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**November 2025**

## JCAA Annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner

Saturday, November 8th



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

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### **Forked River Tuna Club 2025 Tournament Schedule**

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Tuna Tournament - TBD

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Hudson River Fisherman's Association, Cresskill, NJ  
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On Behalf of William "Bronco" Bell  
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### A Saltwater Anglers Club

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### New Jersey Beach Buggy Association

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Buggy Membership Info: Ken Hollins 732-814-7021

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# JCAA NEWSPAPER NOVEMBER 2025

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION*

(Published on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

## "WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

### JCAA REGULAR MEETING

**October 28<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, November 13<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 (732) 245-9445 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

**October 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> ASMFC Annual Meeting**

**October 28<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting**

**November 8<sup>th</sup> JCAA Sportsperson Dinner**

**November 13<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting**

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

**December 11<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting**

**December 30<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting**

### JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner

*By John Toth*

The JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner is going to be held on **Saturday evening on November 8<sup>th</sup>**. The dinner will start at 5:00 p.m. at the **Captain's Inn** located at 304 E Lacey Rd., Forked River, NJ. It is going to be a great event again starting with cocktails, appetizers and a sit-down dinner. 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 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.

We will have approximately **50 Door Prizes, 60 Tricky Tray prizes** and a silent auction along with a 50/50 for the lucky winner. 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. 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 for this dinner. John can be reached at [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net) or at (732) 656-

0139. If John cannot be reached, please contact **Mickey Sherry** at [mercandori@gmail.com](mailto:mercandori@gmail.com) or (732) 421-6688.

The price of the dinner is **\$100 per person** to keep pace with the rising cost of food. This dinner is a fund raiser for the JCAA for it to continue to protect the rights of all anglers who fish in New Jersey.

Also, there are 4 dinners to choose from and please ask your members which of these entrees they want to have for their dinner selection. Please provide me with this information so that I can pass it on to the Captain's Inn so they can know how much food to prepare for each order.

Our speaker for this dinner is **Nick Honachefesky**, a major figure in the recreational fishing industry who is well known to many of us since he is a prolific writer on various fishing issues and he also appears on TV. Nick will have something interesting to say about the sport we all love.

**Stan and Greg Cudnik of Fisherman's Headquarters** will receive the JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Award. **Bob Morgan will receive the JCAA Youth Education Award.** So come on out to the Captain's Inn to spend a night of fun with your fishing buddies and win all of those Tricky Tray prizes, many door prizes and a **Big 50/50!**

## President's Report

*By Mark Taylor*

As anglers prepare for their fall and winter fishing adventures, it is important not to overlook ongoing developments concerning all our favorite species. The process of managing these resources is extensive, and decisions made today will impact recreational fishing communities for future seasons. Scientific surveys and data are collected by federal and state agencies, carefully analyzed, and shared with the public. At that point, various user groups review detailed documents and provide feedback during meetings and comment periods. Organizations like the JCAA, local fishing clubs, and related groups prioritize attending as many meetings as they can, even though doing so demands considerable dedication. Active participation and support from individuals within our community are crucial to safeguarding the future of these resources.

For those that have been following the process of the Atlantic Striped Bass Addendum III of Amendment 7 to the Interstate Fishery Management

Plan. Final action will be taken at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) **83rd Annual Meeting** will be held **October 27-30, 2025**, at Hyatt Place Dewey Beach, 1301 Coastal Highway, Dewey Beach, Delaware. This will be a hybrid meeting to allow for remote participation by Commissioners and interested stakeholders in all meetings. I have sent out a JCAA email blast to all club representatives to distribute to their members so they can attend. At the ASMFC meeting they will be covering many other topics dealing with other species in various parts of the process, but it still affects all of us in the future, you should attend. The Meeting proceedings for all other boards/committees will be broadcast daily via webinar beginning Monday, October 27 at 9 AM and continuing daily until the conclusion of the meeting (expected to be 1:30 PM on Thursday, October 30).

To register for the webinar and get the agenda, please go to [this link](#).

During the JCAA meeting on September 30th, club representatives selected **Stan & Greg Cudnik** from Fisherman's Headquarters as the recipients of the prestigious **2025 Sportsperson of the Year Award**. Congratulations to them. This honor reflects their ongoing commitment to supporting the recreational sports community. Congratulations to Bill Morgan who has been chosen as the honoree for the 2025 JCAA Youth Education Award by the JCAA Youth Education Committee for his commitment to supporting and educating the youth to become the future of the recreational fishing community. The Annual JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner will be held on November 8th at the Captain's Inn in Forked River, where these distinguished individuals will be celebrated.

Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a tricky tray raffle, a 50/50 raffle, and a silent auction featuring a variety of items. For further information, please consult Dinner Chairperson John Toth's article or contact him directly at (732) 656-0138.

All saltwater fishing clubs or individuals can contact JCAA Membership Secretary John Toth at (732) 656-0138 or [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net) for details. Member clubs should contact John and provide updated information and dues to ensure proper meetings and fishery alerts.

