

JCAA NEWSPAPER JUNE 2007

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on May 22nd, 2007)

Remember New Monthly Meeting Room

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, May 29th, 2007

Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, June 14th, 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.**  
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2007 OFFICERS

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2nd V.P.	Bruce Freeman	732-793-7871
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Cors. Sec.	Paul Turi	609-597-3193
Mem. Sec.	Mike Tutela	732-281-8942

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

Meetings And Other Dates

May 23rd NOAA 2007 NOAA Stakeholder Forum
DC

June 9th JCAA Fluke Tournament

June 12 - 14: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Embassy Suites, 1700 Coliseum Drive, Hampton, Virginia; 757-827-8200.

JUNE 14th JCAA Board Meeting

June 15th JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards

Ceremony

June 26th JCAA General Meeting

Ten Great Reasons To Enter June 9th 2007 13th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament

By Phil Celmer

The Ten Reasons are:

One, over \$110,000 in cash and prizes!!!

Two, a great day of fishing fun with family and friends!

Three, a gala awards celebration at Trump Marina Hotel Casino!

Four, twelve ports to fish from -- each with a \$1,200 first prize!

Five, an evening at fun-filled Atlantic City!

Six, your chance to win a four stroke Yamaha powered Century fishing boat with a LoadRite Trailer & Fisher Canvas Cover!

Seven, a drawing for more door prizes than you can shake a graphite rod at!

Eight, a chance to take five of your friends or family fishing!

Nine, 120 fabulous port prizes! Ten chances to win at each port. Odds like this you won't see in Vegas

Ten, you'll be helping the Jersey Coast Anglers Association fight to protect your fishing rights and the marine environment!

How many times in recent years have you read about the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) lobbying in Trenton, Washington, or in the trenches at public hearings, standing up for anglers like you? JCAA. The name pops up almost daily in newspapers and fishing magazines around the state. It makes you feel good to know we have such a strong group of knowledgeable people united in battle on your behalf. Doesn't it? Do you ever wonder how much it costs to keep the pressure on fisheries managers, politicians and lobbyists from the commercial fishing industry? How about the polluters and agencies that conspire to damage the ocean in the name of economic gain or political expediency? **IT COSTS A LOT!** Even for an all-volunteer non-profit group like JCAA. How many times have you thought about joining JCAA or making a donation to help the cause but didn't get around to it? Well, here's your chance to help and have fun in the process. And you'll have a great chance of winning one of hundreds of cash and product prizes from our generous sponsors who know that what JCAA does is especially critical to the saltwater angler.

The Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament is the largest boat-fishing tournament on the East Coast, with \$110,000 in cash and prizes. Last year, over 2,500 anglers fishing from more than 800 boats from twelve ports along the Jersey shore participated and all had a ball doing it. It's the only tournament that gives you a shot at winning the grand prize – a \$30,000 fishing boat package - without having to catch a single fish! That's because the grand prizewinner is selected at the final drawing at the awards ceremony sponsored by Trump Marina Hotel Casino in exciting Atlantic City. Fishing, prizes, Atlantic City, support the resource...not only sounds like fun...it is!

The proceeds go to support JCAA's work done on behalf of hundreds of thousands of saltwater anglers in New Jersey and neighboring states. JCAA was instrumental in stopping the decimation of eels in our rivers and bays, reducing the over-harvest of bunker in state waters, removing the menhaden reduction boats, supporting the artificial reef program and getting the best quota possible for summer flounder. Do you know why Striped Bass fishing is better than it was thirteen years ago? I know. It was because the JCAA and supporting memberships worked to keep Striped Bass as a game

fish, assured reasonable fisheries management measures and fought to stop sand mining and toxic dumping in the ocean. Every penny this major fundraising event generates is well spent on your behalf. The JCAA needs your help all year long, but what better way to show you care than by entering this great spring fishing tournament.

You say you won't be able to fish that weekend? Enter anyway. You would be surprised at the number of anglers who register and don't fish. They just want to support the efforts of the JCAA and still have a chance at winning the grand prize and one of the many valuable door prizes. Simply enter and you are still eligible to attend the awards ceremony in Atlantic City on June 15th and win!

HUNDREDS OF CHANCES TO WIN

This event is actually twelve mini-tournaments in one. Each weigh-station has its own set of prizes for the heaviest fluke brought to the scales including \$1,200 cash for first place, \$10,000 donated by Trump Marina Hotel Casino for 10 of the ports, Fisherman Headquarters for LBI and JCAA the balance; a \$750 gift certificate for second, donated by Boater's World; a Raymarine Digital High Definition Fishfinder for third; and seven other great prizes from these sponsors: Maui Jim, Minn Kota, American Fishing Wire and Hi-Seas, Shimano Fishing, Canyon Gear International Outfitters, and New Jersey Angler and Nor'east Saltwater Magazines. That's a total of 120 port prizes! But there is more, much more! Contestants register in one of twelve ports from Jersey City to Fortescue, each with easy access weigh-stations. You compete only against those boats registered in that port for the generous list of port prizes.

Once again, Trump Marina Hotel Casino Hotel has opened its arms and its pocketbook to help us and we can't thank them enough! We hope you will remember they are concerned about your fishing and the ocean environment any time you are heading to Atlantic City because we sure do! This year the JCAA wishes to welcome aboard Shimano Fishing as a brand new port sponsor. Come and view the 1801 Century boat at the ceremony or at Pier 47, Wildwood NJ or Gateway Marina & Yacht Sales, Belford, NJ

**ENTER FLUKE TOURNAMENT
BEFORE JUNE 1ST FOR \$100**

THE DRAWING WITHIN THE TOURNAMENT

In addition to your chance to win any of the port prizes by using your fishing skills, every boat entered has a shot at winning the Grand Prize fishing boat and a host of door prizes. These will be given away as part of a huge drawing at the gala awards ceremony hosted by Trump Marina Hotel Casino in Atlantic City on June 15, 2007. At least one member from your crew must be present for you to win these door prizes. There will be plenty of fun at the awards ceremony and you will have a chance to meet the JCAA volunteer staff. The Grand Prize will be on display along with dozens of door prizes. Tournament T-shirts and hats will be available. Come early and meet the representatives from Century Boats, Yamaha, Raymarine, Boater's World, Shimano, Maui Jim, American Fishing Wire, Hi-Seas, New Jersey Angler and Nor'east Saltwater Magazines and other sponsors. Port prizes will once again be presented at the event by our master of ceremonies, Pat Donnelly.

