

JCAA NEWSPAPER LATE SUMMER 2007

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on August 21st, 2007)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, September 25th, 2007

Starting at 7:30 PM

**Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd
NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING**

Tuesday August 28, 2007

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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

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

JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote

JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi

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

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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.**

## 2007 OFFICERS

|                            |               |              |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>           | John Toth     | 732-446-6298 |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b> |               |              |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b> | Bruce Freeman | 732-793-7871 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Doug Tegeder  | 732-341-5674 |
| <b>Rec. Sec.</b>           | Tom Siciliano | 609-296-3774 |
| <b>Cors. Sec.</b>          | Paul Turi     | 609-597-3193 |
| <b>Mem. Sec.</b>           | Mike Tutela   | 732-281-8942 |

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## Important Meeting Dates

**August 28<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board meeting**

**September 6<sup>th</sup> NJMFC**

**September 25<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting**

**September 25<sup>th</sup> MFCN Board meeting DC**

**October 7<sup>th</sup> Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament**

**October 10-12 ASA Summit**

**October 28-November 1 ASMFC Annual meeting**

**October 30 JCAA General Meeting**

## **16th Annual Governor's Surf**

### **Fishing Tournament**

**Sunday, October 7, 2007**

*By Paul Smith*

## **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EARLY ENTRY INCENTIVE**

**If your entry form is postmarked by September 14, 2007 you will:**

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

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

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

See your local sport shop for an entry form or visit:  
[www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com)

## **Tournament Day Registration Fees:**

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

**\$5.00** – Ages 13-17

**Children 12 & under are FREE!**

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

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

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

**tournament day. To volunteer, or to make arrangements for a handicapped angler, please contact Greg Kucharewski at 732-840-9197.**

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

We are looking forward to another successful event at Island Beach State Park on Sunday, October 7. Participating anglers will fish in Island Beach State Park from 6:30 AM to 1:00 PM. This annual event has become a fixture of the New Jersey Fall surf fishing season for an increasing number of surf anglers and their families.

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

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

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

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

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*By John Toth*

This report of mine has to be a short one since while I am writing this article, I am in the process of packing up my things to move to a new house on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August. The movers are coming and I have to have everything ready to go! I have lived in my house for 23 years, so I have a lot to pack!

First I would like to thank the many supporters listed below for their **door prize donations** to make this year's 13<sup>th</sup> annual fluke tournament a major success. JCAA would urge all anglers to support their very

generous organizations for without the generosity this event would not have been a success.

**Aftco Bluewater, American Angler, American Rod & Gun, Amo Tackle, Berkley, Big Mohawk, Blood Marine Services, Bushnell Performance Optics, Boaters World, Bolle, Canyon Gear, Capt. Cal, Carlson Machine & Tool, Inc, Chambliss Marine, Cortland Corporation, New Jersey Angler Magazine, Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle, F. J. Neil Co. Inc., Fisherman's Den Belmar, Fisherman's Headquarters, LBI, Fishskin Lures, Flying Fisherman Sunglasses, Golden Eagle, Grizz's Bait & Tackle, Guy Harvey Publishing, Hi Seas / American Fishing Wire, International Paints, JCAA, Joe Blaze, Lamiglas, Lipper Tools, Maui Jim Sunglasses, Minn Kota Motors, Miss Belmar, Miss Belmar Princess, Nor'East Saltwater Magazine, Ocean Explorer, Optimum Bait & Tackle, Pells Bait & Tackle, Pro Fish Co., Pure Fishing, Raymarine, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Shimano American Group, Skipper, Spro, Suzi Girl, Tackle Buddy, Top Brass, Trump Marina Hotel Casino, TTI Companies, U. S. Reel, Van Patten Industries, and Wiggle Fin Lures**

While the weather has been hot and especially humid this summer, the fishing management scene is also hot. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met jointly and voted to recommend reducing the total allowable landings of Fluke from 17.11 pounds to 15.77 million pounds next year! If this new quota becomes law, expect a reduced fishing season, a larger size limit or both of these evils. We were expecting a larger fluke quota for 2008, and now we are facing a cutback even though the fluke fishing has been very good this year.

Other cuts are on the way. The same management people recommended reducing sea bass landings from 6.5 million pounds this year to 4.22 million pounds for 2008. Porgy landings are set to be reduced from 13.5 million ponds to 7.34 million pounds next year. More bad news. Blackfish landings are also expected to be slashed by 28 % next year! The ASMFC is proposing a cut of 28% on tautog for 2008 and what is NJ doing about it since it is the illegal fishery that might be the main problem?

## Other news on the fishing front

**Artificial Reefs** – Fish and Game’s Dave Chanda proposed a compromise solution so that the commercial and recreational anglers could have use of the reefs during certain seasons. The RFA, JCAA, Reef Rescue and the NJ Divers Association considered this recommendation and decided to reject it. Recreational anglers want the fishing pots and gear removed from all of the reefs and do not want any compromises! Stay tuned on this issue. Nothing will be happening now on this until the elections roll around.

**Subway Cars** – The JCAA invited EPA’s Lisa Jackson to hold a meeting at JCAA’s headquarters to discuss the subway car issue with various environmental groups (Clean Ocean Action, Littoral Society) and also with the RFA, Reef Rescue and the NJ Divers Association. Essentially, it was Lisa Jackson’s meeting to hear comments from those present. She will make a decision on the subway cars in the near future.

**Bill A- 3275 – A nefarious bill** was introduced by Assemblyman Mike Panter (equally nefarious) that is designed to drastically alter the Fish & Game Council from eleven members to seven political appointees making it ripe to be controlled by the animal rights activists, anti-hunting and fishing activists and extreme environmental activists. If this bill passes as presently written, fishing and hunting as we know it will be effectively destroyed! This bill is also being supported by Senator Karcher (S-2041) and Assemblywoman Greenstein.

However, Mr. Panter did us a very big favor by galvanizing NJ’s hunters and anglers to form a new association called the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance. For your information, the NJ Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of anglers and hunters. They will be working to defeat Bills A- 3275 and S-2041 by forming a Political Action Committee (PAC). If you are interested in more information go to its website at ([www.njoutdooralliance.org](http://www.njoutdooralliance.org)).

