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**April 2025**

## JCAA Kids That Never Fished Day

April 12<sup>th</sup>

## JCAA Hi-Roller Raffle

July 10<sup>th</sup>



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### ***Jersey Coast Shark Anglers***

#### **2025 Tournament Schedule**

Spring Striper Fever: May 10-17

Fluke Fever: July 19

Arrowhead Inn Fluke Tournament: Aug. 23

Fall Striper Fever: Nov. 1-8

Bluefin Fever: TBD

For information go to [www.jcsa.org](http://www.jcsa.org)

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(c) 201.446.9047

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### **Forked River Tuna Club**

#### **2025 Tournament Schedule**

War at the Shore Meeting - TBD

Ladies Catch of the Day - July 12

Bi-Club Fluke Tournament - TDB

Tuna Tournament - TBD

Tournament Rain Date - TBD

**Mark Your Calendar**

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Jersey Coast Shark Anglers

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Harold Dill, Bricktown, NJ  
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Mark Goehring, Indian Mills, NJ  
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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  
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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

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Paul Shafer, Bethel, CT

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Picatunny Saltwater Sportsman Club  
Point Pleasant Fishing Club, rmazz1428@gmail.com  
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Round Valley Trout Association, Lebanon, NJ  
Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County  
Louis Schott, Galloway Twp  
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Silverton Fishing Club, Toms River, NJ  
David Strom, Jr., West Orange, NJ  
South Jersey Saltwater Anglers  
Surf Kings Fishing Club  
Douglas Vitale In Memory of Bruce Vitale Women's  
Surf Fishing Club of NJ, www.wsfcnj.org



### New Jersey Beach Buggy Association

PO Box 511, Seaside Park, NJ 08752

Buggy Membership Info: Ken Hollins 732-814-7021

[www.NJBBA.org](http://www.NJBBA.org)

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### 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 APRIL 2025

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION*

(Published on March 25th, 2025)

**"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"**

## JCAA REGULAR MEETING

**March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 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, April 10<sup>th</sup>**

## OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

PO Box 1191, Wall Branch Post Office  
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.

Anyone wishing to reproduce any part of this newsletter has the permission of the JCAA and the authors. Wherever possible, please credit the JCAA Newsletter as your information source.

