

JCAA NEWSPAPER APRIL 2009

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on March 24th, 2009)

Remember New Monthly Meeting Room

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, March 31st, 2009

Starting at 7:30 PM

At The JCAA OFFICE

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 9thth, 2009

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) 929-2591 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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2009 OFFICERS

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Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

JCAA HIGH ROLLER RAFFLE

It is now time for the JCAA High Rollers 2009 Raffle. We have put together a terrific selection of rods and reels and other prizes for a raffle that will be drawn on April 28, 2009 at the old meeting room in Brick. This is a major fundraiser for the JCAA. The eight prizes are listed below with a value of more than \$3,600. Tickets will be two dollars each and Club Representatives can get books of tickets to sell by attending a JCAA meeting. If you would like to buy raffle tickets call the JCAA office. When your club representative brings them to your club, please help with your purchase. Without your continued support we cannot function as an organization in protecting the marine resource and angler's rights. Shimano provided reels at a special price to JCAA.

1. Shimano Tiagra TI-30WLRSA reel with a Shimano TLC X58MHRSA rod Value \$688
2. Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor model RT 55/SE/L&D Value \$550
Donated by Johnson Outdoors Inc
3. Fisherman's Headquarters, Ship Bottom, NJ donates a \$500.00 Shopping Spree Value \$500
4. Shimano Calcutta 700BSV reel w/a Rogue SSW extra heavy 765C rod Value \$480
Donated by JCAA and Rogue
5. Shimano Calcutta 400BSV reel w/a G Loomis Pro Blue PBR844C rod Value \$465
Donated by JCAA and G Loomis
6. Shimano Calcutta 400BSV reel w/a H&H LSW845722 rod Value \$440
Donated by JCAA and H&H
7. Shimano Stradic - ST-5000FI Reel with Shimano Terramar TMS-70MH Rod Value \$380
Donated by Shimano
8. Tsunami TSSD 3000L reel and TSTBC-661H rod Value \$150
Donated by Bimini Bay Outfitters

Total Value \$3,653.00

IMPORTANT DATES

March 31st JCAA General Meeting JCAA General Mtg. at JCAA Office
April 3rd IGFA Dinner
April 6th Secretary Salazar Regional Meetings On Energy Development of the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf
April 9th JCAA Board Meeting
April 16th Tentative date for Winter Flounder hearing
April 17th Reef Rescue Rally & Dinner
April 28th JCAA General Meeting back in the Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

JCAA would like to take the time to thank **Brick Township** for allowing us to hold our general meeting at the Community Center. We will be back holding our general meetings there starting with the **April 28th meeting**, with our guest speaker from Reef Rescue, Dr. Bill Figley. April 28th also happens to be our High Roller Raffle Drawing at 8:00 PM sharp. Make sure to help your Association with this fundraiser by selling some raffle books and making it a success. I will be scheduling some guest speakers in upcoming months, so have your clubs representatives attend and get the information first hand. All the sportsmen of the State of New Jersey need to work together so we can accomplish great things for our sports. I will explain this in more detail at the next general meeting. The next General Meeting which will be held on March 31 will be at the JCAA Office.

The 2009 show season for us is coming to a close. I would like to thank all the volunteers who spent a few hours to help their Association inform the public on any questions that were asked at the shows. This is one way that we can get the correct information to the uninformed anglers that fish in New Jersey. We did have a few new people to volunteer and I hope that it will continue at future shows.

Due to rough economic times that we all are experiencing, the JCAA Fluke Tournament Committee had a meeting to finalize the makeup of this year's tournament. They had to make some

really difficult decisions which took many hours of discussion. Unfortunately this year's Fluke Tournament will have only nine ports rather than twelve as years past. The ports that were eliminated for this year are Jersey City, Atlantic City and Avalon. There will be a more detailed article in this month's newsletter. I hope that the economy gets better so we can have those ports back for next year's tournament.

I have announced at the February 28th General Meeting that a JCAA Saltwater Registry Committee was formed, to be co-chaired by Tom Siciliano and Bruce Smith. I would like to thank everyone who stepped up to get involved with this committee on this important issue. This committee will go through all the information that is available and will give it to the member clubs so they will have some time at their individual club meetings to discuss the information and come back to the Association with their club's position. Attend general meetings and stay current with updates.

I will be trying to make our Individual Committees more effective in this coming year. By being on one of these committees, you can get more involved and see on how the system works. If you are interested on serving on them contact me or the JCAA Office.