The management of Trump Marina Hotel Casino is ready to welcome all tournament entrants to come and enjoy their fantastic facilities. Come before 3PM and get a food discount coupon compliments of the Casino. Want to make a night or weekend out of it? Trumps Marina Hotel Casino has set aside a limited number of specially priced rooms for contestants. For reservations call 1-800-777-8477 and mention you are coming for the Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament and reference group code: Fluke 07

HOW TO ENTER

Entry fee for this year's event will be \$100 per boat until June 1st. After June 2nd the entry fee will be \$125 per boat. Each boat is permitted up to six anglers. Remember, all weigh-stations have additional entry forms or you can have them mailed to you by calling the JCAA office at 732-506-6565. Fax us at 732-506-6975 or download a form from the web at www.jcaa.org. You can even register using a MasterCard or Visa credit card by phone! Check out the JCAA web page for further information: <http://www.jcaa.org>

VALUABLE TIPS:

Mark the date of the Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament June 9th on your calendar. Six anglers per boat are allowed to fish. Ask your family and friends to join you and increase your chances to win port prizes.

Why wait to sign up when you could be cutting bait and preparing strategies. Check out the JCAA web page for further information: <http://www.jcaa.org>
12 Ports - 12 official weigh stations

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By John Toth

The JCAA Fluke Tournament is fast approaching (June 9th) and I along with another volunteer will be weighing fluke landings at Clark's Landing in Point Pleasant. I look forward to this event since I get to see, weigh and record all of the big fluke that will enter this port. Last year, the weather was tough, but some very nice size fish came into port. Of course, when anglers come in to weigh their fish the first question they ask is "What is the biggest fish so far?" That is the right question to ask since there are 10 prizes that can be won for each port, and there are some very nice prizes to win! Then there is the June 15th Gala Awards Ceremony at the Trump Marina Hotel Casino, and in addition to all of the prizes that will be given away, a brand new Century Boat will be given away to an angler with a lucky ticket who has entered into the tournament. More details of the tournament follow in the newsletter. **SO GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF YOU!**

New Jersey State Police – Marine Services Unit

Sergeant Perry Capiak from New Jersey's State Police, Marine Services Unit, will be on hand at our May 29th general meeting to provide member clubs with a 10 to 15 minute presentation on how anglers can assist our marine police in spotting potential terrorists who want to use the seas to attack our country. The marine police recognize that there are many anglers on private, charter or open boats that are fishing and these anglers can also help the police by being on the lookout for suspicious activities by terrorists who may want to use boats to launch missile strikes or other damaging activities against our country. Sergeant Capiak will explain what we should be on the lookout for and how we can quickly convey this information to the police in a timely fashion. While this presentation normally runs about 40 minutes, we will only have a 10 –15 minute overview of it because there are many other issues on the agenda and they also have to be covered. However, Sergeant Capiak also said that he

is more than willing to come to the meetings of JCAA club members to give the full 40 minute presentation. So, since many clubs are always looking for speakers, especially ones that do not charge speaking fees, here is your opportunity to learn what you and your club can do to protect our country from the evildoers. Come to the General meeting and meet Sergeant Capiak!

World Trade Organization

A number of countries receive monies from the World Trade Organization to subsidize their fishing fleets. These subsidies, in many cases, promote overfishing. Another effect of these subsidies for foreign fleets is that their reduced costs to operate place USA fishing fleets at an economic disadvantage in global competition for markets. Accordingly, I wrote a letter with JCAA staff assistance expressing our concern about this issue and my letter follows. I await a response.

Ambassador Susan Schwab
United States Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Schwab:

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) is an organization that represents more than 75 recreational fishing clubs throughout New Jersey. We are concerned about the rapid and widespread depletion of the world's fisheries. Many of the world's fish populations are in jeopardy. If these trends continue, there will be few fish left to catch. As recreational anglers, we are committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of our fisheries.

We are writing to you to express our strong support of the efforts by the United States in the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations to eliminate fisheries subsidies for global fishing fleets. These subsidies increase fishing capacity for commercial fishing operations and that exacerbates overfishing. Eliminating such subsidies is one of the most significant actions that can be taken to reduce the pressure on fleets to overfish. Greater controls would also mean a real chance to ensure that there is an abundance of fish and make the oceans once again a place that recreational anglers and our friends and family can enjoy.

Action in the WTO on fisheries subsidies would be an important step in putting the world's fisheries and fishing practices on a sustainable basis. I applaud the work by both U.S. trade negotiators and the U.S. House of Representatives – by their introducing a congressional resolution (H. Con. Res. 94) -- to stop these harmful

fisheries subsidies by improving international trade rules. However, as the fisheries subsidies negotiations enter a critical phase, we cannot emphasize strong enough the need for the United States to stand firm on establishing a broad-based prohibition of “overfishing subsidies.” In addition, we urge the U.S. to exercise caution in allowing exceptions or carve-outs from these rules without effective measures to prevent against fraud or abuse.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact our Legislative Liaison Mr. Tom Fote, at 732-506-6565 or by email at tfote@jcaa.org.

We look forward to your support on this important issue.

Sincerely,
John Toth, President, JCAA

Lobster Harvest

At our last general meeting, Jack Fullmer, representing the New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs, petitioned the JCAA to help them in their petition to the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission (ASMFC) concerning the size and sex of the lobsters divers can harvest. Our association voted to support the NJ Council of Diving clubs on this issue. Working with a draft letter prepared by Jack Fullmer, I worked on a final version seen below, and sent it out with Jack's endorsement and this letter also follows. While it is a good letter, the response to it was not met with favor by the ASMFC. They turned down the compromise solution to allow the recreational angler to take one female lobster over the maximum size.

Toni Kerns
May 1, 2007
Fishery Management Plan Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission
1444 'Eye' Street, Northwest # 600
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms Kerns:

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) is an organization of 75 recreational fishing clubs in the New Jersey area. The New Jersey Council of Diving Clubs (NJCDC) is one of our member organizations, and it dives for lobster and other species. The JCAA endorses their position on Lobster Addendum XI concerning the maximum size and sex of lobster they can harvest, and the following explains our position on this issue.

The JCAA is very concerned about the stock levels of all fisheries. However, the JCAA also believes that natural mortality and non-fishing factors such as parasites, shell disease, high water temperature, and low

oxygen have negatively impacted the fishery in the Southern New England zone.

