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JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

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March 2026

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Fall Striper Fever: Nov. 1-8

Bluefin Fever: TBD

For information go to www.jcsa.org

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Charles (Chuck) Santoro
Insurance Specialist



Forked River Tuna Club

2025 Tournament Schedule

War at the Shore Meeting - TBD

Ladies Catch of the Day - July 12

Bi-Club Fluke Tournament - TDB

Tuna Tournament - TBD

Tournament Rain Date - TBD

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JCAA NEWSPAPER MARCH 2026

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION*

(Published on February 23rd, 2026)

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING

February 24th, 2026, 7:30pm

Jersey Coast Shark Anglers Building
385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick, NJ 08724
or via Zoom, for link contact:

tothjohn@verizon.net or mtsport64@aol.com

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 12th

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

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

Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

February 24th JCAA General Meeting

February 25th-March 1st Atlantic City Boat Show

March 12th JCAA Board Meeting

March 13th-15th Saltwater Fishing EXPO

March 31st JCAA General Meeting

April 11th Opening Day Trout

May 17th Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

Black Sea Bass Liberalization

By Stephen Machalaba

I participated virtually in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council (ASMFC) meeting on February 2, 2026, regarding the 20% Liberalization that was previously approved for Black Seabass by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council (ASMFC) and Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Commission (MAFMC). The end result is New Jersey will only end up an increase of 14% to 17% as a result of the other states ganging up on New Jersey for their own selfish concerns.

To preface this, at the MAFMC/ASMFC meeting in December 2025, it was stated that their Monitoring Committee come up with options for "Liberalizing" (increasing each state's allowable catch) the quota for Black Seabass since **THEIR OWN** most recent data showed the Black Seabass Biomass to be **284%** of the target. The increase could be 0 and up to 30%. Their staff then started discussing a new method of analyzing the data which might affect the Confidence Index (whatever this is). The staff and some of the appointed commissioners (the only people who vote) then proceeded to talk in circles about this, exhausting most of the time allotted for this meeting and losing sight of the fact that Seabass was at 284% of the target biomass.

Some of the commissioners were actually now in favor of NO increase, and it looked like this was going to be the direction they would take and vote to approve, when New Jersey's Commissioner Adam Nowalsky made a "compromise" motion for a 20%

increase which was seconded and after discussion was approved 8 to 3. Everyone believed that the next step was for the individual states to now come up with their regulations (minimum size, bag limit and seasons) using this 20% quota increase, once the guidelines were issued by ASMFC.

ASMFC announced prior to the 2026 Winter Meeting , February 3 - 5, that because the allowable quota for each state varied due to the range and habitat preference of Black Seabass, that in order to not exceed the 20% increase, the increase would need to be distributed between the affected states, from Massachusetts to the north down to North Carolina to the south (with NJ in the middle).

The meeting started at 3:45 PM on Wednesday Feb. 4. It was scheduled to go to 5:30 PM. ASMFC started by showing a ridiculous chart that they created based upon data they collected showing Angler Satisfaction in the various states. The chart showed every state's satisfaction as negative, except New Jersey, which was extremely positive. ASMFC created three regions for determining how the 20% increase would be distributed, because the quota and catch data varied along the coast in accordance with the range of the Seabass biomass. The North Region included the states of NY, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The South Region includes Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. New Jersey is in its own region, since it is "Seabass Central". Board members also include Chesapeake Bay, Potomac River and National Marine Fisheries.

As the discussion started and seemed to be going nowhere fast, New Jersey's representative Adam Nowalsky made a motion promoting a fair and equitable distribution of the quota increase and made a comment about working together and issued a warning not to fall into the trap of pitting each of their states against each other. Unfortunately, that is exactly what they did. The meeting discussion continued going nowhere until one of the commissioners, upon getting certain information from the staff made a substitute motion that would give the South Region an increase of 16.5%, NJ an 18% increase and the remainder (to be determined) to the North Region of approx. 27%. This seemed like a fair compromise and as Adam Nowalsky stated, although it is less than the 20% increase promised, NJ could live with it, and the North and South Regions would get what they wanted.

It seemed like a good deal, and it was presumed that the commissioners would vote to approve it. (They

actually voted in favor of this 6-5). But no, individual greed by several state representatives took over and another substitute motion giving the North Region 27% increase, the South Region 16.5% increase and NJ what is left over, 14 to 17% increase. This became the main motion and was voted on and approved, with New Jersey offering a "Null" vote meaning they do not accept the motion and outcome. There was very little opportunity for questions from the public. I did offer a comment opposing this and advising them that they have lost sight of the fact that Black Seabass was at 284% of the Target Biomass, this as did another JCAA affiliated club member Paul Haertel. Capt. Victor Hartley from NJ also commented in opposition to this motion.

We do not understand how ASMFC let this motion be approved without providing New Jersey with a specific number for the quota increase to be able to develop their regulations. All states must submit their regulations to ASMFC for approval by 2/18/2026.

New Jersey's Commissioners, Capt. Adam Nowalsky and Joe Cimino of NJ Saltwater Fisheries did the best they could but could not overcome the North and South Region states ganging up on New Jersey. I'm sure they left the meeting more disgusted and dissatisfied as I was.

The NJ Marine Fisheries Black Seabass Advisory Committee meeting was on February 12, 2026. Paul and I are on the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee's goal is to decrease the length of the closed periods and/or eliminate the one fish bag limit in the Summer. See Paul Haertel's article for what occurred at this meeting.

Sea Bass Regulatory Update and Survey

By Paul Haertel

The bad news is that although New Jersey expected to receive a 20% liberalization, regarding our sea bass regulations, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) decided to give a 27% increase to states to our north and a 16.5% increase to states to our south, leaving NJ with what is left over. Depending on exactly what regulations the other states develop, that should allow us to liberalize by 15-17%.

The good news is that even a 15-17% increase will result in a very significant liberalization to our regulations. Our Bureau of Marine Fisheries (NJBMF)

is working on a range of options that must first be approved by the ASMFC. Then they will be reviewed by the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council's (NJMFC) sea bass advisors committee, which will whittle the options down to just a few which will be made available to the public. Finally, the public will have a chance to comment on these options at the NJMFC's meeting on March 26th. Upon conclusion of the public comment period, the council will vote on which option will become law for both 2026 and 2027.

