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December 2024

Atlantic Striped Bass Board Meeting Scheduled for December 16th

Informational Webinar to be Held December 5th



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Charles (Chuck) Santoro
Insurance Specialist

Jersey Coast Shark Anglers **2024 Tournament Schedule**

Kids Fishing Fever - July 20
Flukin' Fiesta - August 17
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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

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Buggy Membership Info: Ken Hollins 732-814-7021

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JCAA NEWSPAPER DECEMBER 2024

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on November 25th, 2024)

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING

January 28th, 2025, 7:30pm

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

or via Zoom, for link contact:

tothjohn@verizon.net or mtsport64@aol.com

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, December 12th

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

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

Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

November 26th JCAA General Meeting

December 5th ASMFC Striped Bass Informational Webinar

December 12th JCAA Board Meeting

December 16th ASMFC Striped Bass Meeting

January 9th JCAA Board Meeting

January 25th Salt Water Sportsman Seminar Series

January 28th JCAA General Meeting

February 13th JCAA Board Meeting

February 25th JCAA General Meeting

February 26th-March 2nd Atlantic City Boat Show

March 13th JCAA Board Meeting

March 14th-16th NJ Saltwater Fishing Expo

March 26th JCAA General Meeting

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

As we come to the end of YR2024, JCAA would like to thank all those member clubs and individuals that supported JCAA all year. There will be no General Membership Meeting in December due to it falling on December 31st. The next scheduled General Membership Meeting will be **January 28th, 2025**, at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724. This meeting will be an in-person and zoom (Hybrid Meeting).

On November 10th, JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner was held. It was a fabulous night honoring two dedicated individuals, **Vito Cardinale** for JCAA Sportsperson of the Year and **Ken Hollins** for JCAA Youth Education Award. We need more people like them, who spend countless hours coordinating and planning events that benefit the Recreational Fishing Community. There were many clubs represented as well as individuals who love to fish recreationally. There were a lot of great items on the silent auction, tricky-tray raffle and 50/50 raffle. Thanks to all those that donate items and people who bid and took chances in the raffles. There were a lot of happy faces on all the winners. This was an outstanding night for those that attended and if you missed it, plan to be there next year.



Vito Cardinale receiving his Sportsperson-of-the-year Award

JCAA will have a booth at three fishing/boat shows next year. Starting off with **Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar Series**, January 25th (Resorts Hotel and Casino, Atlantic City, NJ), **Atlantic City Boat Show**, February 26th – March 2nd (Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ) and **Saltwater Fishing Expo**, March 14th – 16th (New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center, Edison, NJ). 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 4-hour shifts for JCAA at the 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. I would like to get the list of volunteers done early.

It is that time of year for those who are interested in becoming a JCAA Officer to call or text Don Marantz at (908) 347-1434. Don will be putting the 2025 slate of officers together. JCAA needs more motivated, dedicated individuals to get involved to keep this / your Association going.

JCAA is always 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.

Important Information: Reminder there is no December General Membership Meeting, the next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for **January 28th** at 7:30pm and will be held in person at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724 with a zoom meeting invite (Hybrid Meeting).

The JCAA Officers and Board Members wish you and your families a fantastic Holiday Season

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Tom Fote

One of these days I will be totally surprised when I can report good news. I had one of the commissioners of DEP complain about how his job was since of the regulation he had to put in place. I laughed. I said, you should have my job. In 30 years of sitting on ASMFC boards I never came back with good news. I said, you can give money and help people do things but all I can do is say the quota is getting smaller, the bag limit needs to be reduced, and the size limit needs to be raised.

When it came to species like weak fish and winter flounder, I stopped the fishery from being completely closed by motions I made. I pointed out we had no way to know what the stock was doing and the only way to know was to get some catch data and commercial landings. Even though we did everything right managing weak fish and winter flounder, neither stock has recovered. This Newspaper will cover striped bass.