Large schools of dogfish, massive sand replenishment projects, and dumping mud in the HARS have exacerbated this problem. Consequently, it may take longer than 10 years to completely rebuild the stock.

The attempt to impose a uniform maximum size on lobsters in 4.2.6 (even just for females) runs contrary to recreational fishing patterns and common sense. Would you tell a recreational hook and line fishermen that he could take a 15 lb Striped Bass, but he was forbidden to take a 50lb Striped Bass, and he had to also determine if the 50 lb fish was male or female before it could be taken? The answer to these questions is obviously no.

Additionally, sport divers will have problems determining the sex of a lobster in low light conditions and limited visibility in the underwater environment. Perhaps a compromise that allows the recreational angler to take only one female lobster over the maximum (as suggested by the NJCDC and reflected in present federal law) would be the best solution. This way the sport diver knows the lobster is legal and he can take at least one trophy lobster as we all like to do with other marine species.

Finally, the recreational sport diver fishery takes so few lobsters in comparison to the commercial fishery, and divers taking trophy lobsters would only be a very tiny fraction of the commercial catch. Therefore, taking one female lobster over the maximum would have no impact on conservation efforts. The NJCDC has consistently shown its willingness to go along with conservation measures to protect and promote all of our fisheries. The JCAA and the NJCDC is willing to work with your Commission to achieve a solution on this issue that is mutually agreeable and also in the best interest of our fisheries

Sincerely

John Toth, President

JCAA

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Thomas Fote

Summer Flounder

I attended the ASMFC Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass and Scup Management Board meeting on May 9, 2007. I have included the ASMFC summary below. It is interesting how opposed NMFS seems to be to an outside peer review. A letter was sent by Dr. Holgarth to

Congressman Saxton explaining that NMFS would not do an outside peer review but would continue the traditional Stock Assessment Workshop (SAW). The ASMFC voted to fund an independent outside peer review due to the many questions that continue about the summer flounder stock assessment and targets. It was extremely interesting to me that the only person who voted against this ASMFC proposal was NMFS. Surprise, surprise! What are they afraid of? Are they afraid that we will find out that they were wrong all along and there are real problems with the stock assessment? People and agencies that are confident about their information are not generally opposed to outside reviews and transparency. It does make me wonder!

The problem is that none of the peer reviews will be available before setting the quotas for 2008. This leaves party boats, charter boats, tackle stores, the commercial and recreational fishing industries and the every day angler suffering the consequences. This outside peer review was first requested by ASMFC and MAFMC in August of 2006. The scientists and fisheries managers have suffered no economic consequences from their inaction. That damage has been left for the states from Massachusetts to North Carolina and all of their anglers. We need to keep pressure on our legislators, governors and fisheries managers and inform them, again and again, that this is totally unacceptable. If this was any other major industry, the federal government and their state counterparts would have plans in the works to fix the problem. Are they ignoring our industry because we are 'just fishermen'?

Tautog

The ASMFC meeting report is below. It looks as though we will have a 25% reduction and, again, this is due primarily to poor data. There will be an amendment to the plan that will attempt to resolve some of the inequities included in the last amendment. What I found discouraging were the written comments by the ASMFC Executive Director, Vince O'Shea, to a letter from Congressman Frank Pallone. Mr. O'Shea kept referring to the illegal fishermen as recreational anglers. This shows how little he knows and cares about accuracy. If a person is illegally taking fish for sale, he is a poacher, not a recreational angler. To call him anything other than a poacher or a lawbreaker is an insult to all law-abiding recreational anglers. What we are complaining about is an illegal

fishery which benefits only the poachers and the fish houses they supply. This behavior has a detrimental effect on the recreational anglers and is not condoned by our community. We (JCAA and RFA) are the ones calling for a ban on the sale of live tautog. Mr. O'Shea needs to get his facts straight. When I suggested this at the meeting there was not one comment from any commissioner in attendance. The report from the law enforcement committee reflected Mr. O'Shea's views and was equally insulting to the recreational community. This is a clear reflection of the anti-recreational bias that is alive and well at ASMFC.

Fred Schwab Receives Award

It was nice to be present when ASMFC honored Fred Schwab for all his hard work on striped bass for many years. (See the ASMFC press release in the ASMFC summary.) I have known Fred for about 20 years. There is no one harder working or more honest in his approach to fisheries management. Fred has also been a person who can bridge the gap between competing interests in a professional manner. In talking to Fred, he explained that he resigned because of the impact of traveling as you get a bit older. But that does not mean that he has lost the passion for fisheries management and we will all continue to seek Fred's advice and counsel. Fred has an extensive library on fisheries management since the mid-60's and I hope some group from New York will archive this data and make it available to future managers. I constantly deal with the problem of the loss of institutional memory and it seems to be getting worse. We need people like Fred and his collection of material and knowledge to be available to all of us. Anglers from New York and coastwide have a tremendous debt to Fred for his years of service.

Pots off Reefs

RFA, JCAA and Reef Rescue have been working together to support regulation or legislation to ban all pots (commercial and recreational) from the artificial reefs. The commercial response has been to insist on an endless study of the problem when we all know the negative impact of the pots. There are already studies available. Before I began to investigate the problem, I had no idea how many pots were on the reefs or in the ocean in general. At the meetings it is not unusual for a commercial fisherman to indicate that they have 1,500 pots and a specific area may have more than 5,000 pots for a couple of permits. Multiply that by the number of

permits and the numbers must be staggering. Even though they are not all active, there are 200 pot permits. There is no limit on number of pots per permit so the number of pots keeps growing. This number of pots greatly affects the opportunities for fishing and the long-term well being of the resource. This legislation will not ban pots or even decrease the number of pots. It will only require that the pots be moved from .03% of New Jersey's waters. That leaves the commercial potters with 99.997% of New Jersey's waters available for their pots. It just makes no sense all around.

There were two meetings to attempt to resolve this through the NJ Marine Fisheries Council but there has been no action yet. There is a report scheduled for the July meeting. In the meantime, there is legislation that is moving through the Assembly and Senate. Monday, May 21st, there was a hearing in the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and the bill was released by a 4 to 1 vote. JCAA would like to thank Assemblyman Sean Kean for introducing the bill and for the hard work he did at the hearing to get it passed and the Committee Chairman, Assemblyman Douglas Fisher, for posting the bill for a hearing. The RFA played a major role in getting this bill posted. The letters sent and petitions signed were also very helpful. We need to keep the pressure on and we need to get Speaker Roberts to post the bill for a vote. We need to get Senator Robert Smith, chairman of the Senate Environment Committee, to move the bill from his committee to the full Senate so Senate President Cody can post the bill there as well.

Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs Bills

A636/S138

The Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee moved A636 bill that would help fund Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs program on May 14th. I attended the hearing to speak in support. The bill needs to be posted by Speaker Roberts for a vote. Again, we need for Senator Robert Smith to post this bill for a hearing before the Senate Environment Committee. Greg Kusharewski has included a sample letter below. Please contact Senator Smith, Speaker Roberts and your Assemblymen and Senators to indicate your support.

Limit of Speech at ASMFC

In the ASMFC monthly newsletter, Executive Director Vince O'Shea included the following statement: "The implication to our stakeholders of the Policy Board's deliberations is

that your attendance at Commission and management board meetings is for the primary and important purpose of providing transparency to the decision-making process. It is not an assurance that everyone (or, in some cases, anyone) will have an opportunity to speak. However it is a guarantee that all stakeholders will have a fair and reasonable opportunity to provide their input. Hopefully that is an outcome we can all agree with.”

One of the reasons I got involved in ASMFC in 1988 was because I felt the public was excluded from the debate. I have worked tirelessly to expand the role of the public in all ASMFC meetings. The past executive director, Jack Dunigan, and all past chairmen while Jack was executive director, were all supportive of expanding the public’s role. They realized that in order to get the Atlantic Coast Conservation Act passed in the early 90’s, public input must be included. Additionally, however, I think they came to understand how important it was that the perception that ASMFC was a “good old boys club” needed to change. I was proud of what the commissioners accomplished during the 90’s with this new openness.

I have testified before numerous committees and before Congress using ASMFC as an example of how the public can be appropriately involved. I can no longer say that. How dare Vince O’Shea try to undo all of our hard work! He is more concerned with keeping to the timelines of his agenda than actually allowing public input. He uses the excuse that we have public hearings to eliminate comment at the board meetings. Sometimes only one commissioner from a state is present. I don’t think I can count on my one hand that the options presented at a public hearing are actually considered at the board meetings. They almost always come up with new options that are the final options. The only way to guarantee that the changes they make at the board meetings are subject to public scrutiny is to continue to allow public input at all meetings. I would have made this statement directly to the policy committee but they are generally not allowing for public comment.

I try to stay away from personal battles, but this and the letters on Summer Flounder and Tautog were the last straw. I have always supported the ASMFC requests for funding to the Congress. The general atmosphere is so toxic these days that we will all need to rethink our support. The recreational anglers on the east coast deserve better. With the

current leadership, JCAA, our member clubs and many other individuals and organizations with whom I speak on a regular basis, no longer have any confidence in the leadership at ASMFC. ASMFC needs an immediate change in attitude or a change in leadership.

Open Space Ballot Question in Limbo and Governor Moves Forward on Delaware River Dredging

JCAA has always opposed dredging the Delaware River due to the toxic soup that would be released and the habitat destruction that would take place. We are just beginning to rebuild the striped bass stocks in this area and are also seeing sturgeon and other species come back. Please read the articles on this issue included and make your opinions known.

The other disappointing news from the Governor’s Office is the hold-up of the open space ballot question. I have been working with governors on this issue for many years. There is no question that Governor Corzine supports continuing New Jersey’s leadership in preserving open space but we are worried about holding the ballot question hostage to other issues. JCAA does not like to be threatened with losing a long-standing commitment to open space for other issues. Please read the articles on this issue and, once again, make your opinions known to the Governor and your legislators.

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Spring 2007 Meeting Summary

This is part of the summary the full summary is posted at the ASMFC Web Site and the JCAA Web Site.

TAUTOG MANAGEMENT BOARD (May 8, 2007)

Press Release

ASMFC Tautog Board Initiates Draft Addendum V

Draft Addendum Proposes State Flexibility in Achieving Required Reductions

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Tautog Management Board has initiated development of Draft Addendum V to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The Draft Addendum proposes to modify the management program contained in Addendum IV by providing the states flexibility in the development of their management programs to achieve a 25.6 percent reduction in exploitation. If approved, the Addendum would allow states to attain their necessary reductions

through adjustments to their recreational and/or commercial fisheries. Currently, Addendum IV targets reductions to the states' recreational fisheries only. While the recreational sector accounts for approximately 90 percent of tautog harvest coastwide, some states have significant commercial fisheries. By including flexibility, Addendum V would allow states to tailor reductions to their specific needs.

The Draft Addendum will also include an option to exclude North Carolina from the tautog management unit since the state has an insignificant tautog fishery. The Tautog Board is scheduled to approve the Draft Addendum in May. Once approved, the Draft Addendum will be available for public comment in early June. For more information, please contact Christopher Vonderweidt, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at cvonderweidt@asmfc.org or (202) 289-6400.

Meeting Summary

The Tautog Management Board approved development of Draft Addendum V to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The Draft Addendum proposes to modify the management program contained in Addendum IV by providing the states flexibility in the development of their management programs to achieve a 25.6 percent reduction in exploitation. As part of the drafting process, the Tautog Technical Committee will develop reduction tables that include recreational and commercial reduction scenarios based on the average of 2003-2005 data. If the Board approves Addendum V, states will use the tables to develop proposals to meet the reductions.

Although not formally included as part of the Addendum, the appropriateness of allowing states to conduct their own assessments was discussed at length. Jason McNamee, Technical Committee Chair, explained that based on the nature of the coastwide VPA assessment, the reduction goal of 25.6% will not be achieved if states are allowed to bring forth state specific assessments that allow smaller or zero reductions. Mr. McNamee also explained that allowing states to bring forth individual assessments could potentially undercut reductions if they are allowed to switch from state-specific to coastwide based reductions from year-to-year. The Technical Committee discussed this issue at its April 24th meeting and agreed that, at the very least, states that choose to go with reduction schemes that are based on a state-specific assessments should have to do so for a number of years in a row. For more information, please contact Christopher Vonderweidt, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at cvonderweidt@asmfc.org or (202)289-6400.

Motions

Move that the Board initiate development of Addendum V including two issues: providing state

flexibility in implementing the 28.6% reduction in F between recreational and commercial fisheries and excluding North Carolina waters from the tautog management unit.

