

JCAA JUNE 2005

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on May 23rd, 2005)

Remember New Monthly Meeting Room "WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, May 31st, 2005

Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, June 9th, 2005

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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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) 506-6565 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

2005 JCAA Fluke Tournament Bigger and Better for 2005

By Phil Celmer

Mark your calendar for **June 11th** (fishing) and **June 17th** (ceremony). This year's tournament promises to be the best tournament in Jersey Coast history: super port prizes - 120 of them - and a fun time for all while you help JCAA maintain its ability to fight for your fishing rights. This tournament, in its eleventh year, is now one of the largest fishing events in the country.

The Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament is a unique concept that will again have twelve ports with each one having its own mini-tournament with its own set of 10 prizes for 2005. The fantastic Trump Marina Hotel Casino and JCAA will sponsor the first place prizes. This year each of the twelve first place prizes will be \$1,200 cash. Our second place sponsor, Boater's World, has a generous second place prize of a \$750 gift certificate good in all Boaters World stores. Raymarine's third prize is a proven state of the art DS4000X T/M Digital High Definition Fish Finder. We are especially pleased that Maui Jim Sunglasses will be a new major port sponsor this year. Additional major port sponsors include: Abu Garcia/Fenwick, Canyon Gear International, American Fishing Wire/Hi-Seas, Reel Saver and New Jersey Angler Magazine and others.

This year we will be giving away over \$110,000 in cash & prizes. Each contest is held at one of the twelve ports from Jersey City in the north to Fortescue in the south with each port serving as its own weigh station. **Your crew, with up to six anglers, will compete for 10 prizes at the port you select.** All participants are automatically eligible for the **Grand Prize: a Century 1801 center console boat with a 4-stroke Yamaha outboard on a**

LoadRite trailer. This fantastic fishing package will be awarded to a lucky angler after the huge door-prize drawing at **Trump Marina Hotel Casino** in Atlantic City the following Friday, June 17th. Thanks to Rich Pasko's efforts this year door prizes are again on track to really create some happy anglers at the ceremony.

Go to <http://www.jcaa.org> for Fluke Tournament rules, information, links to sponsors and tournament entry forms and **T-shirts order forms**.

President's Report

By Bruce Smith

The High Roller Raffle winners were drawn at the general meeting April 26. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who participated.

The following are the High Roller Raffle drawing winners for 2005:

- 1 Jim Keane, NJ Beach Buggy member
- 2 Belmar Fishing Club, Belmar, NJ
- 3 Randall Ziegler, Silverdale PA
- 4 Ron Rogers, Toms River, NJ
- 5 Gary Ristaino, Clifton NJ
- 6 Barbara Gates, Abescon, NJ
- 7 Berkeley Striper Club
- 8 Barry & Susan Gabler, Manahawkin, NJ

Entries to the JCAA Fluke Tournament are running as anticipated. There is still time to register for this great event at the \$100 entry fee. The entry fee increases to \$125 June 1st.

Assemblyman Sean T. Kean's bill, A-3790, is now bipartisan with several co-sponsors. Senator Palaia has introduced a similar bill, S-2450, and we expect this bill to have bipartisan support as well. These bills provide for changing the regulation to two striped bass at 28 inches or larger, the only logical option.

In the meanwhile, we will all have to suffer with the current regulations. It is the angler's responsibility to know the regulations and to obey them. It is the DFW conservation officers' duty to enforce the regulations regardless of their opinion of the fairness of the regulation. Failure to observe the regulations and being apprehended in possession of an illegal (28" to 34") striped bass could be expensive.

This week, I personally observed two anglers with very sad faces. Each had one fish slightly over

28" and one fish slightly under 34". I believe that they received four \$135 citations. Add that to the cost of bait, tackle, ramp fees, fuel, registration, etc. and you can attain a new record cost per pound of fillets. That is, if you could keep the fish. Obviously, there are a lot of unhappy striped bass anglers out there. The results of the second RFA Striped Bass Survey are still unknown. In my opinion, it is of little consequence at this point.

On the brighter side, after a winter flounder run that was slow to develop and over too quickly, things are picking up with striped bass, bluefish, weakfish and fluke catches improving as the water temperature increases. Get in on the action now.

I have attended some very interesting meetings on a range of subjects; public access, windmills and wind energy and wildlife. These will be the subject of separate articles in this or future issues.

In the May Issue of the JCAA Newspaper, Tom Fote authored an article entitled, "NJ State's Funding Problems and the Saltwater License." If you didn't read it, please do so.

It pleases me to inform you that, at a meeting on April 25th at Assumpink Wildlife Refuge, representatives of several organizations and interested individuals formed the OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ALLIANCE for the purpose of obtaining additional state funding for The Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Parks and Land Management

The organizations that answered the call are: Conservation Resources, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, NJ Audubon Society, NJ Conservation Foundation, NJ Environmental Federation, NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, NJ Outdoor Congress, NJ Public Interest Research Group, Sierra Club, and The Nature Conservancy.

This is an affirmation that these groups acknowledge common and overlapping interests in New Jersey's natural resources and their importance to the quality of life of all citizens and the reality that our collaborative voice is stronger than our individual voices.

It was decided to undertake a lobbying effort at the State House in Trenton on May 16th to address this concern. An attractive, powerful, concise information sheet was developed. This handout was presented, along with verbal explanation, to legislators at the State House. About a dozen people, representing many of the Alliance organizations,

participated in this activity. We were encouraged by the reaction of the legislators with whom we spoke.

For a copy of the handout contact go to conservation@njudubon.org.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BY THOMAS FOTE

FUNDING NEW JERSEY'S FISHERIES

There have been some very productive meetings about the budget crisis at the Division of Fish and Wildlife. When I met with John McCormac, (State Treasurer), he responded positively to our concerns and was familiar with the problems at DEP. We also had a great information day at the State House discussing these issues with many of our legislators. The responses were very positive. The coalition, which included JCAA, has scheduled many meetings for the next few weeks to eliminate this short-term budget problem. Once we deal with the short-term crisis, it is important to look for a long-term solution and a stable funding source for both the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Parks. We will keep you updated about this important issue. If you would like to serve on this committee, please let us know.

Mercury Switch-Removal Bill Enactment

JCAA was part of a coalition that challenged the big three U.S. automakers and forced them to help pay for the removal of mercury switches before their cars are recycled. Foreign manufacturers removed all mercury switches beginning in 1992. U.S. automakers had steadfastly refused to make this change. This change will go a long way in reducing the mercury that NJ releases into the atmosphere. The scrap industry in NJ produces about 25% of the mercury released into the atmosphere in NJ. I would like to thank Commissioner Campbell and Senator Sweeney for their leadership in developing and passing this legislation.

