

JCAA NEWSPAPER APRIL 2006

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on March 20th, 2006)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, March 28th, 2006

Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, April 13th, 2006

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote

JCAA Newspaper 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) 506-6565 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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2006 OFFICERS

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Rec. Sec.	Paul Turi	609-597-3193
Cors. Sec	Tom Sicilano	609-296-3774
Mem. Sec	Mike Tutela	732-793-5748

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

JCAA HIGH ROLLER RAFFLE

It is now time for the JCAA High Rollers 2006 Raffle. Time is getting short to buy a ticket. We have put together a terrific selection of rods and reels for one raffle with eight prizes that will be drawn on April 25, 2006. This is a major fundraiser for the JCAA. The 8 prizes are listed below with a total value of almost \$3,300. Tickets are two dollars each and club representatives can get books of tickets to sell by attending a JCAA meeting. If you would like to buy raffle tickets call the JCAA office or send an email to <jcaa@jcaa.org> and we can send them to you. When your club representative brings them to your club, please help with your purchase. Without your continued support we cannot function as an organization in protecting the marine resource and anglers' rights. Where acknowledgement is not made, the manufacturer donated these prizes. Shimano provided reels at a special price to JCAA

- 1 Shimano Tiagra 30A two-speed reel with Hi Seas line & Quarrow OC56STRU 20-40 rod and a large spool of Power Pro Line Value \$850
- 2 Shimano Calcutta 700B reel with Sufix line & Rouge GPIS7MHC (JCAA embossed) 7' rod Value \$520
- 3 Fisherman's Headquarters Ship Bottom, NJ Fishermansheadquarters.com donates a \$500 shopping Spree
- 4 Shimano Calcutta 400B reel with Sufix line & Lamiglas BL6615C 6' 6" rod Value \$425
- 5 Shimano Baitrunner 4500B reel with Sufix line & G-Loomis PBR844C Pro Blue 7' rod Value \$400
- 6 Shimano TDL20 reel with Hi Seas line & Custom Power Stick CS6260R2 5' 9" Rod donated by Boaters World Value \$300
- 7 Tsunami TSSD 4000L reel with Sufix line & Tsunami 661H rod and Power Pro Line Value \$150
- 8 Daiwa 5000 reel & Ande Tournament Surf ATS-1100A 11' rod & Power Pro line Value \$150

Meetings And Other Dates

March 28th JCAA Meeting
March 28th MFCN Board meeting
March 29th-30th NMFS REC Statistics Meeting
April 8th NJ Environmental Federation Summit
Princeton
April 8th Opening of Trout Season
April 13th JCAA Board Meeting
April 25th JCAA Meeting and High Roller Raffle
Drawing
May 8th-11th ASMFC Meeting
May 9th NJMFC Meeting
June 10th JCAA Fluke Tournament
June 16th JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards
Ceremony

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Bruce Smith

By the time this issue is printed and distributed, Governor Corzine will have unveiled his 2006-07 budget proposal. The bleak picture that was painted by the administration at the recent budget summit and regional budget forums was a precursor to the main event and obviously intended to soften the blow. Unfortunately, this reflects on several administrations and years of robbing Peter to pay Paul fiscal mismanagement.

I cannot presume to foretell the final proposal as always, the devil will be in the details.

Hopefully, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Division of Parks and Land, will come out of this strengthened to fulfill their missions. To their detriment and the public they serve, these divisions have been under funded, understaffed, overworked and micromanaged during a period in which their responsibilities have increased. Instead of further cuts in funding and staffing, these divisions need a stable source of fair and adequate funding to enable them to manage and maintain public parks and lands and to provide quality of life opportunities for the citizenry and guests of the state.

It is my opinion that the state should recognize the significant contributions to the economy of the state provided by those citizens and non-residents who utilize our vast assets which include, in addition to parks, land and historic sites,

public beaches and marine waters. With adequate funding, the divisions can manage, maintain and enhance state assets resulting in increased utilization and increased revenue generation.

Volunteers Needed

The JCAA is a volunteer organization and we need your help! Can you spare one day a week to help in the office in Toms River for March, April and May? This is the time we need help with our Fluke tournament. No special talent is needed, just a willingness to help. Some of the tasks which you might be asked to perform are as simple as answering the phone or mailing out Fluke Tournament T-shirts which have been ordered. We do a few mailings so help is needed manning the folding machine and stuffing envelopes. No, you don't have to lick the stamps. Luckily the post office has solved that problem for us. Every month we print the newsletter so you might be asked to help keep the copy machine filled with paper. If you have the time and a willingness to help please give either Phil Celmer or Tom Siciliano a call. The office number is 732-506-6565. Leave a message if a volunteer doesn't answer the phone!