Before I do that, I recommend you read Paul Eidman's article on courtesy fishing. I have been out fishing twice and people have been showing no courtesy to each other. My fishing partner got spooled by some jerk coming too close at 35 knots. I don't know what 300 yards of braid will do to his prop, but it is probably tangled in the bearings. In the two trips I took, boats were coming full speed next to us, creating wakes that are dangerous. My last trip of the season was created by one of those idiots. He came flying through and created 3 giant waves. I was knocked off my feet, hit my head, arm and back and ended up in the emergency room. Fortunately, nothing was broken. It could have been much worse. Please be careful out there and respect other anglers.

Striped Bass

Striped bass as usual is the hot topic. There are three upcoming meetings in early December. As stated in the press release below, the draft agenda, webinar information, and the Technical Committee Report with management options for consideration will be posted [here](#) by December 3 before their meeting on December 5. These meetings will send out options to the public that no one will like. If you have the time or energy,

what happened at the last board meeting in October is posted on the ASMFC website. At least you can do that at your own pace and skip the boring parts. But there was a good deal of information provided along with the presentations.

Striped Bass and Hatcheries

I got an email from one of the club reps asking if we can raise striped bass at hatcheries. I explained to him that was done during the 80's in several hatcheries in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. I was able to find some documents about the hatchery in New York and the proposed North Carolina plan to bring back striped bass in the Cape Fear River. They released 220,000 8-inch striped bass into the river. I also came across a document from New York DEP in 1973 that discusses the reasons why Indian Point Power Plant should release hatchery raised striped bass into the Hudson River. That document can be found at [this link](#). It contains a good deal of information about why the fish should be raised and released into the river. If you have a problem with the link email me and I will send it to you.

When I started attending ASMFC Striped Bass Board meetings, I heard about the stocking programs in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina which were designed to help rebuild the stocks. They were putting in a lot of fish, each of which was tagged with a magnetic tag that we could wand. We would not even have to catch the fish, just wand them where they spawned. That would tell us how many were on the spawning grounds. These fish were raised to a 2-inch size limit before they were released which increased the opportunity of survival. After many years of attending scientific meetings, I have learned the impact of chemicals on the larva, eggs and in the early stages of development. There were even studies done on rats showing chemicals in their water at certain stages of development would create specific diseases. It would also have an impact on their sexuality as we have been finding out with the research on endocrine disruptors. These fish were raised in a sterile environment until they were through those early stages of development and did better than fish exposed throughout those early stages. As these fish matured, they played an important role in spawning season. People were surprised how many of the tagged fish were actually spawning and we began to see good year classes.

Raising striped bass in hatcheries is expensive. As soon as the stock began recovering, the hatcheries were closed except for the New York hatchery.

Fisheries managers have always been skeptical of using hatcheries in salt water. There has been little discussion about striped bass. But all we have to do is look at what hatcheries have done to bring back the stock of red drum in the gulf and in Florida. On the West Coast there would not be salmon fishing without hatcheries due to all the dams, water drained for irrigation and drinking water and other habitat issues that we have created. That is even true in the more pristine areas of Alaska where a majority of fish are hatchery raised.

Unless we begin really addressing the real reasons we are having low recruitment of striped bass in Chesapeake Bay, just more regulations on fishermen will have no positive impact. The spawning stock biomass we have right now in Chesapeake Bay is enough to produce the highest young of the year. Climate change and the warm water it produces, and the other environmental factors are not being addressed. All we are doing is restricting both the commercial and recreational harvests. Once again, I will point to weak fish, winter flounder and lobsters. We almost stopped the catch on those two fish species almost completely and there have been no positive gains that we can measure. With lobsters, we just let the fishery continue even though there hasn't been recruitment in southern New England lobster fishery in close to 20 years and the stocks continue to go down. Hatcheries might be the only way to rebuild the stocks. This will come down to money and I don't hold out much hope. But I feel this may be the only way.

Atlantic Striped Bass Board Meeting Scheduled for December 16th to Consider Changes to 2025 Management Measures

Informational Webinar to be Held December 5th with
Public Comment Deadline Set for December 10th

ASMFC Press Release, November 7, 2024

Arlington, VA – The Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board will meet in-person and via webinar on Monday, December 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to consider changing 2025 management measures to increase the probability of rebuilding the stock by the 2029 deadline. The meeting will be held at the Westin Crystal City, 1800 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202. The draft agenda, webinar information, and the Technical Committee Report with management options for consideration will be posted [here](#) by December 3; the availability of this information will be announced

by press release. The Advisory Panel Report and all written comments received by December 10 will be posted no later than December 13.