Below is a letter to the Governor from JCAA on the Summer Flounder Lawsuit

Letter on Summer Flounder Lawsuit

The Honorable Jon S. Corzine
Governor of New Jersey
State House, P.O. Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625-0001

Dear Governor Corzine,

The vitality of New Jersey's recreational fishing industry, which generates 1.3 billion dollars to New Jersey's economy, is being seriously threatened by a recent ruling by a Brooklyn, New York Federal judge concerning the data and methodology used to establish quotas for summer flounder, locally known as fluke, for East coast states. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) represents over 75 fishing clubs throughout the Garden State.

The JCAA, on behalf of its members, requests that New Jersey intervene along with the

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the Secretary of the federal Department of Commerce to challenge the case brought by the state of New York to change the coastwide allocation of summer flounder. Further, the JCAA is concerned that Brooklyn's Senior Federal District Judge Charles P. Sifton has made an unprecedented change to the status of the ASMFC, which, if left to stand, leaves the ASMFC at the mercy of the courts in the allocation of species under its management regime. The judge found for the state of New York and a coalition made up of the United Boatman of New York (UBNY), the New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association (NYFTTA), and the Fishermen's Conservation Association of New York (FCA). to include the ASMFC in the lawsuit.

The summer flounder fishery, one of the most important to our state, is jointly managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the ASMFC. The NMFS has management responsibilities over fisheries within three to 200 miles and the ASMFC is responsible for the waters from New Jersey's shoreline to three miles out to sea. For nearly twenty years now, each state has been allocated a catch limit based upon its historical catch. Because of its large participation by anglers, New Jersey has historically had the largest allocation of any state.

In the mid-90s, for the first time, a coastwide quota was set for all the coastal states where each competed for the quota. After being in place for several years, this system was found to be unfair to some states and it was agreed by all parties that a change to the coastwide system needed to occur. The current state-by-state system was determined over twenty years ago by extensive discussion by the coastal states to come up with a fair and equitable system. Ironically, it was New York that made the motion to switch from a coastwide to state-by-state model.

If New York is successful in changing back to a single coastwide quota system, then New York anglers will be able to increase their catch at the expense of New Jersey anglers. As a result, New Jersey's catch will be substantially decreased. This will have a significant negative economic impact on New Jersey's economy during these troubled financial times.

The JCAA members are deeply concerned that this legal decision may result in a court-mandated injunction that would disrupt the 2009 summer flounder season for New Jersey's anglers. Because of the large impact a federal ruling could have in this matter, we again request that New Jersey's interest be represented by our Attorney General as a friend of the court.

Tom Fote is the Governor's Appointee to the ASMFC and can provide the more detailed information the Attorney General's office needs to assist New Jersey's anglers in this most urgent matter. Tom can be reached at (732) 270-9102. Bruce Freeman (732-793-7871) is a past employee of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and was NJ's representative to Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council for over 25 years. He has helped the Attorney General's office in the past and would be willing to help again as a volunteer.

**A friendly reminder that the March 31
General Meeting will be held at the
JCAA Office.**

2009 JCAA Fluke Tournament
Fishing Date: June 13th
Awards Date: June 19th
by Sharon McKenna

Like most people involved in JCAA, I wear multiple hats. Donning my Fluke Tournament Chair hat has been quite an adventure. Everyone is very well aware of the economic climate here in New Jersey, our nation and the world. JCAA is not immune to these economic factors and the Fluke Tournament Committee has had to be creative in ensuring that the tournament will continue to offer fabulous prizes, and a great time to boot. To be candid, this is the JCAA's largest fundraiser. Over the past 15 years, we have been fortunate to attract many port prize, door prize and grand prize sponsors. We are continuing to work with what sponsors are still available. Some have filed for bankruptcy, others have been absorbed by other companies, but those who remain have been generous, for which we are

thankful. Please thank them by purchasing our sponsor's products over the coming year. They are supporting the JCAA and its important mission to represent you while you continue to enjoy recreational fishing.

One of the toughest decisions the Fluke Tournament Committee made is to cut down the ports from twelve to nine. The ports that were cut, Jersey City, Atlantic City and Avalon (Townsend Inlet), were chosen carefully through looking at the participation data, the geographic range and overall port support. The Committee is hopeful that when the economy turns around, these ports can return to the fold.

