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May 2025

JCAA Hi-Roller Raffle

July 10th

JCAA Annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner

Saturday, November 8th



BATTLE IV

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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

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

363 Cedar Lane Teaneck,
NJ 07666

sandel@otterstedt.com
www.otterstedt.com

Charles (Chuck) Santoro
Insurance Specialist



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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Chuck Santoro
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Delaware River Shad Fishermens Assn., Allentown, PA, www.drfsa.org
Harold Dill, Bricktown, NJ
Bill Dolan, Waretown, NJ
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Fins on Feathers Charters, Capt. Frank Tenore, (973) 763-2876
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John J. Gilchrist Architect PC Montvale, 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
Greg & Linda Jewell, Freehold
NJ Long Beach Island Fishing Club
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Leonardo State Marina
Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club
Manasquan Fishing Club
Ocean Beach Volunteer Fire Co. 3
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Paul Olsen, Lanoka Harbor, NJ
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Todd Piasecki, Little Falls, NJ
Michael Revesz, SW-Life Science Lab Equipment, (877) 737-3211
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George S. Smith Jr., Morganville, NJ
Phil Simon, Skillman, NJ
South West Science, Roebbling, NJ
Sunshine Organization
Village Harbour Fishing Club, Manahawkin, NJ
In Memory of Bruce Wagner
West Orange Anglers, West Orange, NJ, (793) 669-6799



A Saltwater Anglers Club

New Members Welcome

www.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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The Geld Family, Elkins Park, PA
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Lagoon View Yacht Club, Waretown, NJ, lagoonviewyachtclub.org
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Greenwald Bruce Halstater, Norwood, NJ
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Richard Lippo, Mount Laurel, NJ
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Randy Minix, Gibbstown, NJ
Picatunny Saltwater Sportsman Club
Point Pleasant Fishing Club, rmazz1428@gmail.com
Newark Bait & Flycasting Club
New Jersey Beach Buggy Association
Round Valley Trout Association, Lebanon, NJ
Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County
Louis Schott, Galloway Twp
Schuyler Tuna Fishing Club
Seaside Heights Fishing Club
Richard Secare, West New York, NJ
Shore Aquatic Club, Sea Girt, NJ
Silverton Fishing Club, Toms River, NJ
David Strom, Jr., West Orange, NJ
South Jersey Saltwater Anglers
Surf Kings Fishing Club
Douglas Vitale In Memory of Bruce Vitale Women's
Surf Fishing Club of NJ, www.wsfcnj.org



New Jersey Beach Buggy Association

PO Box 511, Seaside Park, NJ 08752

Buggy Membership Info: Ken Hollins 732-814-7021

www.NJBBA.org

Fighting for Beach Access & Conservation Since 1954



Manasquan Fishing Club

PO Box 513, Manasquan, NJ 08736

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

Manasquan Woman's Club, 62 Main Street

www.manasquanfishingclub.com

JCAA NEWSPAPER MAY 2025

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION*

(Published on April 30th, 2025)

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING

May 27th, 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, May 8th

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.**  
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2024 OFFICERS

President	Mark Taylor	732-245-9445
1st V.P.	Stephen 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

May 5th-8th ASMFC Spring Meeting

May 5th-8th ASA Government Affairs Meeting

May 8th JCAA Board Meeting

May 18th Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

May 27th JCAA General Meeting

June 12th JCAA Board Meeting

June 24th JCAA General Meeting

No General Meetings in July & August

August 23rd 9th Annual Play Hook-e (see flyer)

JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner

By John Toth

Save the date! Our **Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner** is going to be held on **Saturday evening on November 8th**. Once again, the dinner will be held at the **Captain's Inn** located at 304 E Lacey Rd., Forked River, NJ. This is a dinner you don't want to miss, just ask anyone who has attended over the last three years what they thought of it. It's going to be a great event again this year. This sit-down dinner starts at 5 PM with a cocktail hour. Appetizers will include: bacon wrapped scallops, mini crab cakes, calamari and pigs in the blanket. A cheese and cracker platter along with bruschetta and toast will also be placed at each table. That will be followed by a dinner beginning with a house salad and stuffed shells with vodka sauce. Then you will have your choice of 4 entrees, prime rib, a broiled seafood combo, chicken marsala and pecan salmon. All entrees will come with potatoes and vegetables. Finally, dessert will consist of Tartufo & mini pastries. Coffee, tea and soda are also included. There will be a cash bar.

As always, we will have gifts and silent auctions along with a 50/50. We will have a lot of really nice prizes including some for the ladies. We are requesting that our member clubs and individuals donate something for our raffle and/or our silent auction, or perhaps a bottle for our basket of cheer. To make a donation, please contact **Don Marantz** at (908)

347-1434. Tickets are \$100 per person. **John Toth** will be handling the ticket sales as well as the seating arrangements this year. John can be reached at tothjohn@verizon.net or at (732) 656-0139.

Nominations for the Sportsperson of the Year will be made at the JCAA's General Membership Meeting on September 30th. Start now to think of who from your club should be nominated to receive this prestigious award!

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. 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

May is upon us with warmer weather. Everyone is remarkably busy getting their boats and tackle ready for the upcoming fishing season. The individuals that got their stuff ready early before the rest of us are enjoying some early striped bass, blackfish catches. Even though everyone's minds and priorities are getting ready. There are still meetings going on about our recreational fisheries regulations for the present and future years, that we all lose track of. I am asking that everyone stay in touch and keep on top of them. One person is unable to stay informed with all issues and species. That is why I as your President, asking every club to talk at their meetings about this and get very motivated individuals that are willing to get involved. I am trying to reactivate all the JCAA committees, but we need many people to make this happen. When you get the name of your members you can contact me or the committee chairperson. We all need to work together to have a fair share of resources.

