

JCAA NEWSPAPER

MAY 2006

Official Newspaper of the
JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

(Published on April 18th, 2006)

Remember New Monthly Meeting Room

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, April 25th, 2006

Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, May 11TH, 2006

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

2006 Fluke Tournament

Bigger and Better Port Prizes for 2006

By Phil Celmer

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753

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

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.

Anyone wishing to reproduce any part of this newsletter has the permission of the JCAA and the authors. Wherever possible, please credit the JCAA Newsletter as your information source.

~~~~~  
**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.**  
~~~~~

2006 OFFICERS

President	Bruce Smith	732-695-3431
1st V.P.	John Toth	732-446-6298
2nd V.P.	Dan Miller	609-641-7821
Treasure	Doug Tegeder	732-341-5674
Rec. Sec.	Paul Turi	609-597-3193
Cors. Sec	Tom Sicilano	609-296-3774
Mem. Sec	Mike Tutela	732-793-5748

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

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

- April 25th** JCAA Meeting and High Roller Raffle Drawing
- May 4th** – NJMFC Meeting
- May 8th -11th** ASMFC Meeting
- May 9th** NJF&GC
- May 11th** JCAA Board Meeting
- May 30th** JCAA General Meeting
- June 10th** JCAA Fluke Tournament
- June 16th** JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
By Bruce Smith

High Rollers Raffle

The High Rollers Raffle will be drawn on April 25th. There is still time for you to buy tickets. Remember, we are giving away 8 fantastic prizes. Just call the JCAA Office or come to the drawing and buy your tickets then.

Show season is over

The show season has come to an end. I wish to thank all the people who helped staff the JCAA

booth at the shows this year. I would especially like to thank Phil Celmer and Rich Pasko for setting up the booth at all three shows and Mark Taylor for coordinating staffing. The Salt Water Expo was a great success and JCAA is looking forward to having a booth at that show next year.

Fluke Tournament

The JCAA 12th Annual Fluke Tournament is scheduled for June 10th. We have more port prizes than ever. If you need information, call the JCAA Office or visit our webpage. This tournament is one of the best bargains in town. Not only do you get a chance to win a port prize but you are also eligible for all the fabulous door prizes and the Century Boat/Yamaha Motor and LoadRite Trailer. It's a great deal for \$100 and a great day on the water as well.

JCAA Committee

We have many committees at JCAA. It is hard enough finding a chairman for each committee but finding committee members is a real struggle. Remember, you don't have to be a club representative to be a member of a committee. All you need is an interest and a desire to represent your club on the committee. The chairman of each committee is listed in this newspaper. If you are interested and you have your club's support, please call the chairman and get involved. These committees meet only a few times a year as need arises. It is important that your club's opinion is represented in the discussions.

We are really trying to begin JCAA meetings on time. Please be prompt. Recently the turnout has been good but we have some clubs who never seem to be represented. If your club does not send a representative, we can't know your club's position. Remember, JCAA is really a democracy. Each club has one vote. Like any democracy, you need to get involved. You need to attend meetings and vote.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT BY THOMAS FOTE

Recreational Statistics

I attended a meeting on March 29 – 30 in Washington DC hosted by the National Marine Fisheries Service. At this meeting we heard the preliminary report from the National Research Council – a branch of the National Academy of Sciences on recreational statistics. The MRSS took a good beating in the report. Some of the criticism failed to recognize that the MRSS was never designed for quota management. It was designed to show trends in recreational fishing. When you combine all the states you get a decent estimate of the trends. But if you try to use data for individual states as a management tool, it just doesn't work. The big push is to register all recreational anglers. Some states are using this as an excuse to adopt a saltwater license. NMFS spends very little money on recreational data when compared to the amount they spend to collect commercial data. They ignore that recreational and commercial fishing have approximately the same economic impact. They also ignore the quality of life issues inherent in recreational fishing. I think NMFS under Dr. Bill Holgarth is trying to address this problem. I have enclosed a letter from Dr. Holgarth from the NOAA website. There is also information linking you to the National Research Council Executive Summary.

LNG Island

JCAA scheduled a meeting with The Atlantic Sea Island Group LNG project, Safe Harbor Energy for April 26. This meeting was canceled because the Atlantic Sea Island Group did not want to open it up to all our club reps and invited guests. JCAA had invited ALS, COA, PIRG and the Baykeeper. The Atlantic Sea Island Group wanted to meet with only a few of us and they also would not have a lot of details for that meeting. JCAA would not exclude people from the meeting so they canceled. This will eventually have to go to public hearings. JCAA will be watching the progress of this proposed project since we have real concerns about building an island in our ocean that will destroy habitat and close areas to fishing. Included in this newspaper is an article from the Asbury Park Press discussing Congressman Pallone's opposition to this project.

American Sportfishing Assn MTG

I attended two ASA meetings in the last month. The joint salt and freshwater meeting was held the week of April 3. Many issues were discussed including access and mercury contamination. The reauthorization of the Magnuson

Act was the topic of a lengthy discussion. I have included the ASA press release discussing the ongoing problem with salmon off the coasts of California and Oregon. I was impressed with the coalition formed by ASA to deal with this issue. It appears there will be a recreational season for salmon this year on the West coast.