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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.**  
~~~~~

### 2024 OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Mark Taylor	732-245-9445
<b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b>	Stephen 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

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** NJ Open Day of Trout Season

**April 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>** MAFMC Council Meeting ([link](#))

**April 10<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**April 12<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Kids That Never Fished Day ([link](#))

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

**May 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>** ASMFC Spring Meeting

**May 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>** ASA Government Affairs Meeting

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

## JCAA Hi-Roller Raffle

*By Mark Taylor*

Once again, this year we will be having our Hi-Roller Raffle and as you can see there are some really nice prizes. This is one of our major fundraisers so please buy some tickets. If you buy tickets, I absolutely guarantee you will have a chance to win. If you want tickets call the office at (732) 506-6565 or email [jcaa@jcaa.org](mailto:jcaa@jcaa.org). The prizes listed below have a **total value of \$3,040**.

The drawing will be held on **July 10, 2025**, during the July JCAA board meeting at the Toms River Knights of Columbus Building, 113 Tennyson Ave. Toms River, NJ 08753.

### New Jersey Amin. Code § 13:47-8.7

**Location: Toms River Knights of Columbus Building  
113 Tennyson Ave,  
Toms River, NJ 08753**

**Drawing Date: July 10, 2025, at 7:30 pm**

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

**Municipal Raffle License: #9951**

**Beneficiary: Jersey Coast Anglers Association**

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

## List of Prizes & Retail Values

1. Jersey Nutz Six Man Charter (6-hour, 6-man inshore weekday charter) – **\$1200**, *Donated by Captains Robert and Cody Melton*
2. 7'4" Shimano Curado Rod/Shimano TPXD Reel Combo – **\$660**, *Donated by JCAA*
3. \$500 Gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters – **\$500**, *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
4. 7' Penn Battle III LE / Penn Spinfisher VI 2500 Reel Combo – **\$235**, *Donated by Atlantic Bait & Tackle*
5. 7' Shimano Rod / Montauk Cerebus CER210 Reel Combo – **\$230**, *Donated by JCAA*
6. 7' Penn Spinfisher Rod / Penn 6500LL Reel Combo – **\$215**, *Donated by Penn Fishing*

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

## President's Report

*By Mark Taylor*

As the end of the first quarter of YR2025 comes to an end. There have been a lot of things happening with fisheries. I have mentioned in the last newsletter and a discussion at the February 25th JCAA General Membership Meeting that there were public hearings dealing with Recreational Sector Separation and Data Collection Amendment. I hope many of you took the time to attend one of them and submitted your comments by March 20th, which was the deadline. This is the first steps in the process for this amendment. If you really care about fisheries management will affect you and the future. You must get involved and stay actively gathering the most accurate information on the subject to make an educational decision than comment. The more everyone gets involved in the process while voicing their opinions and concerns the more we all will be part of the process for a strong fishery for the future.

Atlantic Striped Bass is another species that you should be keeping serious attention to. As I mention in last month's newsletter, back in December the ASMFC – Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board held a meeting to the regulations for both Commercial and Recreational for 2025. JCAA Atlantic Striped Bass Committee with the Chairperson Paul Haertel will be actively following all the things happening with this species. If you are interested in being on this committee, contact Paul Haertel at (732) 943-8201 or anglerpnh@aol.com immediately. Read articles by Paul Haertel on this issue in future JCAA Newsletters.

As I mentioned in previous newsletters that there is a great informational course ongoing. The 2025 Introductory Fisheries Science for Stakeholders (IFISSH) Course ends on April 8th, which means there are only three Tuesday nights left. Douglas Zemeckis, Ph.D. who is the County Agent II (Associate Professor) of Marine Extension Agent for Ocean, Atlantic, Monmouth Counties, County Extension Department Head (CEDH) and his group did an outstanding job putting all the guest speakers together for you to get the most educational, scientific information available on many marine topics. I know there were many new individuals that attended this year. If you miss it, do not miss it next year. Douglas Zemeckis, Ph.D., is a great resource for you to contact for answers on any marine or fishery topic. If he does have the answer, he will get you in contact with someone that does.

2025 JCAA High Roller Raffle Tickets are currently being sold. This is one of JCAA fundraisers that helps JCAA to continue to fight for you. If you are looking to purchase a book or two contact the JCAA Office at (732) 506-6565 and leave a message. I will respond to you to help you get the number books you are requesting. More about the High Roller Raffle, read the article in this newsletter and us until the drawing in July.

JCAA had a booth at the Saltwater Fishing Expo on March 14th – 16th (New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center, Edison, NJ). I would like to thank those individuals that volunteered. They did an excellent job contacting others that attended the expo informing them about JCAA. I will publish an article in next month's newsletter listing those individuals and their clubs. More individuals need to be like them.

To all recreational clubs, JCAA Membership Secretary John Toth has mailed out JCAA club dues invoices. If you have not received your club's invoice, please contact John. We know that club officers change in some clubs every year and contact information may

change which could be the possible issue. We would like to update our records, which is important for JCAA to contact your club. Please send that information to us as this happens or any changes.

If you belong to a recreational fishing club, not currently a member club of Jersey Coast Anglers Association, contact John Toth also. JCAA Membership Secretary John Toth at (732) 656-0138 or tothjohn@verizon.net.

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.

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

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**Important Information:** The Next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for **April 29<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30pm, held in person at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724 with a zoom meeting invite (Hybrid Meeting).

## JCAA Comments on Sector Separation and Data Collection

3/10/2025

ASMFC and MAFMC,

**Subject:** Recreational Sector Separation and Data Collection Amendment

JCAA is an association composed of many clubs throughout our state that represents thousands of recreational anglers throughout our state. At a recent meeting, representatives from various clubs discussed Recreational Sector Separation for Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, and Bluefish as well as data collection for recreational anglers.

Our member clubs are unanimously opposed to sector separation. We believe that sector separation is unfair. An example of this is the current bluefish regulations. Kids are often introduced to fishing by catching snapper bluefish from the docks of the bay. Traditionally they would bring home a good amount to eat but are now restricted to only keeping three each. On the other hand, customers of the for-hire fleet are allowed to bring home five blues per person. It is far

harder to locate and catch bluefish from shore than in a boat. If anything, sector separation should be between boat anglers and shore anglers rather than between the private and for-hire fleets. Another example is fluke. It is far more difficult to catch a legal fluke from shore than from a boat. There are people who can't afford to go out on a boat, who would like to bring fish home to eat. Where is the social justice that NOAA was talking about?