2006 Fluke Tournament

Bigger and Better Port Prizes for 2006

By Phil Celmer

Mark your calendar for June 10th (fishing) and June 16th (ceremony). This year's tournament promises to be the best tournament in Jersey Coast's 25 year history: super port prizes - 120 of them, maybe more - and a fun time for all while you help JCAA maintain its ability to fight for your fishing rights. This tournament, in its twelfth 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 2006**. The fantastic **Trump Marina Hotel Casino** and **JCAA** will sponsor the first place prizes of **\$1,200 cash** for each port. Our second place sponsor, **Boater's World**, has a generous second place prize of a \$750 gift certificate good in all **Boater's World** stores. **Raymarine's** third prize has been upgraded to the bigger, state of the art, DS5000X T/M Digital High

Definition Fish Finder. We are especially pleased that **Minn Kota** will be a new major port sponsor this year. Additional major port sponsors include: **Maui Jim Sunglasses, Abu Garcia/Fenwick, Canyon Gear International, American Fishing Wire/Hi-Seas, and New Jersey Angler Magazine** and others. We are delighted to add **Nor'east Magazine** to this year's media sponsors. **Nor'east** <web site is www.noreast.com>.

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 donated by our other major sponsors, **Century Boats and Yamaha**. The door prize is an **1801 Century Boat** center console with a **4 stroke Yamaha** outboard and **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 16th. Entry forms will soon be available. In the meantime, you can go to <http://www.jcaa.org> for links to our great sponsors and the latest news.

JCAA is looking for a part-time intern to assist in the 2006 Fluke Tournament. Applicants should be familiar with Microsoft Word, Access and Publisher. However, the main requirements are a desire to be part of a great organization that is known for its honesty and integrity for protecting the marine resource and the right of the anglers that fish it. We can train you to do the rest. The job runs from April through July 1. The hours are flexible and only mid May through the first week in June will be demanding. Please contact Phil Celmer via email at pcelmer@comcast.net

attended the habitat meeting and several additional meetings. The habitat workshop was very interesting. The presenters discussed the problems with low oxygen levels in both the Chesapeake and Narragansett Bays. I was surprised to learn how much these low oxygen events are changing the habitat for both the short and long term. I learned that some of the problems we are having with the low recruitment of winter flounder in the bays and estuaries may be attributed to low oxygen levels. This would help explain why winter flounder stocks that spawn off shore are in good shape but the stocks that spawn inshore are more threatened. Even if this is true, the only thing fisheries managers can do is to restrict the anglers. The agencies that control fishing have little impact on decisions about oxygen levels. In order to cure this problem, tens of millions of dollars will be needed.

California's Saltwater Fishing License

My next trip was to the ASA Board Meeting in Long Beach, CA. I will be attending a follow-up meeting for the saltwater and fresh water committees in a few weeks. The board meeting was held in conjunction with the Fred Hall show. It is the biggest show on the West coast and I was impressed to see the tens of thousands of anglers in attendance checking out the latest gear. With a future trip to fish in California in mind, I checked out the current requirements for a fishing license. Sticker shock! There are no separate licenses for saltwater and freshwater. Anglers are forced to pay for a joint license which costs a resident \$34.90. An extra stamp for certain areas is required costing in excess of \$17.00. Non-residents pay \$94 without any stamps. This is for a yearly license. For two days I would pay \$17.60 plus stamps. A ten day license costs \$34.90 plus stamps. Remember, in California a license is required for party boats, charter boats and any other fishing opportunity. I believe fishing from a pier may be the only setting that is exempt. I don't know exactly what the impact of these fees has had on the overall income from recreational fishing. Personally, I was so upset that I did not purchase a license and did not fish during this visit. For a one-day fishing trip on a boat, I would add over \$20.00. If something like this happens in New Jersey, the impact will be a disaster for the recreational fishing industry. Many of our visitors are unlikely to spend an additional \$20.00 for an hour of plugging on the beach. And many of our residents would find the cost of a yearly license the straw that breaks the

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BY THOMAS FOTE

Back On the Road Again

After several months of back problems, I am feeling better and back on the road. The first trip was to the ASMFC meeting in Arlington, VA. I

camel's back. Combined with increasingly onerous regulations and the cost of gasoline, the license fee would be the final blow. Combining the 2 licenses may be a money-maker but it makes no sense to anglers. Perhaps that's the point. JCAA will keep a watchful eye on the proposed Federal saltwater angler registration and any potential licenses here in New Jersey.

I want to make sure to acknowledge all the hard work by Bruce Smith, Tom Siciliano and Ed Cherry. In addition to their regular JCAA meetings and responsibilities, they made sure meetings I could not attend, due to my inability to travel, were covered for JCAA. Since I am back on the road, Bruce and Tom have continued to attend additional meetings since the scheduling often conflicts. Below is a list of additional meetings Bruce attended since the first of the year, just to give you an idea how truly busy we are.

