

JCAA NEWSPAPER OCTOBER 2006

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

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, September 26th, 2006

Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, October 12th, 2006

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

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
Treasurer	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

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

Meetings And Other Dates

September 26 JCAA General Meeting

October 1st Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

October 12th JCAA Board Meeting

October 18-20 ASA Summit San Diego CA

October 23-26 ASMFC Annual MTG Atlantic Beach NC

October 31st JCAA General Meeting

November 2nd NJ Marine Fisheries Council Meeting

November 19th JCAA Dinner

15th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

Sunday, October 1, 2006

By Paul Smith

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EARLY ENTRY INCENTIVE

If your entry form is postmarked by September 9, 2006 you will:

* **SAVE \$5.00** on adult registration fee!

* **BE ELIGIBLE** for special prizes only to pre-registrants on tournament day!

* **AVOID DELAYS** – You will receive prior registration verification to avoid delays on the morning of the Tournament.

See your local sport shop for an entry form or visit:
www.njfishandwildlife.com

Tournament Day Registration Fees:

\$10.00(ages 18 & over - \$15.00 on Tournament Day)

\$5.00 – Ages 13-17

Children 12 & under are FREE!

Same day registration will begin at 5:00 am at Pavilion #1.

Participating anglers will fish in Island Beach State Park from 6:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

Special arrangements are available for handicapped anglers. Balloon tire equipped beach wheelchairs are available for anglers with disabilities. **Volunteers will be needed to assist**

anglers with special needs who fish on tournament day. To volunteer, or to make arrangements for a handicapped angler, please contact Greg Kucharewski at 732-840-9197.

We need your help! If you do not plan to fish in the tournament, we need your help! We need owners of 4-wheel drive vehicles to volunteer as beach judges who will measure the fish caught by tournament contestants. Judges are vital to the smooth operation and success of this tournament. To volunteer as a judge, please contact by e-mail: Reb Gilliland at reb@rebsrods.com

We are looking forward to another successful event at Island Beach State Park on Sunday, October 1. Participating anglers will fish in Island Beach State Park from 6:30 AM to 1:00 PM. This annual event has become a fixture of the New Jersey Fall surf fishing season for an increasing number of surf anglers and their families.

We have been told that Gov. Jon Corzine will be at the tournament this year!

This is a fishing tournament that is enjoyed by the veteran surf fisherman as well as the novice angler. Anglers of all ages and levels of expertise take part and win in various categories in this tournament..

Tournament hats and t-shirts will be on sale in the Pavilion on Tournament day! There will be a limited number of hats that will have a special new Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament design. Don't forget to stop at the Pavilion before and after fishing to get your hat and shirt!

Various sporting organizations, state agencies and Tournament supporters will have exhibits at the Pavilion throughout the tournament day.

honorees include legislators, environmental leaders, outdoor writers and other worthy recipients.

As of this writing we do not yet have a keynote speaker.

At our September general membership meeting we will be taking nominations for this year's sportsperson of the year. So, if you or your club would like to nominate someone as this year's honoree, please present a short biography, no more than 100 words, as to why you or your club feels this person should receive this year's award.

Individual tickets are \$60 each and tables of 10 are \$500, which is a \$100 savings. This gala event will accommodate 300 supporters and friends for a semi-formal sit-down dinner with choice of entrees and cash bar. So get a group together from your club or organization and come to the dinner/dance and have a great time. Don't forget your partner. That's right. Treat your mate (you know, the one who waits for you at home/on the dock all summer) to an evening to remember at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club. Enjoy an excellent three-course meal, Door Prizes and a DJ. Share stories of fishing and bid on one of the many fantastic theme baskets on display.

We need door prizes and Chinese Auction and Silent Auction prizes, so if you or your club would like to donate a prize, please contact me, Paul Turi, at (609) 597-3193. Dan Miller will be co-chairing the event and tickets can be obtained by calling Dan at (609) 641-7821.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
By Bruce Smith

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR DINNER/DANCE
By Paul Turi

It's getting to that time of year again. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association will be hosting its annual "Sportsperson-of-the-Year" awards dinner/dance as a fundraiser on Sunday, November 19, 2006 from 4:00-9:00 p.m. at the Crystal Point Yacht Club, RT. 70 & River Rd, Point Pleasant, NJ. We will honor this year and past years' recipients of our "Sportsperson-of-the-Year" award. Past

Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament
I'll see you on the beach October First

Volunteers to measure fish and to serve as judges are needed. Contact Paul Smith at 732-899-2681. Visit www.njfishandwildlife.com for more info.

