

JCAA NEWSPAPER DECEMBER 2006

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on NOVEMBER 16, 2006)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, November 28th, 2006
Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd
NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, December 14, 2006
Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote
JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi

This publication is printed and mailed one week prior to each regular monthly meeting of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. One of the prime goals of JCAA is to get accurate information into public hands as soon as possible.

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**JCAA General Membership Meetings are for club representatives and invited guests only. These meetings are not open to the general public. If you would like to attend as a guest, call the President at (732) 506-6565 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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2006 OFFICERS

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

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

Meetings And Other Dates

November 28th JCAA General Meeting
December 7th 7PM Tautog Hearing Tom River
December 12th -14th Joint ASMFC & MAFMC
Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass and
Scup Meeting at the Skyline Hotel,
725 10th Ave, New York, NY, 10019
Tel: 212-586-3400.

December 14th JCAA Board Mtg
December 26th No JCAA Meeting
January 4th NJ Marine Fisheries Council
January 6th Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar
January 11th -14th Garden State Outdoor Show
January 16th JCAA Board Meeting
January 29th - February 1st ASMFC WEEK
January 30th JCAA General Meeting
January 31st - February 4th AC Boat Show

**Free Buses To Take Anglers to New York
City For An Important December 11th
Fluke Meeting.**
**Your Last Chance to Save 19.9 Million
Pounds Fluke Quota For 2007**

The stakes are high!

Anglers are needed to show up a December 11th meeting in New York City to show the Mid-Atlantic Marine Fishery Management Council (MAMFC) and the Atlantic Marine Fishery Commission (ASMFC) that you support their recommendation to establish a 19.9 million pound fluke quota for 2007. They originally supported this 19.9 million pound quota, but were pressured by the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) to go with a 12.98 million pound quota for 2007 which will be disastrous for recreational anglers, party and the charter boat industry and tackle shops. These two fishery management groups will make a final vote on whether to accept the 19.9 million pound fluke quota that has been strongly endorsed by the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, or to defer to the disastrous

12.98 million pound quota that the NMFS wants to impose on recreational anglers. So a big turnout by recreational anglers may sway these two fishery management groups to approve a 19.9 million pound quota for 2007.

To bring anglers to this important 10:00 a.m. meeting on December 11th at the Skyline Hotel located at 725 10th avenue (49th street), the Jersey Coast Anglers has chartered buses (Coach USA Buses) that will depart from three locations on the Garden State Parkway and they are:

Forked River Commuter Parking Lot - By Exit # 74 – Departure Time 7:45 a.m.

Monmouth Service/Asbury Park Commuter Parking Lot - By Exit # 100 – Departure Time 8:00 a.m.

Raritan/Cheesequake Commuter Parking Lot - By Exit # 123 – Departure Time 8:30 a.m.

These buses will accommodate JCAA club and associate members. Representatives from each JCAA club and associate members need to contact JCAA charter bus manager John Toth by December 1st with the number of anglers that will be leaving from each of these three stops. John Toth can be reached at (732) 446-6298 or at tothjohn@juno.com

For those anglers who will attend the meeting with their own transportation, you need to be at the Skyline Hotel by 10:00 a.m. on December 11th. The address of the Skyline Hotel is 725 10th Avenue (49th Street) and the telephone number of the Hotel is (212) 586-3400.

SHOW UP EARLY AND IN FORCE AT THIS MEETING – IT’S YOUR LAST CHANCE TO HAVE DECENT FLUKE FISHING FOR 2007! WEAR YOUR CLUB HATS, JACKETS, T SHIRTS ETC. TO LET THEM KNOW THAT ANGLERS ARE AT THIS MEETING AND CARE ABOUT THEIR FLUKE FISHING FOR 2007!

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

By Bruce Smith

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD CEREMONY AND DINNER

Crystal Point Marina on Sunday, November 19th

Early registrations indicate a big turnout in support of our honoree and the JCAA mission.

Thanks to our dinner committee, guests and sponsors.

This edition will be going to press before the Award Dinner due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. By the time you receive this newspaper the event will be history.

Eleanor Bochenek is the JCAA Sports person of the year for 2006. Her bio is in another part of this newsletter.

Hudson River Fishing Association is the recipient of this year’s Youth Education Award.

Get on the Bus !,

JCAA is formulating plans to provide ground transportation from central Jersey to NYC on Monday, December 11th to demonstrate to the ASMFC how important the fluke fishery is to New Jersey’s recreational fishing community.

We will discuss this in detail at the General Meeting on November 28th. We are planning pick-ups at Forked River, Asbury and Cheesequake Rest Areas on the GSP. John Toth is the event coordinator. You can contact him at 732-446-6298.

There is a meeting of the joint Councils in Philadelphia on November 20th.

Ballot Question #2 was approved by a 60% statewide majority. Nearly 1 Million yes votes were cast. Thanks to all who supported this initiative.

The Garden State Preservation Trust, (GSPT), the funding mechanism that pays for the preservation of parks, farms and natural and historic sites, will run out of money in 2007. The Outdoor Recreation Alliance (ORA) has launched a campaign to renew and strengthen this program.

At 25 years, still going strong.

A group of eight members of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs met recently to discuss short and long term planning for JCAA.

A special thanks to Tommy and the crew at the Dock Outfitters, Seaside Heights for the use of the loft area and for their hospitality. We greatly appreciate it.

Swan Song.

Due to term limits, I will soon step down as President of JCAA. It has been a busy, interesting, challenging and often frustrating two-year ride. It takes a while to learn the ropes and then, before long, you term out. I often feel that we are “spitting into the wind of the best available science.” For the life of me, I cannot understand why the councils and the national service ignore the anecdotal evidence

and empirical data from the recreational and the commercial sources in deference to the MRFSS surveys in which even they have little confidence. While it insults our intellect, we have to keep trying. That is why I plan to stay engaged fighting for anglers' rights, the marine fishery and the environment.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve.

Dr. Eleanor Bochenek
JCAA's 2006 Sportsperson of the Year

At the October 31st general meeting of JCAA Dr Eleanor Bochenek was voted the JCAA Sportsperson of the year. Below is the nomination letter.

Newark Bait and Flycasting Club is nominating Dr. Eleanor Bochenek for JCAA's Sportsperson of the Year for 2006.