Date	Location	Purpose
1/5/06	Galloway Twp	NJMFC Meeting
1/12/06	Edison	Sportsmens Expo JCAA
1/13/06	Edison	Sportsmens Expo JCAA
1/17/06	Toms River	Post Expo Details
1/21/06	W. Long Branch	SWS Seminar JCAA
1/25/06	Plainsboro	DFW, DPL Funding Initiative Mtg
2/4/06	Atlantic City	AC Boat Show JCAA
2/8/06	Nacote Creek	NJMFC Mtg Fluke
2/9/06	JCAA	MS Auth., Finance, BOD
2/11/06	Middletown	HI-MAR Flea Mkt. (Bunker Mtg)
2/14/06	Toms River	ASMFC Fluke Mtg.
2/17/06	Assunpink	NJSFSC Federation Mtg.
2/23/06	Assunpink	NJOC Outdoor Congress
3/3/06	Plainsboro	DFW, DPL Funding Initiative Mtg.
3/6/06	New Brunswick	Gov's Economic Summit
3/7/06	West Orange	Sen Codey's Office, Presentation
3/16/06	Assunpink	Outdoor Writers' Workshop
3/17/06	Assunpink	NJSFSC Federation Mtg
3/19/06	Somerset	Saltwater Fishing Expo
3/23/06	Plainsboro	DFW, DPL Funding Initiative Mtg.

Curt Gowdy Sportsman And Conservationist

Curt Gowdy passed away in March. Whether you watched the Olympics or any major sporting event on ABC, he was a familiar figure. The American Sportsman was the first show on network television that promoted both hunting and fishing. For a young man growing up in Brooklyn, Gowdy provided a window on the broader world of fishing. It made me want to pick up a fly rod and head for the Florida Keys for tarpon or head to Nova Scotia and

fight a giant tuna. But there was much more to Curt Gowdy than sportscasting and TV fishing. He was also known for his commitment to conservation of the natural resources. Long before I got involved in JCAA, I attended a meeting of the American League of Anglers hosted by Curt Gowdy, Richard Boone and many other celebrities. This was my first step into a national fishing issue. They tried to organize the freshwater, saltwater and boating communities throughout the United States to protect the resource. The American League of Anglers and Boaters is the child of the earlier organization and Gowdy's dreams live on with them. When I got involved with ASA I had the opportunity to talk with him. I always dreamed of sharing one of his fishing adventures but just meeting the man in person was a tremendous honor. His death is a loss to all the hunters and anglers of the United States.

In the next few weeks I will be attending a Board of Directors meeting for the Marine Fish Conservation Network, the National Marine Fisheries Service recreational statistical meeting in Arlington, VA, and the ASA saltwater and freshwater meeting. Luckily my back feels good and I'll have much to report in the next newspaper.

ASMFC Week Summary February 20-23

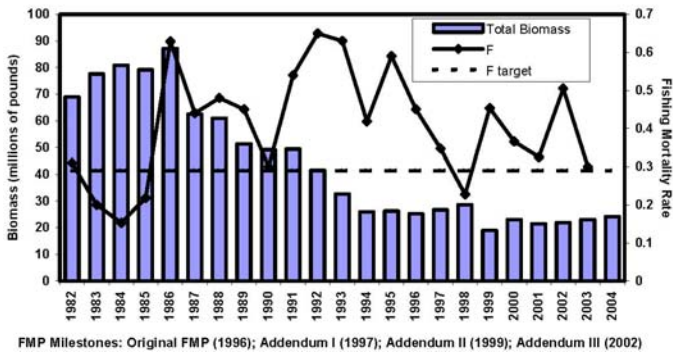
I have included some excerpts from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Winter 2006 Meeting Week Summary February 20 – 23, 2006. If you want the full report go to <http://www.asmfc.org/>

TAUTOG MANAGEMENT BOARD (February 20, 2006)

Tautog Stock Assessment Indicates Abundance Remains at Low Levels and Overfishing is Occurring

The 2006 peer-reviewed stock assessment report indicates the tautog resource continues to be at low biomass levels. Since the mid-1980s tautog has undergone a substantial decrease in biomass and remains at a low level of abundance. Total stock biomass has been stable since 1999. Since the plan does not define a specific biomass target, it cannot be determined if the population is overfished. With the 2003 fishing mortality rate of 0.30 exceeding the plan target of 0.29, the stock assessment concluded that overfishing is occurring.

Tautog Total Biomass and Fishing Mortality
Source: ASMFC Tautog Stock Assessment Report, 2006



The Peer Review Panel concluded that the coastwide assessment currently provides the best available scientific foundation for management. Beyond receiving the stock assessment and Peer Review Panel reports, the Board took no management action at this meeting. By March 1, both reports can be obtained via the Commission’s website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission office at (202) 289-6400. For more information, please contact Lydia Munger, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at lmunger@asmfc.org or (202) 289-6400.

