

JCAA NEWSPAPER MARCH 2007

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on February 20th, 2007)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, February 27th, 2007

Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, February 8th, 2007

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 732-446-6298 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**

## 2006 OFFICERS

~~~~~  
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Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

JCAA HIGH ROLLER RAFFLE

It is now time for the JCAA High Rollers 2007 Raffle. We have put together a terrific selection of rods and reels for one raffle with eight prizes that will be drawn on April 24, 2007. This is a major fundraiser for the JCAA. The 8 prizes are listed below with a value of almost \$3,000. Tickets will be two dollars each and Club Representatives can get books of tickets to sell by attending a JCAA meeting. JCAA will be staffing a booth and selling tickets at the upcoming Saltwater Fishing Expo at the Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, March 16-18. If you would like to buy raffle tickets call the JCAA office. When your club representative brings them to your club, please help with your purchase. Without your continued support we cannot function as an organization in protecting the marine resource and angler's rights. Shimano provided reels at a special price to JCAA. Profile, Folsom, and Quarow donated the rods and High Seas and Sufix donated line. Hummingbird donated the radio and Fisherman's Headquarters the shopping spree.

1. Shimano Tiagra TI-30WLRSA Reel with a Quarow 20-50 STD rod Value \$730
2. Fisherman's Headquarters, Ship Bottom, NJ donated a \$500.00 Shopping Spree Fishermansheadquarters.com / 609-494-5739 Value \$500
3. Shimano TLD 30 Reel with Sufix line & Profile GL5630 Stand up Rod Value \$430
4. Penn 955 International Reel with Sufix line & Penn ISW817C66XF Rod Value \$320
5. Penn 320 GT2 Reel with Hi Seas line & Tsunami TSTBC 701MH Rod Value \$220
6. Shimano Baitrunner 4500B Reel with Sufix line & Tsunami TSTSS 1102XH Rod Value \$220
7. Abu Garcia 7000C3 Reel with Sufix line & a Berkley IM7 Graphite Rod Value \$210
8. Hummingbird Fixed Mount White VHF Radio 255 SW Donated by Hummingbird Value \$150

Meetings And Other Dates

February 20 JCAA Club Representative Meeting
Summer Flounder at JCAA Office

February 27 JCAA General Meeting

March 1 NJ Marine Fisheries Council meeting at
Galloway Twp. Branch of the Atlantic Co. Library,
306 East Jimmie Leeds Road, Absecon at 4pm.
Please call 609-292-7794 to confirm date and time of
meeting. **Summer** Flounder vote

March 1-4 Suffern Show

March 16-18 Saltwater Fishing Expo at Garden
State Exhibit Center, Somerset, NJ

March 27 JCAA General Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By John Toth

My first order of business is to thank Bruce Smith for guiding the JCAA for the two years of his presidency. Bruce has contributed much of his time and energy to JCAA issues. He has attended numerous management meetings where JCAA presence and opinions were needed. Of course, all of these JCAA efforts were done on his own time. Bruce has indicated that he will still help the JCAA on its many initiatives, especially the JCAA Fluke Tournament that is coming up soon. I will continue to ask Bruce for his guidance. Bruce has also reminded me to place in my report that at our last regular meeting members passed a motion that the JCAA send a letter to the Coast Guard in support of status quo for Loran C. Many anglers have fishing coordinates tied to this system and do not want to see it phased out by the Guard.

I enter the JCAA President's Office at a time when there are many challenges facing us. We are at a time when our beloved sport seems to be under attack from all angles. We are facing dramatic cutbacks in our fluke quota and now even blackfish with a 28% quota reduction. We are facing a fishing management bureaucracy that seems tone deaf to the concerns of the recreational community and that not only includes anglers but also tackle shops and the party and charter boat industry. How many times have we told them that dogfish are decimating the fish stocks! We are also facing some elements in the environmental sector that do not understand the fishing industry but seem determined to continually reduce the amount of fish we can catch and come up

with unrealistic fish quotas that we cannot possibly achieve. They exert tremendous influence in the political and fishing management circles that eventually determine what we can fish for.

Well, I do not want to throw away my fishing gear and take up the golf clubs just yet! The saying "If you snooze, you lose" is very applicable to all of us. We must continually be on guard to all of the latest developments affecting our sport and take appropriate action. For example, we are facing a 28% reduction in blackfish and the issue of illegal catches and the numerous pots and gear by commercial fishermen on the artificial reefs have not been addressed by fishing management when they came up with this reduced quota. With the assistance of JCAA staff, I have drafted a letter to Governor Corzine that addresses this issue and seeks the assistance of his Office to rectify this problem (the letter is in this newsletter). The JCAA will work with members of the recreational community, other fishing organizations, management staff and members of both political parties to address and resolve the blackfish issue and other issues that face us. We may lose some battles, but we do want to eventually win the war!

What can you do? You can support the JCAA by attending its monthly meetings to be informed on all of the issues that confront the recreational community so that you can bring this information back to your clubs. You can pay your club member dues in a timely fashion so that the JCAA not only has your financial support but can also count on your club as one who supports the goals of the JCAA to fishing management organizations. Remember, there is strength in numbers! The invoices for your JCAA dues and sponsorships have recently been mailed, so watch for them. Your support for the JCAA's High Roller Raffle, its Fluke Tournament, Dinner Dance and other activities are other ways that your club can support the JCAA.

The purpose of the JCAA is to protect the rights of all anglers who fish in New Jersey. By helping the JCAA you are helping the JCAA to help you in protecting your fishing rights that are continually being challenged by a variety of forces.

The Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT), the funding mechanism that has allowed New Jersey to save over 350,000 acres of parks, farmland, and natural and historic sites, will run out of money in 2007. The Outdoor Recreation Alliance (ORA)

campaign to renew and strengthen this program has resulted in the introduction of two bipartisan bills, ACR 229 / SCR 131, to place a public referendum on the November 2007 ballot. You can help by encouraging your legislators to co-sponsor and/or support these bills. You can request your local and county governing bodies to pass a resolution in support of these bills. To date, approximately 25 resolutions have been passed. View a sample resolution at www.outdoorrecreationalliance.org or call Joanna Wolaver at 609-392-1181 for info.

Mark Taylor, Event Coordinator, was really excited about the JCAA member participation at the Atlantic City International Boat Show and the support of boaters and anglers of JCAA's efforts to protect the marine resource and anglers' rights. He said that our next event will be the Salt Water Fishing Expo in Somerset, March 16th thru 18th. Call Mark at 732-929-2591 to help out.