Dr. Bochenek came to work for New Jersey Seagrant to deal with recreational fishing and marine trades. She also worked on environmental issues and helped the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program do a video and lesson plan called Guardians of the Bay. She proved a valuable asset to both recreational fishing and the boating industry. After leaving Seagrant for a position at Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, she began doing research on a variety of fisheries issues. Eleanor has volunteered hundreds of hours to the Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs Program. She has put together a youth fishing book. She has never been a "9 - 5" person. She is always available for JCAA events and is a valuable resource for us whenever science is involved. In her role as a research scientist for Haskin Laboratory she has worked on projects that help stock assessment. The JCAA Fluke Tournament Survey only happens because of Eleanor's hard work. JCAA occasionally pay her for some of her time but they get so many more volunteer hours from Eleanor than the bill would suggest. She makes herself available well beyond the time JCAA could ever afford to pay her for. Eleanor is an avid hunter and angler so she understands these issues from many different points of view. Newark Bait and Flycasting Club is honored to nominate Eleanor Bochenek for JCAA's Sportsperson of the Year.

**FISHERIES MANAGEMENT &
LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

By Thomas Fote

**ASMFC SUMMER FLOUNDER BOARD
MEETING AND PROPOSED
SUMMERFLOUNDER RULE**

It was an interesting summer flounder board meeting. I was disappointed that New Jersey did not have our legislative appointee or a proxy in attendance for this important board meeting. Sitting in the audience I don't have the same opportunity to ask questions and I was hoping New Jersey's delegation would take a leadership role. That leadership role was left to Everett Petronio, Governor's Appointee from Rhode Island and Bill Adler, Governor's Appointee from Massachusetts, and Vito Colomo, the Legislative Proxy from Massachusetts. In the audience representing the recreational community, I was joined by Phil Curcio representing the New York Tackle and Trade Association, United Boatmen of New York and New Jersey and RFA. The representative for CCA was in the audience but did not contribute to the discussion. In fact, I was disappointed that CCA did not support the largest summer flounder quota and tried to justify going to the smaller quota. The Garden State Seafood Association and North Carolina Fishermen's Association were also in attendance.

Phil and I were the only two in the audience speaking in favor of the higher quota. After almost 3 hours of discussion, the ASMFC voted for a quota of 19.9 million pounds and then moved to deal with scup and seabass. The vote was close but I thought we had a victory. I thought ASMFC was finally standing up to the foolish quota proposed by NMFS. The commercial representatives did not originally support 19.9 because the advantage to them was not clear. They were concerned that the recreational community would be allowed to fish at 19.9 and they might get stuck with 12.98 in the EEZ. They didn't want to support any action that might change the existing 60/40 split. Their lack of support was disappointing since I felt they had agreed to work together on this issue. One of the commercial lobbyists accused me of missing the big picture. In response, I told him I was a 25 year veteran at this

process and that he was the one missing the big picture. Clearly, the problem is the quota and getting ASMFC to stand up to NMFS. But I was pleased when 19.9 passed.

However, our victory was short lived. Pat Kurkul, Northeast Regional Director, was engaged in off the record conversations with the commercial representatives. As I was calling interested parties to let them know 19.9 passed, I was put on notice that after the scup discussion was completed the 19.9 vote would be revisited. It appears Pat Kurkul had convinced the commercial representatives that it was possible that the 7 million pound difference between the proposed 12.98 million pounds proposed by NMFS and the 19.9 million pounds approved by ASMFC would come from the quota in the EEZ. Somehow the message was the actual quota could be 5.98 million pounds. The commercial interests bought her bluff on a quota they never supported anyway and caved in to NMFS. The commercial interests then convinced some state directors to revisit the 19.9 vote. Since North Carolina and Virginia did not vote in favor of the 19.9 million pounds they needed a state that had supported the original motion to reopen the discussion. New York has experienced the most severe impact on their recreational fishery in the past two years. I have no idea what possessed them to support reopening the discussion. The expression "shooting yourselves in the foot" appears apt for both the commercial lobbyists and some state directors. North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware and Potomac River joined the Fish and Wildlife Service to vote to revisit the original vote. You can read all the motions included in the summary below. There are a couple of articles below on this meeting and the letters already sent by NJ legislators on proposed NMFS rule on Summer Flounder.

As of today, ASMFC has set no quota. Instead of standing up to NMFS, they fumbled, repeatedly - and left all of us in limbo. Instead of sending a clear message to Congress, they sent no message at all. Remember, the NMFS and the National Fish and Wildlife Service have a vote each on the board and they cast the deciding vote every time.

JCAA response to the NMFS proposed rule of a quota of 12.98 million pounds is contained below

ASMFC will be revisiting this issue on December 11th in New York City at the Skyline

Hotel, 725 10th Ave. JCAA has authorized funds for 3 buses to the meeting. If more members of JCAA's member clubs express an interest in attending, we will find more buses. We are hoping other states wake up and force the commissioners from North Carolina, Virginia, Connecticut and flip flopping New York to vote for the 19.9 million pounds. We also hope clubs from other states will get their members to the meeting and show support. We hope CCA will wake up and start supporting the recreational fishing industry and the recreational anglers they supposedly represent. Information about the buses is included in the article written by John Toth. Time to step up!

DRAFT ADDENDUM TO THE TAUTOG MANAGEMENT PLAN

There are public hearings and a comment period scheduled for the proposed addendum to the tautog plan. Some of the proposals are interesting; especially the one states that any reduction should impact only the recreational sector. This is especially upsetting since many of us feel that one of the major causes of the failure of the tautog fishery to rebound is the illegal live fish market. The price for illegal caught live tautog is so high that the profits make the fines less than a day's illegal catch. We need to outlaw this market since there is not enough law enforcement to keep it in check. This has been a major concern of JCAA for many years. In addition, no concern is included in the current models for ecosystem management. Since tautog spawn in and inhabit the bays and estuaries, they are impacted by the same ecological problems as summer flounder, weakfish and other species. I will have a hard time supporting any management plan that does not include consideration of ecosystem management in the modeling. JCAA will develop a position at our next meeting.

WEAKFISH ASMFC BOARD FIASCO

The summer flounder meeting lasted from 7:30 – 12:30 and nothing was accomplished. I delayed returning home so I could attend the afternoon meeting on weakfish. Imagine my surprise when, after 3 ½ hours, no decision was made on weakfish. Again the discussion revolved around doing nothing on the commercial side and further restricting the recreational catch. There was a good deal of posturing by North Carolina and Virginia. They contend that nets are in the water

anyway, why not land the fish. It was interesting to hear North Carolina and Virginia state that under the last addendum there was an increase for the recreational sector. Their math amazes me. Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland actually had to put in more restrictive measures recreationally going from 14 inches and 14 fish to 13 inches and 8 fish. That sounds like a decrease to me. Under the last addendum there was actually a larger bycatch allowed for the commercial fishery. North Carolina and Virginia generalized their own "sweetheart deal" that allowed an increase for recreational and commercial anglers in their states alone. They got 4 fish at 12 inches which was no reduction. They will continue to use the bogus 2005 weakfish numbers from MRSS to try to justify their grab. The only reason I believe nothing was actually done is because the weakfish board could not come up with an acceptable story to justify Virginia and North Carolina what they wanted. Again, the only people fighting for the recreational sector were Phil and JCAA. As usual, CCA did not take part in the discussion at the board meeting. The Weakfish Board will continue this discussion at the January 29-February 1 2007 meeting in Alexandria.