Saltwater License

Last month I wrote about my experience with a saltwater fishing license in California. As luck would have it, I was in Texas for 5 days and wanted to do some fishing between meetings. I knew I needed a saltwater license. But I didn't realize how costly it would be. You can buy a one-day saltwater license as a non-resident for \$22.00. If you plan to fish more than one day, you add \$8.00 per day. Since I was unsure how many days I might fish but was going to be in Texas for 5 days, I finally purchased a year's non-resident license for \$60.00. The problem is that it really discourages short-term visitors from fishing. I intended to charter a boat and share the \$300 cost for the one-day charter. The cost of our one-day licenses added \$44 to our one-day cost. Charter boat captains will be unable to raise their fees as their costs (imagine gas) continue to climb since the state has already added an additional fee to the charter with the cost of a license. I don't imagine the captains ever imagined being partners with the state of Texas. I can see this discouraging others from chartering or even fishing from the shore.

It was also not easy to get a license. We stopped in two stores before we found a place where the machines actually worked. Depending on the expertise of the sales person, it takes a good deal of time. You needed a driver's license and a social security number to get a fishing license. The entire process is hardly tourist friendly.

ASMFC Meeting Week, May 8-11 DoubleTree Hotel Crystal City Arlington, VA

**May 8, 2006 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
American Lobster Management Board**

**May 9, 2006 \
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Atlantic Herring Section
10:15 AM - 12:15 PM Summer Flounder, Scup,
and Black Sea Bass Management Board**

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM Weakfish Management Board

6:30 PM Annual Awards of Excellence

May 10, 2006

8:00 AM – Noon Management & Science

Committee Observer Program Workshop

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Bluefish Management Board

9:45 AM - 11:45 AM American Eel Management Board

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Management & Science Committee

2:15 PM - 5:15 PM Horseshoe Crab Management Board

May 11, 2006

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Executive Committee

10:15 AM - 12:15 PM Multispecies Workshop

12:15 PM Buffet Lunch for Commissioners & Proxies

12:30 PM - 3:30 PM ISFMP Policy Board 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Business Session

Bill Hogarth

Director, National Marine Fisheries

Service

April, 2006

Dear Constituents,

NOAA Fisheries Service has just received preliminary findings from the National Research Council – a branch of the National Academy of Sciences – about our recreational data collection science program. You might remember that I commissioned NRC to conduct this review in the fall of 2004 as part of an overall effort to modernize our science program for recreational fishing. I was pleased to hear these results, along with the State fisheries directors and the recreational fishing industry, on March 30 in Arlington, Virginia. It is fitting that we all received NRC's findings together, as it will take teamwork by all of us to see NRC's recommendations become a reality.

Recreational fisheries are a \$30 billion per year industry in the United States. As this social and economic value grows, so does the importance of NOAA's science and management of recreational species. Our efforts to collect important information

about recreational catches will never be successful if we do not have the support of the recreational fishing community. In order to earn this support, our recreational science program must be strengthened to keep pace with the evolving characteristics of the industry and the changing needs of fisheries managers. I heard this message from the recreational community – which prompted the NRC study – and now we have been shown a way forward. We are fortunate that recreational fishermen recognize the importance of sustainable fishing, and I have faith that we can make the changes that are necessary to earn their trust and support of our science and management programs.

NRC's primary recommendation endorses NOAA's proposal for a universal angler registration program. Many of the current challenges with recreational fishing data will be overcome by having a comprehensive database of all saltwater anglers. The database will allow us to regularly check in with anglers to accurately determine catch and fishing effort.

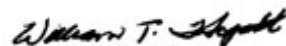
I agree with NRC that an angler registration would help fix some of the identified problems, and it is helpful to have their endorsement of the Administration's proposal for an angler registration program, which is included in the bill to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Act. It is now clear that we must have all the states onboard and the support of anglers to get this angler registration adopted and implemented. You all have my commitment to seeing this through, and I trust that I can count on everyone to roll up your sleeves and join me.

NRC found some fundamental problems with our current recreational science program, the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey. We have long recognized that the program is neither comprehensive nor flawless. As scientists, our goal is to make sure that our data is accurate and that our methods produce statistically valid results. We have to make adjustments for bias and a number of other issues that could skew the results. Our goal is to be as precise as possible, and I do feel that MRFSS has provided us with the best scientific data available. By implementing NRC's recommendations, we can make the data even better. My staff in the Office of Science and Technology is thoroughly reviewing all of NRC's recommendations so that we can take immediate action to reduce biases in the MRFSS survey.

Now we have the challenge before us to adopt and implement a more comprehensive approach through an angler registration. I'm proud of my staff for moving us forward, towards these improvements, even while NRC conducted its review and developed its recommendations. The NRC provided a menu of possible improvements, and now we are working with others in the scientific community and sportfishing industry to find solutions that are both affordable for tax-payers and useful for scientists and fishery managers. We're already considering pilot projects to implement some of the NRC recommendations in the Gulf of Mexico.

While we are implementing these changes, please participate in the surveys if you are called upon. We can only move forward by working together. I look forward to receiving NRC's full report, with more detailed recommendations, later this month. In the meantime, the Administration's Offshore Aquaculture Bill is moving forward in Congress. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation will host a hearing on the bill on April 6, so be sure to check out the live Web cast. Along with fish farmers and other scientists, I will serve on the panel to discuss the proposal, current aquaculture research, and environmental and socio-economic impacts of aquaculture.

In Washington, D.C., spring has definitely sprung. The cherry blossoms are blooming and fishermen are taking to the waters of the Chesapeake Bay now that the weather is warmer. With Earth Day coming up on April 22, I hope everyone takes time to connect with the outdoors this month.