We have also received a letter from 12 District Assemblywoman Jenifer Beck who is running for the senate against Senator Karcher. The letter below explains her objections to the A3275/S2041. We also received a letter from her two running mates also stating their objection to Assemblyman Panter’s bill. Those letters are included.

There is more information in the newsletter on each of these topics. **However, if you snooze**

**you lose!** Try to keep updated on these issues by following our newsletter and other publications like the Fisherman or your favorite newspaper. The JCAA will have its eyes on these and other issues that affect anglers who fish in our waters. We especially need volunteers to attend fishing management meetings to monitor the proceedings and present JCAA positions. Sometimes just showing up at various functions to represent the JCAA helps us by showing that there is a JCAA presence. If you can help us in this manner, please let me know. We just need a little of your time. Many hands make light work! I can be reached at (732) 446-6298 or [tothjohn@juno.com](mailto:tothjohn@juno.com)

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>. Plan to be there since we will have a lot to discuss!

I wanted to have a short column and now I am on two pages! My adrenalin is pumping even though I am tired of all of the packing and getting things ready!

### Letter from Assemblywoman Beck

Dear Sportsmen:

As you know, the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee recently voted in support of a measure, A-3275, which would change the structure, powers, and functions of the New Jersey Fish and Game Council. I feel that this bill will not serve the interests of our great state’s fish and wildlife resources and will alienate the people who pay to support it.

I believe that the current makeup of the New Jersey Fish and Game Council of eleven members, comprising of three farmers, six sportsmen, one public member knowledgeable in land management and soil conservation, and the Chairperson of the Endangered Non-game Species Advisory Committee allows for a competent and effective management of fish and game duties.

The intent of this bill, proposed by Assemblyman Michael Panter, is to severely reduce the influence that sportsmen have on the Council. As it stands, members of the Council are required to be from different areas in the state to provide a balanced perspective with regard to New Jersey’s wildlife management policies. If this legislation goes forward as planned, the geographic and occupational requirements of the membership will be removed. This ill-conceived measure would allow for the future possibility that not a single sportsman

will be serving on the very council that develops New Jersey's hunting and fishing policies.

Furthermore, this legislation also removes the farming communities' representative on the Council. It is my strong belief that farmers, arguably the group most impacted by wildlife management guidelines, should have a voice on the committee.

Rest assured that when this bill comes before me in the General Assembly I will vote a resounding "no". Without question, this bill seeks to weaken the New Jersey Fish and Game Council by politicizing it.

Sincerely,

Assemblywoman Jennifer Beck

12<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

### **Letter from Assembly Candidates in the 12<sup>th</sup> District**

To Whom It May Concern,

We would like to affirm our opposition to New Jersey Assembly bill A-3275, which would change and politicize the composition of the New Jersey Fish and Game Council.

It would also remove the "geographic representation" requirement which now requires that all parts of the state are guaranteed representation on the Council. Additionally, it would remove the ability of the council to consider development of fish and game for public recreation and food supply when adopting/amending the Fish and Game Code- a blatant anti-hunting, anti-fishing provision.

We believe this bill is not an attempt to better manage New Jersey's fish and game population, but an attempt by animal rights activists to curtail hunting and fishing in the State of New Jersey.

We agree with Leonard Wolgast, a current member of the council and a professor at Rutgers University, who said the proposed law is unnecessary and the council should not be changed because "New Jersey has a worldwide reputation in the field of wildlife management".

If elected to the Assembly, we will oppose this bill and we will support the rights of sportsmen in the State of New Jersey.

Sincerely,

Declan O'Scanlon

Caroline Casagrande

Candidates for State Assembly

12<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

**SUPPORT THE TROOPS TAKE  
THEM FISHING**

## **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

*By Thomas Fote*

We used to believe there was a break from decision-making during the summer. No more! JCAA and its representatives have been at meetings up and down the East coast throughout the summer dealing with fisheries management and recreational statistics. Tom Siciliano's report covers his meeting on recreational statistics held in Florida.

There were meetings we could not attend this summer because of a lack of volunteers. JCAA will pay expenses but we need for you to step forward. If you would like to get involved contact me at [tfote@jcaa.org](mailto:tfote@jcaa.org).

### **ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS: THE NEW AGENT ORANGE**

There is much debate what to do about Global Warming. Some people are still unwilling to even acknowledge that the problem is man-made. But there is no running away from the fact that endocrine disruptors are having a huge impact on the environment. In this case, fish are like the old canaries sent into the mine. If they are in danger, we're next. The most recent study that supports our understanding of the magnitude of this problem comes from Jamaica Bay. "*Young flounder throughout Jamaica Bay showed biochemical signs of exposure to estrogenic compounds in their environment. High levels of vitellogenin were observed and the young winter flounder also showed signs of female reproductive tissues within the testes of male fish. Altered sex ratios were observed in Jamaica Bay winter flounder with many more females caught than males as compared to the reference site, Shinnecock Bay, NY. Preliminary evidence also indicated that healthy winter flounder embryos exposed to sediment from Jamaica Bay showed delayed development and reduced hatching success*" (NY Sea Grant Release) Add this to the small mouth bass in the Potomac River, the white sucker in the Colorado River and the mud guppy from San Francisco and you have much more than an isolated phenomenon. And we wonder why the inshore winter flounder stocks are not rebuilding and the same for summer flounder since they occupy the same area. For those of you who are unfamiliar with

this topic (as most of us have been until recently), I have included the following brief explanation from a radio program transcript.

*Scientists have identified dozens of human made chemicals that can disrupt an animal's endocrine system -- a group of organs that release chemicals into the body that are important for a wide range of activities -- including growing, managing stress and reproducing. One of the chemicals released by the endocrine system is estrogen. Estrogen helps females develop into adults with the ability to reproduce -- it helps prepare the body for pregnancy -- and is active during pregnancy.*

*Some human made chemicals can act like estrogen in an animal's body. These so called "estrogen mimics" are being increasingly detected in agricultural runoff, effluent from water treatment plants often from drugs flushed down the toilet in homes and pollution from manufacturers including plastics factories and paper pulp mills. These chemicals are also turning up in aquatic animals and birds that live in or near streams, rivers and the ocean. They are known -- in certain concentrations - - to disrupt the ability of alligators, frogs, birds and fish to mature and reproduce.*

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There are many contributors to this problem including detergents and other household cleaners. When we decided phosphates were harmful to the environment due to the nitrogen loading, we replaced them in detergents and other cleaning agents with surfactants. These chemicals have the same effect as other sources of endocrine blockers.