JERSEY COAST ANGLERS
ASSOCIATION

Response to the Propose quota of 12.98
million pounds

Dr. William T. Hogarth
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Dr. Hogarth:

RE: Summer Flounder

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association is very disappointed in the way that the NFMS has handled the management of Summer Flounder. We are particularly concerned with the "science" that is being used.

We request that an outside, independent review of all the data used to calculate the stock assessment be made in order to validate the science. This review should include but not be limited to examination of alternative model structures, the management implications of retrospective patterns, and how to address ecosystem impacts that may be

affecting summer flounder. Until such a peer review is conducted we request that the quota for 2007 remain at 23.6 million pounds.

One of the concerns of recreational anglers is consistency. They are very willing to abide by size and bag limits to conserve a species. They do question the validity of the science when it does not seem logical to them. Many of these anglers have been fishing for summer flounder for most of their lives. In some cases this is 20, 30, 40 years or more and they have seen the population vary from year to year and can appreciate that. These anglers fished before the advent of regulations and were happy to take a few small fish home for dinner. Of course the hope was always there that they would have a banner day and catch many more fish than their immediate needs. These anglers will tell you that those days were few and far between.

What has changed over the years? It was recognized in the late 1980's that the stock of summer flounder had been depleted and something needed to be done. Even though the recreational anglers were not responsible for the drastic decline in stocks they were very willing to do what was necessary to rebuild the stocks. Their hope was and still is that once the stocks have been rebuilt to an acceptable level the restrictions they have tolerated would be lifted and they could once again bring home those smaller fish. What they are now seeing on the water is numerous fish smaller than the size limit. Many fishermen report catching 20, 30, 40 or more smaller summer flounder for every legal size fish they catch. In the past these fishermen would have considered a day catching 40 fish ranging in size from 12 inches to 16 3/8 inches as a banner day.

The recreational angler has rarely seen the abundance of summer flounder that they see today. They are finding it increasingly difficult to believe the NFMS assertion that the stock is still in trouble. The science has lost its credibility in the eyes of these anglers. Perception is reality and anglers have reached the end of their patience.

We have watched as the quotas ranged from a low of 17.91 million pounds – to a high of 26.68 million pounds from 1993 to 2001, with 1993 and 1994 the only years the quota exceeded 20 million pounds. For five consecutive years the quota was 18.52 million pounds. In all the years since the rebuilding program started the quota has never been below 17.91 million pounds and that was in 2001. The average quota for the nine-year period from

1993 to 2001 was 19.7 million pounds. When we include the years up to 2005 the average is 21.93 million pounds. If we just use the 2002 to 2006 average it is 25.94 million pounds. Recreational anglers are now catching less fish now than they were catching when the stocks were collapsed. The fish are larger because of the size regulations but we are still taking home a smaller number of fish each year. From 1993 to 2005 the total biomass has more than doubled to 104,060,000 pounds. There has never been a quota as low as those proposed by NMFS. The recreational anglers are not able to understand why they must continue to make sacrifices when the stock is at its highest level in 20 years and they are catching and releasing so many undersized fish. It does not make sense. If the quota of 12.98 million pounds is put in place recreational anglers will be catching half the number of fish that they were catching when the stocks were collapsed. Something is wrong, very wrong.

According to the science the quotas were set with the understanding that there was a 50% probability that the rebuilding targets would be met. The NMFS has approved and proposed a series of jarringly inconsistent quotas for this incredibly valuable recreational and commercial fishery. In 2004 the stock assessment committee told us we could go to a quota of over 30 million pounds for 2005 and 33 million pounds for 2006 with a 75% probability of meeting our targets. The Council and Commission did not have to use 75% but chose to be more conservative. After approving a quota of 30.3 million pounds for 2005, you insisted on lowering the TAL to 23.6 million pounds under a plan that would have led to a TAL of 27.5 million pounds in 2007. You then announced that the ASMFC and MAFMC had allowed over fishing in 2005. You expected ASMFC and MAFMC to be fortunetellers and reject NMFS science in 2004. Then earlier this year, NMFS recommended a 2007 TAL of 5.2 million pounds, which would have caused a virtual shutdown of the recreational fishery.

It is clearly obvious that something is wrong. Something is wrong with the targets. Something is wrong with the models that are used to calculate the total biomass. By your own admission there is something wrong with the estimates of the recreational catch. The time has come for the system to be fixed. That is why we are asking for an independent outside peer review all the data used to calculate the stock assessment. This is essential in

order to validate the science. Again until such a peer review is conducted we request that the quota for 2007 remain at 23.6 million pounds. Recreational anglers will settle for nothing less.

Tom Siciliano
Corresponding Secretary

Congress of the United States
October 30, 2006
NJ Congressman Frank Pallone, NJ
Senator Frank Lautenberg and NJ
Senator Robert Menendez letter to NMFS
on proposed summer flounder quota

Patricia A. Kurkul,
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service,
Northeast Regional Office
One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

**Re: Comments on 2007 Summer Flounder, Scup,
and Black Sea Bass Specifications**

Dear Regional Administrator Kurkul:

As elected representatives from the State of New Jersey, we object to the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) proposal to set the 2007 Total Allowable Landings (TAL) for summer flounder at 12.983 million pounds. Such a drastic decrease from the 2006 TAL is difficult to understand and would cause undue hardship to the summer flounder fishery in our home state.

We urge you to withdraw this proposal and instead approve the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (MAFMC) quota of 19.9 million pounds for 2007. Such a level would prevent overfishing while also rebuilding the stock under a short but realistic extension to the rebuilding time frame. We believe that this change would prompt the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to approve a TAL of 19.9 million pounds to correspond with the Council's decision.

To our dismay, NMFS has proposed a series of inconsistent quotas for this incredibly valuable recreational and commercial fishery in the past several years. After approving a quota of 30.3 million pounds for 2005, your Agency insisted on lowering the TAL to 23.6 million pounds under a plan that would have led to a TAL of 27.5 million pounds in 2007. Yet earlier this year, NMFS recommended a 2007 TAL of 5.2 million pounds, a

draconian reduction that would have caused a virtual shutdown of the recreational fishery in our home state. After the MAFMC approved a quota of 19.9 million pounds, you have now chosen to propose another TAL figure of 12.983 million pounds. This litany of proposed TALs has caused a great deal of confusion among fisherman in our state.