Our Sportsperson-of-the-Year awards dinner/dance will be held on November 19th at the Crystal Point Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. Associate clubs in good standing are encouraged to submit, in writing, their nomination for the Sportsperson-of-the-Year Award. The letter of nomination should be approximately 150 words detailing the nominee's

activities that have contributed to the improvement of recreational fishing.

Letters may be mailed to the JCAA office or hand carried to the September 26, 2006 General Meeting by your club representative.

Tickets are now available at \$60.00 each or a table of ten for \$500.00. Tickets can be picked up at the General Meeting or obtained by calling the JCAA Office or by contacting Dan Miller at 609-641-7821

We are still in need of raffle and door prize items.

The Outdoor Recreational Alliance funding initiative for fiscal year 2007 for the divisions of Fish and Wildlife and parks and Forestry is gathering momentum

The Outdoor Recreation Alliance (ORA) now represents over 55 environmental organizations, sportsmen's groups, affordable housing advocates and environmental justice advocates working to secure a long-term stable source of funding for capital projects and operation, maintenance, stewardship and acquisition of New Jersey's state and local parks and natural heritage conservation.

There will be a Public Question (Question #2) on the November 7, 2006 General Election Ballot. The purpose of this referendum is to create a stable source of funding for improvements and facilities for recreation and conservation purposes, etc. You can View the Notice of Public Question and the Interpretative Statement on the ORA website.

You will be seeing and hearing a lot about this in the next few months. One of the objectives of ORA is to obtain increased appropriations for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Divisions of Fish and Wildlife and Parks and Forestry and the Office of Natural Resources Restoration in the state budget.

Information will be available at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament at Island Beach State Park

**Have fun,
take a child
fishing**

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BY THOMAS FOTE

Below I will be discussing summer flounder and Tom Siciliano will discuss weakfish. Both of these species are having problems meeting the goals set under their individual fisheries management plans. Even though the problems are slightly different the actions by NMFS and ASMFC are always the same. In summer flounder we have a fishery that has grown dramatically in 10 years but has poor recruitment and is not reaching the imaginary goal set for 2010. We are quite sure environmental issues and natural mortality are significant contributing factors. But since these issues are not addressed by NMFS, they act as though these issues don't exist. The weakfish fishery presents another problem. Weakfish actually had good recruitment for many years but were not producing mature fish. Again, scientists agree fishermen are not the cause of the problem, but since we are the only factors that are under their control we will pay the entire price and other possible factors will be ignored. It doesn't seem to make any difference what issues are presented by wetlands protection, water quality, and loss of habitat, ASFMC and NMFS cannot impact on these elements, and can only advise. In general, their suggestions are ignored and fishermen pay the price.

Please read the article included about the environmental impact on the sex ratio of fish. The more we study the more it becomes apparent that there are many more environmental factors to consider than there were 30 years ago. Think about the release of drugs and more sophisticated chemicals into the bays and estuaries and then ask yourself about the importance of considering these factors when looking at the problems of specific species.

That is why JCAA has always been an environmental organization and has sought alliances and partnerships with other environmental organizations. We realize that we might disagree about specific fisheries management issues but we are in agreement that the environment needs to be our first priority. Without a healthy environment we won't have any fish to manage.

SUMMER FLOUNDER CRAZINESS CONTINUES

Since the last newspaper many interesting things have happened. I was hoping I would have better news but, as usual in fisheries management, I have only bad news to report. We will begin with summer flounder. We were hoping for a quick fix with the reauthorization of the Magnusson Act. At this time the Magnusson Act is not moving. Because of the controversy and the push by factions on both sides of the issues, the House of Representatives decided not to move on the bill until at least after the elections. There is no assurance that there will be any action on the bill after the election or that the bill will address the problems with summer flounder. All we can do is keep putting pressure on Congress to ask them to address this serious issue.

In the meantime, JCAA will be focusing our attention on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. ASMFC will be taking up this issue and voting on a quota the week of October 23rd. The Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2006 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM. We are asking ASMFC to hold firm at the 19.9 million pounds already approved by the Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Management Council. Previously many of us have directed our attention solely to the commissioners and those efforts have not proven successful. We need another approach. As you can see from the letter and press release below, we are focusing our attention on the governors of the states represented on the Summer Flounder Management Board. If you live in a state from Massachusetts to North Carolina, whether you are a recreational or commercial fisherman, you need to contact your governor by writing a letter similar to the one included in this newspaper. If you have any friends, relatives or fellow anglers in these states, ask them to do the same. There is much more information about summer flounder in the September newspaper. If you don't have a copy you can find it on the JCAA webpage (www.jcaa.org).