Further, sector separation will create in-fighting amongst the two sectors and they will be less likely to work together on other issues. The document states that the amendment would allow each sector to tailor regulations to their particular needs. What that really means is that the for-hire fleet will receive more favorable regulations than private anglers. We understand they need to earn a living, but so do tackle stores, marinas, and other fishing businesses that depend on private anglers. Having different regulations for the two sectors also creates confusion amongst anglers and makes enforcement more difficult for our law enforcement officers. It will also likely lead to more incidents of non-compliance from angry anglers who believe they are being treated unfairly.

We understand that some states already have separate regulations for the for-hire and private sectors for certain species. It should be the prerogative of the individual states to do so, provided they have the data to develop their regulations through conservation equivalency. We believe it would be wrong to force sector separation to each of the states that prefer not to have it.

Should sector separation be pursued, we believe that the Council and Commission should not set limits on the ability to obtain or retain federal for-hire permits. Again, this is about fairness. However, our view on this is tied to our belief that the for-hire fleet must have their own quotas if sector separation is adopted. Lastly, we believe that better data is needed before any sector splits are considered.

JCAA has always supported the collection of more accurate data as it would allow our fisheries managers to better manage our fisheries for sustainability. That would result in quotas and regulations being set with more confidence. They would then more likely be accepted by our recreational anglers.

We would like to see some form of catch reporting by private anglers fishing from a boat as well as those fishing from the shore. However, finding a way to collect valid data may prove to be somewhat



difficult. Mandatory reporting by private anglers would not be well received and with our law enforcement personnel understaffed in many areas, it would likely not be enforced. Mandatory tournament reporting might be more acceptable. However, the data obtained from tournaments would be skewed as tournament anglers catch far more and far larger fish than the average angler. The same goes for volunteer angler surveys as it is usually the more experienced anglers who submit reports.

You need to find some way to collect reports from the average angler. We have the MRIP program but their surveys only capture a very small percentage of anglers and in many cases result in very inaccurate data. Doing more in person surveys might help but with the current government cutbacks, there would likely be insufficient manpower to do this. However, possibly volunteers could be used.

Contacting anglers through state registries or saltwater fishing licenses might be feasible. This could be done similarly as to how data is collected for bluefin tuna. Anglers would be selected randomly to participate in the surveys but only for a specific period of time. A user-friendly format for electronic reporting from a phone or computer would probably be the best option. However, this could be supplemented through phone calls, emails or regular mail. Offering a chance at a reward of some sort for participating would be a good incentive. I am sure that many manufacturers would be willing to donate rods, reels and other tackle for this purpose.

Sincerely,

Mark Taylor, JCAA President

## **What If Omega Protein Stopped Menhaden Fishing?**

*By Capt. Paul Eidman*

As the founder of the conservation organization Menhaden Defenders, I'm often asked this question. In this piece, I'll provide an educated guess about some of the potential effects of Omega Protein ceasing its menhaden fishing operations.

Omega Protein is the last remaining company in the East Coast Menhaden-reduction fishing industry. "Reduction fishing" refers to the process of grinding

fish into fish meal and oil. If Omega Protein were to suddenly halt its harvesting of menhaden, it would shake things up ecologically, economically, and across the industry.



One of the most immediate effects would likely be a rebound in menhaden populations. These small forage fish are a vital food source for many predators, including striped bass, bluefish, tuna, and ospreys. An increase in menhaden would lead to healthier marine ecosystems, cleaner water (as menhaden filter algae, plankton, and other particles), and better conditions for predator fish. This would contribute to a more balanced Atlantic ecosystem and, in turn, improve recreational and commercial fishing.

Omega Protein processes menhaden into fishmeal and fish oil, primarily for use in aquaculture (such as farmed salmon), pet food, and dietary supplements. If they stopped, pet food companies would be forced to find alternative, hopefully sustainable, protein sources. This could drive up pet food prices, impacting pet owners and potentially changing the types of ingredients used in these products.

The cessation of Omega Protein's operations would also result in significant job losses in Reedville, Virginia, where the industry is the primary economic driver. However, the coastwide trap bait sector, which supplies whole menhaden for lobster and crab fishing, might have an opportunity to expand. Local operators could increase their harvests and even invest in processing facilities to meet the rising demand. Without Omega Protein in the lead, smaller bait harvesters could also experience less competition, benefiting both the recreational fishing industry and the local bait sector.

On the flip side, recreational anglers might encounter purse seine netters and spotter planes working inshore and in backwaters. This could lead to localized Menhaden depletion, negatively affecting

gamefish abundance at certain times of the season. In New Jersey, we might even see the return of pound nets along the Bayshore, a traditional method of menhaden fishing.



For lobster and crab fishermen, the long-term benefits could outweigh the challenges. With less pressure from reduction fishing, the bait supply could stabilize, providing more plentiful and affordable menhaden for these fisheries. A healthier marine ecosystem could also result in more food for crabs and lobsters, further benefiting those industries.



In 2024, an investigation looked into the decline of osprey nests along parts of the East Coast. Experts believe the absence of menhaden in key backwater estuaries, a primary food source for ospreys, may be a contributing factor. If Menhaden populations increase, we could see more successful osprey nests, and the same could be true for bald eagle populations. Marine mammals, such as bottlenose dolphins and humpback whales, which also feed on menhaden, would have a more abundant food source. In New Jersey, we've already seen how an increase in menhaden populations has enhanced the coastal experience for boaters, fishermen, and beachgoers over the past decade. Whale watching, along with striped bass and tuna fishing here in the NY/NJ Bight has been spectacular, largely due to the abundance of Menhaden attracted to the nutrient rich Hudson and Raritan River outflows.

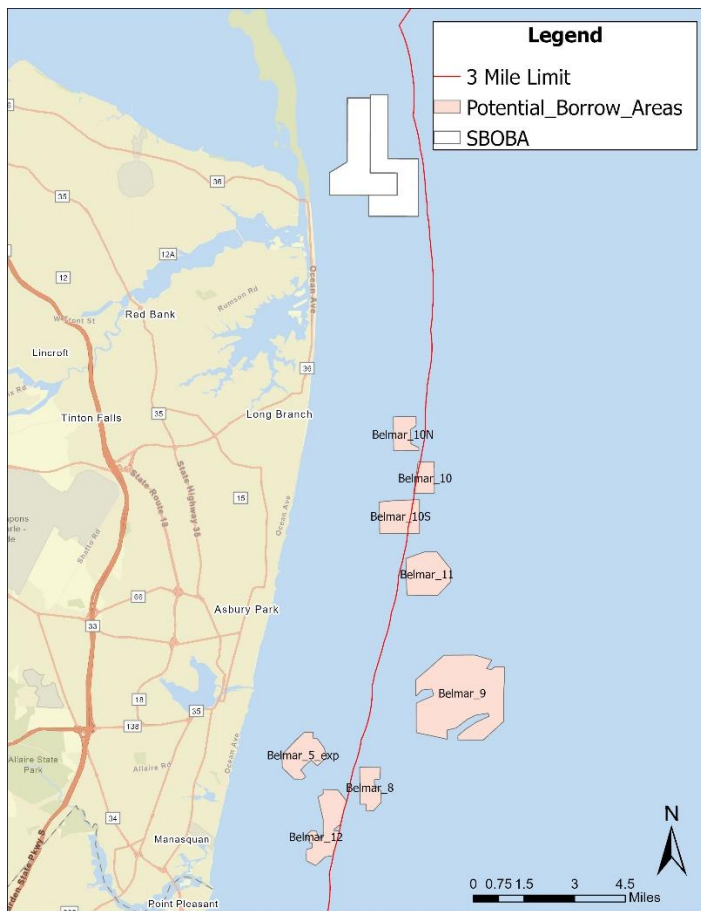
In conclusion, if Omega Protein were to step back from the menhaden fishing industry, coastal ecosystems would likely experience a significant boost. Gamefish, like striped bass and bluefish, along with seabirds and marine mammals, would benefit from a more stable and abundant food supply. As the system gradually returns to a more natural balance, the entire Atlantic coastal ecosystem could thrive. This could be a pivotal moment for coastal communities, marine life, and the fishing industry to collaborate for a healthier, more sustainable future.

**US Army Corp of Engineers  
New Jersey Borrow Areas  
Information Session**  
*By Stephen Machalaba*

The US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) held a virtual meeting on March 5, 2025, to discuss potential sand borrow areas in the Atlantic Ocean off of Monmouth County from which to excavate sand for their Sea Bright to Manasquan Coast Storm Risk Management Project (Beach Replenishment) for which they are “authorized” to continue until 2049. I do not believe that this meeting was publicly advertised. I was only made aware of this meeting by John Toth who was advised of it by the USACE because of past communication with them regarding a previous project. There were approximately 20 people on the meeting, not counting USACE personnel. The USACE stated that the purpose of the meeting was to identify to



