

# JCAA NEWSPAPER JULY 2009

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on June 23rd, 2009)

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

***"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"***

## **JCAA REGULAR MEETING:**

**Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

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

**NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, July 9th, 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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<b>Mem. Sec.</b>	Bruce Smith	732-695-3431

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

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

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

**July 9<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board meeting

**July 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>** ICAST

**August 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>** Joint Meeting of the ASMFC & MAFMC on summer flounder, black sea bass, scup and bluefish in Alexandria, VA.

**August 13<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board meeting

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

**September 10<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board meeting

**September 29** JCAA General Meeting

**October 4<sup>th</sup>** Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

## **Port Winners for Jersey Coast Anglers Association 15th Annual Fluke Tournament**

The 15th Annual JCAA Tournament took place on June 13th, 2009. The Tournament had 577 boats with only 9 ports instead of 12. With the cut-back in the number of ports, the economy, the rainy spring and competing against the great striped bass season, we were happy to have 577 boats. The largest fish weighed in was 9.26 lbs at Sandy Hook and was caught by James Mathews. It is interesting to compare the total weight for the ports in 2008 with 2009. In 2008 it was hard to get a fish over 5 lbs and a lot of 3 lb fish won prizes in the south. This year the smallest fish was 3.9 lbs and there were a lot of 7, 6 and 5 pound fish. As you can see, the total weight of summer flounder that qualified for port prizes was greater. We also heard there were a lot of keepers caught. It will be interesting to see the JCAA survey returns to see what the throwback ratio was and how many keepers were actually caught.

Port	2008	2009
Sandy Hook	62.72 lb	73.74 lb
Shark River Inlet	71.69 lb	66.08 lb
Manasquan River	59.41 lb	56.40 lb
Barnegat Bay	57.26 lb	55.05 lb
Long Beach Island	43.42 lb	54.10 lb
Great Bay	55.24 lb	53.01 lb
Ocean City	42.67 lb	52.49 lb
Cape May	51.64 lb	55.18 lb
Fortescue	40.51 lb	41.56 lb
Totals	484.56 lb	507.61 lb

## HERE ARE THE WINNERS FOR 2009

### 1. Sandy Hook

Name Hometown	Entry #	Weight	Length
1st James Mathews Somerset, NJ	415	9.26	28.00
2nd Don Wetzal Riverdale, NJ	370	8.72	27.75
3rd Robert McCarter Hillsboro, NJ	318	8.30	29.00
4th Anthony Sickinger Springfield, NJ	320	7.50	27.00
5th Mike Wells Point Pleasant, NJ	575	7.50	27.00
6th Scott Bienkowski Seacaucus, NJ	334	6.82	26.00
7th John Heiser Easton, PA	33	6.78	26.00
8th Mike Ciampi Bloomfield, NJ	242	6.64	26.00
9th Jim Hennessey Atlantic Highlands, NJ	51	6.58	25.00
10th Chester Fabyanski Bayonne, NJ	506	5.64	24.50

### 2. Shark River Inlet

Name Hometown	Entry #	Weight	Length
1st Art Coakely Wall, NJ	6	7.88	27.00
2nd Mike Fowler Trenton, NJ	367	7.63	27.00
3rd Bob Ogitis Morrisville, PA	91	7.50	26.00
4th George Miszak Hamilton, NJ	493	7.00	25.00
5th Alan Mann Jr Perkiomenville, PA	322	6.75	25.00
6th Henry Landau West Windsor, NJ	474	6.50	23.50
7th Jay Stich Penndel, PA	580	5.94	24.00
8th Mick Katzenberger Oceanport, NJ	133	5.88	24.00
9th Dave Siegel Manchester, NJ	84	5.56	23.00
10th David Temple Wrightstown, NJ	61	5.44	24.00

### 3. Manasquan River

Name Hometown	Entry #	Weight	Length
1st Bob Angelini Yardville, NJ	458	8.20	27.25
2nd Ed Zalewski Point Pleasant, NJ	308	7.00	25.50
3rd Don Parr Brick, NJ	470	6.05	25.00
4th Don Marantz Clarksburg, NJ	74	5.80	24.25
5th Bob Kazawic Brick, NJ	126	5.35	23.00
6th Mike Depascali Brick, NJ	127	5.30 2	3.25
7th Rich Loparzo Forked River, NJ	544	4.90	23.00
8th Stan North Sea Girt, NJ	290	4.90	22.75
9th Dennis Giro Ridgefield, NJ	165	4.60	22.00
10th Brandon Rottman Jobstown, NJ	161	4.30	22.00

### 4. Barnegat Bay

Name Hometown	Entry #	Weight	Length
1st Edmond Cassella Forked River, NJ	475	6.15	25.00
2nd Lorenzo Hillman Bordentown, NJ	19	5.85	25.00
3rd Raymond Rolak Forked River, NJ	485	5.75	25.00
4th Mike Berger Forked River, NJ	582	5.70	24.50
5th Richard Egnatuk Bayville, NJ	528	5.50	24.50
6th Louis Wegryn Forked River, NJ	233	5.50 2	5.00
7th Robert Cashin Brick, NJ	530	5.40	25.00
8th Ed Plichta Howell, NJ	210	5.25 2	3.25
9th Matt Antolino Verona, NJ	560	5.15	24.00
10th Phil Celmer Highlands, NJ	1	4.80	22.25

### 5. Long Beach Island

Name Hometown	Entry #	Weight	Length
1st Eric Lippincott Pemberton, NJ	132	6.98	25.00
2nd Bob Lefebvre Barnegat, NJ	142	6.12	24.00
3rd Kevin Prichett Somerdale, NJ	369	5.86	24.50
4th Scott Bush Perkiomenville, PA	146	5.60	24.50
5th Tom Trembula Cookstown, NJ	381	5.58	24.50
6th Bill Thomas South Plainfield, NJ	361	5.40	24.25
7th Dave Elbertson Forked River, NJ	356	5.04	23.00
8th Paul Schell Barnegat, NJ	207	4.78	23.00
9th Clare Gallagher Little Egg Harbor, NJ	125	4.38	23.00
10th Rocco Savino Forked River, NJ	256	4.36	23.00

### 6. Great Bay

Name Hometown	Entry #	Weight	Length
1st Tim Jankowski Delran, NJ	103	6.68	25.00
2nd Jay Daunoras Shamong, NJ	266	6.38	25.25
3rd Mark Kovack Little Egg Harbor, NJ	484	5.72	24.13
4th David Roesch Egg Harbor City, NJ	188	5.67	24.50
5th Artie Buske Little Egg Harbor, NJ	300	5.24	23.50
6th John Lanzillotti Pittsgrove, NJ	500	5.15	23.13
7th Linda Hubert Little Egg Harbor, NJ	349	4.90	23.50
8th Sebastian DeMeglio Little Egg Harbor, NJ	64	4.52	22.50
9th Mike Bennett Little Egg Harbor, NJ	533	4.50	21.50
10th Hunter Kennedy Barnsville, PA	215	4.25	22.50