I know that it's only November but before you know the show season will be upon us. I am trying to get a head start on getting volunteers for different events that JCAA plans on participating in. I am looking for individuals and clubs to volunteer time for



this. I as current JCAA president signed contracts with two big shows that are not to miss if you are a recreational fishing community, weather from shore or boat. You can get great deals. JCAA will have a booth at **Atlantic City Boat Show** (February 25th to March 1st) and **Saltwater Fishing Expo.** (March 13th to 15th). We are looking for volunteers to work at the booth at each of these shows. I am coordinating the volunteers so if you are interested please contact me so I can enter your name at the time and date you select. My contact information is [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com) or 732-245-9445. I need to have names weeks prior to these shows so the free passes can be made.

JCAA is currently seeking new office space. As a 501(c)(3) association, we would appreciate any recommendations regarding available locations. If you have information or suggestions, please contact us at (732) 245-9445 or via email at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com). We are currently moving out of our current office space.

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*Participate in the Community, Communicate Your Views,  
and Contribute to the Future of Recreational Fishing*

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**Important Info:** The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for **November 25<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30pm, held in person at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724 with a zoom meeting invite (Hybrid Meeting).

## JCAA New Ad Program

*By Tom Fote*

In the past we ran full page ads for our Fluke Tournament sponsors. Since we are no longer running a fluke tournament, we have decided to run full page ads in our newspaper for \$1,000 for the year. These ads can be for tackle stores, fishing clubs and any other individuals who would like to advertise in our newspaper. It is easier to change a full-page month to month so if your tackle store is running a special sale, you could have a new ad for that specific event for the month before and the month of. Clubs can list their tournaments, flea markets or any other event by just submitting a new ad to replace the existing one. If you have any questions, contact Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 or email at [tfote@jcaa.org](mailto:tfote@jcaa.org). This does not replace the \$500 or \$250 business ad already in place. We are hoping to use the ad money to pay for the operation of the newspaper. We hope that you will solicit ads and

get your club to take an ad. It is a great way to publicize your club and get new members. We will also have a link to the sponsors' webpages. Please call me if you have any questions.

## ASMFC Meeting and JCAA Position on the Striped Bass Addendum

*By Paul Haertel*

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's 83rd Annual Meeting will be held **October 27-30, 2025**, at Hyatt Place Dewey Beach, 1301 Coastal Highway, Dewey Beach, Delaware. The public is welcome to attend the various meetings within this meeting. However, the big one for most of us will be when the ASMFC Striped Bass Board convenes to decide the fate of Striped Bass Addendum III to Amendment VII. This meeting will be held on **October 29** from 9:45 AM to Noon and then continued from 1:30 PM to 5 PM. Those interested may attend the meeting in person or via webinar by registering at [this link](#).

At the JCAA meeting this past September 30, a clear majority of our member clubs voted in favor of status quo, meaning that we are opposed to further restrictions. We also unanimously voted in support of the other options included in the letter below, which was sent to the ASMFC.



**Jersey Coast Anglers Association**  
**Working for Marine Recreational Anglers**  
PO Box 1191, Wall Branch Post Office, Wall, NJ 07719

October 1, 2025

ASMFC

### Subject: Striped Bass Addendum III to Amendment VII

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) is an organization composed of many clubs throughout our state that represents thousands of recreational fishermen. At our meeting on 9/30/25, representatives from a clear majority of our member clubs voted in favor of status quo. Increasing the biomass will not increase spawning success as there are more than enough stripers in

the system to produce a great spawn. There are too many other environmental factors that have caused poor spawns that need to be addressed to correct this problem. However, the strict regulations we have now have slowly but surely helped to rebuild the biomass.

Further, NOAA is hosting a peer review of the fishing effort survey, that could show that effort is currently far less than originally believed. Additionally, the MRIP numbers for stripers in waves 2 and 3 are significantly below those that were estimated. If that's the case, perhaps there has been enough done already, with the small slot limit, to ensure sustainability of the stocks for the future and for the stocks to have better than a 50/50 chance to be rebuilt by 2029. Also, the biomass is approaching the level when the stocks were declared restored in 1995. However, the reference points were changed, and the current target may be unattainable with the environmental conditions we have today. The stocks biomass is increasing and there is also a new benchmark stock assessment coming up in 2027. **Therefore, we strongly urge the Commission to maintain status quo.**

More specifically, the cuts made in 2018, 2019, and 2023 have been sufficient in reversing the downward trend in the female Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB), and the most recent data shows a steady upward trend in the stock. (See Figure 1 in the Addendum). Likewise, fishing mortality has been reduced below the threshold (Figure 2). Though the stocks are still considered to be overfished, overfishing is not occurring.

In our opinion, contrary to the interpretation by the TC and the Board, the odds highly favor the restoration of the SSB by 2029 (Figure 3). The curve crosses the target line at 2029 well within the 95% CI. Considering the uncertainty of the stock assessment process, and the known errors of the MRIP process for estimating recreational catch, the 30% odds seem highly questionable. Remember, MRIP numbers drove the TC to revise their spring estimate of needing only a 1% reduction to the current estimate of 12%.