Bill Hogarth
Director, National Marine Fisheries Service

ASA Press Release
Anglers' Campaign Impacts California
Salmon Season Decision
Anglers and industry join forces to keep
the 2006 ocean salmon season open

ASA Gordon Robertson, 703-519-9691,
groberson@asafishing.org ASA Northern Calif.
Dick Pool, 925-825-8560, rbpool@protroll.com
Coastside Fishing Club Bob Franko, 650-726-1666,
hmbreport@comcast.net

April 7, 2006 - Alexandria, VA...Due to the efforts of thousands of anglers and the sportfishing industry, there will be a 2006 California Pacific Ocean salmon season. In a near unanimous vote by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) on April 6, 2006, this year's sportfishing salmon season will be similar to that of 2005. The California season will run from May 1 through November 12. The National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) is expected to ratify the Council's decision. This is a departure from its earlier position in which NMFS supported closure of the season.

Sportfishing in California has a \$4.9 billion impact on the state's economy and is second only to Florida in total angler expenditures. There are 2.4 million sport fishermen in California. Sportfishing supports 43,000 jobs, pays \$1.3 billion in salaries and wages, and pays \$456 million annually in state and federal taxes.

The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) Coastside Fishing Club, ASA's West Coast members and other angling groups joined efforts to inform the administration and state and federal policy makers about the issue and its impact on the sportfishing community. Rallies were held by Coastside and the Small Boat Commercial Fishermen's Association in Santa Rosa, Calif. and Sacramento, Calif. each drawing nearly 1,000 supporters. The Coastside Fishing Club collected 22,000 names on petitions that were delivered to Members of Congress, the Secretary of Commerce and the White House. ASA coordinated an effort that resulted in over 7,000 letters, faxes and e-mails sent by individual anglers and industry members to the administration, Congress and state and federal policy makers. ASA staff also sent letters to and met with Congressional, administration and federal agency leaders about the issue.

Gordon Robertson, ASA VP said, "The association is proud to have played a part in this successful campaign. My congratulations go to the Coastside Fishing Club and the hundreds of other fishing groups involved, tackle retailers, ASA's California members, and the thousands of fishermen that supported this effort." Robertson further said, "Our hope is that the Secretary of Commerce supports the Council's decision."

Bob Franko, founder and chairman of Coastside Fishing Club praised the quick action and the dedication of the Coastside members. He said, "We are obviously very pleased with the Council's

decision. Coastside always felt the more rational thinkers would ultimately take control of the process. To even consider putting a multi-million dollar industry out of business is ill conceived at best, and utterly irresponsible.

Franko further said, "I can't thank our members enough for their time and effort on this issue. I also want to give a special thanks to ASA for helping our collective voice be heard in Washington."

Robertson further said, "ASA realizes that the proposed closure for California and Oregon is only the current crisis for Pacific salmon. We have written to the Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality requesting that the administration put its clout behind a long-term solution for Klamath River salmon."

Robertson concluded, "There are many factors, including water withdrawals, structural barriers, pollution and disease organisms that have lead to the current situation. If these are not adequately addressed, restrictions on salmon harvest will not be sufficient to reestablish the salmon resource."

The American Sportfishing Association is the sportfishing industry's trade association, uniting more than 650 members of the sportfishing and boating industries with state fish and wildlife agencies, federal land and water management agencies, conservation organizations, angler advocacy groups and outdoor journalists. The American Sportfishing Association safeguards and promotes the enduring social, economic and conservation values of sportfishing.

Communications

American Sportfishing Association
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-519-9691
703-519-1872, fax

Scientists Try to Count Fish in Sea **Washington Post Monday, April 10, 2006** **By Elizabeth Williamson**

With numbers shrinking industrywide, scientists' counting formulas are all the more crucial. But often, politics is part of the equation as well.

Braced against a stiff wind, Paul Piavis, Butch Webb and Keith Whiteford hauled a net heavy with fish from the Choctank River into their

motorboat and spilled them into a tub. Flapping among dullcolored catfish, yellow perch gleamed like tarnished gold. The biologists, in camouflage gear and heavy boots, looked like any other anglers, but they were fishing for science.

Back in their barracksstyle office at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, they would plug statistics about the fish they caught into mathematical models, taking a measure of the yellow perch population.

With nets and divers, sonar and surveys, scientists around the world grapple with one of Earth's great unknowables: how many fish in the sea.

Fish counts are the science behind regulations from Virginia's Northern Neck to the South Pacific, dictating a charter boat's take and an island nation's diet. But this is a science so inexact that some call it an art. And when the counting ends, the fighting often has just begun.

That's what happened this winter when Maryland tried to open the Choptank River to commercial yellow perch netters for the first time in nearly two decades. Counts had documented a 530 percent increase in the Eastern Shore river since 1988, Piavis said.

But sport anglers disputed those findings in raucous public hearings, questioning how the fish could be so plentiful when they have trouble catching their limit of five. The department withdrew the proposal.

"Science is only one part of the equation," Piavis said. "Who gets the fish . . . is a whole other equation."

What is clear is that over the past century, the world's fish stocks have shrunk. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization says that onequarter of the world's marine stocks are overfished, or harvested faster than the fish can reproduce to replace them, and another half are approaching that point.

Nearly half of the two dozen fisheries managed by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission are listed as depleted or unknown, including the American lobster, red drum and river herring.

The loss of a stock even temporarily, scientists say, can cost the industry hundreds of millions of dollars and echo throughout the ecosystem, affecting humans, too.

But measuring nature's bounty remains a challenge. Where science leaves a gap, politics rushes in.

In 1992, the collapse of the North Atlantic cod fishery, which devastated Canadian and American fishermen and uprooted entire towns, came about partly because politicians ignored dismal harvest figures in favor of more optimistic forecasts, scientists say

"Managing fisheries is not managing fish," said Serge Garcia, director of fishery resources for the U.N. organization. "It is managing the activity of people."

