

JCAA NEWSPAPER OCTOBER 2008

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on September 22, 2008)

Remember New Monthly Meeting Room

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, September 30th, 2008

Starting at 7:30 PM

Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Thursday, October 9th, 2008

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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2008 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.	Bruce Smith	732-695-3431

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

NO JCAA General meetings in July and August

September 30th JCAA General Meeting

October 5th Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

October 9th JCAA Board Meeting

October 19-23 ASMFC Annual Meeting Delaware

October 28th JCAA General Meeting

November 16th JCAA Dinner

17th Annual October 5th 2008

**NJ GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING
TOURNAMENT**

By: Paul Smith, Tournament Committee

The Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament (GSFT) is held at Island Beach State Park, NJ on October 5th, 2008. Approximately 1,000 anglers of all ages annually enter this tournament. This event is one of the most popular surf fishing contests for the individual angler on the East Coast. It is sponsored by the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, New Jersey State Federation Of Sportsmen's Clubs, NJ Beach Buggy Association, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, NJ Division of Parks and NJDEP.

For the last sixteen years, anglers from New Jersey, and several neighboring states, have started the fall fishing season by competing in the Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. Winners in many categories are presented prizes by various dignitaries, including the Governor of New Jersey, as part of ceremonies following the Tournament.

The angler catching the longest eligible fish of the day is awarded the prestigious Governor's Cup. The Cup has each year's winner engraved upon it and is on view in the lobby of the Island Beach State Park administration building. There is a real possibility that any one of the competing anglers may be fortunate enough to capture the Governor's Cup. There have been men, women and one youth

win the Cup over the years, but never a repeat winner. This shows that it really is possible for anyone to win! You may enter this year's Tournament by picking up an official entry form at your favorite bait and tackle store or by visiting the New Jersey Fish & Wildlife website: www.njfishandwildlife.com

Registration Fees: \$15.00 fee 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.

Schedule

6:30 a.m.-1:00p.m	Fishing
1:30 p.m.-2:00p.m	Raffle Drawing
2:00 p.m.	Awards Ceremony

Special arrangements are made 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.

Tournament hats and t-shirts will be on sale in Pavilion #1 on Tournament day! There will be a limited number of these t-shirts and hats with a special Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament design. Don't forget to stop at the Pavilion, after fishing, to purchase your hat and shirt!

Various sporting organizations, state agencies and Tournament supporters will have exhibits at the Pavilion throughout the tournament day. There are also fishing and environmental exhibits and demonstrations presented at the Pavilion on Tournament day

By popular request, C.T.'s BAR-B-QUE will be back this year for your food and beverage purchases!

The goals of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament are to:

- Improve access to public fishing areas
- Enhance public recreational facilities that provide fishing opportunities.
- Support the protection of marine and shore area ecosystems.
- Support activities, special events and programs that will further public appreciation and understanding of marine angling and shore area ecosystems.

- Promote public educational, interpretive and research opportunities concerning marine and shore area ecosystems.

Funds generated from past events have been used to purchase specialized wheelchairs that provide the disabled and elderly with beach access and toward the construction of an 800-foot long access ramp for saltwater anglers. Fishing equipment has been provided for the Outdoor Woman program, Surf fishing Clinic series in IBSP, as well as for various youth educational projects. Educational displays of various types in the park's Interpretive Center, on several self-guided trails, and equipment for the Barnegat Bay Kayak Tour and Environmental Education Enhancement Program were partially funded with Tournament proceeds. Island Beach State Park also received funds from the GSFT to purchase the first mobile automatic heart defibrillator used in the New Jersey Park system.

The Governor's Cup Surf Fishing Tournament committee is looking for judges. We need your help so please sign-up to be a judge in the tournament. Each judge will receive a special issue Governor's Cup Surf Fishing Tournament ball cap with "judge" embroidered across the back. In addition, this year a stipend is available to help offset the cost of fuel burned while on the beach judging. Also, the IBSP beach pass is not required for judges during the tournament. Anyone interested, please contact me at RBthePirate@verizon.net or 609-685-6403. Thanks in advance, Eric Paulson President New Jersey Beach Buggy Association

**SPORTSPERSON OF THE
YEAR DINNER/DANCE
BY PAUL TURI**

Mark you calendar for November 16th, the night of Jersey Coast Anglers Association annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year Awards Dinner/Dance. Now is the time to buy your tickets. It is one of the major JCAA fundraisers. It takes place on Sunday, November 16, 2008 from 4:00-9:00 p.m. at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club, RT. 70 & River Rd, Point Pleasant, NJ. We will honor this year and past years' recipients of JCAA "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 and selling tickets. 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) 660-2126. **Dan Miller** will be co-chairing the event and tickets can be obtained by calling Dan at (609) 641-7821.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By John Toth

Fluke - It is a shame that the fluke season is over while we know that we still have good fluke fishing available. Hopefully, we will have a better season for 2009 with our increased fluke quota up to 18.45 million pounds from the 15.77 million pounds for 2008. It will be interesting to see how much fluke our management officials will say we caught during this season since this number will have a direct bearing on the length of our season, how many fish we can keep and their size limits for 2009. We won't know this information until the latter part of this year, but we will keep you posted on the latest developments when we hear them.