**HABITAT WORKSHOP (February 21, 2006)
Meeting Summary**

The Habitat Committee hosted a water quality symposium to encourage action by the Commissioners on fish habitat issues. The first speaker, Dr. Kevin Summers of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, discussed the National Coastal Assessment Program (NCA). The NCA monitors a number of environmental indicators for coastal waters and creates indices so that coastal ecosystem health can be compared across regions. Dr. Pace Wilber of the NOAA Coastal Ocean Services Center discussed ecosystem-approaches to management and how regional monitoring systems will help collect data that can help monitor the health of Atlantic coastal ecosystems. The next two speakers presented case studies with examples of how water quality and habitat issues can affect the ability to manage fishery resources. Dr. Chris Deacutis of the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program described how water quality contributed to fish kills of menhaden and other fish in the Narragansett Bay. Dr. Dave Secor of the University of Maryland talked about Atlantic sturgeon and the effects that water temperatures, dissolved oxygen levels, and other water quality parameters could have on the ability of the stock to recover. For more information, please

contact Julie Nygard (jnygard@asmfc.org) or Lindsay Fullenkamp (lfullenkamp@asmfc.org) at (202) 289-6400.

ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (February 22, 2006) Meeting Summary

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board reviewed Draft Addendum I for Public Comment. The Board recommended additional modifications and analyses for review at the next Board meeting.

The Board also reviewed a proposal submitted by Maryland for modifications to the spring trophy fishery. The Board approved a motion allowing Maryland to pay back a portion of the 2005 overage in the spring trophy fishery through additional effort controls on the fishery including a temporary increase in the minimum size.

The Board received an update from the Technical Committee on the completion of outstanding tasks. The Board approved a change in the annual compliance report deadline from July 15 to June 15, and approved a request from the Technical Committee to defer the full annual update of the stock assessment in 2006, with the understanding that the Technical Committee will work on extensive improvements to the stock assessment process for the 2007 benchmark assessment. The Technical Committee will provide an update on landings and abundance indices in 2006.

The Board elected Mark Gibson (RI) as Vice-chair and approved William Donovan (PA) and J. Edwin Cook (NJ) to the Atlantic Striped Bass Advisory Panel. The Board received updates on law enforcement issues and on the NMFS process of developing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement evaluating the proposed opening of the EEZ to striped bass harvest. For more information, please contact Lydia Munger, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or lmunger@asmfc.org.

Motions

Move to allow a payback for the 2005 spring overage of 29,720 fish through a combination of direct payback of 13,720 fish through increased minimum size, and payback the remainder in kind, through future additional Maryland effort controls including:

1. Provide for a recreational striped bass spring fishing permit issued at point of sale of licenses and conduct a survey of permit holders to

supplement MRFSS MD spring striped bass effort and harvest data,

2. Limit spring recreational striped bass fishing permits as necessary to control spring effort,

3. Cap the number of charter boat licenses (currently in place),

4. No increase of spring season fishing days,

5. No liberalization of creel limits for the migrant fish in the spring fishery, and

6. Elimination of possession tournaments prior to May 1.

Motion made by Mr. King, second by Mr. Augustine; Motion carries by voice vote (ME – null; NH – no; MA – abstain; RI – no; CT – yes; NY – yes; NJ – no; DE – yes; PA – yes; MD – yes; VA – yes; PRFC – yes; NC – no; NMFS – no; USFWS – no; 7 in favor, 6 opposed, 1 abstention, 1 null).

Move to increase the legal minimum size of striped bass in the 2006 Maryland spring fishery from 28 inches to 33 inches for the period April 15 through May 15 with subsequent future year provisions to pay back the remainder of the 2005 overage subject to approval by the Striped Bass Management Board.

Motion made by Mr. King, second by Mr. Augustine. Motion passes.

Move to approve William Donovan and J. Edwin Cook to the Striped Bass Advisory Panel.

Motion made by Dr. Kray, second by Mr. Gibson. Motion carries.

Move to approve Mark Gibson as the Vice-chair of the Striped Bass Management Board.

Motion made by Mr. Carpenter, second by Mr. Nelson. Motion carries.

Meeting Summary

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board met to review a number of issues. The Board approved Addendum XVIII, which allows states facing large reductions in their harvest targets to capitalize on harvest opportunities that are foregone by states that choose to maintain their 2005 recreational fishing rules in 2006 (see press release). The Board also approved the recreational proposals for the 2006 summer flounder and scup recreational seasons with the exception of NY, CT, and MA who will re-submit proposals based on Addendum XVIII. The Board reviewed the public comment received on Draft Addendum XVI and decided to task the working group with re-evaluating the compensation measures outlined for delayed implementation management measures. The

Board will review refinements or possible new options to the Draft Addendum in May. The Board approved the Draft Public Information Document (PID) for Amendments 14 and 15 for release for public comment. Amendment 14 will develop a rebuilding schedule for scup. Amendment 15 will address a variety of issues for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass.

