

# JCAA NEWSPAPER OCTOBER 2009

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on September 22, 2009)

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

**"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"**

## JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

**Tuesday, September 29th , 2009**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

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

## NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, October 8th, 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

<b>President</b>	Mark Taylor	732-929-2591
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<b>Cors. Sec.</b>	Paul Turi	609-660-2126
<b>Mem. Sec.</b>	Bruce Smith	732-695-3431

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## IMPORTANT DATES

**September 29** JCAA General Meeting  
**October 4<sup>th</sup>** Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament  
**October 5<sup>th</sup>** Hearing on Shad and River Herring  
**October 6<sup>th</sup>** Hearing on Weakfish and Striped Bass  
**October 8<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting  
**October 26<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>** ASA Summit San Diego  
**October 27<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting  
**November 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>** ASMFC Annual Meeting RI  
**November 9<sup>th</sup>** NJMFC Meeting  
**November 12<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting  
**November 15<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Dinner

## **SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR DINNER**

**BY PAUL TURI**

Mark your calendar for November 15th, the night of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year Awards Dinner. Now is the time to buy your tickets. It is one of our major JCAA fundraisers. It takes place on Sunday, November 15, 2009 from 4:00-9:00 p.m. at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club, RT. 70 & River Rd, Point Pleasant, NJ. We will honor this year and past years' recipients of the JCAA "Sportsperson-of-the-Year" award. Past honorees include legislators, environmental leaders, outdoor writers and other worthy recipients.

As of this writing we do not yet have a keynote speaker. Last year, Governor Jon Corzine was our keynote speaker. In addition to giving a speech, the Governor graciously spent time at the cocktail hour talking to everyone and taking pictures. Everyone had a great time. As soon as we secure a speaker I will let everyone know in a future issue of our paper.

At our September general membership meeting we will be taking nominations for this year's sportsperson of the year and selling tickets.

# President's Report

*By Mark Taylor*

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

Individual tickets are \$75 each and tables of 10 are \$600, which is a \$150 savings. This gala event will accommodate 300 supporters and friends for a semi-formal sit-down dinner with choice of entrees and cash bar. There will also be a cocktail hour prior to dinner. So get a group together from your club or organization and come to the dinner and have a great time. Don't forget your partner. That's right. Treat your mate (you know, the one who waits for you at home/on the dock all summer) to an evening to remember at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club. Enjoy an excellent three-course meal, Door Prizes and a DJ. Share stories of fishing and bid on one of the many fantastic theme baskets on display.

This year due to economic conditions it is difficult obtaining donations from the different vendors who have helped us in the past. We are in **desperate need** of prizes for this year's dinner. We need prizes in value of at least \$25.00 or more. We need door prizes, Chinese auction and silent auction prizes.

Every club and their members patronize different bait and tackle shops up and down the coast. If each club solicited a donation from the shops that their members patronize on a regular basis, I am sure these shops will help us out as many of them have in the past. Jersey Coast doesn't have the manpower to solicit these shops ourselves. It would be greatly appreciated if your club could solicit these different shops for us and obtain a prize.

In addition to fishing & boating equipment, we do need prizes for the many women who are in attendance at the dinner. Many clubs have a women's auxiliary. It would help us out a lot if the women solicited prizes from stores they frequent on a regular basis also.

If you obtain a donation, please make arrangements with either myself or someone from Jersey Coast to have these prizes picked up. We need these prizes well in advance of the November 15<sup>th</sup> dinner.

I can be reached at (609) 660-2126. Thank you for your continued support.

**Dan Miller will be co-chairing the event and tickets for the dinner can be obtained by calling Dan at (609) 641-7821.**

Please be prepared to vote on the Saltwater Registry at the September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. There were a couple of articles in last month's JCAA newspaper and an article below that lays out some options for a vote.

As I stated in last month's newsletter, there is never any time off for fisheries issues. Some of the species that are being affected are Striped Bass, Weakfish, Atlantic Menhaden, Horseshoe Crab, Spiny Dogfish, Coastal Shark, Shad and River Herring. This is why we all need to keep our eyes and ears open. There is a public comment meeting being held **October 6<sup>th</sup>** on Striped Bass Draft Addendum II at 7PM and Weakfish Draft Addendum IV at 8PM. There will also be a public comment meeting on Shad and River Herring on October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Division of Fish & Wildlife, *Nacote Creek* Marine Enforcement Office. The Striped Bass and Shad and River Herring public hearing documents are up on the JCAA web page. The Weakfish Draft Addendum IV has not been voted on yet but should be available after September 28<sup>th</sup>. Please come prepared to the JCAA General Meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss and come up with a JCAA Position for the hearings.