This was an interesting coalition. We had foundries, junkyards, environmentalists, fishermen and politicians all working together to make the big three automakers pay their fair share and clean up the problem they created.

I would be remiss if I did not point out that, although this legislation will help reduce the 25% the recycling industry contributes to our mercury problem, we have come no where near solving this problem. New Jersey is taking major steps to reduce mercury contamination with hard work and commitment from Governor Codey, Commissioner Campbell and the NJ Legislature. However, most of our mercury contamination comes from out of state and a national commitment is the only way to deal with this problem. The current leadership in Washington has done nothing to help solve this problem and, even more disappointing, has supported actions that make the problem worse. Thankfully, the 11 states along the East coast that are most affected by the Midwestern power plants are now suing President Bush and the EPA to stop implementation of the new regulations. It would be helpful if President Bush would look at the example New Jersey is setting and implement these steps throughout the country.

The members of the coalition are listed at the end of the press release.

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March 23, 2005

For Immediate Release

**New Jersey Steel Industry/Environmental
Coalition
Applauds Mercury Switch-Removal Bill
Enactment**

Members of the *New Jersey Partnership for Mercury-Free Vehicles* today hailed Governor Richard J. Codey's signing of A-2482/S-1292, legislation requiring the removal of mercury switches from scrapped vehicles before they are melted down in steel mills and foundries to produce new products.

The *Partnership*, which comprises the state's steel recycling and steel manufacturing industries, leading environmental organizations and fishing enthusiasts, was instrumental in advocating for passage of the legislation over the objections of the national auto manufacturers' lobby.

"Once again, New Jersey has proven to be a leader in reducing mercury emissions at a time of importance to industry, the environment and public

health,” said Amy Goldsmith, Executive Director of the New Jersey Environmental Federation.

NY/NJ Baykeeper Andrew Willner noted that New Jersey’s Legislature was only the second state in the nation, after Maine, to mandate a program for mercury switch removals. (Arkansas subsequently passed similar legislation). “We all recognized the damage that is being done to our waterways and wildlife and agreed that action could not be delayed,” the Baykeeper said. “Fortunately, our Legislature and Governor agreed.”

Fred Cornell, president of the state chapter of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, said that, without the new law, the state’s three foundries and two steel mills would have been hard pressed to meet strict new emission standards for mercury that the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is in the process of implementing.

“Rather than force each steelmaker to add tens of millions of dollars worth of unproven technology trying to capture mercury after the steel is melted, this law takes the common sense, pollution-prevention approach,” he said. “It creates a low-cost program to remove mercury from commerce before it becomes a serious problem for industry and the environment.”

Under the new law, auto switches will be removed at recycling yards before end-of-life vehicles are crushed and sent to mills and foundries. Auto manufacturers are required to reimburse yard operators \$2 per switch to cover labor, storage and reporting costs. The DEP is responsible for enforcing the program and can levy fines for violations.

“Auto recycling operators like me find ourselves legally responsible for solving a problem that we did not create,” said Morris Silberman, executive vice president of the Automotive Recyclers Association of New Jersey. “But we also know that the role we will play under the new law will make a significant contribution to the health of all New Jerseyans.”

Tom Fote, Legislative Chairman for the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, said his organization was happy to support the legislation since it will have a positive impact on New Jersey’s multi-billion-dollar recreational and commercial fishing industries.

“We want clean water and healthy fish and this bill will help reduce mercury contamination which is a threat to both,” he said.

Partnership members include:

Jersey Coast Anglers Association, NJ Environmental Federation, NY/NJ Baykeeper, Environmental Defense, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Automotive Recyclers Association of NJ, Atlantic States Cast Iron Pipe Co., Camden Iron and Metal, Gerdau Ameristeel/Perth Amboy and Sayreville, Griffin Pipe Products Company, Hugo Neu Schnitzer East, Metal Management, Inc. and U.S. Pipe & Foundry Company.

For more information contact:

Fred Cornell – 201-577-3219

Frank Brill – 609-577-9017

ASMFC MEETING SUMMARY

The ASMFC met the week of May 9th and some of the board meeting summaries are below. To get the full summary go to www.asmfc.org.

Bruce Freeman and I fought hard to use a 43% conservation equivalency, but the Winter Flounder Board turned down NJ’s proposal. The state will have to go back to the drawing board for the winter flounder recreational measures. We will have to present those measures at the August meeting.

Most significant is the list of things that remain undecided. I included the report from the Eel Board but there was no discussion about the public hearing document. That will be discussed in August.

There was also no discussion on the status of the striped bass stocks even though the increase in recreational catch off North Carolina in waves 6 and 1 of the marine recreational survey was discussed briefly. We also found that Virginia is probably having the same increased fishery but it is not evident in the sampling yet. These matters will be discussed at the August meeting.

August will be a busy month. There will be a joint meeting of ASMFC and the MAFMC to look at the status of the stocks of scup, seabass, summer flounder and bluefish. The ASMFC will be meeting to look at the preliminary striped bass stock assessment, reducing the weakfish mortality, and review the menhaden plan that is going to public hearings.

There is a press release below about the sinking of a tanker to be part of the artificial reef. We would like to thank Commissioner Campbell for helping to secure the money for the sinking of this boat and the ones to come. The artificial reef program in New Jersey is an important part of the marine recreational fishing experience. Studies have

shown that up to 40% of the fish taken home for personal consumption comes from artificial reefs. Many of the species that inhabit the reef have larger bag limits and are favorites for table fare.

SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP AND BLACK SEA BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (May 9, 2005)

Meeting Summary

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved Draft Addendum XVII for public comment. Addendum XVII proposes a program wherein the Board could subdivide the recreational coastwide allocation into regions as an option under conservation equivalency. It also initiates a public dialog to discuss the ability to average multiple years of data as well as average multiple years of landings to establish recreational management programs. Public hearings will be held in the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina, dates, times and locations to be announced.

The Board reviewed the progress of the transfers mandated by Addendum XV. Addendum XV requires the states of Rhode Island, New Jersey, Virginia, and North Carolina to transfer a percentage of their commercial summer flounder quota to Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Delaware, and Maryland. Quota transfers have been completed or are being processed for Rhode Island, Virginia, and North Carolina. Discussion on New Jersey's quota transfer was deferred until the ISFMP Policy Board on Thursday (see page 17 for further information).

The Board agreed to meet jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) to discuss priority species for Amendment 14. The joint meeting will be the week of June 13 in Wilmington, DE. For more information on summer flounder, please contact Toni Kerns, FMP Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or tkerns@asmfc.org.

The Board also discussed the status of the scup stock assessment and tagging project that is being spearheaded by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center. The Board discussed transferring management of scup from joint management with the MAFMC to Commission management only to be able to complete a stock assessment without needing to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Fisheries

Act. For more information on black sea bass and scup, please contact Julie Nygard, FMP Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or jnygard@asmfc.org.