“stakeholders” several potential sand borrow sites that the USACE could use to obtain suitable to allow them to continue their cycle of beach replenishment projects between Manasquan and Sea Bright until 2049. They explained that the Sea Bright Offshore Borrow Area that they are currently using for sand, is almost exhausted of the proper grain size sand. The sand that is left is either too fine or too coarse. The USACE has identified several potential sand borrow sites, as shown on the attached figure. These sites have to be tested to determine if they contain the proper grain size sand. The USACE intends to begin testing at these sites to determine their suitability for use and begin drawing sand from them by October 2026.



The obvious concern here for JCAA member club members is the impact to recreational fishing, especially for those that fish out of Shark River and Manasquan Inlets.

Opening up the meeting to questions and comments from the public saw a meeting participant, a commercial fisherman, state that several of the areas are adjacent to known fishing areas. The USACE acknowledged this and posted another figure showing the potential sand borrow areas with “Known Fishing Areas” overlaid on the figure. The potential sand

borrow areas are indeed adjacent to and very close to, and in some cases surrounding the known fishing areas. I requested that this figure be provided to me so I could include it with this article but, as of this date, have not received it from the USACE. After several additional questions, along these same lines, the USACE stated that questions and comments on the meeting can be formally submitted to them by email to Jason Shea at [jason.a.shea@usace.army.mil](mailto:jason.a.shea@usace.army.mil).

I sent the following questions to the USACE:

- Was the Information Session publicly advertised, and if so, how?
- Can you please provide a copy of the diagram map on Page 6 that shows the Proposed Sand Borrow Sites together with the Known Fishing Areas?
- Where was the information used to show the Known Fishing Areas obtained from and is it current? Some of the proposed sand borrow areas are immediately adjacent to these known fishing areas. Will a buffer zone be provided? Sand mining in areas immediately adjacent to known fishing areas will negatively impact fishing in these areas.
- Since the USACE intends to continue the cycle of sand replenishment on the beaches between Manasquan and Sea Bright until at least 2049, has there been any investigation into other ways to mitigate sand loss from major storms? Additionally, the USACE ongoing project of sand replenishment results in excess sand being deposited at the northern tip of Sandy Hook and into Sandy Hook Channel. Every year, usually starting in September, this area must be dredged to maintain the navigational channel. This is at the start of prime fishing season and requires access to this portion of Sandy Hook to be closed to fisherman. Can any of this excess sand that must be dredged from the tip of Sandy Hook and the navigational channel be re-used for beach replenishment?

I have not received a response from the USACE as of this date, nor the diagram that I requested. We need to keep monitoring this project. All of the towns between Manasquan and Sea Bright want beach replenishment to continue, but it needs to be performed in a responsible manner that does not negatively impact the interests and activities of others, specifically recreational fisherman.



# Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

*By Tom Fote*

As newspaper time comes, it makes me reflect. The JCAA lost two friends. We had to cancel the booth at the Atlantic City Boat Show. MAFAC was dissolved. Not a lot of good news.

## **Booth Canceled at AC Boat Show**

I can remember going to the Atlantic City Boat Show as long as I have volunteered with JCAA. Some of you know that I am 77 years old and am not as spry as I once was. We could not find enough people to staff the Atlantic City Boat Show. Last year we sold many raffle tickets at this show and this year we sold none. This was a huge, missed opportunity and might have kept JCAA out of the red if we had been there. We have no young people helping. That means no one under 60. In order to reach out to young anglers, we need young anglers at the booth. I have reached the point where I am the old curmudgeon. It is much easier to relate to people of a similar age. I volunteered with Mark to spend the day and take down the AC Boat Show and the Saltwater Expo because there was no one else to do it. Luckily John Toth was at the Saltwater Expo because I was not much help taking down the booth. We all need to thank Mark Taylor and John Toth. Without them there would have been no presence at the Saltwater Expo. John has spent 7 years as JCAA president and Mark is currently in his 10th year as JCAA president. Collectively they have served for more than 1/3 of JCAA's existence. As Uncle Sam said – "*JCAA needs you.*"

## **ASA GA Meeting**

Mark Taylor and I will be attending the Government Affairs Meeting in May. It is the same time as the ASMFC Spring meeting so others will need to attend virtually. It will be interesting to find out how the manufacturers are dealing with tariffs and other new regulations. ASA and the Fishing and Boating Foundation have been working hard to get a more diverse fishing community and to find new anglers. Some of this is done with federal grants that may disappear. ASA and the manufacturers understand we need to grow the industry by adding more anglers from

every community. We need to train those anglers to become the next advocates for the environment. If you look at JCAA, we became advocates for the environment, sustainable fisheries and for the agencies that protect the right to fish recreationally. Without cultivating the next generation, we will have no one to win those battles.

## **Striped Bass**

The ASMFC will have their first meeting in May for a preliminary discussion for what should go in the next Striped Bass Addendum. I sat in on the most recent Striped Bass meeting that was only for commissioners. There was no opportunity for input from the public. If I was allowed to speak, I would have mentioned that after 5 hours no one discussed the real problem of what was causing the low recruitment in Chesapeake Bay. How can you rebuild the stocks without considering the causes of low recruitment? There was no discussion on new research, on whether this problem was caused by male fish, the impact of the blue catfish, endocrine disruptors, climate change or any of the other environmental impacts. We know all these factors are contributing to the problem, but we continue to focus on the size of the spawning stock biomass which is composed of almost all females. This spawning stock biomass is larger than any that produced the highest young of the year. They are burying their heads in the sand because they don't have the research they need to deal with the other problems. They haven't even talked about what research is necessary. Just continuing to reduce the opportunity to harvest striped bass has not led to good recruitment in Chesapeake Bay. Time for some new ideas. If you read previous JCAA Newspaper articles, you know I was talking about hatcheries, research into these problems and gathering better data. With the current cutbacks in NOAA staff and funding for research, there is no way we will be able to count on the Federal Government for these projects. The states will not have the money since they will be experiencing similar funding cutbacks from the Federal Government. These are scary times.

## **MAFAC Dissolved**

I have been working on environmental justice and climate change for many years. When I saw what was happening at the Federal Government level with firings of personnel my concerns multiplied. When I learned of the beginning cutbacks at NOAA, I realized we were losing people just hired to do the marine recreational

data gathering and to provide better analysis of that data. Then I learned that any initiative that dealt with environmental justice, climate change or diversity would be cancelled.