The meeting responds to the results of the [2024 Stock Assessment Update](#), which indicates the resource remains overfished but is not experiencing overfishing. Short-term projections estimate an increase in fishing mortality in 2025 due to the above average 2018 year-class entering the current recreational ocean slot limit combined with the lack of strong year-classes behind it. In this scenario, the probability of rebuilding by 2029 is less than 50%. Under Addendum II to Amendment 7, the Board can change management measures through Board action, instead of developing an addendum, if the stock assessment indicates a less than 50% probability of the stock rebuilding by 2029. As a result, the Board will meet December 16 to consider changing 2025 management measures to reduce fishing mortality and increase the probability of rebuilding to at least 50%.

1986 NY Times Article on Striped Bass Stocking in Hudson & Chesapeake Bay

BRUCE FRIEDMANN dipped his net into the muddy water of the Hudson River, releasing hundreds of striped bass. Spawned and raised at the Hudson River Striped Bass Hatchery in Verplanck, these three-inch fish instinctively schooled and were gone.

They are part of more than a half-million stripers the hatchery spawned this spring, raised and then released this autumn. Hatchery workers call it a success story, but each fish also carries a possible answer to questions that fishery biologists have debated for decades - do hatchery-reared fish survive in the wild? Will these striped bass live long enough to return to the Hudson and spawn?

Implanted in the left cheek of each striper is a small stainless-steel wire encoded with the date, place and section of the river where the fish was released. When and if the fish return, biologists doing population studies will be able to distinguish hatchery-raised fish from the natural population.

"As far as we know, this is the largest striped-bass stocking operation of an estuary on the East Coast," said Mr. Friedmann, a hatchery manager at the Verplanck facility, which is operated by E. A. Science and Technology, a private environmental engineering company. In stocking stripers in estuaries, this year the

Hudson hatchery, which uses large tanks for fish culture, has surpassed the output of Federal hatcheries elsewhere around the country that use pond culture to raise fish.

Raising the striped bass is not an easy task. As with most fertility problems, timing is everything. Two years ago, hatchery workers in South Carolina misjudged the time the adult fish came upriver to spawn, and it seemed that almost in one day all the spawning fish went by without the biologists noticing.

Within a hatchery, cannibalism and diseases can reduce a population. At some fish hatcheries, where stripers are grown to 10 inches in length, workers are searched, because some have tried to slip out with a fish in their boot for dinner.

During the spring, biologists from the Verplanck hatchery collected spawning fish from the river. More than 24 million eggs were then fertilized, producing 18 million larval fish. About 570,000 survived and were reared in tanks to the three-inch size. In the early autumn, the hatchery released 537,000 stripers into the Hudson River - the largest number of fish produced in its four years of operation.

The Hudson River hatchery came out of a court settlement concerning the effect of power-plant operations on aquatic life in the Hudson. The 1981 landmark agreement signed by five utility companies, the state and Federal Governments and a number of environmental groups, ended 17 years of costly court battles and imposed a 10-year moratorium on litigation. As one of the provisions intended to mitigate the effects of power-plant operations on fish, five power companies - Consolidated Edison, Orange and Rockland Utilities, the New York Power Authority, Central Hudson and Niagara Mohawk - agreed to finance the striped-bass stocking of the river for eight years with a \$5.7 million hatchery program.

"The purpose of the program is to supplement stocks of wild fish to offset losses that may occur from power-plant operations," said Dr. Kenneth Marcellus, who supervises the contractual hatchery program for Consolidated Edison. E.A. Science and Technology runs the hatchery under its contract.

When power plants take in river water to cool condensers, large numbers of fish are killed. Dr. William Kirk, director of biological studies for Con Edison, said: "There were people who took us to task for killing 50,000 fish. Now hatchery output far exceeds that number. So those people who considered our killing 50,000 striped a year a big deal - I guess the

placement of five times that number ought to be considered a big deal, too."