The good news is that although it has been a difficult year to be a recreational angler, we do have a 2009 fluke season: **six fish at 18", open May 23rd through September 6**. So, get your boats on the water so you will be ready to participate in the JCAA Fluke tournament on Saturday, June 13th. The tournament fee for early entrants (by June 6) is \$120. After June 6th, the tournament fee goes up to \$150, so early entry really pays off. Your participation not only guarantees a great time and a chance for many fabulous prizes for you & your crew, but it also supports the work that JCAA does for all recreational anglers. Remember the JCAA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to your interest.

Even with sponsorship changes, this year promises to be another great event in the tournament's 15 year history, as the first place prizes will again be sponsored by JCAA. Fisherman's Headquarters will be sponsoring their local port (Long Beach Island). **Your crew, with up to six anglers, will only compete with other anglers for the ten port prizes to be awarded at the port you select when you enter. Just like in previous years there will separate port prizes for every port. Prize ranking may be adjusted. You do not have to be present at the June 19th award ceremony to win the port prizes.**

The Grand Prize - **\$10,000!** - and all door prizes will be drawn at the Awards Presentation and Celebration at Trump Marina Hotel Casino. Remember, you do not have to catch a fish to be eligible for the Grand Prize or any door prizes. You only have to be registered. **At least one member of your crew must be present for you to win the Grand Prize and door prizes.** JCAA has reserved a limited block of rooms for a group rate at the hotel

which can be booked by calling the Reservation Department direct at 1/800-777-8477, option #3. Be sure to state you are with JCAA and group code FJCAA9. The cut-off date is May 19, 2009, so once again, it pays to be an early entrant!

If you have been a past participant in the JCAA Fluke Tournament, you will receive an express entry form to register. You will also be able to order your JCAA Fluke Tournament T-shirt at that time. We may not have all sizes available at the Awards Ceremony and you won't want to miss this year's great shirt. Full color image of the T-shirts can be seen at our web site. Extra order forms are available online. Last year some people were disappointed because we ran out of shirts at the Awards Ceremony. If you have questions call 732-506-6565 or visit the web site at www.jcaa.org for additional information, complete rules, links to sponsors, and additional entry forms for your friends.

This year it is more important than ever that we have a successful JCAA Fluke Tournament to show that the New Jersey angler is a force to be reckoned with. Please read the letter to Governor Corzine in this newspaper to learn more about how our fluke fishery and quota is under attack. Looking forward to seeing you all on June 13! Mark your calendars!!!

2009 Summer Flounder Regulations: 18" Minimum Size, 6 fish Bag Limit Season is May 23rd to Sept. 4th

Operations Manager Report

By Sharon McKenna

Has it been a month already? The JCAA office is humming with activity as the 15th Annual Fluke Tournament draws ever closer. The large majority of my time has been focused on tournament planning activities. In order for the tournament to achieve the success it has had in the past, your participation will be key! When you receive your invitation to sign up for the tournament, please fill it out and return it as soon as possible. The early entry discount on both the event and on the lodging at Trump Marina and Casino make it worth taking the time!

Over the past month, while not working on the tournament, I have spent a significant amount of

time researching grants, meeting with like-minded organizations to form partnerships that will allow both groups to leverage funding from the state, county and foundations. Overall, I have found that there is a lot of enthusiasm to partner up with JCAA, so expect to hear more solid news on this over the next two issues of this newspaper.

Calling all volunteers! The JCAA is looking for a few good anglers, folks who care about fishing and want to ensure that they, their kids and their grandkids will have access to marine resources for generations to come. If you have an interest in volunteering here at the JCAA office, you can be sure you will be welcomed by anglers with many of the same interests as you have. Please call me at the JCAA office at 732-506-6565 so we can discuss what volunteer opportunities are available.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science Inc. Receives Federal Funding

The Partnership for the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science, Incorporated (PMAFS) has received an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to do scientific research. The first thing we need to do is thank Senator Lautenberg, Senator Menendez, Congressman Pallone, Congressman Adler and Congressman LoBiondo for their support in obtaining this money for research. Of course, this money will go through NOAA and NMFS and they will, as usual, siphon off as much as possible and do something totally different with their "cut". The partnership is a coalition of groups formed to procure research money for summer flounder and other species. The Board of Directors includes Garden State Seafood Association, JCAA, United Boatmen of New York, United Boatmen of New Jersey, and Save Our Summer Flounder Fund. The RFA is also part of this coalition. This coalition funded scientists to attend the summer flounder stock assessment.