New JCAA Position – With the exception of one paid staff member who handles mostly

administrative duties, all JCAA staff contributes their time and effort strictly on a voluntary basis. With the increasing time needed for staff to attend legislative hearings, writing newsletter articles, press releases, position papers, attracting new members, running the annual fluke tournament and just a myriad of other things that need to be done on a timely basis, we are placing ads in the media advertising for a new Operations Manager who will join our staff on a full-time and paid basis. Your Board has worked on this issue for quite some time and we are now ready to go forward with this new position that we believe will strengthen the JCAA in its mission of protecting the rights of all anglers who fish in our state. You will start seeing this ad in various newspapers and fishing-related publications and if you know of any person who may meet the qualifications in this ad, please encourage him or her to apply. The entire description of this job appears at the end of my report. The JCAA has for too long relied on volunteer staff to meet its many responsibilities. Fishing issues are not getting any easier as I have indicated in my above reference to fluke, and the JCAA now needs a full-time and paid staff member to keep us better focused on what needs to be done to keep the JCAA on top of all of the issues that affect the sport that we all love. The resumes are due by October 25th and after the review process and the passing of the holiday seasons, we hope to have this new individual on JCAA staff by February 1st 2009. We will keep you updated on the progress of this effort as it unfolds.

Dinner Dance – Fall is around the corner and that means our dinner dance will be coming up sooner that you think! The date is November 16th and it will be held at the Crystal Point Yacht Club in Point Pleasant starting at 4:00 p.m. There will be many prizes to be won, good food will be available and you will have a chance to talk to your fishing buddies and spin your wife (or significant other) out for a dance. The cost is \$60 per ticket or \$50 each for a table of 10. So be sure to mark your calendar for November 16th to have a good time at the Crystal Point Yacht Club. Our keynote speaker will be posted in our October bulletin.

Sportsperson of the Year Nomination – Your club should start to think about whom you want to nominate as Sportsperson of the Year. The person you nominate should have done something outstanding to promote the sport we all love. Your

nomination should be in the format of one or two paragraphs. A long description of your nomination is unnecessary. We will hear nominations at our general meetings and take a final vote on this nomination at our October General meeting.

Election Time – There are presently two positions that need to be filled and they are President and First Vice President. Both positions are very important to the functioning of the JCAA and we need your assistance in filling both of these jobs. For too long a very dedicated Board has filled all of these positions, but new members to the Board will only strengthen it. So please give it some thought. You will be assisted by our Board members to guide you along the way. I can be reached at (732) 656-0139 or at tothjohn@verizon.net if you have any questions.

Jersey Coast Anglers Association Operations Manager Job Description:

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) seeks the position of a full-time Operations Manager. This person will be responsible for advancing the agenda of the JCAA with the media, legislators and public. The primary goal for the first year will be to run the JCAA annual fluke tournament and develop new revenue sources.

General Requirements:

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) is an advocacy organization for all anglers who fish in the state of New Jersey. As such, it exists to protect and promote the rights of all anglers, the fishing industry, and especially the environment. The new JCAA Operations Manager must have superior organizational skills, possess the ability to assign tasks and ensure their successful completion. The new Manager must also possess superior written and verbal skills since extensive writing and presentations to legislators, fishing clubs, the media and other public entities will be required. The Manager must also have the ability to be an innovator to develop new programs. An extensive background with fishing oriented organizations and issues is highly desirable. Marketing and graphic

skills are also desirable. Computer skills are necessary.

Specific Requirements:

- Manage the JCAA's Fluke Tournament, a major fundraiser.
- Develop new revenue streams that may include grant applications and enlisting new sponsors for JCAA activities.
- Prepare position papers, press releases and other articles including review of the JCAA Newsletter
- Oversee the administrative activities of the JCAA headquarters.
- Develop an effective outreach program to significantly increase club membership for the JCAA and directly take this program to prospective clubs for membership and participation.
- Attend and represent JCAA positions at Marine Fisheries Management Meetings including inter-state Commissions, Federal and NJ Fishery Management Councils as well as other legislative bodies as required.