In the meantime, the NJDEP Fish & Wildlife and the NJMFC are interested in input from the public on possible sea bass measures for 2026. Those interested may take the survey below to provide general guidance regarding the regulations. The chart below includes samples of options that may be approved. However, they are likely to be tweaked or modified and a couple more similar options may be developed. Option 1A would allow the one fish limit to begin on 6/22 and run into September with the possibility of the ten fish bag limit season beginning later that month, perhaps even while fluke season is still open. That option would allow the season to be open for 43 more days than last year, albeit much of it with just a one fish limit. Option 2A would allow for a two fish limit from 7/1-9/15. There would be a ten-day closure at the end of June and a two-week closure at the end of September before the ten fish season opens on 10/1. Option 2B would allow for two fish from 6/22-9/6. There would be no closure in June but then the season would close for more than three weeks in September. Options 2A and 2 B would allow the season to be open 19 more days than last year. There is a comment section in the survey. You may want to state whether you prefer the one fish or two fish option and whether it is more important for you to extend the season further into June or extend it into September. You may simply indicate your preferred option number or make any other suggestions that you have.

Please complete the [2026 BSB Measures form](#) only once. Those without internet access may request a paper copy by calling the Marine Resources Administration at (609) 748-2020. Submissions **must be received by 11:59 p.m. on March 11, 2026**, in order to be considered.

The following chart includes SAMPLES of a couple of the options which will likely be tweaked or modified further. Additional options may be developed from these as well.

Run Name		SEASON 1	SEASON 2	SEASON 3	SEASON 4	Total Extra Days Open
NJ Current Regulations	Date	5/17-6/19	7/1-8/31	10/1-10/31	11/1-12/31	
	Bag	10	1	10	15	
1.A	Date	5/15-6/21	6/22-9/17	9/18-10/31	11/1-12/31	43
	Bag	10	1	10	15	
2.A	Date	5/15-6/21	7/1-9/15	10/1-10/31	11/1-12/31	19
	Bag	10	2	10	15	
2.B	Date	5/15-6/21	6/22-9/6	10/1-10/31	11/1-12/31	19
	Bag	10	2	10	15	

[Click here](#) to take the survey.

Recommendation for Adam Nowalsky to MAFMC Council

Letter from JCAA



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

February 10, 2026

Governor Mikie Sherrill
 The State House
 P.O. Box 001
 Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Reference: **Recommendation for Appointment of Adam Nowalsky to At-Large Seat on Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council**

Honorable Governor Sherrill:

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) which represents Recreational Saltwater Fishing Clubs, Diving Clubs and Coastal Environmental Groups throughout the State of New Jersey is hereby requesting that you appoint Adam Nowalsky of Port Republic, New Jersey to the upcoming open At-Large seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC). The JCAA highly recommends Adam Nowalsky for this position. Adam Nowalsky has demonstrated in his work on various Federal and State Fisheries Management commissions and councils over a period of many years that he is extremely qualified to serve in this position on the MAFMC representing the State of New Jersey. Mr. Nowalsky is well-spoken and extremely knowledgeable. He can be counted on to voice his opinion in the best interests of both the commercial and recreational fishermen of our state.

The JCAA thanks you in advance for your consideration and support in appointing Adam Nowasky to this important position.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jersey Coast Anglers Association
Mark A. Taylor, President
mtsport64@aol.com

Joseph P. Melillo In Memoriam

Obituary

Joseph P. Melillo, age 82, passed away on January 30, 2026, with his family close in heart. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Judith Melillo, whom he loved deeply and missed dearly throughout the years, his parents, Joseph and Frances Melillo, and his sister-in-law, Theresa Melillo.

Joseph was a devoted father, grandfather, father-in-law, brother, and friend. He was known for his kindness, his loyalty, and the genuine friendships he formed throughout his life. He also had a wonderful sense of humor and an endless supply of jokes, always ready to make others laugh. His quick wit and storytelling brought smiles to family gatherings and everyday moments alike, and his laughter was something everyone cherished. He had a deep love for fishing, where he found peace and joy, and he also enjoyed cooking for those he loved. Above all else, he treasured his family and took great pride in being there for the people who mattered most to him.

He is survived by his son, Joseph Melillo Jr., and his wife, Charlotte, and by his daughter, Lisa Lambiase, and her husband, Damon. Joseph was a proud grandfather to Taylor Melillo and her fiancé, Nick Silva, and to Ella and Aidan Lambiase, who brought him immense joy. He is also survived by his brother, Nicholas Melillo, and his girlfriend, Antoinette Sotiriou.

Family and friends are invited to gather in remembrance on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, from 4:00 to 8:00 PM at D'Elia Funeral Home, 1300 Vermont Avenue, Lakewood, New Jersey.

Joseph will be remembered as a wonderful father, grandfather, father-in-law, and friend — a man with a generous heart, a love for fishing and cooking, and a sense of humor that could light up a room. His

stories, jokes, and laughter will live on in the memories of all who knew him. He will be deeply missed and forever loved.

Al Ristori Tribute

Part 1: One of the original founders of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association and a legendary Point Pleasant Canal angler has passed on to heavenly waters at 82 after a fight against cancer. Joe held court at his Castaways Tackle in Point Pleasant for many years and made better anglers of all who stopped by for coffee and fishing tales every morning.

His mounted striper of over 40 pounds in the shop was evidence of what was possible from shore in the canal long before I knew Joe. Though the canal has remained very productive, it's no longer a spot to seek out the largest of stripers which Joe attributed to the abundance of bunkers in the ocean. Bunkers had been decimated by big seiners working with airplanes, and that made the canal attractive due to all the smaller fish always available to the largest predators. When the efforts of the JCAA and other groups brought about a return to bunker abundance Joe figured that there was no need for the largest bass to leave the ocean.

I'll have more about Joe in tomorrow's blog.