Your Highly Migratory Species Committee has been busy dealing with their issues. I would like to thank them for putting the time in and getting a paper together that I submitted for comment on Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Highly Migratory Species by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). This comment period ended August 31, 2009.

It is very important that each club keeps up to date with all the issues that are affecting us. There are so many issues that are happening right now. Club Presidents should make sure that their representatives attend every JCAA General Meeting to bring this information back to your individual clubs for discussion.

A date to remember is October 4. That is the date for the 18th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament held at Island Beach State Park from 6:30am to 1:00pm. The tournament offers participants an excellent opportunity to learn more about surf fishing with family and friends. The registration fees help in the purchase of specialized wheelchairs that provide the disabled and elderly beach access, surf fishing instruction programs and equipment, marine education and restoration efforts, and surf fishing

access. JCAA is only one of the sponsors along with the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, New Jersey Beach Buggy Association and NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife has announced there will be no exemption to allow anglers to take summer flounder (fluke) during the 2009 Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament.

Our next fund raising event will be our Sportsperson of the Year Dinner which will be held November 15th at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. We still have not received any nominations for Sportsperson of the Year. Individual clubs need to submit a name and reason why this person should be selected Sportsperson of the year. It is little over a month away so start talking about getting a club table for this great event at your club meetings. Look for more information in articles from our Dinner Committee's co-chairs Paul Turi and Dan Miller in the newsletter.

As I mention in the last newsletter that the Newspaper Committee is looking for clubs to send in a 500 word description about your club, who they are and what they do, then send it in by e-mail to [jcaa@jcaa.org](mailto:jcaa@jcaa.org) with the stipulation that we will be using these highlights in the order that they are received and that they will be published in the JCAA newsletter.

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 am still trying to make our individual committees more effective in this coming year. As you can see, some of the committees are very active right now, 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 a committee contact the JCAA office or me.

## **Operations Manager**

*By Sharon McKenna*

August was a busy month here at the office. Members should know that our office hours are slightly changed. I typically will be at the office Monday – Friday from 8:30 – 2 p.m. barring off-site meetings, so call ahead if you are looking to pick up

newspapers for distribution or offering your volunteer services. The one weekday I can guarantee I will not be in the office is Thursday. So, if your JCAA committee is looking for a meeting space during the day, Thursday would be a great day to schedule for use of the office.

The American Sportfishing Association is holding its 2009 Sportfishing Summit in late October. The Summit schedule is jam-packed full of high level speakers, including Jane Lubchenco, the under secretary of Commerce for Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Legislative Chairman Tom Fote and I will be attending this meeting. You can find out more about it online at [http://www.asafishing.org/shows\\_events/summit/](http://www.asafishing.org/shows_events/summit/).

JCAA is making great strides with the Ocean County Board of Tourism. This dynamic tourism office has embraced us as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. There are many opportunities available to us due to our mission, our state-wide reach and our tax status. One of the projects ahead of me is to update our tri-fold hand-outs, also known as rack cards. You have probably seen these rack cards at museums in the state, at rest stops and other tourist destinations such as hotel lobbies. Putting event information (Fluke Tournament, Sportsperson of the Year Dinner, Hi-Roller raffle) as well as membership information, JCAA history and accomplishments and website address with direct link to the newspaper will make for a nice read. I welcome input from our membership on the updated rack card.

Barbara Steele, director of the Ocean County Board of Tourism, has given me great details and leads to pursue, as well as deadlines for grants in the county, the region and the state. There is a marketing grant cycle from the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism that is a matching grant for marketing purposes. We have established a Grants and Fundraising Committee comprised of Phil Celmer, Don Marantz, Tom Siciliano, Tom Fote and me and welcome others with expertise in this area. Please call the office any weekday (except Thursday!) and I will get you on board!