Another option JCAA is looking at is trying to get the environmental groups to come forward and express their opposition to NMFS needless draconian plans. It is interesting that I hear environmental groups complaining that the commercial and recreational fishing communities are trying to relax standards in the Magnusson Act. The

problem is when NMFS suggests such ridiculous management measures and the environmental community sits quietly by and says nothing, pushing for the relaxed standards is the only option left for us. If the environmental community used some common sense and supported reasonable, common sense management efforts, we wouldn't have to support more extreme measures. In this situation the environmental community has stood idly by and, **a** by default, let bad science support draconian decisions.

The environmental community suggests we are partners and we should be working together to rebuild the stocks. At this time this partnership is very one-sided. If this continues this lack of leadership and support for a common sense plan for summer flounder could destroy the partnership. Remember, this is not a fishery that is overfished. This is a fishery that has doubled the stock and tripled the spawning stock biomass. The letter and press release are included at the end of this report.

DRAFT ADDENDUM II TO AMENDMENT 4 TO THE INTERSTATE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WEAKFISH Prepared for Public Comment August 2006 DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS AND PROPOSED TIMELINE

The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding Draft Addendum II and it's Supplement at any time during the addendum process. Comments will be accepted until 5:00 pm on October 10, 2006. Regardless of when they were sent, comments received after that time will not be included in the official record.

Comments may be submitted by mail, email, or fax. If you would like to submit comment in writing, please use the contact information below. Mail: Nichola Meserve Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission 1444 'Eye' Street, Northwest Washington, D.C. 20005 Email: comments@asmfc.org (subject line: weakfish) Fax: (202) 289-6051 If you have any questions or would like more information, please call Nichola Meserve at (202) 289-6400.

1). The Weakfish Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS) conducted an assessment in 2004-2005 that concluded that biomass fell suddenly after 1999 and approached the lowest level of the time-series by 2003 (Figure 2). Total mortality began a steady increase in the mid-1990s; fishing mortality

was low throughout the 1990s and only increased slightly after 2000 (Figure 3.) The SAS does not attribute the large decline in biomass to this slight rise in fishing mortality. Natural mortality has risen and has become a much greater portion of total mortality than fishing mortality (Figure 3). The SAS has not determined the exact source of the rise in natural mortality, but has investigated hypotheses about species interactions. Both insufficient forage (Atlantic menhaden, spot, and bay anchovy), and increased predation and competition (from striped bass, Atlantic croaker, and summer flounder) in the Mid-and North Atlantic have been supported in analyses as explanations for the rise in natural mortality. Figure 1. Coastwide landings of weakfish (NMFS 2005)

JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
Working For the Saltwater Resource &
Marine Anglers
September 5, 2006
PRESS RELEASE

**Letter to Governor Jon Corzine on Summer
Flounder Quota**

JCAA sincerely feels that we cannot rely on the National Marine Fisheries Service to make a correct decision about the summer flounder quota for 2007. Their record in fisheries management has been dismal. They continually fail to recognize the economic and social consequences of their actions. There is considerable attention being focused on the Magnuson Act and its renewal but JCAA is unsure that the Magnuson Act will even pass this year. Even if it does pass it may not have any positive impact on the current problem for summer flounder in 2007.

After careful consideration, JCAA is recommending that we focus our energies on ASMFC. At this time ASMFC has not voted on a quota for summer flounder for 2007. We believe it is time for ASMFC to stand up to NMFS rather than simply rubber stamp NMFS's draconian recommendations. As a former commissioner I have asked ASMFC to take a stand contrary to NMFS several times. Recently I have no success in getting ASMFC commissioners from other states to use common sense and represent the best interests of their states, the recreational and commercial communities and the resource. Our previous efforts have all focused on the individual commissioners. However, two of the three commissioners from each of the 14 states in the compact are appointed by and report directly to their

governor. They are the Governor's Appointee and the State Director. The other commissioner is the Legislative Representative.

With this in mind, JCAA is asking Governor Corzine to take a leadership role by directing his commissioners to vote for the 19.9 million pound quota recommended by the staff of the Monitoring Committee and passed by the Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Management Council. Although JCAA does not believe this 3.7 million pound reduction is necessary we understand this quota would meet the 50% probability to prevent overfishing required by the summer flounder fisheries management plan. In addition, we are asking Governor Corzine to contact the governors whose states are represented on the Summer Flounder Management Board. These are the states from Massachusetts to North Carolina. JCAA would like these governors to direct their commissioners to vote with New Jersey and support the 19.9 million pound quota. We are in contact with groups representing recreational and commercial interests in these states and we are asking them to contact their governors and make their support for this action known.