2025 JCAA High Roller Raffle Tickets are currently being sold and available. If you or your club would like to purchase or sell a book or two contact the JCAA Office at (732) 506-6565 and leave a message. There was an article in last month's newsletter on this, which listed the sponsors who donated the prizes. Everyone should support them and others that support you.

JCAA held a JCAA Fishing Day at private lake in Millstone Township for young anglers who never fished or had little knowledge. Past President Don Marantz chaired this event. The date was Saturday

April 12th with a rainy date of Sunday April 13th. As everyone knows it rained

Saturday so Don notified everyone the registered that it was going to be held on the rain date. Thanks to all the attendees and volunteers that participated. There were a lot of happy future young anglers that day. Don did an excellent job, and I would like to thank Vito Cardinale for the use of Lake Julianna along with his unwavering dedicated support for fishing. Let us all continue to build this event with Don, so we get more young anglers which is the future.

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 and keep you informed of topics that affect the recreational fishing community. Please send that information to us as this happens or any changes. If you belong to a recreational fishing club which is not currently a member-club of Jersey Coast Anglers Association, contact 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.

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

Important Info: The Next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for **May 27th** at 7:30pm, held in person at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724 with a zoom meeting invite (Hybrid Meeting).

2025 Saltwater Fishing Expo It's a Wrap

By Mark Taylor

I personally would like to thank all the dedicated volunteers that were at the JCAA Booth at the 2025 Saltwater Fishing Expo (March 14th to 16th). The recreational community needs more people like them to get involved. This is one way to talk to people that have the same interests as us but may be unaware how things happen but complain they are unhappy with certain if

not all regulations that are imposed on the recreational community. People that work the JCAA Booths try to educate and provide ways to get the information to them. Also letting them know that if they want to enjoy fishing in the future they need to get involved now. I asked the volunteers that worked at this year's booth to send me a summary of their experience at the show which a few have done and will share. Below is a list of volunteers and the clubs they belong to.

- **Joe J. Camarata** - Manasquan Fishing Club (MFC)
- **Jack Pongracz** - Manasquan Fishing Club (MFC)
- **Michele Kohler** - Jersey Coast Shark Anglers, Volunteer for Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Clubs
- **Don Marantz** - Newark Bait and Fly-Casting Club
- **Gen Wong** - Newark Bait and Fly-Casting Club
- **Bill Distaso** - Sandy Hook Bay Anglers
- **Barry Hessinger** - Sandy Hook Bay Anglers
- **John Toth** - Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County
- **Steven Blumenthal** - Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County
- **Karen Noe** - Shore Surf Club
- **Steve Machalaba** - HI-MAR Fishing Club
- **Tom Fote** - Many Clubs

Some of the feedback I received from the volunteers:

"Well attended show. Fishing seminars were educational. Saw a number of attendees carrying reels and poles in hand."

"Well ran show for saltwater enthusiasts and great deals on tackle."

"It was great to see so many booths with great products at great prices as well! I stocked up! Lots of information in the seminars too!"

"I got to see all of my old friends in the industry."

"The Expo that is the best show for all saltwater tackle!"

"Having the list of new 2025 saltwater regulations at the JCAA booth was a good attractant to get visitors to the JCAA booth to sell JCAA raffle tickets and talk to."

"Plenty of vendors for so many saltwater tackle needs!"

"It was a pleasure meeting with local charter boat captains and representatives from other fishing

clubs. I was also able to patronize a few of the tackle vendors which support our club by providing door prizes for our two-day fluke tournament captains meeting.”

“It’s always an enjoyable time perusing the tackle Isles for new tactics and techniques.”

“It is great to talk to people with the same interests and learn different areas to fish.”

You may want to volunteer next year, just reach out to me and I will put you on the list. This goes for any shows that JCAA has a booth.

Letter to President Trump: Recreational Fishing is Dying a Slow Death

April 18, 2025

President Donald Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Urgent Need to Address Regulatory Burdens on
Recreational Salt Water Fishing

Mr. President,

The recreational fishing industry annually generates about \$148 billion dollars and 945,000 related jobs. While NOAA/NMFS plays a critical role in sustaining fish populations and long-term environmental health, there is a growing concern that some of their regulatory decisions have placed an undue burden on the salt water recreational fishing sector.

Over the years, increasingly restrictive quotas that are not always based upon scientific data available have led to the closure of many fishing-related businesses. To date, we have compiled a report documenting 50 viable businesses that have shut down, excluding additional losses such as tackle shops, marinas and tourism-related businesses. While we fully support sustainable fishing practices, stocks of certain species such as black sea bass have been rebuilt to well over 100% of target levels since 2012 and are currently at 219% of their

target. Still, in most recent years regulations for them have been tightening rather than being liberalized.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act mandates socio-economic impact assessments when implementing new fishing regulations. However, these assessments have not been considered when NOAA/NMFS implements new restrictions. Given the impact restrictions have on the fishing industry, their socio-economic impacts need to accompany all new regulations imposed by NOAA/NMFS to provide for a more balanced approach between conservation and economic stability.

Additionally, the recreational fishing industry seeks more involvement in regulatory decisions. Striped bass is an example of this. Further restrictions, including seasonal closures are being considered for 2026 that will result in more lost business. Policies such as the 28-31 inch slot limit for striped bass regulation was implemented with little input from the recreational community. Increased collaboration through industry roundtables and advisory panels would allow NOAA/NMFS to make more informed decisions to benefit both fish populations and those whose livelihoods depend on them.

Accurate data collection is essential for effective fisheries management. The current system utilized by NOAA/NMFS to collect this data is faulty, leading to inaccurate data resulting in diminished quotas in the fishing industry and loss of business. We urge the administration to work with NOAA/NMFS to refine these processes to benefit both conservation efforts and economic stability.