The Sunrise Bay Anglers have made application to become a member club of JCAA. If there is no objection their membership application will be approved at our next general membership meeting.

JCAA LETTER TO GOVERNOR JON CORZINE

February 15, 2007

Governor Jon S. Corzine
State House
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Corzine,

The member clubs of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association voted unanimously at its last meeting to request the assistance of your office to prohibit the use of commercial fishing gear and pots on artificial reefs within state waters, and to also petition the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to declare those artificial reefs directly outside of New Jersey's waters as special management zones. Let me explain the reason for this request.

To provide a habitat for fish, shellfish and crustaceans, our DEP created a network of 15 artificial reefs. Two of these reefs are in New

Jersey's waters and thirteen of them are directly outside of our border in federal waters. Working with the Division of Fish and Wildlife to have these reefs constructed, recreational anglers have contributed funds to have these artificial reefs built. The reefs provide recreational anglers and divers increased opportunities to catch bottom dwelling fish who are attracted to these types of structures.

Unfortunately, these artificial reefs have been taken over by commercial fishermen who place numerous traps and gear all over the structures to resemble a golf course with their above-water flags that identify the location of their gear. The bottom lines that connect the numerous traps to the flags float up in arcs, and when recreational boats use the reefs their fishing rigs and anchors snag these lines. In essence, the artificial reefs have been taken over by commercial interests even though they have been created and funded by recreational anglers!

Another serious issue is that those commercial traps catch blackfish and sea bass 24/7 on these prime fishing grounds. This continuous pressure fishing on these species naturally depletes their stocks. Meanwhile, the recreational sector has been recently told by Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission that its blackfish quota will be reduced by 28% for 2008! The penalty to recreational anglers is two fold: access to the reefs is impeded by the commercial sector and their continuous pressure on these bottom dwelling species results in severe quota cutbacks for the recreational community.

Remember, according to a survey done by the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, 20% of the recreational fish caught by anglers in NJ comes from artificial reefs and it is a large contributor to New Jersey's 1.3 billion dollar recreational fishing industry.

Accordingly, the Jersey Coast Anglers Association is requesting your office to immediately ban commercial gear on those two reefs that are directly in New Jersey's waters. For those 13 artificial reefs directly outside of New Jersey's waters, we are requesting the assistance of your office to direct the Office of Environmental Protection to petition the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to declare these reefs special management zones so that all commercial gear on these reefs will be managed by strict guidelines by the Council. We are looking forward to working

with you to make this happen and we will be waiting to hear from you.

John Toth
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FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Thomas Fote

Weakfish

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission decided to reduce the recreational bag limit to 6 fish along the entire coast. For New Jersey that represents a reduction from 8 fish at a 13 inch minimum to 6 fish at the same size. Lately, ASMFC has retreated from "fair and equitable." ASMFC has also been penalizing states for being more conservative. When the last amendment was passed, New Jersey was not treated fairly. This current addendum does nothing to rectify that unfairness. When the last amendment was completed, the goal was to reduce the recreational catch to 32%. The actual outcome was that states at 12 inches (Virginia and North Carolina) were allowed to increase their bag limit from 4 fish to 7 fish. Meanwhile, New Jersey and Delaware reduced the catch from 14 fish at 14 inches to 8 fish at 13 inches. We could have gone to 7 fish at 12 inches but decided that was not the option New Jersey anglers wanted. In the old days, ASMFC would not have penalized a state for

being more conservative. Now, however, we are told that we have to stay at 13 inches and go to a 6 fish bag limit. We are losing 2 fish and again being more conservative than the southern states that are losing one fish at 12 inches. ASMFC has gotten a bad reputation with recreational anglers due to their tendency to acquiesce to the National Marine Fisheries Commission. Now the plans they actually have control over, they no longer treat all states fairly when reductions or increases are made. As you will read later in my report, they are actually moving to limit public comment. There doesn't seem to be a single area in which they are working for recreational anglers. As a former commissioner I am sorry to see ASMFC reduced to this low level of public esteem. It also makes many of us reconsider our support for the Atlantic Coast Conservation Act.

Summer Flounder

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission showed absolutely no guts and simply rubber stamped the National Marine Fisheries Service's plan for summer flounder. Even though NMFS was asked at the New York meeting to provide ASMFC with tables based on 50% probability, these tables were never available. As a consequence, 75% probability was all that was available. What I find really interesting is that the Commission and Council members who had requested that NMFS review the target and provide this data, never called NMFS to task at the most recent meeting. I asked many Council and Commission members if they were aware that NMFS had increased the target from 204 million to 215 million pounds. No one I spoke to seemed aware of this change. This is no way to make decisions. Hopefully, ASMFC will demand that NMFS go to an outside peer review before ASMFC acquiesces anymore to NMFS draconian measures. JCAA paid \$1,000 in expenses for me to attend the 4 days of meetings. Taxpayers are paying for Commissioners to attend meetings and make decisions. To get those Commissioners there may cost well more than the \$1,000 JCAA spends. The members who are State Directors are away from their state jobs to attend these meetings. Most Governors' Appointees receive nothing beyond their expenses. They are giving up their time and their salaries. If taxpayers are going to fund this operation and people give up their valuable time and money, we should expect at least a Commission that actually has the authority to make decisions in the best

interests of the resource and the public without being required to rubber-stamp the decisions made by NMFS. If that is all they are going to do, we could just have a conference call or condense the meetings to just species where ASMFC actually gets to make decisions.

The tables are included below for the choices for '07. I have also included the tables for Connecticut and New York. New Jersey is taking a serious economic hit but the outlook for New York is an absolute disaster and may actually destroy the recreational summer flounder fishery and all the businesses that rely on that fishery. All of the pain is needless since a considerably higher quota would have no long-term impact on rebuilding summer flounder. NMFS has actually admitted this drastic cut might have no long-term positive impact on rebuilding since the problems may be connected to environmental and natural mortality and not fishing.

Connecticut

2006 Harvest Limit: 138,000 fish
 2006 Landings: 105,763 fish
 2007 Harvest Limit: 91,300 fish
 Alteration for 2007: 13.7% reduction

Proposed 2007 Measures: Other options may be created using the same methodology.