Relying on recruitment patterns and trends to set regulations for fishing is problematic. It is known that there is little to no mathematical direct correlation between the female SSB and recruitment patterns for most of the species under

management by the Commission and the Council. Furthermore, we would challenge the TC to prove that the current level of recruitment is incapable of supporting the SSB at its current level. Threshold and Target values for Atlantic Striped Bass were set in 1995, when the stock was declared rebuilt, and the conditions in the estuaries supported a higher level of recruitment. Conditions have deteriorated due to climate change and human development of the watersheds, and the SSB has now apparently stabilized to a new range, a "new normal". Trying to restore recruitment and the SSB to 1995 levels may be an exercise in futility, unless there is remediation issues underlying poor recruitment (see below)

Key numbers that went into the TC's and Board's projection regarding the rebuilding will be changing in 2026 and 2027. It has now been established that the Fishing Effort Survey (FES) portion of the MRIP process is severely flawed, and that a recalibration will almost certainly revise the historical recreational catch numbers, including the ones that triggered the 2019 rebuilding program. In addition, a new stock assessment workshop will be conducted in 2027, which may better clarify the status of the stock. It seems prudent to wait on making more decisions costly and damaging to the recreational and commercial communities before we see just how the new numbers develop

**Regarding specific options in the addendum, we prefer the following:**

**3.1 B** – All states should be required to measure the fish in the same manner. A straight-line measurement with the fish placed on a flat surface, with the tail pinched and the mouth closed is the best way to do this.

**3.2 B** – Fish should be tagged at the point of harvest which will best prevent illegal harvest and sales.

**3.3 A** – Status Quo for Chesapeake Bay though Option C would also be acceptable with a 10% buffer. We are concerned that seasons being changed would result in more effort which would result in higher mortality.

**3.4 A** – Status Quo for the Ocean for reasons previously explained

There are, however, some things that are not in the addendum, which we all should be supporting that could significantly improve recruitment and the SSB for the future that do not involve more cuts in the RHL. These include the following:

**Coastwide declaration of Atlantic Striped Bass as a gamefish**, as has already been done in New Jersey. Legal and illegal commercial killing of stripers is almost certainly occurring at a higher level than the currently estimated 10% levels of total harvest. Underreporting of dead discards, unreliable weight and size estimates, and other misrepresentations are suspected, and if nothing else, should be investigated and remediated.

**Establish a stocking program for Atlantic Striped Bass** for more coastal estuaries (as has already been implemented to restore the stock in North Carolina) should be further considered. Costly, yes, but it should work, as it has for other stocks. Creeks and rivers where dams have been removed, and where there were once populations of Atlantic Striped Bass, should be at the top of the list for any new efforts.

**Support efforts and legislation to control the Blue Catfish population** in the Chesapeake and elsewhere that they are becoming established. Their impact on the YOY surveys could be huge.

**Get control of the Menhaden commercial fishery.** Now.

**Say no to sector separation.** Special regs for the for-hire fleet would be unfair and lead to infighting amongst ourselves.

**Increase Law Enforcement** – There are far too many stripers being illegally harvested by both the commercial and recreational sectors.

**Encourage Educational Programs** – Teach people how to properly handle and release fish. Stress the importance of abiding by the law and cooperating with officials and fisheries managers. Show them how they can become more involved in the process.

**Study phenology.** It could be possible that striper fry and the microscopic organisms they feed on could be out of sync. Perhaps something could be done about that, if it is a problem.

In conclusion, seasonal closures will do severe damage to the for-hire portion of the recreational sector, and to businesses and facilities that support recreational fishing, including boatyards and bait and tackle stores. And it will further the decline in recreational saltwater fishing generally. We do need to ensure that there are enough stripers to go around, but the Commission and the Board have already reduced the RHL to a point where further reductions to recreational harvest have little chance of making an impact on the SSB. Fix the real issues as best we can, and we might see an improved SSB for years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark A. Taylor  
President, JCAA

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Tom Fote*

### **ASMFC Annual Meeting**

The ASMFC Annual meeting will be held at the Hyatt Place, Dewey Beach, Delaware, October 27 – 30. I will go to Dewey Beach to see what happens with striped bass and attend other meetings. By attending the meetings in person, I will have an opportunity to talk to commissioners from other states. The Commission is not following their procedures as we set them up under the Atlantic Coast Conservation Act. I understand that once a document goes to public hearing, the Commission feels there is no need to allow public comments. The Addendum to the Striped Bass Act did not go out to scoping meeting for the public to comment on what should be in the document. That is not what Jerry Schill (North Carolina Fishermen's Association), Larry Simms (Maryland's Waterman's Association) and JCAA agreed to when the Commission asked for our support in passing the Atlantic Coast Conservation Act back in the mid-nineties. The Commission committed to an open process for the public, allowing comments before and during the process of finalizing documents. At the Striped Bass Board meeting, when they were setting up the document, they should have allowed ample time for the public to voice concerns and provide information. They should have scheduled the meeting for a full day