As you know, I have served on the Marine Fishery Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Commerce for almost 6 years. I would have ended my term in April. I didn't make my termination date. MAFAC, which was established by President Nixon's Secretary of Commerce in 1971, was dealing with climate resiliency, climate change, environmental justice issues and diversity. I have served on those committees. I was not surprised when I got an email from the Secretary of Commerce stating that we had fulfilled our mission (since 1971) and would no longer be in existence. The first thing I considered was that I must have done a great job that MAFAC had solved all of NOAA's problems with the managing of marine fisheries. It is amazing that NOAA no longer needs all the unpaid volunteers who put in their time to find solutions to our NOAA and NMFS ongoing problems. That thought lasted 2 seconds when I realized that NOAA and NMFS are losing all this expertise and diversity of the committee.

I am not going to list the current members, but I have a list of the members from 2016 to the present. If you are interested in seeing the vast expertise and experience of these volunteers, just let me know. This was like serving on a think tank with many brilliant people in their fields. I am always amazed by how I broaden my knowledge on issues and what I have learn from my fellow committee members and NOAA and NMFS staffs. With all our diverse backgrounds, we found ways to work together and build consensus. We put out some valuable white papers, reports and surveys. Whatever your political leanings, we were all able to work together for the common good. I don't know when this great loss will be corrected. I feel sorry for the people where just been appointed to MAFAC eager to contribute. Just to get on MAFAC takes a lot of time and energy.

### **In Memoriam**

Below are two remembrances for men who contributed to the environment, fisheries and recreational participation for many years. I worked with both of these men since the late 80's. They became good friends and gained my respect. I hope we can find others to step into their roles and bring the same energy. I know I will miss them both.

### **Assemblyman John Ronney passes at 85**

Assemblyman John Ronney was the longest serving assemblyman when he retired after serving more than 27 years. He was a strong supporter of the environment and worked hard for those important issues all those years he was in the assembly.



*John Ronney and his son Patrick are holding one of the fish they caught on our fishing trip.*

We met for the first time at an Assembly Committee hearing on striped bass regulations in the mid-eighties. I learned he was a diehard striped bass fisherman like me, and we became good friends despite the fact I was a democrat and he a republican. We worked together on issues important to NJ fisheries including land use issues. Being an angler he had a better understanding of the issues. We did many charter trips together over the years and during those trips we would discuss those issues and try to find solutions.

He fished until he could not go on boats anymore. He was a great angler, and I have pictures to prove it of him as he is holding big striped bass. We called each other so he would get updates on my fishing trips. I would ask about his wife and kids, who he loved dearly. I will really miss the calls from my long-time friend.

John was and Air Force Veteran who served in Germany during the Berlin crisis.

### **Frank Dara passed March 19 at 79**

*By Frank Virgilio.*

Frank was truly a man of dedication to his beloved NJ State Federation of Sportsman Clubs and the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament.



He was a man whose shoes would be hard to fill; he was active in leadership and has served in numerous roles, including Past president of the Federation, Chairman of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament, President of the Northern Region of the NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs (NJSFSC), and Chairman of the Federation Board of Directors. He worked tirelessly at the club, county, regional, and state levels; he made a

significant and lasting mark on our Federation. Frank was also a founding member of the New Jersey Sportsmen's Wildlife Foundation, a charitable IRS 501© (3) organization. This particular foundation has repeatedly provided grant money to his beloved Federation.

Behind every effort, Frank's personal goal of "Protecting Our Heritage" (a phrase he personally coined and incorporated into our logo) was at the heart of his effort. We must recognize Frank's outstanding service and his incredible legacy.

## **NOAA Terminates Space, Climate and Marine Life Advisory Committees**

*By Eric Katz, Government Executive  
March 3, 2025*

*Experts caution the groups play a key role in ensuring agencies use the best available science in their decision making.*

The Trump administration is disbanding expert advisory committees focused on space, climate, coastal area management and marine fisheries after the agency they were designed to assist said they are no longer necessary.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is ending the committees because they "have served their purpose and should be terminated," Nancy Hann, the agency's deputy undersecretary for operations, said in a memorandum obtained by *Government Executive*. The terminations follow an executive order from President Trump [requiring agencies to do away with](#) any federal advisory committees not required by law. The impacted committees are the:

- Advisory Committee on Excellence in Space
- Climate Services Advisory Committee
- Marine and Coastal Area-based Management Advisory Committee
- Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

The Commerce Department's Office of Privacy and Open Government, which manages all of the federal advisory committees within Commerce, will work with the committees to ensure "an orderly termination," Hann added.

The space committee, established in 2002, assisted NOAA in assessing the capacity and actions of the commercial sector in space and advises it on avoiding negative impacts on space debris. The climate committee, stood up just before President Biden left office, was established to provide NOAA with advice on making its data and tools better available for those managing droughts, floods, wildfires, heatwaves and other impacts of climate change.

The coastal management committee, also created under Biden, provided expertise on conservation and restoration in coastal and marine areas, including the Great Lakes. The fisheries committee was established in 1971 to provide advice on policies related to living marine resources, including fish, marine mammals, sea turtles, and seabirds and other waterfowl.

Ahead of the terminations, employees involved with the committees were instructed by the Commerce Department to pause any meetings until further notice. A NOAA spokesperson said the termination decisions were made by Commerce and any questions must be directed to the department. Commerce did not respond to a request for comments.

Such councils exist throughout and are governed by the 1972 Federal Advisory Committee Act. They are set up across agencies to gather advice and information from non-federal experts, including



those in academia and the private sector. The General Services Administration provides oversight of the groups to ensure they remain objective and accessible to the public. There are at least 1,000 federal advisory committees throughout government, according to GSA.

Committees not mandated by Congress go through an administrative review of their activities and responsibilities every two years.

Jules Barbati Dajches, an analyst with the Union of Concerned Scientists, said last month that FACs help ensure that "decisions that necessitate the use of science are free from political interference, corruption, and unintentional errors."

"Consisting of experts in their respective fields from academia, local governments, non-profits, and industry, they provide guidance to policymakers on a range of high-stake issues that impact people every day—including their access to clean air and water," Barbati Dajches said. "Advisory committees, groups, and boards bring the public into the work of the government to provide advice in a deeply engaged way."

Barbati Dajches added the committees help agencies identify and utilize the best available science and "provide a reality check to create effective policies."

The Environmental Protection Agency previously fired members of its two science advisory committees and Trump has also signed an order requiring at least one-third of FACs to be dissolved.

## **Federal DOGE Cuts Under Trump Threaten these NOAA, US Fish & Wildlife Services in NJ**

*By Dan Radel, Asbury Park Press*

*March 25, 2025*

The future of three facilities operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and one U.S. Fish Wildlife ecological field office in New Jersey are in question, after being caught up in the cuts to the federal budget initiated by the Trump administration's Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE.