Qualifications:

Candidates must have excellent written and oral communication skills, project management skills, demonstrated leadership abilities and basic knowledge of fishing, environmental and conservation issues. Candidates must be innovators and able to work independently in the execution of his or her responsibilities. Media, legislative and grant writing experience desired. Must be able to work nights and weekends as required and be licensed to operate a motor vehicle in NJ. As a minimum, a Bachelor's degree is required.

Salary:

The salary is \$35,000 - \$45,000 depending on qualifications with benefits included. The job is full-time with an evaluation at initial 3 and 6-month periods. Please send your resume including work experience to the JCAA Headquarters located at 1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9 Toms River, NJ 08753, or email it to tfote@jcaa.org. More information about this position and the JCAA can be accessed through its website at <http://www.JCAA.org>.

**REMOVE POTS FROM
ARTIFICIAL REEFS**

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT

By Thomas Fote

Liquid Natural Gas

Clean Ocean Action has put together a white paper on LNG which is very comprehensive. If you would like a copy by email, please let me know. Or you can go to the Clean Ocean Action webpage <http://www.cleanoceanaction.org/index.php?id=37> and download a copy. The nine points they cover in this paper are:

Nine Reasons To Say No To Offshore LNG

1. The U.S. is energy independent for natural gas.
2. The growing domestic natural gas reserves can meet all of the growing demand in the U.S. for at least the next two generations.
3. In the worst-case scenario, should we need LNG, there is already a glut of existing LNG import capacity in the U.S.
4. LNG will be from foreign sources. Primary sources of LNG will be Russia and the Middle East.
5. LNG is expensive and up to two times as much as current domestic natural gas rates.
6. LNG is far more polluting than domestic natural gas.
7. The industrialization of the ocean will have substantial environmental consequences to the marine environment, threatening our fishing and tourism industries, the economy, and many endangered species including turtles and whales.
8. LNG at Sea--Unsafe and Not Secure.
9. LNG will shift the U.S. away from energy independence for natural gas - a policy that is antithetical to the national call for energy independence - an Un-American choice

I will bring copies of this report to the JCAA monthly meeting. I will also bring my recent Comcast interview on this topic.

Drugs in Drinking Water

The original Associated Press story on drugs in drinking water convinced many localities to test their water to determine what drugs were in their drinking water. The results convinced people that the problem is more wide spread than originally believed. Please read the article included below.

Just imagine what is going down the drain before water is treated and tested. The animal and fish who are consuming non-treated water are getting a larger dose of everything. We are still waiting for a date for the Congressional Hearing on how drugs are impacting on fish and wildlife.

Office Operations Manager

As you noticed in the President's Column, JCAA is advertising for an operations manager. This does not mean that I am going anywhere at this time. But we need to plan for the future. JCAA has been in existence for 28 years. For about 26 of those years I have represented JCAA in a variety of ways. To guarantee that JCAA is in existence for at least another 28 years, we need to give some of our responsibilities to a paid manager. There is more that we could be doing with our existing volunteers and a paid manager could begin to fill some of that void. We have been fortunate to operate as a primarily volunteer organization for a long time but, realistically, this needs to change. Many of our most active members don't have the luxury of putting in many unpaid hours.

Legislative & Fisheries Management Agenda

The New Jersey Legislature will be back in session soon and, after the Congressional elections, there will be a lame duck session and then new people representing some of our districts in Washington. There are many bills that need to be moved through the NJ Legislature in the next few months. Among the bills are Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs and Pots Off the Reef. At the federal level we need to keep an eye on the lame duck session to make sure there are no surprises. There will be a legislative agenda discussed at the September 30th meeting. We will be coordinating our State and federal efforts with other NJ groups.

We also need to focus on both the federal and state budgets for fisheries and environmental issues. Both levels will have budgets that are very short on funds and we need to keep a watchful eye.

Fisheries Regulations and Money

JCAA is frequently asked to sign on to letters written by other organizations. We have ongoing discussions with other groups about the difficulty of calling for stricter enforcement of the management plans that are based on questionable science. Summer flounder is a perfect example of how a little scientific scrutiny from outside made a big difference. The only reason we were effective was

because we had information available and we could identify the problems with existing data. Some of the stock assessments for management plans are based on non-existent science. Without the information available it is difficult to accurately evaluate the assumptions made. Many of us banded together to raise the money to pay for the scientists to attend the NMFS stock assessment. It is ludicrous that we should have to do that. NMFS should have provided the outside peer review as part of their responsibility in developing management plans. It is their job to gather information on the health and strength of the stocks. That job was given to them by Congress under the Magnusson Stevens Act. The President and Congress have failed to fund this mandate. As a fishing community we are suffering needlessly because of this lack of funding. Nationwide this has a negative impact on the quality of life of tens of millions of anglers and the industries that serve them. We are destroying the historic recreational and commercial industry of the United States needlessly. It is amazing how many billions of dollars are funding other industries that do not generate the economic income or the quality of life benefits. We need to hold our federal and state legislatures, the President and Governors responsible. We're tired of being treated as second class citizens and you need to make sure they know you're not putting up with this any longer.