instead of the 5 hours which they exceeded quickly due to the Commissioners' discussion. During the meeting, individual Commissioners spoke 10 times more than all the public was able to speak in the 4 minutes allocated. The Commission needs to return to the fundamentals by reaching out to both the recreational and commercial communities when considering an addendum that will have a huge economic impact on the fishing community. Of course, before the document that would be sent out to public hearing, ASMFC should have allowed fishermen to comment on the negative impacts. I attended the NJ Advisor's Meeting and the NJ Public Hearing. There was only one club supporting any option other than status quo. We will see what happens after ASMFC votes. Maybe this is a time to take the same action that we did on summer flounder years ago and get our state to go out of compliance. There is no way ASMFC can prove that these measures will do anything to improve the spawning of striped bass in Chesapeake Bay. As we have stated numerous times, the size of spawning stock biomass is not the problem. We are at a level that can produce the largest young of the year index ever. Let's deal with the real problems, the environmental issues. Let's deal with pollution in the spawning areas and the endocrine disruptors, the heating of the Chesapeake Bay waters and the invasive species that were introduced there. Let's not pick on the commercial and recreational fishing industry that did not cause the real problem. The press release and links to meeting information, Agenda and meeting materials are below.

### **Striped Bass**

I will find out on Wednesday, October 29 what happens with striped bass. There have been many comments at all the public hearings favoring status quo. This was especially true in New Jersey. The ASMFC Advisory Committee also had members voting for status quo. JCAA and New Jersey will need to decide on a course of action if there is a decision made that is not status quo. JCAA has not made a decision on this and will need to make a recommendation to the NJ Fisheries Management Council is status quo is not the decision. I will keep you posted, and I will be at the Striped Bass Board meeting in person.

### **Killer Ballons**

I was at Monmouth University for their yearly luncheon celebrating ocean champions. I talked to Cindy Zipf of Clean Ocean Action and asked if she wanted to work together in the next legislative session

to ban releasing balloons into the air. These balloons fall into the ocean or woodlands, polluting the environment with plastic. Please read the articles in last month's JCAA Newspaper to learn about the damage done to marine life. We need to put a coalition together to make this happen, including other environmental groups and fishing clubs. Most of the environmental organizations are already working on getting plastics out of the environment and we should be joining in that work. This is an opportunity for you to step us. If you are interested in serving on a JCAA committee, let me know.

### **Loss of Len Fantasia**

We lost a good friend and another Sportsperson of the Year in September. Len and I became friends over the early years in JCAA and one of things we talked about is menhaden and how we needed to change regulations. One day we discussed that we needed a bigger coalition than just JCAA to get it done and I asked Len to do the job. He accepted and reached out to Greg Hall to get the job done. Nicholas' article below does not talk about the threats that Len got after taking this job on. There were physical threats made and also threats to burn his boat. He had a load of bunker dumped on his front lawn, but Len carried on. Finally, we signed the bill to get all of the reduction boats out of state water and made the bait boats move further offshore. As I get older, I see that this is happening too often. We are not getting replacements for the people who have passed. Steve Machalaba has been attending JCAA meetings as the Hi-Mar Striper Club representative for 25 years and now he is serving as JCAA Vice - President. He has been an important addition. We need other clubs to do the same and get us some more Steve's, otherwise JCAA is going to fall apart.

Nicholas Sineoli wrote a great article (included below) about the Hi-Mar 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary and in this article, he tells us what Len did to fight the Menhaden reduction industry. You should go to the Fisherman Magazine Web Page to read the [whole article](#). It shows how one of many fishing clubs in New Jersey works with JCAA in protecting the environment and recreational fishing.

On the subject of fighting the Menhaden reduction industry, Captain Paul Eidman of Menhaden Defenders is carrying the torch. **Please read [this letter by Captain Paul](#)** to Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick on the subject of the Emergency Action Request to address concentrated industrial menhaden fishing in the New York-New Jersey Bight.



## Comradery & Conservation: Hi-Mar Celebrates Sweet Sixty-Five

*By Nicholas Simeoli, TheFisherman.com  
February 2025*

**Since 1960, Hi-Mar Striper Club members have been making a difference statewide.**

If you've fished the Raritan Bay, odds are you've heard of the Hi-Mar Striper Club. Whether you know a member, have fished side by side with one, or perhaps competed in one of our tournaments, you've probably wondered, what is the Hi-Mar all about? As the youngest member of the club, I've found it impressive that the club is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year and I started asking these same questions to some of the longest active Hi-Mar members and legacy.

To set the scene, Johnny Sciortino owned the Highlands Marina where all the fishing action took place in late 50s. There were about a dozen six-pack charter captains and about five head boats. You had the original Fisherman operated by Ron Santee Sr., the Sea Horse II run by Ed Bunting, Sr, Jack Early's Flying Saucer, and the Lazy Bones captained by Red Ziollinger.