Many individuals have been asking what they should do and who they should write to. Here's your chance. Write to your governor supporting this action and send a copy of the letter to all 3 of your commissioners. You can find the addresses of your commissioners at the ASMFC website (<http://www.asmfc.org/>).

JCAA is sending a letter to Governor Corzine making this a formal request. I have enclosed a copy of that letter. Given Governor Corzine's understanding of this problem and the support for this action he will receive from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, we anticipate his prompt positive response to our request. It will be helpful to him, however, to hear directly from as many individual anglers and fishing organizations as possible. New Jersey's commissioners have a history of supporting common sense fisheries management, especially for summer flounder. This is not true of the commissioners from all the other states represented on the Summer Flounder Management Board. We can't stop with our governor, whose support we anticipate, but must reach out to friends, organizations and fellow anglers in other states and ask them to turn up the heat at home.

Thomas Fote
Legislative Chairman

JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
Working For the Saltwater Resource &
Marine Anglers

Sunday, September 24, 2006

The Honorable Jon Corzine
Governor State of New Jersey
PO Box 001
The State House, CN-001
Trenton NJ 08625-0001

Dear Governor Jon Corzine:

As you know from our prior conversations, there is a serious crisis brewing for New Jersey and our Mid-Atlantic neighbors with summer flounder. The National Marine Fisheries Service has proposed a quota that would have a huge negative economic and quality of life impact on New Jersey residents. The 5.2 million pound quota proposed by NMFS for 2007 would virtually shut down the fishery costing the commercial and recreational fishing industry hundreds of millions of dollars and millions in NJ tax revenues. This would also have a negative impact on the hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers who fish for summer flounder in the spring, summer and fall. The ripple effect of this loss would have a dramatic negative impact on the entire tourism industry. This would not only affect New Jersey but every coastal state from Massachusetts to North Carolina. Our biggest concern is that this action by NMFS would have virtually no impact on the long-term health of the summer flounder stock or help the rebuilding goals set by NMFS. Included with this letter are materials produced and collected by JCAA. The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, including their scientists, agree with JCAA's position.

The Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Management Council has voted for a quota of 19.9 million pounds. This represents a decrease of 3.8 million pounds from the current quota for 2006 of 23.6 million pounds. JCAA did not support this reduction but we understand that this meets the 50% probability required by the current fisheries management plan. We are in contact with both commercial and recreational groups along the coast and in New Jersey and there is unanimous support for the 19.9 million pound quota. At this time NMFS is reviewing the targets and the quota. It is impossible to predict what they will recommend. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

has not voted on a quota. ASMFC is the compact of the 14 coastal states and has a better track record for rebuilding stocks than NMFS. ASMFC should take a leadership role rather than rubber stamp the recommendations from NMFS. New Jersey has three commissioners to ASMFC as do all the other states who are members. JCAA is asking you to direct the Governor's Appointee and the representative from the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife to support the quota of 19.9 million pounds at the ASMFC meeting in October. This 19.9 million pound quota will meet the guidelines for the current management plan. This quota will continue to rebuild the stocks without completely devastating New Jersey's fishing industry. In addition, JCAA is also asking for you to take the lead in contacting governors from other states represented at ASMFC and asking them to direct their representatives to take the same action. New Jersey has always been at the forefront for conservation and reasonable fisheries management. It is time for New Jersey to take a leadership role in resolving this matter. Your leadership is vital.

JCAA would never ask you to take action that would harm the long-term viability of any marine species. But as you know from our discussions and the materials enclosed, the proposed action by NMFS is not in the spirit of conservation or appropriate fisheries management. The timing of this action is crucial. That is why we are asking you for your immediate action. NMFS has indicated that their review will be complete by October 23. We cannot wait for that date since we have no way of knowing what they will recommend and the economic consequences are too severe. Thank you for your support. Please contact me if you need additional information.

JCAA representatives would like to meet with you and Commissioner Lisa Jackson to discuss this crucial issue.

Sincerely,
Thomas Fote
Legislative Chairman

ASMFC WEEK

I will be attending the annual Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission meeting in North Carolina the week of October 22nd. I know Atlantic Beach, North Carolina is not easily accessible but hopefully some of you will attend. Weakfish and

summer flounder are scheduled for Wednesday. **If you cannot attend** make sure your commissioners know how you feel about summer flounder and weakfish before they leave for the meeting. Commissioners are listed on the ASMFC webpage (<http://www.asmfc.org/>). If you have any questions, please email me (tfote@jcaa.org). I am including an agenda for the meeting.