### 7. Ocean City

Name Hometown	Entry #	Weight	Length
1st Richard Burgess Avalon, NJ	144	7.30	26.50
2nd John Dutkiewicz Levittown PA	185	7.14	26.75
3rd Dan Konczyk Clermont, NJ	212	5.74	24.50
4th Mike Ross Estelle Manor, NJ	499	5.24	24.25
5th Bob Pelikoski Ocean City, NJ	249	5.07	24.00
6th Bill McCoy Mays Landing, NJ	384	4.95	23.25
7th John Monte Gibbstown, NJ	243	4.49	22.75
8th Bob Whiteside Linwood, NJ	9	4.48	22.50
9th Thomas Iwanicki Delran, NJ	70	4.17	22.00
10th Andrew Micklin Mount Laurel, NJ	569	3.91	21.75

### 8. Cape May

Name Hometown	Entry #	Weight	Length
1st Mark Christopher Medford, NJ	577	6.33	24.50
2nd Eric McDermot Moorestown, NJ	347	5.92	24.50
3rd Carl Haines Gibbsboro, NJ	307	5.74	24.50
4th Charlie Steinberg Abington, PA	563	5.63	24.50
5th George Slobodjian Twin Oaks, PA	63	5.62	22.50
6th Jeff Glenn Wenonah, NJ	457	5.60	25.00
7th Dow Thorn Gibbstown, NJ	29	5.37	24.25
8th Mike Johnston Rio Grande, NJ	324	5.14	24.00
9th Ed Rust Cherry Hill, NJ	279	5.12	23.00
10th Ken Hornbeck Villas, NJ	46	4.71	22.50

### 9. Fortescue

Name Hometown	Entry #	Weight	Length
1st Fred Pohlig Bellmawr, NJ	438	5.25	23.69
2nd Mike Benner Honeybrook, PA	513	5.17	24.25
3rd Ralph Robertshaw Westville, NJ	217	5.00	23.75
4th Randy Minix Gibbstown, NJ	54	4.94	23.50
5th Denise Kline Trevese, PA	323	4.63	22.50
6th William Ronn Prince Frederick, MD	169	4.56	22.83
7th Jaci Ravis Valley Forge, PA	358	4.44	23.44
8th Andy Gomeriger Franklinville, NJ	163	4.38	23.25
9th Robert Strimel Langhorne, PA	326	4.25 2	3.25
10th Bob Hills Gibbstown, NJ	147	4.19	22.38

SHARE YOUR FUN  
TAKE A KID OR SENIOR FISHING

# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament Report

*By Sharon McKenna*  
Operations Manager

It was a lovely day for fishing on June 13. The rain had been falling for over a week, but on Tournament day, there were blue skies and calm seas. It showed in the results! A few facts –

- The Fluke Tournament attracted 577 entries.
- The overall heaviest fish was caught by Jim Mathews of Somerset NJ who weighed in at Sandy Hook – the weight was 9.26 lbs
- The top three male finishers all weighed at Sandy Hook and were 1) Jim Mathews (9.26) out of Somerset, 2) Don Wetzel (8.72) out of Riverdale and 3) Robert McCarter (8.30) out of Hillsboro.
- The top three female finishers weighed at two different ports and were 1) Linda Hubert of Little Egg weighing in at Great Bay (4.90); 2) Denise Kline of Trevoise, PA weighing in at Fortescue (4.63), and 3) Jaci (pronounced “Jackie”) Evans from Valley Forge, PA weighing in at Fortescue (4.44)
- The lightest #1 fish was weighed in at Fortescue at 5.25 lbs brought in by Fred Pohlig of Bellmawr, which shows the large variation in the range of fish caught.
- There were few complaints about the weather on the day itself, a little wind but mostly clear skies, no thunderstorms or big seas,
- Although the economy caused us to cut three ports this year, we are very hopeful we will be able to re-instate those ports as soon as economically feasible
- We were able to retain some of our more generous sponsors, including Shimano, Minn Kota, ProFishCo, NJ Angler, Nor’East, Fisherman’s Headquarters, Interlux and Canyon Gear
- The surveys accompanying your affidavits are very important to scientific research, so we encourage you to fill

those surveys out for computation by one of our researchers.

- There is a list of our port and door prize sponsors available to everyone, so please reward these companies with your business.

The JCAA 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony on June 19 attracted over 1000 people with about 400 boats represented, all there for the chance to win door prizes from our sponsors and the grand prize of \$10,000. There were plenty of door prizes to go around. What a great night, especially for Mark Barnett who has kept the streak going. He is the 13<sup>th</sup> of 15 grand prize winners who didn’t land a qualifying fluke! I am sure he is crying all the way to the bank!

## Final Prize List June 17, 2009

<b>First Place</b>	\$1,200.00 Cash Sponsors: JCAA, Fisherman’s Headquarters, (Port LBI, \$1,000),
<b>Second Place:</b>	Shimano Tescata rod and Calcutta Lucanus LJV jigging reel combo
<b>Third Place:</b>	\$500.00 Gift Cash Sponsor: JCAA
<b>Fourth Place:</b>	Minn Kota RT 40S Trolling motor
<b>Fifth Place:</b>	NJ Anglers Magazine Package including NJ Angler Subscriptions, DVDs and fishing rod
<b>Sixth Place:</b>	Nor’east Magazine Shimano reel
<b>Seventh Place:</b>	Gallon of Interlux ATC bottom Paint
<b>Eighth Place:</b>	ProfishCo tackle Package
<b>Ninth Place:</b>	Canyon Gear International Luggage Set
<b>Tenth Place:</b>	Free entry Jersey Coast 2010 Fluke Tournament

**The JCAA would like to thank all of the generous supporters of our organization for their assistance in making the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament a huge success!**

- \* Trump Marina Casino Hotel \*
- \* Shimano Fishing \*
- \* Minn Kota Motors \*
- \* New Jersey Angler Magazine \*
- \* Nor’East Saltwater Magazine \*
- \* Interlux International Paint Company \*

- \* Costa del Mar Sunglasses \*
- \* ProFishCo \*
- \* Canyon Gear \*
- \* Fisherman's Headquarters (LBI) \*
- \* Jersey Coast Shark Anglers \*
- Lamiglas \*
- \* Do It Corporation
- \* Reel Saver \*
- \* Miss Belmar \*
- \* Miss Belmar Princess \*
- \* Captain Cal \*
- \* Pure Fishing \*
- \* Lake Fork Trophy Lures \*
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- \* Ardent Outdoors \*
- \* Angler's Book Supply \*
- \* Grizz's Bait and Tackle \*
- \* Tru-turn Inc. \*
- \* Pell's Fish and Sport \*
- \* Fisherman's Den \*
- \* Reel Saver \*
- \* BayShore Anglers \*
- \* Lakewood Blue Claws \*

## **President's Report**

*By Mark Taylor*

There is a General Membership Meeting on June 30, 2009 at Brick Civic Plaza, 270 Chambers Bridge Road in Brick.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament was held on June 13 with a lot of anglers enjoying the day fishing. I have talked to a lot of anglers who participated and thanked us at JCAA for running this tournament and encouraged us to keep up the great work. On June 19 we had this year's Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony at Trump Marina in Atlantic City. I would like to thank Sharon McKenna, this year's Fluke Tournament Director, and all the dedicated individuals that assisted to make this event a great success.