A solution to these challenges would include a review of NOAA/NMFS operations by Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick to ensure alignment with economic growth.

Additionally, roundtable discussions between NOAA/NMFS officials and recreational fishing representatives could foster mutual understanding and lead to more balanced regulatory outcomes.

We appreciate your attention to these pressing issues and look forward to working together to ensure that recreational fishing remains a thriving industry for generations to come. We look forward to discuss these concerns further and working together to achieve practical solutions.

John Toth, President, Salt Water Anglers of Bergen
County

Trustee, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA)
Membership Secretary, Jersey Coast Anglers
Association (JCAA)

Mark Taylor, President, Jersey Coast Anglers
Association

John Rogalo, President, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance

Wade S. Stein, President, The New Jersey State
Federation of Sportsmen's Club

Joseph Albanese, President, Hudson River Fishermen's
Association

Robert Bogan, Captain, Gambler Charter Boat

Cc: Howard Lutnick, Commerce Secretary

Cc: Eugenio Pinerio Solar, Assistant Administrator,
NOAA Fisheries

Cc: Lee Zeldin, Environmental Protection Secretary

Cc: Donald Norcross, Congressman

Cc: Van Drew, Congressman

Cc: Herb Conway, Congressman

Cc: Chris Smith, Congressman

Cc: Josh Gottheimer, Congressman

Cc: Frank Pallone, Congressman

Cc: Thomas Kean, Congressman

Cc: Miki Sherrill, Congresswoman

Cc: Bonnie Watson, Congresswoman

ASMFC Striped Bass Board to Consider Action to Conserve Stripers

By Paul Haertel

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Striped Bass Board will meet from 1:15-5:15 PM on Thursday, May 6th, 2025. The meeting will take place at Westin Crystal City, 1800 Richmond Highway, Arlington, VA or those interested may attend via webinar. The big item on the agenda will be whether to release Draft Addendum III to the public and if so, when to release it. It should be an interesting discussion as some board members believe no action is necessary since there is still close to a 50% chance that the goal of achieving rebuilt stocks by 2029 will be accomplished without changing the regulations at all. However, it is more likely that the Board will take some type of action to give the stripers a better chance of recovering by the 2029 deadline. The Draft Addendum has been prepared by the Plan Development Team

(PDT) and it is possible that the Board could decide to release it for public comment at this time. However, they could opt to send it back to the PDP for further refinement and then release it for public comment at their August meeting. Should the Board decide to mandate further reductions, they would be required to go into effect prior to the 2026 season. The Board will likely consider options that will reduce the removals of striped bass from the biomass by about 10%. The options will include reductions for fishing in the Ocean and Chesapeake Bay as well as for the commercial sector. The Board will consider seasonal closures with and without no targeting provisions for ocean fishing. There will also be a myriad of slot sizes, including more lenient size slot sizes for the for-hire fleet in both the Ocean and Chesapeake Bay. Regarding ocean fishing, there could be coastwide regulations of separate regions.

Other topics that will be discussed are an update on the 2027 benchmark stock assessment, stock assessment terms of reference, commercial tagging, creating a standard way to measure striped bass and Maryland's proposal for a recreational season baseline.

To register for the webinar, please visit [this link](#). If available, JCAA Club representatives should look over these materials before the JCAA General meeting so we can discuss them at the April 29th JCAA General meeting. Below is the agenda and the ASMFC overview posted on their website.

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

ASMFC Overview: Atlantic Striped Bass

Atlantic striped bass was declared overfished in 2019 and is subject to a rebuilding plan that requires the stock to be rebuilt to its spawning stock biomass target by 2029. The [2024 Stock Assessment Update](#) completed in October 2024 and the follow-up [projection updates](#) completed in December 2024 provided the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board the latest current information on stock status and rebuilding. The Board

has put more restrictive measures in place since 2019 to address overfishing and contribute to stock rebuilding based on the assessment and projections. While the 2024 Stock Assessment Update indicates the resource is no longer experiencing overfishing, it remains overfished. Short-term projections in the assessment estimate the probability of rebuilding by 2029 is less than 50%, with an estimated 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 response to the 2024 Stock Assessment Update and the updated projections, the [Board initiated Draft Addendum III](#) to consider recreational and commercial management measures for 2026 to support rebuilding the stock by 2029. This action is intended to increase the probability of rebuilding the stock by adjusting 2026 management measures to ensure the stock is on the necessary rebuilding trajectory. A range of reductions for the recreational and commercial fisheries will be considered. Recreational fishery reductions will consider season and size limits that account for regional differences, including no-harvest and no-targeting closures. Commercial fishery reductions will consider quota reductions. The Board intends to take final action no later than October 2025 with implementation in early 2026.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Tom Fote

Spring is here and everyone is getting ready to go fishing. This is also a busy time with fisheries management and there are many meetings taking place. Mark and I will be traveling to Harrisburg, PA to attend the ASA Government Affairs Meeting. JCAA has been a member of that committee since it started. Mark and I will not be able to attend the webinars at the ASMFC Spring Meeting Week. Paul Haertel will cover the Striped Bass Board Meeting as chairman of JCAA's Striped Bass Committee. He has enclosed an article about the upcoming striped bass meeting. This is an important meeting to see where ASMFC is heading on striped bass regulations and the new amendment. At some point, I will listen to the meeting when it is posted online, and I will read the summaries. If you cannot

listen in person, choose a time that works for you. JCAA will let you know when the meeting summaries and webinars are posted.

There is much information about the Joint Meeting of ASMFC and MAFMC in April that will include an update on the changes in the management of summer flounder, black sea bass, scup and blue fish. There is also an update on sector separation. Please read and make sure you stay involved. These decisions will have an impact.

