

# JCAA NEWSPAPER JUNE 2009

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on May 19th, 2009)

**Monthly Meeting Room Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd**

**"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"**

## JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

**Tuesday, May 26th, 2009**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd**

## NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

**Thursday June 11th, 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**

## IMPORTANT DATES

**May 26<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting back in the Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

**June 7<sup>th</sup>** BBEP Festival Island Heights

**June 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>** MAFMC Meeting NYC

**June 11<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board meeting

**June 13<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Fluke Tournament

**June 19<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony

**June 22, 2009** Mako Mania & Reef Rescue Rally Clarks Landing Point Pleasant, NJ

**June 30<sup>th</sup>** Last JCAA General Meeting before the Summer Break

**July 9<sup>th</sup>** NJMFC Meeting

**August 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>** ASMFC Summer meeting week in Alexandria, VA

**September 29** JCAA General Meeting

## **Ten Great Reasons to Enter the JCCA Fluke Tournament**

*By Sharon McKenna*

**One** - \$10,000 Grand Prize and you don't even have to catch a single fish!

**Two** - A great day of fishing fun with family and friends!

**Three** - A gala awards celebration at Trump Marina Hotel Casino!

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

**Five** - An evening at fun-filled Atlantic City!

**Six** - Cash and prizes galore!

**Seven** - A drawing for more door prizes than you can shake a graphite rod at!

**Eight** - A chance to take five of your friends or family fishing!

**Nine** - 90 fabulous port prizes! Ten chances to win at each port. Odds like this you won't see in Vegas!

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

## HUNDREDS OF CHANCES TO WIN

This event is actually nine mini-tournaments in one. Each weigh station has its own set of prizes for the heaviest fluke brought to the scales including a \$1,200 cash for first place, donated by JCAA plus Fisherman Headquarters for LBI; second prize is Shimano Fishing Lucanus® jigs fished on the specially designed Shimano Tescada® rods and the New Shimano Calcutta CTE 400 Jigging special reel, worth \$649, third place \$500 donated by JCAA and there are seven other great prizes from these sponsors: ProFishCo, Minn Kota, Canyon Gear International Outfitters, Interlux Paint and New Jersey Angler and Nor'east Saltwater Magazines. That's a total of 90 port prizes! But there is more, much more! Contestants register in one of nine ports from Sandy Hook to Fortescue, each with easy access weigh stations. You compete only against those boats registered in that port for the generous list of port prizes.

Once again, Trump Marina Hotel Casino Hotel has opened its arms to help us and we can't thank them enough! Whenever you visit Atlantic City, we hope you will remember they are concerned about your fishing and the ocean environment, because we do!

### THE DRAWING WITHIN THE TOURNAMENT

In addition to your chance to win any of the port prizes by using your fishing skills, every boat entered has a shot at winning the Grand Prize - \$10,000 cash! - and a host of door prizes! We know the economy has not been all that wonderful lately, so we are doing our part in making a fun time for you, your family and friends! Prizes will be given away as part of a huge drawing at the gala awards ceremony hosted by Trump Marina Hotel Casino in Atlantic City on June 19, 2009. At least one member from your crew must be present for you to win these door prizes. There will be plenty of fun at the awards ceremony and you will have a chance to meet the JCAA volunteer staff who have spent countless hours bringing this tournament to you. The Grand Prize "big check" will be on display along with dozens of door prizes. Tournament T-shirts and hats will be available, although you will likely want to have ordered one in advance. It is amazing how quickly they are purchased and enjoyed! Come early and meet the representatives from all of our

sponsors! Port prizes will, once again, be presented at the event by our master of ceremonies, Pat Donnelly.

## President's Report

*By Mark Taylor*

Our High Roller Raffle was drawn in Brick before our General Meeting on April 28th. Congratulations to all of this year's winners. I would like to thank everyone that participated in this year's High Roller Raffle. The High Roller Raffle is one of our fundraisers that keeps your Association running for you. We also had a presentation from Bill Figley, a former biologist for the Division of Fish and Wildlife, about Reef Rescue's Pots off the Reefs as well. I have scheduled the Director, Dave Chanda, of the Division of Fish and Wildlife to give a presentation on the Federal Saltwater Registry, **so attend the next general meeting on May 26th at Brick Civic Plaza, 270 Chambers Bridge Road in Brick.**

The **2009 JCAA Fluke Tournament** is coming up fast so get your entries in. We all are experiencing rough economic times so make sure you mark your calendar for **June 6th**. This is the date that the entry fee increases for the 2009 JCAA Fluke Tournament. This year's fishing date is June 13th with the ceremony down at Atlantic City on June 19th, so be a part of this great event by filling out an entry form that is in this newsletter and send it in. We are still looking for people to volunteer with the fluke tournament and if there are any questions about the Fluke Tournament, you can call the office or email [jcaa@jcaa.org](mailto:jcaa@jcaa.org).

The JCAA Saltwater Registry Committee gave a summary of their meeting with pros and cons on a few options that are being talked about. The club representatives were asked to bring the information back to their individual clubs for some discussion and feedback. They will be in attendance at the next general meeting to listen to Dave Chanda's presentation. The committee's co-chairs, Tom Siciliano and Bruce Smith, will keep us all informed of the committee's activities.

We need to continue to send letters of support for Bruce Freeman for the New Jersey seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. It is very important to have a recreational

representative on this Council. He is very well qualified for the New Jersey seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Letters of support from your individual member clubs would go a long way in ensuring that he gains the seat. If you have any questions contact JCAA Office. Below is a letter I sent on behalf of the JCAA to federal legislators in support of Bruce's appointment.

As a reminder, the JCAA has an Operations Manager, Sharon McKenna, in the office to answer your questions. Please contact her for information and she either will give the correct answer to your question or will direct your call to the proper person.

I am still trying to make our Individual Committees more effective in this coming year. So volunteer some of your time for something you love so much. Being part of 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 the JCAA office or me.

Everyone have a safe summer and enjoy time with your family.

**This is a reminder that there will be no JCAA General Meeting in June.**

Dear Federal Legislator,

Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), a state wide organization representing 75 fishing clubs in New Jersey, respectfully requests your letter of support for Bruce Freeman's candidacy for the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC). This letter of support, to be addressed to the Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator Jane Lubchenco and the National Marine Fisheries Service's acting Assistant Administrator Jim Balfiger, will go a long way towards ensuring Mr. Freeman's appointment to this important position.