"That's part of the problem," agreed Larry Jennings, a recreational angler and Greater Washington Chapter president of the Coastal Conservation Association, a nationwide group. "It's all politics, run by people who have a vested interest . . . and people who are pushing harder and harder to maximize what they get."

Scientists are experimenting with futuristic ocean sonar and lasers, but the high cost ensures that fish counting, or stock assessment, usually means "dragging a net through the water, translating technical data into what an underfunded, understaffed agency can do," said James Uphoff Jr., a biologist on Maryland's natural resources staff.

In smaller bodies of water, "electrofishing" stuns fish, which then float to the top long enough for an estimate. Biologists trawl for samples. And they scramble atop towers and dams to count fish on spawning runs.

To refine the picture, researchers measure and age fish. They can learn about one fish from another by analyzing stomach contents. Or they can count the creatures that live off of that fish. Some believe that the number of red knot, a migratory shorebird, has declined along with the horseshoe crab because red knot feed on the crab's eggs.

But often, anglers are the most important source of data. Dockside, fisheries managers assess what is unloaded from boats and what was thrown back. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration calls thousands of seacoast households, asking anglers how often they fished, what they caught and how big the catches were.

Researchers then plug all this data into elaborate formulas and forecast the future of a fish.

"Fishery stock assessment is a much more mature science than a lot of people like to think it is," said Steve Murawski, chief scientist for the National Marine Fisheries Service. "If you have a high harvest rate and you have a good accounting, you know what's going on."

But dozens of factors, including fish habits and fishing trends, environmental change and human nature make the numbers fallible.

In a chandeliered hotel conference room in Arlington County a month ago, scientists, fisheries managers and fishing interests from 15 coastal states at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's meeting sat down to learn what little is known about the American eel.

The session was a lesson in the weakness of science when pitted against the human need to make a living from the sea.

At the head of the room, Matt Cieri, a stock assessment scientist at the Maine Department of Marine

Resources, and David Secor, a biologist at the University of Maryland's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, reviewed eel data. Some studies were small, others were incomplete, but they all showed "a decline, many of which are at their historic lows," Cieri said.

Eels are harvested as bait for fish and crab pots, and in the past three decades, they have fed a booming market led by exports to Asia and Europe. Harvests have plunged since 1980, raising fears about overfishing. So much of the eels' habitat has disappeared that the federal government is considering listing the snakelike fish as endangered.

As the last slide faded from the screen, Cieri concluded: "There's a realistic possibility that this species will not maintain a healthy and viable population throughout its historic range."

George Lapointe of Maine's marine resources department took the side of the fish, arguing that the commission should move forward on a limit to eel fishing.

In the back of the room, Barry Kratchman, president of the Delaware Valley Fish Co., nudged his attorney, Charles Sensiba, who rose to read a statement.

"We are concerned . . . with some of the comments today suggesting that we should move forward now," he read. "Delaware Valley strongly believes that it would be inappropriate to make any decision that would impact the lives and livelihoods of many people when the support for such action has not yet been identified."

Maine's Lapointe said, "In saying I think we need to move forward, I don't want to move forward rashly."

Soon after, the group agreed to study the eels further, and the meeting was adjourned.

SHARE YOUR FUN TAKE A KID OR SENIOR FISHING

2007 NJDEP Division of Fish and

Wildlife Budget

John S. Watson, Jr.

**Deputy Commissioner, Natural and Historic
Resources, New Jersey Department of Environmental
Protection**

TRENTON—On March 21, Governor Corzine delivered a sobering message to New Jerseyans projecting a \$4.8 billion budget shortfall for 2007.

The proposed \$30.9 billion budget includes \$2.5 billion in cuts and constrained growth. Total state spending growth has been constrained to \$2.6 billion and the use of one-time revenue sources has been reduced by 80 percent compared to the average of the previous four fiscal years.

Even in this extremely challenging budget, Governor Corzine remains committed to providing \$4.2 million in supplemental funding to the hunters and anglers account, enabling the NJDEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife to carry on its important work.

By this budget item, Governor Corzine has firmly established his commitment to the work of the Division and recognizes the benefits of wildlife management and the recreational value and economic importance fishing in our State.

The Division's overall appropriation is reduced by \$1.2 million, which reflects the expected revenue from the future sale of hunting and fishing licenses and permits.

While DEP faces \$9 million in cuts to its Fiscal Year 2007 budget, total spending on environmental issues will increase 37 percent, from \$321.2 million to \$439.7 million, an increase of \$118.5 million. These increases include \$40 million for capital improvements for parks, forests, wildlife management areas and historic sites. Many, if not all, of these cuts are operating budget reductions that will be achieved through attrition.

While this budget provides supplemental funding to the Division of Fish and Wildlife, we

must recognize a trend that has continued over the past few years— decreasing revenue in the sale of hunting and fishing licenses that support the Fish and Wildlife Program. The Division must be diligent in exploring ways to cut costs, while still providing exceptional service to our constituents, and managing the many species in its charge.

Already this year, program improvements have helped make purchasing licenses easier. Beginning in January 2006, the Division began offering online licensing for Fishing Licenses, Trout Stamps, Boat Ramp Permits, Horseback Riding Permits and Rifle Permits.

This spring, the Department is stocking the state's public waters with approximately 570,000 trout. On April 8, opening day of the season, the Department stocked approximately 181,000 trout in the state's freshwater streams, lakes, ponds and impoundments. Additionally, pre-season stocking included 4,000 to 6,000 surplus broodstock weighing 3 to 5 pounds each and ranging from 14 to 22 inches. Many of these fish remain available all season, awaiting anglers.