Ironically enough, the Hudson River striped bass is highly contaminated with PCBs, and since May 8 of this year both the recreational and commercial fisheries have been closed.

Although the striper is not an endangered fish on the Hudson, it is in trouble elsewhere, especially in the Chesapeake Bay, where natural production of this fish that returns to upriver spawning grounds has dropped alarmingly in the last decade. In early October, President Reagan signed the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Bill, protecting this fish, long a favorite of sportsmen and gourmets.

While striped-bass hatcheries have operated for years in the South to stock freshwater reservoirs for sports fishing, recently New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and New York have begun striped-bass stocking programs in estuaries to add to the stock of wild fish. According to Paul Perra, coordinator for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission - an interstate organization representing 15 states along the Eastern Seaboard concerned with the welfare of migratory fish - one million stripers were released in estuaries last year. "Stocking programs will have a significant impact on the striped-bass population, particularly if natural reproduction is low," he noted.

"Ten years ago, I would say a half-million fish going into the Hudson River meant very little," said Charlie M. Wooley, Chesapeake Bay Fisheries coordinator with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. "But because of the drastic population decline of coastal striped bass in the last seven or eight years, now it means quite a bit."

The Fish and Wildlife Service is coordinating a cooperative hatchery stocking program of striped bass in the Chesapeake Bay with Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company and the Potomac Electric Power Company. This year they will release about 400,000 hatchery-raised stripers of five to 10 inches.

"Our program is not to put these fish in the coastal streams of the Chesapeake Bay and then have commercial fishermen, watermen or sport fishermen catch them a year later; we want to protect these fish," he said. "The real payoff is not putting 500,000 fish out there right now. The real payoff is five or six years down the road, when these fish mature and hopefully come back and spawn in their natal tributaries."

The critics say scientists aren't sure the hatchery striped bass will survive. Dr. Jon C. Cooper, biological consultant and professor at the City College of New York, called the Hudson River striped-bass hatchery's release of a half million fish "a landmark achievement," but added "as a fisheries biologist, I have to say I'm shocked that a lot of basic work has not been done in understanding the early life cycles of striped bass. We don't know what they imprint on; you're not sure what they're doing in the hatchery is going to ensure their return to a given area. If we're going to use hatcheries for striped bass as an important tool, we're going to have to answer some of these questions. Otherwise you simply don't know what the contribution of those fish is going to be."

In addition, he said, there was a question of whether the fish were going to survive in nature because research had shown that hatchery fish didn't know how to feed on natural food.

Robert Brandt, aquatic biologist for the state's Department of Environmental Protection, noted: "The Hudson River hatchery has done quite well. They've doubled production every year. They made some technical breakthroughs in rearing striped bass, but on the other hand, it's very questionable as to how effective that's going to be as a mitigation technique in terms of supplementing natural populations out there."

Mr. Brandt calls the hatchery stripers "gold-plated fish" because the hatchery is an expensive way to put fish in the river. "From hatchery to river it costs about \$1 a fish, and there is a question of whether these fish are viable once they're in the river," he said.

Dr. R. Ian Fletcher, oceanographer and consultant for environmental groups, views fish hatcheries as "public-relations gimmicks, popular with fishermen, but they do very little to affect the natural population."

Because striped bass are a migratory fish, it's difficult to evaluate the hatchery's contribution. According to Hudson River Foundation studies, tagged Hudson stripers have been found as far north as the Bay of Fundy in Canada and as far south as New Jersey.

"It's difficult to tag these fish and get data back," Mr. Fletcher said. "When hatchery fish are released, they're very small, and when they come back to spawn, they're big. They're hard to identify. You can't tag them in such a way to easily get the data. So the question of their contribution to the population will remain open. It will more or less become a matter of opinion and emotion."

In an effort to trace the hatchery fish, the Verplanck and Federal cooperative hatchery programs are inserting the one-millimeter stainless steel wire in the left cheek of each fingerling that is released. The wire is magnetized. When the fish returns to spawn - the males return in two to three years, the females in five or six - biologists conducting population studies can detect the hatchery fish by using a metal detector, similar to those used for security at airports.