In response to your own inconsistent numbers, NMFS decided to update the stock assessment using an internal peer review. We believe that by using figures from this updated assessment, your agency can approve a TAL that maintains a fair level of consistency for fishermen. Based upon the revised numbers, it appears that a 2007 quota of 19.9 million pounds would be below the level estimated to result in overfishing and would assure the continued rebuilding of the stock.

It is true that a TAL of 19.9 million pounds may delay full rebuilding of the stock past 2010. Your agency, however, has the necessary flexibility to deal with situations where management decisions targeted to a certain rebuilding date could have disproportionate economic impacts, or are subject to other unexpected factors such as the drastic change in quotas and projected quotas. NMFS recognized this authority in its proposed changes to National Standard 1 published in June 2005. Moreover, as NMFS spokeswoman Susan Buchanan recently told the *Press of Atlantic City*, the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), as amended in 1996, does not require all stocks to be rebuilt in 10 years and NMFS could extend the rebuilding time frame to avoid imposing undue economic hardships on fishermen.

It would be patently unfair to approve a 12.983 million pound TAL simply because NMFS is unwilling to exercise scientifically viable and legally acceptable flexibility. In fact, such an adjustment by NMFS would not be without precedent. Under Amendment 13 to the Northeast Multispecies Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for groundfish, NMFS approved an adaptive approach toward ending overfishing that also provided flexibility in the rebuilding timelines in recognition of new information. Similar flexibility with summer flounder is needed at this time.

We see no reason for NMFS to avoid using the flexibility included in the MSA to adjust the proposed summer flounder TAL from 12.983 million pounds to 19.9 million pounds for 2007. This would avoid the drastic economic consequences of the

original proposal while ensuring continued progress towards a fully rebuilt summer flounder stock.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Frank Pallone

Member of Congress

Frank Lautenberg

United States Senator

Robert Menendez

United States Senator

Congress of the United States

October 31, 2006

NJ Congressman James Saxton

Congressman, NJ Congressman Frank A. LoBiondo, PA Congresswoman Allyson Y.

Schwartz, NY Congressman Steve J.

Israel, NY Congressman Tim Bishop and

NJ Congressman Scott Garrett letter to

NMFS on proposed summer flounder

quota

Dr William t. Hogarth

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

National Marine Fisheries Service

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

1315 East West Highway

Silver Springs MD, 20910;

Dear Dr. Hogarth

We are writing today regarding the proposed rule for summer flounder. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is proposing a limit of 12,983 million pounds in 2007, which represents a 45 percent reduction from this year's limit and a 57 percent reduction from the 2005 total allowable landings for summer flounder. After years of approving overly optimistic catch limits to rebuild the summer flounder stock, we fail to understand why NMFS is now proposing such a dramatic reduction this coast-wide, recreationally and commercially important fishery. While we are very supportive rebuilding summer flounder to a level that is healthy and sustainable for the long-term, we urge you to use the administrative discretion inherent in the law regarding rebuilding time lines, which the agency has recognized in other instances, extend the timeframe two or three additional years, and raise the total allowable landings to alleviate the

socioeconomic impacts on our coastal communities that will result if the proposed rule is implemented.

As you know, the summer flounder stock has been managed under a rebuilding plan since 2000. As summer flounder is a highly productive stock, the rebuilding timeframe for fishery was set at 10years. By most measurable standards, tile rebuilding plan for summer flounder is a resounding success. Under rebuilding, biomass has more than doubled and the spawning stock biomass has nearly tripled. Yet, six years into the rebuilding plan, the stock is only halfway to the rebuilding target - with only three years left in the plan. Why?

Under tile rebuilding plan, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has set overly optimistic catch limits that have been subsequently approved by NMFS. Only one catch limit adopted during the rebuilding plan was set lower than those adopted for the seven years leading up to implementation of the rebuilding plan. Additionally, the management measures approved by NMFS were only designed to achieve a 50 percent chance - so it should be no surprise to anyone they were wrong some on the time. As a consequence, the plans is far behind schedule to meet the rebuilding target

Based on the management measures adopted and approved to date, it is unclear whether either the Council and the Commission or NMFS intended to meet the 10-year rebuilding timeframe - until now. So, when anglers are seeing more summer flounder than they have seen in decades, they are faced with management proposals which translate into little or no fishery next year - and the subsequent economic harm that will result from such draconian catch limits. It does not make sense to our constituents and business owners, and it certainly does not make sense to us. NMFS had set lower catch limits early in the rebuilding plan when the stock was at a historic low, summer flounder would likely be close to being rebuilt now.

We are very supportive of rebuilding summer flounder to a level that is healthy and sustainable for the long-term. However, based on the mistakes NMFS has acknowledged in the oversight of the fishery rebuilding plan, we request that you use the administrative discretion inherent in the law regarding rebuilding timelines, which the agency has recognized in other instances, extend the timeframe two or three additional years, and raise the total allowable landings to alleviate the extreme socio-

economic impacts on our coastal communities that will result if the proposed rule is implemented.

Thank you for your consideration.

James Saxton

Member of Congress

Frank A. LoBiondo

Member of Congress

Allyson Y. Schwartz

Member of Congress

Steve J. Israel

Member of Congress

Tim Bishop

Member of Congress

Scott Garrett

Member of Congress

ASMFC Summary of Annual Meeting **Week**

To get a complete summary of all the activities at the ASMFC Annual Meeting go to the ASMFC including striped bass, eel, shad and river herring and much more go to their web page.

SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, AND BLACK SEA BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (October 25, 2006)

Meeting Summary

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board deliberated setting the 2007 specifications for summer flounder. The Board considered the filed proposed rule from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the recommendations from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), and the most recent stock assessment information. After lengthy discussions, the Board was unable to reach consensus on the specifications. The Board will revisit the specifications at their next meeting.

A draft version of Amendment 14 that considers rebuilding schedule options for the scup fishery was presented to the Board. The Board added an option to take no action until it is demonstrated that the substitution of the R/V Bigelow for the R/V Albatross will not make use of the scup spring trawl survey time series invalid for determining the extent of scup rebuilding relative to the target SSB established from Albatross survey indices. The draft amendment document will be presented to the board at their next meeting for approval for public comment.

The Board committed to revitalize membership to its Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panels so that these groups can provide substantive input on pending management actions for the three species. This includes advisory panel input on Draft Amendment 15. Accordingly, the Board deferred action on the draft

until the advisory panel had an opportunity to review and provide its feedback on the document.

The NMFS proposed rule for the 2007 scup and black sea bass specifications presented to the Board were not consistent with the specifications set by the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board at the August joint meeting with the MAFMC. The Board agreed to address this issue at its next meeting.