This year, New Jersey has a great opportunity to fill its obligatory seat on the MAFMC with someone who has a balanced perspective and long historic knowledge of fisheries management. The process for filling this vacancy requires the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to forward a list of nominees for Governor Corzine to review. Governor Corzine has recognized the outstanding qualities of Bruce Freeman and has forwarded his nomination to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Mr. Freeman recently retired from the New Jersey Department of Environment Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife, after more than 25 years of service. During most of that time, he represented the division's director to the MAFMC. He has done an outstanding job working to protect our state and national marine resources. His many years of service have provided him with a sound comprehension of the very complex procedures of the MAFMC. His familiarity with many of the council members is a distinguishing characteristic that will surely add to his effectiveness while serving on the council.

Since retiring, Mr. Freeman has volunteered his time on the Executive Board of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association; as the Science Advisor to the Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science; and serves as Chairman of our Science and Research Committee where he continues his involvement in marine fisheries, conservation and fishery management. His past experience on the MAFMC makes him an exceptional candidate to once again represent New Jersey. Because of these outstanding attributes, we respectfully request that you support Mr. Freeman's appointment.

Respectfully,  
Mark Taylor, President  
Jersey Coast Anglers Association

**Fisheries Management &  
Legislative Report**  
*By Thomas Fote*

**Environmental Issues**

**PBS Frontline "Poisoned Waters"**

On Apr. 21, 2009 I watched the PBS Frontline special titled "Poisoned Waters". Correspondent Hedrick Smith examined the rising hazards to human health and the ecosystem, and why it's so hard to keep our waters clean. He used Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound and other sites as examples. You must watch this special online at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/>. This special confirms what JCAA has been saying for years. We are looking at the nutrient loading of our bays and estuaries and finding that this is causing hypoxia events, algae blooms and changing the ecosystem of the bay. Instead of the tremendous

diversity that was present, the population diversity is dwindling to organisms that can survive in low oxygen levels. The greatest examples are the Caspian and Black Seas in Russia. Both of these once highly productive waters are now supporting mainly jellyfish. The special discussed agricultural (both crop and animal production), power plant, and human gardening practices that cause the nitrogen and phosphorus loading.

The special also dealt with chemical pollutants such as PCB and endocrine disruptors. The PCB discussion focused on the Puget Sound and how this is contaminating the entire food chain. It also discussed one of my current favorite subjects, how endocrine disruptors are having a tremendous impact on the sex and reproduction of fish, amphibians and others in the food chain. It did not duck the issue of the impact on humans. If you care about yourself and your family, you need to watch this special, get concerned and get involved.

### **Dr Judith Weiss Presentation**

This month I also attended a presentation by Dr. Judith Weiss from Rutgers University on studies comparing the behavior of species of fish and crustaceans from the waters adjacent to Tuckerton and to Newark. What makes these two water systems different is the level of contamination. I first heard one of these reports in 1995 about killies. There have now been studies on blue claw crabs, fiddler crabs, shrimp, and bluefish. These studies leave no doubt in your mind that the levels of contamination have a negative impact on the behavior and the health of the stocks. Dr. Weiss is preparing a paper on the comparison of the five studies and I will make it available as soon as possible.

### **BBEP Policy Committee Meeting**

One of the other volunteer hats I wear is as a member of the Policy Committee of the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program. We had a meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup> and discussed nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in Barnegat Bay and the growing concerns about the increase in jellyfish. People are getting stung by jellyfish and complaining to their mayors and other elected officials. Citizens want answers. The good consequence of a jellyfish sting may be that the rising complaints may generate some action in our towns. It may also motivate people to stop over fertilizing their lawns and planting landscape that requires high fertilization and high water use. But

first everyone needs to see the connection between personal behavior and what is happening in the bay. Some of the environmentally conscious towns are changing their behavior on town property. They realize that the long stretches of grass lawns only promote high water use, high fertilization and habitat for the relentless growth of the geese population. Luckily unlike other bays and rivers, we don't discharge from sewer plants into the Barnegat Bay but there is much more we can do to improve the health of the bay. If you want to learn more about the bay, go to the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program webpage ([bbep.org](http://bbep.org)). Attend the Barnegat Bay Festival on June 7<sup>th</sup> in Island Heights to learn more.

### **PCBs in the Hudson**

Finally! Below are an article and an opinion piece about the possibility of removing PCBs from the Hudson. This has been a long time coming. Maybe your great grandchildren will be able to eat fish from the Hudson River without PCB contamination. This happens in spite of the fact that General Electric spent hundreds of millions of dollars to avoid their responsibilities.

### **ASMFC Spring Meeting Report**

#### **Winter Flounder**

I attended the ASMFC Spring Meeting. There were Management Board Meetings about many species. The complete meeting summary report can be found at the JCAA webpage or at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission webpage. That link is on the JCAA webpage. I have included information from three of the board meetings below. There is also an article from the Asbury Park Press about winter flounder.

The Winter Flounder Board did not completely close the Southern New England stock inshore fishery. I made a motion for status quo but could not even get a second from another state. There is a moratorium in federal waters but we do not know how long that will be in place. The New England Fisheries Management Council is preparing an addendum to the plan which will replace the moratorium in federal waters. The federal fishery is 95% of the fishery so any change will have a big impact. With the small two winter flounder bag limit, the 50 pound trip limit and the closure of federal waters, we essentially have a moratorium since the fishery in 2009/2010 will be reduced by about 98%. Again, because of the estuarine

dependency of the Southern New England winter flounder stock, it will be interesting what impact these measures actually have on rebuilding the stock. The failure to reduce the human impacts on the environment of the bays and estuaries will impede any rebuilding process. The environmental problems have a huge impact on the winter flounder population along with all the other estuarine dependent species.

### **River Herring**

Why am I not surprised we are suffering the same problems in river herring and shad? We know they are estuarine dependent as well. In 2006 New York State completed a study that looked at the possible impacts of requiring all the power plants to use a closed loop system. This system re-circulates the water within the power plant so they are no longer taking billions of gallons of water from the Hudson River to cool the plant and then returning the water, hot and organism and oxygen depleted. In addition, this water contains chemicals that prevent the growth of algae and mussels on the pipes. They found that the commercial and recreational harvest of shad and river herring could be 50% greater. That 50% greater harvest does not mean simply a 50% greater stock. In order to guarantee an increase of 50% in the harvest, the actual stock would increase by more than 6 fold. This is a dramatic increase in the total biomass. Because fisheries management plans cannot control the water usage by power plants and other industries, we're stuck reducing the commercial and recreational harvest. According to the amendment just passed to allow a harvest of river herring, any state must prove that the individual runs are sustainable. Since I do not see a giant increase in funding for New Jersey's Bureau of Marine Fisheries, we will probably have a moratorium on the harvest during most of the runs of river herring. What strikes me as ironic is that JCAA was founded when 6 surf fishing clubs joined together to deal with the problems of regulating river herring and now we are facing a total moratorium in 2011.