It's not clear if the services will be lost, moved to other locations within the state or continue as business as usual. Two of the NOAA facilities are leased office space in Wall and in the Atlantic County

town of Northfield that are used by its law enforcement officers.

Both of the office leases are to be ended, according to the list of [DOGE's real estate lease terminations found on its official website](#). A NOAA spokesperson declined to comment on the future of these operations.



*The directory outside a Wall office building on Route 138 lists the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, as a tenant as of March 21, 2025. (Dan Radel/Asbury Park Press)*

The third NOAA facility, the James J. Howard Marine Science lab at Sandy Hook, is not scheduled to have its lease terminated but [faces a potential cut in funding that could impact its services](#), U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., told the Asbury Park Press last month.

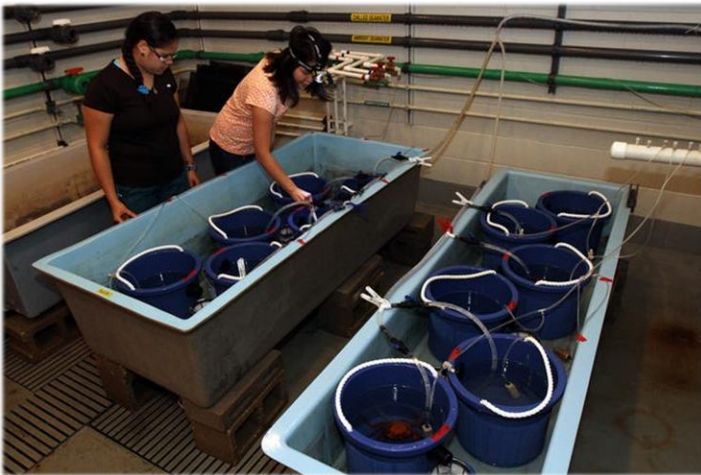
Pallone, the ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said \$5 million in Inflation Reduction Act funding for the lab allocated by Congress is unavailable, which is putting jobs, research and critical infrastructure at the lab at risk. The lab's seawater intake supply infrastructure, essential for the lab's core function, was set to be rehabilitated using IRA funds.



Pallone said the freeze means the system is in jeopardy of total failure by April, when contracts for critical maintenance staff expire.

The possible cuts to the lab have students at Marine Academy of Science & Technology or M.A.S.T. at Sandy Hook concerned for the future of their education.

"The Sandy Hook Lab is a big part of the program. We use it for our junior year Research I class to perform some simple and some complex experiments, but the seniors use the lab to execute their capstone project. Their projects span the entire year, and are extremely impressive," said Cassara Yannarelli, a junior from Atlantic Highlands.



*Two students study female crabs at NOAA's James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory in the Gateway National Recreation Area at Sandy Hook in this 2014 file photo. (Tanya Breen/Asbury Park Press)*

Yannarelli has a summer internship at the lab that could be impacted if the staff is cut that would oversee it.

The final building is the [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service ecological services office on Jimmie Leeds Road in Galloway Township](#), also in Atlantic County, which according to the General Services Administration (GSA) will have its lease terminated on [Nov. 28](#).

This office works with experts, conservation groups and landowners to protect and recover threatened and endangered species. It coordinates with federal and state agencies, local governments, business and private citizens to make sure that wildlife resources are considered during project planning.

New Jersey Field Office biologists serve on oil spill response teams, investigate the effects of environmental contamination and work to restore polluted habitats. It also collaborates with private landowners to restore fish and wildlife habitats.

Paul Hughes, [a spokesperson for the GSA, which handles real estate, acquisition, and technology services for the federal government](#) said they're reviewing all options to optimize the federal footprint and building utilization.

"We are actively managing lease contracts by leveraging existing contract cancellation rights. As leases enter their soft term, we are sending letters of intent to customer agencies to inform them GSA is considering lease termination, thereby exercising GSA's contractual rights as agreed upon with our lessors," Hughes said.

Hughes said actively managing their leases gives GSA the opportunity to work with its partner agencies on their evolving and longer-term needs and will often allow the GSA to enhance space utilization and secure better terms for the government — including better pricing.

In instances where the current space remains the most suitable option — whether temporarily or longer term — he said they are adjusting their approach. For these agencies, he said they're either rescinding termination notices or, in some cases, not issuing them at all. "These contractual cancellation rights are in accordance with regular and well-accepted private industry contracting processes. GSA's letters of intent to terminate have no immediate effect and do not mean the lease has been terminated," Hughes said.

While not directly addressing the future of the Galloway field office, Laury Marshall, the acting chief of public affairs for the Fish & Wildlife Service, said they remain steadfast in their commitment to serving communities, tribes and conservation partners while upholding federal responsibilities with efficiency and accountability.

Under President Donald Trump, she said the federal government is prioritizing strategic reforms to maximize resources, cut waste and enhance operational effectiveness across our facilities.

"We are actively working with GSA to ensure that every facility and asset is utilized effectively and where necessary, identifying alternative solutions that strengthen our mission. These efforts reflect our broader commitment to streamlining government operations while ensuring that conservation efforts remain strong, effective and impactful," Marshall said.

*When Jersey Shore native Dan Radel is not reporting the news, you can find him in a college classroom where he is a history professor. Reach him at [dradel@gannettnj.com](mailto:dradel@gannettnj.com).*

## Letter to Secretary of Commerce from Former MAFAC Members

March 13, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick  
Secretary of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

Fisheries and aquaculture are an economic engine in the United States. Fisheries generated \$321 billion in sales impacts and nearly \$150 billion in value-added impacts (NOAA FEUS 2022<sup>1</sup>) and aquaculture is a \$1.5 billion industry (NOAA FOTUS 2020<sup>2</sup>). The future success of U.S. seafood in the global marketplace depends on continuing to lead the world in harvesting sustainable products from healthy oceans and waterways. Hard working Americans are the backbone to this multibillion-dollar seafood industry that NOAA Fisheries supports, and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) is the group of nongovernment citizens supporting NOAA Fisheries in implementing their mission.

MAFAC, established in 1971, predates the modern fisheries management system and exists to provide commercial, recreational, aquaculture, seafood, consumer, tribal, academic, and other interest groups a consistent pathway for input and feedback on NOAA Fisheries policies and programs. The Committee has served under ten consecutive Presidential Administrations on both sides of the political aisle and is available to the Secretary of Commerce and NOAA on an ongoing basis as an industry expert source for consultation during the development of ocean resource policy and agency programs, such as the National Seafood Strategy and the development of NOAA's aquaculture program. The below signed recent and former MAFAC members submit this letter to you in continuation of our shared interest in advising the Department on the management of living marine resources and support for the marine economy.

Sustainable commercial and recreational fishing industries cannot persist into the future without direct support and investment from NOAA. Fisheries and marine resource management is focused on managing a public resource for long-term benefit to the nation.

NOAA and NOAA Fisheries have been developed to provide critical science and services to the communities and industries that depend on these natural resources for their jobs, recreation, and future. NOAA Fisheries collects and provides the data, science, and research that is foundational to U.S. fishing, and supports a uniquely collaborative system that empowers fishermen, state managers, and others to contribute to fisheries management so that decisions are tailored to the needs of fisheries in each region. A disruption to the regular and timely provisioning of these science and service products, whether it be through loss of critical staff and capacity, closing programs and offices, inconsistent science and surveys, or other such cuts will result in direct and lasting harm to seafood businesses, coastal communities, and the American people.