JCAA has been in the forefront for this discussion and I believe the conversation is only beginning. Since JCAA has many Vietnam Veterans (including myself) who understand the impact of Agent Orange, we have always been particularly alert to the negative impact of chemicals in our environment. Agent Orange had a tremendous impact on reproduction and the health of exposed individuals and also our children. We have always worried about PCBs as well. But now, the focus is shifting to a new concern, endocrine disruptors including Agent Orange (dioxin) and PCBs. The problem is clearly bigger than we anticipated. We are not seeing sexual dysfunctional fish throughout the world. Wherever there are sources of this contamination (sewer plants, agricultural runoff, recharging, and any other chemical discharge spots),

we are seeing the effects. As with asbestos, Europe has been taking a more proactive approach, not allowing the use of chemicals or detergents until they are proven safe. In this country, we allow until proven unsafe, a very different and frequently dangerous approach.

EPA is working on an initiative to get safer detergents. State and Federal Legislators are expressing interest in taking action. JCAA is pulling together as much information as possible to educate ourselves and the decision-makers. Scientists know a great deal but often focus on just one area of the problem. Our role will be to gather information, synthesize what we learn and share it with everyone. On the JCAA website you will find articles and studies that are currently available. We will continue to update as quickly as possible. JCAA is first and foremost an environmental organization and our website will now have an environmental area with all of the latest information on a variety of environmental topics. You can help by doing your own research and sharing what you learn with us. As soon as we have information about how we can help as consumers by buying and using appropriate goods, we will post that information as well.

The other problem that will deserve our time and attention is how we limit the impact of the drugs we take. The two issues are the disposal of unused drugs and how we eliminate the impact of the drugs we excrete into the system. There are some pilot projects looking at sewer systems and we will share information as it becomes available.

While I believe Global Warming is a terrible problem that deserves our attention, I believe this problem is a more immediate crisis. And there is no arguing that we caused this problem and we are responsible for the solution. There will not be a quick or cheap fix to this problem. Our lives, and the lives of our children, and our children's children, depend on finding a solution. The fish may be the first red flag but every living creature will pay the price if we don't pay attention.

## **SUBWAY CARS**

Lisa Jackson, Commissioner of DEP, hosted a meeting of interested groups to discuss the proposed use of 600 subway cars for use for artificial reefs. It is refreshing to have a commissioner who is open-minded on these topics and is clearly looking at the available science in decision-making. We will be waiting for her decision and, since the science

supports the use of subway cars, we are hopeful that she will approve the use of the cars. We will keep you posted.

## **ARTIFICIAL REEFS**

Phil Celmer and I attended a meeting of the Artificial Reef Advisory Committee. We stated our objections to the proposal made by Dave Chanda, Director of Fish and Wildlife, that would limit the months that fish pots could be placed on the artificial reefs. This proposal is not supported by any recreational groups attending the meeting. We realize that recreational anglers fish these reefs 12 months of the year and they should not be competing with fish pots that can basically dominate a reef. The bogus argument proposed by the potters is that they feed people who can't fish. There are many other ways to provide fish for non-anglers using the rest of the 97% of the ocean. The 1.3 million anglers who want to feed their families should have the use of the artificial reefs exclusive of the pots. Closing the artificial reefs to the pots provides the small boat angler with fishing opportunities for them and their families while excluding a few commercial potters who are looking to make a buck.

At this time the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council and the Division of Fish and Wildlife are unwilling to remove the pots from the artificial reefs; JCAA will work with NJ Dive Association, RFA and Reef Rescue to push for legislation to resolve this problem. Again, these bills are:

## **HOFNOD**

If you see any of your legislators at events, please remind them we want the Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs Bill voted on by the full Assembly and voted on by the Senate Environmental Committee. Senator Robert Smith has been promising to post this bill for some time but nothing has happened. This is the year that action is needed on this bill.

### **Comments on Oceans 21 Bill:**

JCAA has developed a comment on Oceans 21 Legislation. It is hard to comment on a bill that is in a constant state of change. However, given the information we had to work with, we have developed some general comments to share with interested parties. There is no sense in commenting on every detail of the present bill since so many major changes are anticipated. Our comments are included

in the letter below. We will keep an eye on this legislation and keep you informed.

## **JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION & NEW JERSEY FEDERATION OF SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS**

7/27/2007

Jean Flemma  
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and  
Oceans  
187 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Jean Flemma,  
Comments on Oceans 21 Bill:

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) and the NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs (NJSFSC) represent hundreds of sportspersons' clubs and tens of thousands of sportspersons in New Jersey. We have reviewed the Oceans 21 Bill and find that it is too complex, imprecise and difficult to understand with many terms that are not clearly defined. It covers too many areas and tries to do too much. The bill should focus on doing a few things well. Additionally, since this bill is in a state of flux, there is no need to address this present draft point by point. As currently written, it adds an additional layer of bureaucracy without improving the plight of recreational anglers and the oceans.

Oceans 21 should not supersede any existing acts such as Coastal Zone Management Act and the Magnuson/Stevens Act. Magnuson/Stevens must remain the act which deals with all fisheries management.

JCAA and NJSFSC agree that the precautionary approach should be used to protect the environment and its ecosystems. This includes estuaries, rivers, bays, and wetlands. The precautionary approach should not be used in fisheries management because the data we use is far from precise. The models that are used for fisheries management are already ultra conservative.

We are concerned that the bill as presently drafted will be used to set up MPA's. This should not be part of this legislation since this is covered in other legislation.

Any funding provided for in the bill should be in addition to and should not be at the expense of any other existing funding at NOAA. NOAA and the NMFS are already significantly under funded.

JCAA and NJSFSC have been promoting ecosystem management for many years. We are looking forward to being a part of the process of crafting a bill that will protect the ocean and the ecosystems that drain into it.

JCAA and NJSFSC are looking forward to working with the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans of the Natural Resource Committee to draft a bill which will protect, restore and enhance ecosystems and its effects on our oceans. We will be available to testify at hearings, and serve on committees to revise this important legislation although we believe it is much too complicated as presently drafted.