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

WEAKFISH MANAGEMENT BOARD (May 8, 2007)

Press Release

ASMFC Weakfish Board Approves Addendum III

Addendum Revises BRD Requirements

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Weakfish Management Board approved Addendum III to Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Weakfish. The Addendum modifies Amendment 4's bycatch reduction device (BRD) requirements for the penaeid shrimp trawl fishery to be consistent with those contained in the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Shrimp Amendment 6.

Throughout its history, the weakfish management program has included management measures to reduce weakfish bycatch mortality in Southeast shrimp trawl fisheries. These requirements have been implemented to aid in the protection of weakfish stocks and complement bycatch reduction requirements in the Council's Shrimp FMP. In 2004, the Council altered its BRD certification standard from a 40 percent reduction by number of weakfish and Spanish mackerel to a 30 percent reduction by weight of finfish. The Board supported this action for several reasons. The new protocols support an ecosystem approach and will facilitate the certification of new devices to reduce finfish bycatch and retain shrimp catch. Further, weakfish generally react favorably to BRDs and escape from the net as compared to many other finfish species. As such, the 30 percent reduction requirements will likely result in equal protection to weakfish.

The change implemented in Addendum III affects the certification of new BRDs only. All BRDs previously certified through the Council's BRD certification program continue to be certified for the southern penaeid shrimp trawl fishery. Effective immediately, states will require vessels in this fishery to employ previously certified BRDs or those newly tested and certified to reduce the weight of finfish bycatch by 30 percent. Copies of the Addendum will be available by late May and can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400 or via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News.

In other business, the Board also reviewed and approved the states' 2007 biological sampling plans and the implementation plans for Addendum II (recreational creel limit, bycatch allowance, management triggers). Given

that Massachusetts' landings contribute less than 1 percent to the coastwide weakfish landings, the Commonwealth requested and was granted *de minimis* status. As a *de minimis* state, Massachusetts is exempt from certain requirements of the FMP. For more information, please contact Nichola Meserve, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or nmeserve@asmfc.org.

Motions

Move that the Board accept the Massachusetts proposal for *de minimis* status.

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

Move to accept the changes as recommended by the Technical Committee with regard to the language in Draft Addendum III.

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

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Move to approve Addendum III with the preferred option and recommended changes.

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

ANNUAL AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE (May 8, 2007)

Press Release

ASMFC Presents Annual Awards of Excellence

Alexandria, VA – Mr. Fred Schwab and Colonel Joseph Fessenden were presented the Commission's Annual Awards of Excellence at its Spring Meeting in Alexandria, Virginia for their contributions to the success of fisheries management along the Atlantic coast. They received awards for their efforts in the categories of scientific, technical and advisory, and law enforcement, respectively. "Every year a great many people contribute to the success of fisheries management along the Atlantic coast. The Commission's Annual Awards of Excellence recognizes outstanding efforts by professionals who have made a difference in the way we manage and conserve our fisheries," said ASMFC Chair, George D. Lapointe, of Maine. "Today, we honor several outstanding individuals for their contributions to the management and conservation of Atlantic coast fisheries."

Scientific, Technical and Advisory

Mr. Fred Schwab, long-standing fisheries conservation advocate and striped bass advisor to the Commission, also received the award for work in the area of scientific, technical and advisory contributions. Mr. Schwab has been an avid supporter of striped bass conservation for over 30 years. He and other Northeast fishermen were instrumental in convincing resource managers and elected officials that the decline in striped bass abundance and the problems associated with overfishing and wasteful fishing practices required a coordinated multi-state conservation program to restore

the stock. Their advocacy was pivotal in leading to enactment of the Emergency Striped Bass Study and development of an Interstate Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). As one of the charter members of the Commission's Striped Bass Advisory Committee from 1978 to 1982, he played an important role in the creation of the original Striped Bass Plan. His unstinting advocacy for the resource's conservation ensured that the plan would include effective conservation measures. Once the FMP was adopted, he worked hard to see it implemented in his home state of New York, personally lobbying his state legislator on the eve of the Assembly debate on the bill. Mr. Schwab rejoined the Commission's Striped Bass Advisory Panel in 1994 and has served up until this year, consistently advocating for resource conservation. His experience and extraordinary knowledge, coupled with his willingness to listen to all points of view, and his evenhanded treatment of issues and interests, have made him a model AP member and Chair. The Commission's ability to achieve fisheries management success is strongly reliant on the service of extraordinary people like Mr. Schwab, who believe in conservation, are willing to invest their time and energy, and have the ability to carefully listen and to work with other people whose views they may not share. He is one of the heroes of cooperative interstate fisheries management.

SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, AND BLACK SEA BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (May 9, 2007)

Press Release

ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board Releases Draft Addendum XIX for Public Comment

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board has approved releasing Draft Addendum XIX for public review and comment. The Draft Addendum addresses three programs under the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP). These are the black sea bass commercial management strategy for 2008, the summer flounder recreational allocation strategy, and the stock status determination criteria for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. Affected states from Massachusetts through North Carolina will be conducting public hearings on the Draft Addendum; the details of those hearings will be released once they become available.

Black Sea Bass Commercial Management Strategy

Since 2003, the black sea bass commercial fishery has been managed through a state-by-state allocation system, with each state allocated a percentage of the coastwide quota. Under this system, states are provided the flexibility to manage their quota for the greatest benefits of their commercial fishing industries, with the goal of

ensuring a continuous and steady supply of black sea bass over the fishing season and equitable distribution of black sea bass to fishermen who have traditionally landed black sea bass in the state. This management strategy is set to expire by December 31, 2007. If the strategy is not revised or extended by a new addendum, the system will revert back to the quarterly quota system established by the FMP. *Draft Addendum XIX presents options to extend the current management strategy by two years, five years, 10 years, or indefinitely.*

Summer Flounder Recreational Allocation Strategy

Currently, summer flounder state recreational allocations are based on the proportion of state landings to coastwide landings reported in 1998. Managers have raised concern that a single year allocation may not be the most effective method to manage the summer flounder recreational fishery. This system also provides states the flexibility to develop state-specific conservation equivalent management measures to achieve the coastwide recreational harvest limit. *Draft Addendum XIX considers modifying the present*

system of conservation equivalency to allow for the formation of alternative state-by-state shares in the recreational fishery. Stock Status Determination Criteria