Option	size	bag	open season
1	18	6	June 7 - Dec 31
2	18	6	April 30 - August 28
3	18	5	May 30 - Dec 31
4	18	5	April 30 - September 5
5	18	4	May 18 - Dec 31

New York

2006 Harvest Limit: 650,000 fish
 2006 Landings: 837,457 fish
 2007 Harvest Limit: 430,262 fish
 Alteration for 2007: 49.0 % reduction

2006 Regulations:

Minimum Size: 18.0"
 Possession Limit: 4 fish
 Open Season: May 6-September 12

Proposed 2007 Measures: Other options may be created using the same methodology.

Option	Size	Bag	Open Season
1	18.0"	4	June 22 - July 31
2	18.0"	3	June 22 - July 31
3	18.0"	2	June 19 - July 31
4	18.5"	4	May 25 - July 31
5	18.5"	4	May 6 - July 25
6	18.5"	4	June 22 - August 31

7	18.5"	2	June 22 - September 12
8	19.0"	4	May 6 - August 31
9	19.0"	4	May 12 - September 9
10	19.0"	3	May 12 - September 9
11	19.0"	2	May 6 - September 9
12	19.5"	4	All Year
12	20.0"	4	All Year

New Jersey

2006 Harvest Limit: 1,443,000 fish
 2006 Landings: 1,578,349 fish
 2007 Harvest Limit: 954,272 fish
 Alteration for 2007: 39.5 % reduction

2006 Regulations:

Minimum Size: 16.5"
 Possession Limit: 8 fish
 Open Season: May 6- October 9

Proposed 2007 Measures: Other options may be created using the same methodology

Option	size	bag	open season
1	16.5	8	July 1-September 3
2	16.5	2	June 26- September 7
3	17	8	June 10- September 19
4	17	8	June 9-September 18
5	17	2	June 5- September 22
6	17.5	8	May 6-October 9

Tautog (Blackfish)

I wish I had some good news. However, ASMFC decided to reduce the tautog mortality rate by 28.6% on the recreational community for 2008. In the meantime, the commercial community will stay at status quo. The plan does allow the states to be more conservative and that would allow New Jersey to distribute the change across the recreational and commercial communities. JCAA will be demanding that the pain be shared. In other species like scup where we are small players, any reduction comes off equally on both communities. It is only fair we share the reductions for tautog if that is what happens in species where we are minor players.

ASMFC failed to address the illegal live fish fishery for tautog. We know that this is a major contributor to the mortality for this species. We also know there are major markets in Pennsylvania and Maryland that are selling undersized tautog since they did not implement the size limit. ASMFC should have demanded that every state that sells tautog have a minimum 14 inch size limit. That would correct some of the problem. We should also be requiring that all sellers and buyers be licensed. If a state does not have that requirement, there

should be no opportunity to sell live fish. We need a paper trail to identify the original and end point for those fish.

Restrict Public Comment at ASMFC Meetings

There is a move to really restrict public comment at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) meetings. If it was up to some people, there would be no public comment at ASMFC meetings. When the Atlantic Coast Conservation Act was being discussed in the early 90's, there was much concern expressed by JCAA and the North Carolina Fisherman's Association that the Commission was a "good old boys" network and was not responsive to the public. When I first began attending Commission meetings there was no allowance for public comment. There were only 5 state directors on a board, no legislative or Governor's appointee. One of my first goals as the Governor's appointee for New Jersey was to work to guarantee public access and participation. Before JCAA would support the Atlantic Coast Conservation Act, there were promises made that the process would be opened to the public. We were promised that the Governor's appointees and the legislative appointees would be more involved in the process. Working together with other commissioners during the 90's, we transformed the Commission to an open process that required commissioners to listen to the public. In my estimation, ASMFC began a good example of how this type system could work. In the last few years I have become discouraged by the changes at ASMFC.

Not only has ASMFC failed to meet its responsibilities and stand up to NMFS, but they are now trying to restrict public comment. I had to leave the recent meeting before the policy committee met, but in looking at their minutes I saw a disturbing paragraph suggesting they will limit public comment. As I pointed out in an earlier article, it costs JCAA about \$1,000 in expenses to send me to four days of meetings. I don't take a salary but those are my four days that are invested in meetings. The general public cannot afford to attend these meetings, either in the expense required or in lost wages. In the old days at least ASMFC would leave Washington, DC and conduct species meetings closer to home for the recreational anglers. Now they hold every meeting except for the annual

meeting in Washington, DC. They make important decisions on species at annual meetings that are held in states that have no interest in that species. Frequently, the travel time for a one-day meeting at these distant sites is a total of 3 days. That is why groups like JCAA were formed. We represent the public interest; most importantly, the interest of those anglers who are unable to attend on their own. When you consider that your taxpayer dollars and your personal expenses and lost wages are all included in your attendance, then at the very minimum, you deserve to make your opinions known by speaking at the meetings. Sometimes the final motion does not even resemble the options discussed at the more local public meetings. JCAA has reached out to other commercial and recreational organizations to write a letter to ASMFC demanding continued public participation at all ASMFC meetings. We will not accept anything less. We will also contact our congressmen and senators who sponsor the legislation that allows ASMFC to manage fisheries and funds their operations. We will expect them to take action. This may involve reducing ASMFC powers and/or cutting their funding.

GETTING THE POTS OFF THE REEFS

A letter from JCAA is included in this newspaper supporting the elimination of pots from the artificial reefs. JCAA has joined a coalition to make this happen not only off New Jersey but the entire Mid-Atlantic Coast. This coalition is similar to the coalition we built for the menhaden project. We are asking our member clubs to write similar letters to Governor Corzine. If you have any questions, send me an email.

ASMFC January 29-February Meeting Summary

I have only included the summary in the JCAA Newspaper to get results of all the board meetings and the motions made go to our updated web page www.jcaa.org

ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (January 29, 2007)

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board met to review an update from the Technical Committee and review and consider approval of a proposal from Maryland to eliminate the quota management system in place for the Chesapeake Bay spring trophy fishery. A

second proposal from North Carolina to increase the total allowable catch in the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River fishery was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources submitted a proposal to the Commission to eliminate the hard harvest quota on the Chesapeake Bay spring trophy fishery. The proposed management system, while eliminating the quota, would have kept the other regulations for the fishery in place (the approximately one month long fishing season, a large minimum size limit, and a one fish creel limit) and maintained Maryland's current harvest monitoring program. The motion to approve the proposal failed, with Board members discussing equity concerns, monitoring needs, effort considerations, socioeconomic issues, and the desire to know the results of the upcoming stock assessment before considering the proposed action.

