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JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

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

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**February 2026**

## Important Reminder

### Saltwater Registry and Personal Floatation Device Regulation



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#### **2025 Tournament Schedule**

Spring Striper Fever: May 10-17

Fluke Fever: July 19

Arrowhead Inn Fluke Tournament: Aug. 23

Fall Striper Fever: Nov. 1-8

Bluefin Fever: TBD

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

### **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**

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

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In Memory of Randy Minix, Gibbstown, NJ  
Hudson River Fisherman's Association, Cresskill, NJ  
L Raymond Humphreys, Jr., Pennsville, NJ  
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NJ Long Beach Island Fishing Club  
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### A Saltwater Anglers Club

New Members Welcome

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

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Point Pleasant Fishing Club, [rmazz1428@gmail.com](mailto:rmazz1428@gmail.com)  
Newark Bait & Flycasting Club  
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South Jersey Saltwater Anglers  
Surf Kings Fishing Club  
Douglas Vitale In Memory of Bruce Vitale Women's  
Surf Fishing Club of NJ, [www.wsfcnj.org](http://www.wsfcnj.org)



### New Jersey Beach Buggy Association

PO Box 511, Seaside Park, NJ 08752

Buggy Membership Info: Ken Hollins 732-814-7021

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

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### Manasquan Fishing Club

PO Box 513, Manasquan, NJ 08736

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

Manasquan Woman's Club, 62 Main Street

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

# JCAA NEWSPAPER FEBRUARY 2026

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION*

(Published on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026)

## "WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

### JCAA REGULAR MEETING

**January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 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, February 12<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.

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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.**  
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### 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

**January 27<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting**

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

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

**February 25<sup>th</sup>-March 1<sup>st</sup> Atlantic City Boat Show**

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

**March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Saltwater Fishing EXPO**

### Important Reminder: Saltwater Registry and Personal Floatation Device Regulation

*By Paul Haertel*

It's a new year and it's time to register or renew your Saltwater Recreational Registry. You may do so by clicking on the link below. Why register? It's the law and it's for Free! Without being registered, you could be fined or you could be disqualified for a tournament or record catch. Also, it's possible that quotas for various species could be set by the number of fishermen in each state or region. Registering is the best way for our state to keep track of how many fishermen we have so that we don't get shortchanged.

<https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/marine/saltwater-registry/>

As most of you probably know by now, New Jersey has a relatively new regulation pertaining to the wearing of personal flotation devices which was set by administrative code as shown below:

#### **N.J.A.C. 13:82-1.4 Personal flotation devices**

(f) No owner or operator of a recreational vessel less than 26 feet, including rowboats, canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards shall permit its operation between November 1st and May 1st, unless each person on board such vessel is wearing a securely fastened United States Coast Guard-approved wearable personal flotation device of an appropriate size while such vessel is underway. A person inside the cabin of a cabin vessel shall be exempt from this requirement.

However, there were a couple questions that came up regarding this law. One was how is “underway” defined. Many people believe that to mean when the boat is under engine power or sail. That is not the case though, as underway is defined as a vessel not at anchor, aground or made fast to land. That means that a boat drifting or even being held in place by a trolling motor is considered to be under way.

Another question was how “recreational vessel” is defined and whether or not the regulation applies to the for-hire sector. “Recreational vessel” is defined as a vessel being manufactured or operated primarily for pleasure or leased, rented or chartered for another for the latter’s pleasure. So yes, the new law does apply to the for-hire fleet as well.

The last question I received was whether or not this new law applies to federal waters as well. The answer is no; it does not. It is a NJ regulation which applies to all waters within our state. However, there are separate regulations in Federal waters. One in particular states that “On a vessel that is underway, children under 13 years of age must wear an appropriate U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket unless they are: Below deck or Within an enclosed cabin”.

## President’s Report

*By Mark Taylor*

As president this year, my objective is to enhance angler participation within the JCAA and encourage greater involvement in fishery management initiatives. While I acknowledge that achieving this goal presents considerable challenges, I am convinced it is vital to the long-term success of both the JCAA and our fisheries. I am fully committed to dedicating my efforts toward this purpose and anticipating support from several members as we work together toward this objective.