Sincerely

Tom Fote

Legislative Chairman JCAA & New Jersey State Federation of Sportsman's Clubs

CC

Congressman Jim Saxton.

Congressman Frank Pallone

Congressman Sam Farr

Congressman Rush Holt

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AUGUST**

**9, 2007**

**PRESS CONTACT, TINA BERGER**

**202/289-6400**

### **ASMFC Approves 2008 TALs for Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, and Bluefish**

Port Jefferson, NY - The Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) met this week to finalize the total allowable landings (TAL) limits for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish, and to establish 2008 commercial management measures for the respective fisheries. The Commission's actions with regards to summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish are final and apply to state waters. The Council will be forwarding its actions as recommendations to NOAA's Northeast Regional Administrator for final approval. The TALs are provided below in millions of pounds.

| Species         | 2007 ASMFC TAL | 2008 TAL |
|-----------------|----------------|----------|
| Black Sea Bass  | 6.5            | 4.22     |
| Scup            | 13.5           | 7.34     |
| Summer Flounder | 17.1           | 15.77    |
| Bluefish        | 27.8           | 28.2     |

The Commission and Council approved a TAL of 15.77 million pounds for the 2008 summer flounder fishery, divided into a 9.46 million pound commercial quota and a 6.31 million pound recreational harvest limit. The approved TAL, which is higher than the range of

options recommended by the Monitoring Committee (the scientific advisory body), has a 75% probability of preventing overfishing. However, it does not account for an inherent pattern in the stock assessment model that overestimates biomass and underestimates fishing mortality. The decrease in quota responds to continued overfishing on the summer flounder stock as well as its overfished status. Under the new Magnuson-Stevens Act provisions, summer flounder must be rebuilt by 2013.

The 2008 black sea bass TAL was set at 4.22 million pounds, divided into a 2.07 million pound commercial quota and a 2.15 million pound recreational harvest limit. The approved TAL is consistent with the TAL recommended by the Monitoring Committee; it does represent a 2.28 million pound decrease from last year and responds to the stocks decreased biomass and overfished condition. The black sea bass rebuilding deadline is 2010. No changes were made to minimum sizes, vent sizes, or mesh restrictions.

For scup, the Commission and Council approved a total allowable catch (TAC) of 9.9 million pounds, which includes both a TAL and discard allowance. The TAC is divided into a 5.46 million pound commercial quota and a 1.88 million pound recreational harvest limit. The approved TAC is consistent with that recommended by the Monitoring Committee. The decrease in quota from last year responds to the decrease in both state and federal trawl survey indices and the species overfished status.

For bluefish, the Commission and Council approved a TAC of 31.9 million pounds, which includes both a TAL and discard allowance. The TAC is divided into an 8.9 million pound commercial quota and a 19.2 million pound recreational harvest limit. The approved TAC is consistent with that recommended by the Monitoring Committee. The 2006 stock assessment update indicates that projected stock biomass for the 2008 fishing year is at approximately 99% of its rebuilding target. The stock rebuilding deadline is 2010 and biomass is projected to be at or above the target in 2009.

## **SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, AND BLACK SEA BASS MANAGEMENT**

**BOARD (August 14, 2007)**

### **Press Release**

ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board Approves Addendum XIX  
Alexandria, VA –

The Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved Addendum XIX to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Addendum extends the current state-by-state black sea bass commercial management strategy indefinitely and maintains the current summer flounder recreational

allocation strategy. It also redefines the stock status determination criteria for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. 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. This management strategy was set to expire by December 31, 2007. Under Addendum XIX, the state-specific shares remain as follows: Maine and New Hampshire (0.05% each), Connecticut (1%), Delaware (5%), New York (7%), Rhode Island, North Carolina and Maryland (11% each), Massachusetts (13%), and New Jersey, and Virginia (20% each). 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. This provides states the flexibility to develop state-specific conservation equivalent management measures to achieve the coastwide recreational harvest limit. Addendum XIX maintains the present summer flounder recreational state allocation strategy. Stock Status Determination Criteria Addendum XIX allows the Board to adjust biological reference points based on peer reviewed recommendations through Board action in lieu of the more protracted addendum/amendment process currently required Summer Flounder Reference Points. Following the recommendations of the Summer Flounder Assessment and Biological Reference Point Update for 2006, the Board adopted new biological reference points for determining whether summer flounder is overfished or experiencing overfishing. Spawning stock biomass (SSB) will now be used in place of biomass, with the SSB threshold and target limits set at 98.5 million pounds and 197 million pounds, respectively. The Board also approved a fishing mortality rate threshold of 0.28. In other action, the 2007 black sea bass quota and the 2007 Scup Winter II quota and trip limit were revised based on the reinstatement of 18,142 pounds of unused research set-aside quota for the black sea bass fishery and the rollover of 644,155 pounds of scup quota from the Winter I period to the Winter II period, respectively. The new Scup Winter II trip limit is 3,500 pounds per trip.

The actions under Addendum XIX are effective immediately. Copies of Addendum XIX will be available by mid-September and can be obtained via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Senior Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator for Management, at (202) 289-6400 or [tkerns@asmfc.org](mailto:tkerns@asmfc.org).

PR07-18

### *Meeting Summary*

After a thorough discussion, the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board agreed to work jointly with the National Marine Fisheries Service to complete and evaluate a summer flounder stock assessment through the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Review Committee (SAW/SARC) process. The Board's decision reflects its belief that the SAW/SARC process will provide a rigorous independent review that will meet the Board's needs. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Senior Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator for Management, at (202) 289-6400 or [tkerns@asmfc.org](mailto:tkerns@asmfc.org).