**ASMFC 65th Annual Meeting
October 23 - 26, 2006
Sheraton Atlantic Beach Hotel
2717 Fort Macon Road
Atlantic Beach, North Carolina
(800)214-0258**

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

The preliminary agenda is subject to change. The agenda reflects the current estimate of time required for scheduled meetings. The Commission may adjust this agenda in accordance with the actual duration of meetings. Interested parties should anticipate meetings starting earlier or later than indicated herein.

If you intend to bring any meeting materials for use by a board or committee not included in the Commission's 65th Annual Meeting Briefing Materials CD-ROM, please bring 50 copies to the meeting. Click here for ASMFC public comment guidelines.

Directions Travel Authorization ASMFC
Travel Reimbursement Guidelines

Monday, October 23, 2006

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM American Lobster Management Board
12:30 PM - 1:15 PM Shad & River Herring Management Board
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM Management & Science Committee (MSC)
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM Law Enforcement Committee
2:45 PM - 5:45 PM Meeting of the Special Ad-Hoc Committee of ASMFC and North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Welcome Reception at Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

7:30 AM - 9:30 AM South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board
8:00 AM - 12:30 PM MSC/Habitat Committee Workshop
8:30 AM - Noon Law Enforcement Committee (continued)
9:45 AM - 11:45 AM
Action Plan Workshop
Noon - 1:00 PM LGA Luncheon Meeting

1:15 PM - 4:00 PM Spiny Dogfish and Coastal **Sharks Management Board**

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM Management and Science Committee

1:30 PM - 5:00 PM Habitat Committee

4:15 PM - 6:00 PM American Eel Management Board

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Dinner at The Dunes Club

Wednesday, October 25, 2006

7:30 AM - 10:30 AM Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM Tautog Management Board

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM Captain David H. Hart Award Luncheon

1:45 PM - 4:15 PM Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Weakfish Management Board

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Oyster Roast at North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries

Thursday, October 26, 2006

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Executive Committee

9:15 AM - 12:15 PM ISFMP Policy Board

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM Business Session

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM Buffet Lunch for Commissioners

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council

More 'Intersex Fish' Found in Potomac

Sep 6, 6:58 PM (ET)

By MATTHEW BARAKAT

McLEAN, Va. (AP) - Some species of male fish in the Potomac River and its tributaries are developing female sexual traits at a frequency higher than scientists have seen before, raising concerns about pollutants in a waterway that provides drinking water for millions of people.

The so-called "intersex fish," which produce immature eggs in their testes, were discovered in the Potomac rivershed in 2003 and have also been found in other parts of the country.

But the frequency that the U.S. Geological Surveys found last year is much higher than what has been found elsewhere, said fish pathologist Vicki Blazer.

In some Potomac tributaries, nearly all of the male smallmouth bass caught in last year's survey were the abnormal fish. In the Potomac itself, seven of 13 largemouth bass exhibited female characteristics, including three that were producing eggs.

Although the frequency discovered was surprisingly high, Blazer cautioned that the sample size was relatively small, with about 10 male and 10 female fish taken from each of eight locations in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Researchers were reluctant to remove large numbers of bass from the rivers because of conservation concerns, she said.

Female fish caught in the survey did not develop any unusual sex traits, though fish of both sexes exhibited lesions and other pollution-related problems, said Blazer, who coordinated the survey.

Smallmouth bass appear to be more susceptible to intersex development than largemouth bass, Blazer said.

Blazer said researchers are still waiting on data that would help them determine the water quality at the time the fish were caught, but preliminary data taken from the Potomac found a variety of chemical pollutants.

It is not exactly clear what is causing the changes, though it is likely a combination of pollutants, scientists say. Certain chemicals and pesticides are believed to stimulate estrogen production. Also, estrogen from birth control pills and human waste can make its way from sewage treatment plants to the waterways.

The Environmental Protection Agency has been studying the issue of so-called "endocrine disruptors" since 1996, but currently does not issue guidelines to water treatment plants for allowable levels of estrogenic compounds.

Jeanne Bailey, a spokeswoman for Fairfax Water, said the findings are a concern. The water authority, which draws from the Potomac and Occoquan rivers to provide service to roughly 1.5 million people, is working with USGS and other agencies to research and develop ways to improve water treatment to eliminate potentially harmful compounds.