As we enter a new year, it is reasonable to anticipate developments in fisheries management. While changes do occur annually, they do not always align with the priorities of the recreational fishing community seeking improved access to preferred species. It is important to recognize that the fisheries management process is not without flaws, an admission that has been made by relevant authorities, though perhaps not frequently enough. This year, one of my objectives is to promote education and encourage greater engagement among recreational anglers so they

can contribute meaningfully to the decision-making process.

A good starting point is to access information directly from its source. Many anglers do not know how to do this or realize they can participate by sharing their opinions after reviewing and understanding the material. We should not depend solely on a small group of devoted anglers and outdoor writers. I am planning to organize some Zoom meetings throughout the year to keep recreational anglers informed. The first session will offer a brief overview of fishery management processes and where to find more detailed information. These meetings will last about 90 minutes each to ensure the content is not overwhelming and can be digested over time. My goal is for these sessions to be informative, educational and not discouraging. Stay tuned as I plan to include visual slides and invite others to contribute as well. I hope to begin in a few months. It is important for all anglers to get involved and stay informed, so our recreational community can have a stronger voice in the decision-making process and possibility make a difference.

It is essential for every angler to visit the NJDEP – NJ Fish & Wildlife website. The site provides comprehensive and regularly updated information, making it a valuable resource for saltwater fishing enthusiasts. Anglers are encouraged to review all available materials related to saltwater fishing, and to register or renew their registration for the **2026 NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry** at [this link](#) — a process that must be completed annually. Registration is free of charge; however, participation ensures accurate counts of saltwater anglers in New Jersey. These data are critical for determining eligibility and allocation of federal funding necessary to support future fisheries research and management initiatives.

With the arrival of fishing flea market season, opportunities abound for those seeking quality tackle and equipment at competitive prices. I encourage you to attend these events and support the organizations that dedicate significant effort to making them possible. Whether you are interested in acquiring new or used tackle, these markets present valuable options.

The show season is underway, with the New Jersey Shows approaching rapidly. JCAA will have booths featured at both the **Atlantic City Boat Show** (February 25<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>) and the **Saltwater Fishing Expo** (March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>). We appreciate those who have already committed their time as volunteers for JCAA during these events; however, we are still seeking additional volunteers to ensure our booth is fully

staffed. Maintaining a strong presence at these shows is essential for our organization to effectively connect with the recreational angling community.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me to arrange your preferred dates and times. I can be reached at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com) or (732) 245-9445. Kindly respond as soon as possible as volunteer names must be submitted several weeks in advance to organize complimentary passes. Volunteers are welcome to explore other event vendors before or after their scheduled time at our booth as an added benefit.

The upcoming JCAA General Membership meeting is scheduled for January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Members are welcome to attend in person at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724. This meeting is also open to any recreational angler interested in learning more about JCAA and connecting with others. Pizza will be provided for those who attend. Please contact me a few days before the meeting so I can get an accurate headcount and make arrangements. You can reach me at (732) 245-9445 or [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net).

JCAA Membership Secretary John Toth has prepared dues notices for 2026 and is sending them out. Saltwater clubs and individuals interested in joining are encouraged to contact John Toth at (732) 656-0138 or [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net) for further information. It is essential that all current saltwater fishing clubs and individual members complete the provided form upon receipt to ensure their information is updated accurately. This process allows the appropriate representatives within each club to receive fishery alerts and important updates from JCAA, facilitating effective communication with their members.

It is essential for all of us to become more engaged in ensuring the future sustainability of our fishery. The JCAA Board's next meeting will take place on **February 12<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30pm and will be held exclusively via Zoom. The JCAA General Membership Meeting on **January 27<sup>th</sup>** will commence at 7:30 pm. Members may attend in person at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724, or join remotely via Zoom, as this will be conducted as a hybrid meeting.