For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Senior Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator for Management, at tkerns@asmfc.org or (202) 289-6400.

Motions

Move that the Board (1) adopt a summer flounder TAL of 19.9 million pounds for 2007; (2) initiate immediately incorporation of a 5-year extension of the rebuilding period in Amendment 14; (3) simultaneously request the Secretary of Commerce and Congress to take such actions as are necessary to revise the federal rebuilding schedule consistent with the ASMFC Amendment; (4) upon initiation of federal action to extend the rebuilding schedule, revise the 2007 TAL at that time consistent with F rebuild that results from such action.

Motion made by Mr. Petronio, second by Mr. Adler. Motion passes. (Motion reconsidered; see below)

Move to amend to set a 2007 summer flounder TAL of 14.156 million pounds.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Augustine. Motion fails.

Move to substitute that the Board (1) adopt effective today a 2007 summer flounder TAL of 12.98 million pounds; (2) initiate immediately incorporation of a 5-year extension of the rebuilding period in Amendment 14; (3) simultaneously request the Secretary of Commerce and Congress to take such actions as are necessary to revise the federal rebuilding schedule consistent with the ASMFC Amendment; (4) upon initiation of federal action to extend the rebuilding schedule, revise the 2007 TAL at that time consistent with F rebuild that results from such action.

Motion made by Mr. Colvin, second by Mr. Pate. Motion fails.

Move to not adopt a scup rebuilding schedule at this time, instead adopt a scup rebuilding schedule based on NEFSC spring bottom trawl survey data after it is demonstrated that substitution of the R/V Bigelow for the R/V Albatross will not make use of the scup time series invalid for determining the extent of scup rebuilding relative to the target SSB established from Albatross survey indices.

Motion made by Dr. Pierce, second by Mr. Colvin. Motion passes.

Move to reconsider the Board's action to adopt the 19.9 million pound summer flounder TAL for 2007.

Motion made by Colvin, second by Mr. Pate. Motion passes.

Move to amend the reconsidered motion to substitute 12.98 million for 19.9 million.

Motion made by Mr. Colvin, second by Ms. Kurkul. Motion fails for lack of a majority.

Move to amend the reconsidered motion to substitute 14.156 million for 19.9 million.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Smith. Motion fails for lack of a majority.

Reconsidered Motion:

Move that the Board (1) adopt a summer flounder TAL of 19.9 million pounds for 2007; (2) initiate immediately incorporation of a 5-year extension of the rebuilding period in Amendment 14; (3) simultaneously request the Secretary of Commerce and Congress to take such actions as are necessary to revise the federal rebuilding schedule consistent with the ASMFC Amendment; (4) upon initiation of federal action to extend the rebuilding schedule, revise the 2007 TAL at that time consistent with F rebuild that results from such action.

Motion made by Mr. Petronio, second by Mr. Adler. Motion fails.

TAUTOG MANAGEMENT BOARD

(October 25, 2006)

Press Release

ASMFC Tautog Board Approves Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment Addendum to Address Stock Rebuilding

Atlantic Beach, NC – The Commission's Tautog Management Board approved sending forward for public comment Draft Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The Draft Addendum proposes a definition for target and threshold spawning stock biomass (SSB), and a new fishing mortality rate to achieve stock rebuilding.

This action was taken in response to the findings and recommendations of the 2006 peer-reviewed stock assessment, as well as those of the recently updated virtual population analysis (VPA). The assessment indicates that the tautog resource remains at low biomass levels. Since the mid-1980s, tautog has undergone a substantial decrease in total and spawning stock biomass. Both indicators are currently at levels about one-third as high as their early time series average. Based on the current fishing mortality target ($F = 0.30$) and the recent fishing mortality estimates for the last two years, overfishing is not occurring.

In addition to defining a coastwide biomass target, the Draft Addendum proposes allowing individual states or groups of states to determine

their own fishing mortality rates and SSB reference points more appropriate for their geographic region than the coastwide assessment. These regional reference points would require Technical Committee review and Management Board approval before they could be implemented at the state or regional level.

The Draft Addendum will be available by early November. Copies can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400 or via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News. It is anticipated that most of the affected states (MA – VA) will conduct public hearings on the Draft Addendum in December; information on the hearings will be released once it becomes available.

The Board will meet in late January to review public comment on the Draft Addendum and consider its final approval. For more information, please contact Christopher Vonderweidt, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at cvonderweidt@asmfc.org or (202) 289-6400.

Motions

Move to alter the language in section 4.1.2 of Draft Addendum IV to be consistent with Addendum III, leaving the commercial fishery at status quo, and include language on enforcement of illegal live harvest.

Motion made by Mr. Himchak, second by Mr. Smith. Motion carries (6 in favor, 2 opposed, and 2 null).

Move to approve Draft Addendum IV for public comment with the above changes.

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

WEAKFISH MANAGEMENT BOARD

(October 25, 2006)

Meeting Summary

The Weakfish Management Board met with three main objectives: 1) reviewing the Plan Review Team's annual reports; 2) reviewing and considering approval of Draft Addendum II; and 3) addressing an inconsistency between the Commission's and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's (SAFMC) penaeid shrimp bycatch reduction device requirements.

The Board approved the annual Fishery Management Plan Review, which provided an update on the status of management measures, the stock, the fisheries, research and monitoring activities, and research needs. The Plan Review Team's report on state compliance alerted the Board that one state had failed to collect the number of weakfish ages and lengths required by Amendment 4. The state's efforts to collect the samples amidst financial and staff limitations swayed the Board to accept an appeal for a compliance finding. In the state compliance reports, four states requested *de minimis*

status for 2006. The Board approved *de minimis* for Connecticut, Georgia, and Florida, and delayed determination of South Carolina's status until the next meeting to allow NMFS staff to research the accuracy of recorded recreational landings for the state.

The Board heard comment on and discussed Draft Addendum II, which includes options to reduce fishing mortality. The Board opted to delay action on Addendum II to allow staff to further develop the options included in the draft addendum. The Board expressed strong concern that a landings reduction could result in a large and unquantified increase in discards without reducing fishing mortality. Without an accepted estimate on stock biomass, determining the effect of an increase in management restrictions would be difficult. The Board concluded that the addendum's objective should be to control harvest should the stock improve. Staff will revise the draft addendum to include management tools, such as a commercial cap and a recreational bag limit, which would have a reasonable amount of conservative benefit in the event that stock status improves.

Lastly, the Board approved the initiation of an addendum to modify the bycatch reduction device (BRD) provisions in Amendment 4 to be consistent with the SAFMC's Amendment 6 provisions. Amendment 6 requires BRDs that demonstrate a 30% reduction in finfish bycatch, whereas Amendment 4 requires a result of 40% reduction. An Addendum will be prepared and presented to the Board at the next meeting.