Some of the charter boats included Otto Ruett's First Timer, Bob Beatty's Hit-N-Run, Renzo run by Vinnie and Joseph Renzo, the Aud-a-Bob with Bob Quackenback at the helm, Tony Moro's Dam Bot, the Jer Vin run by Jerry Cirello, Sr., Mario Scardingo's Mi-Jo, the Freddy C with Freddy Coles, Sr. at the helm, and Louie Facenda's Windward, to name a few. The marina also had a cocktail lounge where everyone got together in the afternoon to tell their fishing tales.

When I asked Phil Sciortino, Jr. of the Tackle Box about his grandfather's legacy he stated "my dad, Phil Sr. Grew up at the Highlands Marina and mated for one of the founding members, Otto Ruett on his boat First Timer where if you caught your first striper with him you had to buy the captain a bottle of booze!" Phil, Jr. said that's where his father honed his striper skills to become one of the greatest of his time "with multiple 50 pounders caught in one day" as the younger Sciortino recalled.

"In 1960, Sciortino, Ruet, Beatty, Coles, Moro, Cirello, Quackenback, and the Renzo Brothers came together to create our organization, they were the founding members of the club," said Capt. Bobby Moro whose father ran Dam Bot. "The Hi-Mar derives from an abbreviation of Highlands Marina, and they would

meet monthly for club meetings at the bar inside the Highlands Marina," said Capt. Moro, adding "With these gentlemen leading the way in Jersey striper fishing and charter trips, popularity grew amongst other anglers who became friends, clients, etc., and wanted to join the club."

Moro noted that membership grew to about 35 members, explaining how competition amongst the members soon grew fierce. "Most of the contests were sponsored by Schaefer Beer Co. (the drink of choice during that time)," he added.



*Some of the original Hi-Mar Striper Club members at Johnny's Landing in Highlands, NJ in the early days.*

### The Bunker Boats

One of our older active members in particular, Len Fantasia of the Wave Dancer, has quite the story to tell. Fantasia joined Hi-Mar in the late 70s through Capt. Bobby Moro for whom he used to deck as a mate, and stated how the objective of the club back then was to end the year with enough money to pay off the VFW for the first month's rent for monthly meetings. The club was a social fishing club, which eventually evolved into what it is today – putting on tournaments, flea markets, charter trips for children, charter trips for Veterans, and giving back to the community. Our first big tournament was the two-day striper tournament in honor of Bob Kamienski, who was president of the club for years, a tournament that still happens every year.

In the mid-1980s, Len Fantasia became deeply involved in advocating for the preservation of menhaden in the Raritan Bay. At that time, bunker populations were becoming alarmingly scarce due to the reduction industry, aka Omega Protein, operating inside of state waters. At the time, Len had to travel to Great Kills to find bunker, as they were being rapidly

depleted from the Raritan Bay. In 1988, with the support of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) and their legislative representative, Tom Fote, Fantasia attended the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (part of the ASMFC) meeting to address this growing crisis.

Reporting directly on the state of bunker populations, Len helped implement critical regulations to balance the interests of local fishermen and the environment. Mom-and-pop fishing operations were grandfathered in, allowing them to continue local bait fishing for menhaden, provided they stayed within six-tenths of a mile from the shore. Meanwhile, larger reduction boats, which were the main culprits in depleting bunker populations, were mandated to stay at least 1.2 nautical miles offshore. These boats were also required to display a “B” designation to distinguish them from smaller operations to easily identify them while out on the water or from shore, to catch any bad actors not following the law.

These measures led to an increase in bunker populations along the New Jersey coast, but the problem persisted. As the bunker population was being depleted further to the south, commercial operations continued moving northward, deploying intimidating tactics to drive recreational anglers away from prime fishing spots. During these challenging times, Fantasia met Greg Hall, a local tackle shop employee, who shared a petition to ban reduction boats entirely. Inspired by Greg’s passion, Fantasia and a few other Hi-Mar members partnered with the JCAA to launch the Menhaden Project, an initiative to save the menhaden fishery.

Focused on gathering widespread support in the fishing community, those involved in the Menhaden Project began visiting fishing clubs and tackle shows, while attending boat shows and statewide meetings, collecting signatures and contact information. The effort to address the bunker reduction fishery ramped up in the late 1990s with the Menhaden Project and JCAA building a coalition that also included the rallying efforts of the Salty Dogs and the political support of the Recreational Fishing Alliance.

On January 6, 2002, New Jersey Governor Donald DiFrancesco signed the Menhaden Bill into law, a landmark political victory that pushed bunker reduction boats 3 miles offshore, creating a “safe corridor” for bunker inside our state waters. There’s been subtle tweaking from a regulatory perspective since then, along with stricter quotas on those reduction boats operating in federal waters beyond 3 miles, but

the overall outcome was transformative for our fishery in the state of New Jersey. With bunker populations rebounding, the ecological benefits became undeniable. Whales, porpoises, tuna, and striped bass returned to our area in thriving numbers, showcasing the importance of a healthy menhaden population.

Fantasia would go on to win JCAA’s Sportsman of the Year in 2004, and together with fellow Hi-Mar members like captains Robby Barradale and Gene Nigro, a vital fishery was not only conserved but revitalized on behalf of the entire marine ecosystem. Their work is a testament to the power of grassroots advocacy and collaboration between various stakeholders, something that anglers of today might consider in terms of borrowing pages from the play book.