### **Future Planning:**

Please be advised that next month's JCAA General Membership Meeting is scheduled for **February 24<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 pm and will be conducted in a hybrid format. Kindly make note of this date and time in your calendar.

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Tom Fote*

### **Ed Potosnak Nominated for DEP Commissioner**

Further below is a release on Ed Potosnak's nomination for DEP Commissioner. I should not have been surprised that Governor Sherrill would nominate someone from the environmental community for DEP Commissioner. This nomination confirms her commitment to the environment. I have been representing JCAA at Keep It Green (KIG) for many years. KIG stopped having meetings for a while because no one seemed to be in charge. The League of Conservation Voters under Ed Potosnak brought Keep It Green back to life. I have been attending meetings since it came back in action, and I watched how Ed gets people to work together by listening to everyone. He has also been in the forefront on issues like stopping offshore drilling and many other issues. I have been at press conferences with Ed and see him as a good spokesman for issues of importance to JCAA. I think Ed will have an open-door policy for the recreational fishing community. I would not be surprised if he schedules regular meetings with all the stakeholders. I really look forward to working with him.

### **Two Articles from November/December of 2024**

I was thinking about the appropriate articles for this month's newspaper and found these two articles from 2024. We are coming up to the show season and the flea markets and other opportunities for recreational fishermen to talk to one another. Why don't you stop by the JCAA booth and share our ideas for putting the ideas in these articles to work. We need to stop taking cheap shots at one another and find a way to work together.

### **Governor-elect Sherrill Nominates Ed Potosnak to be Commissioner of the NJ DEP**

*Insider NJ, January 16, 2026*

Today, Governor-elect Mikie Sherrill announced Ed Potosnak as her nominee to be the next Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental

Protection (NJDEP). As commissioner, Ed will lead the state's efforts to become more flood resilient, mitigate harmful PFAS chemicals, and remediate contaminated sites. In the Sherrill-Caldwell Administration, the Department of Environmental Protection will work to cut through red tape, develop clear timelines for permitting, and foster economic growth while protecting New Jersey's air, land, and water.



“Ed Potosnak is a proven leader who will be critical in our efforts to preserve New Jersey’s protect residents from flooding and extreme weather and remediate contaminated sites. He will bring his experience as a licensed contractor to the department to prioritize cutting through red tape and reducing permitting times. Ed has a strong track record of bringing people to the table to develop solutions that work best for the communities they serve. I look forward to working with Ed, energy and business professionals, and advocates to protect our environment while growing our economy,” said Governor-elect Sherrill.

“Throughout her career, Governor-elect Sherrill has delivered for New Jerseyans on key environmental issues like flood mitigation, cleaning up toxic PFAS and Brownfields sites, and investing in cheap, clean energy like solar. As a licensed contractor, I understand the struggles that business owners face while trying to get state permits, and as Commissioner, I look forward to streamlining that process so we’re ensuring government is being responsive to job creators while protecting our state’s natural resources,” said Ed Potosnak.

Ed Potosnak is recognized as one of New Jersey’s most trusted voices on clean energy and environmental protection. Ed also serves his

community as a Councilmember in Franklin Township (Somerset County) and previously as President and member of the local School Board.

At Rutgers University, he shares his passion for public service and sustainability as a lecturer, inspiring the next generation to pursue careers in the environmental field. Currently, Ed serves as the Executive Director of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters. Additionally, he is Co-Chair of the New Jersey Keep It Green Coalition, New Jersey State Lead for the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed, was appointed by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) Board and is a member of the Rutgers Glee Club Alumni Advisory Committee.

Before his career in environmental policy, Ed taught high school chemistry and started a successful home improvement company as a licensed contractor to supplement his teaching income. His dedication to public service earned him the prestigious Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship, which took him to Capitol Hill to help craft national science and education policy.

Ed holds a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and a master’s degree in education from Rutgers University.