### *Motions*

Move to adopt black sea bass commercial management Option 5 (Extension of state-by-state management program with no expiration date). Motion made by Dr. Pierce, second by Mr. McCloy. Motion carries (9 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions).  
Move to adopt Summer Flounder Recreational Allocation Option 1 (Status quo). Motion made by Dr. Pierce, second by Mr. McCloy. Motion carries (8 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions, 1 null).  
Move to adopt Stock Status Determination Criteria Option 2 (Redefine the status determination criteria). Motion made by Dr. Pierce, second by Mr. Smith. Motion carries (7 in favor, 2 opposed).  
Move to adopt Addendum XIX as amended today. Motion made by Mr. Adler, second by Mr. McCloy. Motion carries.  
Move to adopt the 2006 Recommendations: Fthreshold = 0.28, SSBthreshold = 98.6 mlbs., SSBtarget = 197 mlbs. Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Smith. Motion carries (10 in favor, 1 opposed).  
Move to support a summer flounder SAW/SARC peer review of the benchmark assessment provided the Board-adjusted Technical Committee 2008 Terms of Reference are included in that review. If not, then we should proceed with an ASMFC external peer review. Motion made by Dr. Pierce, second by Mr. Gibson. Motion carries (10 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention).

**HAVE FUN  
TAKE A KID FISHING**



## **TAUTOG MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**(August 15, 2007)**

### **Press Release**

ASMFC Tautog Board Approves Addendum V to the FMP

#### *State Reduction Plans Approved*

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Tautog Management Board approved Addendum V to the Interstate

Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The Addendum modifies the management program contained in Addendum IV by allowing states flexibility to achieve the necessary 25.6 percent reduction in exploitation through adjustments to their recreational and/or commercial fisheries.

Addendum IV, approved in January 2007, required a 25.6 percent reduction in exploitation rate to be taken exclusively from the states’ recreational fisheries. While the recreational sector accounts for approximately 90 percent of tautog harvest coastwide, some states have significant commercial fisheries.

Addendum V allows states to apply the necessary reductions to their recreational fisheries, commercial fisheries, or a combination of both according to each state’s needs.

The Board declined North Carolina’s request to be removed from the management unit based on concern that undersized tautog caught in Virginia could legally be landed in North Carolina if no minimum size law existed. North Carolina concurred and agreed to maintain its 14” minimum size limit and remain in the management program as a *de minimis* state.

In order to implement the required management measures by January 1, 2008, states submitted reduction proposals for Technical Committee review in July. The Board reviewed the Committee’s recommendations and approved proposals for all states within the tautog management unit (Massachusetts through North Carolina). The Board deferred action on a proposal by New Jersey as well as a joint proposal by Massachusetts and Rhode Island requesting a 12% reduction in their harvest versus the Addendum’s reduction requirement of 25.6 percent. The Board will revisit these proposals in October at the Commission’s Annual Meeting.

Copies of Addendum V will be available by September 1 and can be obtained via the Commission’s website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) under

Breaking News. For more information, please contact Christopher Vonderweidt, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at 202/289-6400 or [cvonderweidt@asmfc.org](mailto:cvonderweidt@asmfc.org).

#### ***Motions***

Move to approve the 2007 FMP Review for Tautog.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Smith. Motion passes unanimously.

Move that for Section 3.1 option 2 be selected for Draft Addendum V.

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

Move that North Carolina remain part of the management plan and maintains *de minimis* status.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Smith. Motion carries unanimously.

Move that all state proposals that use the standards in Addendum V to meet the requirements be approved.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Smith. Motion passes (10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, 0 null).

Move that the Board approve the MA/RI request to take a 12% reduction in the 2008 harvest.

Motion made by Dr. Pierce, second by Mr. Pope.

Move to postpone this motion to the Annual Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Himchak. Motion carries (8 in favor, 3 opposed).

Move to approve Addendum V with the options selected by the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Adler. Motion carries (10 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, 0 null).

**State studies how to clean water supply  
Chemical contaminants spark fears. Low  
levels of pharmaceuticals found in  
drinking water. August 18, 2007  
By Trish G. Graber the Express-Times**

TRENTON | The state is studying methods of removing contaminants that make their way into New Jersey's drinking water, either flushed down the toilet or through human excretion.

Department of Environmental Protection officials said they have found low-level contaminants in drinking water -- from flame retardants to antibiotics, cosmetics and detergent ingredients.

"They're all very low levels, below a part per billion," said Eileen Murphy, DEP's director of the Division of Science, Research and Technology. "Any one of these compounds alone would not pose health concerns ... we don't know what the mixture could do."

The problem is one the U.S. Geological Survey found nationwide.

Murphy said the DEP is currently conducting studies to determine the best methods of treating water to eliminate the compounds. She said the work is being done with the possibility of requiring upgrades to treatment systems.

The state is also considering outreach to pharmaceutical companies to sponsor give-back programs to prevent leftover drugs from being flushed.

Officials are in the process of implementing water systems in Camden and Bergen counties to determine whether they will remove a greater amount of contaminants, mainly organic compounds, according to Murphy.

A state legislator questioned New Jersey's water quality after seeing a 2003 Texas study which found the active ingredient of the anti-depressant Prozac in the muscles, liver and brains of fish. Another survey, by the United States Geological Survey, found traces of pharmaceuticals in 80 percent of 139 tested streams.

Assemblyman Mike Doherty, R-Warren/Hunterdon counties, said the studies posed a concern at a time when "more and more people are using prescription drugs for a vast variety of physical as well as mental ailments."

Tom Fote, legislative chairman for the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, said Doherty's concerns are only "the tip of the iceberg."

Under his own research, Fote found that aquatic life throughout the world is affected by contaminants in the water, which has altered fish in some geographic locations both physically and in their mating behaviors.

He said he has worked on drawing attention to the issue for years.

"People get frustrated because people see a mountain and say 'How do we climb it?'" Fote said.

"If we know it's affecting the fish, then sooner or later it affects us."

Trish Graber is Trenton correspondent for The Express-Times. She can be reached at 609-292-5154.

## **Saltwater anglers, crabbers, clambers to need license in 2008**

**By Ron MacArthur Cape Gazette staff**

Starting Jan. 1, 2008, for the first time, anglers and crabbers who drop a line or set a crab pot in Delaware's saltwater will need a license. The new general resident's license, which covers fresh and saltwater, will cost \$8.50.

There are also new licenses required for tourists and recreational and charter boats (see related box for more information about the fees).

The move to new fees, the first increases in more than 20 years, was made in an effort to boost the sagging Division of Fish and Wildlife budget and to leverage more matching funds for federal money to improve fishing facilities throughout the state.