WEAKFISH MANAGEMENT BOARD (May 10, 2005)

ASMFC Weakfish Board Initiates Development of Addendum to Address Stock Declines

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Weakfish Management Board authorized development of an addendum to Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Weakfish to address stock declines. The action is taken in response to the latest stock assessment, which indicates that total mortality has risen substantially since 1995, and biomass has sharply declined from 2000 to 2003. Weakfish biomass has fallen below Amendment 4's biological reference points, triggering the requirement of state action to rebuild biomass to 30 percent of an un-fished stock in six years or less.

"Amendment 4 requires the states to reduce weakfish mortality once the biological reference points are triggered. In initiating development of an addendum, the Board has taken an important first step in responding to decreased landings and biomass of weakfish," stated Board Chair Dr. Louis Daniel of North Carolina.

The Board has tasked the Technical Committee with developing a range of management options to reduce fishing mortality, including the anticipated rebuilding effects of those options. The draft addendum will also propose revisions to Amendment 4's biological sampling requirements in order to meet the data needs of the annual stock assessment. These data include information on age, length, and weight of weakfish landed commercially and recreationally. The Board will be reviewing the draft addendum in August. For more information, please contact Braddock Spear, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or bspear@asmfc.org.

WINTER FLOUNDER MANAGEMENT BOARD (May 11, 2005)

ASMFC Winter Flounder Board Approves State Implementation Plans

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Winter Flounder Board approved state proposals (ME through DE) for the implementation of Amendment

1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Inshore Stocks of Winter Flounder. The approved winter flounder proposals were determined to meet the stock-wide conservation standards established in Amendment 1. These measures, in combination with those of Amendment 13 to Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish, are intended to initiate stock rebuilding for the Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic stock, which is overfished and overfishing is occurring. Amendment 1 also seeks to maintain a healthy and sustainable Gulf of Maine stock.

Amendment 1 stock-wide conservation standards are provided in the table below. States have the option of imposing more conservative regulations. For example, both Rhode Island and Massachusetts (SNE/MA stock) have implemented a four fish bag limit; size limit and season closure regulations remain consistent with the standard. Although the Board deferred action on New Jersey's recreational fishery, it approved New Jersey's proposed commercial management measures.

	Commercial	Recreational
Gulf of Maine	12" minimum size limit 6.5" minimum square or diamond mesh size in codend (consistent with EEZ regulations) Maintenance of existing seasonal closures	12" minimum size limit 8 fish/day bag limit No required closed seasons
Southern New England/ Mid-Atlantic	12" minimum size limit 6.5" minimum square or diamond mesh in codend (including 100 lb. Trip limit if smaller mesh is used) Maintenance of existing seasonal closures	12" minimum size limit 10 fish/day bag limit 60 day open season split into no more than 2 blocks (20 days must be closed during March and April)

State plans must be implemented by July 31, 2005. Annual compliance reports will be due on November 1 of each year, beginning in 2006. For more information, please contact Ruth Christiansen,

FMP Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or rchristiansen@asmfc.org.

ATLANTIC MENHADEN MANAGEMENT BOARD (May 11, 2005)

Draft Addendum II to the Atlantic Menhaden FMP Approved for Public Comment

States to Conduct Public Meetings this Summer

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Atlantic Menhaden Management Board approved sending forward Draft Addendum II to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden for public comment and review. Most states will be conducting public hearings on the Addendum this summer; the times and locations of those hearings will be released once they become available.

The Draft Addendum was developed in response to concern regarding the possibility of localized depletion of menhaden stocks in the Chesapeake Bay. It presents a suite of management options to limit the catch of menhaden in both the Chesapeake Bay and coastwide, including various harvest caps, timeframes, and gears.

The Draft Addendum also proposes initiating a research program immediately to determine the status of menhaden populations in the Chesapeake Bay and assess whether localized depletion is occurring. It identifies the following research priorities: (1) determine menhaden abundance in the Chesapeake Bay; (2) determine estimates of menhaden removal by predators; (3) evaluate the rate of exchange of menhaden between the Bay and coastal systems; and (4) conduct larval studies to determine recruitment to the Bay. The Board will meet in August to review public comment on the Draft Addendum and consider its final approval. Copies the Draft Addendum will be available by the end of May and can be obtained via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400. Public comment will be accepted until mid-July and should be forward to Nancy Wallace Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 1444 'Eye' Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202)289-6051 (fax) or comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Menhaden). For more information, please contact Nancy Wallace at (202)289-6400 or nwallace@asmfc.org.

The European Eel: an endangered species

The Sea-River Newsletters

May 16-29

The eel is well known by the general public, but do they know that this species is endangered? If emergency measures are not taken quickly, eels could well slip between our fingers one last time. Patrick Lambert, an engineer at the Cemagref laboratories in Bordeaux, has been fascinated by this species for years. His research has led him to create models to simulate the dynamics of the eel population as closely as possible. This objective is an ambitious one: simulating the change in eel populations following different scenarios to help define efficient management methods.

A single European supply

All eels are born at the same place: the Sargasso Sea, south of Florida. Helped by ocean currents, the leptocephalus larvae swim about 6000 km across the Atlantic Ocean. Before reaching the European coasts, the larva are metamorphosed into elvers, progressively looking like transparent eels only a few centimeters long. Then they colonize the continental waters. Along the coasts of southern Europe, the elvers are subjected to intense fishing, for they are at the heart of a strong local cooking tradition. They are also exported towards Northern Europe to stock local fisheries, and for the past few years towards Asian fish farms. As they transform into yellow eels, they become settled in estuaries or they swim upstream in the rivers. After roughly 10 years of growth (a little less for males, a little more for females), the yellow eels metamorphose into silver eels. They stop eating, take on a silver coloration, and the eyes become bigger. In short, the eel prepares for its migration into deep waters for reproduction. The silver eel goes downstream and continues its migration in the opposite direction to the Sargasso Sea. A decreasing population since the 1970s in France, the alarm was first sounded in 1984. Since then, the supply of eels has continuously declined. It is reported that the eel population has been divided by 10 in 20 years, making people fear the worst for the years to come. Measures should be taken in terms of fish stocks and replacement management. In 1998, following the positions taken by European scientists, the CIEM (International Committee for the Exploration of the Sea) and the FAO considered that the supply of eels was outside

its biological limits and that the fisheries could no longer be sustained. In 2004, the European Union took up the issue. The EU Council recommended emergency measures while setting up a management plan. Closing fishing activity for one month during the high season has even been considered, with the risk of jeopardizing most small-scale fishery businesses in the estuaries. But, for the time being, no decision has been taken by the European Commission on either the status of the eel or its management.