The Board approved Rhode Island fishermen, Michael C. Plaia and Bruce Bannick to the Summer Flounder Advisory Panel and Edward F. Baker and Ken Court to the Scup and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel. It also directed staff to explore the possibility of splitting the Scup and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel into separate panels, as well as better coordinating the appointment of advisors to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panels for both the Mid-Atlantic Fishery

Management Council and the Commission to ensure fair and equitable representation of stakeholders. For more information on summer flounder, please contact Toni Kerns (tkerns@asmfc.org), Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator. For more information on scup and black sea bass, please contact Julie Nygard (jnygard@asmfc.org), Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator. Both can also be reached at (202) 289-6400.

Motions

Move that the Board approve the 4 state scup recreational management proposals for the same regulations as 2005 with an additional 30 days at the beginning or end of the season at the discretion of the state. The additional 30 days will be at the 25 fish per angler limit.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Colvin. Motion carries.

Move that the Board adopt Option 1 of draft Addendum XVIII to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP.

Motion made by Dr. Pierce, second by Mr. Smith. Motion carries.

Move to approve all state summer flounder recreational proposals for 2006.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Travelstead. Motion passes unanimously.

Move to approve the PID Amendment 14 and 15 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP for public review and comment.

Motion made by Mr. Colvin, second by Mr. Pate. Motion carries unanimously.

Move to approve Michael C. Plaia and Bruce Bannick to the Summer Flounder Advisory Panel and Edward F. Baker and Ken Court to the Scup and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel.
Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Carvalho. Motion carries without objection.

Gowdy a legendary sportsman

Friday, February 24, 2006

Times of Trenton

By J.B. KASPER

Hunting and fishing shows on television are common. Many people, especially from the younger generation, take the shows for granted and have no idea how they got started.

All modern outdoor shows have one common thread that goes back to the the ABC series "The American Sportsman". It was the first of its kind, a show that took the viewer into fields, woods and waters around the world in search of wild game and fish.

It was the first chance for most people to see such things as elephant and rhino hunts in Africa, fly fishing in South America, big-game fishing in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, and it opened up a whole new outdoor world to the American public.

The one thing that really brought the outdoor world to life was it's creator and weekly host, Curt Gowdy. I remember the show like it was only yesterday, and some of the things I learned from the show I have put into use throughout my outdoor-oriented life. I remember Gowdy fishing with the tip of a fly rod in an Argentine lake with hair-thin line for trout. It was the beginning of ultra-light fishing, and I, like many other fishermen, were inspired to make our own short, ultra-light rods and fish as we never fished before.

As an outdoor writer we often have to write about the good, the bad and the sometimes sad things connected with the outdoors, so I was greatly saddened when Gowdy died on Monday.

Gowdy, 86, passed away at his winter home in Palm Beach, Fla., surrounded by his immediate family. The cause of death was leukemia.

A pioneer of radio sportscasting in the 1940s and TV in the early 1950s, Gowdy was the most prolific and versatile national sportscaster of the 1960s and 1970s. He enjoyed a wide fan base, critical acclaim and the respect of his peers for his in-depth preparation.

Born and raised in Wyoming, the "cowboy at the mike" reported the action in a distinctively warm, articulate and relaxing manner. On the air, he diligently strived for a blend of accuracy, pacing and balance.

As host and producer of the long-running "American Sportsman," ubiquitous with a Stetson hat and casting a dry fly, he garnered a public following that endured for the rest of life; many referred to him as the "true American sportsman."

Born July 31, 1919 in Green River, Wyo., Gowdy's family moved to Cheyenne when Curt was 6. In Wyoming, Gowdy's father, Edward, introduced him to hunting and fly-fishing, teaching him valued lessons in conservation and respect for nature.

"The American Sportsman" aired on Sunday afternoons from January to March across three decades. It later brought the top entertainers and athletes who liked to fish and hunt, stars like Ted Williams, Terry Bradshaw, Brooks Robinson, Bing Crosby, Robert Stack and Andy Griffith. Presidents of the day, George H.W. Bush, and Jimmy Carter and wife Rosalynn, also appeared in fishing segments. "For me, 'The American Sportsman' series was some of the best times in my life," Gowdy said.

According to Gowdy, one of his greatest thrills came in 1972, when an 11,000-acre park between Cheyenne and Laramie was dedicated in his name. Wildlife abounds and both reservoirs are stocked with trout by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. In early 2006, the state bought additional land for expansion of Curt Gowdy State Park. "It has two beautiful lakes, hiking trails, camping, boating, fishing and beauty," Gowdy said. "It has everything I love. What greater honor can a man receive?"