The water treatments used by Fairfax Water, including ozone and activated charcoal, have been shown to reduce levels of estrogenic compounds, she said. Bailey cautioned against drawing dire conclusions about the impact on human health. She said, "Fish are a great indicator of the health of our waters, but they are not a great indicator of what may translate to humans."

WEAKFISH ADDENDUM

By Thomas Siciliano

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is at it again. This time the target is weakfish. They are continuing to prepare an addendum for the 2007 fishing year. On September 8th they released the Weakfish Draft Addendum II & Supplement to Amendment 4 for public review and comment. Here is what the draft says in paragraph 3 of the news release: "The most recent stock assessment was not upheld by the peer review panel; however, the Weakfish Technical Committee has significant evidence for five conclusions that the Board has accepted for management use: (1) the stock is declining; (2) total mortality is increasing; (3) there is not much evidence of overfishing; (4)

something other than fishing mortality is causing the decline in the stock; and (5) there is a strong chance that regulating the fishery will not, in itself, reverse stock decline."

Even though they clearly state in the addendum that the commercial and recreational harvest is not the cause of the problem with weakfish, fishermen are again going to suffer the consequences. They recommend fishing cutbacks all the way up to a total moratorium. To read the entire document including the announcement on the addendum and the tables and charts you can go to the ASMFC web page, which can be found at www.asmfc.org. There is also a link on the JCAA web page.

What really disturbs JCAA is that there are no public hearings planned. Since we have looked at the biased tables, we really need an opportunity for public comment. Under the previous addendum all recreational bag and size limits would take an equal reduction. That did not happen. ASFMC allowed the fishery that was fishing at 4 fish at 12 inches to go to 7 fish at 12 inches. At the same time, states fishing at 14 inches had to go to 9 fish. Most of the states stayed at 8 fish at 13 inches. What this table proposes is that the fishery for 4 fish at 12 inches before the last addendum returns to 4 fish at 12 inches. This is truly status quo under addendum 2. The states that wanted to fish at 14 inches will take a further reduction by going to 4 fish at 13 inches. What ASMFC needs to do is go to the original tables and fairly and accurately starting at 4 fish at 12 inches and 14 fish at 14 inches and 10 fish at 16 inches. That would be the honest thing to do. Hopefully the commissioners from New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland will make sure this happens. We should not be disadvantaged so Virginia and North Carolina can fish on 12-inch fish.

This addendum has far-reaching implications for the fishermen along the entire East Coast. The information that this addendum relies on is questionable at best. Much more information is needed. More data is needed to document that the stock is in fact declining and determine a cause for the decline. Until this information is provided to the angling community and public hearings are held the Commission should take no action to further restrict anglers.

The JCAA will vote on a position on the weakfish proposals at the September 26th meeting. In the meantime we have requested that public

hearings be held on this subject so that the commission can get the full benefit of the concern the anglers along the coast have over this sweeping addendum. These hearings will provide anglers the opportunity to explain to the Commission the importance of weakfish to the fishing community.

How many fluke are in the ocean?

By Thomas Siciliano

According to the **gurus** at National Marine Fisheries Service the total biomass for 2005 is 105 million pounds of fluke. Now let's do a little calculation. The quota for 2005 was 30 million pounds. The commercial catch was 17 million pounds and the recreational share of that was down according to the Marine Recreational Survey which came up with 10 million pounds. Okay, that's 27 million pounds caught and retained out of 105 million pounds or about 25.7 percent of the fluke.

Now, if you recall, recreational fishermen were releasing anywhere from 10 to 80 fish that did not make the size limit. New Jersey had the lowest size limit at 16.5". Other states had upwards of 18".

Let's do a simple calculation. Assume that a keeper weighs 2 pounds and a short weighs one pound. 10 million pounds divided by 2 equals 5 million fish. Assume a 20- to-1 ratio of shorts to keepers. Five million fish times 20 times one pound equals 100 million pounds of fluke. Add that to the 27 million pounds kept by commercial and recreational fishermen and we have 127 million pounds of fluke.

That number is more than the total estimated biomass of fluke that NMFS came up with. Could it be that recreational anglers released the entire estimated biomass of fluke? I know that recreational anglers are good, but are we that good?

Has it occurred to anyone at NMFS that maybe, just maybe, there is something wrong with their data? Could it be that the models they use to estimate the number of fluke in the ocean is incorrect? Could the assumptions be wrong? Just last year NMFS recognized that the data was flawed and made corrections. Could the corrections have been wrong?

Maybe there are a lot more fluke in the ocean than are being estimated by the experts at NMFS. In

fact, I'm positive there are more fluke in the ocean than are being estimated.