### **STRIPED BASS**

The Striped Bass Board met and there was another move to increase the commercial harvest. Luckily, that was held up until the new status of the stock is available later this year. Some of us expressed our concerns over the huge illegal commercial fishery for striped bass, not just in

Maryland and Virginia, but in many other states that have commercial fisheries. Many of us are concerned about the effects of environmental conditions, the lack of Menhaden, and the disease spreading through the striped bass stocks in the Chesapeake Bay. We think these factors are having a huge impact on the amount of striped bass that the Chesapeake Bay is contributing to the coastal migratory stocks. The Chesapeake Bay was always seen as the major contributor to the coastal migratory stocks. The Hudson and Delaware Rivers were viewed as minor contributors. With the problems in the Chesapeake Bay, this might no longer be true. We need to do some studies to get really accurate data on this. I believe the old numbers no longer represent what is actually happening and we need new data to adjust our management plans.

### **WINTER FLOUNDER BOARD (May 4, 2009)**

#### *Press Release*

### **Winter Flounder Board Approves**

### **Addendum I**

### **to Initiate Stock Rebuilding of Inshore Stocks**

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Winter Flounder Management Board approved Addendum I to Amendment 1 the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for the Inshore Stocks of Winter Flounder. The Addendum establishes harvest reductions for both the Gulf of Maine (GOM) and Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic (SNE/MA) inshore stocks of winter flounder (0 – 3 miles).

This action is taken in response to the findings of the 2008 Groundfish Assessment Review Meeting (GARM III), which estimates that the SNE/MA stock is at 9% of the target biomass (overfished) with overfishing occurring and that the GOM stock is likely to be overfished with overfishing likely to be occurring. The Addendum's provisions are also intended to complement federal management measures on groundfish stocks under the final interim rule, which will significantly reduce fishing mortality on federally-managed groundfish stocks, including winter flounder, in offshore waters (3 – 200 miles).

For the GOM, Addendum I requires an 11% reduction in fishing mortality for the recreational sector and a 250 pound possession limit for non-federally permitted commercial fishermen (estimated 31% reduction in harvest). Recreational reductions

may be achieved by using possession limits, seasons, or other measures. Commercial measures under the final interim rule are intended to achieve at least an 11% reduction in fishing mortality.

For the SNE/MA, the Addendum establishes a two fish recreational bag limit with current size limits and seasons maintained and a 50 pound possession limit for non-federally permitted commercial fishermen. Both measures will allow for the consistent application of management measures in state water fisheries and are intended to complement the federal interim rule which prohibits any take of SNE/MA winter flounder from offshore waters (an estimated 62% reduction in fishing mortality). The Board set bag and possession limits that are low enough to discourage directed fishing but allow fishermen to keep their winter flounder bycatch. The two fish recreational bag limit is estimated to achieve approximately a 50% reduction in harvest, while the 50 pound commercial possession limit is estimated to achieve approximately a 65% reduction in harvest.

Cooperative management between state and federal waters on winter flounder is particularly important because of the unique migration patterns and spawning site fidelity of this species.

When winter flounder migrate to inshore state water spawning grounds, they become concentrated in certain areas, making it easy for anglers to locate and remove a substantial portion of them. Concentrated fishing effort on spawning females, which are the most productive part of the population, can result in a larger net loss to the population than the landings may suggest. The Addendum's measures seek to enhance stock rebuilding efforts throughout the species range by reducing fishing related mortality on inshore spawning stocks. States are required to submit proposals to meet the required harvest reductions by mid-June. The Board will meet in August to review the Technical Committee's evaluations of state proposals and take final action. States will be required to implement their regulations by November 1, 2009. For more information, please contact Christopher Vonderweidt, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or cvonderwiedt@asmfc.org.

#### **Meeting Summary**

In addition to approving Addendum I, the Winter Flounder Management Board also accepted Advisory

Panel nominations for Gary Libby from Maine and Thomas Siciliano from New Jersey.

For more information, please contact Christopher Vonderweidt, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or cvonderwiedt@asmfc.org.

### **SHAD & RIVER HERRING MANAGEMENT BOARD (May 6, 2009)**

#### **Meeting Summary**

The Shad and River Herring Management Board selected final management and monitoring provisions to the Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Shad and River Herring (River Herring Management) and referred the Amendment to the full Commission for final approval (see press release on page 24 for additional information). The Board deferred review of Draft Amendment 3 to the Interstate FMP for Shad and River Herring (Shad Management) until its next meeting, scheduled for mid-August. For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or at ktaylor@asmfc.org.

#### **Motions**

The following motions pertain to *state waters only*, except where noted.

**Move to define "sustainable fishery" as: A commercial and/or recreational fishery that will not diminish the potential future stock reproduction and recruitment. And to add this definition of "sustainable fishery" to the glossary of Amendment 3 and that the entire glossary of Amendment 3 be added to the glossary of Amendment 2.**

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell, second by Dr. Laney. Motion carries (17 in favor, 1 abstention, 0 null).

**Move that the Board adopts the working group recommendation to prohibit state waters commercial and recreational fisheries beginning January 1, 2012 unless those states develop harvest management plans which include within them a demonstration that they are sustainable. Plans demonstrating that a fishery is sustainable must be submitted to the TC for review by January 1, 2010 and the Board will consider approval at the ASMFC Spring Meeting, and prior to the fishing year beginning January 1, 2012. Proposals to reopen closed fisheries can be submitted annually as part of the annual state compliance report.**

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell, second by Ms. Duval. Motion carries (14 in favor, 5 opposed).

**Move that Board require that existing monitoring requirements of Addendum 1 to Amendment 1 for American shad be complemented by equivalent measure for the monitoring of river herring.**

Motion made by Mr. Stockwell, second by Mr. Simpson. Motion carries unanimously.

The following motion pertains to *federal waters*:

**Move that ASMFC send a letter to the Secretary of Commerce supporting efforts underway by the NEFMC and MAFMC to effectively monitor bycatch of river herring in small mesh fisheries, and encouraging the Secretary of Commerce to provide additional resources to support the cooperative efforts between the ASMFC and the Councils to better manage anadromous fisheries, and request that the Secretary of Commerce take emergency action with regard to implementing the bycatch monitoring measures recently under discussion with NEFMC.**

Motion made by Dr. Duval, second by Mr. Boyles. Motion carries (18 in favor, 1 abstention).

**Move that states should develop habitat restoration recommendations for river herring as outlined in Draft Amendment 3 (Shad).**

Motion made by Dr. Laney, second by Mr. Stockwell. Motion carries (18 in favor, 1 abstention).

**Move to recommend to the full Commission approval of Amendment 2 to the Shad & River Herring FMP.**

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Travelstead. Motion tabled until discussion on deminimis is concluded.