No money has been received yet and we will need to develop a grant process to award this research grant money to universities. Rutgers

University provided a vehicle for this type of research for striped bass and bluefish when Congress appropriated the money in the 1990's and 2000's. JCAA and United Boatmen were instrumental in getting that money appropriated for bluefish and striped bass. Sharon McKenna, our operations manager, did that job for Rutgers University and will be instrumental in helping us set the criteria and monitoring for the grants. Hopefully some of these grants will be awarded before the end of the year so we can begin to see the results in the near future. I went to Washington DC on March 23 to make sure these funds are available for the 2010/2011 grant cycle. These are the benefits we reap when both commercial and recreational anglers, representing different groups and perspectives, work together.

This is the tip of the ice berg. The National Marine Fisheries Service should be doing this research as part of its mandate. In the past, Congress and the President have not funded NMFS at a level that would support this type of research. We can't fill all of the data gaps without the appropriate funding. Some of the NGO groups point to the great science available in Alaska for stock assessment and developing quotas. The former Alaska Congressional delegation managed to get millions of federal dollars while the East Coast was on life support. The Federal government forced fishermen to pay for their own research as we have done in this coalition or use our research set aside money to fund NMFS research. That money is small in comparison to what was allocated for Alaska. All the NGOs should really be complaining about fisheries science before they complain about fisheries management or the implementation of management plans. Good science leads to good management.

Winter Flounder

I pointed out last month that winter flounder situation has not gotten any better coastwide. The Winter Flounder Management Board decided not to in place an emergency action that would have closed the fishery down for 2009. Instead they decided to go out with an amendment or addendum to the plan. I was hoping by the time I wrote this article I would have an idea on what it looked like. The ASMFC postponed the conference call to discuss this until the end of March. I will have a good idea at the March 31st JCAA General meeting. The tentative date for this hearing is April 16th. The proposals that will be submitted to this meeting will likely include a

moratorium or great reductions in the winter flounder inshore fishery for next year. ASMFC only controls the inshore fishery and a majority of the catch is offshore. I am waiting to see what happens with New England's groundfish plan. If history repeats itself, the groundfish plan will not set a quota for the winter flounder stocks and TAC (total allowable catch). They will do something with days at sea or some other management regime and could have no reduction in the winter flounder catch. This is totally unacceptable. Since most of the recreational catch is made in state waters, and we are only a small percentage of the total catch, we will feel the brunt of the regulations even though we don't cause the problem.

Striped Bass

Last month, we discussed the illegal fishery that was prevalent in Maryland and Virginia that was discovered by the Federal/State sting. Some of these fishermen have already pleaded guilty. The problem is there is no consequence to the states that allow this illegal fishery to exist. Those states' fishermen over harvested their quotas because of the illegal fishery. Law enforcement has some estimates of the over harvest through illegal fisheries. Why aren't these states being forced to pay back that overage? There has always been an excuse that you can only go back one year. As always, it is the legal fishermen who are penalized. I just spent two days at a show and that was one of the major questions asked. "What will it cost the states that allowed this illegal fishery?" If history repeats itself, nothing! This is different than unintentional overages by either the recreational or commercial communities and should be treated in a more punitive way.

Many of us feel this is only the tip of the iceberg. We believe the illegal fishery is much larger than currently acknowledged. The stories come out of North Carolina, New York, Massachusetts and other states. It is not just striped bass. Any fishery that is poorly monitored is a good target for this type of illegal catch. It is black fish (tautog) in New Jersey. The states need to do a better job of monitoring the quotas. I always laugh when the commercial community complains about our minute recreational overages when some of them are illegally fishing in far greater numbers on many species. The ASMFC and NMFS need to get serious with funding the necessary law enforcement and encouraging appropriate penalties that set serious

consequences. We need judges to stop giving law breakers a slap on the hand because they don't understand the consequences of illegal fisheries. This illegal fishery has a tremendous impact on the quality of life and economic health of the commercial and recreational fishing industries.

JCAA Web Page

In the next few months you will see more information available on the JCAA webpage. We have made some major changes with how we handle the webpage and we hope this will be more user friendly. There will definitely be more information available. We realize that newspapers are providing less fishing and outdoor coverage and we hope to pick up the slack. Hopefully, the newspapers will eventually come to their senses. Stay tuned and let us know how you like the new format. Suggestions are welcome.