Part 2: No one enjoyed fishing in Point Pleasant Canal more than Joe Melillo, who passed away this week at 82. He joined many other regulars to cast small jigs, metals and plugs on light tackle for bluefish, school stripers and fluke that flurry through the strong currents. It's rarely fast fishing, but most of the anglers who fish there enjoy the challenge. There aren't many large fish hooked during the day as boat traffic is a problem, but Joe seemed to find an exception to that rule one morning when he lifted into a solid fish.

The fight went on in swirling currents and boat wakes for a long time as Joe also had to worry about straightening out the small hook of his jig. A big landing net was located, and Joe was gaining line very slowly as everyone wondered what it could be. We were hoping for a strange-acting striper but suspected that it might be a big skate or ray. Joe was no stranger to catching big bass in the "old days" and was making progress when a large shape was spotted just below the roiled surface which turned out to be the head of a big tuna!

When it came to the normal fishing there, Joe had the touch, and was glad to help other anglers get in on the action which often required working a particular type of lure at just the right speed and level.

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

The show and fishing flea market season is well underway, generating considerable excitement for the approaching fishing season. This period offers an excellent opportunity to reconnect with acquaintances and support vendors who offer both new and traditional tackle.

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) will have booths featured at both the **Atlantic City Boat Show** (February 25th to March 1st) and the **Saltwater Fishing Expo** (March 13th to 15th). 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 ASAP to arrange your preferred dates and times. I can be reached at 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.

Amid these events, it is important for anglers to stay informed about ongoing meetings that have a direct impact on fishing regulations. Notably, the New Jersey Black Sea Bass regulations for the 2026 season have yet to be finalized. Presently, recreational anglers are anticipating a degree of liberalization in the rules, though this will be less than what was originally proposed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). As states have considered various options to implement these changes, percentage adjustments have occurred.

The NJ Black Sea Bass Advisory Committee convened on February 12th to discuss management options provided by the Marine Fisheries. These proposals require ASMFC approval before further action can be taken. The ASMFC board is scheduled to meet on March 5th to review and potentially approve a range of management measures for black sea bass

recreational fishing in state waters for the 2026 and 2027 seasons.

For comprehensive details, please consult the article by Paul Heatel, Chairperson of the JCAA Black Sea Bass Committee, available in this newspaper.

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 New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry** at [this link](#) — a process that every angler must complete 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.

As previously noted in last month's JCAA Newspaper, the JCAA General Membership meeting was opened to the public on January 27th at 7:30 pm. While there was notable interest, inclement weather affected attendance for some individuals. I appreciate those who reached out to express their interest. Accordingly, I have decided to hold another open meeting during the **February 24th** and **March 31st** JCAA General Membership session. All recreational anglers and members are invited to attend in person at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724. This meeting is also available to any recreational angler seeking further information about JCAA or wishing to connect with others. Pizza will be provided for attendees. Kindly contact me a few days prior to the meeting so that an accurate headcount may be obtained and appropriate arrangements may be made. I can be reached at (732) 245-9445 or via email at mtsport64@aol.com.

JCAA Membership Secretary John Toth has prepared dues notices for 2026 and is sending them out. If you have not received it, please contact John Toth. Saltwater clubs and individuals interested in joining are encouraged to contact John Toth at (732) 656-0138 or 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 **March 12th** at 7:30pm and will be held exclusively via Zoom.

The JCAA General Membership Meeting on **February 24th** 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 (Open to recreational anglers).

Future Planning:

Please be advised that next month's JCAA General Membership Meeting is scheduled for **March 31st** at 7:30 pm and will be conducted in a hybrid format. Kindly make note of this date and time in your calendar.

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. 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.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Tom Fote

I have included in my report the Atlantic Menhaden, Striped Bass and Black Sea Bass summaries from the ASMFC Meeting. If you are interested in Winter Flounder, I would recommend you read the summary of the entire meeting on the ASMFC webpage. Like weakfish, even though we put in a tremendous amount of cutbacks to bring the stock back, this is not having the intended effect. As I have said all along, we are only managing fishermen but not dealing with the real problems that are taking place in the bays and estuaries. Again, we have failed to address climate change and have actually taken a step backwards. We have not done any substantial improvements in water quality due to the chemicals that impact on the spawning and reproduction. The other matter is the loss of habitat. All these factors get worse every year, and we continue to avoid dealing with the real problems. I am hopeful that this cold winter with ice on the Hudson and in the bays and estuaries that the cold will impact positively on the reproduction of striped bass. We will need to wait and see. I cannot remember seeing this much ice on my lagoon since 1988. This will also have a good impact on the forests because of the freezing of many of the boring insects that are killing our trees, as well as the ticks which are having a negative impact on us and the animals. Sometimes it is not bad to have a cold winter.

We I also find interesting is that do everything possible not to cut back the commercial harvest and make sure the get every fish they can. At the same time, they do not hesitate to cut back the recreational catch and give us as little as possible when we could have a sizeable increase. The northern states continue to steal fish like black sea bass from NJ because they have the votes. What else is new.

Personal

I have been dealing with some health problems and have missed a couple of meetings. I will probably have to step back from some things for the next few months.

Joe Melillo

We also lost a hero and a JCAA Sportsperson of the Year, Joe Melillo. When I first came to a JCAA meeting it was Joe who was a general, commanding the troops and doing a great job. Even though he stopped attending JCAA meetings, we always had his support. He and his son sponsored the annual JCAA Fluke Tournament for some years — securing a boat, motor and trailer. He will be sorely missed by fellow fishermen and the people who fish at the Point Pleasant Canal.

Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

February 4, 2026

Meeting Summary

The Atlantic Management Board met to receive a progress update on the development of Draft Addendum II; an Advisory Panel (AP) report on the 2025 single-species and Ecological Reference Points (ERP) stock assessments; and a Technical Committee (TC) update on the Board task to review changing environmental conditions.

In October, the Board initiated Draft Addendum II to Amendment 3 to develop options to more evenly distribute harvest of the Chesapeake Bay Reduction Fishery Cap (Bay Cap) into quota periods as well as consider reductions in the Bay Cap up to 50%. The Plan Development Team (PDT) met four times in December and January and developed a memo outlining questions and considerations for the Board to review and provide guidance in further developing the draft addendum.