**Move to adopt the 1% de minimis as stated in Addendum 1 to Amendment 1.**

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Cole. Motion carries (16 in favor, 2 opposed).

**Move to recommend to the full Commission approval of Amendment 2 to the Shad & River Herring FMP.**

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Travelstead. Motion carries (17 in favor, 2 opposed).

**ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (May 4, 2009)**

**Meeting Summary**

The Striped Bass Management Board met to receive several reports and consider initiating an addendum to Amendment 6. A report from the Striped Bass Technical Committee included final responses to seven tasks from the Board; a preliminary report had been provided in February. The report will be made available through the Commission's website (minutes and meeting summaries link on the striped bass page). A report from the Committee on Economics and Social Sciences recommended steps for completing a socioeconomic evaluation of the striped bass fisheries; a full work plan is expected in August.

Following these reports, the Management Board considered several motions for an addendum. The first motion proposed two coastal commercial quota issues for inclusion in an addendum and was subsequently split into two separate motions, of which one passed and one failed. The passed motion set in action the development of an addendum to include options for rolling-over unused commercial quota. The addendum will address such issues as maximum roll-over amount, accumulation of unused quota, and monitoring of roll-over impacts. A draft addendum 6 will be prepared for the Board's next meeting in August, and Technical Committee and Advisory Panel advice will be sought.

The motion that did not pass asked for the inclusion of addendum options to increase coastal commercial quota. The motion was based on estimates produced by the Technical Committee of the expected effect on fishing mortality from increasing the coastwide coastal commercial quota by 15-30 percent. While this analysis found that the expected effect would be relatively minor, the Board favored waiting for the results of the 2009 update stock assessment before considering quota increases.

The Committee on Economics and Social Sciences' (CESS) report addressed a Board task to evaluate management's success in fostering quality and economically viable recreational, forhire, and commercial fisheries (an objective in Amendment 6). The Board had requested an economic impact analysis at its last meeting; however, following discussion of this request, the CESS recommended that economic value and social impacts also be evaluated. The Board approved the CESS's proposal to develop options for assessing socioeconomic value and impacts to be presented at the Board's next meeting in August.

Three additional items were added to the Board's agenda. Thomas O'Connell, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service, summarized sentences and fines levied in the ongoing poaching case, and indicated that new regulations to improve harvest reporting and accountability measures had been implemented. Michelle Duval, North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, alerted the Board that its Marine Fisheries Commission had sent a letter to National Marine Fisheries Service requesting reconsideration of the moratorium on striped bass harvest and possession in federal waters. Wilson Laney, US Fish and Wildlife Service, summarized the results of the 2009 Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise and advised that an alternative vessel would again be needed for the 2010 cruise because of the NOAA Ship Oregon II's maintenance schedule.

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

## **Reclaiming a River**

### **Editorial**

**New York Times, May 16, 2009**

A floating dredge lowered a clamshell bucket to the bottom of the Hudson River on Friday and pulled up a load of muck contaminated with PCBs — oily industrial lubricants that General Electric spent decades dumping into the river, and decades more fighting to keep there.

It was a big moment — the beginning, after years of legal, scientific and political wrangling, of one of the costliest and most complicated environmental cleanups in American history. It was testimony to the power of sustained advocacy, and a tribute to everyone — private citizens, environmental groups, scientists, politicians from both parties — who had fought to make it happen.

It was also a reminder of the importance of state and federal environmental laws, without which this never would have happened, and of the need to keep them strong in the face of constant pressure to undercut them.

If successful, the cleanup will also add one more chapter to the long and improbably triumphant rebirth of the Hudson, one of the world's great rivers. Once little more than a sewer for the towns and industries along its banks, the Hudson staged a remarkable comeback after the enactment of the clean water laws of the 1970s. But one blot

remained: a large concentration of PCBs in river sediments below two G.E. plants in the Upper Hudson.

The company had dumped these toxic hydrocarbons in the river for decades, back when that was legal. They were banned in the 1970s, but by then they had worked their way into the food chain, the striped bass in particular. The parts of the river saturated with PCBs were identified as a federal Superfund site, with G.E. held responsible for cleaning them up or at least containing them.

But how? The fight raged for nearly two decades — dueling scientists and dueling lawyers — with G.E. arguing that the PCBs would biodegrade and, in any case, were best left alone, and the federal government arguing that they ought to be dredged and buried off-site.

The government ultimately prevailed. The basic cleanup plan was devised by the Clinton administration and ratified by George W. Bush's Environmental Protection Agency administrator, Christine Todd Whitman, who in 2002 ordered G.E. to get on with the job. Even then, the river waited as the company sought new studies and found new reasons for delay. As recently as March, G.E. was in court trying to argue that the E.P.A. had no constitutional right to tell it what to do.

G.E.'s engineers have tackled the job more willingly than its lawyers. They have built a "dewatering facility" on the Champlain Canal that will process barge loads of dredge material, sending clean water back to the river and dried toxic sediment by train to a landfill in the Texas Panhandle. Phase One of the project, covering 94 acres of the most densely contaminated river bottom, will end in October. Then comes a period of analysis to examine whether the dredging stirred up unacceptable levels of PCBs, as G.E. has warned it might.

It is unclear when Phase Two, which will cover a much bigger area, will begin. G.E. has not yet agreed to do it, and environmentalists, for good historical reasons, are nervous. They worry that since G.E. designed and is running the project, the first phase will go awry somehow and give G.E. an excuse to quit. They worry that the E.P.A. will lack the will to force the job to completion.

The E.P.A.'s current administrator, Lisa Jackson, is a strong environmentalist, and we expect that she will insist that G.E. live up fully to its responsibility. For now, the start of dredging is

reason enough to raise a glass of silty Hudson water to toast what we hope will soon be the river's final break with its toxic past.

## **Dredging of Pollutants Begins in Hudson**

**New York Times May 16, 2009**

**By Andrew C. Revkin**

MOREAU, N.Y. — Twenty-five years after the federal government declared a long stretch of the Hudson River to be a contaminated Superfund site, the cleanup of its chief remaining source of pollution began here Friday with a single scoop of mud extracted by a computer-guided dredge.

Twelve dredges are to work round the clock, six days a week, into October, removing sediment laced with the chemicals known as PCBs. Mile-long freight trains running every several days will carry the dried mud to a hazardous-waste landfill in Texas.

An estimated 1.3 million pounds of PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, flowed into the upper Hudson from two General Electric factories for three decades before they were banned, in 1977, as a health threat to people and wildlife. In high doses, they have been shown to cause cancer in animals and are listed by federal agencies as a probable human carcinogen.