The Ocean County Decoy and Gunning Show is coming up on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and the JCAA will be represented at one of three sites that host this very large and well-attended show. Because two of our historic clubs have their displays exhibited at the Tuckerton Seaport's Marshelder

building, we have a home base for the duration of the show. Please call me here at the office if you have any questions about this free show, which also includes free admission to the Tuckerton Seaport. Come and support the JCAA and the two clubs we are hosting as part of the newly created recreational fishing exhibit – the Newark Bait and Flycasting Club and the Forked River Tuna Club. Bring your tournament information, membership forms and other information about your club. If you have a special ability you would like to share – tying a fly, demonstrating the “perfect” cast – let me know and we will be sure to get it advertised NOW so the 50,000 or so people who attend the show will be duly impressed with your abilities and also will learn about JCAA and its mission to protect the marine environment. I am seeking volunteers to man the booth in staggered shifts. Afterwards (or beforehand) you can wander the show. If you have a love of the water, there are many opportunities to enjoy yourself at the free show - <http://www.co.ocean.nj.us/parks/decoyshow.html> A quick note to my fellow anglers at the Village Harbour Fishing Club – I will be at the Decoy Show September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and look forward to seeing you there!

President Mark Taylor asked that I contribute my expertise on Highly Migratory Species (HMS) by joining and becoming an active member of the JCAA’s HMS committee. I gladly accepted and here is one reason why: this past Saturday, I had the honor of participating in the Sportsmen’s Advisory Board, a roundtable brought together by Congressman John Adler that includes recreational, commercial and hunting interests. As many of you are aware, I have a long history with those issues from both the legislative to the practical which I am pleased to offer. There was a short discussion about HMS and having been working informally on HMS with our JCCA committee, I was up-to-date on the subject and could offer some comments. The group is well-represented by very knowledgeable people, including our own Legislative Chair Tom Fote.

As our JCAA HMS committee becomes more active in the lead-up to the annual meeting of the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), I am hopeful that my participation in past ICCAT activities, including as a U.S. Delegate to ICCAT in Spain, will bring a welcome international perspective to our deliberations. We have some very talented members

on our HMS committee and I am looking forward to being a part of this very important group. For more information on this year’s ICCAT, please see <http://www.iccat.int/en/>

Finally, thank you to all of you for participating in the JCAA. Please call me with any questions or comments or ideas that you may have – **every weekday except Thursday!**

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

Summer is over, the fall fishing has begun and another fluke season bites the dust. The public hearings discussed in the previous newspaper are scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you at the hearing since some important decisions at the ASMFC Annual meeting will be made with the input we receive at those hearings. The information on the times and places for New Jersey and Pennsylvania are included below. To see the dates for hearings in the other states go to the ASMFC web page. For those of you who live in the western part of the state, Pennsylvania will be having a hearing on striped bass, shad and river herring. That information is also below. There are some tough choices to be made and I imagine there will be much heated discussion at the JCAA General Meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Ed Cherry authored a letter on weakfish which is included in this edition. I will be on a conference call to approve the public hearing document for the weakfish fast track addendum on September 28<sup>th</sup>. We will have that information at the JCAA meeting but the actual wording will not be available until then. The options will be similar to the information in last month’s newspaper and in Ed’s letter.

There was a conference call on sea bass, summer flounder and scup. As usual, there was controversy and, in addition, there were problems with the technology of the conference call. I got cut off from the call and could not get reinstated until most of the discussion was completed. I was able to voice my concerns before any votes were taken. Some people think we dodged a bullet by not shutting the sea bass fishery this year but my fear is that at the joint meeting of the MidAtlantic Council and ASMFC there will be consequences for keeping the fishery open. I hope to learn more at the

ASMFC Annual Meeting in October. The sea bass and scup situation should have been avoided by increasing the quota to the allowable levels. That information was included in last month's newspaper and is available on the JCAA website.

We have included an article by Tom Siciliano about the problems with intercepts. In addition to the problems Tom discusses, there are many other problems with the way intercepts are conducted. My fear is that this new system will cause all kinds of problems in estimating the recreational catch. If they have been doing a bad job for 25 years, are they likely to admit their new system proves their old figures were totally inaccurate? My guess is they will blame it on us again and there will be no attempt to do retrospective analysis to bring this data in line. For example, when you begin to use new trawling gear to estimate stock assessment, you must use conversion tables to make sure the data aligns correctly. We need for this to happen when any new data-gathering tools are used. I live to be proven wrong!

If you did not receive last month's newspaper or you were too busy fishing to read it, I have reprinted the article on weakfish below. You can access the rest of last month's newspaper on the JCAA webpage. There are important articles on the Federal Registry and other topics. The best way to keep up with the fisheries and environmental news is to subscribe via email. Please email me ([tfote@jcaa.org](mailto:tfote@jcaa.org)) or go to the JCAA webpage at this link ([http://jcaa.org/Subscriber\\_Form.asp](http://jcaa.org/Subscriber_Form.asp)).