We encourage all of the Jersey Coast Anglers membership to consider purchasing a freshwater fishing license and trout stamp this year. Spending a little time on our many lakes and streams is a good way to get your fishing started this season and helps the many programs that are supported through these license sales.

Information about NJDEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife, is available online at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/index.htm> or by calling 609-292-2965.

From: Rachel's Democracy & Health News

#840, Feb. 2, 2006

THE FAILURE OF CHEMICAL REGULATION: THE CASE OF MERCURY

By Peter Montague

Mercury pollution offers us a well-lit window into the failed system of chemical regulation in the U.S.

Mercury was discovered harming humans in Japan starting in 1953 –

53 years ago. Hundreds of people were affected by severe brain damage, blindness, and horrendous birth defects—all from eating fish heavily contaminated with mercury dumped into

Minimata Bay by the Chisso Corporation. Birds and cats were afflicted with the same symptoms.

Ten years later, researchers in Sweden were systematically scouring the countryside, finding dead birds with elevated mercury in their blood. This time the culprit was seeds treated with mercury-containing fungicides. In 1966 Swedish researchers held a conference in Stockholm to present their findings and issue warnings—mercury levels in the environment were rising ominously, partly because of the use of mercury in pesticides, and partly for reasons unknown. The U.S. government sent representatives to the Stockholm conference, but they returned home without making a peep.

In 1969, Environment magazine told the story of mercury in Japan and Sweden and openly speculated that mercury would be found throughout the environment of the U.S. if anyone took the time to look for it. No one did.

Then in February, 1970, the Huckleby family in Alamogordo, New Mexico was poisoned by a batch of mercury-treated seed that they had fed to their hogs, which provided the family's ham and bacon. Three Huckleby children were severely injured—one deafened, another was blinded, a third arriving at the hospital raving mad. The story made national news and within 24 hours the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) wrapped up "10 years" of research on the dangers of mercury and declared mercury-containing pesticides an "imminent hazard." Within days USDA canceled the registration of mercury-containing pesticides and demanded that the manufacturer recall the product from store shelves.

A month later, Norvald Fimreite—a graduate student at Western Ontario University—revealed that fish in many lakes along the U.S.-Canada border were contaminated with mercury at high levels (7 parts per million, for example). Ohio closed its portion of Lake Erie to commercial fishing. On June 18, 1970 Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel declared mercury "an intolerable threat to the health and safety of the American people"—a statement so true and bold that it remains the quintessential summary of the mercury problem 35 years later.

Later that same year, 1970, a public interest research organization in Albuquerque, New Mexico—Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC) -- arranged to take samples from the stack gases emitted from the Four Corners coal-burning power plant and analyze them for mercury.

SRIC's staff scientist, Charles Hyder, was convinced that burning coal was the major source of mercury in the natural environment. The Four Corners tests proved him right. The Associated Press reported the results—that burning coal releases enormous quantities of mercury—but no one with any authority raised an eyebrow, much less a finger. (Disclosure: I worked with Hyder on that project.)

Meanwhile, Norvald Fimreite's lonely work around the Great Lakes had aroused the world. Researchers began looking for mercury in fish everywhere. Soon everyone knew that big fish—fresh and saltwater, both—contain dangerous amounts of mercury: big walleye, big swordfish, big tuna, big grouper, big pike. Obviously, mercury was concentrating as it moved up the food chain. People began to realize that at the top of the food web you find big bears, large birds, and humans.

Soon the U.S. Food and Drug Administration established an “interim” standard, setting 0.5 parts per million (ppm) as the maximum allowable concentration for mercury in fish. It seemed as if science and good sense had prevailed to protect the public.

But then the U.S. regulatory system began to work just as it was designed to: in 1977, the nation's swordfish distributors took the FDA to court, demanding that FDA stop seizing swordfish that exceeded the 0.5 ppm limit. The trial lasted four days and when it was over a federal judge had effectively doubled the nation's allowable limit on mercury in fish, to 1.0 ppm.

Instead of building a scientific and precautionary case to protect the public, to prevent harm, the FDA caved in to the food distribution industry. In 1979, the FDA announced in the Federal Register that it was formally adopting 1.0 ppm as the new standard for mercury in fish, based in new data provided by the Commerce Department, showing that Americans didn't eat as much fish as the FDA had thought.

Relaxing the acceptable level of mercury in fish, the Commerce Department said (and the FDA repeated), would “provide a significant economic benefit to those industries most seriously affected” by the more stringent limit and “enhance the future development of a number of presently underutilized fisheries.” Moreover, Commerce and FDA said, a less restrictive rule “would significantly increase consumer confidence in seafood.”

As the public grew more health-conscious, the consumption of seafood steadily rose, and the FDA turned a blind eye to questions of safety. The FDA essentially went to sleep for 12 years until a report from the National Academy of Sciences embarrassed it again in 1991. At that point FDA began testing fish to see how much mercury they contained, and the agency repeatedly promised to revisit its 1.0 ppm limit on mercury in fish, but it never actually got around to it. That 1979 limit still holds today.

In 1997, U.S. EPA set a mercury limit in fish that was four times as strict as the FDA's, but EPA only had the power to inform consumers of the danger of eating mercury-contaminated fish. In 2000 the National Academy of Sciences endorsed EPA's findings. Once again, FDA was being shamed into reviewing its 1979 mercury limit. But again the food distributors had their tentacles deep inside FDA. As Peter Waldman of the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reported August 1, 2005, “When the FDA issued a revised mercury advisory in 2001, it urged women of childbearing age to shun four high-mercury species: swordfish, shark, king mackerel and tilefish from the Gulf of Mexico. It didn't mention tuna. Yet cumulatively, according to data provided by the EPA, the four species it urged avoiding account for less than 10% of Americans' mercury ingestion from fish, while canned tuna accounts for about 34% of it.” And FDA concluded that it should stick with its 1979 recommendation, outlawing the sale of fish containing over 1.0 ppm of mercury.