As Mr. Friedmann released the last of the stripers into a scenic area of Haverstraw Bay, beneath High Tor, he said: "Hopefully the fish will retain the wire for 30 years and help provide information on the hatchery's contribution to the population."

Mr. Friedmann always releases his fish in the scenic area of the Hudson, never near power plants or schools of bluefish.

Credit...The New York Times Archives. See the article in its original context from November 23, 1986, Section WC, Page 11

[View on TimesMachine](#) (login required)

More than 220,000 Striped Bass Released into the Cape Fear River

Press Release, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, November 14, 2024

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Marine Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Edenton National Fish Hatchery have joined together to enhance the Striped Bass population in the lower Cape Fear River in hopes of boosting natural reproduction in the waterway.

MOREHEAD CITY – The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Marine Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Edenton National Fish Hatchery have joined together to enhance the Striped Bass population in the lower Cape Fear River in hopes of boosting natural reproduction in the waterway.

With financial support provided by the North Carolina Marine & Estuary Foundation, 50,000 5- to 8-inch Striped Bass were grown out at the Edenton National Fish Hatchery over the summer and released into the Cape Fear River below Lock and Dam #1 in Bladen County this month. As part of the stocking

strategy, more than 170,000 1- to 2-inch Striped Bass were also stocked into the river earlier this spring.

Although various numbers and sizes of Striped Bass have been stocked into the Cape Fear River for decades, this year's stocking is different. For the first time in the Cape Fear system, the source broodfish (spawning adults) used for hatchery production originated from the Cooper River in South Carolina.

Why is this unusual? Since 2010, broodfish used to produce Striped Bass for stocking into the Cape Fear River have been taken from within the river to maintain genetic consistency. However, for many years prior, the broodfish used for hatchery production were taken from the Roanoke River. The introduction of Roanoke River fish (and their genetics) likely led to the replacement of the original wild strain of Cape Fear River Striped Bass. Environmental conditions in these two North Carolina rivers are quite different. Additionally, Striped Bass populations south of Cape Hatteras typically remain in their home rivers and do not migrate to the ocean, whereas older Striped Bass from the Roanoke River system have been documented migrating as far north as the Gulf of Maine.



Sam Pollock, deputy manager at the USFWS Edenton National Fish Hatchery, measures the temperature and oxygen levels in the hatchery's 1000-gallon fish hauling trailer at the Cape Fear River release site.

While past stockings of hatchery fish survived and grew in the Cape Fear River, biologists observed little evidence that adult fish present during spring spawning seasons were able to reproduce successfully. In an effort to reverse this trend, newly hatched Striped Bass fry with Cooper River genetics were transferred in April from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to the Edenton National Fish Hatchery, where they were grown to an advanced size and stocked into the Cape Fear River this October and November.

The Cooper system in South Carolina is home to the nearest population of river-resident striped bass.

The switch to South Carolina broodstock is intended to help improve genetic diversity and promote natural reproduction by re-introducing Striped Bass that share a similar riverine life history and experience similar river flows and environmental conditions.



Once the fish are acclimated to the river water pumped into the trailer, they are released through a pipe at the rear. Here, about 1,000 pounds of Atlantic Striped Bass are released from the fish hauling trailer at Lock and Dam #1 on the Cape Fear River.

“The goal of using South Carolina genetics in the Cape Fear River Striped Bass population is to see if the hatchery fish will first survive to spawning age, and then to see if they can reproduce naturally,” explained Chris Stewart, biologist supervisor for the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. “The test here is to determine if the differences in egg characteristics will overcome the challenges to spawning in the system.”



A closer view of the Atlantic Striped Bass just prior to release.

A moratorium on all harvest of Striped Bass from the Cape Fear River has been in place for more than 15 years due to the low numbers of spawning adults and limited natural reproduction. The most likely causes of the lack of naturally produced fish are inadequate fish

passage at the locks and dams, which block access to historic spawning grounds and reduce flows; poor water quality and pollution from various urban and agricultural sources, as well as storm events; and predation by non-native species, such as Blue Catfish and Flathead Catfish.