### **Overharvesting**

(Reprint from Mid-Summer Newspaper)

Thirty years ago the National Marine Fisheries Service would not take action to prevent overharvesting. No where was this more evident than in New England. Now I see just the opposite happening. The stated goal of ASMFC and NMFS is to preserve the nation's marine resources and promote sustainable fisheries. In some respects the pendulum has swung the other way. They stopped regulating through intelligent management and began basing management systems using poor data and poor modeling. They have met their goals on the backs of the recreational and commercial communities. Because they have no control over agencies that oversee water issues, power plants, sewer plants, and environmental problems, they regulate the only people they have control over, the

recreational and commercial fishing communities. Instead of reaching out to the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, Army Corp of Engineers, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Defense and working together to solve the natural problems, NMFS and ASMFC continue to just reduce recreational and commercial quotas.

Weakfish is a perfect example. The ASMFC has greatly reduced both the recreational and commercial catch in the last 16 years. They have eliminated gear, raised size limits and reduced bag limits. Never once have they addressed the underlying issue – a high natural mortality for weakfish. The recreational and commercial communities have been complaining about this for more than 7 years because of the reduced availability of weakfish. We have greatly restricted the catch and are looking at the possibility of a moratorium. I can't promise you that any of these actions will have any impact on the rebuilding process. All we have to look at is the amount of reduction we have already taken and see what transpired. With a huge reduction in bycatch, an increase in the size limit to insure that all weakfish spawn at least once before harvest and the great reduction in harvest by both the recreational and commercial sectors, we saw the stocks rise for a couple of years and then crash for no apparent reason.

Unless we deal with the factors causing natural mortality, this will happen with many other species. To call the problem natural mortality ignores the fact that this is the unnatural result of human behavior.

### **NJ Public Hearing on Weakfish Draft**

#### **Addendum IV**

Washington, DC - Atlantic coast states from New York through Florida have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Weakfish. The dates, times, and locations of the scheduled meetings follow. It is anticipated that South Carolina will also be scheduling a public hearing. The details of this hearing will be released when available. Please note that some states will also be conducting hearings on other ASMFC proposed species management actions.

**New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife  
October 6, 2009; 8:00 PM  
Toms River Township Clerk-s Office  
L. Manuel Hirshblond Room  
33 Washington Street  
Toms River, New Jersey  
Contact: Tom McCloy at (609) 292-7794  
\* Public comment will also be gathered on Striped Bass  
Draft Addendum II (7 PM)**

The Draft Addendum will propose a range of options to reduce fishing mortality, including complete harvest moratoria and limited bycatch only fisheries. It was developed in response to the findings of the 2009 weakfish stock assessment which shows weakfish stocks at an all time low and current fishery removals unsustainable under existing stock conditions. Specifically, the assessment indicated that weakfish abundance has declined markedly, total mortality is high, non-fishing mortality has recently increased, and the stock is currently in a depleted state. The assessment report was reviewed and approved for management use by an independent panel of fisheries scientists.

The weakfish stock is depleted at an all-time low of 2.9 million pounds (1,333 metric tons), far below the proposed biomass threshold of 22.4 million pounds (10,179 metric tons). At this stock size, recent fishery removals (landings and dead discards combined) represent a significant proportion of the remaining biomass. While the decline in the stock primarily results from a change in the natural mortality of weakfish in recent years, it is further exacerbated by continued removals by the commercial and recreational fisheries.

Natural mortality has risen substantially since 1995, with factors such as predation, competition, and changes in the environment having a stronger influence on recent weakfish stock dynamics than fishing mortality. Given current high natural mortality levels, stock projections indicate that the stock is unlikely to recover rapidly, even under a harvest moratorium. In order to rebuild the stock, total mortality will need to be reduced, although this is unlikely to occur until natural mortality decreases to previous levels. On a positive note, juvenile abundance surveys indicate that young-of-the-year weakfish continued to be present in numbers similar to previous years, suggesting that recruitment at this point has not been severely limited in spite of low stock size.

The Board has placed the Draft Addendum on a faster timeline than standard addenda. Staff and the Plan Development Team will prepare a draft for Board review and consideration on September 28th. If approved, the draft will then be made available for

public review and comment shortly thereafter. The Board will meet again in November to consider public comment and take final action on the Draft Addendum. Under Commission procedures, the Board may opt to implement the Addendum under emergency action, with approved measures taking effect immediately upon Board action.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum IV, by attending public hearings or providing written comments. Copies of Draft Addendum IV will be available shortly after September 28th via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) under Breaking News. Public comment will be accepted until late October (final deadline to be set upon the Draft Addendum's release) and should be forwarded to Nichola Meserve, FMP Coordinator, 1444 'Eye' Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at [<nmeserve@asmfc.org>](mailto:nmeserve@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Weakfish Draft Addendum IV).