Why did the FDA not mention canned tuna? The WSJ points out, “Food companies have long lobbied to mitigate any FDA action on canned tuna, one of the top-grossing supermarket items in revenue per unit of shelf space.”

The WSJ reported that even some EPA scientists concluded that FDA was coddling the fishing industry: “They really consider the fish industry to be their clients, rather than the U.S. public,” says Deborah Rice, a former EPA toxicologist who now works for the state of Maine.

But in April 2003, FDA caved in to mounting evidence of harm to children, announcing that it would consider adopting the EPA's stricter guidelines for mercury in fish. Later that year FDA and EPA proposed issuing a joint-agency advisory for consumers. The WSJ reported what happened next:

“At the hearing, FDA scientists said they had put fish in three categories: high in mercury, medium and low. The level for the low-mercury group was that of canned light tuna, explained FDA official Clark Carrington. ‘In order to keep the market share at a reasonable level, we felt like we had to keep light tuna in the low-mercury group,’ he said, according to the meeting’s official transcript.

“Later, the FDA’s Dr. Acheson (director of food safety and security) reiterated that point. He told the meeting the fish categories ‘were arbitrarily chosen to put light tuna in the low category.’...“Says Maine’s Dr. Rice: ‘Here’s the FDA making what are supposed to be scientific decisions on the basis of market share. What else is there to say?,’ WSJ reported. The joint FDA-EPA advisory was finally released and it did warn against eating too much albacore tuna but it did not identify other high-mercury species like yellow fin tuna, orange roughy, grouper, marlin and walleye.

In late 2005, the Chicago Tribune investigated FDA’s history of work on mercury and concluded, “The Tribune’s investigation reveals a decades-long pattern of the U.S. government knowingly allowing millions of Americans to eat seafood with unsafe levels of mercury.”

The Tribune revealed that the tuna industry often packages a high-mercury fish (yellow fin tuna) but labels it “light tuna” which falls into FDA’s “low mercury” category (because, as we have seen, FDA created its categories specifically to make sure “light tuna” ended up in the “low mercury” category). So far, this yellow fin deception has escaped the notice of the FDA.

Although FDA has the legal authority to seize fish that exceed 1.0 ppm mercury it almost never does so because it almost never tests any fish - especially not imported fish, which makes up about 80% of all the fish sold in the U.S. The Chicago Tribune tested 18 fish from each of eight Chicago supermarkets, conducted some simple calculations using formulas provided by FDA, and concluded, “Some samples of grouper, tuna steak and canned tuna were so high in mercury that millions of American women would exceed the U.S. mercury exposure limit by eating just one 6-ounce meal in a week.”

The Tribune reported, “Many experts now believe that even tuna-fish sandwiches—a favorite of the American diet—can be risky for children.” “The fact that we poisoned our air and our oceans to such

an extent that we can’t eat a damn tuna sandwich is just diabolical,” said Ayelet Waldman, a noted mystery author whose daughter was diagnosed with mercury poisoning at age 5 after frequently eating tuna.” She was eating one tuna sandwich per week made from albacore tuna.

It turns out that mercury poisoning far more common than you might think. In early 2004, EPA revised its estimate of the number of newborn babies with enough mercury in their blood to cause learning disabilities, sluggishness, and other neurological problems. Prior to 2004, EPA thought “only” 8% (1 in 12) newborns were in danger if having their brains damaged by mercury. Now EPA believes 16% of U.S. newborns, 1 in 6, may be victims of mercury poisoning. In real numbers, this means that 630,000 newborns each year (out of 4 million) may be somewhat impaired even before they start the long journey of life.

Furthermore, a small study by Ellen Silbergeld at Johns Hopkins University seems to indicate that adults can be harmed by mercury as readily as children can. “Adults may be just as sensitive to mercury as children,” says Silbergeld, who studied neurological function in 52 men and 77 women living in fishing villages downstream of gold mines in Brazil.

In the U.S. mercury contamination is widespread, just as Environment magazine predicted in 1969. In 2002, at least 43 states issued mercury warnings for fish covering 12 million acres of lakes and 400,000 miles of rivers.

You might think that keeping mercury out of the natural environment, to the extent possible, would be a top public health priority of U.S. chemical regulators, but you would be mistaken.

Everyone now agrees with Charles Hyder that the biggest single human-created source of mercury in the natural environment is coal-burning power plants, which emit 48 tons of mercury each year in the U.S. This is a technical problem—the mercury can be removed from the coal before burning, or it can be captured before it escapes up the smoke stack. But of course the coal industry—famous for claiming it is now the “clean coal” industry—resists every effort to try to clean up its mercury emissions. The issue? Just money.

Early in 2005, two researchers calculated that the average reduced IQs of U.S. babies caused by mercury in their mothers could be translated into dollars of lost earnings over their lifetimes: \$8.7

billion per year is the price tag on diminished IQs, they concluded.

When EPA considered issuing new rules to force coal-burning power plants to reduce their mercury emissions, EPA hid the results of a study they had commissioned by Harvard University researchers. The Harvard study had concluded that reducing mercury emissions carried a huge public health benefit and therefore EPA would be justified in clamping down hard on the coal-burners. By hiding this study from the public, EPA tried to claim that the health benefits would be minimal and therefore the power industry shouldn't be required to spend large sums. When asked about all this by the Washington Post in early 2005, EPA officials simply lied, saying the Harvard study had arrived late and was flawed. Neither claim was true and EPA officials knew it at the time they said it.