Is it logical, does it make sense, is it remotely possible in anyone's mind that recreational anglers could catch and release the entire biomass of fluke?

One of us is way off the mark.

It appears that NMFS is using a lot of flawed data, has disregarded data supplied by outside sources and made mistaken assumptions. My quick, common sense analysis clearly demonstrates that the total biomass is being grossly underestimated. I believe that by applying a little logic and common sense it is clear that the total biomass is currently more than the goal of 204 million pounds that NMFS wants to achieve. NMFS must come up with a total biomass estimate that makes good common sense and can be confirmed.

Highly Migratory Species

By John Koegler

BLUEFIN TUNA

Bluefin tuna rules from NMFS-HMS division have been a thorn in a recreational angler's side since NMFS began to manage this fishery in 1976. The 2006 rules were no better. Anglers could keep 2 large bluefin over 47" and had a short three week school fishery 27" to 47" along the Atlantic Coast. The southern zone got one fish per trip during the first 3 weeks of July, the northern zone Atlantic City to Mass. got one school fish per trip from August 25th until the 14th of September.

The NMFS rules for US fishermen are not the cause of this species' failure to recover from over fishing. The problem is that ICCAT has NEVER been able to get the cooperation and enforcement of ICCAT rules and regulations on the European side of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. This problem has existed since the US joined ICCAT in 1976.

After 30 years of total avoidance of rules by the European and African nations, why does ICCAT continue to exist? They are currently at least 100% above the ICCAT published sustainable limit for the European side of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. They have been over harvesting and over quota for the last 15 years. Nothing more than a major political effort supported by the US

State Department will have any affect on changing their acceptance of ICCAT's rules.

RFA several years ago filed a trade petition with the US Department of Commerce to restrict the imports from the nations that were avoiding ICCAT regulations. At the last minute this petition was pulled to avoid Political embarrassment with our European ICCAT members? The net result is no ICCAT regulations are being observed by the European and African nations.

Other Tuna species

ICCAT manages all tuna species, Swordfish, Marlins and sharks. The effect on US fishermen is absurd. We are the only nation to observe any rules or regulations on ocean crossing HMS species. Every species we save by USD conservations is obliterated once that species leaves the US 200 mile Federal conservation zone.

Most normal people would get the idea that the other ICCAT countries have no intention of observing any conservation after 30 years of deliberate avoidance and breaking of the rules. Let's solve the problem by getting our Congressmen to eliminate the HMS division budget and stop having any US rules from a rogue organization whose existence has been avoiding any and all rules. Understand **that** ICCAT rules are self-imposed. ICCAT has no legal international power to force countries to follow the rules. So no other countries other than the US and Canada follow the Bluefin tuna rules. Why has the taxpayer supported NMFS HMS division that accomplishes absolutely nothing after 30 years? Thirty years of failure is enough. Abolish the NMFS HMS division and use the money saved for other domestic fishery management programs where both anglers and commercial fishermen would get some benefit from NFMS previously wasted salary and benefits spending.

SWORDFISH

Here is another ICCAT mismanagement adventure. The South Atlantic Fishery management council 18 years ago was going to impose rules that would have sharply reduced the longline over fishing of the swordfish in US EEZ wasters.

The US longliners got ICCAT to begin management of swordfish in the North Atlantic Ocean preventing the South Atlantic Council from imposing much tougher domestic US rules. Surprising, but International management has had a positive impact on swordfish stocks and were over a long time able to rebuild the swordfish stocks.

In fact, it is expected ICCAT scientists will ask the annual meeting to declare Swordfish stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean as rebuilt. The result of this expected move is NMFS wants to relax the US domestic management rules for swordfish.

There are two reasons for this proposed change in NMFS domestic management limits. First, US commercial landings of swordfish have sharply declined as Asia imports of frozen swordfish have collapsed the premium US swordfish price. The result was swordfish longliners only fished when they could expect a good landing of swordfish. Their trips landings of mostly small swordfish declined and the commercial longliners could no longer land enough swordfish to cover the US annual quota.

NMFS is holding five September meetings to get suggestions to relax the current US swordfish rules. Relaxing the rules will not solve the problem because the problem is not swordfish abundance but NMFS rules to save turtles from longline bycatch using very large 16/0 and 18/0 circle hooks only. The larger circle hooks cause a major reduction in turtle bycatch but reduce swordfish landings by 30%. More important to the longliners is **the fact that** very large circle hooks reduce their tuna landings by over 50%. This combination of fewer swordfish per trip and less tuna per trip makes longline fishing unprofitable most of the year.