Currently, the Board must undertake a new addendum or plan amendment in order to incorporate new stock status determination criteria (i.e., changes to biological reference points) that may result from updated, peer-reviewed science. Since the development and implementation of a new addendum or amendment can take some time (six months in the case of an addendum and 12 to 16 months in the case of an amendment), there can be a considerable lag in the incorporation of the biological reference points in the annual specification setting process for all three species. *Draft Addendum XIX proposes allowing the Board and Council to adjust biological reference points during the species' annual specification setting process in lieu of the more protracted addendum/amendment process currently required.*

Reference points are used to determine whether or not any of the FMP's stocks are overfished or experiencing overfishing. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. Copies of Draft Addendum XIX will be available in late May and can be obtained via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400. Public comment will be accepted until **5:00 PM on July 11, 2007** and should be forwarded to Toni Kerns, Senior Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator for Management, at 1444 'Eye' Street, NW, Sixth Floor,

Washington, DC 20005; (202)289-6051 (fax) or tkerns@asmfc.org (Subject line: Addendum XIX). For more information, please contact Toni Kerns at (202) 289-6400 or tkerns@asmfc.org.
PR07-12

Motions

Move to adopt option A2 of Amendment 14.

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

Motion to recommend that the full Commission approve Amendment 14 as modified today.

Motion made by Mr. Adler, second by Mr. Augustine.
Motion Carries.

Move to include the following issues by number: 1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 17, 19, 27, & 28; and as a bundle the issues 3, 4, 12, 13, 20, & 21; and as a second bundle 6, 15, & 23. Include item 26 as an issue for adaptive management.

Motion made by Mr. Colvin, second by Mr. Gibson.
Motion carries (8 in favor, 2 in opposition).

Move to approve Addendum XIX for public comment consistent with the modifications made by consensus during this meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Colvin, second by Dr. Pierce.
Motion carries (9 in favor, 1 in opposition, 1 null vote).

Move that the Board initiate the process for an ASMFC sponsored external peer review of the fluke stock assessment.

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

Move to approve the following nominees to the Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel: Gary Ostrom, Michael C. Plaia, Bruce Bannick, Edward F. Baker, Jr., Fred Frillici, Sidney J. Holbrook, Robert Veach, John Goncharuk, Dennis Kanyuk, Mark K. Hoffman, James R. Lovgren, Joe Wagner, Stan Konczyk, Captain Sonny Guinn, Captain Victor Bunting, Mark Hodges, and Frank M. Folb.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Adler.
Motion carries.

Move to approve the following nominees to the Scup Advisory Panel: Gary Ostrom, Joseph Huckemeyer, Rodney Avila, Michael C. Plaia, Bruce Bannick, Edward F. Baker, Jr., Fred Frillici, Sidney J. Holbrook, Robert Veach, John Davi, Paul Forsberg, John Richy, James R. Lovgren, and Frank M. Folb.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Adler. Motion carries.

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Move to approve the following nominees to the Summer Flounder Advisory Panel: Rodney Avila, Joseph Huckemeyer, Drew Kolek, Ken Court, Jack Conway,

Robert Veach, Sidney J. Holbrook, Charles Wertz, Norman Edwards, Bob Busby, Tony DiLernia, Greg DiDomenico, Robert Meimbresse, Bill Shillingford, Captain Jeff Eustler, Captain Bob Gowar, and James R. Craddock.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Adler. Motion carries.

Approve Dr. John Maiolo as the summer flounder, scup & black sea bass social scientist.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Adler. Motion carries.

Put question to the voters
Posted by the Asbury Park Press on
05/18/07

Gov. Corzine is trying to link his idea to lease state assets with replenishing the Garden State Preservation Trust Fund — a move some say is attempted blackmail. It's also the wrong place for Corzine to be flexing his gubernatorial muscles. He should back away from his plan to keep a public question on the open space fund off the November ballot.

Instead of bonding to re-fund the trust, as has been done in the past with voter approval, Corzine wants to fund it with proceeds from selling or leasing state assets, such as toll roads or the lottery. He seems to be promising that phantom money to everyone. It sounds like a desperate attempt to sell his unpopular proposal.

The Corzine administration wants to quash legislation that would ask voters in November to replenish and strengthen the trust for 30 years. If placed on the ballot, it would likely be approved. Voters have passed 32 straight public questions on state ballots since 1991. And New Jerseyans have consistently supported preserving open space for recreation and to limit development.

Assemblyman Nicholas Asselta, R-Cumberland, accused the governor of "holding open space and farmland preservation hostage" to asset-monetization, a plan Asselta called "irresponsible."

It's also anti-democratic. A coalition of more than 90 environmental and community organizations have been working diligently to get the trust on the ballot renewed. For Corzine to deny voters a voice and use the veto threat to force his own agenda is an affront to activists and citizens throughout the state.

The Corzine administration hasn't sold asset monetization to the New Jersey voters, who have understandably become wary of budget gimmicks and one-time infusions of cash. Corzine has said the revenue generated by his monetization plan could be used to plug budget holes, pay down state debt, expand health care programs, build schools, provide property tax relief and preserve open space. How thinly would he spread that money? That only makes us more wary of the idea. And what about all the state legislators who undoubtedly will camp outside his door trying to get their pet projects tacked on?

Corzine should respect the environmentalists and others who have fought hard to replenish the Garden State Preservation Trust Fund and make sure it's on the November ballot. If he wants to continue to push his idea to sell or lease state assets, he should do so on its own merits — not by making more popular state programs dependent upon it.

And when he's formulated his plans for monetization or "securitization" — having the Turnpike Authority borrow a huge amount of cash against future tolls — he should give the voters the chance to voice their opinion on that as well.

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New York Times

May 19, 2007

Political Memo

A 'Straddling' Governor Worries

Environmentalists

By RONALD SMOTHERS

TRENTON, May 18 — As a United States senator, and as a governor, Jon S. Corzine has cultivated a reputation in New Jersey as an ally of environmentalists.

From clean water to open space, from regulatory authority to toxic cleanups, his positions have — despite some bumps along the way — struck a responsive chord with advocates for the environment and earned him their support. But this week, two developments left many wondering whether the green aura surrounding him was fading.

First, Mr. Corzine abandoned his support on Monday for a referendum in November on whether to borrow \$1.75 billion over the next 30 years to refinance the Garden State Preservation Trust.

Governor Corzine said on Friday that this did not mean he did not support the trust and the state's purchase of open space and farmland, the largest such effort by any state in the nation. He said it simply meant that he wanted to wait and try to replenish the nearly depleted fund in the next year by selling or leasing assets like the New Jersey Turnpike, other tolls roads or the lottery.