*Johnny Sciortino promoting New Jersey striped bass fishing at the NY Sportsman Show sometime in the late 1940s.*

## Membership Advantages

When former Hi-Mar member Ryan Taffet was asked to recall his time as a member in the club prior to moving down to Florida, he said it was the camaraderie and shared passion that defines the club. “When I once polled the membership, the overwhelming majority expressed that they joined for one primary reason, education. Above all else, members sought to learn how to become better anglers in the area.” According to Taffet, this focus on knowledge-sharing has always been the heart of the Hi-Mar Fishing Club, fostering a supportive environment for anglers of all skill levels.

“During my time as a member, it wasn’t just a club, it was family,” said Taffet, adding “A family who looked after each other’s boats, invited each other fishing, hopped in the car and drove down to the AC Boat Show together, showed up to meetings early and

stayed late, shared tips and tricks including fish recipes, cracked a lot of jokes, attended each other's funerals, weddings, and birthdays, and even took a minute to debate the serious issues." He recalled how the club also had a small, dedicated group of offshore tuna anglers who also helped with pointers to make that fishery more accessible for smaller boats and smaller budgets, "so it was not just limited to stripers or inshore," he added.



*A legendary patch awarded Hi-Mar Striper Club as 1967 State Champs in the 21st Annual R.J. Schaefer Salt Water Fishing Contest.*

Over the years, the club has been fortunate to have many local legends amongst its membership, affiliates, and supporters. Names like Gene Grahman, Bob Kamienski, Jay Cosgrove of Bahrs Landing, Big Ed who worked the tournament scales at Bahrs Landing, and the crew from Julian's Bait & Tackle. There has also been the Sciortino family at the Tackle Box, Pete from Atlantic Bait and Tackle, as well as Chuck "TYMAN" Many and countless others who left a lasting impression on our club through their contributions. Each has brought a unique perspective, wealth of knowledge, and a passion that enriched the club and our members.

Hi-Mar members also helped innovate many highly effective striped bass catching techniques employed coastwide today, from live bait to working plugs and spoons. Members have helped pioneer some of the standard techniques of our time, from worming for striped bass, to live-lining bunker, and chunking Flynn's Knoll, not to mention nighttime plug trolling in the Sandy Hook Rips and targeting bass on fly and light tackle gear.

Hi-Mar Striper Club has always been about more than just fishing; conservation is at our core, but it's also a place to build lasting relationships and a true

sense of community. Members support each other in both fishing and our everyday lives. I personally joined this club when I first moved to New Jersey and some of these guys who were strangers when I walked into my first meeting are some of my best friends today. Now as I look back on the couple of years I've spent as a member in the club, going from a relative nobody to becoming Social Media Director, followed by Sportsman of the Year in 2023 and ultimately joining the Hi-Mar Board of Directors as secretary – with tons of tournaments, awards dinners, flea markets, fishing outings, lifetime catches made – I realize it's not really about the fish we're chasing, but it's the memories we make, the knowledge we share, the friendships we build, and the legacy that we continue.

### **Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's 83rd Annual Meeting**

*Hyatt Place, Dewey Beach Delaware  
October 27-30, 2025*

This will be a hybrid meeting to allow for remote participation by Commissioners and interested stakeholders in all meetings.

The final agenda and meeting materials are now be available at [this link](#). Click on the relevant Board or Committee name to access the documents for that Board or Committee. Supplemental materials will be posted to the website on **Wednesday, October 22**.

### **Webinar Information**

The Law Enforcement Committee, Habitat Committee and Atlantic Coast Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee will have unique webinar links that are available as part of the individual committee materials.

Meeting proceedings for all other boards/committees will be broadcast daily via webinar beginning Monday, October 27 at 9 AM and continuing daily until the conclusion of the meeting (expected to be 1:30 PM on Thursday, October 30). To register for the webinar, please visit [this link](#) (Webinar ID: 817-087-699).

If you are joining the webinar but will not be using voice over internet protocol (VoIP), you may also call in at +1.562.247.8422, access code 307-011-519. A PIN will be provided to you after joining the webinar. For those who will not be joining the webinar but would like to listen in to the audio portion only, press the # key when asked for a PIN.



Each day, the webinar will begin 15 minutes prior to the start of the first meeting so people can troubleshoot any connectivity or audio issues they may encounter. If you are having issues with the webinar (connecting to or audio related issues), please contact Chris Jacobs at 703.842.0790.

### Meeting Process

Board chairs will ask both in-person and virtual board members if they wish to speak. In-person members can simply raise their hands at the meeting without logging on to the webinar, while virtual members will raise their hands on the webinar. The chair will work with staff to compile the list of speakers, balancing the flow of questions/comments between in-person and virtual attendees. The same process will be used for public comment. Depending upon the number of commenters, the board chair will decide how to allocate the available time on the agenda (typically 10 minutes) to the number of people who want to speak.