Gowdy was heavily involved in conservation and environmental causes, serving on the board of trustees for such groups as the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association, the IGFA and as a founding member of Bonefish and Tarpon Unlimited. He also has worked for over a half-century with humanitarian efforts, including the Boy Scouts of America and with numerous non-profit children's health charities.

While sportsmen will miss Curt Gowdy, the legacy he leaves behind is responsible for the outdoor programming we have today. He was a person who cherished the outdoors, practiced conservation and simply was a class act.

NJEF'S 20th ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

New Jersey, What's the Score?

20 Years of Environmental Activism

Saturday, April 8, 2006 8:00 am--5:00 pm

Princeton University Friends Center

William and Olden Street

Princeton, NJ

Featuring:

Keynote Address by Governor Jon Corzine (invited), followed by a Q & A with Corzine and cabinet officials (confirmed).

Grassroots Leadership Awards:

- Concerned Pilesgrove Residents (CPR)
- Grammes (Grandmothers & Mothers & More for Energy Safety)
- Peter Montague and Maria Pellerano, Environmental Research Foundation
- Salem County Watershed Task Force.

Workshops:

- Using Drinking Water Issues to Win Public Health & Environmental Campaigns
- Pesticide-Free Lawns and Parks
- Restoring our Urban Environments--A Case Study Earth, Wind & Fire
- Stop the Poison: Getting Chemicals off the Production Line
- Environmental Justice
- NJ's Energy Future
- Using Consumer Power for Change
- Clean Water, Critical Habitat & Fast Track
- Children & the Environment are NOT Perfect Together
- Environmental/Children's Health

Reception with key environmental and political leaders

Conference registration (includes breakfast, lunch):

- \$30 per person
- \$25 per person for groups of 5 or more
- \$25 per person registering before March 25, 2006
- \$15 for students

Registration Options:

To register using your debit/credit card and get more information online, go to:

<http://cleanwateraction.org/njef/events.htm>

To register by phone or for more information, contact Jenny Vickers at 732-280-8988 or jvickers@cleanwater.org

Help RCRE to help you!!

By Cara Muscio

Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension is seeking information from recreational anglers and boaters with two upcoming projects. Both surveys are anonymous, and are set up through the "Webmonkey" survey web site.

The first is related to the content on the RCRE Seafood Safety Web Site (<http://www.rcre.rutgers.edu/seafoodsafety>). This web site aims to inform the public with research-based information to help make choices about including seafood in their diets. Please visit us and let us know how we are doing, as we are constantly trying to add new and useful information. One hundred anglers are sought to participate in a short survey about seafood consumption patterns and perceptions of risk, which will help steer the content of specific information presented on the web site. Other populations are being surveyed as well, to make sure we reach all our potential audiences, and we hope to compile this research and present it on the web site. The survey may be reached at this web address:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=627681317086>

The second study is for recreational boaters, regarding expired marine flares. For this survey, we'd like 100 boaters to answer a few questions about marine flares and disposal practices. The results of this survey will help determine the need and scope of a project to assist with disposal of expired flares in the Jersey Shore region, and possibly statewide. The results of this project will hopefully enhance both boating safety and water quality. The survey may be reached at this web address:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=797221260045>

If you have difficulty reaching either survey, or further questions or comments,

Please contact, Cara Muscio, Marine Agent, Monmouth, Ocean, Atlantic counties.

P: 732.349.1210, e: muscio@rcre.rutgers.edu. Thank you for participating. Your effort will help to improve RCRE programs and to help us serve your needs as a community.

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

BY JOHN KOEGLER

Bluefin Tuna

After JCAA's last Newsletter NMFS issued their proposal for anglers 2006 bluefin tuna season. NMFS states the angling quota for 2006 has only 5.7 MT available. So NMFS is proposing to close anglers' 2006 season for **school** bluefin tuna less than 47" long. Anglers' quota for large school small medium bluefin tuna season is 325.8 MT. The quota is divided into north zone 153.8 Mt and south 172.0 MT.

Starting this week and going to March 27, NMFS has scheduled hearings on this issue, but none are planned for New Jersey. It may interest you to know that 4 years ago more angler and charterboat bluefin tuna permits were sold in New Jersey than any other state. **NMFS has scheduled a meeting in Islip, NY, Berlin, MD, and even Morehead City, NC. NC never landed bluefin tuna until after 1994 but they get a meeting. They have only 10% of the anglers HMS permits and yet they get a meeting.** If we do not increase our political efforts we will get nothing. Should we push for major NMFS budget cuts? Is this the only way to indicate our extreme displeasure with NMFS biased, unfair and totally contrived recreational landing reports? Don't our objections go further and apply to regulations in other managed fisheries, not just HMS. It is time for political action.