Subsequently, Maryland proposed, and the Board approved, a harvest target for the 2007 spring trophy fishery of the baseline quota minus the 2006 overage (26,283 fish), to be no less than 30,000 fish. Maryland must adopt new regulations, approved by the Atlantic Striped Bass Technical Committee, to reach the target harvest level. This management system was approved for the 2007 fishery only and the Board will revisit the regulations prior to the 2008 season.

Doug Grout, chair of the Atlantic Striped Bass Technical Committee (TC), provided an update to the Board following the TC's meeting earlier in January. This update covered the TC's analysis of the proposal from Maryland and progress on the 2007 stock assessment. The latter included a review of the Terms of Reference for the stock assessment, which required and received the Board's approval, discussion of a potential new model for the assessment, and a timeline of important dates for the assessment process, as listed below.

- June 15, 2007** – State compliance reports due with *all* data needed for stock assessment
- Late July/early August** – Assessment workshops for both the Stock Assessment Subcommittee and the Tagging Subcommittee
- September 4** – Stock assessment report (SAR) due to ASMFC staff
- Mid-September** – Striped Bass TC meeting to review and approve/disapprove SAR
- November/December** – Peer Review of SAR
- January 2008** – Management Board approve/disapprove peer reviewed SAR

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

TAUTOG MANAGEMENT BOARD (January 30, 2007)

Press Release

ASMFC Tautog Board Approves Addendum IV *Addendum Establishes Stock Rebuilding Program*

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Tautog Management Board approved Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The Addendum initiates a stock rebuilding program for tautog through the establishment of coastwide target and threshold levels for spawning stock biomass (SSB), and a new fishing mortality target. Under the new program, states will be required to reduce fishing mortality by 28%. The recreational sector, which accounts for 90% of tautog harvest, can expect the implementation of more restrictive management measures by January 1, 2008. These measures may include decreased bag limits and seasonal closures.

This action was taken in response to the findings of the 2005 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 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.

To allow fisheries managers to assess the status of the stock, the Addendum establishes for the first time a SSB target of 26,800 metric tons and a SSB threshold of 20,100 metric tons. Based on these new reference points, the tautog resource, with an estimated SSB of 10,600 metric tons, is considered overfished. To initiate rebuilding, the Addendum establishes a new fishing mortality target of 0.20, compared to the current fishing mortality rate of 0.28. Under this scenario, states will be required to reduce fishing mortality in their recreational sectors by 28.6%. States will have until January 1, 2008 to fully implement the Addendum. The Board is scheduled to meet in May to review and approve state proposals for their recreational fisheries. A rebuilt stock would provide important benefits to recreational, commercial, and for-hire fisheries.

The Board also received a report from the Commission's Law Enforcement Committee regarding the illegal live fish fishery that has been perceived by some as increasing in magnitude throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. The Board expressed its concern about this issue and committed to closely monitor enforcement efforts on the tautog fishery.

WEAKFISH MANAGEMENT BOARD (February 1, 2007)

Press Release

ASMFC Weakfish Board Approves Addendum II *Addendum to Control Expansion of the Fishery*

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Weakfish Management Board approved Addendum II to Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Weakfish. Under the Addendum, the states of Massachusetts through North Carolina will be required to implement a six fish creel limit at their current size limit for the recreational fishery. South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, because of their insignificant weakfish landings, will maintain their current creel and size limits. The Addendum establishes a coastwide commercial landings limit of approximately 3.7 million pounds (based on the average landings for 2000-2004). The Addendum also reduces the allowable bycatch limit from 300 pounds to 150 pounds per day or trip.

The Board’s action was taken in response to a significant decline in stock abundance and increasing total mortality since 1999. As a result of the stock’s overfished status, the Board is required under Amendment 4 to adjust the management program to help rebuild spawning stock biomass. This issue is compounded by the fact that natural mortality, rather than fishing mortality, has been indicated as the lead cause for stock decline.

In order to provide a greater probability of the stock rebounding, the Board has implemented a more conservative recreational creel limit, a commercial bycatch limit, and an annual commercial landings limit. These management measures will be re-evaluated when either the coastwide commercial landings equal or exceed 80% of the commercial landings limit or any single state’s landings exceed its five-year mean by more than 25% in any single year.

States are required to fully implement the Addendum by October 29, 2007. Copies of the final Addendum will be available by March via the Commission’s website at www.asmf.org under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400.

The Board also approved sending forward for public comment Draft Addendum III. This Addendum addresses an inconsistency in bycatch reduction device requirements between the Commission’s FMP and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Shrimp Amendment 6. A press release announcing the document’s availability and schedule for public hearings will be distributed over the next few weeks.

Copies of the Addendum will be available by early February and can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400 or via the Commission’s website at www.asmf.org under Breaking News. For more information, please contact Christopher Vonderweidt, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at cvonderweidt@asmfc.org or (202) 289-6400.

SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, AND BLACK SEA BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (January 31, 2007)

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board reviewed and accepted summer flounder state recreational proposals and a methodology to establish regional measures. States will establish their 2007 recreational measures from these approved approaches prior to the start of the 2007 recreational season.

The Board reviewed and approved draft Amendment 14 for public comment. The purpose of this Amendment is to develop a rebuilding plan for the scup stock, thereby preventing overfishing and rebuilding the scup stock to the level associated with maximum sustainable yield (B_{msy}) through a suite of options. A press release announcing public hearings for the draft amendment will be released in early February.

The Board initiated an addendum that will be reviewed and considered for public comment at the Commission’s Spring Meeting Week. This addendum will include options to extend Addendum XII, which expires on January 1, 2008. Addendum XII set the state-by-state shares for the black sea bass fishery. Also included in the initiated addendum will be options to explore changes to the summer flounder recreational allocation. Lastly, the addendum will include options to allow the Board to change biological reference points during the specification setting process following stock assessment reviews

The Board will forward a recommendation to the NRCC to delay the review of the black sea bass stock assessment from June of 2007 to the summer of 2008. This delay will allow additional work on a tagging model to be conducted. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Senior Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator for Management, at (202)289-6400 or tkerns@asmfc.org.

Motions

Move to approve the Technical Committee’s approved state 2007 summer flounder recreational proposals.

For more information, please contact Nichola Meserve, Weakfish Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or nmeserve@asmfc.org.

