

JCAA NEWSPAPER JANUARY 2010

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on December 21st, 2009)

Monthly Meeting Room Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday December 29th 2009

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 7th, 2010

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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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.

2009 OFFICERS

President	Mark Taylor	732-929-2591
1st V.P.	Captain Gene Nigro	732-291-5688
2nd V.P.	Bruce Freeman	732-793-7871
Treasurer	Doug Tegeder	732-341-5674
Rec. Sec.	Tom Siciliano	609-296-3774
Cors. Sec.	Paul Turi	609-660-2126
Mem. Sec.	Bruce Smith	732-695-3431

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

December 29th JCAA General Mtg

January 7th NJMFC Mtg

January 7th JCAA Board Mtg

January 14th-17th Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show

January 26th JCAA General Mtg

February 1st-4th ASMFC Mtg Week

February 3rd-7th AC Boat Show

February 14th JCAA Board Mtg

February 23rd JCAA General Mtg

February 27th Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series

NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife reminds saltwater anglers that the federal government's National Saltwater Angler Registry Program requires most New Jersey saltwater anglers to register prior to fishing in 2010.

You must register if you*

*** Fish for or catch anadromous species (striped bass, shad, river herring) in state tidal waters**

*** Fish in Federal waters (more than 3 miles from shore)**

You do not have to register if you*

*** Are under 16 years of age**

*** Only fish on federally licensed party or charter boats**

*** Hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling Permit**

*** Hold a Saltwater Fishing License in another State or signed up for the registry in another State**

Online and telephone registration will begin January 1, 2010. Register online at www.countmyfish.noaa.gov or call toll free 888-674-7411.

Registration is free in 2010.

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

It is coming to the end of a year that I have been in office as JCAA President. It has been a very fast moving year with all the fisheries issues being on the fast track. Most of the issues are not to the liking of the recreational community. I will continue to fight for our share of the resource and to protect it for the future. It has been an honor to be your President for the past year.

It was very sad to hear of the passing of Dery Bennett. Everyone in the recreational community will miss Dery Bennett. He was one of the major driving forces in protecting the marine environment.

As always, everyone must keep updated on the issues because there are news releases from ASMFC that they have been sending out. These releases are issues that are for public comment and review. It is very important that everybody participates in this process. You and your clubs need to attend and submit written comments on all issues whether it is for or against. If you don't then we as a recreational community have no voice in the matters at hand. So get more involved so the recreational community has an even stronger voice. 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 so continue to check out our website. Club Presidents should make sure that their representatives attend every JCAA General Meeting to bring this information back to your individual clubs for discussion.

With end of the year coming it is that time again, Elections. If you are interested in becoming a JCAA Officer you need to contact Don Marantz at 609-259-6368 or the JCAA Office. We are looking for dedicated individuals to get more involved. Each member club should have their delegates present at the December Meeting to be involved in the process of electing the new officers for 2010.

The **High Roller Raffle** will be our next fundraiser and the drawing will be at our April General Meeting. So come see us at one of the shows or call the office to get your raffles.

With the show season coming up very fast, JCAA will be looking for volunteers to staff a booth. There are four shows that we will be attending this year. **Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's &**

Adventure Show (Raritan Show) Jan. 14th to 17th, **Atlantic City International Power Boat Show** Feb. 3rd -7th, **Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar** Feb. 27th, **The Saltwater Fishing Show** Mar. 19th to 21st and **The NJ Wild Outdoor Expo** Sept. 25th to 26th. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. If anyone is interested right now in volunteering please contact me at mtsport64@aol.com. This is where we interact with people who do not belong to any clubs and are misinformed on issues. It is a great experience to meet many different people who enjoy something you love to do.

Don't miss out, the end of the tax year will be here and we will be welcoming in year 2010. The end of the year also ushers in strategies on lowering your 2009 taxes by various financial moves including giving special contributions to non-profit or charitable organizations. Consider giving a financial gift to the JCAA since it is a non-profit entity and your contribution is tax deductible. Your contribution will be utilized to support and protect the rights of all anglers who fish in New Jersey. Please call the JCAA office at (732) 506-6565 if you have any questions in regard to your contribution.

As I mentioned in past newsletters, the Newspaper Committee is looking for clubs to send in a 500-word description about your club including who you are and what you do. Send it in by e-mail to jcaa@jcaa.org with the stipulation that we will be using these highlights in the order that they are received and 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. Give the office a call she would like to hear from you.

**Have a Holiday Season
&
Happy New Year**

**The next JCAA General
Membership Meeting will be
December 29, 2009**

Operations Manager Report

By Sharon McKenna

November was a busy month here in the office, as well as out. Grant writing continues to be a focus of my time. As we receive grants, I will announce them in this column. I hope to share good news in next month's newspaper!