Eels: the victims of all evils

Fishing is an appreciable factor in the decline of the eel population. Thus, in some estuaries, such as the Vilaine River, which is closed by a dam, the elver catch rate is about 95%. An exploitation rate ranging from 10% to 15% is estimated in the elvers which were taken in freshwaters and the 10% of yellow eels, and even the catching of silver eels, it adds up to a considerable sum. However, fishing is neither the only factor nor necessarily the most important. Thus scientists have evaluated that the number of Sargasso Sea sires was too low to maintain healthy reproduction rates. Migratory problems are also at issue, both coming and going across the seas. On the outward journey, higher mortality of the leptocephalus larva due to the alterations of the ocean currents is feared. On the journey back, it is a parasite (*anguillicola*) which may be disturbing their sea migration. There are others to be blamed, not the least of which are the dams preventing access to the entire catchments and trapping eels in the turbines on their downward journey, as well as the decline of wetland areas, meaning less of the habitat where they grow. Finally, the eels seem particularly sensitive to pesticides. The accumulation of toxic substances may also be reducing their reproductive potential. Patrick Lambert refrains from ranking these potential causes of extinction. They are all preoccupying. It will be necessary to act wherever it is possible.

The role of research: contribute reliable measures for protection and management

With the objective of providing reliable measures for protection and management of the eel problem, Patrick Lambert has designed a model providing a global vision of the eel population in a catchment. The aim is to calculate the production of silver eels from the numbers of elvers arriving. The model integrates the main biological processes,

ageing, sexual differentiation and sex determinism, preparation for the journey back to the reproduction area, the natural death rate and the eel's journey. This model has made it possible to explore the influence of the density of eels on some of the processes (death rate, sex determinism and migrations), an influence which noticeably complicates the dynamics of the population. Other mechanisms can also be added to make the model suitable for a given situation, such as death rates caused by human intervention or the impact of dams. Designed in a generic way in order to adapt to as many situations as possible, it is intended to be used by managers as a decision-making tool to test various scenarios. Before reaching this ambitious aim, Patrick Lambert hopes that this model will be able to help train managers and make them aware of the problem. It is a way to put them in a real-life situation.

The next step will be the application of the model to various catchments, particularly to the Gironde catchment, to test it against reality and thereby improve it. This type of model will allow scientists to help managers elaborate measures of efficient management. However, the ball is already in the court of international organizations and politicians who have to make the decisions.

Source: www.cemagref.fr

<http://www.cemagref.fr>

DEP DEPLOYS TANKER ON ARTIFICIAL REEF SITE

New Program Provides Reef Materials as Part of Governor's "Coast 2005" Initiative

(05/60) BARNEGAT LIGHT - The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today deployed a decommissioned navy tanker on the state's Garden State North artificial reef site. The deployment will help to improve New Jersey's artificial reefs and is one of the programs recently announced in Acting Governor Richard J. Codey's "Coast 2005" initiative.

"The Jersey Shore is one of our greatest natural resources and most important economic engines," Governor Codey said. "Today's artificial reef deployment reaffirms the commitment I made in my coastal initiative to improve coastal resources and to ensure that the shore remains a quality part of the Jersey experience for future generations."

"Our artificial reef program provides tremendous benefits to fishermen, divers, and our

shore economy, while also providing new marine habitat," said DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell. "New Jersey is a national leader in artificial reef management and we remain committed to enhancing these reef sites for the dual benefit of our environment and economy."

DEP acquired the tanker, which will be called the Helis, through a \$100,000 appropriation that will also allow the state to acquire two other decommissioned ships. The state will deploy the other ships later this year. DEP is placing the three ships at reefs along the entire Jersey coast so that as many residents as possible can enjoy the benefits of these new acquisitions.

Artificial reefs play an important role in supporting New Jersey's marine fishing and diving industries, whose activities on the reefs alone generate more than \$50 million and overall provide more than \$850 million to New Jersey's economy. In one study, DEP determined that one out of every five fish caught by recreational anglers in New Jersey's marine waters during 2000 was caught on a reef site.

Last month, Governor Codey announced his "Coast 2005" initiative, which includes a variety of programs designed to enhance coastal water quality and improve coastal ecosystems. Aside from the reef building program, the initiative includes new standards for maintenance and inspection of sewer systems to help prevent spills from polluting New Jersey's waters; \$30 million in grant funding to assist municipalities in developing storm water management plans; and strengthening of coastal zone restrictions for offshore oil and gas development.

The DEP initiated its ocean reef building program in 1984, establishing over time a network of 14 reef sites from Sandy Hook to Cape May that encompass a total of 25 square miles of sea floor. The state has made more than 3,500 deployments of various reef materials - more than any other state in the country - including ships and barges, massive undersea ridges from six million tons of rock, and thousands of fabricated concrete reef units.

Artificial reefs can provide important habitat for many of New Jersey's marine species, with up to 200 species of fish and invertebrates known to colonize our reefs. Reefs also have 800 to 1,000 times more biomass than open ocean and can form important nurseries for juvenile fish.

In October 2004, DEP issued for public comment the most recent draft of its Artificial Reef

Management Plan that covers all aspects of the multi-faceted program, including its objectives, history, benefits, site selection and other considerations. The new plan also establishes a protective standard for the stability, durability and effectiveness of various materials used in reef construction. Currently there is no uniform national standard for the durability of reef materials.

The 1.1-square mile Garden State North Reef Site where today's deployment occurred is approximately 6.5 miles offshore from Harvey Cedars in Ocean County and is comprised of more than 44,000 cubic yards of vessels, tanks, specially-designed "reef balls" and other materials. In 2003, it was one of five artificial reefs where New Jersey deployed 250 decommissioned New York City subway cars.

The 170-foot tanker deployed today formerly was known as YO-153 and was built for the U.S. Navy in 1943. It had been stationed at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. Prior to deploying the tanker at the reef site, DEP supervised cleaning of the tanker to remove all greases, floatables and other materials that might be harmful to the marine environment. The U.S. Coast Guard inspected the cleanup of the tanker prior to allowing DEP to transport the ship to the reef site.

The vessel was sunk by cutting holes in the hull and opening the engine room sea locks, which allowed the ship to take on water slowly. This vessel is the 134th ship to be sunk on New Jersey's artificial reef sites.

For more information on New Jersey's artificial reef program visit the DEP website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/artreef.htm>. For more information about the Governor's "Coast 2005" initiative, visit http://www.nj.gov/dep/cmp/czm_zone.html.

Striped bass fishermen want their voices heard

Published in the Asbury Park Press 05/15/05

By John Geiser

Striped bass fishermen who want to make the striper the exclusive property of recreational anglers have launched what is probably their most intensive campaign thus far.

Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., D-NJ, has introduced legislation in the House of Representatives to prohibit the commercial harvesting of Atlantic coast stripers. Pallone, the ranking Democrat on the

House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans, introduced the measure last week. The bill would prohibit the commercial harvesting of bass not only in estuarine and state waters, but in the exclusive economic zone as well. "The Atlantic striped bass is a valuable resource along the Atlantic coast, and is one of the most important fisheries for recreational anglers in New Jersey," he said. New Jersey is one of only six states along the East Coast that already classify striped bass as a game fish-only species.

A study on the economics of recreational and commercial striped bass fishing released earlier this year concluded that if commercial fishing for striped bass were eliminated "future harvest levels would produce greater returns for coastal economies and the national economy" since "fish captured by the recreational sector are far more valuable on a per pound basis than when harvested commercially."

The report found that recreational fishermen harvested 22.9 million pounds of striped bass, 3.2 times higher than the 7 million pounds harvested commercially. This produces a substantial difference in retail sales of \$2,412,284,999 from recreational fishermen compared to only \$43,115,704 from commercial fishermen.

The report was prepared by Southwick Associates in Fernandina Beach, Fla., for Strippers Forever, a national organization that supports the elimination of all commercial fishing for striped bass.

Commercial fishermen argue that the fish-eating general public, those who enjoy dining on striped bass but do not fish, would be deprived of a share of a national resource. This argument is sound and logical only to the point where allocation is not a problem. The new state law that prohibits anglers from harvesting a single fish between 28 and less than 34 inches proves there is a big problem.

If there are not enough striped bass for the recreational sector to harvest one fish from 24 inches up, then the Southwick report's findings kick in. The economic, social and recreational benefits have to be weighed.

Obviously New Jersey non-fishermen are not concerned about their loss at the restaurant table. There is no public outcry, no campaign, no lobbying effort, not even op-ed pieces about not being able to buy striped bass in New Jersey, but there are literally tens of thousands of complaints about anglers not being able to harvest a fish from 28 to less than 34 inches.

Adding the 7 million commercial pounds to the recreational side's quota would presumably enable anglers to harvest one fish from 24 inches up, and the benefits would be substantial.

Paul Haertel of the Berkeley Striper Club said the organization will hold its second annual spring bass tournament from June 3 to June 12 to benefit Stripers Forever. Stripers Forever is a relatively new internet group that has been waging its game fish-only status for stripers along the entire East Coast.

The tournament is open to all waters of Monmouth and Ocean counties. The entry fee is \$20 per person for the shore and surf division, and \$30 per person for the boat division.

There will be seven place awards for both the boat and shore-surf divisions, first through third prizes for bluefish and first and second prizes for weakfish. There is a guaranteed pot of \$2,500 in the shore-surf division regardless of the number of entrants.

The boat division will have a pot of \$2,500 based on 100 entrants. There will be an 85 percent payout of the entry fees; so prize values will increase if there are over 100 entrants, decrease if there are fewer than 100. Registration can be made and weigh-ins recorded at the following places: Alex's, Bahrs' Landing, Betty and Nick's, Bruce and Pat's, Eastern Dock Outfitters, Grizz's, Fishermen's Headquarters, Murphy's Hook House and Scott's.

Further information may be obtained by telephoning Haertel at (973) 943-8201.

Highly Migratory Species

By John Koegler

NOAA Fisheries Bad Management

NOAA through NMFS has proposed major changes in HMS fisheries management. The key issue is combining the billfish advisory panel with the tuna advisory panel as one body. The big problem is billfish are strictly a recreational fish and the tuna advisory panel has an overwhelming commercial majority.

However, this is not the major problem. Years ago billfish in US waters were determined to be very valuable to recreational fishers. As a result of this determination marlins were reserved exclusively for recreational use and harvest. This key wording for billfish management is missing from their new proposal. This has nothing to do with the concept of combining the two panels. So, in effect, NMFS fisheries is rewriting the US

fisheries management law and removing recreational exclusive rights to marlins.

No one has yet to take on NOAA and NMFS in their illegal management of all US fisheries. Federal law requires that all federal agencies allocate the public's resources fair and equitable for the good of the resource and citizens of the US. NOAA does not do the economic studies required to look at the impacts the HMS Regulations have on recreational angling. This becomes evident in the way they manage bluefin tuna for the commercial fishery and not for the largest number of permit holders, the recreational sector. The recreational sector has the greater economic importance in the HMS management but for the most part is ignored and shortchanged. How come NOAA and NFMS does not observe US Federal law?

Longline Experimental Fishing Exemptions

Last November NMFS sent a notice about issuing Exempted Fishing Permits and asked for comments. On March 30, 2005 NMFS issued a longline Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) proposal of 131 pages that was a real shocker.

Six operators of longline vessels requested EFP to conduct bycatch reduction research in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. The primary purpose of this research was to determine if gear modifications or various techniques can be found to avoid incidentally caught marlin, bluefin tuna and sea turtles while allowing for the targeted catches of allowed species.

NMFS explained the longliners proposed research grant as, "In order to conclusively demonstrate the effectiveness of gear modification, in the shortest time frame, it is necessary to test bycatch reduction measures in those areas where pelagic longlines are most likely to encounter the bycatch species of concern (i.e., juvenile HMS). As such, it is necessary to conduct comparisons experiments both inside and outside existing closed areas. Restricted access to existing closed areas has been proposed by the applicants as terms and conditions of the proposed research activities in order to minimize or eliminate the potential for gear and/or fishing grounds conflicts. If authorized, this research would begin in 2005 and extend into 2006. The research may benefit all interested parties by providing fishery managers with additional gear modifications and/or fishing techniques that reduce or avoid incidental capture/bycatch mortality of highly migratory species in the research areas as proposed above."

Don't you just love it! The inmates are running the asylum, writing the rules and getting paid besides.

In 2000 NMFS determined that the east coast of Florida, a part of the Gulf of Mexico known as the Desoto Canyon areas, had such large catches of undersized swordfish, plus marlins, sailfish and other undersized fish that continued longlining in these areas would prevent any of these species from ever rebuilding their numbers

under the current fishery management plans if longlining was allowed to continue in these areas. NMFS then closed these areas in 2001 to longline fishing to comply with their own fishery management plans. P/S-Environmental groups had written NMFS that they would go to court if NMFS failed to follow their own law.

The longliners proposed two boats would make 100 sets of 750 hooks per set in the Desoto Canyon (closed Area). Another two longline vessels would work the Florida East Coast (closed area) and the South Atlantic Bight (seasonally closed area) with 50 sets of 556 hooks per set with a maximum of 12 sets in the Florida east coast closed area. The final two boats would make 50 sets in the NE coastal area using 680 hooks per set. It does not state if the two NE boats would be allowed to fish the closed bluefin tuna area in June.