At our last general meeting we had the pleasure of having Dave Chanda and Tom McCloy from the State of New Jersey to give those in attendance a presentation on the Federal Saltwater Registry. The JCAA Saltwater Registry Committee will be taking a vote on a JCAA position on this very

important topic at the general meeting which is June 30. It is important to have your club representatives present so your club has a say in the vote.

Bruce Freeman still needs letters of support 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, please contact the JCAA Office.

Our next fund raising event will be our Sportsperson of the year Dinner/Dance which will be held on November 15 at Crystal Point Yacht Club in Point Pleasant. We are looking for nominations for this important honor. Please send a short bio of 150 words explaining the accomplishments of the nominee to the office. Also, it is not too early for your club to start talking about getting a table for this great event. Look for more information in future articles from our Dinner/Dance Committee in the newspaper.

As a reminder, the JCAA has an Operations Manager in the office to answer your questions. Operations Manager Sharon McKenna will try to give you the correct answer to your question or direct your call to the proper person.

I have received a few calls about the committees and 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 how the system works. If you are interested in serving on them contact the JCAA office or me. Everyone have a safe summer and take your kids fishing - they are the future.

**No JCAA General Meetings in July and August.  
The Next General Membership Meeting after the  
summer break will be September 29, 2009**

# **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

[http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/index.php?option=com\\_jcalpro&Itemid=60&extmode=view&extid=261](http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/index.php?option=com_jcalpro&Itemid=60&extmode=view&extid=261)

The studies I used for this testimony are located on the JCAA webpage under recent news.

## **Congressional Testimony House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife Oversight Hearing on Endocrine Disruptors in Fish and Wildlife**

**Thomas P. Fote  
NJ Governor's Appointee to the Atlantic States  
Marine Fisheries Commission  
Legislative Chairman for Jersey Coast Anglers  
Association  
June 9, 2009**

I went to a Memorial Day service for WW II Veterans today and when I was looking at the hundred WWII veterans in attendance, I started to think of Joe Platoni, George P. Howard and Ray Marione. These three WW II Veterans are all JCAA Sportspersons of the year. When I returned home I got this notice from John Toth that Joe Platoni passed away on Friday and then I received a call about an hour later from Bruce Halstater about Ray Marione. Both of these WWII Vets died on Friday of the Memorial Day weekend. Joe was 90 and Ray was 91. I called George Howard and thanked him for his service in WWII and his continued service protecting the rights of hunters and anglers and the environment. It is amazing the volunteer time that these three men have donated over the years to the environment and the right to fish and hunt. When I get tired or fed up with going to meetings or feel that I am just chasing windmills, I think of these three individuals. They never stop serving the country, the environment and the people who hunt and fish. They are my heroes. I salute my fellow veterans who are conservationists.

### **June 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional Hearing**

On June 9, I testified on endocrine disruptors before the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife. The other members of the panel are:

Tracy Collier, Ph.D., Director, Environmental Conservation Division, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service

Matt Larsen, Ph.D., Associate Director for Water United States Geological Survey

Theo Colborn, Ph.D, President, The Endocrine Disruption Exchange

Representative Anne C. Perry, Maine House of Representatives

Firouzan 'Fred' Massoomi, Pharmacy Operations Coordinator, Methodist Hospital

My written testimony is included in this newspaper. I did not know they archive congressional hearings. You can find the video of my oral testimony and the complete hearing at:

I would like to thank Chairwoman Bordallo and the members of the committee for the opportunity to testify today. I am one of New Jersey's Commissioners to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and am the Legislative Chairman for the Jersey Coast Anglers Association and the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. I am the longest serving member on the Policy Board of the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program, a board member of the New Jersey Environmental Federation, a member of the Government Affairs Committee of the American Sportfishing Association, and serve in various capacities in other environmental and trade organizations. I am an unpaid volunteer in all of these capacities.

I am here today to discuss an issue that I have been concerned about since I first became involved in fisheries management. As a disabled Vietnam veteran who was sprayed with Agent Orange and who has worked with Agent Orange Vets, I am particularly sensitive to the unintended negative impact chemicals can have on us. This is an issue Congressman Pallone and I have discussed endlessly. We began by working to stop the dumping of Agent Orange contaminated dredge spoils from Newark Bay in the Atlantic Ocean. Because of these experiences, I am always aware of other contaminants that affect the food chain, particularly in our water system. I recently wrote an article titled "The Consequences of Good Intentions." Most of the chemicals we deal with

today were not deliberately placed in the system with a negative result intended. PCB's were designed so transformers would not overheat. Asbestos was used as insulation and as a fire preventative. Many of the cleaning fluids and drugs were intended to enhance our lives and our health. However, we are finding more and more that there are long-term negative consequences to the inadvertent release of these chemicals into the environment. I knew the impact of Agent Orange on veterans, their children and the wildlife in Vietnam.

In the early '90's I attended a conference in Baltimore as the Chairman of the Habitat Committee for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. At this conference, Dr. Judith Weiss from Rutgers University presented her research on killies (mummy chubs), a form of bait fish. She was comparing the behavior of killies from Newark Bay and Tuckerton. She was looking at eating, predatory and other behavior in these different chemical environments. She found that killies in Newark Bay where there are significant chemical pollutants (PCBs, mercury, dioxin and estrogen) behaved differently. These killies did not catch prey as well, ate food that was not in their normal diet, and did not thrive. This was not true of the killies in Tuckerton where the chemical pollutants were far less significant. More recently Dr. Weiss presented four more papers from her Ph.D. graduate students on similar studies on grass shrimp, blue fish, fiddler crabs and blue claw crabs. In all studies they cited similar behavior patterns. When they transferred fish from cleaner areas (Tuckerton) to more polluted areas (Newark Bay), the fish soon developed the same inappropriate behaviors. The fish transferred to cleaner waters improved slightly but never returned to normal. The damage had been done. After Dr. Weiss' first presentation, I soon became aware of research on Native American Tribes who ate a significant amount of fish that were contaminated with PCBs. This study noted a statistically high number of female births and statistically high number of children with learning disabilities. Why PCBs? We know that PCB's are an estrogen mimicker. When I began seeing the studies on sewer plants and how endocrine disruptors were impacting on the sexual development of fish, the red flags went up! I began to search for the current research on this topic. There is an amazing amount of research available worldwide. What is more amazing, with this abundance of research, is how little the public knows

about this problem.