## **What Has Happened with the Recreational Fishing Community Working Together**

*By Tom Fote*

*Reprinted from November 2024 Newsletter*

In the 80’s the recreational community was working together for the rebuilding of striped bass stocks. The community included catch and release fishermen, party and charter boats, subsistence fishermen and people who wanted to take home a fish to eat. The community spoke with one voice and made that voice heard. As soon as the stocks were rebuilt and the fishery was open, some of the members of a certain part of this community looked at striped bass as only a species for catch and release. When the stocks were at an all-time high and when New York went to open up the fishery to 2 fish at 28 inches like most of the rest of the coast, the catch and release community fought against that plan. When New York planned to give the party and charter boats 2 fish per angler, some of the catch and release community fought that plan as well. They also fought against allowing subsistence and recreational anglers to take a fish home to eat. They won that battle because they were the loudest voices at the table. This

fracture in the recreational community led to extremes across every issue. The whole atmosphere has become a “we’re right, you’re wrong” mentality. The lack of cooperation means none of us have the impact on the decisions ASMFC makes while we are fighting with each other. After JCAA and its member clubs in New Jersey succeeded in making the Striped Bass Gamefish bill (no-sale) in NJ, JCAA spent a lot of time and money trying to help other states in passing their own bill. JCAA, with the help of ASA organized coastwide meetings for those organizations in other states. We were instrumental in the formation of the NY, Virginia and Maryland CCAs and then working with them and National CCA and the existing CCAs of Maine and Connecticut to work on making striped bass a coast wide gamefish. We were a united community with a single goal.

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

It would be interesting to put all this energy into coastwide game fish status. Remember, because of the effort that was made with the help of ASA, CCA and other groups working with local groups, an executive order was signed by President Bush that if the EEZ was

ever opened, it would be open only for recreational fishing. We need to get back to working as a united community, working to protect every facet of our community, not just for your own interests. I am looking forward to hearing the guides association taking on the commercial fishermen in their own states and doing what we did in New Jersey. If you are not protecting your own state, leave New Jersey alone because we accomplished what you could not.

## **Striped Bass and Hatcheries**

*By Tom Fote*

*Reprinted from December 2024 Newsletter*

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

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

and did better than fish exposed throughout those early stages. As these fish matured, they played an important role in spawning season. People were surprised how many of the tagged fish were actually spawning and we began to see good year classes.

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

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



## **ASA Position Statement on Sector Separation**

*Revised April 2013*

Harvest of marine fish stocks in federal waters is presently allocated between the commercial and recreational sectors at levels determined by the regional fishery management councils. The concept of subdividing the recreational allocation of some fish stocks into separate private angler and for-hire

components, known as sector separation, has recently been discussed for potential consideration by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Under the sector separation model, managers would assign quotas to the commercial sector, private boat anglers sector, and charter/for-hire sector. ASA is opposed sector separation because:

1. A fair process for allocation between sectors and schedules for revisiting allocation among sectors has not been developed by the Fishery Management Councils or the National Marine Fisheries Service, and as a result many outdated and inequitable allocations remain in place. Standard guidance for addressing allocation that is measurable and predictable is needed before any discussions of sector separation.
2. Sector separation will create imbalances in quota allocations between for-hire/charter boat fishing and private boat anglers and will lead to serious conflicts within the recreational fishing community, particularly with no process in place for fairly determining allocation.
3. Sector separation will likely result in disparate public seasons for most offshore recreational fishing. Private boat anglers will often be unable to pursue many species unless they pay a charter/for-hire vessel.
4. The socioeconomic impacts of sector separation have not been adequately addressed.

Until these concerns are fully addressed, ASA urges federal fishery managers to remove saltwater recreational sector separation from all management plan discussions. ASA believes that federal fishery managers should focus on more pressing concerns, such as addressing the significant underlying issues within federal fisheries data collection and developing a fair allocation process.

## **ASMFC Preliminary Agenda for Winter Meeting**

*February 3 - 5, 2026*

Visit the meeting summary landing page at [this link](#) where you can also find the preliminary agenda. The agenda is subject to change. The final agenda will include additional items and may revise the bulleted items provided below.