Regarding quota periods, the Board direction included the addition of the following issues/items in the Draft Addendum:

- Compare reduction effort with harvest data within quota periods
- Investigate pound net and reduction catch rates to determine if pound net landings are correlated with the timing of the reduction fishery
- Eliminate the limitation on individual quota periods containing no more than 1/3 of the total Bay Cap to allow for more flexibility in

shifting harvest later in the year to protect menhaden's ingress into the Bay

- Options that divide the fishing season into even time periods to spread out concentrated harvest over more time

Discuss declining pound net catch per unit effort and quota attainment in statement of the problem

- Data for pound net participation over time
- Consider how the combinations of rollover and overage payback options may lead to a concentration of harvest contrary to the intention of the addendum
- Options to apply overage paybacks in the final quota period to the subsequent fishing year
- Options to apply any quota period overages to the subsequent fishing year

For reducing the Bay Cap, the Board will have the ability to choose any value within the range of 0 to 50%, but for analysis and public consideration, the Plan Development Team is drafting options for status quo (0% reduction), and reductions of 10%, 20%, 30%, and 50%. The Board will review and consider approving the draft addendum for public comment at the 2026 Spring Meeting.

The Board received a report of the AP's review of the results of the 2025 single-species and ERP stock assessments. In addition to a comment requesting further consideration of a multispecies statistical catch-at-age model for the next ERP benchmark assessment, comments from the AP and members of the public focused on potential reallocation of state quotas to provide more opportunities for bait harvest in New England, particularly Maine. The AP will meet prior to the 2026 Annual Meeting to review state quota utilization over time and provide comments for the Board to consider reallocation at the Annual Meeting.

The TC provided an update on two tasks from the Board to evaluate the effects of changing environmental conditions on the Atlantic menhaden stock. The TC considered a range of options to proceed in responding to the Board task, including performing a literature review, a correlation analysis, and developing a spatial distribution model. Each of which represents significantly different workloads and timeframes. In its discussion, the TC considered the

data limitations for more quantitative analyses, particularly the disconnect between targeted ages and sizes between osprey and the fishery, as well as the seasonal limitations of fishery-independent data. Additionally, it noted that having a management goal would provide more information on what level of analysis is necessary and a detailed analysis may be better incorporated into the assessment process. The TC will perform an initial literature review and present a report to the Board at the 2026 Spring Meeting.

The TC also provided an update on its review of the bait fishery biological sampling requirement. The TC discussed two paths forward: continue analyses of the requirement with NOAA sampling data or pause further analyses until there is an acceptable data set of state bait ages (as states are preparing to transition to processing samples). It was noted the most recent ageing exchange continued to show inconsistencies between different readers, and in the northern end of the range, where there are larger menhaden, there is a greater variance of ages within a certain size. Given the TC's concern about the applicability of the ageing results if analyses are performed prior to the change from NOAA to state data sets, it decided to pause further analyses until there is a more consistent data set from state processed samples. The TC recommended maintaining the current requirement size of 10-fish samples but will re-evaluate the sampling size requirement, including whether different sample sizes are necessary for different states to account for the greater variance in age and size, following its analysis of the data sets. For more information, please contact James Boyle, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator at jboyle@asmfc.org.

Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board

February 4, 2026

Meeting Summary

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board (Board) met to approve the regional distribution of a 20% coastwide liberalization in black sea bass recreational harvest for 2026-2027.

In December 2025, the Board and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council jointly approved a 20% liberalization from status quo recreational harvest for black sea bass in 2026-2027. The Board

noted that [Addendum XXXII to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan](#) provides guidance for when recreational liberalizations are available for black sea bass. Addendum XXXII indicates the Board should consider distributing a liberalization among the three black sea bass management regions (Massachusetts through New York, New Jersey, and Delaware through North Carolina north of Cape Hatteras) in a manner that aims to reduce interregional and intraregional disparities in recreational management measures where possible.

In addition to the guidance in Addendum XXXII, the Board considered analyses by the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Technical Committee (TC). The analyses included black sea bass coastwide harvest trends, coastwide distribution, and discards and catch-per-trip by state and region. For example, in general, black sea bass discard rates are higher in the northern region (Massachusetts through New York), due in part to higher minimum sizes (between 16-inches and 16.5 inches) compared to other states, where the minimum size ranges between 12.5-inches and 13-inches. The TC also advised the Board that the distribution of the liberalization could be accomplished several different ways, including (1) an equal 20% liberalization for each region; (2) assigning a region or regions a specific percent liberalization amount, and the remaining region(s) receiving the remaining liberalization; or (3) assigning a region or regions specific recreational management measures, and the remaining region(s) receive the remaining liberalization.

After much deliberation, the Board approved the following distribution of the 20% coastwide liberalization: the southern region (Delaware through North Carolina north of Cape Hatteras) will take a 16.5% liberalization, the northern region (Massachusetts through New York) will not exceed a 27% liberalization, and New Jersey will receive the remaining liberalization not utilized by the southern and northern regions.

Following the February Board meeting, states will work with the other states within their region and between regions to develop proposals with a suite of recreational black sea bass management measure options. The Board will meet again via webinar on March 5 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. to approve state proposals.

For more information, please contact Tracey Bauer, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at tbauer@asmfc.org.

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

February 5, 2026

Meeting Summary

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board met to consider approval of Addendum III state implementation plans; provide guidance on the forthcoming Work Group on future striped bass management; receive an overview of the current biological reference points (BRPs) and request for Board guidance on BRPs and spatial management; and receive a report from NOAA Fisheries on considerations for aquaculture of Atlantic striped bass.

State implementation plans for Addendum III to Amendment 7 to the Interstate FMP were due on December 31, 2025. The plans outline each state's proposed implementation of the new total length definition which includes two elements: (1) squeezing the tail and (2) a straight-line measurement. States must implement the new definition by January 1, 2027. The Plan Review Team found all state implementation plans to be consistent with Addendum III total length measures. Maryland's implementation plan also notified the Board of the state's decision on its Chesapeake Bay striped bass recreational season. Maryland has chosen to move forward with implementing the new recreational season baseline and is working through its state process for implementation.