I am here today to talk specifically about the impact of endocrine disruptors on fish stocks and on the development of fisheries management plans. At the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission I work with fisheries management plans. Some of those plans are jointly managed with the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council. One of the requirements of the Magnuson Stevens Act is to develop plans to rebuild fisheries stocks. In order to manage fisheries you need accurate stock assessment and projections. This is not like counting deer in a forest. Fish swim. They migrate throughout the ocean. So scientists take the available data and build stock assessments and develop projections using various models. These models are based on assumptions about fish stocks, their reproduction, natural mortality and fishing pressure. Models need to determine natural mortality and the fecundity of the fish. Natural mortality includes all the environmental conditions; prey predator relationships, available habitat, climate, and other variables. Whenever there are issues that are not included in the models, there is a disconnect between the data and the actual conditions in which fish live.

I have been involved with some of these stocks for at least 20 years. In the last 30 years there are two species that have changed fisheries management and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, striped bass and weakfish. For both of these species, management plans relied on restricting commercial and recreational fishing to increase the spawning stock and thereby allowing for an increased harvest as the stocks rebuilt. Using this type of management, we dramatically increased the stock of striped bass. In the mid 90's we saw the same positive impact on the weakfish stocks. Councils and Commissions only manage the human harvesters. We have no authority to regulate the environment or the consequences of human activity on the environment. This was evident when weakfish stocks stopped rebuilding and began to decline. The fishermen were reporting this dramatic decline but it took some years before the stock assessment scientists recognized the same problems in their models. The models were not behaving the way they were planned to. The weakfish stock should be growing by leaps and bounds. Instead the stocks are decreasing dramatically. It was clear that fishing pressure was not the cause. The scientists began to use the phrase "hidden background natural

mortality.” Where is this “hidden mortality” coming from?

Is this mortality caused by the impact of chemicals in the environment on reproduction? When we look carefully we find the greatest problem with “hidden mortality” is with estuarine dependent fish, fish that live and reproduce in the bays, estuaries and rivers. Something is impacting the stock growth and it is clearly not the human harvesters. For example, we have greatly restricted the catch of summer flounder since 1994. This is a fish that spawns in the ocean but spends the first year of life in the bays and estuaries. We have increased the spawning stock biomass and the current plan has allowed more summer flounder to have a greater age class distribution. We now have a huge amount of large female summer flounder that should be able to produce a massive amount of eggs but the recruitment (the number of new fish produced each year) is actually lower than it was in 1994. In 1994 we had 20% of the spawning stock biomass and few fish over 18 inches. Winter flounder is another example. They spawn in the bays, spend the first year there and then migrate to the ocean. The inshore stocks of winter flounder have collapsed. Usually when a stock collapses, we lose them at the fringe of their ideal habitat. New Jersey and New York are at the southern fringe of their habitat. We should be at the lowest levels of available harvest. Yet just the opposite is true. When you look at the recreational catch, New Jersey has the largest catch. Why is that true? The only difference I can see is that along the NJ coast we don't pump our treated sewage into rivers and bays. Treated sewage is piped directly to the ocean. Is it possible the impact of sewage that is untreated for endocrine disruptors and other chemicals is playing a major role in reproduction of winter flounder?

There are studies that confirm the impact of endocrine disruptors on fish. I am going to summarize information from many studies but will make the original documents available to you on disc. One study comes from the Boulder Creek in Colorado. This study looked at the impact on white suckers by sewer discharges. The study finds, “The fish sampling results on Boulder Creek were also disturbing. Just below the sewage plant outflow pipe, the team collected 101 females, 12 males and 10 intersex fish. Upstream of the sewage plant outflow, the team found 42 females, 37 males and zero intersex fish.” (Mutant Fish Prompt Concern - Study

Focuses on Sewage Plants by Theo Stein and Miles Moffeit, Denver Post Staff Writers). The difference is dramatic. Above the sewer plant there is a normal male/female distribution. Below the plant, the male/female relationship is bizarre and you begin to see hermaphrodites.

If we look at the Potomac River, we find another disturbing study. In this study the subject was small mouth bass in the West Virginia area of the Potomac River ('Human Activity' Blamed for Fish Ills, By David A. Fahrenthold, Washington Post Staff Writer, Friday, February 8, 2008). Again, what was found was a disturbing impact on the ratio of male/female fish and many males attempting to lay eggs. They had both male and female sex organs. In the 2003 study they studied the upper reaches of the Potomac River. In the more recent study, they find the same problems as far as the Chesapeake Bay.

New York Sea Grant has been studying winter flounder in Jamaica Bay, an area that received sewage from both Brooklyn and Queens, population more than 6,000,000. Again, what we are seeing is a disruption in the male/female relationship (13:1, 12:1, 11:1). This study was completed by Dr. Anne McElroy from Stony Brook University and Dr. Martin Schreibman from Brooklyn College – CUNY. They reported also that the males had female genes. Using sophisticated data gathering they reported high levels of “natural estrogens, estradiol and estrone” and “estrogenic detergent breakdown products, nonylphenol and its 1,2, and 3 ethoxylate metabolites (collectively termed NPEOs) were thousands to tens of thousand times higher, ranging from 100 to 600 parts per billion ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ).” They further concluded, “Young flounder throughout Jamaica Bay showed biochemical signs of exposure to estrogenic compounds in their environment. High levels of vitellogenin were observed and the young winter flounder also showed signs of female reproductive tissues within the testes of male fish. Altered sex ratios were observed in Jamaica Bay winter flounder with many more females caught than males as compared to the reference site, Shinnecock Bay, NY. Preliminary evidence also indicated that healthy winter flounder embryos exposed to sediment from Jamaica Bay showed delayed development and reduced hatching success. Winter flounder exposed to sediments dosed with nonylphenol showed some of the same responses seen in fish collected from Jamaica Bay, indicating that this estrogenic contaminant could be responsible

for the effects observed.” (R/CTP-28 Endocrine Disruption in Jamaica Bay: Are Winter Flounder Being Affected? May 2007)

I sit on the Policy and Advisory committee of the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program. Since Ocean Country pumps its sewer water directly to the ocean we are not recharging the ground water and pumping the aquifer dry. Twelve years ago we thought we should be using that waste water for recharging and irrigation. Again our good intentions would have had a serious negative consequence. According to a study (Presence and Distribution of Wastewater-Derived Pharmaceuticals in Soil Irrigated With Reclaimed Water). “Three sites in the Front Range of Colorado, USA, were monitored from May through September 2003 to assess the presence and distribution of pharmaceuticals in soil irrigated with reclaimed water derived from urban wastewater...Nevertheless, the present study demonstrates that reclaimed-water irrigation results in soil pharmaceutical concentrations that vary through the irrigation season and that some compounds persist for months after irrigation.” There are many places using the reclaimed water and that is something that should be seriously reviewed. Every time it rains the golf courses that use reclaimed water are washing pharmaceuticals into the nearest rivers, bays and estuaries.