Fishing is a deeply local industry, which makes it essential for NOAA Fisheries to have a presence in coastal communities across the country to understand the regional needs. At the same time, fisheries are influenced by national and international factors that require cross-coordination. These factors combine to mean that NOAA needs the staffing, capacity, and geographic flexibility sufficient to support fishing at all of these scales. The expertise of NOAA's scientists, managers, liaisons, communicators and more helps ensure that NOAA's science and decisions meet the needs of the seafood industry and marine resource-dependent communities around the nation. Because of NOAA Fisheries, the United States has a globally competitive seafood industry that leads the way in standards and quality.

MAFAC's purpose in this system is to be a consistent forum where fishermen, seafood processors, conservationists, aquaculture experts, and scientists can work together to support NOAA Fisheries in solving tough problems facing marine resource management. Above all, the below signed current and former MAFAC members want to deliver the resounding messages we have heard. **American seafood companies and fishing communities need NOAA to be a champion for sustainable U.S. seafood and to fight harder for those businesses, products, and people.** The seafood industry and the American people deserve to have viable fisheries that can support fishing dependent communities across the nation. Without opportunities for input and guidance from groups like MAFAC, and without robust funding and staffing at NOAA, that is not an achievable future.

Sincerely,

Margaret Raymon  
Retired, Associated  
Fisheries of Maine  
MAFAC 1999 – 2005

Bill Dewey  
Taylor Shellfish Farms  
MAFAC 2005 - 2011

Terry Alexander  
Commercial Fisherman MAFAC 2009 – 2011

Robert Rheault  
East Coast Shellfish  
Growers Association  
MAFAC 2012 – 2018

Sebastian Belle  
Maine Aquaculture Association  
MAFAC 2017 – 2023

Megan Davis Florida Atlantic University  
MAFAC 2018 – 2024, Chair Matt Upton  
Great West Seafoods  
MAFAC 2018 – 2024, Co-Chair

Ervin Joe Schumacker  
Quinault Indian Nation  
MAFAC 2018 – 2024

Thomas Fote JCAA  
MAFAC 2019 – 2025

Patrick Sullivan  
Cornell University  
MAFAC 2019 – 2025

Sarah Schumann Commercial Fisherman RI & AK  
MAFAC 2022 – 2025

Natasha Hayden  
Commercial Fisherman  
MAFAC 2022 – 2025

Meredith Moore  
Ocean Conservancy  
MAFAC 2022 – 2025

Jocelyn Runnebaum  
The Nature Conservancy  
MAFAC 2022 – 2025, Chair

Clay Tam  
Pacific Islands Fisheries Group  
MAFAC 2022 – 2025

Linda O’Dierno  
Aquaculture and Commercial Fishing  
MAFAC 2022 – 2025

Bobbi Hudson  
Pacific Shellfish Institute  
MAFAC 2024 – 2025

Amy Green  
University of Maryland  
MAFAC 2024 – 2025

Ryan Prewitt  
MAFAC 2023 – 2025

<sup>1</sup> [Fisheries Economics of the United States Report | NOAA Fisheries](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Fisheries of the United States, 2020 | NOAA Fisheries](#)

## ASMFC Preliminary Agenda for Spring Meeting

*May 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>*

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

### Monday, May 5

#### 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. American Lobster Management Board

- Progress Update on Benchmark Stock Assessment for American Lobster
- Consider Final approval of Draft Addendum XXXII to Repeal Addendum XVII Minimum and Gauge Size Requirements
- Report from Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts on Industry Meetings
- Review Report of Lobster Conservation Management Team Area 3
- Update on Joint New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Alternative Gear Marking Amendment
- Discuss Vessel Tracking Rules

#### 3:45 – 4:45 p.m. Weakfish Management Board

- Consider 2025 Stock Assessment Update and Possible Management Response
- Elect Vice-Chair

**Tuesday, May 6**

**9 – 10 a.m. Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board**

- Review and Consider Conservation Equivalency: Policy and Technical Guidance Document
- Progress Update on Ongoing Stock Assessments
- Reconvene on May 8

**10:15 – 11:45 a.m. Sciaenids Management Board**

- Consider Red Drum Technical Committee Report on Stock Assessment Follow-Up Tasks and Possible Management Response
- Progress Update on Atlantic Croaker Benchmark Stock Assessment

**11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Luncheon for Legislative and Governor Appointee Commissioners**

**11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch Provided for Commissioners and Proxies**

**1:15 – 5:15 p.m. Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

- Consider Terms of Reference for 2027 Benchmark Stock Assessment
- Consider Massachusetts Conservation Equivalency Proposal for Commercial Fishery Size Limit
- Consider Approval for Public Comment Draft Addendum III on Proposed Management Measures for 2026

**1:30 – 5 p.m. Law Enforcement Committee**

- Review and Discuss Enforcement of Commission Species
- Review and Discuss Ongoing Enforcement Activities (Closed Session)

**6 – 7:30 p.m. Annual Awards of Excellence Reception**

**Wednesday, May 7**

**8 – 10 a.m. Executive Committee**

- Review and Consider Approval of FY26 Budget
- Review White Paper on Board Voting and Virtual Meeting Standard Operating Practices and Procedures
- Future Annual Meetings
- Conduct Executive Director Performance Review (Closed Session)

**8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Law Enforcement Committee (continued)**

- State Agency Reports

**10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Coordinating Council**

- Consider Approval of 2026 Request for Proposals
- Program and Committee Updates

**12:15 – 1:15 p.m. Lunch Break**

**1:15 – 3:15 p.m. Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**

- Consider Final Report from Work Group on Precautionary Management in Chesapeake Bay
- Progress Update on 2025 Ecological Reference Point Benchmark Assessment
- Provide Direction to Technical Committee on 2026-2028 Stock Projections

**3:30 – 4 p.m. Update on Responsible Offshore Science Alliance for Commissioners**

**4:15 – 5 p.m. Tautog Management Board**

- Review Technical Committee Report on New York Study of Alternative Commercial Tags
- Progress Update on 2025 Tautog Stock Assessment Update
- Elect Vice-Chair

**Thursday, May 8**

**8:30 – 10:15 a.m. Horseshoe Crab Management Board**

- Consider Final Approval of Draft Addendum IX on Multiyear Specifications for Male Only Harvest
- Review Adaptive Resource Management Subcommittee Recommendations Regarding Input on Changes to Reward/Utility Functions
- Review and Populate Advisory Panel Membership

**10:30 – 11:45 a.m. ISFMP Policy Board (continued)**

- Executive Committee Report
- Review White Paper on Board Voting and Virtual Meeting Standard Operating Practices and Procedures
- Committee Reports
- Review Noncompliance Findings, if necessary

**11:45 a.m. – Noon. Commission Business Session**

- Consider Noncompliance Recommendations, if necessary



# JCAA Membership Report

By John Toth

Invoices for club dues have been mailed to all JCAA Members Clubs. The following dues and sponsorship have been received to date. Please send your dues to our new post office address at:

**Jersey Coast Anglers Association**  
**P.O. Box 1191**  
**West Branch Post Office**  
**Wall, 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:

- Barrington Rod & Gun Club - \$150
- NJ Beach Buggy Association (NJBBA) - \$300
- Surf Kings - \$50
- Seaside Heights Fishing Club - \$100
- Bradley Beach Surf Casters - \$150
- Hi-Mar Striper Club - \$500

**Sponsorships** have been received from:

- Paul Shafer - \$200
- Joe Palumbo - \$500
- Barnegat Animal Clinic - \$50
- Jon Brunetti - \$100

Our next JCAA General Membership meeting be held on **March 25, 2025**, and it will be held as an in-person meeting at the Shark Anglers Building in Herbertsville and also by ZOOM starting at 7:30 p.m.

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

# Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

## JCAA KIDS THAT NEVER FISHED DAY

This event is hosted by Mr. Vito Cardinale who owns Lake Julianna which he stocked with channel catfish and largemouth bass.

**JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSO. KID'S THAT NEVER FISHED DAY**

The event is hosted by Mr. Vito Cardinale who owns Lake Julianna which he stocked with channel catfish and largemouth bass. Some of these fish are huge and other species such as bluegills, crappies and perch are also present. Volunteers will be present to teach the children how to fish.

**WHEN**  
**April 12, 2025**  
**9am - 3pm**

**WHERE**  
**Lake Julianna**  
**Millstone Township**  
265 Dishrow Hill Road Millstone, NJ 08535