Drugs affect more drinking water

AP Enterprise:

Fri Sep 12, 4:26 AM EDT

Map locates cites in the U.S. where pharmaceuticals have been detected in drinking waters...

Testing prompted by an Associated Press story that revealed trace amounts of pharmaceuticals in drinking water supplies has shown that more Americans are affected by the problem than previously thought — at least 46 million. That's up from 41 million people reported by the AP in March as part of an investigation into the presence of pharmaceuticals in the nation's waterways.

The AP stories prompted federal and local legislative hearings, brought about calls for mandatory testing and disclosure, and led officials in at least 27 additional metropolitan areas to analyze their drinking water. Positive tests were reported in 17 cases, including Reno, Nev., Savannah, Ga., Colorado Springs, Colo., and Huntsville, Ala. Results are pending in three others.

The test results, added to data from communities and water utilities that bowed to pressure to disclose earlier test results, produce the new total of Americans known to be exposed to drug-contaminated drinking water supplies.

The overwhelming majority of U.S. cities have not tested drinking water while eight cities — including Boston, Phoenix and Seattle — were relieved that tests showed no detections.

"We didn't think we'd find anything because our water comes from a pristine source, but after the AP stories we wanted to make sure and reassure our customers," said Andy Ryan, spokesman for Seattle Public Utilities.

The substances detected in the latest tests mirrored those cited in the earlier AP report.

Chicago, for example, found a cholesterol medication and a nicotine derivative. Many cities found the anti-convulsant carbamazepine. Officials in one of those communities, Colorado Springs, say they detected five pharmaceuticals in all, including a tranquilizer and a hormone. "This is obviously an emerging issue and after the AP stories came out we felt it was the responsible thing for us to do, as a utility, to find out where we stand. We believe that at these levels, based on current science, that the water is completely safe for our customers," said Colorado Springs spokesman Steve Berry. "We don't want to create unnecessary alarm, but at the same time we have a responsibility as a municipal utility to communicate with our customers and let them know."

Fargo's water director, Bruce Grubb, said the concentrations of three drugs detected there were so incredibly minute — parts per trillion — that he sent them to the local health officer to figure out how to interpret the information for the community. "We plan to put this into some kind of context other than just scientific nomenclature, so folks can get some level of understanding about what it means," said Grubb.

The drug residues detected in water supplies are generally flushed into sewers and waterways through human excretion. Many of the pharmaceuticals are known to slip through sewage and drinking water treatment plants.

While the comprehensive risks are still unclear, researchers are finding evidence that even extremely diluted concentrations of pharmaceutical residues harm fish, frogs and other aquatic species in the wild and impair the workings of human cells in the laboratory.

And while the new survey expands the known extent of the problem, the overwhelming majority of U.S. communities have yet to test, including the single largest water provider in the country, New York City's

Department of Environmental Protection, which delivers water to 9 million people.

In April, New York City council members insisted during an emergency hearing that their drinking water be tested. But DEP officials subsequently declared that "the testing of finished tap water is not warranted at this time."

The AP National Investigative Team can be reached at [investigate \(at\) ap.org](mailto:investigate@ap.org)

SEAFOOD.COM NEWS [Viewpoint]

By BRIAN ROTHSCHILD

Sept. 5, 2008 –

Dr. Brian Rothschild is chair of New Bedford Mayor Scott Lang's Ocean and Fisheries Council, Montgomery charter professor of marine science at UMass Dartmouth, and former dean of the UMass School for Marine Science and Technology.

The fishery management system in New England is in a crisis. Sectors of the New England fishing industry are about to be obliterated by new management measures that will severely curtail the catch. Taking note of the magnitude of the anticipated measures, Senators Snowe, Collins, Kennedy and Kerry wrote the assistant administrator of NOAA on May 16, requesting a delay in implementing the restrictions. Expressing further concern, Representatives Frank, Tierney, Courtney, McGovern, and Capuano wrote the administrator on July 25 to request freezing regulations at the status quo for one year, until the management regime could be improved by eliminating wasteful management practices.

They noted that the very regulations designed to protect fish and ensure optimum yield have resulted in 1) throwing overboard hundreds of thousands of pounds of valuable cod (and other species) as bycatch, and 2) limiting the catch of several underfished species so optimum yield could not be taken. (Catches of haddock have been limited to about 10 percent of the optimum yield even though its population is so large that the growth of fish has become stunted.)