EPA had said the cost to the coal-burners would be \$750 million per year, but the health benefit would be only \$5 million per year, so cleaning up mercury emissions from coal plants wouldn't be worth it. The Harvard crew calculated that the health benefit would be \$5 billion each year—making it well worth everyone's while to clamp down on mercury emissions from coal.

Without apology, EPA and FDA continue to waffle, fudge and fake it—doing their best to protect the coal industry at the expense of the nation's children and the nation's future. That's chemical regulation, U.S. style.

Pallone to oppose offshore gas terminal plans
Asbury Park Press on 04/12/06
BY KIRK MOORE

Rep. Frank J. Pallone Jr., D-N.J., said he will oppose plans to build an artificial island and liquid natural gas terminal 19 miles east of Sea Bright, including it in a list of industrial uses he would ban by legislation.

"Over the past two decades, we've made great strides in closing the offshore dump sites and cleaning up the ocean off Monmouth County," Pallone said in a prepared statement issued this week.

Pallone called it "disturbing" that the New York-based Atlantic Sea Island Group proposes to create the LNG terminal at the apex of the New York

Bight, the section of the Atlantic Ocean between New Jersey and Long Island.

The group's Safe Harbor Energy venture would build an island as large as 65 acres some 13 miles south of Long Beach, N.Y., with the ability to berth and unload two LNG tankers at a time. From storage tanks on the island, liquefied gas would be warmed and vaporized for delivery through the Northeast region's natural gas delivery network.

Among other details, Safe Harbor backers have yet to propose a route for where gas transmission lines might cross the sea floor and come ashore.

Early indications are "it's supposed to go into New York. That's why it's closer to Long Beach," said Thomas P. Fote, legislative chairman for the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, who said the company plans to make a presentation to JCAA members this month.

Fote said fishermen will have problems with the artificial island idea. "They're going to put it on one of the shoals (shallow areas) out there, and it's the same old story — that's where the fish hang out," he said. "We're going to lose access to the bottom."

Pallone said he's planning legislation to designate a "clean ocean zone" off the coasts of New Jersey and New York. First proposed by the Sandy Hook-based group Clean Ocean Action, the bill would codify ocean protections created since the 1980s — including a ban on mining sand and gravel, the capping of old dump sites six miles off New Jersey, and a prohibition on oil and gas facilities.

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES
BY JOHN KOEGLER

Bluefin Tuna

Your school BFT season this year for the normally caught locally school fish between 27" to 47 "is in doubt. RFA is working hard within the political arena to change NMFS **NMFS'** proposal. The timeframe for NMFS decision is upon us and we will soon know what the fate of our 2006 school fishery will be.

As reported in previous editions of this newspaper, NMFS data used to close the fishery has been seriously questioned. There is no doubt that NMFS internal length to weight conversion ratio has greatly increased recreational reported BFT landings

far in excess of actual landings. If their flawed system were corrected there would be a school fishery this year.

NMFS has proposed to permit you to keep 3 larger BFT from 47" to 73" if you can find any that large. The Cape May and Ocean City, MD fleets took a big hit last season when their great BFT and Yellowfin fishery during July, August and September was a mere shadow of previous glorious tuna years. North Jersey for the first time in many years had fair school bluefin tuna fishing.

MRFSS Meeting

I attended a MRFSS meeting that covered how MRFSS estimates anglers' landings of key recreational species. The meeting was positive and indicated some willingness on their part to modify how they estimate recreational landings.

I was part of working groups that discussed 2005 weakfish landings and 2005 for-hire survey reports. Some of the absurd difference between NY and NJ 2005 landing in this key species was explained by NY higher limits. Their limit was 6 fish at 16" with NJ at 8 fish at 13" – a big difference which was supported by the data presented.

But MRFSS sticking with their report of 197 total pounds of NY landed weakfish in 2005 remains beyond common sense. NJ on one side of the Raritan Bay lands almost a million pounds and NY for their entire state and season lands 197 lbs?! This defies common sense. MRFSS did document that 90% of the weakfish they measured were less than 16". But it is known that NY boats fished alongside NJ boats in Raritan Bay and caught just as many weakfish as NJ anglers. NY anglers could accept 297,000 pounds for 2005 but 197 pounds is statistical nonsense.

For-Hire Survey

The 2005 for-hire survey was created to more accurately determine how many recreational anglers were fishing on charter and headboats. The survey took those reporting and compared that boat to their data base. If a charterboat was not in a state's data base the state's number was adjusted to account for the additional boats.

MRFSS claimed that NJ and NY charterboats were grossly under reporting their trips. So MRFSS applied a correction factor to more accurately determine the total number of angler fishing trips. The correction numbers they used were 3.53 and 3.59. That is a correction factor of 353% and 359%

applied to the number of anglers who went fishing on for-hire boats in these two states. MRFSS claims their surveyor either called or visited respective marinas and documented how many days of the 7 days reporting cycle those being surveyed were actually in their boat slips.

Later I was informed that many NY and north Jersey charter/head boats were protesting MRFSS current surveying procedures. When the Captains did not get any assurance that MRFSS would correct what the Captains believed were totally invalid survey procedures, they chose to boycott the reports and dockside interviewers. Several Captains reported MRFSS surveyors counted fish at their dock's cleaning table while ignoring those who left their boat with few or zero fish. This was not just one captain but many who reported examples of critically flawed data collection procedures.