Changing the sex of fish has been used by the aquaculture industry for some time. They add hormones at specific points in development to create the stock they want. On the disc I have included studies on oysters including a Canadian study on fathead minnows that found that you can manipulate the sex of fish by adding certain endocrine disruptors. A scientific paper (**Complete sex reversal of fish is accomplished routinely in aquaculture practices by exposing fish to exogenous sex steroids during gonadal differentiation**) states that “A variety of environmental chemicals are also active at sex steroid receptors and theoretically possess the potential to alter normal sexual differentiation in fish... These results clearly indicate that a weakly estrogenic pesticide, o,p'-DDT, when presented during the critical period of gonadal development, can profoundly alter sexual differentiation.” A study on oysters showed similar results (Nice, HE, D Morritt, M Crane and M Thorndyke. 2003. **Long-term and transgenerational effects of nonylphenol exposure at a key stage in the development of**

***Crassostrea gigas*. Possible endocrine disruption? Marine Ecology Progress Series 256:293-300**). “In experiments exposing larval oysters to a single dose of nonylphenol at levels commonly found in the environment, a team of English scientists finds that **nonylphenol can alter the sex ratio of oysters, cause some to become hermaphroditic, and dramatically impair survivorship of offspring...** They conclude that these effects are extremely deleterious to the survival of oysters and “may result in severe consequences, not only for natural populations but also for commercial hatcheries situated in areas where nonylphenol is present in the water.”

All you need to do is google endocrine disruptors in fish and you will find research papers and studies from around the world; Australia, European Union, Canada, and more. The truth is any country that is discharging endocrine disruptors into lakes and estuaries are finding the same problems. I had a scientist visiting from Germany who is familiar with Lake Geneva. Once I began to talk about endocrine disruptors, I realized we had many concerns in common.

The list can go on and on. The accompanying disc has many more studies. Since there are many others who will cover the human health issues, I want to focus on the impact on rebuilding fish stocks. When you add endocrine disruptors to the existing loss of habitat, fish kills by power plants, global warming and the increasing demand for water that is diverting water from our rivers and bays, you have the perfect storm. These are all complicated issues but we need to just begin. How can fisheries scientists predict a target rebuilding for stocks that are estuarine dependent? How can scientists get an accurate handle on the natural mortality? How do we account for this in the management process? We are destroying the recreational and commercial fishing industries. We are also having a terrible negative impact on the quality of life for recreational fishermen and keeping subsistence fishermen from harvesting for their families. We cannot rely on fisheries management to rebuild stocks until the environmental problems are solved. Fishermen were sold the idea that short-term pain (not harvesting fish) would mean long-term gain (healthy fish stocks). This has not proven true and has frustrated everyone. We need to stop pointing fingers and blaming one another for why stocks are not rebuilding and focus more clearly on



the real problems, not the symptoms.

Based on the available research and my personal experience with fishing and environmental organizations, I would recommend the following:

1 Take a more precautionary approach.

We need to stop allowing new chemicals to enter the system without the most rigorous possible study. We need the European approach which is more precautionary. The European Union does not allow new chemicals to come to the market place on their way into the environment unless it is proven that there is no possible harm. The onus is on the chemical producers to prove they will cause no harm. Until they do, they cannot market the chemical. That is the opposite of our approach in the United States. The burden of proof is on the government and the people, not the manufacturers.

2 Invest in waste water treatment plants and industrial systems that discharge into the environment.

Some of these chemicals are part of the drugs that are essential for people's lives. We are not going to stop manufacturing or using these drugs. There are other chemicals that are not so essential in personal care products, detergents and household cleaners that are in every day use. It may take years before we can convince the public to stop using these products. There are also large amounts of illegal drugs that are entering the system as well. That means that we need to develop new treatment options for both our sewage plants and our industries that discharge into our water ways. These options must remove chemicals from waste before they enter the environment. This is not only an issue for water that supports our fish populations but for the water drinking public. Although the short term investment will be great, but will be more cost effective than cleaning up later and dealing with all the health problems for humans and wildlife that these chemicals will cause.

3 Develop a more efficient delivery system for our current medications.

Many of the drugs we take for health problems are prescribed in large doses because our bodies don't absorb them well. This means that our bodies are discharging

significant percentages of the drugs we take, some as high as 90%. We are one of the chief polluters. The pharmaceutical companies need to research more efficient and effective delivery systems for these medications. The medical profession must stop over-prescribing and do a better job of explaining how drugs are best used to their patients. More is not necessarily better for your health and is certainly not better for the environment.

4 Educate the public about their responsibilities.

Most of the public has not real awareness of this problem. We need a massive educational program to make people more aware, to help them shop environmentally and to use and dispose of drugs appropriately. I know Lisa Jackson, the EPA's new Administrator, is well aware of this problem and will take a leadership role. We need Congress to provide appropriate legislation and funding so the EPA can take the necessary steps. We need to tell the public which chemicals to avoid in their household cleaners and other products. We need to publish a list of things to buy. We need a system to return or dispose of unused prescription and non-prescription medications.

5 Demand that our elected officials take action.

At the Federal, State and local level, there is much to be done. Leadership by our elected officials is crucial. Gone are the days when we could wait for the public to figure out the problem and solve it. The investment in time, money and education is far too big for individuals to subsidize.

6 Fund the fisheries science.

Since I emphasized the impact this has on fisheries management, it is appropriate that I end with a plea. Good management is not possible without good science. Good science costs money. Unless the Federal government takes funding good science seriously, the problems of fisheries management will never be solved. We need to get a handle on the biology of the fish and the impacts of environmental contamination. We need that science to build useful models for projecting stocks and managing fisheries. We need to increase the funding for stock assessment by \$60,000,000. Then we need additional funds

for the biological research for the necessary data. The National Marine Fisheries Service is the appropriate vehicle. They just need adequate funding.

The great strides in civilizations often grew around the availability of healthy drinking water and a means for disposing of our waste. The Romans invested heavily in aqueducts to bring plentiful water to their towns. The monks in early European times developed beer as an alternative to the polluted water. Our early settlements in this country were built around the availability of water for human and animal consumption and growing crops. When the cities were heavily populated, many diseases were passed through the water system. When we added chlorine to our urban water systems, the potential for harm was diminished. The last big change in water infrastructure and waste disposal occurred in the 1970s with the passage of the Clean Water Act. We cleaned up the water enough that oxygen returned. At the time, striped bass did not exist in the Delaware River due to oxygen depletion in the Camden/Philadelphia area. The return of striped bass to the Delaware is directly attributed to the upgrading of the sewer systems after the passage of the Clean Water Act. Today, we seem most concerned about a terrorist attack on our drinking water when the fact is we are contributing potentially lethal chemicals to our water systems every day. Since the effects are not immediately apparent, they are easier to ignore.