ASMFC May 4th – 7th Meeting Week

**Crowne Plaza Hotel Old Town
901 North Fairfax Street Alexandria, Virginia
(703) 683-6000**

May 4, 2009

9:00 AM - Noon Winter Flounder Management Board
1:15 PM - 3:15 PM Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
3:30 PM - 6:00 PM Horseshoe Crab Management Board

May 5, 2009

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM South Atlantic State-Federal Fisheries Management Board
9:45 AM - 10:45 AM Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board
Noon - 5:00 PM Law Enforcement Committee
1:45 PM - 2:45 PM Commissioner Workshop: Length-based Stock Assessment Models 101
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM American Lobster Management Board
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Annual Awards of Excellence Reception

May 6, 2009

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM Shad & River Herring Management Board
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Management Board
3:15 PM - 5:45 PM ISFMP Policy Board

May 7, 2009

8:00 AM - 10:30 AM Executive Committee
10:45 AM - 11:15 AM ISFMP Policy Board (continued)
11:30 AM - Noon Business Session
Noon Lunch for Commissioners & Proxies
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council

PCB Dredging Set for May

By Scott Fallon, Staff Writer
NorthJersey.com
Friday, March 13, 2009

The long-awaited dredging of more than 200,000 cubic yards of PCBs from the Hudson River will begin in May, federal officials said.

General Electric Co., whose plants pumped 1.3 million pounds of the toxic chemical into the river, will begin the massive project north of Albany, but the effects will be felt all the way down to North Jersey. About 500 pounds of PCBs flow over the Troy Dam and into the lower Hudson every year.

The PCBs are a major reason why there are restrictions on eating fish caught off towns along the Hudson, including Alpine, Englewood Cliffs, Fort Lee and Edgewater. "The upriver work will help prevent PCBs from migrating down here," said Robert Goldstein, general counsel for the Hudson Riverkeeper environmental group.

GE dumped the oily lubricant from its plant in Fort Edward, N.Y., beginning in 1947 and later from a plant in Hudson Falls, N.Y.. GE stopped using PCBs in 1977, when the federal government banned the chemical after it was suspected to cause cancer. The company had fought the project for years, arguing dredging would release PCBs safely buried in the riverbed. But the Environmental Protection Agency has said PCBs are continually whipped up into the water by river flows and erosion. Contained dredging will not cause more chemicals to spread throughout the river, the EPA says.

Environmentalists hope the \$750 million, six-year project will allow them to end the restrictions on eating fish.

The project will target a 40-mile stretch of river north of Albany that has the highest concentrations of PCBs. Before work can start, a number of smaller projects must be completed.

GE is building a processing plant in upstate New York to filter the PCBs. The chemical would then be shipped via rail to a disposal facility in Andrews, Texas.

In addition to the plant, New York officials have to open up locks on the Hudson to allow the dredging machines and barges to head upriver, said David Kluesner, an EPA spokesman. "We don't have a specific date, but we are on target for May," he said.

Even though the project has been delayed in the past, Goldstein believes the start date will hold. "Eternally the optimist, I think it will start in May," he said

Effects of Windmills on Wildlife / Keep in Mind the Alternatives

Press of Atlantic City
(Published: Sunday, March 15, 2009)

Generating power to run our energy-dependent world is not going to happen without some effect on the environment. Even the cleanest, greenest methods of mass generation aren't going to occur in a hermetically sealed bubble. Manufacturing solar cells requires nasty chemicals. Nuclear power produces radioactive waste.

And windmills kill some birds. And some bats. They may disrupt some fish. Such impacts should be minimized when possible. But the real question always needs to be this: What's the impact of the alternative?

A 312-page, preliminary study by the state Department of Environmental Protection on the potential environmental impact of 300 windmills planned off the coast of southern New Jersey is stirring some controversy and producing (pardon the expression) some spin by two environmental groups - one in favor of the offshore wind project, one generally opposed.

The report says that previous studies show an offshore wind turbine averages only one or two bird strikes a year. But it also points out that the noise and the electrical current running through the underwater lines could disturb marine life. The report says construction of the wind turbines could destroy fish habitats - but once the turbines are up and running, they could also provide artificial habitat for fish.

The final DEP report is expected out in December.

The American Littoral Society - which has not supported the wind-power project - says the preliminary study shows many negative effects off offshore wind farms on many natural resources:

"Caution is being thrown to the wind" by the Corzine administration, said spokesman Tim Dillingham.

Gov. Jon S. Corzine wants the wind farms to supply 1,000 megawatts of electricity by 2012.

The New Jersey Sierra Club, which has supported Corzine's policy, sees it differently. The Sierra Club points to the parts of the report that show less wildlife is affected the farther out to sea the wind farms are constructed.