Paul Hartel has an article in the Newspaper as the striped bass JCAA Chairman. The supplemental material for the meeting should be posted on the ASMFC Webpage by May 1st that will include the SB Advisory Committee and a lot of the information they will be discussing.

New Director for NMFS: Mr. Piñeiro Soler

I have not kept track, but I have dealt with many directors in the last 45 years. Some I knew well and some I didn't know until they became the director. I am not familiar with Mr. Soler and I put his bio release in this newspaper. Because I am not traveling to so many meetings, I will have fewer opportunities to meet and get to know Mr. Soler. JCAA will reach out to Mr. Soler and invite him to New Jersey to speak to all of us. I will reach out to our Senators and the Congressional representatives asking them to host a meeting with Mr. Soler. All of your letters to NMFS now go to Mr. Soler. I have also included the bio for Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey as the Mid-Atlantic EPA Administrator. I have not seen an appointment for region 2 which includes New Jersey.

Midatlantic Fisheries Council Honors Two Friends of New Jersey Anglers

Congratulations to Adam Nowlasky and Jack Casey. It was a pleasant surprise to see a picture of Jack Casey. Jack Casey was a name I heard when I first got involved with sharks. Bruce Freeman told me about the great work Jack was doing gathering information about sharks. If you ran a shark tournament, Jack was there to gather the data. I was still in high school when Jack began this program. It really pleased me to see him recognized. For more about Jack, read the article included here.

Adam Nowalsky and I worked together for many years, first in his role at RFA then as a proxy for the legislative commissioner to ASMFC and in his 9-year term on the MAFMC. He is a hard worker, when

he sees a problem, he is all in to find a solution. He was the driving force in the new recreational management system that is jointly managed between ASMFC and MAFMC. I trust Adam and respect the amount of time and energy he puts in both at the meetings, before and after. We need more people like Adam who will step up and do the work. Congratulations from all of JCAA. For more about Adam, read the article included here.

Flashback Articles

I was looking at the flyer for the Annual Disabled Veterans and Children Fishing Event that is included in the youth education report. I remembered when Greg and Don first started this for disabled children and later included veterans. JCAA through Greg and Don took the bull by the horns and turned this into a premium event. Vito Cardinale (2024 JCAA Sportsperson-of-the-Year recipient) provides the venue, and his family cooks the food for everyone. JCAA was supplying the resources to make it happen. It is now this August and will be the ninth year of this event.

In this same way thirty-five years ago, JCAA started planning the Governors Surf Fishing Tournament with Paul Smith, Greg Kucharewski. Bill Vibert (IBSP Superintendent), Bruce Freeman, Chief of the Bureau of NJ Marine Fisheries and me. I always said that I was the idea man on the GSFT, but it was Paul and Greg who made it happen and made it run smoothly for years with NJ Division of Parks, NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife, New Jersey Beach Buggy Association and New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen Clubs. This May 18th will be the 34th GSFT.

These two events, along with JCAA Fluke Tournament, got JCAA's name out there for something besides fisheries management, and the many environmental issues that we work on.

The role of JCAA has changed for those three events. Many young anglers are unaware that striped bass is a game fish in NJ due to the efforts of JCAA and its clubs. The reason that the EEZ remains as a sanctuary for striped bass is because JCAA and its member clubs fought for this in the early nineties by testifying before congress and turning out over 2,000 people at the NMFS Public Hearings. The work on protecting menhaden in NJ was started by JCAA in 1982 before I was even going to the meetings. The work to end the dumping of chemicals, garbage, sewage, wood burning in the ocean and dioxin dumping at the mud dump was because of the leadership of the original member clubs' representatives to JCAA. The early leaders of JCAA like Joe Melio, Len Belcaro,

Don Marantz, and John Toth to name a few. Their work was the reason I got involved in JCAA. The 7 founding surf fishing clubs grew the membership and started an organization that became one of the leaders in fighting for environmental issues and recreational anglers along the east coast and nationwide. We did this with volunteers who were willing to make this happen without paid staff except for an underpaid office manager.

The young guys learned from the old guys. Just showing up was an education. The problem we have now is that the "young" guys have become the old guys with no replacements in sight. We cannot staff these three events with our limited membership. Luckily other groups have begun to support us, and the other two original sponsors of the Governor's Tournament have stepped up. We do not have any tournament planned for 2025 because we do not have a tournament director. Too few people are doing too much work and other tasks don't get done.

In the last few years, we have not done a good job promoting JCAA. Some of this is not all our fault. When we stopped printing the free JCAA Newspaper because of cost, we lost being able to distribute free copies of the JCAA Newspaper in tackle stores, shows and to member clubs and that hurts getting the word out and letting people know what JCAA is doing. We also lost the great outdoor press and reporters that would help us get out the word in newspapers and magazines. We used to have three publications reporting just on recreational fishing in NJ. Now we have just one, the Fisherman Magazine. That does a great job but does not reach all the public that the newspapers did in the past.

I have run articles from the past to show how JCAA handled these issues, and I am planning to do this every month. I do not have copies of the newspapers before 1995. That is when we were working on making Striped Bass gamefish in NJ and coastwide, ocean issues like wood burning, ocean dumping of chemical and agent orange contaminated dredge materials, and many other issues like menhaden. I missed getting the Al Ristori JCAA Newspaper collection before he moved to Florida. If you have saved any of those early newspapers, please give me a call. We have not unpacked boxes of files at the new office and when we do, I am hoping to find some there. We need some volunteers to help moving office furniture into the office and going through the boxes of materials. Please let me know if you are interested in helping.