On November 30, several JCAA Board members (Bruce Smith, Tom Siciliano, and John Koegler) and I attended the Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute's marine resource stakeholder roundtable meeting. The purpose of the roundtable was to review and discuss MARCO's preliminary report and recommendations: Actions, Timelines, and Leadership to Advance the Mid-Atlantic Governor's Agreement on Ocean Conservation (MARCO Action Plan), to encourage active engagement of N.J. ocean stakeholder groups in MARCO, and to prepare our New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) representatives for the regional stakeholder meeting that was scheduled for Dec. 9-10, 2009 in NYC. The notes and summary of the discussions from the roundtable were provided to the NJDEP representatives to MARCO for their use in ensuring that the stakeholder priorities were discussed at the December meeting.

Priorities to our recreational fishing community included the following: MARCO should seek to identify desirable uses (such as fishing, recreation, etc.) that should be priorities for planning and protection. MARCO should work closely with stakeholders to develop a process for MARCO and the five (5) states to follow with respect to assuring stakeholder input, so all stakeholders can be heard. In the case of offshore renewable energy facilities, states should set the priorities for fisheries and habitat protection first, then set priorities for **siting** energy facilities.

JCAA representatives made several recommendations concerning MARCO's role in the improvement of regional fisheries stock assessments, noting that anglers will be very concerned about proposals that will result in limiting access; definition of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and the MSP process, and how they will be incorporated into the GIS mapping efforts identified in the Action Plan and their trickledown effect on marine usage;

relation of MARCO to other agencies and organizations, i.e., the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC); addressing prescription drugs "down the drain," and other nontraditional pollutants into receiving waters; identification of the connections between habitat protection efforts and fisheries conservation; and recognition that, even with spatial planning to identify locations for renewable energy, those locations become fish habitats once structures are in place.

The MARCO is modeled on other regional consortiums, such as the five state Gulf of Mexico Alliance (<http://gulfofmexicoalliance.org/>), which has provided a successful framework for MARCO. To learn more about MARCO, visit the website: <http://www.midatlanticocean.org/>

On Monday, December 14, I was honored to testify on behalf of JCAA before the Senate Environment Committee in support of SB 3041 to require the construction of a closed loop water vapor system for the Oyster Creek nuclear power generation station in Lacey Township. My testimony was picked up and a portion of it featured on New Jersey 101.5 and 92.7 WOBM. It was my honor and privilege to express the views of the member clubs of the JCAA regarding this bill and if you are interested in my testimony, the statement I read is included in this newspaper.

Reminder, in case you want to come over and talk fishing: Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Thursday, I will be off-site until January 7, when office hours will resume 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. as we gear up for the 16th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament. Be on the lookout for our sponsors and entry forms, as well as high roller raffle books coming to a mailbox near you soon!

FLUKE TOURNAMENT REPORT

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 12, 2010 for the 16th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament. The awards ceremony will be held Friday, June 18, 2010 at Trump Marina Hotel Casino. The Fluke Tournament planning is coming along nicely. We have received confirmation from the following national companies as sponsors of the event: Pure Fishing, Ugly Stick, Penn, Spiderwire, Berkley, Costa del Mar, Minn-kota, Johnson Electronics, Nor'east Saltwater magazine, NJ Angler magazine. We are in negotiations with a fantastic retailer to

whom I was able to present this valuable promotional opportunity that comes with sponsoring the largest one-day tournament on the East Coast. The next newspaper will contain news about this retailer.

As always, the tournament committee is in need of volunteers to get the word out about the tournament, including those who can deliver posters and entry forms to marinas and tackle shops throughout the geographic span of the tournament. One thing that sets our tournament apart is the number of door prizes we award, so we are always looking for excellent ones that promote a business connected with fishing. Last year, we handed out several "free entry" forms for tournaments that our member clubs hold throughout the year. Your club's tournament gets some additional advertising and some lucky angler gets the family together to participate – truly a win/win. Please let me know when your club makes the decision to offer a free entry so I can share the news with our entire membership right here in this newspaper.

We have not yet nailed down a Grand Prize Sponsor and although there was a lot of enthusiasm for this year's cash prize, we really want to get back to a boat, motor and trailer as in most of the previous tournaments. We want to make sure we have all our sponsors and their logos by January so we can begin to advertise their involvement with our organization and its mission to represent the position of marine sport anglers, champion their causes and protect their rights in matters pertaining to fishing, fisheries, and environmental quality. This mission has never been more important than now, as you will see from several reports in this newspaper.

We are also looking for a first place port prize sponsor. Grand Prize and port sponsors get prominent placement on our website, on all posters, banners and advertisements, on our t-shirts and in our newspapers, which reach over 4,000 anglers, policy makers and industry leaders involved in our sport.