The second issue came about on Thursday, when the governor of Pennsylvania announced that his counterpart in New Jersey was withdrawing his opposition — shared with four governors before him — to the dredging of the 100-mile Delaware River shipping channel in an effort to attract cargo ships and tankers with larger hulls.

But then Mr. Corzine insisted in a statement that his opposition to the dredging — despite Pennsylvania's offer to shoulder the costs and take responsibility for 26 million cubic feet of muck — “has not changed” and that he would exercise the state's right to deny necessary permits if environmental concerns were not addressed.

Environmentalists have long contended that deepening the shipping channel to 45 feet from 40 feet would stir up toxic sediment, posing a threat to a variety of fish and recovering oyster beds, and would damage the freshwater aquifers that supply drinking water to South Jersey.

Together, the two issues struck a nerve among environmental groups. “Betrayal” was one word that Jeff Tittel, the director of the New Jersey chapter of the Sierra Club, used to describe it. And a coalition of environmental groups accused Mr. Corzine of subjecting an issue on which there had been wide nonpartisan agreement to politics.

At the least, the notion of Mr. Corzine easing his stand on dredging while insisting that he still opposed it — and not allowing voters to decide whether to replenish the trust fund yet, saying he supported it — struck some as contradictory.

“He is straddling,” said Brigid C. Harrison, professor of political science and law at Montclair State University. “That might work with the dredging issue, because perhaps he can hold up some permits. But it doesn't work with the Garden State Preservation Trust.”

Professor Harrison said the shift in position on the trust fund may have been a political calculation to get supporters of the popular open space effort to see support of the monetization plan as the only way to sustain it. If this was the tactic, she said, it could bring a powerful group to the aid of a monetization plan, which has already been criticized in polls and pounced on by Republicans and Democrats alike.

Viewed another way, Ingrid W. Reed, the director of the Eagleton Institute at Rutgers University, said that Mr. Corzine, in his effort to address the state's habit of borrowing, was “drawing a line in the sand” with the popular trust fund.

“One of the reasons for monetization is to pay down debt, and the Garden State Preservation Trust as it is now is a way of going into more debt,” Ms. Reed said. “So in one way he is acting responsibly in trying to focus the discussion on a program that a lot of people like. It will get their attention, and it is an educational opportunity.”

As for going along with the dredging of the Delaware, at least for now, Ms. Reed said it was a matter of balancing the requirements of an increasing globalization with environmental concerns.

While some environmentalists seemed ready to abandon their support of Mr. Corzine because of the risks to the trust fund and the Delaware River, others like Tim Dillingham, executive director of the American Littoral Society, were more diplomatic.

Mr. Dillingham said that Mr. Corzine's position on the trust fund, which he called “disappointing,” and his contention that his opposition to the dredging still stands “does not hold water.” Still, he said, there may not be any long-term political effect.

“I guess the lesson is that nothing is done until it is done,” Mr. Dillingham said.

Ms. Reed suggested that the lesson may be deeper than that. "Corzine seems willing to take some short-term political pain for longer-term gain," she said. "But that's what all of our recent state budgets with their deficits have been all about."

Barnegat Bay Festival June 3

The 10th Anniversary Barnegat Bay Festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (rain or shine) on Sunday, June 3rd, 2007, at the beautiful waterfront Wanamaker Complex, in Island Heights, New Jersey (right next to Toms River, NJ).

This event is sponsored by the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program with support from our partners, Ocean County College, and the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Join the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program in celebrating their 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY (and the 20-year anniversary of the National Estuary Program www.nationalestuarines.org) at the 10th annual Barnegat Bay Festival. Enjoy an entire day of Free Family Fun. Participate in fish printing, face painting, seedling planting and so much more. Environmental groups from the area will be there to answer any questions you may have regarding the environmentally responsible ways that you can enjoy and protect the beautiful Barnegat Bay and its watershed. Join us for an all-day music festival, decoy carving and casting demonstrations, and free pontoon boat tours. Artisans and crafters will be selling custom fishing rods, jewelry, marine art, photography, and more. So pack up the family and spend the day celebrating the nationally recognized BARNEGAT BAY at the Wanamaker Complex in Island Heights, New Jersey. Please visit our website at www.bbep.org or call 732-255-0472 for more information.

Sample of the events already scheduled for the festival:

Get dazzlingly decorated with a free airbrush tattoo by Dana Endresen.

* Jenkinson's Aquarium will be helping create an ocean life craft for children of all ages.

Stop by the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science booth to build a crab out of sea shells.

Visit the Ocean County Freeholders Public Affairs booth to make your own Watershed Willy, the storm drain mascot of the Barnegat Bay watershed! While you're there, take a spin of the Tourism Wheel and win a prize.

Cattus Island Park naturalists will help you make an animal and leaf rubbing to add to your Nature art collection.

The Forest Resource Education Center will be giving out "tree cookies" and seedlings to start you on your way toward your spring planting.

* Make your own seal mask with the Marine Mammal Stranding Center.

Data – Data – Data!

By Tom Siciliano

Over the years I have complained about the insufficient data that is used by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council to manage a variety of species. I have stated at hearings that there are three things that are needed to improve the fisheries management process. They are DATA – DATA and DATA!

Three years ago the JCAA started to do something about this lack of data by conducting a survey during the JCAA Fluke Tournament. This survey has been a great success and is a big help to the biologists in New Jersey and elsewhere to get a one-day snapshot of what is happening along the coast in the recreational fluke fishery.

We have also used this survey during the Governor's Surf Tournament.

Since I have complained about the lack of data, I felt that it was time for me to do something more personally. I spoke with the biologists who work for the Fish & Wildlife Division of the DEP to make sure that if I did another survey they would be able to use the data. Their main interest is to determine the effort expended in trying to catch fish and how many keepers are caught and also how many and what is the size of any fish released. They are not interested in the political questions that the JCAA survey asks.

With this in mind I approached the Sunshine Foundation Fluke and Weakfish Tournament Committee to see if they would allow me to conduct a survey during their Tournament on July 14th. They

were very receptive to the idea and plans are well underway to make the survey a reality for this tournament. Last year they had over 200 boats entered and I volunteered to make a donation to the Foundation for every completed questionnaire. Once I have the completed survey forms I will enter the results on a spreadsheet and prepare a report for the State.