On Aug. 4, our Legislature, marshaled by Rep. John Quinn, adopted a resolution supporting the sense of congressional concerns. Senators Snowe et al. wrote the inspector general of the Department of Commerce on Aug. 29 to request an independent review of NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service stock assessments. The senators expressed concerns regarding the assessments and the determination of rebuilding targets. Both conservation groups and the fishing industry concur on the state of crisis, but not entirely on the remedies. Some conservation groups evidently believe categorically that of the 19 stocks

fished in New England, 13 evidence depletion and need to be rebuilt to former maximum levels of abundance. To do that, significant reductions in fishing need to take place. It is reasoned that if these reductions take place, then each stock will rebuild to its maximum historical level of abundance. In other words, when the stocks are rebuilt, all stocks will simultaneously be at their maximum level of abundance. The problem is this is a goal most ecologists feel is scientifically unachievable.

We need to ask whether the right questions are being addressed. The fact of the matter is ratcheting down of fishing mortality via reduced catch limits and the creation of huge closed areas to improve habitat has not resulted in a noticeable improvement of stocks. The argument that bottom-tending gear has destroyed habitat must be re-examined given that 30 percent of the U.S. portion of Georges Bank has been closed to fishing for 15 years, and we still have depleted stocks. It is generally acknowledged that the closed areas have concentrated bottom-tending gear in the open areas and that significant quantities of valuable scallops are wasted in the closed areas.

The argument for continuing decades of ratcheting down of fishing mortality must be considered in a new light when 13 of 19 stocks continue to be classified as depleted. While it is right to be concerned about overfishing, it must be recognized that the definition of overfishing is very fuzzy. Two reputable scientists can easily differ in judgment as to whether the same stock is overfished. Recent stock assessment reports clearly identify this uncertainty. While science has the capability to determine whether a stock is generally abundant or generally not abundant, it is not capable of resolving the exact magnitude of mortality with high precision.

A big part of the problem is overfishing definitions are sometimes arbitrary and overly precise. For example, if an overfishing threshold is defined at 0.20 and the fishing mortality rate is estimated to be 0.21, then the stock is declared to be overfished, even though it is impossible to statistically distinguish between 0.20 and 0.21. There are some that believe that the uncertainties in fishery management should induce a high degree of caution in setting management restrictions. This is a seemingly good idea. However, if this strategy was adopted, catches of species would be regulated using criteria that have nothing to do with the abundance of stocks. From a stock assessment point of view, there is virtually nothing known about the black sea bass. Does this mean that the fishery for black sea bass should be closed? We need to think of other approaches.

While some have attributed discrepancies in the assessments to the ocean environment, we must understand it is plausible that the sources of environmental change are actually induced by management practices intended to protect fish. Noteworthy is the closing of the dogfish shark fishery in New England and the mid-Atlantic in order to protect the larger female dogfish. The closure has resulted in a biomass of dogfish sharks that appears to exceed by more than 10 times the next most abundant fish species! This significant management-induced, shark-dominated ecosystem could very well prevent other stocks from increasing in abundance.

Clearly we have been addressing the wrong questions. There is no need to rush to snap judgments that irreversibly affect the economic integrity of the fishing industry. Rash decisions are unsustainable for the fishing industry and unsustainable relative to obtaining optimum yield for each stock. The direction of fishery management is not consistent with the National Standards articulated in our fishery laws. We need to step back, take a deep breath, determine where we are, and take positive steps towards improved management. Some of the changes that need to be made include modernizing the archaic fishery data recording system in use now, bringing a scientific focus to managing fish as ecosystem components, and developing innovative common sense approaches to make sure society reaps maximum sustainable benefits from its fishery resources. Conservation groups need to shift from a narrow focus on hard-to-define overfishing to the broader problem of the quality of management and push hard to ensure the fish stocks are managed for the good of society. Senators Snowe, Collins, Kennedy and Kerry and Representatives Frank, Tierney, Courtney, McGovern and Capuano have it right.

NJ re-energizing solar rebate program
The Press of Atlantic City 9-10-08
By Kevin Post

ATLANTIC CITY - New Jersey will restart its solar rebate program and subsidize residential solar energy projects through 2011, a spokesman for the state Office of Clean Energy told a home energy conference here Tuesday.

Larry Barth said that "in a couple of days," the state Board of Public Utilities also would announce an additional \$50 million would be made available this year to fund rebates for 440 solar projects already completed.