Captain Adam Nowalsky Receives Ricks E Savage Award

MAFMC News, April 22, 2025

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council has named Captain Adam Nowalsky as the recipient of the 2024 Ricks E Savage award. The award, which was presented during the Council's April meeting in Galloway, New Jersey, is given annually to an individual who has made exceptional contributions to the management and conservation of fishery resources in the mid-Atlantic region.

Nowalsky was appointed to the Council in 2015 and served with distinction for nine years before terming out in 2024. During his tenure, he was one of the Council's most engaged and influential voices, known for his willingness to dive into complex management issues.

"Adam's ability to see all sides, to think creatively, and to contribute constructively made him a trusted colleague and a valuable contributor," said Wes Townsend, Council Chair. "He consistently raised the bar for everyone involved in the Council process."

During his time on the Council, Nowalsky was particularly engaged in recreational fisheries management issues. With more than two decades of experience fishing South Jersey waters as a licensed charter operator, he brought practical knowledge and an understanding of anglers' concerns to the Council's decision-making process. Notably, he was a driving force behind the Recreational Reform Initiative, a joint effort launched in 2019 by the Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) which aims to improve management of recreational fisheries for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish.

From 2016 to 2021, Nowalsky chaired the Council's Research Steering Committee, leading efforts to navigate complex decisions about the future of the Research Set-Aside program. His leadership extended beyond the Council as well, serving as New Jersey's Legislative Proxy to the ASMFC since 2010, where he has chaired numerous boards. He also played a central role in bringing the Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) to the Mid-Atlantic region and continues to serve on the MREP Steering Committee.

"Adam's legacy is one of dedication, integrity, and collaboration," said Townsend. "His contributions

have left a lasting mark on the Council and the broader Mid-Atlantic fisheries community."

The Council extends its gratitude to Captain Nowalsky for his years of service and congratulates him on this well-deserved honor.

Mid-Atlantic Council Honors Jack Casey with James A. Ruhle Cooperative Research Award

MAFMC News, April 22, 2025

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council has named Jack Casey as the recipient of the James A. Ruhle Cooperative Research Award. The award was presented during the Council's April meeting in Galloway, New Jersey, in recognition of Casey's pioneering work in cooperative fisheries research and his decades-long contributions to the scientific understanding of shark species along the East Coast.

The Council established the award in memory of Captain Jimmy Ruhle – a commercial fisherman, former Council member, and trailblazer in cooperative fisheries research. The award celebrates individuals or groups who have made exceptional contributions to cooperative research in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Jack Casey's legacy is one of innovation, leadership, and collaboration. A U.S. Navy veteran who began his fisheries career in 1960 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Casey quickly recognized the untapped potential of working directly with fishermen to advance scientific understanding. In 1962, he launched the Cooperative Shark Tagging Program with fewer than 100 volunteer fishermen. Under his leadership, the program expanded into one of the most successful and enduring partnerships between the scientific and fishing communities, resulting in hundreds of thousands of sharks tagged and an unparalleled body of data on shark movements, behavior, and biology. His efforts helped transform the public's perception of sharks and laid the groundwork for significant advancements in shark science.

In addition to founding the tagging program, Casey played a leading role in establishing NOAA's marine fisheries laboratory in Narragansett, Rhode Island, where the Apex Predators Program continues his legacy of collaboration and innovation.

"This award is a fitting tribute to a man whose work helped define what cooperative research can achieve," said Council Chair Wes Townsend. "Jack

inspired generations of scientists, many of whom continue to carry forward his commitment to collaboration and innovation.”

Council member Robert Ruhle, who is the son of the award’s namesake, noted that Casey played an important role in his family’s involvement in cooperative research. “You are a big part of why I’m sitting at this table now and why my father sat at the table for nine years,” Ruhle said to Casey. “You broke the mold and showed the world what can happen when science and industry work together toward the same goal.”

MAFMC and ASMFC Approve Changes to Process for Setting Recreational Management Measures for Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, and Bluefish

ASMFC Press Release, April 2025

Galloway, NJ – The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board (Policy Board) have approved modifications to the process for setting recreational measures (bag, size, and season limits), as well as the recreational accountability measures, for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish. The Council recommended these changes through a framework action, and the Policy Board adopted these changes through Addendum XXXVI to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and Addendum III to the Bluefish FMP. These changes are part of a broader long-term effort by both the Council and Commission to improve recreational management of these jointly managed species.

The current process for setting recreational measures, referred to as the Percent Change Approach, was implemented in 2023 and will sunset at the end of 2025. During a joint meeting last week in Galloway, New Jersey, the Council and Policy Board discussed several options to improve or replace the Percent Change Approach for 2026 and beyond. After reviewing public comments and recommendations from technical committees and advisory panels, the Council and Policy Board agreed to maintain the current process with several modifications based on

lessons learned over the past few years. These changes will be implemented in two phases.

The first phase of changes aims to better account for stock status when setting measures and will create more opportunities for stability in management measures. The current system uses three biomass categories to guide whether measures should change; the revised approach adds a fourth category for stocks near their biomass target and establishes a separate process for overfished stocks. These changes will take effect starting with the 2026 recreational measures for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. The Council and Policy Board delayed the implementation of these changes for bluefish until 2028 to allow time for development of an appropriate methodology for evaluating the impacts of measures on bluefish harvest and discards. The bluefish stock has been under a rebuilding plan since 2022, and recreational measures will continue to be set based on the rebuilding plan until the stock is declared rebuilt.

The second phase of modifications, which will be implemented for setting 2030 recreational measures and beyond, will update the process to use a catch-based target. Unlike the current process – which focuses on achieving a specific level of predicted harvest – a catch-based approach aims to achieve a target level of total dead catch, including both harvest and dead discards. This approach will allow for more explicit consideration of how measures affect discards. Some advisors and members of the public raised concerns about the potential for this change to create greater instability in management measures. After extensive discussion of each approach, the Council and Policy Board delayed the transition to a catch-based target until 2030 to allow time for additional analysis on the potential impacts to measures.