"This landmark legislation marks the first fishing license increase in Delaware since 1985," said Division of Fish and Wildlife Fisheries Administrator Roy Miller. "The much-needed revenue generated by these changes enables us to do a great many things benefiting Delaware anglers - including the immediate reinstatement of the Delaware Sport Fishing Tournament, which was reluctantly suspended due to lack of funding last year."

What has been lost in most of the discussion about the new fees is that a license will also be required to crab (anyone with crab pots as well) and clam in Delaware waters.

James Graybeal, chief of the enforcement section of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, said there is no doubt getting the word out is a high priority. "We know that many will not have licenses, so we are going to have to do some intensive public relations work."

### **Education is key**

For the most part, the idea of paying to fish in the state's saltwater for the first time has met with little opposition. House Bill 107 passed with votes of 39-2 on June 27 in the House and 16-4 on June 28 in the Senate. Gov. Ruth Ann Minner signed the legislation into law on June 30.

Judson Bennett of Lewes, who has been fishing in local waters since he was a boy, said it doesn't bother him to purchase a fishing license. He said he has heard no complaints at the Lewes Yacht Club marina where he keeps his boat.

"I pay to fish in Florida, so I have no problem paying here," he said. "It will bring in more needed revenue for the state for more marine police and more facilities."

"I know there will probably be some squawking, but the state needs the revenue. Hopefully the money will be used wisely."

Butch Evans, owner of Old Inlet Bait and Tackle in Rehoboth Beach, said the general fishing license could have been enacted several years ago with a little more education of the public.

"I'm in favor of it; it's necessary," he said. "If for nothing else, we will need the data because of restrictions going into place by the federal government."

Evans said once you explain the reasons the additional money is needed, most people understand. "I don't think anyone has a problem with protecting resources."

And once you educate people, they are very receptive to the idea. They should pay their part," he said.

The new licenses will be sold at shops like Old Inlet throughout the Cape Region.

### **Support of DMS**

One of the key players in the passage of the bill was the Delaware Mobile Surf-Fisherman's Inc. (DMS). Rep. Joe Booth, R-Georgetown, the bills' sponsor, said the key to the legislation's success was getting the association's support.

Acie Mankins, president of DMS, said the association was approached with the proposal two years ago. "But, we had concerns," he said.

Some concessions were worked out and the association became a supporter of the bill. Mankins said two of the key concessions included a reduction in the cost of boat fishing licenses and changes in the regulations involving surf-fishing vehicles.

"We were also concerned that most of the money that is to be generated will come from Sussex County, and we hoped it stayed down here," he said. "And we wanted the money not for the general fund but to help the fisheries."

Mankins said it took a lot of discussion, but assurances were made that Sussex County would get its fair share of money, and by law, all funds

generated by the new licenses must stay within the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

"We realized this was going to help the fisheries in the state so we couldn't hold it back," he said.

"If we have to pay for a license, we want the money to be spent in Delaware on fishing-related projects," said Austin Sutch, secretary of DMS and an avid surf fisherman since 1946.

Sutch said federal registration of all saltwater anglers in the country is pending anyway within the next two to three years under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, signed in 2006 by President George Bush.

Under state and federal law, all fishing-license revenue must be dedicated to the Division of Fish and Wildlife for fishing-related projects and cannot be diverted for other uses, Miller said.

The new law also creates the Council on Recreational Fishing Funding, with seven voting members to be appointed by Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, to advise the division on spending of recreational fishing license funds. The council, which will also have three nonvoting members (two from the General Assembly and one from the division), will meet at least once a year.

The new licenses will be available at licensing agents in December and can be purchased online in November. For more information or to obtain a fishing license, call 302-739-9914, 9911, or 9918.

## **Sportsperson of the Year Dinner/Dance By Paul Turi**

It's getting to that time of year again. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association will be hosting its annual "Sportsperson-of-the-Year" awards dinner/dance as a fundraiser on Sunday, November 18, 2007 from 4:00-9:00 p.m. at the Crystal Point Yacht Club, RT. 70 & River Rd, Point Pleasant, NJ. We will honor this year and past years' recipients of our "Sportsperson-of-the-Year" award. Past honorees include legislators, environmental leaders, outdoor writers and other worthy recipients.

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

At our September general membership meeting we will be taking nominations for this

year's sportsperson of the year. So, if you or your club would like to nominate someone as this year's honoree, please present a short biography, no more than 100 words, as to why you or your club feels this person should receive this year's award.

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

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

## **New Survey Method**

*By Thomas Siciliano*

Data, Data, Data has been my comment for the last few years at public hearings, Council and Commission meetings. I have complained of the total lack of credible data that has been used to manage our fisheries.

Well, I decided to put my money where my mouth is. I conducted my own survey of the Sunshine Foundation Fluke and Weakfish Tournament, which was held on July 14<sup>th</sup>. I'll report those results in a future newsletter.

In addition, I paid for my plane ticket to attend a workshop held by NOAA on August 7-9 in St. Pete Beach, Florida to start implementing the recommendations of the National Research Council in an effort to improve the Recreational Survey Methods. The effort called the Marine Recreational Information Initiative is made up of teams to work on various aspects of the problem.

Dr. John Boreman, the head of the Executive Steering Committee, set the stage for the workshop

in his opening remarks. He began by saying that 80 people had been invited to sit on the teams and only two had declined. Interestingly no one from New Jersey government was asked to participate. The only NJ invitee was Jim Donofrio who was asked to sit on the Registry Group. I was hoping to talk to Jim but he did not attend this workshop. Dr. Boreman talked about credibility being a key component of the new survey. A Communications and Education Team will be tasked with this effort. He also said that he was thinking in terms of \$50,000,000 per year to conduct surveys. This may sound like a lot of money but the surveys need to be conducted from Maine to Alaska and Hawaii.

I was a little concerned at the beginning of the workshop when everyone was handed "A Layman's Guide to Recreational Data Collection" which stated that collecting recreational fishing data was similar to a political poll. Nothing could be further from the truth. Political polls are simple. Collecting recreational fishing data is far more complex than simply asking whom you will vote for. There are so many variables that need to be considered. Items like weather and location alone have a tremendous impact on the success of individual fishermen.