ISFMP POLICY BOARD (February 1, 2007)

Meeting Summary

The Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board met to address a number of issues. The Policy Board reviewed an updated discussion paper on public participation in the Commission process. The paper included a series of options to provide additional structure to the public participation at Commission meetings. The Board refined the public comment policy. The elements of the policy include the continued opportunity for comment to management boards at the beginning of meetings on issues that are not included on the agenda. The Policy Board determined that many issues being considered by management boards have been made available prior to the meeting. The Policy Board determined that for any issue that has been taken out for public hearing, the public will only be given only minimal comment opportunity during meetings. The Policy Board made this determination based on the recognition of the numerous public comment opportunities and concern that individuals that have the resources to travel to ASMFC meetings have increased access to the management boards.

The Policy Board also reviewed a draft problem statement and charge to an Allocation Subcommittee. This Subcommittee was formed in 2006 to recommend criteria and standards for the management boards to consider in future allocation decisions. The Policy Board confirmed the membership of this Subcommittee and asked that they meet and provide an update on progress at the ASMFC Spring Meeting.

Public feeling squeezed out of meetings

Tuesday, February 06, 2007

BY AL RISTORI For the Star-Ledger

Public participation in the fishery management process is marginal at best, and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is making it even more difficult.

Tom Fote, legislative director of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association and a former governor's appointee to the ASMFC, came back very disturbed from last week's meetings in Alexandria, Va., after being cut off from commenting before the vote at the Tautog Management Board session.

And he was even more upset at a new policy adopted there by the Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board, which "determined that for any issue that has been taken

out for public hearing, the public will only be given only minimal comment opportunity during meetings." The board expressed concern that individuals having the resources to travel to ASMFC meetings have increased access to the management boards.

Yet, as Fote points out, that may be the only representation the public gets after options discussed at the public hearings are altered at board meetings and could be very different from what was originally presented. The ASMFC holds meetings in expensive hotels, and often in relatively inaccessible areas, so few individual participants in the fisheries can afford the time and expense of attending. It's essential that leaders of organizations be able to monitor and comment on the actions that affect everyone. Fote takes no salary, but it still cost the JCAA more than \$1,000 in travel and lodging expenses for this meeting.

Don't shut down LORAN-C, anglers, captains say

Posted by the Asbury Park Press on 01/24/07

BY JOHN GEISER CORRESPONDENT

There is still a lot of public interest in retaining the LORAN-C land-based navigation system, if the response to the announcement of its possible termination is any indication.

Phone calls have been coming to my office steadily since a column ran Jan. 14 in The Press alerting the public to possible action.

It has been probably 10 years since the government announced the LORAN-C system would be replaced, and the outcry against it at that time was substantial. The idea was shelved until this year.

Scott Handschuch, public affairs officer for the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 22-Sandy Hook, first alerted Shore area boaters the second week in January that the system may be decommissioned this year.

The Department of Transportation, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, is seeking public input on the fate of the Long Range Navigation System, otherwise known as LORAN-C.

Handschuch explained that the question for the public is: Should the system be decommissioned, maintained "as is" or upgraded to an enhanced LORAN system (eLORAN), which could be used

either as a backup to the Global Position Satellite (GPS) system or a complementary system to GPS.

The public has until Feb. 7 to submit its thoughts and comments to the Coast Guard information line at 1-800-368-5647 or through its Web site at <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/eLORAN/E6-22421.pdf>.

Capt. Bill Burdge, skipper of the charter boat BarVic out of Point Pleasant Beach, said the system should be continued for several reasons.

"First of all, it is a dependable, accurate system that we have used for years, and it's better now than it was when it was first introduced," he said. "I really depend on it.

"Most party and charter boat captains have GPS and LORAN, and we use both, and we depend on them," he said. "A lot of my numbers are LORAN, and that's what I use.

"First of all, it's not an easy system to jam, and I would think this would be a good thing for all of us, including national defense," he said. "And what is wrong with a backup system?"

Burdge pointed out that many boaters, public and private, recreational and commercial, have a lot of money invested in LORAN equipment that is reliable, and they are satisfied with it.

"And you know, it's one of the few things government does free for fishermen," he said. "It's something they do to help us, not like regulating us out of business as they do every time you turn around with fluke, winter flounders, sea bass, porgies and weakfish."

Capt. Ray Burke, skipper of the charter boat Mad Gaffer out of Belmar, specializes in wreck fishing, particularly blackfish, and he has found LORAN-C invaluable over the years.

"I've got numbers for over 6,000 spots," he said. "About half of them are GPS and the other half are LORAN. I use those LORAN numbers, and I don't want to see the government shut the system down."

Burke does endless scouting when fishing the inshore grounds, spending part of every trip probing, sampling, looking for new spots to fish, and he has found it has paid off enormously.

"If I find a spot — even a little spot — I never fish it out," he said. "I record the numbers, and come back to try it another time. I've got numbers that I'm sure other people don't have."

Many boaters have asked what they can do besides call the Coast Guard to ask that the LORAN system be maintained. They can also write or call the offices of Reps. Frank Pallone Jr., D-N.J.; Chris Smith, R-N.J.; and H. James Saxton, R-N.J.

All demonstrated interest in helping Shore area fishermen on the fluke problem last year, and could be expected to support both recreational and commercial interests in keeping the LORAN system.

This is not a controversial issue. This is a system that has provided boaters with enhanced safety, accurate location at sea, and dependability. There is widespread feeling that it should be continued.

The Star Ledger
Ristori: Reefs not serving purpose
Sunday, January 21, 2007 BY AL
RISTORI

New Jersey's artificial reefs are becoming covered with pots that not only trap much of the fish life, but also cover so much ground in strings that drift fishing becomes difficult -- and the very purpose of establishing the reefs for recreational use is defeated. Bill Figley, the architect of the reef program before retiring from the Division of Fish and Wildlife, says all that ever-present commercial gear has also become a problem in expanding the reefs since materials can't be dumped as planned if gear would be damaged.

When confronted with the prospect of lost recreational fishing opportunities plus consequent economic effects due to their regulations, National Marine Fisheries Service (MFS) officials have often stated that sportfishermen will simply take up another sport, such as golf. As it's turned out, our artificial reefs look like a watery golf course with high flyers bobbing in the waves to mark strings of fish and lobster pots. These are so numerous in many cases that it's impossible to plot a drift around them without hanging up on the strings covering several hundred feet.