"Today, the healing of the Hudson begins," George Pavlou, the Environmental Protection Agency's acting regional administrator, said under bright skies in a riverbank ceremony here as federal, state and local officials, G.E. representatives and environmental campaigners looked on.

Those gathered scrambled from a white tent to get a good view as a blue clamshell bucket rose slowly from the riverbed holding the first five cubic yards of mud. A lone duck paddled downriver along the far bank.

The dredging operation is the first phase of an operation that, if it continues as projected through 2015, could largely eliminate the Hudson's last significant toxic legacy from an era of unfettered industrial activity and dumping.

While the Superfund site itself is 197 miles long, stretching from Hudson Falls, N.Y., to the southern tip of Manhattan, the initial phase involves spots along a six-mile segment south of Fort Edward, the hamlet across the river from this industrial site.

G.E. is supervising and paying for the cleanup, which federal officials have estimated could cost more than \$750 million. Industry experts say the

ultimate cost could be many times than that, however. (G.E. declines to give an estimate.)

While most of the chemicals were dumped when such practices were legal, the Superfund law requires the responsible polluting party, when one can be pinpointed, to foot the cleanup bill.

Yet G.E. has reserved the right, after a review of the operation in 2010, to reject the project's much larger second phase. Federal environmental officials have said that if it did that, they would most likely order the cleanup to proceed and levy enormous penalties against the company.

The first phase is projected to remove 22 tons of PCBs from the riverbed; the second phase would remove 102 tons, the E.P.A. said. Even as it embarks on the cleanup, G.E. has a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Superfund law working its way through federal court. (The company is a responsible party in 52 active Superfund sites across the country, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.)

Yet spokesmen for G.E. are quick to defend the record of the company, which these days, with its Ecomagination line of products, is casting itself as a good environmental citizen.

Mark Behan, a longtime spokesman for the company on PCBs, said that the challenge to the Superfund law "has no bearing on the Hudson project."

He said G.E. had acted in good faith for many years and that in 2002, its chairman, Jeffrey R. Immelt, made a public pledge to cooperate and implement the dredging plan, drafted and approved by the E.P.A. Three related accords have since been signed, he said, and the company has met every commitment so far.

In organizing the ceremony near the first dredging spot, the agency cast the moment as a milestone in the history of the river and of environmental governance in the United States.

Yet environmental officials and groups that spent years fighting General Electric's efforts to challenge the need to remove the mud were more critical.

Edward O. Sullivan, who from 1987 to 1995 wrestled with General Electric lawyers and scientists as New York State's deputy commissioner of environmental conservation and ran the state's hazardous-waste cleanup program, said that by pursuing the court challenge to the Superfund law and reserving the right to reject the second phase of

the cleanup, General Electric had constructed two potential “escape hatches.”

“Clearly, G.E. has the capability to do it right,” said Mr. Sullivan, who now runs the private group Scenic Hudson and witnessed the start of the dredging on Friday. “But the question remains, is the commitment there? So far, the company has been masterful at instigating delay.”

The decision by the E.P. A. in 2002 to require dredging was a mix of politics and science, with a variety of expert panels split on the efficacy of dredging, but also on the perils of leaving so much contamination in sediments that might be disturbed by powerful floods or other factors.

In the 400 years since the first Europeans probed its waters, the Hudson has seen grand phases of development, with oyster, sturgeon and shad fisheries replaced by factories spewing everything from paint and dye to adhesives and toxic chemicals into the waters.

From the 1970s onward, the nascent American environmental movement grew partly out of efforts to restore the Hudson. The battle over PCBs dominated that phase.

After other cleanups, communities that avoided their riverbanks for two generations because of sewage or chemicals have reclaimed them. Still, from Fort Edward south to the dam at Troy, residents cannot keep any fish hooked in the river because of the chemicals that accumulate in them.

The hope now, environmental officials say, is that dredging 98 percent of the PCBs out of hot spots in the river like the Thompson Island Pool will greatly speed what has been a slow natural decline in levels of the chemicals in striped bass and other fish species.

After the PCB-tainted sediment is extracted, it will be replaced by clean fill, along with plants native to the river. Barges holding the contaminated mud will pass through locks into the Champlain Canal to a nearby \$100 million treatment plant and transport hub built by General Electric for that purpose.

As work crews in an aluminum boat passed back and forth Friday along the waterfront in Fort Edward, some local residents at Jim’s Broadway Cafe reflected on how the river might benefit from the dredging operation.

Mary Cunningham, a former Chamber of Commerce president and self-described “river bug” whose house sits on one of the banks, said raw

sewage was the main concern when she was young, and later, the chemical contamination.

She and Jim Rosch, the cafe’s owner, said that while the community has been divided over whether to dredge, for them it was never a question.

Mr. Rosch, 62, said he looked forward to taking a swim in the river without concern, and someday, to seeing people catch fish and keep them. “For the plant life, the fish life, the human life, it just has to be done,” he said. “The scientists made one thing clear: It’s not going to clean itself.”

## **And then there were two** **Asbury Park Press May 15, 2009**

**By John Oswald**

What was once considered inevitable, has now been avoided. The 2010 recreational winter flounder will not be closed. But the reprieve has come at a price.

The Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission’s Winter Flounder Management Board voted last week to reduce the 10 fish limit to two fish next year. The size of the fish, 12 inches, remains the same, as does the the length of the season — short.

On the commercial side, fishermen without federal permits, are restricted to a 50-pound per trip limit. Commercial fisherman with federal permits have had their season closed since April 30 and when it reopens has yet to be decided.

Tom Fote, one of New Jersey’s representatives to the ASMFC, said the two-fish limit was adopted when it was agreed that such a limit would reduce the recreational harvest by 50 percent, which was one of the five options available to manage the fishery. “I made the motion to retain the status quo, but I couldn’t get a second,” Fote said.

Some might argue that they might as well have just closed the season saying it is unlikely any angler will dedicate the time and effort to winter flounder fishing if the reward will only be two fish.

Jim Donofrio, executive director of the Recreational fishing Alliance and one of the few who predicted the season would not be closed, disagrees. “It’s a significant cutback for sure, but it’s still an opportunity to keep fishing. Let’s use an opportunity while one still exists” he said. “We will not rebuild the stocks by stopping fishing.”

Donofrio was alluding to the fact that states that have closed their inshore fisheries have not seen any rebuilding of the winter flounder stocks.

Recent history has shown that no matter what fishery managers do to reduce mortality by targeting the recreational fishery, it doesn’t help the restoration of the stock.

“It’s still better than nothing. There is still an opportunity to catch winter flounder. Guys fishing for striped bass in the spring, if they catch a winter flounder, they won’t have to throw it back. They will still be able to take a couple of fish,” Fote said.”