Toyo Shimano presented the keynote address on the challenges the group will face and gave a perspective on how a successful business would attack the problem. Teamwork is a key component and listening to the end user. You can build a great fishing rod but if it is wrong for the end use you can't sell it. He gave the example where the technical team builds this great rod, which would have been great for a Texas Bass fisherman, but it was supposed to be a surf rod. They ended up with a large inventory and no sales.

I worked as a product development chemist before I retired. We would face the challenge of developing a new product by telling the marketing team that we could make any product they wanted. They could have the new product fast, good and cheap. Which two did they want?

The recreational survey has a tight timeline for completion. My hope is that they opt for good as the second component. It remains to be seen if \$50,000,000 is too cheap to get the job done right.

Preston Pate, recently retired as the North Carolina Director of Marine Fisheries, is the Chair of the Operations Team, which oversees the activities of all the other work groups. The teams were

composed of mostly Federal and State Employees with most Teams having some recreational representatives.

Since I was not one of the invitees I had the choice of which team to sit with. I chose the Analysis Team, which is working on how the collected data will be examined. I was very pleased with the reception I received. My comments were considered and incorporated into the work product for further deliberation. There were three other recreational representatives on the team. The comments from the recreational sector were well received and my expectation is that they will all be incorporated into the final document. The timeline is optimistic. All the groups are expected to have the high priority projects started by 6/1/2008.

During the wrap-up session time was allocated for public comment and questions. I was surprised that I was the only person who provided comments. I stated that I was very happy with the process and the results so far. As I listened to the Team reports, I was pleased that my concerns seemed to have been addressed even by the teams that I did not participate in. For example, the use of logbooks to estimate discard rates is a possibility.

The one overriding factor in improving the survey will be the substantial and continuing source of funding that will be needed to do it correctly. Additional and more detailed surveys will be required and more staff will be required to properly analyze the increased volume of data. The sample size needs to be carefully calculated to ensure that the numerous variables are covered in the appropriate detail to maximize credibility.

A unique opportunity exists to think outside the box to incorporate new technology that was not available in the past. For instance, satellite pictures could show how many boats are fishing in the canyons, along the beach and even in the bays on a particular day.

The Internet is now available. Volunteer angler surveys could be developed to capture catch vs. effort and discard information in a timely, cost effective manner. Why wait? Start a pilot project now.

I understand that the final project will require time to reach completion but I challenged the group to take the low hanging fruit immediately and not wait. For instance, one of the complaints from the charter and party boats holding federal permits is that they are required to submit logbook information.

This information goes virtually unused. This information is, in effect, a census and not a survey. As good as surveys and statistics are they will never be as good as a census in the minds of the average fisherman. For instance, the work group looking at Highly Migratory Species reported they needed a survey to determine the level of fishing effort and catch results. That team did not appear to know that this information was already available in the form of a logbook census. Allowing the NJ Tuna fleet to submit their reports on line would make the information instantly available. Don't wait, start this immediately. It will go a long way toward building credibility which is an integral part of this project.

This is what we are dealing with, constituent perception and credibility. These must be earned. Credibility in the eyes of recreational anglers will depend on this perception. The survey results must reflect what anglers are experiencing on the water. Reality checks must be done so that reports don't come out showing that huge numbers of fish are caught during a hurricane. Weather is a huge factor in the success of recreational anglers. Location of intercept sites is also a huge factor. A distance of 20 miles can mean a significant difference in the catch on a particular day. Anyone who has fished knows that off the spot by just a few feet can make all the difference. So expansion of data must be carefully considered. The skill of individual anglers varies greatly. 10% of the anglers will catch 80% of the fish. Anyone who has ever fished on a party boat will recognize this as fact. Of 50 anglers on the boat there will be five who are constantly catching fish while the person next to them goes fishless.

One concern that did arise during the wrap-up session was that the registry team was looking at exempting seniors and those under 16 years old. This seems to miss the whole purpose of the registry. If the registry is to establish a database of anglers to improve the telephone survey, then a significant number of anglers will be excluded. A few recreational members of the audience challenged this comment. A means to capture these anglers must be included or the credibility will remain in jeopardy. The registry will be in place by January of 2009.

I would like to form a JCAA committee to examine the work of the Marine Recreational Information Initiative and would ask any club interested in participating to contact me at 732-267-6451 or drop me an email at [toms6363@comcast.net](mailto:toms6363@comcast.net).

# HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

BY JOHN KOEGLER

## NMFS Proposed Awful Shark Plan

NMFS-HMS division is proposing a Large Coastal Shark (LCS) management plan that eliminates recreational landings of several important recreational LCS species. Then they approve commercial landing and sale of these same species. Their cover is by eliminating recreational landings of hard to identify species the species will recover. It is all a sham. NMFS is mandating identifying sessions for both commercial fishermen and dealers to identify these very same species.

The scientific literature has many articles written by world class fishery biologists who clearly state that no directed commercial shark fishery has ever been sustainable. Yet, NMFS in their infinite wisdom has proposed a shark plan that mandates that NMFS will accomplish this impossible objective. How can they legally under the Magnuson Act eliminate the recreational part of the fishery and continue a directed commercial shark fishery which is unsustainable?

NMFS proposes a limited commercial fishery to continue on the LCS fishery. The commercial LCS fisheries very existence makes LCS shark recovery clearly impossible. They hide their nonsense with recovery estimates of the key species. Sandbar sharks with their recovery estimate for Sandbar shark is 70 years. Their recovery plan for the Dusky shark, which is most overfished, has a 9% chance of recovery in 100 years and only a 90% chance in 400 years under this NMFS-HMS proposal. How can they legally propose a shark management plan that takes 400 years to accomplish their objective?

But the final absolutely impossible proposal is their intent to permit commercial landings of 30% of the LCS species while discarding 70% of the sharks they expect to recover. Does this not make this plan an insane NMFS proposal? How can commercials discard 70% of their catch and still expect the Sandbar and Dusky sharks to recover? If this plan is not illegal and absurd then all fish management plans are a farce.

NMFS proposes to all the sale of LCS shark species meat other than sandbar that currently has a very limited or no US market for the shark meat!

The selling price of these non-sandbar shark species will not and cannot support a directed fishery.