The BPU stopped accepting applications for solar rebates Dec. 20, 2007, after interest in the program exceeded funding. Solar energy systems, which reduce electricity bills and usually produce excess power that is

sold to the utility, also are routinely eligible for tax credits.

Barth said that after the rebates and tax credits, the cost of installing a kilowatt of solar capacity would be between \$3,000 and \$4,000. About 100 square feet of solar panels is needed to produce one kilowatt of electricity, he said.

In addition to the 440 projects already on the list waiting for rebates, there are hundreds more waiting on a supplemental queue for rebate consideration, he said. The state will probably provide rebates to people on that list as part of next year's funding, he said. However, those projects may be required to reapply to the program.

Barth said the state plans to end rebates for residential solar installations in 2012. "At some point, we take the training wheels off the market and it proceeds on its own," he said. At that point or soon thereafter, the state believes, solar power will be competitive with other forms of electricity generation. He said that in three to five years, there may be parity between the cost of solar power and that of other electricity on the grid.

Barth outlined the return of the residential solar rebate program to the ACI New Jersey Home Performance Conference at the Sheraton Convention Center Hotel, which brought together contractors, builders and others in home energy industries.

He offered no timetable for when the state would begin accepting applications again for solar rebates, but various people in the industry thought it would resume this fall.

Solar installers were delighted with the announcement. Lisa Worrell, program director for Energy Enterprises Inc. in Mays Landing, called it "great news. Anything with a rebate is great news, as long as we have one." Energy Enterprises has installed nearly 300 systems in its eight years, and some of those customers are on the BPU list waiting for rebates, she said. "Some were worried. We'd get phone calls, people wanting to know what's going on," Worrell said, adding she had been fairly confident the state would take care of those on the list. She said many people expressed interest in solar but were waiting to see if the state was going to reopen the rebate program. "This is a good thing because solar is a good thing," she said.

Mike Cafiero, owner/operator of LBI Solar, said the rebate queue includes customers who bought systems 15 months ago. Others who tried to enter after the BPU closed the program had their applications simply thrown out. "Now I've got people on the fence, waiting to see if the program starts up," Cafiero said. Whether many go solar will depend on the size of the rebate, said Cafiero, whose company installs systems from Long Beach Island to Atlantic City, and also works in Florida. Before the program ended last year, the rebate was equal to about \$3.80 for each watt of solar capacity installed, he said. Four years ago, rebates were worth about \$5.50 per watt.

"If it goes back to \$4 a watt, that will be almost half off the cost, and customers are going to jump on it," Cafiero said.

The state previously paid about \$200 million in solar rebates and as late as July had said all of the rebate money for 2008 already had been allocated. The state has backed a system in which solar energy would receive credits that could be sold to utilities and others in an open market to offset their carbon emissions.

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES

BY JOHN KOEGLER

Missing Yellowfin Tuna

After a good early season, which lasted until Early August, the Yellowfin tuna totally vanished. There were many explanations offered but that did not make up for this key offshore species. The slack was taken up by the strong showing of bluefin tuna along the 30 fathom line.

This fishery lasted over 4 weeks with a few weekends the area resembled a Wal-Mart parking lot. Then for no good reason dirty green water moved into the prime fishing area and the bluefin moved inshore to the 20 fathom line.

The white marlin fishing has been very good. The Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 tournament recorded 388 white marlin caught with almost all being released alive. The big surprise was the tiny number of tuna registered in the tournament. Only 13 were weighed in for the lowest total in the last 20 years for this tournament.

In September NMFS changed their rules for bluefin tuna and now permitted General Category boats to land up to 3 giant bluefin tuna per day. The reason is for the fourth year in a row the huge New England giant bluefin tuna fishery has vanished. A few giants were landed early in the season but the main body of fish failed to show.

Many New England fishermen had believed lack of key forage species like herring had encouraged the giants to keep going and end up in Canadian waters where they had another good giant season. But commercial herring landings were reduced! So far it does not appear to have worked despite a major change in herring catch rules.

Small bluefin tuna showed up in good quantity in their old fishing grounds like the Mudhole and Chicken Canyons along the 20 fathom line. A few skippers were delighted but the absurd NMFS limit of 1 school tuna and 1 large school per boat trip reduced the number of boats willing to spend the huge fuel

dollars to fish to a tiny number. At the same time on the other side of the Atlantic, the ICCAT bluefin tuna management farce continues. The EU closed the giant Fishery 2 weeks early because they estimated the full giant bluefin quota had been caught and sold. Nations like France and Spain ignored the rules and part of their fleet continued to fish for bluefin.