Previous studies have determined that there are major errors in the tables NMFS uses to estimate recreational anglers landing tonnage. There are two major errors that have been identified:

1-NMFS uses tables that assume that anglers measured their fish on a straight line basis and convert reported angler measurement to Curved Fork Length. This increases the tuna's estimated weight by 17%.

2-North Carolina dockside weight checks indicated that NMFS tuna weight estimates based on length were 25.98% too high compared to actual scale numbers.

Despite this data, NMFS has refused to adjust their tables. Many anglers believe that if NMFS overestimates were corrected there would be enough school quotas for 2006.

There is a good background article about the bluefin tuna mess in "The Fishermen" March 2 edition titled "Troubled Waters for school bluefin by Rich Ruais." It covers the history of NMFS school bluefin tuna management. It covers the background of anglers' gradual regulatory elimination from this very important recreational fishery.

The Saltwater Sportsman magazines, April Issue, has an article about international bluefin tuna mismanagement. It reports that the European and African nations have totally failed to observe any of ICCAT's conservation regulations, despite the fact that these countries had approved them. The latest example is Iceland. In 2003 they sold 4,000 MT of giant bluefin tuna as these Giants crossed the Atlantic riding on the Gulf Stream. Note that these are US conserved fish. Iceland had no ICCAT quota. The total US quota is 1,489.6 MT. Iceland never reported many bluefin sold before 2000.

Combine this international piracy with ignored domestic regulations that permit many spawning bluefin tuna to be commercially sold each year by Gulf of Mexico long-liners. After tough NMFS rules were imposed in the late 1990's, Mexican giant bluefin tuna sales exploded. They now sell large numbers of spawning bluefin despite having no known area where bluefin spawn in their waters. Naturally, it is too simple an explanation that US bluefin in excess of US daily limits are given to buddies who land and sell their bluefin tuna in Mexico. These bluefin come from US waters and are being sold, even through US fishermen have strict rules. Everyone understands if NMFS rules are not enforced then there are no rules, even the fishermen.

Ocean Acidification

There has been much hand wringing by ecologists about the major decline in the health of coral reefs worldwide. It has been determined beyond any doubt that corals are dying in all of the world's oceans. So far no one has come up with a good reason or a solution.

Anyone who drinks soft drinks knows that carbon dioxide gas makes tiny bubbles and imparts a pleasing taste in the soda. Part of this good soft drink's good taste comes from sugar but a major component is the carbon dioxide gas created by the carbonic acid in the drink.

Scientists believe that 1/3 of all the carbon dioxide created by fossil fuel burning has been absorbed by the oceans. The idea that massive

amounts of carbonic acid are created by this process has so far been ignored.

In Scientific America's March 2006 edition on pages 58 to 65 a long-term study found a shift in the oceans natural PH level. Clean ocean waters are slightly alkaline (8-8.3) all over the world.

The oceans web of life depends on the oceans water being slightly alkaline. As the ocean waters change due to carbonic acid and shift toward a neutral PH (7), the entire ocean eco-system is affected. Many ocean organisms cannot survive in a less alkaline environment. Is it too great a scientific stretch to suggest that the corals are being affected (destroyed) by this proven shift in the ocean's PH?

The article documents that the ocean's PH has shifted. Anyone who can add two and two and get four knows there are major natural cause-and-effect relationships on our planet. If we destroy this delicate balance bad things happen. Is the acid shift in the oceans killing its microscopic life worldwide? The article goes into great detail -and from more than one source to support -such a scientific conclusion. If it's not good for the ocean survival, then it surely is not good for our survival either.

Angler Release Mortality

In Saltwater Sportsman's April issue on page 28 there is a release mortality study on weakfish. The study found a 90% survival rate in warm Gulf of Mexico conditions. As fish stocks rebuild, release mortality is becoming an important issue for recreational fishermen. It is important that the percentage of release mortality subtracted for angler annual quota allocations be as low and honest as possible, especially in key species like fluke where our release deductions are nearly 50% of our total yearly quota allocation.

It is interesting and important to report that scientist's bluefin satellite tagging studies have documented that large bluefin tuna mortality was less than 5% for all the tuna they tagged and released. Anglers should do better than that if the tunas are properly handled.

Consider that the scientist often had the tuna on a boat's deck for 15 to 20 minutes so they could surgically implant a small computer based recorder in the tunas stomach cavity. The pop-off satellite tags proved that the tunas mortality was less than 5%. The scientists were amazed that tunas release mortality was that low.