The artificial reef system was set up with Federal Aid to Sportfish Funds derived from an excise tax on all sportfishing equipment. It's been almost entirely funded since then by contributions from recreational fishermen and their organizations. For instance, the Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat Association (GPPCBA) is a major contributor through their annual Mako Mania Tournament. Capt. Pete Gimbilas, of the GPPCBA, noted in a recent

letter to Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Lisa Jackson that he's helped raise more than \$100,000 a year for reef building in the Manasquan River area through local sportfishing organizations. The Fisherman magazine has also made large sums available to the program through their events. The state only pays the salaries of those running the program. Yet, the public, which has been doing the funding, is increasingly being pushed off New Jersey's highly productive reefs while New York has protected reefs in state waters from traps.

Though the state builds our reefs, many spread into (or are entirely in) federal waters. That problem has been solved in the south by the Southeast Fishery Management Council, which established artificial reefs as a Special Management Zone prohibiting commercial traps. A similar approach will be required of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council in our waters. This matter will be brought up at the next State Marine Fisheries Council meeting in hopes that a request will be made to the Mid-Atlantic Council for a Special Management Zone.

Shakespeare and Penn, two of the oldest and most respected names in fishing tackle, are now one. Shakespeare, has announced their takeover of Penn Fishing Tackle, the Philadelphia company that was privately owned for decades and dominated the conventional reel market with famed revolving spool reels ranging from the Squidder to the big game Internationals. In more recent years they added spinning and baitcasting models plus downriggers and other accessories.

Fish Killer!
By Bill Donovan
New Jersey Angler Magazine
February 2007

Television is a powerful medium. It has the capacity to reach large numbers of people, and in a manner that solicits a tangible response. We've discovered this for ourselves over the past two years of airing our TV show, *The New Jersey Angler Video Magazine*. One of the major differences between television and other mediums like print, is that it tends to reach a broader, but less predictable audience. While the *New Jersey Angler Magazine* is read pretty much entirely by people who fish

regularly, the *New Jersey Angler Video Magazine* is watched by people from all walks of life, with levels of interest in angling ranging from absolutely none to plenty.

I guess it shouldn't be surprising, then, that we get a fair amount of off-the-wall viewer feedback, especially compared to that which we receive from our print magazine. But to be honest, there isn't anything that could have prepared me for the steady stream of criticism that has come from the non-fishing, or perhaps better said "anti-fishing" public. There isn't a show that airs that doesn't result in at least a few phone calls or emails from "accidental" viewers who are outwardly upset, appalled even, by the unbridled joy we exhibit when we're engaged in battle with one of Mother Nature's piscatorial denizens. At first, the response was shocking to me. Now that I've come to expect it, I am beginning to have fun with it.

Such was the case this past week. We aired "No Bones About It", which was an episode filmed this past July at the Tolten Lump. The show is primarily about light tackle trolling for bonito, but ends on a surprising note with the landing of a 40-pound cobia that decided to commit suicide by eating a mini Green Machine pulled behind a Boone bird. For whatever reason, the show was especially offensive to the "fish huggers", as they've come to be known around our office. Maybe it had to do with images of a blood-strewn deck, or a sloppy gaff shot that resulted in a nastier-than-usual struggle to get the cobia into the boat. Regardless, the first call came in even before the episode was over.

"I was wondering...", said the female voice on the other end, "...if the gentlemen in the television show have any respect for the magnificent creatures they are mercilessly torturing."

Every time I get such a call, which is pretty often these days, I find myself wondering how the legendary Ted Nugent would respond. Every so often, I attempt to go into a long "Nuge-style" soliloquy about our biological needs, our innate rights, our pre-programmed drive to hunt in order to sustain ourselves and provide for our families, but such a response never works for me; I'm just nowhere near as intelligent, quick witted, or well-spoken as the renowned sportsman. So, I usually try to be polite and end the call as quickly as possible, which is sometimes difficult given the tendency of the fish huggers to have an opinion on everything. In this particular instance, it was a call on another line

that gave me an excuse to abruptly end the conversation.

I eagerly clicked over to the second caller. “New Jersey Angler Magazine...how can I help you?”

The response on the other end was so sudden and so loud that I nearly dropped the phone.

“Fish Killer...Fish Killer...Fish Killer!” Click.

It was several minutes before I stopped laughing and regained my composure enough to even consider what had just transpired. Was this some sort of joke, or is it actually possible that there are people out there who are so sheltered, so naïve, so misguided, that an image of a person killing a fish for food could solicit such an emotional response?

I could go into the whole “fishing defense” conversation, but that isn’t needed here; as a *New Jersey Angler* reader, you undoubtedly have the same basic understanding of the natural world that I do. Instead, I’d like to use this as an opportunity to draw attention to something that, as a community, we sometimes forget. It is the fact that society is full of misguided individuals who lack our level of understanding of the natural way of things. These people will never understand why we fish and why we hunt. They cannot comprehend how our “kind” possesses a respect for the creatures of this Earth that far surpasses theirs. Their perspective has been betrayed by their only real interface with the natural world – their television sets - and the associated liberal media that controls how this interface functions.

So, they will continue to support PETA and various Pew-sponsored organizations. They will continue to sue the Federal Government over its fisheries policies in an effort to get us off the water. They will continue to attempt to close large swaths of the ocean to fishing effort. They will continue to see us in only one way...as “Fish Killers”.

SUPPORT THE ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM BAN POTS

Highly Migratory Species

By John Koegler

Bluefin Tuna Quotas

The new 2007 quota for the western Atlantic was cut from 2,700 to 2,140 for the 2007 fishing year. The US share is 1,190 MT. This is a 20% cut from 2006. The base quota based on 2006 percentages allocations in Metric Tons are; General 560.6, Harpoon 46.4, Purse Seine 221.3, incidental 96.3, and angling 234.4.

In addition, there is the huge carryover from 2005 and 2004 in the commercial categories. I have not seen angling numbers from 2006. Anglers got a 10% increase in school fish at ICCAT. School fish limits increased from 8% to 10%. But given the 20% quota cut we still end up with fewer bluefin unless we had a carryover.

NMFS –HMS has stated that they will try to release a preliminary quota specification in March.

Bluefish

Many people ignored the bluefish action approved last August by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. They determined that bluefish were overfished. They set the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for bluefish in 2007 at 32.022 million pounds. The estimated average discard from 2001-2005 is 4.271million pounds.

The 2007 TAL are 27.762 million pounds. The Research Set Aside (RSA) is 363,677 pounds. The NJ commercial quota was set at 1,270,480 million pounds. Only the state of NY went over their 2006 commercial quota.

The MRFSS estimated that recreational 2006 landings were 18,823,384 million pounds. The 2007 recreational harvest limit will be 18,823,384 million pounds. The current 15 bluefish per person possession limit will not be changed. There will be no season and no size limit being specified for 2007.