For more information on the activities of the Weakfish Management Board, please contact Nichola Meserve, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or nmeserve@asmfc.org.

Motions

Move to grant *de minimis* status to CT and GA for 2006.

Motion made by Dr. Daniel, second by Mr. Vasta. Motion carries.

Move to grant *de minimis* status to FL for 2006.

Motion made by Dr. Daniel, second by Mr. Woodward. Motion carries.

Move to approve the FMP Review.

Motion made by Mr. O'Reilly, second by Dr. Daniel. Motion carries.

Move to approve the supplement to the addendum selecting the status quo option.

Motion made by Dr. Daniel, second by Mr. Carpenter. Motion postponed.

Move to postpone the motion until the January meeting. Motion made by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Gibson. Motion carries.

Move to initiate an addendum to make ASMFC's BRD requirements consistent with the SAFMC's Amendment 6. Motion made by Dr. Daniel, second by Mr. Woodward. Motion carries unanimously.

No backbone and no quota
When NMFS's Kurkel rattles her fluke
saber, ASMFC backs down from bold
stand, leaving commercial, recreational
anglers with no idea what 2007 holds for
fluke fishery
Posted by the Asbury Park Press on
10/27/06
BY JOHN GEISER
CORRESPONDENT

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission almost - almost, that is - stood up to the National Marine Fisheries Service on Wednesday.

The ASMFC's summer flounder, black sea bass and scup board listened to pleas from Thomas P. Fote, legislative chairman of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, and Philip Curcio, legal counsel for the Recreational Fishing Alliance and the United Boatmen of New Jersey and New York, and decided that it would support the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's recommendation of a fluke quota of 19.9 million pounds.

A motion was passed to that effect, and the measure included the stinger that the rebuilding period for fluke should be extended from 2010 to 2015. The pro-recreational representatives were quickly on the phone to spread the good news. The 2007 fluke fishery was not lost after all.

The National Marine Fisheries Service was aghast. This was almost unprecedented to them. The ASMFC could usually be counted on to wilt, later as was done several years ago or sooner, as it did last year. Patricia Kurkel, northeast regional administrator for NMFS, saw the government's draconian position in trouble. She was the one who sounded the alarm on the 2006 fluke quota and supported the drop to 23.6 million pounds. She was the one who suggested back in July that the total coastal quota should be 5.2 million pounds next year.

This time she warned that, if the ASMFC went ahead, the commercial quota for fluke would have to be cut in federal waters from a 60 percent share of 12.983 million pounds, as recommended by the service's office of science and technology, to possibly 6 or 7 million pounds.

Commercial representatives at Wednesday's meeting immediately protested. They saw their share of the 12.983 million pounds falling suddenly from

7.789 million pounds to, as Kurkel threatened, 6 or 7 million pounds.

Gordon Colvin, New York's director of marine fisheries, responded with a motion that the board reconsider its earlier motion. An argument then ensued as to whether this could be done with a simple majority or a two-thirds majority was needed to override the motion that was passed earlier.

Robert's Rules of Order stated that a two-thirds majority was needed, but Colvin said this did not apply in the case of a motion passed in a meeting that was still under way. A new vote was taken.

The earlier motion then failed on a simple majority vote, and Colvin substituted a motion to accept NMFS's proposed 12.983 million-pound quota for 19.9 million pounds. This failed.

Pat Augustine, another New York representative, then made a motion to accept the service's other recommended quota of 14.156 million pounds, and this also failed by the same vote.

The National Marine Fisheries Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Service both have a vote, and both voted against the quota of 19.9 million pounds.

"So we came full circle," Curcio said. "We wasted five hours in discussion and a trip to Atlantic Beach, N.C., and got nowhere. The board wound up doing nothing.

"It was very discouraging," he continued. "The board did essentially the same thing as last year. The result was the same except for a procedural step. I suspect that we will get 12.9 million pounds when they have a joint meeting (with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council) in December."

Fote, formerly one of New Jersey's representatives on the ASMFC, said to pass the motion for 19.9 million pounds and then to retract it was disgusting.

"It showed the board has no guts," he said. "They have no backbone. They should have stood up to NMFS and sent the message to Congress that the whole thing has to be fixed."

Fote said he asked the board to use common sense, look at the numbers, and not to get caught up in NMFS's political games.

"NMFS doesn't care about the social and economic impacts of their decisions," he said. "They don't care if people go out of business or lose their boats. Remember, this stock is not overfished even by NMFS's crazy standards."

Fote pointed out that in 1993, the first year of management under the allocation system, the spawning stock biomass was 20,460,000 pounds and the total biomass was 46,860,000 pounds.

The 10-year clock that Congress started in 2000 whereby the fluke fishery had to be rebuilt to 204 million pounds by 2010. The target was recently changed by NMFS to 197 million pounds. The spawning stock biomass that year was 42,680,000 pounds and the total biomass was 61,380,000.

The spawning stock biomass had increased to 67,320,000 pounds in 2005, and the total biomass had increased to 104,060,000 pounds.

"Since 1993, the spawning stock biomass has gone up a multiple of 3.29 and its biomass has gone up a multiple of 2.22," Fote stressed.

"Although overfishing is occurring, given our F target rate of 0.276, the stock is not overfished, as it's more than one half the current Bmsy target of 204,000,000," he said.

"Remember, overfishing is only taking place because NMFS gave us incorrect target figures in 2004," he said.

"In 2004, the stock assessment committee told us we could go to a quota of over 30 million pounds for 2005, and 33 million pounds for 2006 with a 75 percent probability of meeting our targets," he emphasized.

"The following year NMFS changed the figures and recommended 23.6 million pounds and announced that ASMFC and MAFMC had allowed overfishing in 2005," he continued. "They expected ASMFC and MAFMC to be fortune tellers and reject NMFS science in 2004."

The first year the new allocation system went into effect — 1993 — the quota was 20.73 million pounds. It has never been lower than 17.9 million pounds — 2001 — yet 14 years of conserving fluke and the achievement of rebuilding the stocks from a biomass of 21,227,000 fish to 47,789,000 fish in 2006.

Now NMFS wants to drop the quota to 12.983 million pounds.

Fote said he asked the ASMFC board to support the Mid-Atlantic Council's recommendation for 19.9 million pounds because no new information has come out beyond the facts that the council used to base its stand.

"Do not let yourself be drawn into the argument over whether a 10-year rebuilding program is right or wrong," Fote told the board. "That is

NMFS's problem not your problem. What the ASMFC needs is a realistic target to rebuild these fisheries, not the flawed target used by NMFS that created this situation."