## **Tuesday, February 3**

### **9 – 11 a.m. American Lobster Management Board**

- Consider Report from the Technical Committee on Board Tasks
- Consider Report from the Advisory Panel
- Consider Annual Data Updates of American Lobster and Jonah Crab Indicators
- Reports from Gulf of Maine States on Industry Surveys and Meetings
- Update on Request for Information for Alternative Gear Marking Framework

### **11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Winter Flounder Management Board**

- Review 2025 Management Track Assessments for Gulf of Maine and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Stocks of Winter Flounder
- Set Specifications for Fishing Years 2026-2028
- Consider Fishery Management Plan Review for 2024 Fishing Year
- Elect Vice-Chair

### **1:15 – 2:15 p.m. Spiny Dogfish Management Board**

- Set Specifications for the 2026/2027 Fishing Year
- Review Spiny Dogfish Accountability Measures Framework
- Elect Vice-Chair

### **2:30 – 3:30 p.m. American Eel Management Board**

- Update on Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species
- Consider Technical Committee Report on Board Tasks
  - Review of Aquaculture Provisions
  - Review of Florida Young of Year Survey

### **3:45 – 4:45 p.m. Marine Recreational Information Program Presentation on Fishing Effort Survey**

## **Wednesday, February 4**

### **8 – 10 a.m. Executive Committee**

### **10:15 a.m. – 11:45 p.m. Coastal Pelagics Management Board**

- Consider Terms of Reference for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia Stock Assessment

- Review Next Steps, Timeline, and Challenges for Cobia Management
  - Specification Setting Process
  - Evaluation of 2025 Regional Recreational Landings Against Targets
- Consider Cobia Fishery Management Plan Review for the 2024 Fishing Year
- Consider Spanish Mackerel Fishery Management Plan Review for the 2023 and 2024 Fishing Years
- Update on South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Spanish Mackerel Future Amendment

### **1:15 – 3:30 p.m. Atlantic Menhaden Management Board**

- Progress Update on Plan Development Team Drafting of Draft Addendum II for Public Comment
- Advisory Panel Report on 2025 Single-Species and Ecological Reference Points Stock Assessments
- Progress Update on Technical Committee Tasking on Changing Environmental Conditions

### **3:45 – 5:30 p.m. Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board**

- Consider Regional Distribution of Black Sea Bass Liberalization for 2026-2027 Recreational Management Measures
- Consider Technical Committee Report

## **Thursday, February 5**

### **8:30 – 10:45 a.m. Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

- Board Guidance on Biological Reference Points
- Board Discussion on Work Group on Future Striped Bass Management: Composition of Work Group, Details, and Timelines for Work Group Tasks
- Consider NOAA Aquaculture Report on Atlantic Striped Bass

### **11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board**

- Review 2025 Commissioner Survey
- Review Commission Guiding Documents
- Highly Migratory Species Update on Coastal Sharks
- Consider Habitat Management Series Report on Atlantic States Shell Recycling
- Review Noncompliance Findings, if necessary

### **12:30 – 12:45 p.m. Commission Business Session**

## JCAA New Ad Program

*By Tom Fote*

The full-page ads in our newspaper cost \$1,000 for the year and we are pleased to announce [Engel Coolers](#) as our first full-page ad under our new ad program.

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. Mark also has put together some forms that will be ready by the next newsletter.

## JCAA Membership Report

*By John Toth*

First of all, I want to **THANK** all of you who have paid your club dues and sponsorships during 2025!

We are in the process of sending out forms to clubs to pay JCAA dues and sponsorships during January. One of the forms requests information on your current board members and the club member who will be the person who will represent your club at JCAA membership meetings. Please complete this form in full so that we have updated information not only on your membership, but who to contact in the event of an important issue that your club needs to be aware of that affects our ability to fish.

We have already received payment from the Spring Lake live Liners for their 2026 dues \$50, \$200 Sponsorship and \$50 for purchase of JCAA High Roller tickets. These tickets are in the process of being printed. **Thank you, Spring Lake Live Liners!**

Our next JCAA General Membership Meeting be held on **January 27, 2026**, at the Shark Anglers Building in Herbertsville. It will be done as an in-person meeting and by ZOOM starting at 7:30 p.m.