### **New Jersey and Pennsylvania Public Hearings on Striped Bass Draft Addendum II**

Washington, DC – Atlantic coast states from Maine through North Carolina have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The dates, times, and locations of the scheduled meetings follow. Please note that some states will also be conducting hearings on other ASMFC proposed species management actions.

**New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife  
October 6, 2009; 7:00 PM  
Toms River Township Clerk's Office  
L. Manuel Hirshblond Room  
33 Washington Street  
Toms River, New Jersey  
Contact: Tom McCloy at (609) 292-7794  
\* Public comment will also be gathered on Weakfish Draft  
Addendum IV (8:00 PM)**

**Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
September 29, 2009; 7:00 PM  
Tyler State Park  
101 Swamp Road  
New Town, Pennsylvania  
Contact: Leroy Young at (814) 359-5177  
\* Public comment will also be gathered on Shad Draft  
Amendment 3**

Draft Addendum II proposes to allow unused coastal commercial quota of striped bass to be rolled over from one year to the next. Options include state eligibility and the amount of unused quota that may be

carried over. The Draft Addendum also outlines procedures for implementing and monitoring quota roll over.

The existing management program addresses coastal commercial quota overages, requiring payback of an overage in the subsequent year, yet it is silent on coastal commercial quota underages. While avoiding a quota overage signifies managerial success, a quota underage represents lost opportunity to commercial harvesters. Quota underages may result from changes in fish abundance or distribution, environmental factors, fishing effort, and regulatory measures.

The Draft Addendum presents a hypothetical situation to analyze the potential effect of allowing roll over. Had all unused coastal commercial quota in 2003 through 2007 been rolled over and then harvested in 2004 through 2008, the average increase in the total coastal commercial quota would have been less than 15 percent and the average increase in the total coastwide harvest less than two percent. An analysis by the Technical Committee indicated that a 15 percent increase in the coastal commercial quotas would have a limited effect on the fishing mortality rate, and that large fluctuations in recreational harvest, which is not regulated by quota, present a greater level of risk of exceeding the fishing mortality target or threshold. However, the Technical Committee also noted that the potential effect of roll over on the stock increases if quota underages occur due to population decline. Other concerns included the two to three year lag in reporting the fishing mortality rate estimate for any given year and that allowing roll over could provide an incentive to under report harvest.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum II, either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. Copies of Draft Addendum II are available via the Commission's website at [www.asmf.org](http://www.asmf.org) under Breaking News. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on October 16, 2009 and should be forwarded to Nichola Meserve, FMP Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at [nmeserve@asmfc.org](mailto:nmeserve@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum II).

### **New Jersey & Pennsylvania** **Public Hearings on Shad Draft** **Amendment 3**

Washington, DC - Atlantic coast states from Maine through Florida have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Shad and River Herring. The dates, times, and locations of the scheduled meetings follow. Please note that some states will also be

conducting hearings on other ASMFC proposed species management actions.

**New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife**  
**October 5, 2009; 8:00 PM**  
**Division of Fish & Wildlife**  
**Marine Enforcement Office**  
**Route 9, Mile Marker 51**  
**Port Republic, New Jersey**  
**Contact: Tom McCloy at (609) 292-7794**  
**\* Public comment will also be gathered on Scup and Black Sea Bass Draft Addendum XX (7 PM)**

**Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission**  
**September 29, 2009; 7:00 PM**  
**Tyler State Park**  
**101 Swamp Road**  
**New Town, Pennsylvania**  
**Contact: Leroy Young at (814) 359-5177**  
**\* Public comment will also be gathered on Striped Bass Draft Addendum II**

The Draft Amendment proposes a suite of monitoring and management measures to protect, enhance, and restore American shad stocks to sustainable levels. It was developed in response to the 2007 benchmark stock assessment for American shad, which indicates that stocks are currently at all-time lows and do not appear to be recovering. The stock assessment identified the primary causes for the continued stock declines as a combination of excessive total mortality, habitat loss and degradation, and migration and habitat access impediments. Although improvement has been seen in a few stocks, many remain severely depressed compared to historic levels.