Since there is a Captain's meeting before the Sunshine Tournament, I will hand out the surveys at that time and explain the importance of filling out the survey accurately. In order to maximize the usefulness of the data a record needs to be kept of the number of fish released along with their size. This is a simple spreadsheet and I will demonstrate how to fill it out. The main message will be that everyone should fill out the survey even if they are not very successful. This will provide a good cross section of successful anglers along with those that are not as successful. We certainly would not want the data to be only reporting the successful anglers.

There is a picnic and awards ceremony immediately after the tournament at Great Bay Marina. The completed surveys will be collected at that time and I will measure any fish that are not officially weighed in. The surveys will demonstrate effort, number of anglers, number of hooks and time spent fishing and will also give a good indication of the ratio of shorts to keepers. The number and size of the released fish will help New Jersey to provide information to the stock assessment committee of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Anyone interested in conducting a similar survey during their club or organizations tournament can call Jeff Brust, a biologist who works for the Division of Fish and Wildlife at Nacote Creek. 609-748-2020

SUPPORT THE ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM

Hooked on Fishing and Not on Drugs
*Greg Kucharewski, JCAA
Youth Education Director*

JCAA helped move the Hooked on Fishing and Not on Drugs (A636) out of committee and now we need to get the Assembly Speaker Joseph J. Roberts Jr. (District 5) to post the bill. Tom Fote

attended the hearing for JCAA and the NJSFSC. Remember, it is an election year and you should remind Speaker Joseph Roberts that we are watching to see what happens with this bill in the Assembly. We will be contacting the Chairman of the Environmental Committee, Senator Robert Smith, and ask him to have a hearing on of the bill S138/636. We will keep you informed and this will be covered in a lot more detail in the next JCAA Newspaper. You also need to write Governor Corzine and ask him to support this bill.

Dear Assemblyman/woman,

The JCAA membership wants you to notify Governor Corzine that you support Bill S138/636 utilizing monies not from tax dollars but rather from a fund paid into by drug offenders. A636 is out of committee and now we need to get the Assembly Speaker Joseph J. Roberts Jr. (District 5) to post the bill.

This is an important piece of legislation concerning the Hooked On Fishing - Not On Drugs program. S138/A636 would establish within the Division of Fish and Wildlife the HOFNOD coordinator position and would fund the program with \$200,000. The funds would come from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund. All the monies in that fund are from people arrested for drug offenses. In this way, money gathered from people who use drugs is being put back into the communities to help prevent drug use. We are asking for your support for S138/A636. We need more ammunition to fight the war on drugs to teach youngsters about healthy outdoor activities that will complement New Jersey's outdoor programs.

The money in the fund can only be used for anti-drug/alcohol programs and to support Bill S138/A636. The children and families of New Jersey need your support to make this happen. Please make your plea to Governor Corzine and ask him to support this worthwhile bill that is sure to make a difference to the youth of New Jersey that will participate in the "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" national outdoor program.

Thank you for your consideration.

YOUTH EDUCATION

BY GREG KUCHARAWSKI

JCAA JUNIOR ANGLER PRESENTATION

During May, members of the hard working Hudson River Fishermen's Association (HRFA) enjoyed learning about the JCAA Junior Angler program and "How To Keep Kid's Fishing." HRFA spends countless hours working on their many youth fishing programs and it was good to meet with old acquaintances such as Tony Evangelista who met with me in 1985 to discuss how the HRFA would introduce the "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" program. Since then members like Glenn Blank, Rich Berlinger, and Darren Cardinal have guided HRFA members to participate in their youth angler program. Many fishing clubs can learn from their success. It's all about teaching youngsters the joy of fishing and promoting healthy outdoor activities. During my presentation I mentioned Ray Marione, an HRFA advocate for promoting access who was not able to attend the meeting, but was recognized as a person who inspired others to stand up and fight for recreational fishing access. Ray attends the JCAA monthly meetings and it's always a pleasure to speak with Ray. There are many members of the HRFA that do good and the list could go on, but I thank the membership of the HRFA for inviting me to their meeting and allowing me the time to speak to their members.

LET'S CELEBRATE NFBW 2007

Get ready for a week on the water! National Fishing and Boating Week is June 2-10, 2007. You can be part of this annual national effort by hosting or sponsoring an official National Fishing and Boating Week event. It's a great way to promote the joys of boating and fishing to people across the country and to turn your passion for the water into a promise for the future. Visit <http://www.nationalfishingandboatingweek.org/> for event ideas, planning materials and to register your event. Search over 11,000 locations across the country to go fishing and boating. Just click a state on the map of the United States and BINGO up pops events and locations to go fishing and boating. This is a great tool to use if you are planning a family trip. You can also locate each

state's free fishing days during NFBW. New Jersey's free fishing days are Saturday and Sunday, June 9, 10, 2007. Get out and take someone fishing.

SAFE FISHING AND BOATING FOR YOUNGSTERS

During National Fishing and Boating Week, members of the JCAA Youth Education Committee and NJ Chapter 12 Vietnam Veterans will present a fishing fun day for children attending the Fort Monmouth School Age Services program. Activities for the day will include "How To Catch A Whopper", Fish Identification Flash Cards, Boat Safety, HOFNOD and a variety of tackle demonstrations. Children will learn about National Fishing and Boating Week and how to take advantage of the many fishing and boating opportunities in Monmouth and Ocean County.

BERKLEY STRIPER CLUB

The JCAA Youth Education Committee received a request from the Berkley Stripper Club to speak about introducing a youth fishing program to their membership. We are in the process of negotiating a date and time for the program.

HRFA TAKES THE PLEDGE

On Tuesday, May 8, 2007 seventy-six members of the Hudson River Fishermen's Association signed the Anglers' Legacy pledge to become ambassadors of the Anglers' Legacy program. HRFA members also stated they would promote the Anglers' Legacy program and encourage their membership to spread the word. Other anglers can also participate in the pledge by visiting the <http://www.anglerslegacy.org> website. When anglers take the Anglers' Legacy pledge online they will receive a handsome Anglers' Legacy decal to display on their boat or vehicle. So what are you waiting for? Take a few minutes to take the pledge, take a friend fishing and boating, and give someone a chance to experience all the fun the angling community has to offer. We will send a digital image of the Anglers' Legacy pledge signing to the Recreational Fishing and Boating Foundation.

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

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Join JCAA as an Associate Member

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

JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICATION

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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