The Council and Policy Board also approved changes to the recreational accountability measures. These changes will be effective starting in 2026 for all four species. Under these revisions, when an accountability measure is triggered due to recent overages of the recreational annual catch limits, managers will also consider if those overages contributed to overfishing when determining the appropriate response.

The Council will submit the framework to the National Marine Fisheries Service for review and implementation, while the Commission’s measures are final for state waters. Additional information about this action is available on the [Council](#) and [Commission](#) websites.

Recreational Sector Separation and Data Collection Amendment

In other related business, the Council and Policy Board also reviewed scoping comments on the Recreational Sector Separation and Data Collection Amendment from public hearings and written comments, as well as input provided by the joint Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass and Bluefish Advisory Panels and the Fishery Management Action Team/Plan Development Team. Based on these comments, the Council and Policy Board agreed that recreational sector separation and recreational data collection should be addressed separately. Further development of the amendment will focus on management options for recreational sector separation, including mode management, as well as consideration of for-hire permitting and reporting requirements.

The Council and Policy Board separated out the recreational data collection and use issue from the amendment due to concerns that the complexity of this issue would cause significant delays in the amendment timeline. Council and Policy Board members also noted there is a need to more clearly define the objectives for recreational data collection improvement. This issue will be explored through a white paper which will consider the feasibility of various approaches and help the Council and Policy Board clarify goals for a potential future action. Additional information and updates are available on the [Council](#) and [Commission](#) action pages.

Eugenio Piñeiro Soler Appointed to Lead NOAA Fisheries

NOAA News, April 14, 2025

Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick, with concurrence from the White House, named Eugenio Piñeiro Soler as Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries. Mr. Piñeiro Soler has assumed his new position, taking the helm from Acting Assistant Administrator Emily Menashes, who will return to her previous position as Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations.

As Assistant Administrator, Mr. Piñeiro Soler will oversee the federal agency responsible for managing our nation's marine fisheries and conserving protected marine species.

Mr. Piñeiro Soler has enjoyed a long and illustrious life in fisheries management. In a career that has spanned over 30 years, he has been a successful commercial fisherman, fisheries captain, and entrepreneur in his home island of Puerto Rico and throughout the Caribbean.



NOAA Fisheries welcomes Mr. Piñeiro Soler to his new role.

Mr. Piñeiro Soler has been part of multiple oceanic conservation and administrative organizations. These include the Caribbean Fishery Management Council, for which he served as Chair from 2001 to 2010, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, the International Whaling Commission, and the Marine Protected Area Federal Advisory Committee. In the first Trump Administration, Mr. Piñeiro Soler served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. He brings a wealth of experience to this new role.

He received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from Radford University, followed by his Juris Doctor from the Catholic University Law School of Puerto Rico. He has also conducted research on deepwater snappers with scientists from Texas A&M University and discovered *Odontanthias hensleyi*, a new species of jewelfish, while conducting research with the NOAA Fisheries Cooperative Research Program.

Eugenio Piñeiro Soler brings extensive managerial and leadership experience to NOAA Fisheries, having worked at the intersection of policy and science throughout his career. Mr. Piñeiro Soler's passion for these issues is evident and he will work with NOAA Fisheries' various partners, industries, and constituencies to promote the economic benefits of U.S. fisheries and ensure smart management of our nation's fisheries and trust resources.

President Trump appoints new Mid-Atlantic EPA Administrator

Northcentral PA.com, April 23, 2025

Philadelphia, Pa. — A Bradford County farmer has been named the new EPA administrator for the Mid-Atlantic region.



President Trump has appointed Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey to the position of Mid-Atlantic EPA Administrator.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced President Trump's appointee for the Mid-Atlantic region administrator position, who will oversee the implementation of federal environmental laws and priorities in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, and the Chesapeake Bay.

The new appointee is Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey, a lifelong conservationist who grew up on a dairy farm in Bradford County. She brings experience with her family's farm, work in the financial industry, and the intersections between business, environmental, and community needs.

"Amy's experience and dedication to both agriculture and the environment make her a tremendous asset to the agency and the Mid-Atlantic Region," said EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin. "I am confident she is well equipped to carry out our mission and help deliver on our agenda to Power the Great American comeback."

Van Blarcom-Lackey has a robust history of service. She was appointed the first Agricultural Ombudsman in Pennsylvania, addressing conflicts related to agriculture, land use, and environmental planning. She has over a decade of experience as a lobbyist for state and federal agricultural interests and over 20 years of experience in finance and business management.

"My commitment to sustainability traces back to over 30 years ago, when I founded a county-wide environmental group focused on watershed management and agricultural best practices. I'm excited to harness my passion for the environment to facilitate progress and support the Great American Comeback under the leadership of Administrator Zeldin and President Trump," said Regional Administrator Van Blarcom-Lackey.

"I extend my congratulations to Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey on her appointment to serve as Region 3 Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Amy is a constituent of my Senate District from Bradford County, and I am proud to see that she has been appointed to this very important position," said Pennsylvania State Senator Gene Yaw. "Amy comes from a farming family who I have known and worked with for more than a decade. Her background and experience in agriculture and conservation will serve her well in addressing water quality, flood control, the Chesapeake Bay and the myriad of other environmental issues impacting our region. I look forward to working with Amy in this new position."

"Amy's commitment to balance protecting the environment and common sense will serve our area, state, and region well," added State Representative Clint Owlett. "She will be a solid voice for our rural values and brings stability and predictability to our communities."

Van Blarcom-Lackey currently lives in Philadelphia with her family.