The Draft Amendment proposes modification to current coastwide commercial and recreational fisheries management measures. Commercial management options include reducing harvest, closing fisheries with exceptions for systems with a sustainable fishery, closing fisheries on mixed stocks, and a coastwide moratorium. Recreational management options include reducing harvest, implementing a licensing or permitting program, closing fisheries with exceptions for fisheries with a sustainable system, allowing a catch and release fishery only, and a coastwide moratorium. The Draft Amendment also proposes increased monitoring measures.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on Draft Amendment 3, by attending public hearings or providing written comments. Copies of Draft Amendment are available via the Commissions website at [www.asmf.org](http://www.asmf.org) under Breaking News. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM EST on October 22, 2009 and should be forwarded to Kate Taylor, FMP Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Draft Amendment 3).

**JCAA Member Clubs**  
**RE: Salt Water Registry**  
*By Bruce Smith & Tom Siciliano*

The question of a JCAA position on the Federal Registry and a possible State Salt Water Fishing License remains undecided. We tried to do it by a mail ballot but it did not work so we will take a vote at the next general meeting of the JCAA on September 29th.

Your choices are as follows:

1. Do nothing. This will result in a Federal registry with no fee in 2010, but which will have a fee of between \$25 and \$35 starting in 2011. Those fees will go to the general Federal treasury and be of no value to NJ anglers.
2. A free state registry. Nothing is really free. The State Division of Fish and Wildlife does not have the funding to implement this program. Where does the money come from?
3. A state registry with a minimal fee (\$2 - \$4) to cover administrative costs.
4. A New Jersey Salt Water Fishing License. (\$15 - \$25)

A separate issue is ongoing funding for the Bureau of Marine Fisheries, Division of Fish and Wildlife. This could be achieved by an increase in state funding or funds generated by a Salt Water License. There is a white paper on our web page about that.

**18th Annual State of New Jersey**  
**Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament**  
*Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009*  
*By Paul Smith, GSFT Committee*

Participating anglers will fish on Island Beach State Park from 6:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Same day registration will begin at 5:00 am at Pavilion #1.

**Registration Fees:**

(Ages 18 & over - \$15.00 on Tournament Day  
\$5.00 - Ages 13-17

**Children 12 & under are FREE!**

Special arrangements are made for handicapped anglers. Balloon tire equipped beach wheelchairs are available for anglers with disabilities. Volunteers will be needed to assist anglers with special

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

We need your help! We need your help, so please sign up to be a judge in the tournament. Each judge will receive a special issue Governor's Cup Surf Fishing Tournament cap with "Judge-2009" embroidered across the back. In addition, this year a stipend is available to help offset the cost of fuel burned while on the beach judging. Also, the IBSP beach pass is not required for judge's 4x4 vehicles during the hours of the tournament. Please call Paul Harris at 732-269-8878 for more information.

Special tournament t-shirts will be available for sale inside the pavilion area after 12:00 noon on tournament day. Don't forget to get your shirt with this year's new design!

There will be a special drawing for registered anglers in the tournament to win an amazing Surf Rocket long-casting device. Participants in the drawing must be present at the award ceremonies to qualify to win.

Tournament derived funds were granted to conduct nine surf fishing instructional clinics at Island Beach State Park again this summer. These clinics have been conducted free of charge to participants for several years. This program has been very successful at introducing the sport of surf fishing to several hundred new anglers. New surf anglers spend a morning learning the basics of equipment, tackle, bait varieties, casting, fish identification, knots, and "reading the beach". After a break for lunch, all go to the beach for several hours of actual surf fishing with a group of volunteer instructors.

Harsh economic times have eliminated state funding of many worthy programs that are of interest to New Jersey's salt water anglers. This is an example of the type of program that is now only made possible as the result of the participation by so many anglers at each year's Governor's Cup Tournament.

**Special Note**

Although Fluke was listed among the eligible species of fish for the tournament, a decision has been made by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife to withdraw Fluke from this year's tournament. Notice of this change will be given to all participants at the IBSP main gate house as well as at the same-day registration desk. Beach judges will be instructed to advise anglers to release all fluke immediately and not to measure or handle any fluke during this tournament.



## **Wanted! Statisticians!**

*By Tom Siciliano*

The new Salt Water Registry required by the updated Magnuson/Stevens act will improve the telephone portion of the Marine Recreational Fisheries Survey by anywhere from 50 to 100 times. Currently the phone calls are done on a random survey of all phones and the hit level is about one percent. With the registry the hit level will be vastly improved. The question still remains is this level of sampling sufficient?

