Bill Rosenblat, who attended a key meeting on the bill, said, “This bill is needed for clarity. We need all towns and badge checkers to be consistent.” He highlights the inconsistent enforcement of badge policies as a recurring problem, particularly for fishermen who use the beach early in the morning or later in the evening, well outside the hours when most beachgoers are present.

While this bill is widely supported by the fishing and surfing communities, not everyone is in favor. Some groups, like the Belmar-based **Make NJ Beaches Free** campaign, argue that the legislation does not go far enough. They believe beach access should be free for everyone, not just surfers and fishermen. The debate is ongoing, but for now, Bill A4816 is a crucial development for those of us who rely on free and fair access to the shoreline for recreational fishing.

As the bill makes its way through the legislative process, we encourage all recreational fishermen to make their voices heard. Contact your local state representatives and let them know why this bill is important to you and our community. You can find your representatives’ contact information at [njleg.state.nj.us](http://njleg.state.nj.us).

In the long run, ensuring consistent access to New Jersey’s shores benefits not only surfers and fishermen but everyone who cherishes our coastline. Thanks to the efforts of groups like the JCAA, Bill A4816 is about protecting the public’s right to enjoy our state’s most precious natural resource — the ocean.

For an in-depth look at the Public Trust Doctrine here in New Jersey, please visit [this report link](#).

*Excerpts included from a [recent article](#) by Jon Cohen for Surfer magazine.*

## JCAA Membership Report

*By John Toth*

We are well into this year, and this is a reminder to member clubs that a number of clubs still have not paid their JCAA membership dues! Please **make your checks payable to the JCAA** and mail them to the new JCAA address. Send your dues to:

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

Member Clubs, please check the list below that I have received checks from as payment for their membership dues and sponsorships. If you do not see your club, please contact me ASAP:

- Bay Head Shores Fishing Club - \$50
- Beach haven Marlin & Tuna Club - \$100



- Belmar Fishing Club - \$50
- Berkeley Striper Club - \$100
- Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association - \$100
- Fish Hawks - \$150
- Bradley Beach Surfcasters - \$150
- Forked River Tuna Club - \$250
- Fun Under the Water - \$100
- Hi-Mar Striper Club - \$500
- Hudson River Fishermen's Association (HRFA) - \$100
- Manasquan Fishing Club - \$300
- Menhaden Defenders - \$100
- NJ Beach Buggy Association (NJBBA) - \$300
- Newark Bait & Fly Casting - \$100
- NJ Council of Diving Clubs - \$50
- Raritan Bay - \$50
- Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County - \$100
- Seaside Heights Fishing Club - \$100
- Shore Surf Club - \$50
- Spring Lake Live Liners - \$100
- Sunrise Rod & Gun Club - \$50
- Surf Kings - \$50
- Village Harbor Club - \$50

I have also received sponsorships:

- Paul Shafer - \$200
- Jon Brunetti - \$100
- Bill Browne - \$100
- L. Raymond Humphreys - \$135
- Adam Pieseki - \$85
- Michael Revesz - \$100
- Barnegat Animal Clinic - \$60
- Linda & Chris Jewell - \$210
- Gene & Susan Geld - \$60
- Paul Olsen - \$50
- Joe Palumbo - \$500

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 **October 29<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net) or at (732) 656-0139 if you have any questions.*

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### BLACKFISH DERBY

Veterans and their families had a chance to enjoy a blackfish derby on Saturday, October 19th, at the Marine Service Bureau Point Pleasant Station. NJSP Troopers Assisting Troops (TAT) and American Warrior Outdoors invited veteran men and women to participate in honoring veterans for their service. Troopers from TAT, and various volunteers came out to help veterans enjoy a day near the water with their family and friends. Organizers Mike Doherty, TAT, Kevin Nolan, American Warrior Outdoors, and Sgt. Rob Frake's team of Trooper Volunteers did a great job of planning the event and feeding everyone.

During lunch, veterans had an opportunity to enjoy friendly conversation while eating delicious, homemade prepared food.



A special ceremony by Quilts of Valor, NJSP, and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 was conducted by Rebecca's Real Quilters to honor three recipients. Karen Noe did a wonderful job of helping with the QOV nominations.



During the derby at the canal, many veterans and children caught blackfish. It was a fun day for all. The event committee appreciates everyone that contributed to support our veterans and make this event a success.

### **2024 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD**

This year, Ken Hollins was selected by the JCAA Youth Education Committee to receive the 2024 JCAA Youth Education Award. The following nomination was submitted by the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association:

I would like to nominate Ken Hollins as candidate for the 2024 JCAA Youth Education Award. Ken has been actively involved with youth education for over the past sixteen years as a member of the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association.

Ken was certified as a HOFNOD instructor early during the program's inception. He has chaired the NJBBA Youth Fishing Tournament for the past 6 years. This tourney includes mandatory educational stations. He has personally worked in the educational

areas of knot tying, identification of marine life, identification of metals and lures, casting, procedure after catching a tagged fish. He has done it all in a very proficient manner. Ken has been actively involved with NJBBA's National Hunting and Fishing Day which provides surf fishing opportunities to challenged children. For 16 years Ken was NJBBA's membership secretary and pushed for youth membership. He is currently head judge of The New Jersey Gov's Cup and is active with NJBBA's Veterans program.

Ken, as a member of the Berkley Striper Club, worked several years at the Berkley Striper Club Youth Day held at Sea Girt. With Berkley, he was awarded the 2000 Angler of the Year and in 2008 was awarded the Bill Sculerati Award for sportsmanship and dedication to the club.

In summation, I believe Ken Hollins is a deserving candidate for the 2024 JCAA Youth Education Award.

Gary Conk, Past NJBBA President

Come join us at the JCAA Sportsman of the Year Dinner on Sunday, November 10, 2024, at the Captain's Inn, to celebrate and recognize a host of individuals that go above and beyond to make recreational fishing better for future generations.





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Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

President's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pres. Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Ph. # \_\_\_\_\_

Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check \$50 payable to JCAA

## Individuals can join JCAA as an Associate Member

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.

### JCAA Associate Member Application

Date \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_

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Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Ph. # \_\_\_\_\_

If contributing, please make check payable to JCAA

### COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

|                               |                  |               |
|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>Legislative</b>            | Tom Fote         | 732-270-9102  |
| <b>Operations Manager</b>     |                  |               |
| <b>Office Manager</b>         | Karen Noe        | jcaa@jcaa.org |
| <b>Fluke Tournament</b>       |                  |               |
| <b>Access (North)</b>         | Paul Novello     | 609-203-4812  |
| <b>Access (Cntrl+South)</b>   | Greg O'Connel    | 609-204-0220  |
| <b>Blackfish</b>              | Pat Donnelly     | 732-295-1755  |
| <b>Blue Claw Crab</b>         |                  |               |
| <b>Bluefish</b>               | Al Marantz       | 732-859-0020  |
| <b>Habitat</b>                | Pat Donnelly     | 732-295-1755  |
| <b>Large Pelagic</b>          |                  |               |
| <b>Forage Species</b>         | Capt Paul Eidman |               |
| <b>Striped Bass</b>           | Paul Haertel     | 973-943-8201  |
| <b>Science &amp; Research</b> | Bruce Freeman    | 732-793-7871  |
| <b>Website</b>                | Philip V. Celmer | jcaa@jcaa.org |
| <b>Youth Education</b>        | 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](mailto:tfote@jcaa.org) or just go to the JCAA site 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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