As you can see from the bluefish plan and other species plans that you have attended this year, all fish management plans are slowly crushing the life out of the recreational fishing sector without providing the great rebuilt fisheries we were promised when the plans were first imposed. What should we do now?

White Marlin

NMFS Protected Resources is conducting a status review of Atlantic White Marlin under the Endangered Species Act. As a result of a legal settlement agreement, NMFS agreed to initiate a status review following the 2006 stock assessment by ICCAT. The 2006 white marlin assessment can be found at www.iccat.int.

NMFS PR is soliciting information relevant to the status of and threats to the species. Information on Atlantic white Marlin must be submitted to:

Fax- 1727-824-5309 Att. Dr. Stephania Bolden

E-mail- white marlin.info@noaa.gov.

They are asking that your letter be sent by Feb. 20, 2007. Given the notice of this information usually you can submit your position for a few extra days.

Winter

Has winter knocked at your door? The Barnegat Bay is totally covered with ice. The longer it stays ice covered, the better it is for the bay and the fisheries the bay supports. There are too many non-native species in this bay. The cold weather kills most non-native species if the bay waters stay cold for a period of time. Here's hoping the bay stays ice covered for another 10 days.

How would you like to be living in upstate New York near the great lakes? Some towns had over 140 inches of snow in 12 days, a new record. If you did not climb up on your roof and shovel your roof collapsed! This is not a good way to end any winter season.

It's February and time to get your boat ready for a new season. Provided of course that the system permits anglers to keep any fish!

NOAA FISHERIES TO REVISE OVERFISHING GUIDELINES **Public Invited to Comment**

NOAA Fisheries has announced the opening of a scoping period to analyze alternatives for implementing annual catch limits, accountability measures and other overfishing provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006 (MSRA). The new guidance to be developed by the agency would also address provisions relating to Scientific and Statistical Committees and peer review processes. In a February 14, 2007, Federal Register

notice, NOAA Fisheries has provided its preliminary interpretation of these new provisions and invited interested members of the public to comment.

MSRA requires fishery management plans to establish a mechanism for setting annual catch limits at a level that prevents overfishing. Accountability measures in the fishery management plan could take the form of inseason management techniques that prevent the catch limit from being exceeded in a given year (e.g., closures, or restrictions on retention of a stock), and/or corrective actions that will be implemented in subsequent fishing years to address overharvests (e.g., reduction of a subsequent year's catch limit).

The annual catch limit and accountability requirements take effect in fishing year 2010 for all stocks that are subject to overfishing. Other stocks, including those with unknown or undefined status regarding overfishing, will need annual catch limits and accountability measures by the 2011 fishing year. The law allows limited exceptions for stocks that have 1 year life cycles or are covered under an international agreement.

After considering all public comments received during scoping, NOAA Fisheries will either develop a draft environmental impact statement and proposed rule, or an environmental assessment and proposed rule. Following these additional opportunities for public input, NOAA Fisheries intends to publish a final rule in the Federal Register by the end of 2007. The new guidance relating to these new legal requirements will then be incorporated as part of National Standard 1 guidelines. Other changes to the National Standard 1 guidelines that were proposed in 2005 are not being considered for further action at this time, due to the urgency of meeting deadlines established in MSRA.

A public meeting to discuss these issues and alternatives will take place on March 9, 2007, from 9AM to 3PM. This meeting will be held at 1315 East-West Highway; Room 4527, in Silver Spring, MD. Additional scoping meetings will be scheduled in the near future.

Written comments may be sent to: E-mail: annual.catch.limitDEIS@noaa.gov Fax: 301-713-1193 Mail: Mark Millikin; NOAA/NMFS; 1315 East-West Hwy.; Silver Spring, MD 20910

All public comments during the scoping phase must be received by April 2, 2007.

For more information, contact Mark.Millikin@noaa.gov, call (301) 713-2341, or visit www.nmfs.noaa.gov/msa2007.

Saltwater Fishing Expo
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SECOND ANNUAL SALTWATER FISHING
EXPO, RUNS MARCH 16-18, AT THE
GARDEN STATE EXHIBIT CENTER,
SOMERSET, NJ**

The Saltwater Fishing Expo returns to the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset, NJ, March 16-18, 2007. Sponsored by The Outdoor Channel, this is the largest show dedicated to saltwater sportfishing north of Miami, FL. Last year's inaugural event drew large crowds, and given all the fantastic deals on tackle, exhibits, activities, and saltwater superstars on hand, this event is sure to do the same.

"From stripers to bluefin, fluke to bluefish, and everything in between, the saltwater angler will find all he or she needs to catch 'the big one,'" says Paul Fuller, show manager. "We're also featuring some incredible products that are not available in retail stores, catalogues or websites. These are produced by small custom tackle makers who only exhibit at specialized shows. The Expo really is your chance to uncover unique products and unique deals."

Major tackle manufacturers will be showcasing the latest in fishing technology, and showgoers will be able to buy this brand new gear right at the Expo. This includes tackle and gear from inshore to offshore, and from light to worthy of big game. Exhibitors include Shimano, Penn, Daiwa, St. Croix, Berkley, Quantum, Lamiglass, Barefoot, and dozens more.

Once you have your gear, then it's time to plan that perfect fishing escape. Captains are on hand to book your dream trip to the exotic destination of your choice.

If a new boat is your dream, then don't miss the Boatyard, which offers dozens of the latest saltwater boats, motors, kayaks, marine accessories and equipment.

Every fisherman dreams of landing a truly legendary fish, and State of Maryland biologists did just that. In 1986 a 92-pound striped bass was captured off the Maryland coast in Chesapeake Bay. This magnificent fish is the largest striper ever captured. The beautiful mount will be on hand at the Expo. A female, her eggs were used in the state hatchery program to restore striped bass along the Atlantic Coast. Be sure to see this amazing specimen.

If you've ever wanted to know what it's like to be out on open water in a Ranger boat, speeding along at more than 60 mph, then now is your chance. Try your hand at the Wal-Mart Ranger Boat Simulator, and experience all the virtual thrills of moving fast across the waves. This innovative simulator mimics the exact action and feel of being out on the water, while also offering the excitement of tournament fishing. Other showgoers have compared it to "the thrills and excitement of an amusement park ride combined with the non-stop action of a state-of-the-art computer video game." It's a wild ride!