The other half of the MRFS survey is the dockside interview. What is the optimum/appropriate sample size for these dockside interviews? Last year there were approximately 4000 dockside interviews conducted. If you do the math and assume 200 fishing days for the year, that comes to 20 interviews per day for the entire state. That number of interviews seems to be a little on the low side. This is especially true when you consider the number of variables that need to be considered. Fishing in Cape May is not the same as Sandy Hook. Each port up and down the coast has a different catch level on any given day. Each day is different. How many times have you fished on successive days in the same spot and caught lots of fish one day and very few the next? The weather is certainly a huge factor. The skill of individual anglers must also be considered. We have all been on boats where one person can't do anything wrong and is pulling fish up left and right, while the person next to them can't buy a nibble.

The question that the National Marine Fisheries Service has not answered is: What is the minimum sample size needed to obtain accurate results from dockside interviews. When asked how much they were going to increase the number of interviews they answered by saying they may double the number. Is that sample size sufficient to provide the necessary credibility in the eyes of recreational anglers? JCAA has been asking this question for years and has never gotten an appropriate answer. At every national meeting when this topic is on the agenda, JCAA representatives have made it a priority to ask this question. The registry will give us a phone book but without dealing with all the intercept problems, the data will continue to be less than accurate.

To try to determine the optimum sample size, I would like to ask any statisticians out there to give me a call. At best JCAA would form a committee to do an analysis and come up with a sample size that would be appropriate to give statistically valid results. At the least with your help we can lay out the questions to ask of the National Marine Fisheries Service. My phone number is 732-267-6451 and my email is [toms6363@comcast.net](mailto:toms6363@comcast.net).

### **A letter to JCAA regarding a position on Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 4 to Fishery Management Plan for Weakfish**

September 21, 2009

As a concerned fisherman who has dealt with the weakfish fishery for many years both as a fisherman and at the regulations level, I present the following thoughts for your consideration.

I regard the extremely low stock assessment of weakfish to be a very alarming and a real problem. The overall lack of weakfish in any numbers along the east coast for the past two seasons indicates the severity of the problem. It will require a very severe restriction on the fishery to try to assess more exactly the causative factors and methods needed to correct the problem, even though a rather substantial number of weakfish have appeared in Barnegat Bay to Great Bay in New Jersey very late this summer (2009) for a short time period.

Members of one of my fishing clubs (4 B's) and I have been discussing the current problem for a number of weeks.

We propose that a solution similar to the solution that was set for winter flounder to be fair for this species as well, although the decline of the weakfish stock is due to conditions other than overfishing as over fishing is not occurring at this time.

We feel that this precipitous decline in the stock is in part due to and ever increasing population of Striped Bass, Bluefish, Croakers and particularly the very large effect that the Spiny Dogfish have on the fall coastal migration of the 1 and 2 year old class of weakfish. There also appears to be an increasing pressure on ever decreasing population of forage by these species. Additionally, water quality problems in the bays and estuaries that potentially can affect the spawning cycle continue to escalate and must also be addressed.

I present the following realistic interim solution for your consideration:

- As with the winter flounder fishery, there should be a complete moratorium on commercial landings with severely reduced by-catch allotments. Any by-catch allotment should be so small as to prevent a targeted by-catch fishery.
- The recreational sector should be allowed a 1 or 2 fish daily bag limit to act as a monitoring device for the inshore fishery. This is similar to what is the approach in the winter flounder fishery. A complete recreational moratorium will provide no effect on the stock.

Sincerely,  
Ed Cherry

## Highly Migratory Species

*By John Koegler*

### Over Fished Tuna

Internationally ALL tuna are over fished. The EU countries have during the last 33 years refused to impose any tuna regulations on themselves. They had more reasons not to regulate their country's tuna landings than Bayer has aspirins.

There is a slight chance something will be done next year. The EU fishery management has specified that bluefin tuna are over fished and that something must be done. What they propose is to list bluefin tuna under the CITIES endangered species regulations. EU countries have never followed any tuna regulations regardless of the rules. It is doubtful after so many wasted years that anything will be done. Such an international listing, if approved, will fall primarily on United States and other North America fishermen. Because of total lack of EU enforcement nothing will likely happen for another 10 years.

Those who have followed such matters know that Spain and France have built super purse seiners so large that they can now operate in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean. These new seiners have exploded their country's landings of yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna of all sizes. The impact on US east coast fishermen is their summer yellowfin tuna landings have been lower every year for the last 8 years.

Their once great yellowfin tuna fishery has disappeared. Not because of lack of bait but because France and Spain are now catching over 15 million

pounds yearly. This is a massive increase from the less than the million pounds they previous reported.