NJ Marine Fisheries Council Report and Bluefin Tuna Meeting Report

By Tom Siciliano

The NJ Marine Fisheries Council met on March 2. They voted on the season for summer flounder and again took the conservative approach. I asked that they consider lengthening the season to help the South Jersey anglers who would like an earlier opening and the surf fishermen who would like the season extended in the fall. Instead of taking advantage of the opportunity to increase the season by a few weeks and using some of the 9.73% underage, they set the season at May 6 to October 9. We can all be happy that they kept the size limit at 16 1/2" and the bag limit at 8 fish. This insures consistency for another year and avoids more confusion on the part of anglers who only have the opportunity to fish occasionally.

The meeting was very well attended by the commercial crabbers. They are very concerned about the impending moratorium on the harvest of horseshoe crabs. In the February 6 issue of the NJ register there was a notice that there would be a moratorium. The Fisheries Council will meet on March 30 and the only item on the agenda will be horseshoe crabs. It promises to be a very contentious meeting. While this seems to be a commercial issue it also has implications for Striped Bass fishermen. The horseshoe crabs are used as bait in the eel fishery. If there are no crabs there will be a very limited supply of eels for bait and that means higher prices. The Council will vote on their position at this meeting. There will be a lot of comments from the audience on both sides of the issue. There is also the opportunity to provide comments to the state based on the register notice.

I have attended a couple of meetings with the RFA, other groups and charter boats captains on the bluefin tuna regulations. To say it is complicated is an understatement, but unless something is done there will be no season on 27" - 47" tuna this year. John Koegler is the chairman of the JCAA HMS Committee which deals with tuna and you can send any comments or suggestions to him at <jtkoegler@juno.com>. John is always looking for people to work on the JCAA HMS Committee so email him if you would like to help.

Need a speaker for an upcoming meeting?

BY Tom Siciliano

The JCAA has teamed up with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to develop a Powerpoint presentation to give to clubs around the state. Lynette Lurig from the DEP did most of the work and would be the primary speaker. The title is “**What You Need to Know About Fishing in New Jersey.**” The subject of the presentation is the safety of eating the fish caught in the waters of New Jersey. It outlines the fish advisories currently in effect in New Jersey and explains the science used to develop them. This informative presentation will give the audience a greater appreciation of the environment, especially the water quality in various parts of the state. It contains hints on how to clean your catch to minimize any contaminants that might be present. A member of the JCAA board will accompany her to your club and give an overview of the latest issues facing recreational anglers. For more information call Tom Siciliano at 609-296-3774 or send an email to toms6363@comcast.net.

YOUTH EDUCATION

BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI

HOFNOD CERTIFICATION GRANT

“Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs” certification flyers were distributed to JCAA member clubs at the February monthly meeting. Please forward your completed Certification requests to the JCAA office or ask for an online registration form. The following criteria must be met for a JCAA member club to sponsor a person(s) for HOFNOD Certification: 1. The member club must be in good standing with JCAA. 2. Fiscal year dues must be paid. 3. Only two members from your organization can be certified per fiscal year. 4. Your club president signature vouching that the grant will be spent as described in the request. 5. Complete the HOFNOD Certification Grant Application. So what are you waiting for? Get Certified! For more information about certification dates contact Greg Kucharewski at gkucharews@aol.com You can also e-mail registrations to the same e-mail address.

NEWARK BAIT AND FLYCASTERS

The Newark Bait and Flycasters held their Kids Fishing Fun Night on March 7th. The JCAA Youth Education Committee supplied fifty copies of Dr. Eleanor Bochenek’s new Youth Fishing and Crabbing guide.

RECREATIONAL BOATING AND FISHING AND FOUNDATION

Hey Kid’s...Checkout the Recreational Fishing and Boating foundation website and learn how you can belong to the Kids Fishing Hall of Fame. www.Rbff.org

Striped Bass Game Fish 2006 Saturday, May 20, 2006 Save this date! By Brad Burns

Striped Bass Game Fish 2006 will be the most important event in the history of saltwater recreational advocacy in the Northeast. We have aligned ourselves with three of the nation’s top recreational fishing organizations – the International Game Fish Association, the Federation of Fly Fishers, and the American Sportfishing Association - to organize an afternoon symposium on May 20, 2006, in Foxboro, MA, with top experts who will address the major issues behind designating wild saltwater species like striped bass as game fish. The presentations will later be published and widely distributed to fishery policy makers.

After the Symposium we will host a cash bar with hors d’oeuvres followed by a first class banquet and auction where you can rub shoulders with many of the East Coast’s best-known fishermen and select from an unparalleled array of super guided trips, top-shelf merchandise, original art, and much more.

Please take a minute and go to the SF website at www.striperforever.org, click on the Striped Bass Game Fish 2006 event link, and check it all out. Plan to get together with your fishing friends and attend. You can buy tickets on line or through the mail.

For those of you in MA or RI with an activist bent, this is a perfect opportunity to buy a ticket for your local state representative/s and ask him/her to come see and hear what this movement is all about.

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

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President's Name: _____

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Please make check \$50 payable to JCAA

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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

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

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