James A. Donofrio, executive director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance, said the board's decision to recommend 19.9 million pounds in support of the Mid-Atlantic Council's position only to reverse itself at the 11th hour of the same meeting was deplorable.

"When I first heard they took a stand for what is right, I was pleased," he said. "It looked as if they finally had listened to the tens of thousands of fishermen who had put in the effort to overcome this travesty.

"It would have been unfortunate for commercial fishermen who would have lost quota, but now, with the board reversing itself, we've all lost," he said.

Donofrio said he thought the ASMFC board would have recognized that the problem is with the law that Congress passed, not overfishing. "This is a big disappointment," Donofrio said. "If you recall, this is the same thing that happened at Atlantic City last year only worse. We made our case before the board, they understood where we were coming from, and then changed their minds.

"This is another example of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission outliving its usefulness," he continued. "They are not supposed to be a rubber stamp for NMFS; they're supposed to make decisions on their own, to represent recreational and commercial fishermen fairly, not be a de facto federal agency. "If they can't stand up to NMFS, and NMFS makes all of the decisions — right or wrong — then it's time to do away with the ASMFC," he added. "We don't need this extra layer that is an expense to the taxpayers. Save the money and put it into research and programs that will benefit the resource and those who harvest it."

The Star Ledger

N.J. legislators urge higher fluke quota

Tuesday, October 31, 2006

BY AL RISTORI

Only pressure from New Jersey lawmakers is likely to save next year's fluke season, and three members of the state's delegation combined to write a letter yesterday to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez and Rep. Frank Pallone urged regional administrator Patricia Kurkul "to exercise scientifically viable and legally acceptable flexibility" by accepting the 19.9 million-pound quota already adopted by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, rather than the mere 12.983 million pounds the agency advocates, in order to avoid the drastic economic consequences of virtually shutting down the 2007 season.

Lautenberg, Menendez and Pallone signed on to the letter, which emphasized that NMFS has the required flexibility under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to extend rebuilding timelines in order to avoid imposing economic hardships on fishermen. The legislators conceded that might delay full rebuilding of the stock past 2010 to 2013, but noted that Congress had provided the flexibility required to do that.

Highly Migratory Species

By John Koegler

Bluefin Tuna & ICCAT

During November ICCAT will be meeting in Croatia. The top issue on their agenda is Bluefin tuna. Over the last two years a series of reports by outside agencies and WWF have determined that ICCAT member countries and non members of ICCAT had a total landing total of 55,000 MT during the latest ICCAT report

Then in 2005 the Mediterranean bluefin fishery collapsed to the lowest levels in the last 20 years. ICCAT scientists had stated that 25,000 MT a year was the highest Maximum sustainable yield in this fishery for the last 10 years if not longer. The latest ICCAT quota was 32,000MT. It is known that official reports are greatly undercounting the total number and amount of bluefin being landed in this area.

In meetings over the last 9 months ICCAT scientists now are getting tougher and more vocal and they state that the time to act is long past. They report a quota of less than 15,000 MT was needed PLUS a 3 month total longline and purse seine closure during the summer spawning season. ICCAT scientists also desire the minimum legal size for bluefin in the Mediterranean be increased to 30 kg.

Over a long 10 year time span ICCAT bluefin tuna landed in the Mediterranean were stated as 50% age "0" bluefin. Due to the huge increase in bluefin tuna fish farms the total ICCAT quota was far exceeded without counting the baby bluefin. So in typical fashion the ICCAT member countries eliminated their baby bluefin count claiming that they no longer fished for them. Several attendees at that meeting went to a local fish market and brought 3 kg. baby bluefin tuna to show to the meeting.

Bill Hogarth head of NMFS is ICCAT chairman this year. Since the US has clearly been the only country except Canada that follows any ICCAT quota in past years, it remains to be seen if this year's session will be any different from the last 26 years of total avoidance of all previous ICCAT assigned quotas.

A good report is that US Senator Olympia J. Snowe of Maine sent a strong two-page letter to Bill Hogarth demanding action during this year's ICCAT meeting. Since she is chairman of the Senates Fisheries and Coast Guard subcommittee this should have some affect on what Hogarth achieves at this year's ICCAT session.

US 2006 Giant bluefin tuna landings

As of early October, 2006 the total 2006 giant bluefin landings totaled 38.2 MT. This is a tiny fraction of the US giant quota of over 1,000 MT. It remains to be seen if the fantastic bluefin fishing off North Carolina will increase this year's US giant bluefin landings.

Local bluefin tuna reports

In 90 foot water just 10 miles off New Jersey's beach front a major migration of 100 pound bluefin tuna has been seen and reported. Many were seen during the previous week when there was a 4-day period of flat calm water. I have found only one fish that was hooked and landed over the last two weeks inshore. Offshore in the canyons the big head boats had been hooking and landing large bluefin tuna during some of their offshore overnight trips.

Science magazine report on overfishing

Dr. Boris Worm of Dalhousie University in Canada recently published a report in Science magazine in the November 13th issue that is the result of four years of work using 12 scientists plus all available data on ocean species and ecosystems.

The study points to a huge loss in diversity of ocean species. This has an unplanned effect in

causing a major loss in productivity affecting the stability of the ocean's entire ecosystem. Combine this point of view with the huge major changes being reported in all the world's oceans and you know we have a huge problem. We have already read reports from 2003 about all the world's large fishes being depleted by 90%. Everyone knows this cannot continue forever.

The report ends on a positive note stating, "We can turn this around. Less than one percent of the global ocean is effectively protected now. We won't see complete recovery in one year. In most cases species come back more quickly than people anticipated, often in three to ten years. And where this has been done we see immediate economic benefits"

It is always wonderful to understand that if humans put their mind to fix a problem it can be fixed. Even if that fix takes many years.

Everyone have a joyous holiday season and enjoy tight lines while waiting.

SALT WATER SPORTSMAN
NATIONAL SEMINAR SERIES 20-
YEAR ANNIVERSARY TOUR COMES
TO ATLANTIC CITY! January 6, 2007

Circle Saturday, January 6, 2007, on your calendar! That's when the Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series comes to the Trump Marina Hotel and Casino's Grand Cayman Ballroom! Hosting this special 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 20th Anniversary Edition seminar will be **George Poveromo** – Host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on ESPN2, and a Senior Editor for Salt Water Sportsman, and **David DiBenedetto** – Editor for Salt Water Sportsman. The tour is being presented by Boater's World Marine Centers.