“The switch to a different strain of Striped Bass is an interesting management approach that will hopefully result in better angling opportunities on the Cape Fear River,” remarked Chad Thomas, Executive Director of the North Carolina Marine & Estuary Foundation. “We are proud to financially support this year’s stocking efforts and look forward to learning the results from the genetic evaluation that will follow.”

Thumbs Up vs Middle Finger? Improving Your Blitz Fishing Experience

By Capt. Paul Eidman

There’s nothing quite like striped bass fishing along the Jersey shores. The calm waters (when we’re lucky), the thrill of spotting a bunker school getting blitzed—it could be whales (if you see a spout watch out) or even tuna. This time of year, it feels magical as everything alive migrates through. The anticipation of landing a big, striped bass makes every trip special. But lately, that magic is being overshadowed by a growing number of inconsiderate/inexperienced boaters.

With over 175,000 registered boats in our densely populated state, it’s starting to feel like *Jersey combat fishing*. Whether it’s the influx of new boaters post-Covid or just a lack of experience, it’s frustrating to see so many people unknowingly (or carelessly) ruining the day for everyone else. We’re all out there for the same reason: to enjoy the sport, catch some bass and have fun. So, here’s my plea to fellow anglers and boaters let’s respect each other and the fish we’re chasing. Working together makes it better!

Too often, I’ve seen boats trolling or running straight into bunker schools or busting striped bass. Either they don’t understand how wind and current work—or they just don’t care. Charging into a school of fish spooks already boat-shy stripers, just sends them to the bottom or scatters the bunker school. And then there are the bent rods which become an instant “Idiot Magnet” and you have a dozen boats are rushing in full throttle, casting or trolling on top of the feeding fish. The result? Scattered bait, stressed fish, fewer hookups, and a lot of frustrated anglers. Add many of these

actions up and at the end of the day you have less caught.

Striper fishing isn't just about how many fish you catch, it's about respecting the resource, nature, and your fellow anglers. Acting selfishly doesn't just ruin the experience for others. It stresses the bass, scatters the bunker, and jeopardizes the fishery for the future.

Here's how we can make blitz fishing better for everyone: Today's braided lines cast farther than ever, so keep your distance. Respect someone's space *and* drift. If you're close enough to cast into their bunker or striper school, you're too close. And if you see someone fly fishing, give them *extra* room, know that it takes longer for them to set up without tangling and make the cast.

Drift fishing with many boats requires some basic courtesy. Pay attention to the wind and current. If someone is working a drift, you set up *updrift, up current and upwind*, not directly in their drift path. If you "mug" someone's drift, expect them to disregard your presence, or worse drift right into you, yell or cast a heavy lure at your boat and crew (this is very dangerous and illegal by the way). Let the current carry you naturally and quietly. Take turns, run to the outside and back to the top of the drift, and make it a thumbs-up good time instead of a middle finger angry session.

Drift quietly, you'll spook fewer fish, and everyone will catch more. Fishing isn't a competition. Respect others, and you'll get respect in return. If you're new to fishing, admit it, ask questions, and take the opportunity to learn. And if you're a seasoned "sharpie," take a minute to pass along your knowledge. It'll make the day better for everyone.

If you see anglers up on the decks actively casting, that means the fish are actively feeding. Trolling isn't necessary and will likely lead to snagging someone's line. If you are hunting trophies stay to the outer edges and troll there.

We're incredibly lucky to be able to do what we do. Fishing is about more than just catching fish—it's about connecting with our friends, family, nature, respecting the resource, and sharing the water with others. If we all practice good etiquette, fishing blitzes can be fun for everyone. So, the next time you're out, slow down, watch the drift, respect the space, and work together with the boats around you. Working together, we can preserve the magic of striper blitz fishing, and all have fun.

Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series Returns to Atlantic City

Series Presented by Bass Pro Shops & Mako Boats

The *Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series* brings its 2025 New Jersey edition to Resorts Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City on Saturday, **January 25th**. Hosting the 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. event will be **George Poveromo**, Host of *George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing* on Discovery. **Nick Honachefsky**, a noted writer, author, TV personality and New Jersey fishing authority, will co-host. Joining Poveromo and Honachefsky in Atlantic City will be:

- **Captain Tim Smith** - Innovative southern New Jersey pro who specializes in targeting tunas and other pelagics at the inshore/mid-grounds and canyons, with *Bodacious Sportfishing*!
- **Captain Brian Williams** - Innovative Ocean City-based pro who specializes in fishing the local backwaters for striped bass, with *Badfish Fishing Charters*!
- **Captain Mike Frank** - Noted inshore/near shore pro and specialist at targeting trophy fluke, drum and sea bass!
- **Captain Steve Palmer** – Renowned Beach Haven offshore and bottom-fishing authority and owner of the *Miss Beach Haven* party boat, *Outer Limits* charter boat and *Jingles Bait and Tackle*!
- **Captain Roderick Palmer** – Innovative near shore and canyon tuna pro, and a trophy fluke and blackfish specialist!
- **Captain Tom Daffin** - Premier trophy striped bass, fluke, wreck and offshore fishing authority with *Fishin' Fever Sportfishing*!
- **Captain Wayne Cecero** - Legendary back bay pro and specialist at targeting trophy fluke, blackfish and striped bass!
- **Captain Dante Soriente** – Renowned authority on fishing for tunas from New Jersey through New England and noted trophy tog specialist, with *Magic Tail Outfitters*!
- **Melissa Toro** - Authority on fishing South Jersey's back bays and a specialist at catching fluke and blackfish in and around the waters of Atlantic City!

- **Captain David Wicker** – Veteran king mackerel, bottom-fishing and marine electronics specialist!
- **Captain Alan Wenzel** - Islamorada, Florida Keys, authority on offshore live-baiting, trolling, conventional, and deep-drop bottom-fishing!

"The National Seminar Series has become the nation's longest running and most popular educational course on recreational marine angling tactics and techniques," says Poveromo. "This is year number 38 for the tour. The backbone to its success has always been the vast amount of cutting-edge and pertinent how-to information on catching more and bigger game fish within the waters of the respective Seminar Series stop. This information is explained in great detail by some of the very best saltwater anglers, and each session is backed by elaborate visuals that include video bytes, technical- and action-oriented images and on-stage demonstrations. One can't help but to walk away from the seminar with numerous new tricks and techniques, regardless of their experience level".

Courses for the January 25 seminar will encompass the how-tos and where-tos of catching the regions inshore, near shore and offshore saltwater game fish.

The Seminar Series kicks off at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude by 3:00 p.m., with a one-hour break at noon. Considered to be the best bargain in sportfishing, a seminar series ticket is only \$65.00.

The ticket price covers five hours of instruction from the best pros in the business, a course textbook, a one-year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman, one Roff's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, Star brite boat care products, bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, a \$10.00 discount card off any purchase of \$75.00 or more from Bass Pro Shops and chances to win thousands of dollars' worth in door prizes! The grand prize at the conclusion of the New Jersey seminar is a Florida Keys fishing trip with one of several premier Florida Keys guides. The super grand prize, to be awarded two weeks after the conclusion of the 2025 series, is a new Mako Pro Skiff 17 cc!

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

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

About the Salt Water Sportsman's National Seminar Series: In its 38th year, the Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series is the nation's longest running and most popular educational seminar on recreational marine angling. Featuring George Poveromo, SWS's Editor-At-Large, and Host of "George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing" on the Discovery Channel, Poveromo will take the stage at each location, along with teams comprised of Salt Water Sportsman editors, nationally recognized anglers and some of the region's top guides. Their job: Cover in explicit detail the how-tos and where-tos of catching the most popular game fish within a specific Seminar Series region, along with the latest rigging and fishing techniques.

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 **November 26th, 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. As a reminder, there will **NOT** be a **JCAA Membership Meeting during December due to the holidays**.