### Public Comment Guidelines

To provide a fair opportunity for public input, the ISFMP Policy Board has approved the following guidelines for use at management board meetings:

For issues that are not on the agenda, management boards will continue to provide opportunities to the public to bring matters of concern to the board's attention at the start of each board meeting. Board chairs will ask members of the public to raise their hands to let the chair know they would like to speak. Depending upon the number of commenters, the board chair will decide how to allocate the available time on the agenda (typically 10 minutes) to the number of people who want to speak.

For topics that are on the agenda, but have not gone out for public comment, board chairs will provide limited opportunity for comment, taking into account the time allotted on the agenda for the topic.

Chairs will have flexibility in deciding how to allocate comment opportunities; this could include hearing one comment in favor and one in opposition until the chair is satisfied further comments will not provide additional insight to the board.

For agenda action items that have already gone out for public comment, it is the Policy Board's intent to end the occasional practice of allowing extensive and lengthy public comments. Currently, board chairs have the discretion to decide what public comment to allow in these circumstances.

## JCAA in Crisis

*By Tom Fote*

I know Mark covered some of this issue in his President's Report. We have to move out of our existing office, creating additional expenses. We are not going to be able to find an office for the price of our current space, but we can no longer use this space due to problems with the building. This is a time when JCAA treasury is not in good shape. We are running at a \$10,000 deficit already this year. We don't have the funds we had years ago and unless we begin generating more funds through ads or contributions, we will be closing up shop in a couple of years. We also need the support of individuals from the clubs to begin serving on committees at JCAA. JCAA used to have 30 – 40 people involved at every meeting and sometimes had even more. We used to have full committees working on issues of importance. We are down to 8 people doing all the work to keep JCAA alive. We want to begin working on several issues but don't have the people to get the work done. Also, five of the eight are over 78. We need younger members to get involved. I know this sounds like I am beating a dead horse, but we get no responses. Please call one of the JCAA board members if you are at all interested in getting involved. Here are a few of the things JCAA has accomplished working with other organizations:

- Ended reduction boats fishing in state waters and pushed boats further offshore.
- Ended dumping of chemicals in the waters off New Jersey.
- Ended the garbage dumping by New York off New Jersey.
- Ended the burning of pilings using rubber tires off New Jersey.
- Helped secure public access on the walkway along the Hudson River.
- Many public access battles won.
- Prevented the drilling for oil off New Jersey.
- **Made striped bass a no-sale fish in New Jersey.**
- Worked on highly migratory species for many years including holding workshops.



- Helped start Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs.
- Started the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament
- Had JCAA members serving on ASMFC, MAFAC, NJMFC, Governor's transition teams, Keep It Green Coalitions, Federal and State Advisory Committees on species and environmental issues, Governor's Mercury Taskforce, HMS boards and coalitions at the Federal and State level, ASA Government Affairs since its inception.

If you want that list to continue to grow, we need your help.

## JCAA Membership Report

*By John Toth*

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](mailto: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
- Bay Head Shores Fishing Club - \$50
- Hudson River Fishermen's Association - \$100
- Village Harbor Fishing Club - \$50
- Sandy Hook Bay Anglers - \$250
- Spring Lake Live Liners - \$100
- Fun Under the Boat - \$100
- Fish Hawks - \$50
- Berkeley Striper Club - \$50
- Menhaden Defenders - \$100
- Forked River Tuna Club - \$250

- Raritan Bay Fishing Club - \$150

**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
- Greg Jewell - \$45
- Raymond Humphreys - \$100
- Fisherman's Headquarters - \$100
- Louis Schott - \$100
- Fins on Feathers - \$100

We are already in the fall season of this year and a number of clubs have still not paid their dues. Please send in your club dues to the address below.

**Jersey Coast Anglers Association**  
**P.O. Box 1191**  
**West Branch Post Office**  
**Wall, NJ 07719**

Our next JCAA General Membership meeting be on **October 28th, 2025**, and it will be held as an in-person meeting at the Shark Anglers Building in Herbertsville and by ZOOM starting at 7:30 p.m.

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### 2025 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

This year, Bill Morgan was selected by the JCAA Youth Education Committee to receive the 2025 JCAA Youth Education Award. Please read about the nomination that was submitted by the Berkeley Striper Club:

On behalf of the Berkeley Striper Club, it is my honor to nominate Bill Morgan for the 2025 JCAA Youth Education Award.

Since 2020, Bill has served as the driving force behind our club's youth education program. He has taken full responsibility for planning, organizing, and running all of our youth-focused events, ensuring that every program is safe, fun,

and educational. Bill manages the club's mobile trailer and all associated equipment, keeping it stocked, organized, and ready for each outing. His attention to detail and tireless preparation have allowed countless children and their families to experience fishing and the outdoors in a welcoming environment.

Bill's dedication goes beyond logistics. He creates meaningful opportunities for young anglers to learn the fundamentals of fishing, conservation, and respect for our natural resources. His ability to connect with youth, answer their questions, and share his passion for the sport has left a lasting impression on both the children and their parents. Under his leadership, our youth education efforts have grown stronger each year, directly supporting the mission of the JCAA to pass along the traditions of fishing and conservation to the next generation.