Meanwhile, the New Jersey Audubon Society is doing its own study of the effects of the Atlantic City Utilities Authority's on-shore wind farm. Midway through the study, the society has found the windmills kill more bats than birds - 30 birds and 60 bats over 18 months of observation.

Of course, these deaths should be minimized. The ACUA commendably said it is willing to shut off the turbines during key times when bats seem to be in the area.

But both these reports, when finished and finalized, should be kept in perspective and weighed against the cost of not building the wind farm.

The fossil-fuel emissions from existing power plants are exacerbating a global warming trend that could raise ocean levels, wipe out the coasts and cause widespread species loss.

They are not without their own health and environmental effects - on birds, critters and humans.

Corzine's Budget is Rife with Fee Hikes NJ Drivers, Hunters and others will get

Hit

Thursday, March 19, 2009

**By John Reitmeyer
Star Ledger**

Cuts to property tax rebates are getting most of the attention, but Gov. Jon Corzine's proposed budget includes other "revenue solutions" that could have residents and businesses paying more.

Anyone planning to register a motorcycle, obtain a commercial driver's license or conduct other business with the state Motor Vehicle Commission is facing fee increases that Corzine wants to deploy in the new budget.

Men who receive erectile dysfunction drugs through Medicaid or the state Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled program would no longer have their prescriptions covered.

And businesses are being asked to contribute more in payroll taxes to replenish an unemployment benefits fund that has been depleted as jobless lines grow.

Such changes are inevitable because New Jersey is dealing with a national recession that is crippling state revenue collections, the governor said while presenting

his \$29.8 billion spending plan to the Legislature last week.

Spending for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, would have to go up \$7 billion to maintain all programs and services without any changes, he said. The state instead will reduce spending by about \$3 billion.

Some budget proposals, including eliminating rebates for homeowners who make more than \$75,000 and are not senior citizens or disabled, were outlined by Corzine last week. The others are detailed in a lengthy budget document released by the state Treasury Department.

They include the proposal to save \$3.3 million by ending Medicaid and state coverage for erectile dysfunction drugs, something the federal government stopped doing in 2005. It's unclear how many residents this would affect.

An additional \$1.4 million would come from new co-payments charged to 7,500 AIDS/HIV patients who receive free medication through a state program for people who make too much money to qualify for Medicaid or other assistance.

"In terms of how individuals would be affected, Governor Corzine has made it clear that despite the \$7 billion shortfall, the administration would make every effort to protect the most vulnerable," said Donna Leusner, a spokeswoman for the state health department, which administers the AIDS/HIV program. "He has also made it clear that this is a crisis that affects all citizens, and that while we seek to minimize the burden on the most vulnerable through this budget, all citizens must share some responsibility for balancing our finances."

COSTLIER TITLES

Residents who pay for Motor Vehicle Commission services also would contribute more. The budget is counting on using \$20 million from proposed fee hikes to pay for other state services. The increased fees would apply to vehicle and boat titles, motorcycle registrations, commercial driver's license permits and driver-improvement programs.

The commission, which had planned to use that \$20 million for its own operations, will try maintain its services, said agency spokesman Mike Horan. Last year the MVC eliminated evening customer-service hours in response to a budget cut.

The business community is getting hit with a payroll tax increase that will cost about \$80 a year for each employee. Last year Corzine used \$150 million from the budget to prevent the tax hike, but he said he can't do that again.

The higher tax could force companies to reduce salaries or cut employees -- putting them in line for the same unemployment benefits the tax supports, business leaders say.

"Businesses must operate profitably in order to survive, whether that means additional job cuts or pressure on other costs," said John Galandak, president of the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey.

The budget also cuts a \$1.5 million subsidy that pays for programs primarily supported by hunting and fishing license fees.

The direct state funding is being reduced because license sales are generating enough to fund the programs, Treasury spokesman Tom Bell said.

Hunters, anglers and trappers -- a group that totals at least 650,000, according to the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance -- are growing frustrated by program cuts and by the diversion of millions of dollars in sales tax revenue from their equipment purchases, said Anthony Mauro Sr., the alliance chairman.

Sportsmen fear more increases in license fees or cuts to programs they count on. "It's just an issue that's adding to a powder keg," Mauro said. "That's how I see it."

There are no plans to close state parks -- something Corzine proposed last year -- despite new cuts planned for the state Department of Environmental Protection, spokeswoman Elaine Makatura said.

But Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, said it will be hard to avoid closing parks and historic sites given the size of the budget cut. "There will be real consequences if the governor goes through with this budget," Tittel said.

NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

By John Toth

NJOA Scores a Big Victory on Hunting Bills

The NJOA is a coalition of hunting and fishing groups. Two bow hunting bills (A595 Perimeter Bill) and (A1669 Sunday Bow Hunting) passed unanimously in the Assembly with Bill A.1669 going to the Governor for signature and A.595 was amended to go to the Senate for expected approval. These bills passed because the NJOA did their homework and sent out numerous alerts requesting us to call our legislators to support these bills. JCAA Legislative Tom Fote testified at both the Senate and Assembly Committee hearings in support of these bills. Many anglers did the calling to legislators and many of us do not hunt! The more important issue here is **UNITY** between anglers and hunters so that we can support each other in our common causes.

Those calls are important and many legislators did not expect to hear from us in such numbers. They do a tally of who calls and if they receive more calls from animal right activists or the anti hunting Sierra Club, then they are persuaded to vote against us. It is easy to call a legislator. Call and simply say the number of the bill or bills in question and say that you want them supported by the legislator. The legislator's staff person just takes your name and address. Those calls make a difference and they certainly did for the bow hunters. Congratulations NJOA!

Reef Rescue Rally

It's Time To Take Back Our Reefs!

Ban Traps From Our Reefs Now!

The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance and Reef Rescue are holding a rally on April 17th from 7:00 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. at Martell's Tiki Bar Restaurant at the Point Pleasant Boardwalk. A \$75 donation is requested and it includes a buffet dinner, drinks, door prizes, 50/50, Auction. The organizers that started the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, legislators who want to free the artificial reefs from suffocating gear, and the people working behind the scenes to reclaim the artificial reefs for all anglers will be on hand to talk about this very important issue. So come on out to enjoy yourself and support the very people who are working so hard for your fishing and hunting rights. **They can't do it without your support!**

For tickets: reefrescue@yahoo.com or peterg@njoutdooralliance.org

Or call (973) 454- 0315

Make checks payable to **NJOA**

Send to NJOA c/o PCW, 100 Parish Drive, Wayne, NJ 07470

(please include you email address)

More rally info at: www.njrefrescue.com & www.njoutdooralliance.org

Register For NJEF's 23rd Annual Conference: Clean, Green, and Working

Join New Jersey Environmental Federation at our 23rd Annual Conference, Clean Green and Working, on Saturday, April 4th! Learn new skills

and facts; sharpen those that you already possess. Together, we can protect America's waters and natural resources, build healthy and sustainable communities, and make democracy work for all of us.

The day features Governor Jon Corzine as our invited keynote speaker, engaging workshops on critical environmental issues facing New Jersey and the nation, grassroots environmental leadership awards to NJEF member groups and local activists, a plenary on Grow Green, Grow Smart at New Jersey Ports, and breakfast, lunch, and reception with key environmental and political leaders.

Register Online

https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2155/t/3991/shop/custom.jsp?donate_page_KEY=4538

View Conference Brochure

<http://www.cleanwateraction.org/feature/save-date-njefs-23rd-annual-conference-clean-green-and-working>

JCAA Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

NATIONAL YOUTH FISHING & BOATING GRANT REQUEST

The JCAA Youth Education Committee received confirmation that the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) has accepted our National Youth Fishing and Boating Grant Request for review. During the review process proposals will be screened to ensure completeness; we may be contacted for additional information. All applicants will be notified of grant award or denial by letter. The JCAA will be contacted during the following important dates for the 2009 award cycle: Award Notification, Week of March 23-27, 2009. Award Period , April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010.

NJ VIETNAM VETERANS' MEMORIAL 2009 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Many members of JCAA are Vietnam Veterans and we would like to pass along information about the 2009 scholarship program. During this time of economic uncertainty all financial resources must be considered to help our youngsters with their education dreams. Graduating seniors have until April 17, 2009 to submit their applications and essays to qualify for one of two (2) scholarships offered by the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans'

Memorial Foundation. The scholarships, each in the amount of \$2,500, will be awarded to high school seniors from New Jersey who plan to further their education either at a college or university or trade/technical school. Winners will be notified in early May and will be awarded the scholarship on Monday, May 25, 2009 during the Memorial Day Ceremony held at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. In addition to the scholarship application and proof of acceptance to a college or trade school, all applicants must submit an essay about his/her visit to the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, located off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116 in Holmdel. To assist students in writing their essays, the Foundation offers free, veteran-led guided tours of the Memorial. Beginning February 7, 2009, and continuing through April 11, 2009, these tours are held every Saturday at 11 AM and at 1 PM. These tours are also available to the members of the general public who would like to learn more about the Memorial. Tours are approximately 45 minutes in length. The deadline for application and essay submissions is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17, 2009. Applications may be mailed or delivered to the NJVVM Scholarship Program, 1 Memorial Lane, P.O. Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733. For a scholarship application form or more information about the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation, please visit www.njvvmf.org or call (732) 335-0033.