The Board provided initial guidance to the Work Group (WG) on future striped bass management, which was established by the Board in October 2025. The WG is intended to discuss management beyond 2029 considering the impact of recent low recruitment as those weak year-classes become the majority of the spawning stock biomass in the coming years. Staff requested Board guidance on the WG composition, task details, and timeline. Board members had several ideas on WG composition but acknowledged the challenge of keeping the WG at a manageable size while also having adequate representation from each sector and region. Some Board members suggested expanding the WG process to include sub-groups focused on different tasks and/or a larger process with specific avenues for gathering input (e.g., facilitated workshop). For the WG tasks, some Board members noted a distinction between assessment-related tasks and other tasks which could be discussed sooner. Based on this initial Board

guidance, staff will develop more specific options for WG composition, process, and timeline for the Board to consider and provide additional guidance in May 2026.

The Board received an overview of the current biological reference points and request from the Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS) for Board guidance on developing options for alternative reference points and spatial management framework through the 2027 benchmark stock assessment. The primary guidance requested by the SAS is how the Board wants to balance preserving female spawning stock biomass and allowing fishing, and what the Board is looking for from a spatial management framework (i.e., region definitions? separate biological reference points by region?). The Board will meet to provide guidance in May 2026.

The Board received a report from NOAA Fisheries on considerations for aquaculture of Atlantic striped bass. This report follows an initial report from NOAA Fisheries in January 2024 to the ISFMP Policy Board. At that time, the ISFMP Policy Board raised several concerns and requested NOAA Fisheries provide further information including economic impacts to the wild caught commercial market, potential biological impacts on the wild population, spatial impacts to the fishing industry, and how enforcement would be addressed. In response, NOAA Fisheries developed a draft Technical Memorandum provided to the Board with more information on those issues. Initial Board discussion included concerns from some members about the negative socioeconomic impact to commercial harvesters of introducing farmed product to the market. Board members will review the draft Technical Memorandum over the next several months and may consider follow-up discussions with NOAA Fisheries at a future Board meeting.

For more information, please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at efranke@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Motions

Move to approve Addendum III state implementation plans.

Motion made by Mr. Grist and seconded by Mr. Clark. Motion approved by unanimous consent.

JCAA Letter to Governor Mikie Sherrill

Letter from JCAA



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

January 30, 2026

Governor Mikie Sherrill
The State House
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Honorable Governor Sherrill:

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) congratulates you on your Inauguration as Governor of the State of New Jersey. The JCAA which is an association of saltwater fishing clubs, diving clubs and coastal conservation organizations from throughout the State of New Jersey, wishes you success with your plans and goals for the State. The JCAA, which has been in existence since 1981, works to promote a united consensus on issues relevant to the clubs and organizations that it represents. This includes fisheries management on the State and Federal Levels, public beach and wildlife area access, fish and wildlife conservation, environmental issues and other issues and items of concern.

The JCAA shares many of the same issues and goals with the State and looks forward to continuing working in cooperation with the various State Agencies that it has since its inception.

The JCAA would like to meet with you at some point in the future, but we realize that since your term as Governor has just started there are many more pressing issues that require your attention. The JCAA will be contacting recently appointed NJDEP Commissioner Ed Potosnak to arrange an introductory meeting with him to familiarize him with the JCAA and its mission.

The JCAA wishes you good luck and looks forward to working with you and the members of your administration.

Yours Truly,

Mark Taylor, President, JCAA mtsport64@aol.com;
732-245-9445

Stephen Machalaba, Vice President, JCAA
smachalaba@aol.com; 908-599-1426

Thomas Fote, JCAA Legislative Chairman
tfote@jcaa.org; 732-279-9102

JCAA Letter to Commissioner Ed Potosnak



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

January 30, 2026

Commissioner Ed Potosnak
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Commissioner Potosnak:

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) congratulates you on your appointment as Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The JCAA, which is an association of saltwater fishing clubs, diving clubs and coastal conservation organizations throughout the State of New Jersey, wishes you success in managing this complex and very important agency. The JCAA, which has been in existence since 1981, works to promote a united consensus on issues and concerns relevant to the clubs and organizations that it represents. These include fisheries management on the State and Federal level, public beach and wildlife area access, fish and wildlife conservation, and environmental issues.

The JCAA looks forward to continuing to work in cooperation with the various components of the NJDEP, as it has in the past. We share many of the same issues, concerns and goals.

The JCAA would like to meet with you, at your convenience to introduce our organization to you and discuss how we can work together to use and also protect New Jersey's resources. Included are email

addresses and cell phone numbers of JCAA's President, Vice-President and Legislative Chairman, so you can contact us regarding arrangements for this meeting. We look forward to meeting with you. Thank you and good luck.

Yours Truly,

Mark Taylor, President, JCAA mtsport64@aol.com;
732-245-9445

Stephen Machalaba, Vice President, JCAA
smachalaba@aol.com; 908-599-1426

Thomas Fote, JCAA Legislative Chairman
tfote@jcaa.org; 732-279-9102

JCAA Signs onto Letters Supporting Access to Deal and Monmouth Beach

By Paul Haertel

Below are letters that JCAA signed onto regarding access to Deal and Monmouth Beach respectively. The New Jersey Coastal Alliance did a very nice job writing these letters. JCAA has always worked with other groups and will continue to do so on issues we agree on.

January 31, 2026

Mr. Ed Potosnak, Acting Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental
Protection
401 E. State St.
7th Floor, East Wing
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Mr. Jason Shea, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New York District - PPM (Room 17-413)
c/o PSC Mail Center
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

To Whom It May Concern:

In 2018 a state aid agreement was signed between the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the municipal government of Deal (attached). This laid out the terms of their

ongoing beach project conducted by the NJDEP and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE).

To fulfill the municipal obligation, this agreement states the following:

"...the Municipality currently provides public parking at municipal parking lots located at Phillips Avenue and Ocean Avenue and on municipal streets as governed by existing Municipal Ordinance;"

"The Municipality shall provide and maintain all existing public access and public parking."