The chemicals that we are putting in our water have the potential to make some species of both fish and wildlife extinct. If you don't reproduce, extinction is the next step. It is just a matter of time. Right now, New Jersey and other states are concerned about the Red Knot. We can sit on the beach and count the decreasing number of these birds. It is much more difficult to count the fish in the ocean, bays and estuaries but the results are the same.

In my experience, scientists have a tremendously important role to play in shaping our decisions and our actions. However, it is also possible to study a problem to death and never do anything. Scientists studied asbestos, tobacco and Agent Orange for years before they had enough studies to point the finger. We needed to act much earlier and save lives in the process. Right now, we have sufficient studies to get started identifying and solving the problems. More studies can be done, but

we can't wait to begin cleaning our water.

In conclusion, at certain times in history we have tremendous challenges and opportunities. The problems created by endocrine disruptors and other chemicals going into our water systems have produced one of those historic moments. This is a world wide problem and is increasingly recognized by governments throughout the world. We cannot solve this problem by relying on local governments to take piecemeal action. Rebuilding the sewer system throughout our country is a perfect job creating opportunity and a perfect start in solving this problem. This is truly money spent for the next generation. It is an opportunity to offer our children and their children the same quality of life we have enjoyed. We owe them nothing less.

### **THERE IS NO SUMMER VACATION**

In the next two months I will be traveling to ICAST and make two trips to Alexandria, Virginia for ASMFC and a joint meeting between ASMFC and the Mid-Atlantic Council. We don't usually publish a newspaper in the summer until mid-August. Check the JCAA webpage for updates throughout the summer and for any alerts. We also have a better system in place for sending email alerts between meetings. If you are not on our email list, send me an email and I will add you. Have fun fishing and enjoy the summer.

### **2 veterans, anglers alike, die hours apart**

**Monday, May 25, 2009**

**BY ROHAN MASCARENHAS**

**Star-Ledger Staff**

As he does every Memorial Day, Tom Fote thought of his heroes. But this year, those thoughts turned to sadness when he learned the two men had died just as the holiday weekend was beginning.

The World War II veterans and old fishing buddies died Friday, Fote said, each of cancer after decades of friendship. Joseph Platoni of Englewood was 90, and Ray Marione of Maywood was 91.

"They knew each other for 30 years," Fote said of the Bergen County men. "They lived close to each other and they belonged to the same clubs. They stayed active."

Both men were avid fishermen and volunteered at the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, where Fote, himself a Vietnam veteran, is a legislative chairman. Fote said the men put in "thousands of volunteer hours."

Platoni headed the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County for a time and co-founded the Montauk Surf Casters Association.

Marione was similarly energetic. He helped devise a plan to improve a boat ramp below the George Washington Bridge and also spoke to the Assembly to urge passage of the Striped Bass Game Fish Bill, which became state law in 1991.

Both men received the Sportsman of the Year Award in separate years from the state anglers association, a nonprofit collection of 75 fishing clubs.

George P. Howard Jr., a former director of the state Division of Fish and Wildlife, often worked with the pair on legislative issues.

"Some of these people as volunteers -- like Ray and Joe -- have contributed a lot to the wildlife we enjoy today," Howard said.

Platoni is survived by his wife, Teresa; three children, George Platoni, Patricia Marguccio and Robert Platoni; and three grandchildren.

Marione is survived by his wife, Florence; a brother, Donald; two children, Patricia Neumann and Peter Marione; and 12 grandchildren.

**DEP updates bluefish consumption guidelines**  
**Asbury Park Press June 12**  
**By John Oswald**

Good news for bluefish lovers. Now you can eat more of it.

Last week, the Department of Environmental Protection updated its recommendations for the consumption of bluefish. The DEP now recommends that the public consume no more than one meal every other month (six meals per year) of bluefish larger than 24 inches. Previously, fish consumption advisories for large bluefish recommended only four meals per year for most people.

The reason for the recommendations is that bluefish contain polychlorinated biphenyls at levels which may pose a risk to public health; the same health concern exists for another popular species, striped bass. Long-term exposure to PCBs has been shown to cause cancer and a number of other serious health effects, including damage to the nervous system of developing fetuses, the immune system and the reproductive system.

Officials in New Jersey and six other coastal states updated their fish consumption advisories based on the results of a multi-state study, which evaluated PCB levels in striped bass and bluefish from Maine to Georgia.

Aggressive cleanup efforts and improved disposal practices have reduced PCB contamination in the environment. Continued decline in PCB levels in fish is anticipated.

For bluefish smaller than 24 inches and for striped bass, state officials continue to recommend no more than one meal per month (12 meals a year) for most people. Also unchanged are the bluefish and striped bass consumption advisories for infants, children, pregnant women, nursing mothers and women of child-bearing age — a high-risk group that is advised to avoid eating any bluefish or striped bass caught in Atlantic coastal waters.

Completed in 2008, the same study also showed that bluefish and striped bass are not good sources of beneficial fish oils. Different from other fish, these two species have lower amounts of omega-3 fatty acids compared to the amount of PCBs they contain.

The other states — Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware and Maryland — also are issuing similar updates and instructing pregnant women, young children and other high-risk people to avoid eating striped bass and large bluefish. All others are advised to consume only moderate amounts of these fish.

When I read the announcement, I was reminded of an old bluefish recipe I heard years ago. Take a cleaned bluefish, wrap it in aluminum foil, and place it in an oven with a brick. Cook for one hour at 350 degrees. When the hour is up, throw out the bluefish and eat the brick.

This is not to make light of the DEP's recommendations, bluefish, or those who eat it. I just didn't think anyone was eating bluefish anymore. It's been a while since I met anyone who professed any affection for it. However, if you like bluefish, enjoy. In fact, I like bluefish, but I haven't had it in some time, since I release the bluefish I catch.

Which brings me to another issue the announcement brought to mind. Unless you're going to eat the bluefish or striped bass — or any other fish you catch — or give it someone who will — let it go.

Sometimes when the blues or bass are blitzing, it seems the supply is inexhaustible and the

arms usually give out before the fish do. But we've been down this road before. It is a finite resource.

It's easy to get caught up in the excitement and pile the fish up on the beach or in a bucket, only to realize you don't want to deal with them once the rush is over.

No fish tastes better than the one you caught yourself. But if the fish you catch isn't headed to the table, or you've already had your monthly quota of bass or bluefish, take a picture, then give it a chance to fight another day.

And make the release easier on you and the fish by switching out those treble hooks on your lures for a single one.

## **EPA test reveals high lead in Raritan life**

### **No set standards for aquatic animals**

**Saturday, June 13, 2009**

**By Aliyah Shahid**

**For the Star-Ledger**

Tests on mussels, clams and foraging fish in the Raritan Bay, near the Laurence Harbor Sea Wall in Old Bridge, have revealed high levels of lead, the Environmental Protection Agency reported yesterday.