EPA to Fence Off High-Lead Hot Spots Along Raritan Bay

**By Aliyah Shahid
Star-Ledger
Friday, March 20, 2009**

Signs and fencing will be erected within two weeks to restrict public access to three beachfront areas deemed hazardous along the Raritan Bay in Old Bridge and Sayreville, the Environmental Protection Agency said yesterday.

After finding extremely high lead levels in the area, the EPA has called for the immediate closing of the western jetty near Cheesequake Creek in Old Bridge, a small beach north of the jetty in Sayreville and at the Laurence Harbor seawall.

Beth Totman, a spokeswoman for the EPA, said the necessary paperwork to put up the signs and fencing was submitted yesterday.

Meanwhile, medical and environmental experts were alarmed by the levels of lead reported along the waterfront.

"While a single exposure might not pose an acute health threat in itself, lead levels in the body accumulate over a person's lifetime," said Iris Udasin, an associate professor of Environmental and Occupational Medicine at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in Newark. "Therefore, time spent on a beach contaminated this way could add significantly to levels of lead already in the body."

Udasin said the reported lead levels are alarmingly high, at least 10 times higher than acceptable lead levels in workplace situations.

The EPA conducted the tests in September and released the results to officials in Old Bridge and Sayreville last week.

At the Laurence Harbor seawall area, the range of lead sampled was as high as 142,000 parts per million. At the western jetty near Cheesquake Creek, the highest levels found were 198,000 parts per million. The average in the area was 52,399 parts per million. On the small beach area in Sayreville, the range of lead sampled was as high as 142,000 parts per million.

According to the EPA's website, lead is considered a hazard when it exceeds 1,200 parts per million in children's play areas.

"The scary thing is every time the water comes up on the sand, it will probably carry lead into the water and back out," said Steven Marcus, executive director of New Jersey Poison Information and Education System. "We got a bunch of kids that we see that we never can find the source of lead. This opens a whole new can of worms."

Bob Spiegel, executive director of Edison Wetlands Association, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the cleanup of hazardous waste sites, is concerned that signs and fencing are not enough. "To simply put up signs and fences is a Band-Aid on a surgical wound," said Spiegel. "There's going to be more areas that are affected."

The DEP began testing wet lands in Old Bridge about two years ago when the township was looking to sell property, said Ed Putnam, the DEP's assistant director of the publicly funded remediation program.

The DEP discovered lead in nearby areas. Putnam said the agency also has a document that indicated National Lead Industries, which at one time had paint manufacturing facilities in the two towns, was involved. In September, the DEP turned the case over to the EPA because, he said, National Lead would not help with the cleanup.

Putnam said the Cheesquake Creek area was not tested by the DEP.

Larry Hajna, a DEP spokesman, said his agency posted signs and fencing in the Laurence Harbor seawall and beach area.

Putnam said the EPA is officially heading the initiative, and the DEP will play a supporting role.

In a statement issued last week, the mayors of Sayreville and Old Bridge blamed National Lead for the contamination. The company owned a 400-acre paint pigment manufacturing plant in Sayreville and a refining operation in Perth Amboy until the 1980s.

Old Bridge Mayor James Phillips stressed again yesterday that the problem should be fixed by the company. "This is a site where we clearly know where the lead came from and who's responsible," the mayor said, adding, "I want my beach back."

Putnam said National Lead didn't feel they were the only responsible party. Several calls to National Lead Industries, which is based in Dallas, were not returned yesterday.

"We need to get to the bottom of this and determine the best way to remediate it and make sure there's funding to clean it up," said U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-6th Dist.). The congressman, whose district includes Sayreville and Old Bridge, said he wanted to determine just how extensive the damage is and who is responsible.

"We'll work with the EPA and the DEP to determine these things," he said. "If there is going to be a cost, that has to be incurred by the company that did it."

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We need the support of your club and its members

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

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