At the time this agreement was signed free public parking was provided at a large municipal parking lot on the south side of Phillips Avenue (as noted in the agreement) as well as roadside parking on the south side of Phillips Avenue east of Ocean Avenue. See Figure 1.

Recently the free public parking lot south of Pullman Avenue was changed to hourly fee parking from Friday to Sunday in the summer season. Also, parking on the south side of Pullman Avenue east of Ocean Avenue was prohibited during the summer season. Again, see Figure 1.

This directly violates the signed agreement since the municipality has failed to "provide and maintain all existing public access and public parking."

In addition, the NJ Coastal Zone Management Rules at NJAC 7:7 require that "Fees shall not discriminate between residents and non-residents or on any other basis, except as allowed by this rule or other law;". The courts have determined that charging higher fees on weekends than on weekdays discriminates against non-resident beachgoers. See excerpts from *Slocum v. Belmar*, attached. By charging parking fees in a beachfront municipal lot from Friday to Sunday only, Deal has violated that regulation and ruling.

The NJ Coastal Zone Management Rules also state that "Fees shall be no greater than that which is required to operate and maintain the facility, taking into consideration basic support amenities provided, such as lifeguards, restroom/shower facilities and trash pickup. This requirement applies to facilities and services directly associated with using the tidal waterways and their shores and does not apply to additional amenities such as cabanas, pools, or restaurants;".

However, the municipality of Deal in its budget has comingled costs and items associated with its members-only beach club with appropriate beach

fees and expenses to the point where it is impossible to determine if the law is being followed. This failure to maintain adequate records is something the courts have also ruled is illegal (see *Slocum v. Belmar*).

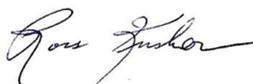
In addition, their fee for a season beach pass is now \$200. This is the highest fee charged anywhere in New Jersey for such a pass. In comparison, neighboring Long Branch with a much larger beach area and many more lifeguards charges only \$70 for a season pass. We believe this \$200 fee is not "reasonable" and therefore fails to meet state or federal regulations.

Since these items violate the terms of the state aid agreement we call on you and the ACOE to pursue these concerns. Failure to do so ignores this agreement, violates state regulations and strips key protections from the public.

We also request that the ACOE review this in relation to Engineer Regulation 1105-2-100 since it seems to violate prohibitions in that regulation regarding unreasonable fees and failure to provide sufficient parking.

We look forward to reviewing your response.

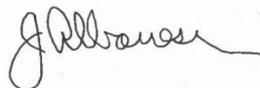
Sincerely,



Ross Kushner, Coordinator
New Jersey Coastal Alliance



Andrew L. Chambarray, Esq.,
Citizens in Opposition to Beach Restrictive Access



Joe Albanese, President
Hudson River Fishermen's Association

Mark Taylor

Mark Taylor, President
Jersey Coast Anglers Association



Mark S. Dzindzio, President
New Jersey Beach Buggy Association



Neil Scheck, Director
Make NJ Beaches Free



Matt Gove, Mid-Atlantic Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation

cc: Senator Andy Kim
Senator Cory Booker
Governor Mikie Sherrill
Ms. Jean Mikle, Asbury Park Press
Mr. Jim Murdoch, News 12

January 31, 2026

Mr. Ed Potosnak, Acting Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental
Protection
401 E. State St.
7th Floor, East Wing
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Mr. Jason Shea, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New York District - PPMD (Room 17-413)
c/o PSC Mail Center
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

To Whom It May Concern:

In 1989 a state aid agreement was signed between the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the municipal government of Monmouth Beach (attached). This laid out the terms of the ongoing beach project conducted there by the NJDEP and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE).

In paragraph 4 the agreement states "The Municipality shall be responsible, at a minimum, for providing public access as described in Attachment C."

In paragraph 6 the agreement states "The Municipality agrees that in the event that it fails to comply with the beach, dune and erosion hazard

area protection undertakings set forth in Paragraph 3, the public access undertakings set forth in Paragraph 4, or the easement acquisitions set forth in Paragraph 5, that it will repay to the Division the 75% state share provided for in this contract, with simple interest accruing from the date the project was completed until the money is repaid, at a rate equal to the prime interest (rate) as published in the New York Times business section.”

Attachment C of this agreement states the following:

“The municipality can charge a reasonable fee for access to these areas, subject to other applicable laws and court decisions.”

“The Borough must pass a Resolution which would allow limited on-street parking for one side of State Highway 36 (Ocean Avenue). This Resolution must then be submitted to DOT Region 3 design section for their review and approval. The DOT has indicated that the Route 36 shoulders provide adequate area (12 feet wide) for on-street parking.”

First, we note that a significant “applicable law” is the NJ Coastal Zone Management Rules at NJAC 7:7. These require that “Fees shall be no greater than that which is required to operate and maintain the facility, taking into consideration basic support amenities provided, such as lifeguards, restroom/shower facilities and trash pickup. This requirement applies to facilities and services directly associated with using the tidal waterways and their shores and does not apply to additional amenities such as cabanas, pools, or restaurants;”.

However, the municipality of Monmouth Beach in its budget has comingled costs and items associated with its bathing pavilion, a members-only club, with appropriate beach fees and expenses, to the point where it is impossible determine if the law is being followed. This failure to maintain proper records is something the courts ruled is illegal in a case decided prior to the signing of this agreement (see excerpts from Slocum v. Belmar, attached).

In addition, we do not believe there has ever been a municipal resolution passed by the Monmouth Beach government dealing with parking on Route 36, as promised, and no contact has ever been made by them with the NJDOT regarding this. Currently no parking is allowed on Rt. 36 in Monmouth Beach.