What has been proposed? Longliners are to be paid with a NMFS research grant to fish. Longliners are allowed to keep and sell all the legal fish they catch. In addition, they are to bring to the dock all their illegal fish (undersized) for research purposes and donate them to charity. If you count the hooks authorized for this NMFS research grant that number is 116,000 hooks.

I could not find the amount of money to be paid by NMFS research grant for this study. Last year NMFS proposal was to pay longline boats \$3,000,000. for similar research.

NMFS written decision on the longliners requested actions published on May 3 was: "Bycatch reduction information will be gathered via research efforts conducted outside of closed areas, consistent with a NMFS issued cooperative research grant. Further consideration of bycatch reduction research inside of closed areas may occur upon completion of an EIS (Environmental Impact Study)."

Last year a shocking proposal by the Pew Foundations Ocean Study Commission recommended that NMFS fishery management divisions be eliminated and all their management authority be transferred. The Pew study determined that NMFS management divisions often failed to observe the rules in their own fishery management plans. Congressional mandates in the Magnuson/Stevens Act were often ignored. The Pew report concluded that NMFS management divisions were totally inept or worse.

Consider NMFS recent management choices: In the Dolphin Wahoo plan, the two most important commercial control items were stripped from the plan by NMFS in their finally approved process.

1- NMFS gutted the limited entry provision making controlling the number of commercial fishermen impossible.

2- NMFS tossed out the commercial trip limit provision.

The bluefin tuna plan is a shambles because:

1-NMFS too high landing estimates increase recreational landings by 40% and will cause 2005 or the 2006 season to be absurd in terms of angler trip limits and season.

2- NMFS hard count census prove beyond all doubt that their angler estimates are 40% too high.

3- NMFS estimates the weight of angler bluefin tuna based on fish length. The dockside LPS measurers use the standard straight length measurement tool. NMFS rules uses curved fork length measurement. The difference in weight is a 17% overestimate.

Recreational fishermen alone have a control limit on yellowfin tuna per boat trip. Commercial fishermen have no control limits on their fishing of any kind.

Considering everything above is it not time for a major change?

As Congress struggles with their re-authorization of the Magnuson/Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act in their 2005 legislative session, should not the Pew Study's recommendations for major changes of NMFS management divisions be supported?

Loss of a steward of the Marine Resource

Steve Sloan

By John Koegler

Steve Sloan a noted sportsman and environmental activist passed away on April 28, 2005. He is survived by his loving wife Nannette (Nancy). They had two children, Suzanne and Robert.

He was an avid and skilled angler. He accumulated 44 IGFA certified world fish records, an achievement not likely to ever be broken. In 1966 he was the first person to take a world record qualifying bluefin tuna on a fly rod.

He had a special regard for the oceans of the world and the impact of humans on the oceans. He gave freely of his time to many groups that dealt with ocean issues. He was an appointed advisor to the US ICCAT Advisory Board representing recreational interests. He was included in the official party to the ICCAT's annual meeting for many years. In those years when he was not part of the official party he paid his own way to represent anglers' interests. He was a member of The Marine Advisor Fishery Commission which was chartered by Congress to advise the National Marine Fisheries Service. He served one term as Chairman of this group. He was Adjunct Professor of Marine biology at the Rosenstiel school of Marine and Atmospheric sciences at the University of Miami.

He was a comrade in arms with many groups having participated in many battles with NMFS and the US Corps of Engineers. It must be noted that

most battles he was part of were settled in a victory for the position he supported. He was a long-time supporter of JCAA. He was a director of the International Game Fish Association. He served for many years on The Billfish Foundations board of directors. He was a member of the board of directors of The Recreational Fishing Alliance. He created The Fisheries Defense Fund to provide the resources needed to force government agencies into Federal Court when it was clear they were not following the law that congress created. He was host of a weekly syndicated radio show named "The Fishing Zone." He was a member of one of the world's most famous fishing clubs located at the southern tip of Manhattan, close to Wall Street.

He was the author of four books. His best-known book was "Ocean Bankruptcy." In this book he described how the world's fisheries were on the brink of disaster. This book documented how the politics of commercial fishing, not the fishermen nor the markets or destructive commercial gear, was the greatest problem facing ocean life as he had known it. Steve's research for this book proved that the ocean's resources and fisheries were being depleted three times faster than was being reported by government agencies worldwide. The foreword for his book was written by noted scientist Dr. Sylvia A. Earle.

In Steve's last book, "Thanatopfish," he asks that people remember ten letters that he believed would save the oceans from destruction, FIFO, FRB and VMS. He asks that the world's fishing nations learn and support:

FIFO- First In, First Out

All fishermen must learn to market what they catch. Bycatch is a major ocean survival issue. In some commercial fisheries their discards are up to 9 times the weight of species targeted and sold. The oceans cannot survive such an assault. Everything that is landed must be sold and not discarded. The fishermen, dealers and retail outlets must work together to sell all the species landed by fishermen.

FRN- Fish Recovery Bonds

He asks that we find a way to compensate fishermen for not fishing so that they do not lose their way of life and everything they have worked for. Bonds that pay fishermen in the lean time could be paid for in good times. He notes that all fisheries have cycles and that in down cycles there are too many fishermen. Compensate fishermen for not

fishing in the poor years and the ocean's abundance will return the investment.

VMS- Vessel Monitoring Systems

He believed if fishery managers know where fishermen are, they can impose real time controls and protect the ocean's resources.

A true companion in arms who fought the agencies and managers who if not deterred would permit the destruction of the world's oceans. Many thanks for Steve's endeavor to make a real difference in ocean issues and its management. He leaves a challenge to future generations to conserve and replenish our ocean's resources. Best Wishes and Tight Lines as you sail into the tide.

The family asked that any donations be made to "Fisheries Defense Fund", 1040 -1st. Ave. Suite 367 New York, NY 10022.

STEVE SLOAN: **FRIEND AND COMRADE** **By Tom Fote**

It is with great sadness that I learned that Steve Sloan had passed away. The last time I saw Steve was the Somerset Fly Fishing Show in January. He brought his grandson and was sharing his love of fishing with a new generation. Our chance to visit was interrupted by Steve's need to keep up with his grandson. We never had a chance to chat again.

Steve and I worked on many issues together. We began working together on bluefin tuna, moved on to ocean dumping and continued with other issues. When we came close to making striped bass a gamefish in New York, it was Steve who was leading the charge. When charter boat captains and other interested fishermen met to discuss forming an organization to represent the charter boat captains in their difficulties with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Steve was the only one willing to take leading and directing this new organization. It was the first time the charter boat captains from many states along the east coast were able to work together to deal with fisheries issues. As always, Steve's leadership was invaluable.