Seminars by the superstars of saltwater sportfishing run continuously all three days of the Expo. On hand are Lefty Kreh, Rich Johnson, Jim Hutchinson, Pete Barrett, Captain Rich Tenreiro, Captain Gene Quigley, Captain Al Ristori, and many more. Now's your chance to learn from the masters and improve your fishing skills.

The Saltwater Fishing Expo, sponsored by The Outdoor Channel, runs March 16-18, 2007 at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset, NJ. Hours are Friday, 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, and \$3.00 for children; children under age 5 are free. For directions, and more information, visit www.sportshows.com.

All of the proceeds go to safeguarding and promoting the enduring social, economic, and conservation values of America's outdoor heritage.

YOUTH EDUCATION
BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI

BECOME PART OF THE ANGLER'S LEGACY

This is something every angler should do to keep the joy of fishing alive. You likely remember your very first fishing trip and who took you. And odds are pretty good that it was that experience that's directly responsible for why you're still fishing today. That's what Anglers' Legacy is all about – simply giving back what you've been given, and making your promise to introduce somebody new to the activity that you love. Join thousands of your peers and make a real difference. So, take someone fishing – a family member, co-worker, neighbor, acquaintance at church or, perhaps, the mechanic who works on your car. Become part of Anglers' Legacy today, the group of folks from all across the country who, like you, are

giving back. There's no membership fee and no obligation. You're just making a promise to do your part to share your knowledge and expertise with someone new. Visit the Angler's Legacy web site and take the pledge.
<http://www.magnetmail1.net/lis.cfm?r=22158639&sid=1868243&m=266095&u=boatfish&s=http://www.AnglersLegacy.org> There is something for everyone; event organizers, first time anglers, how-to fishing information, safe boating tips, fishing and casting techniques, youth programs, logos, certificates of achievement, and where to find discounts on fishing equipment for your program. For more information about the Anglers' Legacy initiative visit <http://www.magnetmail1.net/lis.cfm?r=22158639&sid=1868243&m=266095&u=boatfish&s=http://www.AnglersLegacy.org> or contact RBFF Public Relations Manager Dave Landahl at dlandahl@rbff.org or 703-519-0013 ext. 107.

NEWARK BAIT AND FLY CASTERS

The JCAA Youth Education Committee will visit the Newark Bait and Flycasting Club 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 6, 2007 and present a "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" event for youngsters attending their Kids Fishing Night. The Newark Bait and Flycasting Club will host the event at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located in Union, NJ. Children and their families are welcome to come and enjoy a night of fun fishing activities and refreshments. The Newark Bait and Flycasting Club is committed to teaching the joys of fishing to our young people. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will support this worthwhile event by conducting a "How To Catch A Whopper." Children attending the fishing clinic will receive information about Future Fisherman Foundation's Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs program and Junior Anglers program.

DO YOU HAVE OLD STUFF

This is a great opportunity to get rid of that old stuff you have laying around the house and turn it into some cash to buy new stuff. The Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center is hosting a flea market and is looking for your participation. They are celebrating the beginning of spring and the opening of trout season at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center on March 31 and April 1, 2007, from 10:00 - 4:00. The hatchery is located 9 miles west of Hackettstown on Route 46 in scenic Warren County. Each year their annual Open House draws in thousands of people. This great family event

includes a fishing flea market, wildlife artists and taxidermists, conservation groups, Division displays, fishing for kids, shotgun and archery ranges and much more, but they need your help making it even better. They would like to feature the following items: fishing equipment, and fishing related items for sale. Clean out that old tackle box, attic, and cellar. Whether it's old, new, slightly used, they need you with your stuff. If you are interested in attending this event as a vendor, please contact Jessica Griglak at 908-637-4125 or by email a Jessica.Griglak@dep.state.nj.us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR URBAN FISHING PROGRAMS

Volunteers are needed to teach children about how to be an Ethical Angler, the Future Anglers Code, what fish need to survive, where to find fish, cold water vs warm water, anadromous vs catadromous, etc. Volunteers are needed for the following dates: May 29th, Tuesday, Bayonne, (Woodrow Wilson Elementary School) Location - The Peninsula, the old Military Ocean Terminal. If you are attending we need your license plate # for the guard at the entrance. June 1st, Friday, Carteret Middle School. Location - Veterans Memorial Fishing Pier in Carteret. June 5th, Tuesday, Bayonne. Location - The Peninsula (old Military Ocean Terminal). If you are attending we need your license plate # for the guard at the entrance. June 8th, Friday, Jersey City, Explore 2000 Middle School. Location - Liberty State Park. June 14th, Thursday, Elizabeth, A. Einstein Academy. Location - Elizabeth Waterfront. The children will show up around 9:30am. We like to get to the locations no later than 8:45 a.m. to set up. Most programs are over by 2:30 p.m. Please contact Lynette Lurig, DEP at Lynette.Lurig@dep.state.nj.us

TROUT CONTEST FOR KIDS

Sponsored by the Shark River Surf Anglers, Saturday, April 7, 2007, 8 a.m. till 3 p.m. at Spring Lake, NJ. On opening day of trout season, members of the Shark River Surf Anglers will host another trout contest for children fifteen years old and under. Hundreds of anglers are expected to circle around Spring Lake waiting for the start of opening day. Don't forget to get there early. Otherwise you must park along the side streets of Spring Lake and walk a great distance to find a spot to fish. Every year, the membership of the Shark River Surf Anglers spend a lot of time and energy to make this event a success. Come out and enjoy some fishing fun and refreshments at the awards tent.

We need the support of your club and its members

Your club should be a member of JCAA and make a difference for only \$50 a year. Your club will have a voice in all JCAA positions that affect your fishing future. Your club will receive up-to-date info on vital issues each month.

Club Membership Application

Date _____

Club Name: _____

President's Name: _____

Pres. Address: Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

Please make check \$50 payable to JCAA

JCAA SPONSORSHIP

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

The sponsors are recognized in our newspaper. For more information call JCAA at 732-506-6565. Become a JCAA sponsor and help our cause. As you can see by our newspaper many our member clubs are also JCAA sponsors, if your club is not contact us today to become one. With all the new battles we are engaged in we need to raise more funds in order to be effective. Become a sponsor now and help us to continue the fight.

Join JCAA as an Associate Member

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

JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICATION

Date _____ New ___ Renewal _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

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

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

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Blue claw Crab	Jack Miktus	732-477-5184
Blue Fish	Al Marantz	732-280-2643
Habitat	Pat Donnelly	732-206-1407
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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.