Bob Matthews of Fisherman’s Den in Belmar said he’s received a lot of feedback from fishermen coming into the shop who say it’s such a small bag limit, they should just close it.

But he, too, disagrees. “I think this is a good idea. It at least gives the guys who want to go fishing a chance to go. Some of my customers, if they catch two in a week, they’re happy. And tackle shops will still get a chance to sell some worms. It’s a lot better than closing it down, he said.

John DePersenaire, fisheries policy and science researcher at the RFA said landings of winter flounder have been declining for years and the fishery doesn’t receive the attention it once did. “Closing the fishery would have given people false hope that they were doing something to help the fishery,” DePersenaire said. “It would be an unnecessary action.”

For my part, I thought a necessary action would be to go and see what was going on with the winter flounder fishery firsthand and Capt. Bill Burge of the Barvic out of Point Pleasant was kind enough to include me in one of the few remaining winter flounder trips he would be making before the season closes on May 21. Unfortunately, someone neglected to tell the flounder I was coming, and while the charter, consisting mainly of members of the Renaissance Fishing Club from Manchester, did well with out-of-season blackfish — which were returned — and the occasional blowfish, the flatties remained out of sight.

But Burge, who has been involved in the charter business most of his life, starting on the docks when he was thirteen, was happy to comment on the state of the fishery. “It’s turned into one giant bureaucratic mess. Total nonsense,” he said. “They (fishery managers) have no idea what goes on out here. I know everyone has to make a living, but when it comes to regulations, hook and line fishermen are second-class fisherman. We always take it on the nose.”

That’s not a new sentiment. Because there are just so many avenues managers can take to control mortality, recreational fisherman are usually the first to suffer with tougher restrictions.

Commercial fisherman, however, are also feeling the pain over winter flounder now that an emergency action has called for a closure of the offshore fishery for federal permit holders.

Burge said it’s been a tough season to begin with. “With winter flounder, it’s got be the right temperature at the right time.” The water, he said, stayed cold for too long and, coupled with the bad weather and tough economy, the fishing has been sparse.

One initiative that Donofrio said would be an enormous help would be the conversion of power plants located on rivers and estuaries to a closed loop heating and cooling system. “I would like to see the states from Delaware on up use money available from the stimulus package to put closed loop systems on their plants,” Donofrio said. Open loop systems suck up huge amounts of water which contain countless winter flounder larva that are then destroyed. The heated water is then returned to the estuary causing further harm. This situation is viewed as being far more harmful to the stock than any impact caused by the recreational fisherman.

Fote has been banging the drum against environmental degradation and for some time. He, too, points to the power plants as big culprit in the loss of the fishery. “Not only do they kill the larval fish, they treat the water to kill all algae and nutrients and return it to the estuary warm and sterile,” he said.

Fote says closed loop systems and cooling towers on power plants would have a significant, positive impact on fish stocks and its been proven with studies in the Hudson River when it comes to the harvest of river shad and herring in areas where closed systems and towers have been put in place.

“They’re always going after the fishermen instead of what is really damaging the stocks.,” he said.

Fote went on to say it will be interesting to see what affect the closure of the offshore fishery will have on the winter flounder situation, but he cautions you can’t find out anything in one year. “We’re doing this bag reduction, but now that the ocean fishery is shut down we’ll see what happens.”

“We keep changing the regulations every year. We never have a consistent base. Hopefully we’ll get some consistency over a period of time and see if we can affect a change,” he said.

Cruising peacefully down the Manasquan River on a beautiful May morning aboard the Barvic with the Renaissance Fishing Club, it’s a little hard to believe that the fish were in search of is at the heart of all this debate.

“I just wish these guys would find out what’s really going on with the fishery and smooth this thing out.” Burge said. In the interim, he’ll make a couple more half-day winter flounder trips through this weekend

## **Historic Clubs exhibit at the Tuckerton Seaport**

*By Sharon McKenna*

The Tuckerton Seaport ([www.tuckertonseaport.org](http://www.tuckertonseaport.org)) will be holding Maritime Heritage Festival in August and we have been cordially invited to put together an exhibit to show off the long history and importance of the recreational fishing sector in New Jersey and the region. The focus of the exhibit is twofold: then and now. Then: To show the rich history of recreational fishing, by highlighting older items – fishing rods, old trophies and plaques, club patches alone could take up a whole wall! Now: To educate about current conditions for our sport while highlighting our member clubs and their activities today.

If your club chooses to participate, please be sure that along with the historic artifacts you also send in pamphlets about your club including any tournaments you may be holding and if you are looking for new members, some membership forms. The Tuckerton Seaport has generously offered to place brochures, newsletters and entry forms next to each club's exhibit.

I have reached out to several of our member clubs with a long history here in New Jersey and have received great encouragement. In fact, Don Marantz has already brought in a box of amazing artifacts from the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club that boggles the mind, including trophies going back to 1912 and the more recent framed letter from Governor Corzine congratulating the club on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Can your club beat that? Even if it cannot, please consider showcasing your club at the Seaport. Even if I have already contacted your club, please call me at the JCAA office so we can discuss this tremendous opportunity to highlight your club, our sport and the rich cultural history of recreational fishing in our region. And if your club is in Pennsylvania, please know that the Seaport welcomes your participation too. So, give me a call – 732-506-6565.

**ENTER THE JCAA FLUKE  
TOURNAMENT BY JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>  
FOR EARLY ENTRY FEE**

## **MRFSS SURVEYS**

*By Thomas Siciliano*

Every year for the past six years the National Marine Fisheries Service has held a Constituent Data Review Workshop. I have attended the last two years and just returned. The goal of the meeting is to preview the 2008 catch and effort estimates, understand how they were derived, and discuss any specific concerns or questions regarding the 2008 data collection effort and the resultant estimates.

I was hopeful that there would be sufficient detail to understand how the numbers are derived. Dave Van Voorhees gave an overview. Gordon Colvin talked about the new Marine Recreational Information Program and Dr. Ronald Salz discussed converting survey data to catch estimates.

The MRFSS survey consists of two components, the intercept survey which is the catch data used and the random household telephone survey which defines the effort. The data from the two methods are combined by some mysterious method to estimate the number of anglers and fishing days. Even though the document is over an inch thick, the best that it can be described as is an executive overview. There is very little detail to truly understand how the numbers, which are used by fisheries managers to set the quotas that we have struggled with, are derived.

The success rate of the phone survey in finding a family that has an angler who has fished in the last two months is in the range of 1%. The new registry should improve this ratio immensely. My guess is that it should improve to at least 50% and for some waves could reach 90%. This will greatly help the effort side of the data collection. Nowhere in the report is the number of phone calls mentioned.