Also, part of the required municipal beachfront parking was to be provided at the Monmouth Beach Cultural Center located at Seacrest Road and Ocean Avenue. At the time of the state aid agreement

signing, parking at this location was free of charge. In fact, an updated Monmouth Beach Municipal Access Plan submitted to the NJDEP in 2017 states that “This paved and gravel parking lot can accommodate 125 parking spaces. The two portable public restrooms are located on the southwestern corner of the parking lot. It is free to park in this lot year-round.” See <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/publicaccess/docs/draftpaps/monmouth-beach.pdf>. However, at present the rate to park in this lot is \$5 per hour from 8AM to 8PM, May 1 to September 30. This violates both the agreement signed in 1989 and the submitted access plan.

We also request that the ACOE review these parking fees in relation to Engineer Regulation 1105-2-100 since these fees seem to violate prohibitions in that regulation regarding unreasonable fees. This is the highest per-hour rate charged for public parking anywhere on the New Jersey coast. There appears to be no justification for this high cost as the adjacent beach does not even provide lifeguards.

In summary, the NJDEP and the ACOE must review these concerns and take appropriate action, including seeking repayment as outlined in the state aid agreement.

We look forward to reviewing your response.

Sincerely,



Ross Kushner, Coordinator
New Jersey Coastal Alliance



Andrew L. Chambarray, Esq.,
Citizens in Opposition to Beach Restrictive Access



Joe Albanese, President
Hudson River Fishermen’s Association

Mark Taylor

Mark Taylor, President
Jersey Coast Anglers Association



Mark S. Dzindzio, President
New Jersey Beach Buggy Association



Neil Scheck, Director
Make NJ Beaches Free



Matt Gove, Mid-Atlantic Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation

cc: Senator Andy Kim
Senator Cory Booker
Governor Mikie Sherrill
Ms. Jean Mikle, Asbury Park Press
Mr. Jim Murdoch, News 12

Attachment:

Slocum v. Borough of Belmar
Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division,
Monmouth County
Aug 29, 1989

“Specifically, this court must determine whether the beach fees imposed by Belmar produce revenues in excess of that necessary to offset legitimate beachfront related expenditures, and therefore, exceed the fees permissible under N.J.S.A. 40:61-22.20; and whether the beach admission fees imposed by Belmar are unreasonably high and unaffordable to many beachgoers.”

“I find that the borough, as trustee, has shown little care and foresight in regard to its beneficiaries — the beachgoing public. The evidence in this case clearly indicates that Belmar breached its duty of loyalty to the public by increasing beach admission fees, rather than real estate taxes, in order to raise the borough's general revenues. The borough failed to keep clear and adequate records of beachfront expenditures. Belmar's expenditures were not traceable to any records maintained by the borough but rather were based upon guesses and estimates by the borough clerk and staff. Belmar commingled its general revenues with its beachfront related revenues. It operated the beach area as though it were a commercial business enterprise for the sole benefit of its taxpayers. This conduct resulted in surplus beach fee revenues being used to subsidize other municipal expenditures for the exclusive benefit of the residents of Belmar, rather than being set aside to meet future beach-related costs. These

actions place the interest of Belmar's residents before those of the beachgoers, in violation of the borough's duty under the public trust doctrine. Additionally, I find that the appointment of a trustee, as requested by the Public Advocate, is unnecessary. Belmar, as trustee over its beach area, shall follow the guidelines set forth by this court in this opinion to ensure that the interests of the beachgoing public are protected.”

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!

Forms have been mailed to clubs for payment of their 2026 JCAA dues and sponsorships.

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 of \$50, \$200 Sponsorship and \$50 for the purchase of JCAA High Roller tickets, \$100 from the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County and \$250 Sponsorship from Paul Shafer. **Thank You!**

Our next JCAA General Membership Meeting be held on **February 24, 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 or at (732) 656-0139 if you have any questions.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

NJ HOFNOD BILL S634

The new NJ HOFNOD bill number is S634. Please inform your club members to support this much needed funding for NJ HOFNOD. Contact your legislators to stress that properly funding NJ HOFNOD is necessary for its expansion. 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.



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.

10TH ANNUAL VETERANS, DISABLED CHILDREN, & ACTIVE-DUTY FISHING DAY

Lake Julianna is celebrating its 10-year anniversary in 2026! Since launching in 2016, the program has grown to be one of the largest Free fishing events for the disabled community in Monmouth County. Disabled veterans and children look forward to making new fishing memories along with enjoying a day of food, family fun, and fishing at a private lake stocked full of big fish. More details will follow in our JCAA April newspaper.



FISHING AND BOATING SHOWS

Be sure to visit the JCAA booth at upcoming fishing and boating shows. 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. Don't forget to support high school fishing flea markets that help our youngsters learn about fishing.

Buy tickets early and save. Visit our JCAA booth to learn more about what we do to help the future of saltwater fishing.



SHARK RIVER SURF ANGLERS BELMAR, N.J.

2026 Trout Contest for Kids

SAT. APRIL 11th - 8 to 1:30 at SPRING LAKE

Take a shot at THE GRAND PRIZE!

An amazing trophy, a custom rod and reel, a charter fishing trip, and assorted tackle will be awarded to the child landing the largest trout!

MORE PRIZES for the contenders!

1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes will be presented for the 3 heaviest trout in the following age divisions: 5 yrs & under, 6-9 yrs, 10-12 yrs, 13-15 yrs

Everyone goes home a winner!

All children weighing-in a trout are eligible to receive a special prize, while those who do not will still take home a bag of goodies. How's it work? Fish at Spring Lake and catch a trout during contest hours. Bring it to the big white tent at Mercer Ave to weigh and register it! Trout must be caught from Spring Lake to be eligible, and **SHAGGING OF TROUT IS NOT PERMITTED!** Contest is open to ALL children 15 years old and under. Stop by the tent throughout the day for free food and bait, fishing guidance, to make a donation, or just to say "Hi!"

Prizes will be awarded at the club's tent at 2 PM Saturday. Winners **MUST ATTEND** the ceremony to claim prizes!

Follow & Get More Info

SRSA Kids Trout Contest on Facebook
Shark River Surf Anglers on Instagram
www.sharkriversurfanglers.com on the web

Join us for the BONUS EVENT two days before

Thursday, April 9th at 4:30 PM - All kids are invited to come help stock the lake! Over 500 trout will be arriving...meet by Mercer Ave.