Regarded as the most comprehensive seminar on recreational marine fishing tactics, the New Jersey edition will be crammed full of the latest "how-to" and "where-to" information and techniques. Joining Poveromo and DiBenedetto in Atlantic City will be **Captain Fred Archer** – legendary pioneer of Southern California shark-and tuna-fishing techniques, and author of 11 books on big game fishing; **Captain Frank Crescitelli** – renowned South Jersey tuna, marlin and striped bass authority and owner of Fin Chaser Charters; **Captain John Oughton** – veteran offshore skipper with over 27 years of experience in catching tuna, billfish, wahoo and dolphin. Oughton skippers the Over Under Adventures charter boat; **Captain Andy Duffy** – Ocean City-based back-bay, beach and wreck fishing authority who specializes in catching trophy stripers, weakfish, bluefish, fluke and

blackfish; **Captain Ray Szulczewski** – "Cape May Ray" has over 26 years of experience in fishing the back bays, inlets and beachfront areas around South Jersey; **Captain Al Crudele III** – a noted South Jersey trophy fluke and weakfish specialist, Crudele is also a premier shark, tuna and marlin pro aboard his Sea Isle City-based Bayhound Charters; **Dr. Mitchell Roffer** – the nation's leading authority on locating surface temperature breaks and ocean-circulation features that hold fish; and **Captain Bob Cope** – premier authority on catching trophy fluke and striped bass, monster drum, and weakfish by the score in Delaware Bay aboard his Full Ahead Sportfishing charter boat.

Courses for the January 6 presentation will focus on trophy stripers on ultra-light tackle, live-lining for trophy stripers, top trolling tactics for stripers, chunking for bluefish, bluefish on top water lures, inshore wire-line techniques, jetty tactics, how to catch more and bigger fluke, targeting trophy fluke, top southern tactics for jumbo fluke, secrets of fishing the Cape May Rips, trophy drum in Delaware Bay, secrets of fishing Delaware Bay, top tactics for big blackfish, catching blackfish by the score, no-nonsense weakfish tactics, how and where to catch weakfish, variety fishing in and around inlets, how to locate and fish productive bottom (blackfish, sea bass, spot and fluke), back-bay stripers, can't miss tuna-trolling patterns, chunking for tunas, live-baiting for tunas, advanced methods for bluefin and yellowfin tuna, cutting edge spreader bar and dredge tactics, secrets for catching more inshore tuna, reading water temperature charts, targeting trophy makos, basic and advanced sharking techniques, offshore kite fishing for sharks and tuna, Southern California trolling tactics for sharks, specialized tactics that take more big-eye tuna.

A ticket to the Seminar Series costs \$ 55.00, and includes a \$ 50.00 Boater's World Gift Card (Via mail-in rebate with your next purchase of \$ 150.00), a Boater's World Duffle Bag, a One-Year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman Magazine, One Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis (offshore tuna, dolphin and marlin only), One year membership to the International Game Fish Association (new members only), a 16-ounce bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, and One spool of Sufix Elite, Clear Blue, 14-lb. test line.

The names of all attendees of the Atlantic City seminar will be entered into the Grand Prize drawing to win an incredible bonefishing excursion to the Bimini Sands Resort and Marina. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the seminar that day, and one lucky person will win the trip for two! In addition, the names of all attendees from the 2007 Seminar Series Tour will be entered into the drawing for the Super Grand Prize - a brand new Mako 212 Center Console powered by a Mercury 200 hp OptiMax Outboard and complete with a FLOAT-ON trailer! The drawing for the boat will take place one week after the completion of the final seminar

on the tour, and one lucky winner will take home the boat!

To order tickets by phone with a major credit card, call 1-800-448-7360. To order tickets on-line and for more information visit: www.nationalseminarseries.com

Remember to order your tickets early, as this seminar sells out quickly!

YOUTH EDUCATION BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI

2006 YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

JCAA MEMBER CLUB YOUTH FISHING PROFILE

The JCAA Youth Education Committee presented the Hudson River Fishermen's Association the 2006 JCAA Youth Education Award for their promotion of the "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" program and organizing a number of youth fishing events for children and their families. We plan to display their impressive nomination packet at the JCAA dinner/dance. During 2006, over six hundred inner-city students participated in fishing trips from fishing piers, boats, and along the shore. The HRFA also developed a youth angler program that supports the following activities: Explorer 2000 program, Leonia High School Rod and Reel Club, Hooked on the Hudson Program, Take A Kid Fishing, HRFA Family Day Outing, Youth Surf Fishing Competition, Charter and Party Boat Fishing, Donated Funds for College Scholarships, and incorporated HOFNOD into all their events. The amount of volunteers that are needed to make this happen is unbelievable, but members of the HRFA pool their resources to make fishing a reality for children that might never have an opportunity to experience saltwater fishing. A lot of hard work goes into writing grants, working boat shows, preparing presentations, scheduling boat trips, communicating with schools, and organizing the HRFA Youth Angler Volunteers. Explore 2000 students will be featured on "Classroom Close-up" New Jersey. The show will air on Monday at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday a 7:00 a.m. on New Jersey Network, December 25 and 30th. Learn how students from Explore 2000 aboard the Atlantis Princess participated in a fish tagging demonstration

and caught Fluke, Bluefish, and Sea Robins. Again, congratulations to the HRFA and their Youth Angler Volunteers. Let's see if they can beat their record and teach seven hundred Youth Angler students in 2007.

SPORTSMEN SHOWS

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's, Youth Education Committee, will be featuring special youth education seminars at upcoming sportsmen shows. Participating merchants at the hunting and fishing expositions will offer special promotions at their booths for children attending the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's, Youth Fishing Seminars. Parents are also welcome to attend.

HOFNOD CERTIFICATION GRANT

Take the time to get certified as a "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" presenter. Certification Grants will be available to JCAA member clubs. The following criteria must be met for a JCAA member club to sponsor a person/s for HOFNOD Certification: 1.) The member club must be in good standing with JCAA. 2.) Fiscal year dues must be paid. 3.) Only two members from your organization can be certified per fiscal year. 4.) Your club president's signature vouching that the grant will be spent as described in the request. 5.) Complete the HOFNOD Certification Grant Application. Please e-mail Greg Kucharewski at gkucharews@aol.com for more information and training dates.

STEP OUTSIDE

As fishing starts to slow and after your fishing equipment is cleaned and ready for next season, you might want to try another fun outdoor activity. During the winter months I start to feel closed in and there is only so much inside stuff I can handle. The past few years I started to explore other outdoor activities such as target shooting, hiking, and winter distance fly casting in the snow. Check out the Step Outside web site at www.stepoutside.org for some great ideas.

If you would like to help with our youth education efforts and offer some of your time to teach children the joy of fishing please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail Gkucharews@aol.com.

HAVE FUN TAKE A KID FISHING

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