Page 15 of the report states that the quality of the estimates is largely dependent on sample size. I asked if the new survey would also increase the dockside intercepts by a percentage similar to that expected from the phone survey. I was shocked when the answer came back as maybe they would double the dockside surveys. I asked the question differently of another speaker later in the program. I asked him to make the assumption that funding was not a constraint and they could get all the money they needed to do the job right. I could not get an answer.

The MRFSS conducted 1850 angler interviews of the private/rental boat for the coast for the year for all species. The JCAA fluke tournament survey data provides more hard numbers in terms of catch and effort in one day than the entire intercept survey does for the year. In 2008 JCAA had 653 boats with an average of three anglers reporting their catch and effort information. In one day JCAA generated approximately the same amount of data that was used by MRFSS for the entire year of 2008 to determine the catch and effort for all fishing in New Jersey.

An apparent flaw in the data presented is that unsuccessful trips are not presented. In my mind I would think that this would be an important piece of data and should be included in any report.

Here are some observations of the data in the report. The number of angler trips for the last 10 years are presented on a graph. For the Mid-Atlantic region the data shows a low of 14 million trips in 1999 up to a high of 23 million trips in 2007. The number of trips jumps up and down and no explanation is given to the variation. There is no attempt to verify the number with bait sales, party boat trips or gasoline prices. In 2008 the data shows about 12% less trips than 2007. I guess people who lose their house, lose their jobs and have their cars repossessed must go fishing. The New Jersey data shows 9% less trips taken in 2008 than in 2007.

Frustration with the survey data is not confined to New Jersey. The people from Maryland did an analysis of the shore catch of summer flounder, which clearly showed what can happen when scant data is multiplied by the total number of anglers in the state. Maryland has a minimal summer flounder fishery. There is only one place in Maryland where you might have a chance to catch one from shore. It is a bridge on Route 50 in Ocean City. Based on two intercepts (2 fish) it was estimated that 14692 keepers were caught in September 2008 from shore. The Maryland number is 54 fish for September from shore. What is missing is the unsuccessful trips and expanding the data to areas where no fish are caught.

Florida has shown a steady increase in angler trips over the years. In 2008 the West Coast had an increase, yet the East Coast showed a drop of 25%. Inconsistencies like these don't instill confidence in the minds of recreational anglers. NOAA has a long way before anglers will believe the statistics!

Question for readers. Why does the United States do a census every 10 years? Why don't they just do a statistical survey of say 1% of the population? The statistics should be pretty good at a 1% sampling level, shouldn't they? They don't sample because they want the best possible data, so they do a census. Now, I'm not suggesting that NMFS do a census of all recreational anglers. I would suggest that given the complexity of fishing data the sampling rate should be much higher than it currently is. Let's look at the party and charter boat information. NMFS conducts a for-hire survey even though they currently have census data on all federally permitted party and charter boats. In 2008 NMFS conducted 2448 interviews. Given that the party and charter boats account for approximately 8% of the angler trips, that is a level of 0.58 %. I wonder how the survey data compares to the census information that has been submitted for the last 20 years? The survey rate for private and rental boats is 0.05% and for shore anglers even less at 0.03%

I would like to put out a call to any statisticians to join a committee to come up with an appropriate number of intercepts they feel would be the minimum number necessary to give or obtain accurate catch numbers.

## **HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES**

*By John Koegler*

### **ACCESS**

Nothing is more important to anglers than their opportunity to catch and keep a fish they desire to eat or release as they choose. It is clear that when anglers conserve and release fish they are being penalized by rules that impose a release mortality percentage on their released fish. Put another way, anglers observing the rules and carefully releasing a fish results in them having fewer fish to keep and eat. This results in anglers going over quota even though they kept far fewer fish to eat. In 2009, the revised Magnuson act requires anglers to pay back all overages with a reduced quota for the next year. Is this what anglers expect from fishery management?

Offshore anglers have been punished for their tuna conservation with tighter rules and regulations since 1976. Never yet have the fish stocks they conserved resulted in anglers getting a larger bag limit or quota.

## **JCAA Youth Education Report**

*By Greg Kucharewski*

Over the last ten years, anglers have been harassed with tougher rules each year for catching and keeping a bluefin tuna. Last fall, the US delegates to ICCAT voluntarily reduced the US 2009 quota of bluefin tuna. At the same time, after 34 years of failure, the European nations have yet to reduce their landings of bluefin tuna in their managed area. US anglers' reward for their 34 years of conservation is now one bluefin tuna per boat per trip for 2009.

Many offshore anglers have responded by ignoring the bluefin tuna and targeting the canyon tuna species like yellowfin, bigeye and longfin tunas. Then NMFS HMS division decided that anglers were catching too many yellowfin tuna and imposed an angler limit of three yellowfin tuna per angler per trip. At the same time they imposed ZERO limits on the commercial sector. A suit was filed to stop this illegal action but was dropped because of angler's failure to fund the lawsuit expense.

Last summer, for the first time in memory, there were no yellowfin tuna to be found in the late summer and early fall canyon fishery. High fuel prices and few fish resulted in far fewer trips by offshore anglers. A few diehards gave it a try anyway. Some lucky few were rewarded with a swordfish or a few longfin tuna making the trip worth the effort.

Anglers who failed to catch any fish tried another deep water fishery, tile fishing. This is tough fishing. The water is deep, usually 400 to 600 feet. But when you find the right spot you are rewarded with a 10 to 30 pound tile fish for dinner – which saves your trip!

Now, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management council is revising their rules for tilefish with Amendment #1. The Tilefish Fishery Management Plan had primarily affected the commercial fishery and has been a great success. The commercial limits imposed have resulted in far more tilefish being available. The New proposed amendment to the plan proposes commercial Individual Fish Quotas for the commercial sector.

Anglers will be rewarded with proposed new recreational permits, reporting requirements and possession limits. Comments can be made by June 6, 2009. The Federal Register was published on May 4, 2009. The number is 74 FR 20448.

## **SUPPORT THE ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM**

### **START A SCHOOL FISHING CLUB**

It's easy to start a fishing club at your local school. Many schools throughout New Jersey are promoting outdoor activities such as saltwater and freshwater fishing. The first thing to do is research club activities in your school. If your school does not have a fishing club talk to school officials and request assistance in forming a school fishing club. Most schools have members on their Faculty or PTA/PTO parents that have some knowledge of fishing and would volunteer time to get your school's fishing club up and running. Fishing is a great outlet for students and there is plenty to learn. Students can learn about the environment, state laws, regulations, water safety, and angling techniques. The best thing about fishing is that it's a non-competitive sport. Students can have fun and relax and it helps them enjoy school and promotes higher self-esteem. If fishing equipment is needed you can contact the JCAA Youth Education Committee at [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com) and we can provide loaner fishing equipment to get you started.