**HOT DOGS & PIZZA LUNCH, PRIZES, BAIT, LOANER RODS AND REELS FREE INSTRUCTION**

**ALL AGES FREE**

**LEARN HOW TO CATCH BIG FISH**

**PLAY HOOK GO FISHING**

Volunteers Welcome

**REGISTER AT EVENTBRITE**  
**CONTACT DON MARANTZ**  
**908-347-1434**

**CARDINALE ENTERPRISES** Developers • Construction • Leasing

To register, visit [this link](#) at Eventbrite or contact Don Marantz at [donmarantz@optonline.net](mailto:donmarantz@optonline.net) or by phone at (908) 347-1435.

Karen Noe and Don Marantz are selling Kid's Wish'N to go Fish'N towels to help fund our veteran and youth fishing programs. Support JCAA and youth fishing by volunteering. You can register as a JCAA associate member at [this link](#).

## 34th ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

The 34th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament (GSFT) will be held at Island Beach State Park on Sunday, May 18, 2025. Get ready to enter the largest surf fishing tournament along the Jersey Shore. Don't miss a day of family fishing fun! Pick up a brochure about the tournament at Island Beach State Park or at your favorite tackle dealer. Remember, admission to the park is FREE for the tournament. For early registration, [click here](#). Early registration will end April 19, 2025.



We would like to remind our physically challenged anglers that there is an area at OBA 1 with beach wheelchairs available. Anglers that are not able to walk in the sand can now get to the water and try surf fishing. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice and physically challenged anglers at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. Celebrity Ford, Toms River, NJ will assist physically challenged anglers with a NEW 2025 4x4 VIP vehicle to transport anglers that will be fishing the reserved area in front of OBA 1. Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 12) and volunteer anglers from various fishing clubs will also aid physically challenged anglers. If you know a disabled veteran or angler that would like to fish the tournament, please phone Kevin Nolan, American Warrior Outdoors at (732) 504-5492.



### **HIGH SCHOOL SURF FISHING CHALLENGE AT ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK**



The Jersey Coast Anglers Youth Education Committee is encouraging high school students to participate in the Island Beach State Park 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Surf Fishing Tournament. High school teams are already gearing up for the tournament. Five students per team plus a high school representative must accompany each high school team. If you know a school team that would like to register for this event, please email Karen Byrne at: [karen.byrne@dep.nj.gov](mailto:karen.byrne@dep.nj.gov).

Please visit the JCAA website for updates and don't forget to [register](#) for the Free NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program.

### **4X4 VOLUNTEER JUDGES NEEDED AT ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK**

The State of New Jersey 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Surf Fishing Tournament at IBSP is looking for volunteer judges to ride the beach during the tournament and verify the length of fish caught by contestants.

Volunteers that would like to be a part of the tournament and measure fish will receive a 2025 judge's hat and compensation for fuel on the beach. We already have some Play HOOK-e from PTSD veteran volunteers signed up to judge.

For details, please contact Ken Hollins, Judge Chairman to become a volunteer judge [rugburnsbleed55@optimum.net](mailto:rugburnsbleed55@optimum.net) or phone Gary Conk (609) 556-9241.

### **SEDGE ISLAND FIELD EXPERIENCES**

NJ Fish & Wildlife's Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center is offering several programs this summer for students interested in exploring the salt marsh through hands-on activities. For more information on the Sedge Island Education Center, [click here](#). For the Sedge Island Field and Research Experience program registration, register at [this link](#).

### **YOUTH FISHING CHALLENGE**

The Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs Program's Youth Fishing Challenge is a free statewide event to promote fishing among youths and their families. The 2-day [10<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Fishing Challenge](#) will be held on [Free Fishing Day](#) Saturday June 7, 2025 and on June 8, 2025. To participate in this event, please contact the site-specific host for registration details from the link provided above.





### NBFCC KID'S FISHING NIGHT

Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club Kid's Fishing Night, Marc Rogoff, Education Specialist from NJ Fish and Wildlife NJ "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" was their guest speaker for the night. Visit their [website](#) to view details about kids fishing and annual veteran fishing trip on the Charter Boat Mi-Jo.



### ANNUAL HOOKED ON THE HUDSON

The HRFA will supply all equipment and bait free for their annual 'Hooked on the Hudson' Kid's Fishing Event. Fishing information and assistance will be available, and prizes will be awarded. View [details here](#).

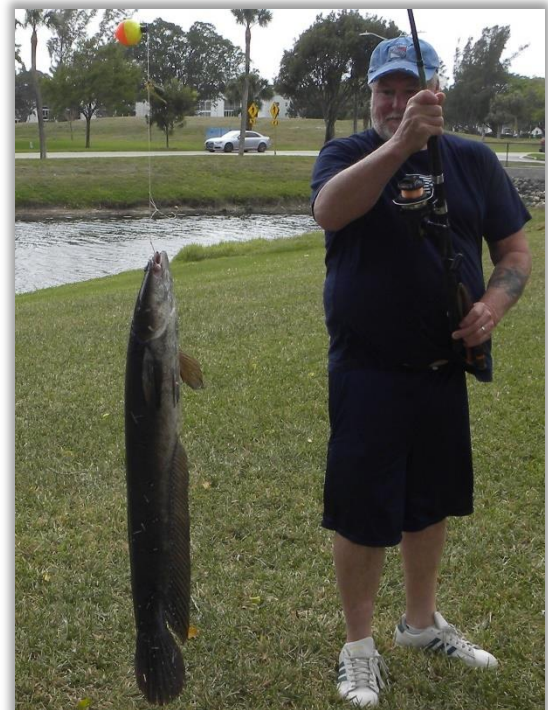
### VETERAN FISHING TRIPS FINS FOR FREEDOM

Fins For Freedom will take place on May 17, 2025. Fishing and the day's events will be held at Atlantic Highlands Municipal Marina, 2 Simon Lake Drive Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716. For more information visit their [website](#).

### NJ VETERANS ATTEND SOUTH FLORIDA FISHING EVENT



On March 4, 2025, veterans from all military branches of the armed forces enjoyed freshwater fishing at the Play HOOK-e 8<sup>th</sup> Annual "Take a Veteran Fishing Day." The CVE fishing club and Ellesmere E residents hosted the annual event that helps veteran men and women take time to heal by teaching them fishing skills and introducing them to activities that can reduce PTSD symptoms. Over 30 veterans participated in celebrating at the event that honored veterans for their service. Five veterans from NJ traveled to attend the event and enjoy the camaraderie of other veterans while fishing.



*Pat Costello, US Army Veteran improving his fishing skills said: "I loved being around other veterans as they cheered my big snakehead catch."*



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EARNED.  
IT  
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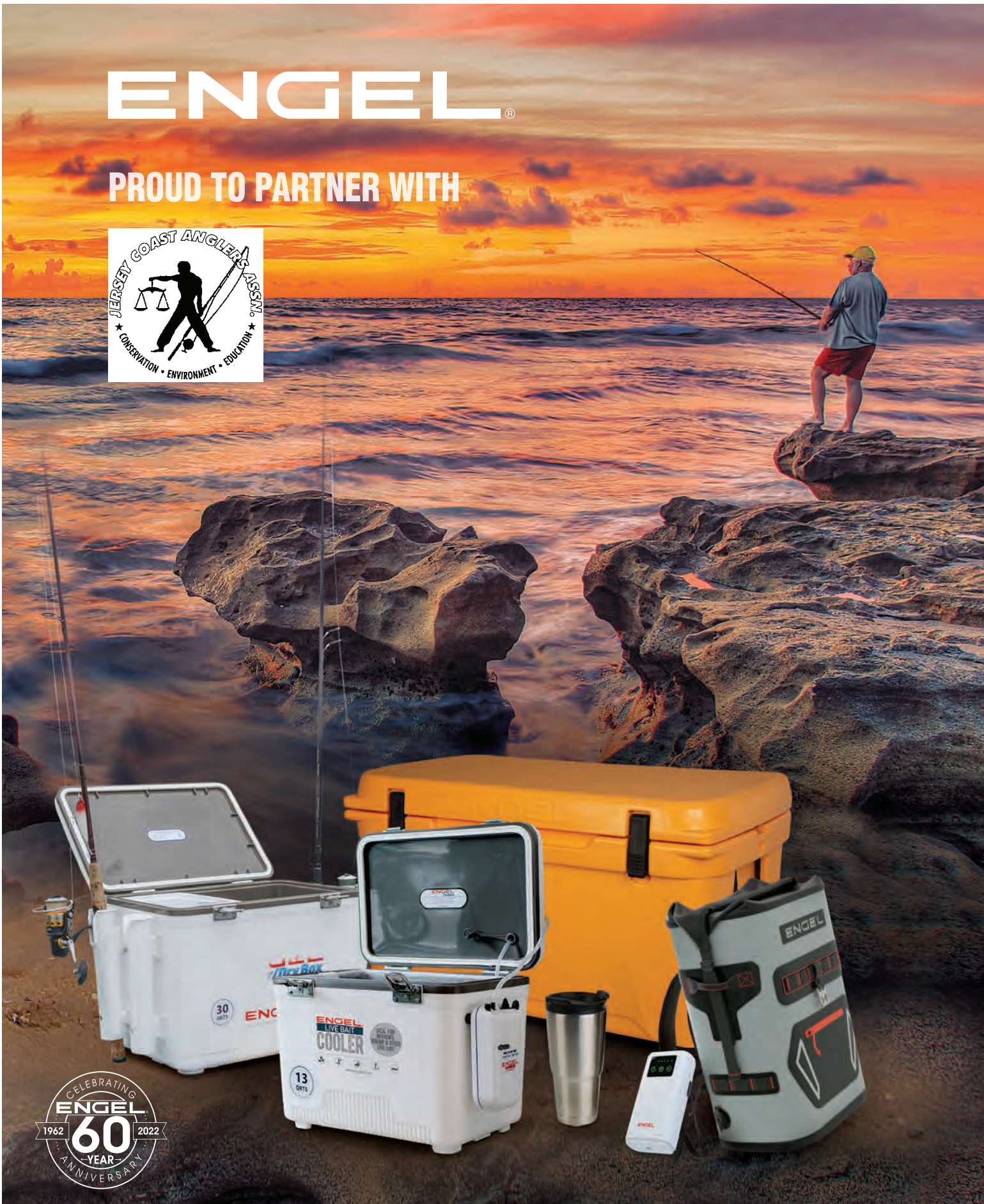
Introducing Authority™, the spinning reel with a name that is set in steel. PENN®'s first IPX8 fully sealed body wrapped around a best-in-class stainless steel gear train and a 12-plus-one stainless steel ball bearing system. All eight sizes and select high speed models come with a Dura-Drag™ system that can handle anything the ocean dishes out, making Authority the most durable reel ever seated. PENN. LET THE BATTLE BEGIN™.





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## We need the support of your club and its members

Your club should be a member of JCAA and make a difference for only \$50 a year. Your club will have a voice in all JCAA positions that affect your fishing future. Your club will receive up-to-date information on vital issues each month. Look for [club membership link](#) on the JCAA home page or complete application below.

### Club Membership Application

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 \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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>	<i>Open</i>	-
<b>Office Manager</b>	Karen Noe	732-245-2751
<b>Fluke Tournament</b>	<i>Open</i>	-
<b>Access</b>	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
<b>Blackfish</b>	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
<b>Blue Claw Crab</b>	<i>Open</i>	-
<b>Bluefish</b>	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
<b>Habitat</b>	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
<b>Pelagic Species</b>	<i>Open</i>	-
<b>Forage Species</b>	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
<b>Striped Bass</b>	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
<b>Science &amp; Research</b>	<i>Open</i>	-
<b>Website</b>	Philip V. Celmer	jcaa@jcaa.org
<b>Youth Education</b>	Greg Kucharewski	732-429-9637

## 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.

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.



Meetings:  
1st Tuesday  
of month  
7:30 PM

VFW Post 2179  
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Monmouth  
Middletown  
Route 36  
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