Fishermen, who have been eating fish caught from Raritan Bay for years, expressed their concerns Thursday at a meeting at Keyport Borough Hall, before the new test results were available.

The amount of lead found in ribbed mussels ranged from 3 to 8.6 parts per million. In softshell clams the amount ranged from 3.4 to 17 parts per million and hardshell clams from 1.7 to 3.1 parts per million. In foraging fish or bait fish the amount of lead found ranged from 0.49 to 0.92 parts per million.

Currently, there is no standard for safe levels of lead in these marine animals, said Calliope C. Alexander, an environmental scientist for New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

However, Sharon Kubiak, a program specialist from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, said there is no safe level of lead in a child's body.

"This is very dangerous," said Peter Defur, a biologist and environmental consultant for Environmental Stewardship Concepts based in Richmond, Va., who works on contaminated sites. "I've never seen such high numbers in the 30 years I've been doing this."

Robert Spiegel, executive director of the Edison Wetlands Association, a nonprofit environmental organization, said the numbers are alarming. "This is just the tip of the iceberg. We don't know how far up the food chain this goes."

Extreme exposure to lead can cause neurological damage, kidney disease, cardiovascular problems and reproductive toxicity, according to the EPA Web site.

Two months ago, the EPA reported high levels of lead in three waterfront sites along Raritan Bay in Old Bridge and Sayreville. The EPA fenced off the areas and prohibited fishing.

Officials in Old Bridge and Sayreville have blamed the contamination on National Lead Industries, which had a paint manufacturing facility in Sayreville for decades. Several smelting operations along the Raritan from the late 1800s to the mid 1900s are also cited.

More than 50 worried fishermen, residents and delegates from Rep. Frank Pallone (D-6th Dist.) and U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) attended the meeting, which was organized by environmental groups NY/NJ Baykeeper and the Bayshore Regional Watershed Council.

"I've been fishing in these waters my entire life," said Raymond Swoboda Jr., 40, of Edison. "These are bait we use to catch fish, and we've been eating those fish."

Representatives from the EPA, DEP, state Department of Health and Senior Services and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry updated the audience and initiated a question-and-answer session.

In the earlier tests, the EPA said the water and sediment around the western jetty near Cheesequake Creek revealed lead levels of 198,000 parts per million, nearly 500 times the residential limit of 400 parts per million. Average lead levels in that general area were 52,399 parts per million.

At the Laurence Harbor sea wall area, the range of lead was as high as 142,000 parts per million. At the half-acre beach area in Sayreville, just north of the Cheesequake Creek jetty, lead readings were also 142,000 parts per million.

Signs and approximately 4,200 feet of fence have been erected around the areas. But the fencing isn't keeping everyone out, acknowledged Andrew L. Confortini, who is heading the EPA cleanup.

"We've had kids tearing down the fence at night," he said. "Day after day we put it up and they

tear it down." Confortini said they are working with police to upgrade a camera system there and to beef-up patrols.

While many fishermen and residents applauded the EPA's efforts, some argued for more. Others said the efforts created an eyesore from their properties, which they fear are dropping in value.

Officials from the EPA acknowledged the cleanup would take several years.

Still, Swoboda said he was worried. "What does this say," he asked, "to an individual like me who has eaten everything" in the Raritan. "What does this say about the lead levels in my body?"

Aliyah Shahid is a reporter for the New Jersey Local News Service. She may be reached at (908) 243-6233 or [ashahid@njlns.com](mailto:ashahid@njlns.com).

## IN MEMORIAM

*By John Toth*

### **Joe Platoni**

It is with deep sadness that I report that Joe Platoni passed away on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the age of 90 years. He was a co-founder of the Montauk Surf Casters and also a member of the NJ State Marine Fisheries Council. Because of his efforts to support the goals of the JCAA, Joe was the recipient of the JCAA's prestigious Sportsman of the Year Award. Joe was a World War II veteran and an active member of the American Legion Post in his home of Leonia. Joe was a zealous angler and he was also zealous in the love of the USA. I know this to be true since I was his neighbor and saw the happiness on his face when he returned home from Montauk with striped bass in his van. I also heard Joe talk many times about how good it is to live in the USA and he was very proud of our country.

Joe loved his surf casting at Montauk by its lighthouse for stripers. He was given the title of "Jersey Joe" by the locals who watched him move quickly over slippery rocks in pursuit of stripers that even younger men feared to tread at that speed. I moved to Englewood in 1972 and I saw Joe across the street from my house and I went over to introduce myself as a new neighbor and to also ask him about the big striped bass in his van that he caught on returning from one of his Montauk fishing trips. Joe told me about a club called the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County and he asked me to come

to one of its meetings. I went with Joe and that is how I eventually became a member of that club and it changed my entire life since I eventually became deeply involved with other fishing clubs and associations like the JCAA in the many issues facing the recreational industry. In addition to his many titles, Joe served as President of the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County.

I, along with my club members and many members connected to the recreational industry, will miss Joe. He was a "straight shooter" and an excellent fisherman.

May God give Joe a good wind to keep on catching those stripers!

### **Ray Marione**

Coincidentally, Ray Marione from the Hudson River Fishermen's Association also died on the same day as Joe at the age of 91. Ray was also well known in recreational fishing circles and he represented our interests at various management meetings. Like Joe Platoni, Ray was a World War II veteran and they both knew each other for over 30 years and they both belonged to Bergen County fishing clubs. Ray served recreational anglers in many ways such as devising a plan to improve a boat ramp below the George Washington Bridge and he also spoke to the NJ Assembly to urge passage of the Striped Bass Game Fish Bill which became state law in 1991. He also represented the HRFA at many JCAA meetings and he volunteered many hours of his time to support the HRFA and the JCAA in many of its activities and projects. Both Joe and Ray received the JCAA's prestigious Sportsman of the Year Award for their many contributions to the recreational fishing industry. Like Joe, Ray was very well liked and he will be surely missed by all of us. He knew many anglers from the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County and we share in the Hudson River Fishermen's Association loss of one of their finest members.

Support Reef Rescue

&

Get the pots off the Reefs

## **Highly Migratory Species** *By John Koegler*

### **Atlantic HMS Management and Permitting Meeting**

NMFS reminds anglers who are interested in Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) management that public meetings on the recently reissued advance notice of proposed rulemaking are approaching. This is a major overhaul of Bluefin, Swordfish and Sharks rules plus other modifications. This is the second go-around for this rulemaking. Anglers I talked to have totally ignored this rulemaking. To expect the NMFS HMS division to treat anglers fairly is extremely dangerous to anglers' continued participation in the HMS fisheries. Understand, NMFS is primarily concerned about the failure of US commercial fishermen to land their allotted quotas of Bluefin tuna, Swordfish and Shark. Did NMFS transfer commercial Bluefin quota to US anglers when they did not catch their commercial quota? Definitely NOT! Did NMFS lower the US 2009 Bluefin quota? Yes, for the third time in just 6 years. Does not HMS regulations hurt anglers when they were not punishing them?