Finally, NMFS proposes an experimental scientific sandbar shark fishery to measure this shark's recovery. The amount proposed is 116.8 MT per year. This amount of sandbar sharks is greater than recreational estimated landings of this same species. But NMFS-HMS division proposes to allow a commercial directed fishery to exist and at the same time eliminate the recreations?

NMFS estimates that 143 directed commercial shark permit holders earn \$26,000 per vessel per year from the sale of LCS products. In total this is \$3,900,000 of earnings per year. Given the total number of NMFS personnel required to run this management plan, their total dollar cost exceeds the dockside landing value by a major amount. How can they allow a commercial plan to exist when the management cost exceeds its value? Why not give the \$26,000 each directed shark fisherman has earned to the shark fisherman and eliminate NFMS cost of shark management? The US spends billions per year to support farmers. Why not pay commercial shark fishermen not to fish? In addition to saving taxpayer money, there would be a reasonable chance of the sharks recovering. Finally, the huge economic value difference between recreation sharking and commercial sharking is not considered. Why not?

NMFS's proposed shark plan is not only scientifically invalid but impossible by any standard.

Finally, and possibly most importantly, the US EEZ ecosystem is being totally changed by the elimination of LCS sharks. Skates and Rays are becoming so numerous in our bays and near ocean waters that they are eliminating the clams and oysters from our bays. In addition, when not finding enough clams or mussels to eat the sharks and rays are targeting blueclaw crabs. But they have to eat something. Our near ocean and bay ecosystem will totally change without the presence of LCS sharks in quantity.

An important recreational southern shark species in the south Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico is the black tip shark species. NMFS proposes to eliminate all recreational blacktip landings even though this species is identified by NMFS as not overfished. Their reasoning is a spinner shark that is in trouble could be misidentified by recreations, therefore recreational anglers must be eliminated from this fishery.

Understand spinner sharks and blacktip sharks are so totally different that this proposal is pure nonsense.

Many involved in fishery management have often criticized NMFS-HMS fishery management choices. No part of NMFS management has received more criticism than NMFS's HMS Division. Most other fish management plans have evolved from either the 8 management councils or state units like the Atlantic and Gulf state management groups. Anglers do not support many management programs because of their clear commercial bias. But at least there is some dialogue and the final plans are frequently modified to provide the final management plan with a degree of angler fairness.

Please call or write NMFS HMS division in Silver Springs, MD and voice your objection or you will be eliminated from one more fishery. But worse there is ZERO chance that the LCS shark fishery will recover ever.

## **YOUTH EDUCATION** *BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI*

### **SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT IBSP**

Get ready to enter the largest surf-fishing tournament along the Jersey Shore. The Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament, Sunday, October 7, 2007. Don't miss a day of family fun! Pick up a brochure about the tournament at Island Beach State Park or at your favorite tackle dealer. The contest is reasonably priced. Register early and save. For information about disabled access and surf fishing beach chair reservation, please phone Greg Kucharewski, 732-785-9278 (leave message & phone #). The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice anglers at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and this will require extra volunteer hours from member clubs in JCAA. If members in your fishing club would like to help others learn the joy of surf fishing, please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail [Gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:Gkucharews@aol.com) and place IBSP in the subject line. Help is needed to provide assistance for disabled anglers, youth anglers and novice anglers. This is a fun day. Come out and share your surf fishing expertise and help cast a line of caring.

**JCAA NEEDS YOUR HELP  
VOLUNTEER**

### **YOUTH EDUCATION SUPPORT**

During the months of June, July, and August the JCAA supplied fishing equipment, aquatic information, and HOFNOD materials to the Monmouth County Association of Retarded Citizens, Fort Monmouth Outdoor Recreation/School Age Services, New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, and the Hudson River Fishing Association youth angler program.

#### **FAMILY FISHING CLINIC**

On June 9, 2007, Dr. Eleanor Bochenek participated in the Cape May Nature Center Program called "Family Fishing Clinic." The objective of the program was to introduce families to fishing. The program consisted of a presentation by Dr. Bochenek about fish biology, fish handling, and fish ethics followed by a presentation by Jeff Bursick (Fiesta Party boat) on knot tying and use of the fishing gear on his boat. The families then took a half day fishing trip on the Fiesta (located at South Jersey Marina in Cape May).

### **HELPING OUR MILITARY FAMILIES**

The JCAA Youth Education Committee and the Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 12), and volunteers from the Army Community Service Center continue to provide fishing instruction for over 100 children that attend the Fort Monmouth School Age Services Summer Camp. During July and August fishing clinics are held at Husky Brook Pond. The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife conducted a warm-water species identification demonstration for children and their families at Husky Brook Pond. We would like to thank the Hi Mar Striper club for their donation of seven rod and reels that were used as prizes and Jim Oross, Fisheries Specialist for providing the "Hands-On" fish program at the pond. Children attending the fishing program received lunch cooler bags provided by the US Army Garrison drug awareness center, with the slogan Fort Monmouth is "Hooked on Fishing Not Drugs" printed on the lunch bags.

**BAN POTS ON REEF  
&  
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Pres. Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make check \$50 payable to JCAA

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

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Ph. # \_\_\_\_\_

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## COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

|                    |                  |                                |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Legislative        | Tom Fote         | 732-270-9102<br>tfote@jcaa.org |
| Office Manager     | Phil Celmer      | 609-693-3414<br>jcaa@jcaa.org  |
| Access: (North)    | Ray Marione      | 201-843-1711                   |
| Access: (South)    | Robert DeLeonard | 732-793-8080                   |
| Blackfish          | Pat Donnelly     | 732-295-1755                   |
| Blue claw Crab     | Jack Miktus      | 732-477-5184                   |
| Blue Fish          | Al Marantz       | 732-280-2643                   |
| Habitat            | Pat Donnelly     | 732-206-1407                   |
| Large Pelagic      | John Koegler     | 610-687-2208                   |
| Menhaden           | Len Fantasia     | 732-872-1862                   |
| Science & Research | Bruce Freeman    | 732-793-7871                   |
| Sponsorship        | Frank Richetti   | 732-477-3120                   |
| Striped Bass       | Ed Cherry        | edwardwc@verizon.net           |
| Webmaster          | Phil V. Celmer   | philipc@highlandstech.net      |
| Youth Education    | Greg Kucharewski | 732-840-9197                   |

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