Most people know Steve because of his books and fisheries management leadership. But I knew him as the guy who took me fishing in New York Harbor in the pouring rain. He couldn't miss a chance to share his love of fishing. What most people don't know is his equal passion for freshwater fishing, particularly trout fishing.

I could always call Steve and have an honest discussion about fisheries management issues. Sometimes we didn't agree but I respected Steve because I knew we both wanted to protect the resource for future generations. I will miss those calls and Steve's understanding and guidance. I know his family will continue the Fisheries Defense Fund and, hopefully, his grandson will remember fondly their day at the fly fishing show.

9th Annual Barnegat Bay Festival on Saturday, June 25, 2005

On Saturday, June 25th, the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program and Ocean County College will be hosting a festival to honor a wonderful resource of national significance – the Barnegat Bay. Everyone is invited to visit Ocean County College (OCC) between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 25th to enjoy good times, great music, plenty of children's activities, and various eco-tours. This unique festival is in its ninth year of teaching about both the problems and solutions to "people-pollution" in an entertaining way. This year, the festival includes a stormwater education exhibit to help explain the new municipal stormwater rules in effect throughout the state.

Get up close and personal with the bay on a free scenic cross-bay boat trip with Ocean County Naturalists aboard the educational pontoon boat, the "Baycruiser." A shuttle bus will leave OCC Parking Lot #2 every hour starting at 10 a.m. for a drive to the Ocean County Parks Administrative Building where the adventure begins. First come, first served. Register for a Back Bay Ecotour where Ocean County Park Naturalists lead a canoe trip through seldom seen habitats. (Must be at least 14 years old and canoeing experience preferred.) Individuals can also register for a three-hour bus tour of the Barnegat Bay Watershed. Space is limited for ecotours. Register by calling 732.255.0472, extension 3.

The all-day music festival kicks off at 10:00 a.m. with DJ Dave Rodgers spinning tunes of the '60s and '70s. At 11:00 a.m., Casplash, one of New York City's hottest bands for Caribbean music will perform, and the festival finale will showcase the Pickles, the Jersey Shore's extreme party band rockin' festival-goers at 2:00 p.m.

Three individuals will be honored for the first annual Guardians of Barnegat Bay Awards during a 1:30 p.m. ceremony. The Lifetime Achievement Award is reserved for an individual who has made outstanding contributions to environmental quality in the Barnegat Bay Watershed over a period of decades. The Community Caretaker Award honors an individual, organization or company that has made significant contributions to improve the environment during the current year. The Government Leading by Example Award honors a government organization or individual working within the Barnegat Bay Watershed for leadership, commitment and excellence in protecting the environment and the sustainable management of our natural resources.

The festivities for the small fry are abundant and entertaining. A children's basket-weaving class will be held from 10-12 noon and will be free of charge. Kids and adults young at heart can be dazzlingly decorated with a free airbrush tattoo by Dana Endresen. Jenkinson's Aquarium will be leading marine crafts and Novins Planetarium staff will be leading spacey kids' crafts throughout the day. Kids should stop by the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science booth to participate in a contest for the best turtle drawing. And don't miss Sparkles the Robot and Sam the Tuna puppet show!

There is definitely something for everyone. Environmental groups from the area will be there to answer any questions that you may have regarding the environmentally responsible ways that you can enjoy and protect the beautiful Barnegat Bay and its watershed. Artisans and crafters will be selling custom fishing rods, jewelry, marine art, photography and much more. So pack up the family, bring a little jingle for lunch, and spend a beautiful day celebrating the nationally recognized BARNEGAT BAY at Ocean County College's main campus located on 275 picturesque acres in the county seat of Toms River in Ocean County, New Jersey. Please visit our website at www.bbep.org or call 732.255.0472 for more information.

MEMBERSHIP BY JOHN TOTH

At this point, most clubs have paid their dues and this financial support is critical for the JCAA to achieve

its goals. However, a number of clubs have not renewed their membership. There is strength in numbers, and the JCAA can receive more clout in Trenton with a larger membership. There are so many challenges that recreational anglers face with restrictions on striped bass, flounders and other species. The lack of a Bonus Tag program for the spring season is another issue. The JCAA is in the trenches fighting for you and your angler friends. So please, if you have not already done so, renew your club's membership so that the JCAA can be in a better position to represent the anglers of New Jersey. As the name implies, the JCAA represents the recreational anglers of New Jersey and that is the primary focus of this organization. While the Jersey Coast Anglers Association monitors the fishing scene on the national level, its primary concern is what is best for the anglers who fish in New Jersey's waters!

If you have any questions on membership or sponsorship, I can be reached at (732) 446-6298, or by email at tothjohn@juno.com.

Thank you for your support!

YOUTH EDUCATION

By Greg Kucharewski

ABSECON KIDS BLUEFISH TOURNAMENT

The membership of the Absecon Saltwater Sportsmen held another successful youth fishing event for children under sixteen years old on Saturday, May 14, 2005. This is the sixth year they provided a bluefish tournament for children. The participants had refreshments and prizes as part of the celebration. Great job, guys!

JUNIOR MATE TRAINING

The Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association (BHCFA) will be running a Junior Mate Training Program this year. The program will start in the 3rd week of June and run through the end of the summer. Lindsay Fuller met with the U.S. Coast Guard Manager of their Drug & Alcohol Programs in DC and he suggested the Junior Mates have a pre-employment drug test. That task would be more work for BHCFA, but it would get the message across. This year they will break the students into two groups, the entry-level students and the students that are starting to prove themselves. BHCFA plans to have the older and more experienced students help the novice students. A retired Marine Police Officer who is qualified with the State will provide the NJ Boating Course free for all Junior Mates whether they have been through that program or not. That dramatically expands our curriculum. The normal rigging, fish cleaning, tackle and boat maintenance will still be taught. For more information phone, Lindsay Fuller 856-778-0200 x15

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

On Thursday, May 11 & 12, 2005, the Stafford Township middle school had their second annual "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" event. The JCAA Youth Education Committee assisted at the fishing station and reinforced the Future Fisherman Foundation's "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" pledge with students that participated at Manahawkin Lake. Promoters of the event did a great job of coordinating the stations for over 340+ fifth grade students. The JCAA Youth Education Committee supported the event by providing loaner fishing rods/reels and "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" materials.

NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK 2005

Get ready for a week on the water! National Fishing and Boating Week is June 4-12, 2005. You can be part of this annual national effort by hosting or sponsoring an official National Fishing and Boating Week event. It's a great way to promote the joys of boating and fishing to people across the country and to turn your passion for the water into a promise for the future. Visit <http://www.nationalfishingandboatingweek.org/> for event ideas, planning materials and to register your event. With the help of the Passport to Fishing and Boating Program you can even recruit volunteers that have never been fishing or boating before to help you with your event. Passport is a hands-on, interactive program designed to teach families the basic skills needed to begin fishing and boating. Materials include color posters, scripts detailing what to say and do, activity cards, a boat mat layout, and other teaching tools. To download Passport materials free of charge or to order a Passport Materials Kit go to www.NationalFishingandBoatingWeek.org/Passport.

And remember to register your NFBW events online. Even if you don't have full details yet, you can benefit from the free publicity being generated by our national media campaign. All you need is an event name, date, state, and contact person, and you can update event details as your event planning progresses. Don't miss out on this free promotional opportunity for your event! To receive an Event Planning kit or for more information regarding NFBW, contact Anne Minor at aminor@rbff.org or (703) 519-0013 ext 108. Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, 601 N Fairfax St, Suite 140, Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 519-0013

FUN FISHING DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will stock fish for more than 100 fishing derbies this season. Volunteers are needed to be the Division's ambassadors at these fun events held throughout the state. Derbies are a great opportunity to introduce fishing to newcomers and to provide support for families to get started in the sport of fishing. Derbies are run by a variety of civic and municipal organizations, and typically last a few hours.

As a derby volunteer, your role would be to: Introduce yourself to derby organizers to see if they needed specific help with anything; Help kids who need assistance with tying hooks on, baiting hooks, releasing fish and taking measurements; Talk to parents and kids about fishing, where the fish come from, the role of the Division in stocking fish and enforcing laws; and help award prizes to the winning derby entrants if the sponsors are ok with it. Your role is very informal, but also very important. We hope that you not only interact with people, but also provide some feedback to the Division about the event. With more than 100 events this season, we will not be able to get to every one, though all will be stocked with fish from the Hackettstown Hatchery. If you would like to volunteer to be a derby ambassador, please contact Ron Jacobsen or Craig Lemon at the Hackettstown Hatchery (908) 852-4950. See the following link for the derby schedule and to pick an event or events that you'd like to attend.

<http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2005/derbies05.pdf>

ESSAY CONTEST/BOAT TRIP

The Absecon Saltwater Sportsmen are running their third annual "Kids Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" Middle Schools essay contest. This year's essay is entitled, "How the inlets, bays, estuaries, and tidal rivers of the Great Egg Harbor Watershed affect and impact our lives." They invited 32 Middle Schools encompassing 3500 7th and 8th grade students to participate and plan to select thirty students and treat them to a day-long eco-system field trip aboard the charter pontoon boat, The Duke of Fluke, based in Somers Point, NJ. This Coast Guard regulated and inspected vessel is owned and operated by Captain Brooke Koeneke with his crew. This trip includes an observation tour to identify marine mammals, migratory waterfowl, and residential birds of prey located in the estuary. They also conduct two seine net operations in the inlet to collect, identify, and categorize marine sea life such as fish, shell fish, and plant life to determine the health of the local fish population as well as the water quality of the local estuaries. This year's study will be very important considering the unfortunate oil spill in the Delaware River. The information will be forwarded to the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council. This is their second year of conducting this trip which includes area Middle School science teachers, County Park Environmentalist Greg Vizzi, and certified "Kids Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" members of their club. The Absecon Saltwater Sportsmen will provide everything necessary for the day's trip including shirts, hats, a full lunch and refreshments, bait and tackle, instructors, and, most importantly, the hands-on activities that connects students with the environment in which we live. For more information contact Larry Carlson; Certified Coordinator "Kids Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" 922 First Street, Northfield, N.J. 08225, Ph: 609 646-7173

SAFE BOATING FOR NFBW

During National Fishing and Boating Week, members of the JCAA Youth Education Committee and NJ Chapter 12 Vietnam Veterans will present a fishing fun day for children attending the Fort Monmouth School Age Services program. Activities for the day will include "Take Me Fishing" Fish Identification Flash Cards, Boat Safety, HOFNOD and a variety of tackle demonstrations. Children will learn about National Fishing and Boating Week and how to take advantage of the many fishing and boating opportunities in Monmouth and Ocean County.

FREE FISHING DAYS IN NEW JERSEY

Free Fishing Days in New Jersey are Saturday & Sunday, June 11 & 12, 2005. Residents and non-residents may fish the public waters of New Jersey without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations apply. Last year, the J.C.A.A. Youth Education Committee coordinated fishing and aquatic education programs for the weeklong celebration of National Fishing Week. This year we will be working with disadvantaged students in Monmouth County. Member clubs that wish to conduct a National Fishing Week program can phone the JCAA office and NFW support material will be available. Call early as supplies are limited. Please record your event and let the JCAA Youth Education Committee know how many National Fishing Week participants supported your program.

SAFE BOATING AND FISHING

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will host a Safe Boating and Fishing clinic at the Fort Monmouth School Age Service Center on June 8th, 2005. Two other National Fishing Week events will take place in Monmouth County, NJ for disadvantaged children that are living in temporary housing. Children will learn about saltwater fishing opportunities in Ocean and Monmouth County.

All children that participated in National Fishing Week events will receive a NF&BW Certificate of Accomplishment.

NEW FISHING GUIDE

Dr. Eleanor Bochenek, Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory Fishery Scientist is in the final stages of completing her new marine fishing guide. The guide will emphasize marine recreational fishing and include fish biology; fish habitat; various types of rods/reels, casting methods, knot tying, bait and lures, angler ethics; and catching, releasing and handling of fish (including tag and release). The previous publication has been successfully used by the Jersey Coast Anglers Association Youth Education Committee, fishing clubs, schools and other organizations in New Jersey and other states and is no longer in print.

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 info on vital issues each month.

Club Membership Application

Date _____

Club Name: _____

President's Name: _____

Pres. Address: Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

Please make check \$50 payable to JCAA

JCAA SPONSORSHIP

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

The 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 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.

Join JCAA as an Associate Member

Only \$25 per year! Support the Goals of JCAA and receive a subscription to JCAA NEWS that gives you the Most Up-To-Date News about Fisheries Management and Environmental Issues

JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICATION

Date _____ New ___ Renewal _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Check if you would rather receive newspaper by email instead of by regular mail. Yes ___

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

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Office Manager	Phil Celmer	609-693-3414
Fluke Tournament	Rich Pasko	609-971-6120
Access: (North)	Ray Marione	201-843-1711
Access: (South)	Robert DeLeonard	732-793-8080
Blackfish	Pat Donnelly	732-295-1755
Blue claw Crab	Jack Miktus	732-477-5184
Blue Fish	Al Marantz	732-280-2643
Habitat	Pat Donnelly	732-206-1407
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