NO ONE at NMFS cares that US yellowfin tuna are being slaughtered in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean. Despite ICCAT approving yellowfin and Bigeye tuna landing limits, such limits are totally ignored by all European and African nations!

NMFS representatives to ICCAT have refused to allow US members to challenge these illegal yellowfin/bigeye landings for whatever reason. The slaughter goes on with no end in sight. The result is the US east coast once great summer and fall tuna are being sold by the French and Spanish seiners.

The result is most canyon anglers now chunk all night and catch not a single tuna. When NMFS is challenged at the ICCAT advisors meeting, the advisors demand for action is ignored. Does anyone care? I guess not since nothing has been done to stop this outright theft of a once great United States east coast fishery. Save jobs and business at the economically starved marinas and tackle stores on the east coast? What a stupid idea!

### Offshore Fishery Report

NMFS has finished their Golden tilefish management regulations. US anglers will be delighted to know they will be limited to 8 Golden tilefish on all their future offshore tilefish trips. NMFS current count of angler caught tilefish is so low it is a joke. But then NMFS can claim no recreational fishery exists and they can offer them a tiny future quota for Golden tilefish. Should anglers expect an honest count from NMFS in a fishery where the angler's quota has not been estimated or set?

Giant Bluefin Landings are up from 2008. This is a major improvement from 2007. Credit must be given to the New England fishermen who had the New England Fishery Management sharply reduce herring landings close to the Maine coast. This has clearly had a major impact on rebuilding New England's former great giant fishing for rod and reel.

Bigeye Tuna landings were great for anglers at the mouth of the Hudson Canyon during July. Lots of Bigeye tuna were landed. This is a major improvement from 2008.

Commercial Swordfish landings were also up sharply from 2008. Maybe all the hype over low commercial landings was a shift of swordfish abundance rather than a major failure of US commercials to catch their ICCAT quota.

False Albacore have shown up this year inshore in the best numbers in many years. Atlantic Bonito are also present and can be caught on a good day when the wind is not howling out of the NE which has now entered the third week in a row when NE is the primary wind direction.

Two weeks ago New Jersey had a Thursday when the NE wind blew for an extended period of time over 60 MPH. This was not the forecast. Lots of umbrellas, trash cans and backyard furniture went for a ride on that wind. In fact, the wind was so strong that many backyards had piles of tree leaves which were stripped from the tree branches by the extreme force of the storm. Not exactly your typical summer rain storm.

## **JCAA Youth Education Report**

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### **2009 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD**

It takes the support of many volunteers to bring successes to the fishing community but sometimes individuals and sport-fishing organizations go above and beyond to make the future of fishing better for our youngsters. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is accepting nominations for the 2009 Youth Education Award. Please submit your nominations by October 25, 2009. Submit your nominations in writing to JCAA Youth Education Committee, [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com)

### **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).

### **HOFNOD CERTIFICATION**

Get ready to get certified for the “Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs” certification training session during 2010. At the next JCAA general meeting we will provide a sign-up sheet for JCAA member representatives to bring back to their club or organization. We will coordinate the HOFNOD certification training sessions with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife HOFNOD certification program. Wayne Tonneson, NJ Conservation Officer and NJ State representative for the Future Fisherman Foundation's “Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs” program will assist the JCAA Youth Education Committee with information about their HOFNOD certification schedule. If you would like more information about the upcoming HOFNOD certification and youth fishing programs, please e-mail Greg Kucharewski at [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com) and place HOFNOD in the subject line. The JCAA Youth Education Committee also provides HOFNOD, Passport to Fishing and Boating, and commercial drug awareness materials to member clubs/organizations of JCAA. Throughout the year several fishing clubs and organizations have used the services of the JCAA Lending Library and ordered environmental support materials for their events. We are pleased with the recent interest to provide youth fishing programs within the membership of the JCAA. Remember to provide us with a follow-up letter about your event so it can be part of the JCAA Newspaper. We would like to publish your success stories in the JCAA Newspaper. If your organization needs “Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs” promotional items for your event, please phone 732-785-9278 and leave a message. We will return your call as soon as possible and support your event with materials from the JCAA Lending Library.

### **ASBURY PARK YOUTH FISHING PROGRAM**

The JCAA Youth Education Committee was asked to assist the Asbury Park School System with information about the “Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs” curriculum. We will meet with school administrators during October/November 2009 to discuss HOFNOD implementation options for children at risk.

## 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)		
Blackfish	Pat Donnelly	732-528-8181
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:webmaster@jcaa.org">webmaster@jcaa.org</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.