The Berkeley Striper Club firmly believes that Bill Morgan embodies the spirit of this award. His commitment, leadership, and enthusiasm for youth education make him a most deserving candidate for the 2025 JCAA Youth Education Award.

Respectfully submitted, John Kravchak  
President, Berkeley Striper Club

Join us at the JCAA Sportsman of the Year Dinner on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at the Captain's Inn, to celebrate and recognize a host of individuals that go beyond to make recreational fishing better for future generations.

## VETERAN OUTREACH

Karen Noe is doing a great job of connecting veterans at local community events. She talks to veterans about our JCAA newspaper and Play HOOK-e by-monthly newsletter.



During November, we are offering veterans with PTSD an opportunity to relax for a few hours by the water and visit natural calming areas. If you would like to experience saltwater and freshwater fishing, we have a short one-to-one fishing program to get you outdoors to fish and boat. Connect with nature at Lake Julianna, LZ- 64, Island Beach State Park, and other open spaces. To schedule a day and time, please email Greg @ [gkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:gkucharews@jcaa.org).

## LUNCH AND LEARN FOR KIDS

We updated our JCAA Guess the Fish game for middle school students. The game was redesigned to teach students about saltwater and freshwater species local to their community. If you are a JCAA member club and would like a copy of the Hooked On Lunch and Learn Guess the fish game send us an email.

## Hooked On Lunch and Learn Guess the Fish



# Please Support our Sponsors!

## 2024 Sponsors List

### Super Sponsors

- **Yamaha** - [www.yamahaoutboards.com](http://www.yamahaoutboards.com)

### Gold Sponsors (\$1000+)

- **Fisherman's Headquarters** – [fishermansheadquarters.com](http://fishermansheadquarters.com)
- **Jersey Nutz Sportfishing** – [jerseynutzsportfishing.com](http://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](http://www.aquatractionmidatl.com)
- **Rich Hunsinger Custom Rods** – (732) 779-2604

### Bronze Sponsors (\$200+)

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- **Coastal Fishing** – [www.coastalfishing.com](http://www.coastalfishing.com)
- **Creekside Outfitters** – [www.creeksideoutfittersnj.com](http://www.creeksideoutfittersnj.com)
- **Jigging World** – [www.jiggingworld.com](http://www.jiggingworld.com) or [www.tackleworld.com](http://www.tackleworld.com)
- **Natural Balance** – [www.thenbpowerbracelet.com](http://www.thenbpowerbracelet.com)
- **Next Level Tackle** – Dan McGrath (908) 472-7258
- **Palmarius Rods** – [www.palmariusrods.com](http://www.palmariusrods.com)

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



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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>Lobster and Clam</b>       | Frank Macalik    | 732-754-5345  |
| <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  |

If you would like to receive JCAA Email alerts email your Name, Club, if you belong to one, and your interest to [tfote@jcaa.org](mailto:tfote@jcaa.org) or just go to the JCAA site and [subscribe](#) from there.

## JCAA SPONSORSHIP

### The JCAA has 4 levels of sponsorship \$50, \$100, \$250 & \$500

Dues paying clubs or individuals can also provide additional help by becoming Sponsors. Sponsors are recognized in our newspaper. For more information call JCAA at 732-506-6565.

Become a JCAA sponsor and help our cause. As you can see by our newspaper many of our member clubs are also JCAA sponsors. If your club is not contact us today to become one. With all the new battles we are engaged in, we need to raise more funds in order to be effective. Become a sponsor now and help us to continue the fight.

Meetings:  
1st Tuesday  
of month  
7:30 PM

VFW Post 2179  
Port  
Monmouth  
Middletown  
Route 36  
New Members  
Welcome



P.O. BOX 126 • MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748

P. O. Box 126 Middletown, NJ 07748  
[www.Hi-Mar.com](http://www.Hi-Mar.com)

Hi-Mar Striper Club

2025 Spring  
Striped Bass  
Tournament

Date: TBD

Hi-mar.com  
for info



Fish the "Elite Fleet"  
Beach Haven  
Charter Fishing Association

Boats fishing from Beach Haven and Tuckerton, NJ  
[www.BeachHavenCharterFishing.com](http://www.BeachHavenCharterFishing.com)



**Joe Palumbo**

Member

**Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County**

American Legion Post # 170  
33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, NJ

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

**ENGEL**  
*Coolers*

**WE BUILD REEFS**

with proceeds from the

**"Tuna Mania Tournament"**

**June 10th 11th 12th & 13th**

Call the Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat As-  
soc. to become involved:

**732-892-3666**



*BORN to  
PERFORM!*

**Yacht Club**  
Trailers



**43rd Annual 2-Day  
Fluke Tournament**

**July 12 & 13  
2025**

[sandyhookbayanglers.org](http://sandyhookbayanglers.org)

P.O. Box 513 Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

Monthly Meetings: 2nd Friday of the month at the  
senior building in Atlantic Highlands

Compliments of  
Janice & Joe Blaze  
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