There is no internal force within any European country to enforce ICCAT rules. So again after 32 years, the US and Canada are the only countries with regulations. In the US the toughest regulations apply to the huge recreational fleet while the commercial fleet is given most of the US quota. Meanwhile, our ICCAT representatives reduced our 2008 quota by hundreds of tons of bluefin once again with the absurd expectation that the European countries would impose the tougher ICCAT regulations and lower their quotas as proposed by their scientific arm.

No one should be surprised that the Europeans refused to impose the 2008 lower quota. Naturally, the US imposes their reduction for about the 10th time while the Europeans refused to accept their lower ICCAT quota for the 10th time. Why the US delegation to ICCAT expects quota acceptance by the Europeans after 32 years of a total refusal are an unreasonable expectation!

An unusual bluefin spawning success in 1995 and 1997 increased the number of US bluefin tuna population greatly. Now these 2 year classes are sexually mature. Now the number of school fish is exploding! Will US recreational fishermen ever be permitted to catch a few bluefin their conservation permitted to expand? This will happen the same as the Feds lower our taxes.

One good item in the offshore area is the ban on longline fishing in the Florida strait which has permitted the Mahi-mahi population to sharply increase in numbers. Offshore anglers are enjoying their best Mahi fishing in the last 20 years. It will likely be short lived since NMFS in an absurd ruling has created a new version of longline fishing named buoy fishing. In buoy fishing the longline is attached to a buoy with a specified number of hooks and then tied to the boat fishing. This is not supposed to be longline fishing but the reduction in the number of small swordfish and other pelagic fish is evident. So much for expecting NMFS regulations to ever benefit anglers for long.

It is expected that the hurricane glances that have brushed the east coast will churn up the ocean enough that yellowfin tuna will return to end the season on a positive note. As everyone has noticed yellowfin fishing reduces slightly each year. It is a mere shadow of what anglers caught 20 year ago. Naturally, the

problem is the huge number of purse seine boats fishing off the coast of Africa on the spawning yellowfin and bigeye tuna each year. Eight years ago their countries agreed in writing that they would reduce their landings. Naturally, after 8 years their landings keep increasing and the US ICCAT group does nothing, not even complain when it is evident that they are not reducing their landings and saving the US east coast fishery. Can anglers ever expect NMFS to get ICCAT to work? Clearly, ICCAT is a worthless organization.

After thirty-two years of expecting the European countries to follow their agreed to ICCAT rules seems absurd. Why do the US ICCAT reps expect the 33rd year to be different?

Go offshore fishing now! There are fish to be caught before the stripers arrive and the weather turns cold despite global warming.

Spiny Dogfish

Spiny dogfish are a small shark but they are a voracious predator that hunts in packs. My personal experience has been unpleasant. When they show up in the early fall they totally shut down any chance for wreck fishing trips where you drift such as the artificial reefs. Recently, they now stay longer into June making early season fishing difficult until they leave. Their large size and huge numbers usually makes fishing impossible.

There has been a total commercial fishery shutdown. The management plan is based on the total protection of the female spiny dogfish population. The plan did this because the female dogfish was being directly commercially targeted. Fish buyers desired the larger filets that female dogfish provided. It was possible to target female dogfish because during most of the year female dogfish and male dogfish separate and group together by gender.

Fishery managers have ignored the exploding dogfish population biomass, claiming there was nothing they can do. Plan Management is based on increasing the female population. But it has become clear that the female population is higher than NMFS trawl surveys are reporting. This has been fully supported by recent new scientific trawl surveys that worked deep water beyond 100 fathoms and inshore waters less than 10 fathoms. These new surveys found a major population of young dogfish that the traditional NMFS surveys had missed in water as deep as 1000 feet.

The problem is a total dogfish population is larger than at any time in fishery management history. Despite their massive population increases, the female

population has not reached the target specified by the management plan.

It is now the belief of some fishery managers and most fishermen that the current spiny dogfish population is having a major negative impact on all other commercially valuable species. Many commercial fishermen believe they are being directly impacted by dogfish due to the slower rebuilding of more valuable species.

Commercial accidental catch of dogfish must be discarded because of the current management plan. But these catches have increased to the point where it is impossible for commercial fishermen to fish without being overwhelmed by the huge numbers of spiny dogfish in their nets. To make matters worse, spiny dogfish are tough and survive most commercial discards which seems to have little affect on their survival.

This position is fully supported by NMFS surveys that found that the dogfish population biomass has exploded while the required plan female population has not been reached. NMFS and fishery managers are so far unwilling to reopen a limited commercial fishery that would target primarily male dogfish.

The current law must be changed. This requires a major effort by all fishermen to change.

A new group named "The Dogfish Forum" is sponsoring a series of meetings in Philadelphia, Biddeford, Maine and Hyannis, Massachusetts on September 30th. The forum has invited federal, state and regional managers, researchers plus commercial, recreational and party/charter boat fishermen most familiar with the dogfish problem to discuss the current dogfish over population condition.