"Amy is a great choice for Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator. She brings to the position a Cornell education, a background in both agriculture and energy, a great knowledge of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and past work in finance, which all make her the best possible choice. Bradford County is proud of her and we know she will serve the region well," said Doug McLinko, Bradford County Commissioner.

ASMFC Final Agenda for Spring Meeting

May 5th-8th

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

- Consider Addendum XXXII on Repealing Gauge and Vent Size Changes of Addendum XXVII for Final Approval (C. Starks) Final Action
- Update from Maine and New Hampshire on Industry Meetings (C. Wilson, R. Zobel)
- Report from Lobster Conservation Management Team Area 3 (H. Soule)
- Update on Joint New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Alternative Gear Marking Amendment (A. Murphy)
- Update on American Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment (T. Pugh)

3:45 – 4:15 p.m. Spiny Dogfish Management Board

- Consider Technical Addendum I to Spiny Dogfish Addendum VII for Final Approval (J. Boyle) Final Action

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



Here is the latest on A-4816 – the public access bill for surfers and anglers.

As amended, A-4816 is facing opposition. The problematic amendment is the change from “a surfer or a fisherman for the exclusive purpose of surfing or fishing” to “all recreational activities”. There is no definition for all recreational activities and the change was made by the NJ office of Legislative Services, not the Assembly or any committee.

The original intent of this bill was to get consistency of public access for surfers and anglers in all towns. Adding any other group goes beyond what was intended.

In the interest of getting the bill passed, Assemblywoman Margie Donlon (the sponsor), is willing to amend the bill as follows.

1. Replace “a municipality shall not require a municipal beach tag or similar admission pass for access to the wet sandy beach below the mean high tide line” in the original version with “a municipality shall not require a municipal beach tag or similar admission pass for access to the area below the mean high tide line”
2. Replace “for all recreational activities” in the amended version with the wording that was in the original version “to a surfer or a fisherman for the exclusive purpose of surfing or fishing.”

Both amendments must be made on the floor of the Assembly when the bill is to be voted on. Amendment 1 accommodates anglers, and it is what we have been asking for since the bill was introduced. Amendment 2 brings free access back to surfers and anglers. This will help pass the bill. We have been promised that both amendments will take place.

Here is how we expect the bill to read after the floor amendments:

1. *Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, or rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, to the contrary, a municipality shall not require a municipal beach tag or similar admission pass for access to the area below the mean high tide line, for a surfer or a fisherman for the exclusive purpose of surfing or fishing.*
2. *This act shall take effect immediately.*

If those changes are made, we should support the bill. The wording should also be amended in the Senate version (S-4158) to match the Assembly version. Will this amendment upset some other beach stakeholders? Yes, but the free beach groups have offered nothing in the way of a plan on how to finance beach cleanup, maintenance, or lifeguards. Anglers do not require lifeguards or other services, and we should not have to pay to access the beach when no beach services are provided based on our use. Most importantly, we need consistency of fishing access from town to town.

I plan to reach out to some Assembly members and Senators to ask that they support the amended bill when it comes to a vote.

Any questions or comments, please get back to me at (732) 674-7060. Thanks.

JCAA Membership Report

By John Toth

Invoices for club dues have been mailed to all JCAA Members Clubs. 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

The following is a list of clubs that have paid their dues and sponsorships for 2025. Please check to see if my information is correct and let me know if I am in error with it. I can be contacted at (732) 656-0139 or at tothjohn@verizon.net.

- Barrington Rod & Gun Club - \$150
- NJ Beach Buggy Association (NJBBA) - \$300
- Surf Kings - \$50
- Hi-Mar Striper Club - \$500
- Belmar Fishing Club - \$50
- Seaside Heights Fishing Club - \$100
- Bradley Beach Surf Casters - \$150
- Manasquan Fishing Club - \$300
- Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association - \$100
- Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County - \$100

Sponsorships have been received from:

- Paul Shafer - \$200
- Barnegat Animal Clinic - \$70
- Jon Brunetti - \$100
- Linda & Chris Jewel - \$210
- Adam Piasecki - \$70
- Joseph Palumbo - \$500

Our next JCAA General Membership meeting be held on **April 29, 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.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

JCAA KIDS THAT NEVER FISHED ARE HOOKED

During April, kids that never fished before had a chance to catch freshwater fish at Lake Julianna, Millstone Township. Mr. Vito Cardinale and the Jersey Coast Anglers hosted the event and youngsters attending got the thrill of a lifetime by reeling in some largemouth bass, channel catfish and other warm-water species. Hamburgers, hotdogs and other tasty treats were supplied by Vito's friends and family. Don Marantz did an excellent job organizing the prizes for the event and he thanked all the merchants and contributors that made the kids' fishing day a success. This event could not have been possible without the help of all the volunteers.



Photo: Paul Haertel



Photo: Paul Haertel



Photo: Paul Haertel

FREE VETERAN FISHING CHARTER

The Sandy Hook Bay Anglers fishing club is co-sponsoring a fishing trip for veteran men and women from the Vietnam Veterans of America, Shore Area Chapter 12. Departing on May 7, 2025, from the Atlantic Highlands Marina with Captain Justin on the Dark Horse. To reserve a space contact Karen Noe at ginoe0113@gmail.com.

Don't forget to support the Sandy Hook Bay Anglers 43 Annual Fluke Tournament July 12-13, 2025. Over \$5,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded at the culmination of the two-day tournament and held at the Atlantic Highlands Municipal Marina. Read more 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.



If you would like to enter the veterans beginners surf fishing experience for veterans the day before the tournament, please [register online here](#). Questions: contact Alanna Newmark at (609) 462-0743.



Veteran's Beginner Surf Fishing Experience at the 34th Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament May 18, 2025 Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park, NJ Fishing starts at 6:30 a.m.