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

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### MARCH KID'S FISHING WORKSHOP

Members of the Newark Bait and Fly-Casting Club will host their annual kid's fishing night at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located in Union, NJ. The seminar is scheduled for 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at the Kenilworth VFW. Children and their families are welcome to enjoy a night of fun-fishing activities and refreshments. This is always a fun night for youngsters wanting to learn about a variety of fishing techniques.



### NJ HOFNOD TEAM LEADER TRAINING

If you would like to become a certified NJ HOFNOD instructor, please contact Liz Jackson, NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07683, (908)

637-4125 x122. Visit the NJ [HOFNOD website](#) to view a group near you.



### TAKE A VETERAN AND KID FISHING

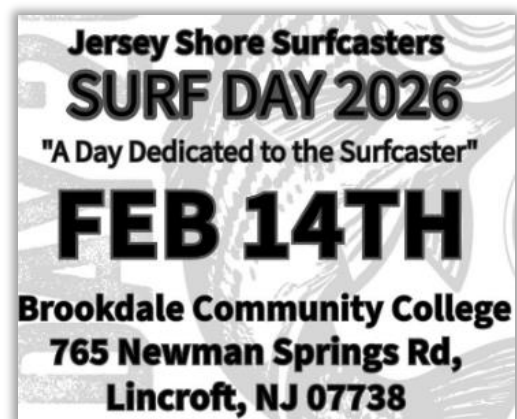
Keep in mind we have plenty of loaner rods and reels available for veterans and active-duty military families to utilize during the 2026 fishing season. The folks at Folsom Corp were very generous and supplied Tsunami rod and reel combos for our New Jersey and Florida youth and veteran family fishing programs. If you know a veteran looking to learn about freshwater and saltwater fishing and would like to borrow a rod and reel, please contact Karen Noe at the JCAA office or Don Marantz. If you know a veteran in need of a rod and reel and would like to learn about surf fishing, please contact Don Marantz at (908) 347-1434. We thank everyone at Folsom Corp for their continued support.

### NJ HOFNOD 2026 FUNDING

Sorry to report there is no movement on the NJ HOFNOD bill. Hopefully, we will have more information about this worthwhile funding bill soon. When it becomes public, we will post the new bill number in our JCAA newspaper. Please help us continue to support increased funding for NJ HOFNOD. This bill needs to move forward we are asking you to contact your legislators. The importance of properly funding NJ HOFNOD is essential to provide needed funds to expand NJ HOFOD. The bill appropriates \$450,000 to the Department of Environmental Protection to fund the cost of implementing the "Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program". The money would be appropriated from the "Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund," a statutory account established to receive fines and penalties from convicted drug offenders that are used to support State-authorized drug and alcohol abuse abatement programs.

### FISHING AND BOATING SHOWS

Be sure to visit the JCAA booth at upcoming fishing and boating shows. JCAA will have booths featured at both the **Atlantic City Boat Show** (February 25<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>) and the **Saltwater Fishing Expo** (March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>). Stop by and meet our team. They can answer all your questions about saltwater fisheries management and pending regulations. You can also ask questions about upcoming JCAA used fishing merchandise that will be on sale during early April and May. Do not forget to support the high school fishing flea markets that help our youngsters learn about fishing.



[Read more about this event here](#)

# Please Support our Sponsors!

## 2024 Sponsors List

### Super Sponsors

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### Gold Sponsors (\$1000+)

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- **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+)

- **Ahern Tackle** – [aherntackle@gmail.com](mailto:aherntackle@gmail.com)
- **Captain's Inn** – [www.captainsinnnj.com](http://www.captainsinnnj.com)
- **Chatter Lures** – [www.chatterlures.com](http://www.chatterlures.com)
- **Coastal Fishing** – [www.coastalfishing.com](http://www.coastalfishing.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)
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- **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)
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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

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