Anglers should make an effort to attend NMFS's September meetings or send their comments to NMFS and ask for a relaxed swordfish on recreational. The current 3 fish limit for anglers must be increased to 6 fish so that anglers can benefit from a rebuilt fishery that will only be caught by other ICCAT nations if ALL US fishermen do not get an opportunity to land the US quota.

The address is NMFS, Office of Sustainable fisheries, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910 or call 1-301-713-2347 or fax to 1-301-713-1917. Please mail a letter so you and other anglers can have a tiny part of a rebuilt swordfish fishery.

ICCAT Appointments

There is a need for interested anglers to get involved by being appointed to a position on the US Tuna ICCAT Advisory Board. You can send your request for appointment to the ICCAT advisory board or the technical committee to:

Dr. William Hogarth,
Assistant Administrator,
NMFS

1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD, 20910

See if you can make a difference. The US committee to ICCAT works very hard to make the ICCAT RULES WORK. But after 30 years of failure to get any cooperation, a totally different approach is mandated to solve the over fishing and eventual total destruction of the Bluefin Tuna and other HMS in the Atlantic Ocean.

YOUTH EDUCATION **BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI**

ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK 10/01/06

The Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be held Sunday, October 1, 2006 at Island Beach State Park, New Jersey. Don't miss it! This family fun event is the largest surf-fishing tournament along the East Coast. The J.C.A.A. Youth Education Committee will coordinate fishing and aquatic education programs for children and their families during the surf-fishing tournament and before the awards presentation. Featured programs will include "Building a Surf Bag" by The Shore Surf Club, "Catch a Fish" by the J.C.A.A. Youth Education Committee, "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs," "Passport to Fishing and Boating" program information by JCAA, "Fly Tying by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. Anglers can also enjoy a variety of informational booths that support the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. Special arrangements are made for handicapped anglers. Balloon tire equipped beach wheelchairs are available for anglers with disabilities. Volunteers will be on hand to assist any anglers with special needs who want to fish on tournament day. For further information and/or to make arrangements for a handicapped angler please contact Greg Kucharewski at 732-840-9197.

2006 YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

We are taking nominations for the 2006 Youth Education Award. Please forward any information about your club's youth fishing programs. All nominations will be reviewed for the following criteria: Promoting HOFNOD, Certified HOFNOD instructors, number of fishing or aquatic education events, materials used from the JCAA lending library, and creativity for promoting youth fishing events.

TAKE A VETERAN CRABBING AT THE JERSEY SHORE

The JCAA Youth Education Committee and members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 12 are pleased to announce a very successful crabbing event

for veterans and their families which took place on September 16, 2006. A crabbing seminar on September 12, 2006 prepared everyone for the "VET'S Helping VET'S" Take a Veteran Crabbing day that was held at the new Mantoloking Bridge recreation area and Brick Beach Bayside. The program was open to Veterans from all services and their families. We would like to thank the following merchants for supporting this worthwhile event: Crab Shack, The Fisherman Magazine, Alex's Bait and Tackle, Pell's Bait and Tackle. A special thanks to Sue at the A & W Office and James Monahan, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 12 for their assistance with the program.

HOFNOD CERTIFICATION

Get ready to get certified for the "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" certification training session during 2007. At the next JCAA general meeting we will provide a sign-up sheet for JCAA member representatives to bring back to their club or organization. We will coordinate the HOFNOD certification training sessions with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife HOFNOD certification program. Wayne Tonneson, NJ Conservation Officer and NJ State representative for the Future Fisherman Foundation's "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" program will assist the JCAA Youth Education Committee with information about their HOFNOD certification schedule. If you would like more information about the upcoming HOFNOD certification and youth fishing programs, please e-mail Greg Kucharewski at gkucharews@aol.com and place HOFNOD in the subject line. The JCAA Youth Education Committee also provides HOFNOD, Passport to Fishing and Boating, and commercial drug awareness materials to member clubs/organizations of JCAA. Throughout the year several fishing clubs and organizations have used the services of the JCAA Lending Library and ordered environmental support materials for their events. We are pleased with the recent interest to provide youth fishing programs within the membership of the JCAA. Remember to provide us with a follow-up letter about your event so it can be part of the JCAA Newspaper. We would like to publish your success stories in the JCAA Newspaper. If your organization needs "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" promotional items for your event, please phone 732-785-9278 and leave a message. We will return your call as soon as possible and support your event with materials from the JCAA Lending Library.

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 tfote@jcaa.org
Office Manager	Phil Celmer	609-693-3414 jcaa@jcaa.org
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@verivon.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.