Note: The Shark River Surf Anglers fishing club is not liable for illness, personal injury, property loss, or damage sustained while participating in these events. Please take appropriate wellness precautions as you see fit. Participate at your own risk.

ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK

SEASIDE PARK, NJ

MAY 17, 2026

2026 Garden State Deer Classic

June 6-7, 2026

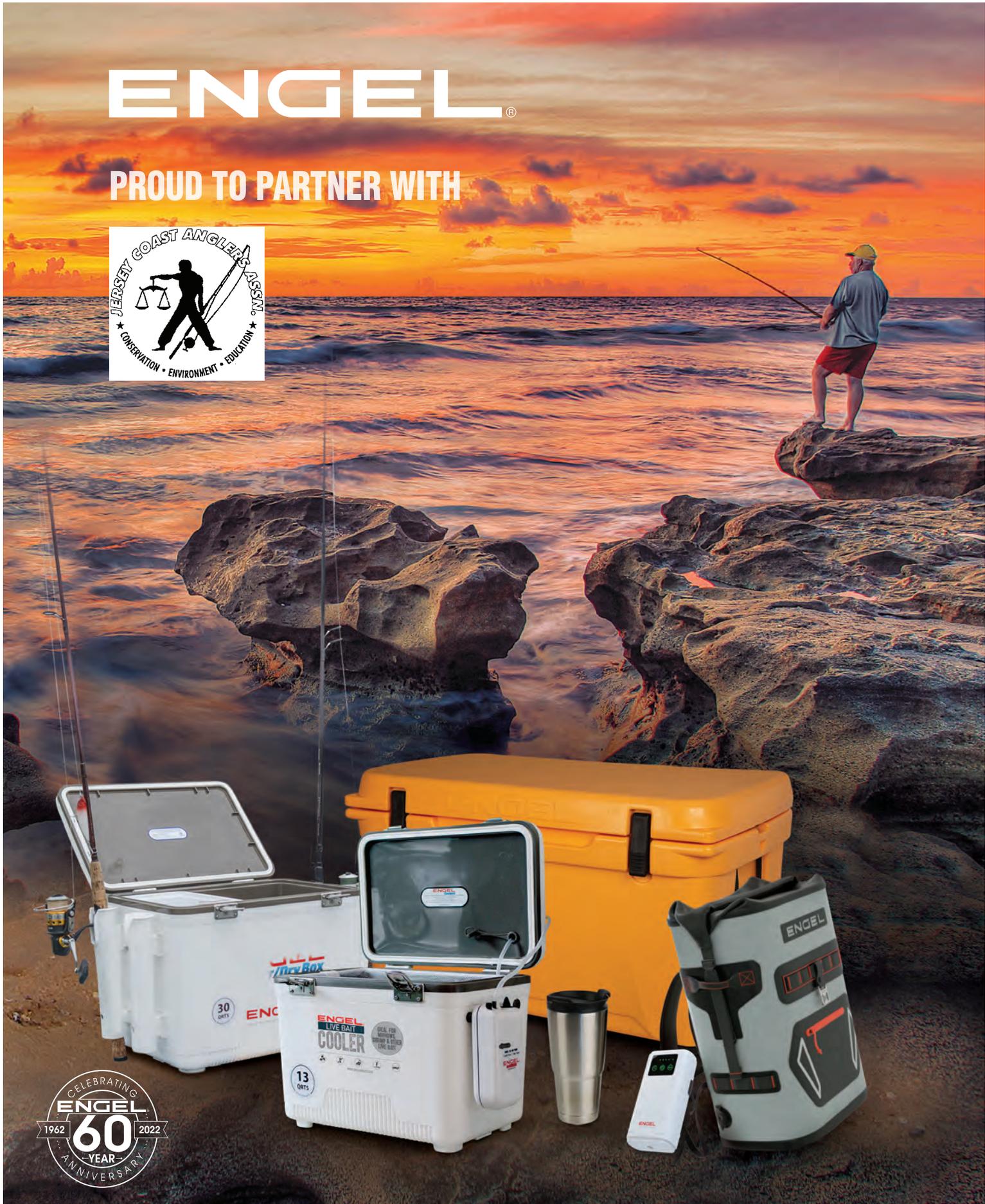
Includes a Youth Division! See page 73.

The 2026 Deer Classic will be held during the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs Sportsmen's Convention & Jamboree.

Hudson Farm Club
270 Stanhope Sparta Rd
Andover, NJ 07821
Saturday, June 6 and Sunday, June 7, 2026, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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PROUD TO PARTNER WITH



888-272-9838 | ENGELCOOLERS.COM | 900 Jupiter Park Drive | Jupiter, FL 33458 | info@engelcoolers.com

ENGEL®

We need the support of your club and its members

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

Club Membership Application

Club Name: _____

President's Name: _____

Pres. Address: Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

Please make check \$50 payable to JCAA

Individuals can join JCAA as an Associate Member

Membership is now free! Sign up as an Associate Member and receive monthly JCAA News that gives you the most up-to-date news about Fisheries Management and Environmental Issues. If you would like to support the goals of JCAA, please contribute if you are able. Look for the [Subscribe](#) button on the JCAA home page or complete application below.

JCAA Associate Member Application

Date _____ New ___ Renewal ___

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Ph. # _____

If contributing, please make check payable to JCAA

COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

Legislative	Tom Fote	732-270-9102
Operations Manager	<i>Open</i>	-
Office Manager	Karen Noe	732-245-2751
Fluke Tournament	<i>Open</i>	-
Access	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Blackfish	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Blue Claw Crab	<i>Open</i>	-
Lobster and Clam	Frank Macalik	732-754-5345
Bluefish	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Habitat	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Pelagic Species	<i>Open</i>	-
Forage Species	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Striped Bass	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Science & Research	<i>Open</i>	-
Website	Philip V. Celmer	jcaa@jcaa.org
Youth Education	Greg Kucharewski	732-429-9637

JCAA SPONSORSHIP

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

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

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

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

Meetings:
1st Tuesday
of month
7:30 PM

VFW Post 2179
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Monmouth
Middletown
Route 36
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