### **NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK (NFBW)**

June 6 – 14 2009 is National Fishing and Boating Week. Last year, the JCAA Youth Education Committee coordinated fishing and aquatic education programs for the weeklong celebration of National Fishing Week. This year we will be working with disadvantaged students in Ocean and Monmouth County. If your fishing club is a member of the JCAA and you plan to hold an event for (NFBW), please let us know about your event and how many participants registered for your event. Member clubs that wish to conduct (NFBW) program and need guidance about how to organize an event can visit the RBFF web site [www.rbff.org](http://www.rbff.org) for information.

### **NEWARK BAIT AND FLY CASTING DINNER**

This past April, I was invited to attend the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club Annual Dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located in Union, NJ. As always the Newark Bait and Flycasting Club had plenty of delicious food and traditional games/raffles. Their guest speaker was Mr. Stephen Carey, President of Fish Sense lures. Mr. Carey explained the design of his product and how the lure worked to catch fish in deep cold water during the early spring season. He also mentioned how easy it was for youngsters to use the lure and he shared some tricks to get your lure free if you happen to get snagged on the bottom. Fish Sense can be used in freshwater or saltwater and the lure can be adjusted by selecting where to position the snap on the lure. Mr. Carey said, "The company is fairly new and he

is working hard with his partner to get their product recognized.” He also stated, “It’s a lot of hard work to bring a new product to market.” The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club also announced their 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Fishing Day Derby ran through May 8, 2009. This is another great event that the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club runs and there are over 200 children registered for the event. Many thanks go to Gary Yamamoto, Custom Baits, for being a great supporter of this annual fishing event for children.

**NATIONAL YOUTH FISHING & BOATING GRANT REQUEST**

The JCAA Youth Education Committee received word that we were not selected to receive the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF) National Youth Fishing and Boating Grant. We will redesign our grant submission and give it another shot next year.

**DONATION OF USED FISHING EQUIPMENT**

We appreciate the donation of used fishing from Peg Gleman, Bayville, NJ. The five fishing rods and reels were refurbished by members of the Shore Surf Club and distributed to children at risk in Monmouth County. Hopefully, the children will catch their fish on a donated fishing rod and reel. Thanks, Peg!

**Volunteer Opportunities**  
**(Or Many Hands Make Light Work!)**  
*By Sharon McKenna*

So, you like to fish, but find yourself bored on rainy days when you are wishing that you could be fishing. Why not do the next best thing? Join us at the JCAA office here in Toms River to TALK about fishing. I don’t mean to brag, but our volunteers are among the most talented and enthusiastic anglers in New Jersey. They make the office hum with their passion for the sport. Why not join us to soak up that energy?

JCAA is kicking off a slightly more formal and less weather dependent volunteer program, and we’d love to have you on board. You can be part of helping our sport with your participation in the volunteer corps – a valuable program that reaps great benefits for our shared goals of increased public access, conservation of nursery areas, sound science and fair and equitable quota.

Please look over the volunteer update sheet on the webpage ([www.jcaa.org](http://www.jcaa.org)) to see where you can fit into our laughter-filled days. And if hanging out in the office is not for you, we also have a calendar of events that you can help with, such as the

Atlantic City International Power Boat Show, our famously well-attended Sports Person of the Year Dinner Dance, our Fluke Tournament Gala celebration at Trump Marina Hotel Casino...the list really does go on and on. Please let me know of your interest and I will sign you up straight away. Every minute, every hour, makes a difference for our sport.

If you have any questions about the volunteer program and its benefits, please give me a call here at the JCAA office. 732-506-6565. JCAA’s strength resides with our amazing volunteer corps, so if any organization understands and appreciates the time and effort of volunteers, it is definitely your friends here at JCAA. Won’t you join us? Thank you so much for your support!

**The winners of the 2009 High Roller Raffle are:**

1. Tom Pasko of Somerset, NJ won the Shimano Tiagra TI-30WLRSA reel with a Shimano TLC X58MHRSA rod  

**Value \$688**

*Donated by Johnson Outdoors Inc*
2. Lacey Marine of Forked River NJ won the Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor model RT 55/SE/L&D  

**Value \$550**

*Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
3. John Kunicki, of Tuckerton NJ won the \$500.00 Shopping Spree at Fisherman's Headquarters  

**Value \$500**

*Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
4. John Distafano of Lumberton NJ won the Shimano Calcutta 700BSV reel w/a Rogue SSW extra heavy 765C rod  

**Value \$480**

*Donated by JCAA and Rogue*
5. Roman Grodzickyj of Bayonne NJ won the Shimano Calcutta 400BSV reel w/a G Loomis Pro Blue PBR844C rod  

**Value \$465**

*Donated by JCAA and G Loomis*
6. Jeff B. won the Shimano Calcutta 400BSV reel w/a H&H LSW845722 rod  

**Value \$440**

*Donated by JCAA and H&H*
7. Vicente Velez won the Shimano Stradic - ST-5000FI Reel with Shimano Terramar TMS-70MH Rod  

**Value \$380**

*Donated by Shimano*
8. Gilbert Young of Ringwood NJ won the Tsunami TSSD 3000L reel and TSTBC-661H rod  

**Value \$150**

*Donated by Bimini Bay Outfitters*

## 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 information 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

## **COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS**

Legislative	Tom Fote	732-270-9102 <a href="mailto:tfote@jcaa.org">tfote@jcaa.org</a>
Operations Manager	Sharon McKenna	732-506-6565 <a href="mailto:smckenna@jcaa.org">smckenna@jcaa.org</a>
Office Manager	Phil Celmer	609-693-3414 <a href="mailto:jcaa@jcaa.org">jcaa@jcaa.org</a>

Access: (North)		
Access: (South)	Joe Chrzanowski	609-693-8042
Blackfish	Pat Donnelly	732-295-1755
Blue claw Crab	Jack Miktus	732-477-5184
Blue Fish	Al Marantz	732-280-2643
Habitat	Pat Donnelly	732-528-8181
Large Pelagic	John Koegler	610-687-2208
Menhaden	Len Fantasia	732-872-1862
Science & Research	Bruce Freeman	732-793-7871
Sponsorship	Frank Richetti	732-477-3120
Striped Bass	Ed Cherry	<a href="mailto:edwardwc@verizon.net">edwardwc@verizon.net</a>
Webmaster	Phil V. Celmer	<a href="mailto:philipc@highlandstech.net">philipc@highlandstech.net</a>
Youth Education	Greg Kucharewski	732-840-9197

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>](mailto:tfote@jcaa.org) or just go to the JCAA Web and subscribe from there.