The Philadelphia dogfish meeting is being held at the Philadelphia Airport Sheraton Suites on Tuesday, September 30, 2008 located at 4101 B Island Ave. starting at 9:00 AM. Registration is limited. The local contact is Nils Stolpe whose e-mail address is nilsstolpe@fishnet-usa.com.

JCAA Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

CASTING FOR A DRUG FREE FORT MONMOUTH

Over 100 children from the Fort Monmouth Youth Services Summer Camp participated in a casting and safety event located at the School Age Services tennis courts. Children learned to cast a spin cast rod/reel and how to catch plastic fish that were placed on the

tennis court at various distances. Each child that caught a fish received a "I Helped Cast Across America" sticker. A total distance of 9,880 feet were recorded for the day including casts that were over the fence. The JCAA Lake of Opportunity (funds donated to purchase prizes for children) were used to purchase prizes. Each child received "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" material and ball caps that read Fort Monmouth is Hooked on Fishing from the US Army Garrison Substance Abuse Directorate. Many thanks go to all the volunteers that made this a safe and successful event for everyone.

TAKE A DISABLED VETERAN FISHING

The JCAA Youth Education Committee and members of Vietnam Veterans of America will assist disabled veterans that would like to fish at the Governor's 17th Annual Surf Fishing Tournament, Sunday, October 5, 2008. Special arrangements are made for handicapped anglers. Balloon tire equipped beach wheelchairs (capacity 250 lbs.) 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 732-785-9278.

REQUEST FOR LETTERS

Due to lack of funding issues this year, the youth fishing derby season that generally takes place during the months of May through September will be suspended due to budget shortfalls and less staffing within the Division of Fish and Wildlife. This is a great disappointment to the many fishing clubs and organizations that depend on the support of the Division of Fish and Wildlife to assist with providing derbies and educational programs to New Jersey children and their families. We request letters be written to bring the Derby program back and give young anglers and their families the opportunity to experience the fun of participating in a fishing derby and learning about fish identification. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association will send a letter on behalf of its membership to reinstate the youth fishing derby for fiscal year 2009. Please address your letters to the JCAA, Youth Education Committee, 1201 Highway 37 East, Toms River, NJ 08753. The letters will be forwarded to the State Office of Information and Education supporting the reinstatement of the youth fishing derbies provided by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

TO RECEIVE JCAA EMAIL ALERTS

[EMAIL tfote@jcaa.org](mailto:tfote@jcaa.org)

PRESS RELEASE NJ FISH & WILDLIFE

The 17th annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be held on Sunday, October 5 at Island Beach State Park. This popular event draws nearly 1000 participants every year. Funds generated through the tournament are used for a myriad of programs including: improving access to public fishing areas, construction of access ramps for disabled anglers, marine education and surf fishing instruction programs, educational displays for Island Beach State Park's interpretive center and the purchase of specialized wheelchairs that provide beach access for disabled and elderly anglers. The individual who catches the overall largest fish wins the "Governor's Trophy," and has his/her name engraved on the Governor's Cup, which is permanently displayed at the park. Fishing equipment is awarded to winners who catch the largest fish in each species category. Length of the fish determines the winner, not weight. Anglers wishing to participate in the tournament are reminded to register now: doing so entitles you to save on the adult registration fee, be eligible for special prizes and avoid delays when entering the park. The early entry incentive ends September 14. After this date anglers will be required to register at the tournament. The tournament is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry, the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, and the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association. A brochure with information about the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament as well as a registration form can be accessed by visiting: <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/gsf.htm>.

SAD NEWS FROM NEWARK BAIT AND FLY CASTERS

He was known as "Mr. Fred" to the many children that attended youth fishing programs and fishing tournaments throughout New Jersey. Mr. Fred Bercaw passed away after a short illness. He was devoted to teaching children about fishing and had a great sense of humor when children asked questions about fishing. When he taught children about casting his kind demeanor and patience was never-ending. Every year Fred worked hard to solicit prizes for children that fished or were interested in fishing. He will be missed.

We need the support of your club and its members

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

Club Membership Application

Date _____

Club Name: _____

President's Name: _____

Pres. Address: Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

Please make check \$50 payable to JCAA

JCAA SPONSORSHIP

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

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

Join JCAA as an Associate Member

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

JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICATION

Date _____ New ___ Renewal _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

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

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

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If you would like to receive JCAA Email alerts email your Name, Club, if you belong to one, and your interest to <tfote@jcaa.org> or just go to the JCAA Web and subscribe from there.