Given that incorrectly reported boat data could be ignored by MRFSS as outside the study's parameters we could still get a statistically valid survey. Instead MRFSS chose to take one angler trip and then adjust that one angler trip by a factor of 3.53. The result was that they applied the 3.53 multiplier to all 2005 NJ reported angler trips. This is absolute nonsense. Such agency actions only further widen the credibility gap between the fishing public and MRFSS bureaucrats.

Dolphin /Wahoo plan

ASMFC is making a brave effort to correct this plan which was gutted by NMFS last year. After several years of dolphin/wahoo plan rejections by NMFS, they finally approved the plan in late 2004. It became effective on September 30, 2005. But NMFS, while approving the plan, eliminated two key commercial regulations: limited entry and trip limits. All fishery management plans that have worked had these two key provisions to control commercial landings. In effect, NMFS approved a recreational-only fishery management plan. These actions were deliberate with a clear objective of not requiring commercial fishermen to observe this new management plan. As is the case with bluefish, NMFS is hugely biased toward the commercial sector. This makes that sector more profitable by severely restricting the recreational sector's fish landings.

More Tough Regulations

NMFS has sent notice to all charter and head boats with NE multi-species fishery permits (Winter species) that there is now a proposed control date of March 30, 2006 in that fishery. This means that new boats and people desiring to get into the for-hire business will have to buy a permit from a boat that is willing to sell their permit. The Gulf of Mexico council has been leading the charge to close the for-hire business to new entries. Such rules have been standard in any commercial fishery management plan that worked well. The problem with applying this to for-hire businesses is that there is a major turnover in this business every year. A study of the NJ for-hire business in 1997 determined that 50% of the for-hire boats changes hands every 10 years. How this will affect the public is unknown. However, based on past experience, less competition in any business always means higher prices and less service.

The for-hire business is already being hurt by a combination of much higher fuel prices, higher slip rents, fewer customer parking spaces, higher labor costs and engine repair prices that have gone through the roof. The NJ 1997 for-hire survey determined that the average age for NJ charterboats was 19 years and the age of their engines was 11 years. How many readers drive 19 year old cars or trucks?

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.

If you would like to receive the JCAA Newspaper by email and JCAA email alerts send an email to tfote@jcaa.org. If you have signed up and are not receiving check you spam filter.

SUPPORT THE ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM

YOUTH EDUCATION BY GREG KUCHARAWSKI

SHARK RIVER SURF ANGLERS

On April 9, 2006, members of the Shark River Surf Anglers ran another successful FREE trout contest. There were plenty of hot drinks and goodies to start a morning of trout fishing. This event is a favorite for children because the Shark River Surf Anglers work hard to make sure quality trout are stocked for the tournament and young anglers have a better chance at catching their first fish. The most exciting part about this tournament is children have a great opportunity to catch a trophy trout of a lifetime. The membership of the Shark River Surf Anglers spent a lot of time and energy to make this event a success. You can tell by the smiles on the children’s faces that everyone had fun fishing and sharing refreshments at the awards tent.

TAKE ME FISHING KICKED OFF IN APRIL

All you need is a plan - Is your National Fishing and Boating Week (NFBW) event media plan ready? If not, you're missing a fantastic opportunity to gain exposure from the national Take Me Fishing advertising campaign that kicks off in April. Get them hooked - Local media outlets want to cover stories that have a national scope and a local news angle. Your NFBW event provides the media that opportunity. Helpful Hints! You can execute an effective media campaign to promote your event with very little money. All you need to do is invest a little extra time and effort in planning. Get the Printing Press rolling! Now is the time to start

thinking about publicity tools such as posters and flyers to use to promote your event. Lean on me: Get support! Be sure to continue to follow up with potential sponsors. Sponsors can help fill in the gaps in your event budget. Poise your event for media exposure! Did you know this year's Take Me Fishing national advertising campaign will garner 1.2 billion total consumer impressions?

Get ready for a week on the water!

NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK

National Fishing and Boating Week is June 3-11, 2006. 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.rbff.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, you can go to www.NationalFishingandBoatingWeek.org/Passport. 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, phone (703) 519-0013, or write Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, 601 N Fairfax St, Suite 140, Alexandria, VA 22314

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 "Water Works Wonders" 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.

HOFNOD CERTIFICATION

Don't forget to get certified. Wayne Tonnesen, New Jersey HOFNOD Coordinator will host two HOFNOD Certification classes. The first class will be in Pennsauken on 4/29/06 and the second will be on 5/13/06 in Pleasantville. For those who are interested, please email Wayne at: njhofnod@juno.com Remember, the JCAA will help offset the cost of HOFNOD Certification, but you must complete the certification request form before the training date. Contact Greg Kucharewski: gkucharews@aol.com.

THE ANNUAL DADS CONFERENCE

Sponsored by Keansburg Father Time, Saturday, April 29, 2006, Bolger Middle School, 100 Palmer Place, Keansburg, NJ. Keynote speaker: Kevin Callahan, Head Football coach Monmouth University. For more information contact Jeff Johnson, MSW (732) 787-2007 Ext.2554.

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.stripersforever.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.

REMEMBER
JUNE 10TH
ANNUAL JCAA
FLUKE TOURNAMENT

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 # _____

COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

Legislative	Tom Fote	732-270-9102
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
Large Pelagic	John Koegler	610-687-2208
Menhaden	Len Fantasia	732-872-1862
Striped Bass	Ed Cherry	edwardwc@comcast.net
Sponsorship	Frank Richetti	732-477-3120
Webmaster	Dave Franceschina	732 364-3168
Youth Education	Greg Kucharewski	732-840-9197

If you would like to receive JCAA Email alerts email your Name, Club, if you belong to one, and your interest to <tfote@jcaa.org> or just go to the JCAA Web and subscribe from there.