The local meeting is on June 23rd at the Manahawkin Holiday Inn. The biggest issue is the start time of 5:00 PM. The comment period for BFT ends on June 30. The comment period for the other species remains open until August 31.

Consider that angler's historic position of landing 100% of the bluefin tuna ended when in 1981 NMFS allocated over 80% of the bluefin tuna fishery to commercial interests. Since 1981 they have constantly cut anglers back without putting enforced regulations on the commercial sector, at the same time imposing more and more angler only restrictions. Internationally, the HMS division continues to accept ICCAT's role as the major regulator of the Atlantic HMS fisheries despite full knowledge that after 33 years only the US, Canada and Japan have any HMS regulation in place. The balance of the organization's countries ignore the rules and have for 33 years refused to impose any rules on the commercial fishermen. Everyone must understand that unilateral rules on an international ocean crossing species like HMS is an exercise in stupidity! The only persons affected are your own citizens, no one else.

Currently, anglers are catching yellowfin tuna and Bluefin tuna along the 100 fathom line. The problem is a major part of those fish hooked are smaller than the 28" requiring catch and release. Each year as anglers look forward to another canyon season they face the fact that they will catch fewer fish than they did the year before. At some point the canyon fishery will die. Will NMFS HMS division give US citizens a break in the future rules due to their 33 years of conservation?

### **Big Drilling Rig off New Jersey**

An International team of researchers have placed a jack-up platform on the US continental shelf about 40 miles due east of Barnegat Inlet. This platform is part of an international project to document previous changes in both the ocean and land due to previous global warming periods. They will take core samples from three different locations over the summer to get a core history of the local ocean changes.

### **New Hudson Canyon NOAA Weather Buoy**

Officially designated 44066, it will be located at 39.35N and 072.36W which is about 80 miles offshore. It can be accessed from the NDBC buoy web page and will be listed as 44066-TT4. It is three meters wide and weighs 3800 pounds and is anchored in 250 feet of water. Give this buoy wide clearance since there will be intermittent servicing boats at that location until everything scientific is working properly. Rarely are they angler friendly. This is the first buoy located where it can record the actual ocean conditions that canyon fishermen face when they head offshore to their favorite canyon spot.

Wishing you a great fish-catching summer.

## **JCAA Youth Education Report** *By Greg Kucharewski*

### **BOY SCOUT TROOP 49** **LEARNS SURF FISHING**

During early June over thirty Boy Scouts from Troop 49 attended a surf fishing workshop at Fort Monmouth. The JCAA Youth Education committee provided instruction about surfcasting, lure presentation, saltwater baits, rig making, terminal tackle, New Jersey Marine rules/regulations, and how to tie a circle hook rig. The JCAA also supplied loaner surf fishing equipment for Boy Scouts that attended a camp-out

and surf fishing event on Belmar beach, May 16. All participants received "Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" pledge cards and stickers along with bait boards, saltwater angling books, The Fisherman Magazine, knife sharpeners, hooks, leaders, fishing line, swivels and snaps provided by the JCAA.

### **OHIO TRIP**

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Director is invited to visit Toledo University from June 27, 2009 until July 7, 2009 and support their annual National Youth Sports Program (NYSP), Youth Fishing Program. NYSP is a program that helps children build the skills and the confidence they need to tackle future challenges. Toledo University's National Youth Sports Program, The National Youth Sports Program (NYSP), provides summer recreational, sport, and educational enrichment programming for approximately 200 youths aged 10 to 16. The Toledo University NYSP program received grants from local sponsors to keep the program self-renewing and fund educational field trips for youngsters participating in the NYSP Youth Fishing program. Our JCAA Youth Education Committee will provide guidance about the Future Fisherman Foundation's "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" program and "Take Me Fishing" campaign. Marine aquatic education will be discussed for children visiting coastal states during the remainder of their summer vacation.

### **BECOME PART OF THE ANGLER'S LEGACY**

This is something every angler should do to keep the joy of fishing alive. You likely remember your very first fishing trip and who took you. And odds are pretty good that it was that experience that's directly responsible for why you're still fishing today. That's what Angler's Legacy is all about – simply giving back what you've been given, and making your promise to introduce somebody new to the activity that you love. Join thousands of your peers and make a real difference. So, take someone fishing – a family member, co-worker, neighbor, acquaintance at church or, perhaps, the mechanic who works on your car. Become part of Angler's Legacy today, the group of folks from all across the country who, like you, are giving back. There's no membership fee and no obligation. You're just making a promise to do your part to share your knowledge and expertise with someone new. Visit the Angler's Legacy web site and take the pledge at [www.anglerslegacy.org](http://www.anglerslegacy.org).

### **FISHING TRIP OF A LIFETIME**

On my last trip to Melbourne, Florida I was able to touch base with Rodney Smith, and he told me about a Lifetime Adventure that is a charity benefit for the Snook Foundation. If you like you can join Rodney on this amazing trip and you will have the opportunity to catch powerful peacock bass; and a gambit of other rare and exotic tropical species like piranha, dorado, jur and giant red-tailed catfish while exploring the Amazon River; and raising money for one of my favorite non-profit charities – the Snook Foundation [www.snookfoundation.org](http://www.snookfoundation.org). For those of you who love to travel and raising money for snook advocacy, this is a GREAT reason to go fishing! The dates for the Amazon trip are September 30-October 8th. The trip is scheduled to leave Miami International Airport on September 30 and arrive in Manaus, Brazil. They then fly out to the Amazon on the next morning and begin fishing that afternoon for the next 8 days! Early morning on October 8th, everyone will fly back to Manaus, arriving in Miami at 7:30pm. Phone (877) 205-1764 to reserve your spot for this amazing Amazon Adventure or contact Rodney Smith, 321-750-3374, P.O. Box 373257, Satellite Beach, FL 32937

### **PRESS RELEASE**

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife will be hosting its 6th Annual National Teen Angler Youth Day on July 25, 2009 at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center. The event is scheduled from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM and will be held rain or shine. National Teen Anglers is a non-profit organization that starts fishing clubs in middle and high schools throughout the country. This program is open to anglers aged 12 - 20 and there is no fee. Participants should wear sunglasses or another form of eye protection (required) and bring their own fishing tackle (barbless hooks only.) Worms for the trout and lunch for you will be provided. Each participant can keep one trout 18 inches or greater, so bring a cooler & ice. Prizes will also be given to all participants thanks to the generosity of the Teen Angler Program sponsors. Registration is required. Interested anglers can sign up at the Teen Angler Web site at: <http://www.teenanglers.org>. The Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center is located between Great Meadows and Buttzville on Rt. 46 approximately 8 miles west of Hackettstown in scenic Warren County.

## 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

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Access: (North)	Ray Marione	201-843-1711
Access: (South)		
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Menhaden	Len Fantasia	732-872-1862
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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.