Military veterans are invited to join NJDEP Fish & Wildlife staff and volunteers for a surf fishing experience during the [Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament](#) on Sunday, May 18, 2025. This informal workshop is for veterans who have little or no experience with surf fishing. All equipment, bait, tackle and educational assistance will be provided. The goal is to offer veterans an informative and welcoming environment to learn the basics of surf fishing while participating in the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament.

Program Overview: Participants will arrive at 6:00 a.m. to get set up with fishing starting at 6:30 a.m. and ending at 1:00 p.m. Raffle drawing starts at 1:30 p.m. followed by the awards ceremony at 2:00 p.m. You must be present to claim any prizes won.

Registration: Complete the online [application form](#). Registration deadline is **May 2, 2025**, at 12:00 p.m. Only selected participants will be notified by email by May 7. You will need your Conservation ID (CID#) to apply. Your CID# can be found on your [2025 Saltwater Registry](#) or by logging in to [NJ Fish & Wildlife's License Sales Site](#).

Those selected to participate in this program will be automatically entered into the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and eligible for tournament prizes. There is a Military Veteran's category for the veteran who catches the overall largest, legal fish.

Fee: FREE, Tournament registration fee waived.

NOTE: Registration is limited to 10 veteran participants.

Questions? E-mail njfishgr3@dep.nj.gov or call Alanna Newmark at (609) 462-0743 (cell).



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 2024 4x4 VIP vehicle to transport anglers that will fish 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.

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 34th 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.

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

NEWARK BAIT AND FLY-CASTING CLUB VETERAN FISHING TRIP

Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club will host their annual veteran fishing trip on the Miss Belmar on Monday, June 2, 2025. This trip fills quickly, register early so you do not miss a fun fishing trip. Contact Rich MacDonald for more information about this trip at rich@nbfcc.org.

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](#).

JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION

Learn how you can help protect recreational fishing. Become a member volunteer or an associate member to support the voice of recreational anglers. Is recreational marine fishing getting better or worse? Let us know so we can do something about making saltwater fishing better for the future of fishing. Become a JCAA [associate member](#) today.



THE 22ND ANNUAL OCEAN FUN DAYS




Celebrating 22 years of energy conservation and environmental awareness! We can't wait to 'SEA' you! You'll have oceans of fun! Rain or Shine!

May 17, 2025 - Island Beach State Park, Seaside Park

May 18, 2025 - NJ Sea Grant Consortium, Sandy Hook

- 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- FREE ADMISSION
- FREE PARKING
- [Read More](#)

“9th Annual “PLAY HOOK- e”
Veterans, Children with Disabilities and
Active-Duty Military Fishing Day
Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025
9:00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M.




Door Prizes Rods & Reels Free BBQ Pizza Truck

LOCATION LAKE JULIANNA
PONDEROSA ESTATES FARM, MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP, NJ

For more information contact
Don Marantz or Paul Hewitt
908-347-1434 609-408-7443

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Gold Sponsors (\$1000+)

- **Fisherman's Headquarters** – fishermansheadquarters.com
- **Jersey Nutz Sportfishing** – jerseynutzsportfishing.com
- **Sea Owl Sportfishing** – (see on FB)
- **South Harbor Marina** – 116 Oregon Ave, Waretown, NY (609) 693-3658

Silver Sponsors (\$500+)

- **Aqua Traction of the Mid-Atlantic** – www.aquatractionmidatl.com
- **Rich Hunsinger Custom Rods** – (732) 779-2604

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- **Captain's Inn** – www.captainsinnnj.com
- **Chatter Lures** – www.chatterlures.com
- **Coastal Fishing** – www.coastalfishing.com
- **Creekside Outfitters** – www.creeksideoutfittersnj.com
- **Jigging World** – www.jiggingworld.com or www.tackleworld.com
- **Natural Balance** – www.thenbpowerbracelet.com
- **Next Level Tackle** – Dan McGrath (908) 472-7258
- **Palmarius Rods** – www.palmariusrods.com

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- **All American Tackle Company** – www.allamericantacklecompany.com
- **Atlantic B&T** – www.atlanticbaitandtackle.com
- **Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association** – www.bhcfa.net
- **Captain Bill's Landing** – (see on FB)
- **Fishermen's Den** – www.fishbox.tv/Belmar/FishermansDen
- **FJR Lures** – (see on FB)
- **Gambler Fishing** – www.gamblerfishing.net
- **Jewelry by Etchings, etc.** – www.etchingsetc.net
- **Jim's Bait and Tackle** – www.jimsbaitandtackle.com
- **Johnny's Tackle** – www.johnnyotackle.com
- **M3Tackle** – www.m3tackle.com
- **Manhattan Tackle** – www.manhattantackle.com
- **North Atlantic Jigs** – www.najigs.com
- **NY Damascus Cutlery** – www.nydamascuscutlery.com
- **One Stop Bait and Tackle** – (see on FB)
- **Papa's Plugs** – papasplugs@gmail.com
- **Pappy's Pride** – www.pappyspridefishing.com
- **Riverside Outdoors** – www.riversideoutdoors.com
- **Tak Waterman** – takwaterman.com
- **Viking Eyewear** – www.vikingeyewear@gmail.com

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

Legislative	Tom Fote	732-270-9102
Operations Manager	<i>Open</i>	-
Office Manager	Karen Noe	732-245-2751
Fluke Tournament	<i>Open</i>	-
Access	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Blackfish	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Blue Claw Crab	<i>Open</i>	-
Bluefish	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Habitat	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Pelagic Species	<i>Open</i>	-
Forage Species	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Striped Bass	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Science & Research	<i>Open</i>	-
Website	Philip V. Celmer	jcaa@jcaa.org
Youth Education	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 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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Middletown
Route 36
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