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

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

KEN HOLLINS RECEIVES THE JCAA 2024 YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

Mr. Ken Hollins, Chairperson of the NJBBA Annual Youth Surf Fishing Tournament, received the 2024 Youth Education Award at the JCAA Sportsman of the Year Dinner located at the Captains Inn, Forked River, NJ. Mr. Hollins was honored for promoting youth fishing and conservation education programs for youngsters and their families.

Mr. Hollins has been a member of NJBBA for over 25 years and the chairperson for the youth surf fishing tournament for 6 years. During that time, Ken has been involved in many club activities and a member of their board of directors.

Ken is also responsible for coordinating all the judges for the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and a member of the Berkley Striper Club. Congratulations Ken, well deserved.



Mark Taylor, Ken Hollins and Paul Harris

BRICK HIGH SCHOOL FISHING CLUBS

I spoke to Tim Brennan, Brick Memorial High School, NJ HOFNOD Leader. Tim was excited to tell us about the 1st Annual Brick Memorial High School Mustangs vs Brick Dragons "Hooked on Fishing Not On Drugs" striper fishing trip! John Thompson and Jersey Coast Shark Anglers and club members organized the trip. Club members Cara Larissa and Keith Kurek spent the day with the students and helped with the event. The Captain of the Miss Michelle III Charter boat did an excellent job of making sure the students got a chance

to reel in that fish of a lifetime. There were a lot of first-time student anglers onboard and quite a few students caught their first fish. The membership of JCSEA sponsored the trip and they continue to do important things to support youth and veteran fishing programs. View the Brick High School fishing club [pictures here](#).



Students enjoy the program because it teaches life skills that cannot be taught in the classroom. Students say: “We get to be outside in nature”, and “the program shows us a different side of how to learn about wildlife and conservation.” Brick Memorial High School was one of the first schools in New Jersey to place NJ HOFNOD in the curriculum and the program has been successful for 9 years. We wonder what they have planned for their 10-year anniversary. Any ideas Tim?

For information about NJ Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs leader training please contact Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Coordinator Phone: 908- 637-4125 x 122 email: liz.jackson@dep.state.nj.us or [register here](#) for the next 2025 NJ HOFNOD leader training.

“KID’S4REEL” AND GIVING BACK

As most of you know last October, I relocated to the sunshine state. During November 2023, I was fortunate to join the Flagler Sportfishing Club and enjoyed fishing with a talented group of folks, but best of all, they have a program called “Kid’s4Reel” where I had the opportunity to volunteer and help school age children learn to fish.

This is where I met Luke Thomas, 12 years old, 7th grade. Luke is a remarkable angler and is the youngest presenter for the “Kid’s4Reel” workshop. He instructs other kids about Conservation and “Being a Responsible Angler” before they go fishing. What really impressed me about Luke was how he connected

with the other youngsters to get his message across about conservation and angling ethics. He is enthusiastic and sincere about aquatic conservation, and you can see that kids and adults were interested in what he had to say.



Over a few years, Luke has received two \$5000.00 scholarships from the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Florida STAR Tournament that was funded by the Flagler Sportfishing Club. I spoke to Luke’s mother Deb Thomas, and she said that her son would like to use the scholarships to become a Florida Wildlife Conservation Officer. I’m pretty sure Luke is on the right track and will succeed because he is giving back to the fishing community that one day he will take an oath to serve. Way to go Luke.

The Fishing Conservation / Safety / Habitat Workshop was also presented by Ray McCall and Rachel Ord. At the end of the workshop Jeff Murphy and Deb Marino took time to honor and thank their many “kids4reel” 20+ year veterans present, including Dave Shank, Danny Carter and Ray McCall for volunteering their time before Veteran’s Day. The “kids4reel” committee does an amazing job of providing programs for school age children and I’m very proud to be a member of the Flagler Sportfishing Club. View their most recent newsletter at [this link](#).

SUPPORT LOCAL TACKLE DEALERS

The holidays are fast approaching, don’t forget to support your [local tackle dealer](#). Most tackle dealers offer discounts to veterans. Also remember to have your reels and rods repaired during the winter months before the spring run.

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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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Forage Species	Capt Paul Eidman	
Striped Bass	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Science & Research	Bruce Freeman	732-793-7871
Website	Philip 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 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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