In our next newspaper, we will begin to feature our sponsors and their prizes so you will know what you might win when you catch a doormat on June 12, 2010. And as always, patronizing our sponsors is what makes them return to JCAA year after year. So, I know the winter is closing in, but in a blink of the eye, it'll be fluke season and the tournament will be upon us. Thank you for your support of the JCAA. Please call me at the office at

732-506-6565 with your thoughts, ideas, suggestions, free tournament entries, etc. I am in the office every weekday except for Thursday until January 7th, when we will resume normal office hours all week long – 9 to 2 p.m.

The fundraising committee is interested in your views on new events. Would you have an interest in a fishing flea market? An art auction? Or an outing at a home game of the NJ Devils hockey team? Please contact me at the office with your thoughts and ideas. We are always looking for fresh ideas.

**Statement of Sharon McKenna,
Operations Manager, Jersey Coast
Anglers Association Before the Senate
Environment Committee, December 14,
2009**

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Sharon McKenna, I am here on behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. Normally, Tom Fote, our legislative chair would be here but is unable to attend, so I am testifying instead. JCAA is in support of SB 3041.

JCAA was founded in 1981 to represent recreational anglers and their fishing clubs. To be clear, Jersey Coast is not opposed to Oyster Creek. Jersey Coast is, however, opposed to the impact that the current water intake system is having on Barnegat Bay. We are not naïve enough to believe that a closed loop water vapor system will completely heal the bay. Nonpoint source pollution does have an impact. My township of Stafford (Manahawkin) has introduced its own fertilizer ordinance to address nonpoint source pollution and runoff into Barnegat Bay. Will this small effort heal the bay? No, but every action helps, both with the nonpoint source pollution control and with the point source impact of the power plant. To have a closed loop water vapor system available to mitigate damage to the Barnegat Bay ecosystem and then **not** use it would be irresponsible.

Exelon and Oyster Creek enjoys a reputation as a good corporate citizen with strong community ties. This is their chance to prove it, put their money where their mouths are, so to speak. Along with their license renewal comes the reality that they are

going to remain our neighbors for decades to come. Jersey Coast strongly supports mitigating the impact of nuclear power generation on the lagoonal ecosystem that serves as a nursery for the fish species that are the foundation of our sport. These species include: striped bass, bluefish, fluke, weakfish, winter flounder, shad, herring, shrimp, clams, oysters, killie fish, silversides, blowfish, bay anchovies, kingfish, blue claw crabs, plankton, terrapins, and porgies.

It's not in my prepared remarks, but I think it is important to state: Jersey Coast's President Mark A. Taylor is plant manager of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission. The commission just added four cooling towers to their plant complex. The towers were hooked in during routine maintenance and not one day of operations was missed. **Not one.** I find it hard to believe that nuclear construction engineers can't reach that same achievement.

And with that, thank you for your consideration of the Jersey Coast position. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

While the holiday season is upon us, I am not expecting any presents from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The opposite is my expectation. Although summer flounder, scup and sea bass are in great shape, the recreational fishing community is going to have another very restricted season in 2010. According to NMFS, sea bass has been a recovered fishery for the last 2 years. Yet NMFS insists on making us fish on a quota for a stock that is being overfished and overfishing is taking place and it is still rebuilding. NMFS claims on their webpage that this is a recovered stock. I guess for NMFS "recovered" means more fish in the ocean but none in your boat. Summer flounder is the same story. Even though the stock is multiples of what it was in 1996 by every measure, we are going to be catching about a third of the fish we caught in 1996 when the fishery was in bad shape. At least with scup we got a small increase in the quota but no where near what the stock assessment said we could have.

Years ago I was at a monitoring committee meeting with Dusty Rhodes and I heard a NMFS employee say that we really need to limit the number

of recreational anglers. When I wrote a column with that quote, a representative of NMFS said I was not being truthful. The meeting was recorded and I asked for an apology when the records of the meeting showed I was correct. Somehow that tape went missing and NMFS never gave me an explanation. When I look at the big push for catch shares and evaluate the behavior of NMFS, I find evidence that the original quote is the mantra of NMFS. What catch shares are proving is that they consolidate the fishery and eliminate small captains and small business operations.

By manipulating quotas for sea bass, scup and summer flounder, NMFS knows they are putting captains, tackle stores and others who depend on recreational fishing out of business. They are basically pushing anglers to look for another sport since they are unlikely to bring any fish home to eat. NMFS is truly pushing the subsistence fishermen out of the fishery. I am not a conspiracy theorist but this conspiracy is hard to deny.

It is up to us to make sure NMFS is not successful. The life of recreational fishing is at stake. We have always been the stewards of the environment, fishing to end pollution, rebuild stocks, fight over fishing and preserve the natural environment. If we don't take our kids and grandkids fishing, they never learn to appreciate the joys of the outdoors. If recreational anglers disappear, who will take up the environmental fights in our stead?

Below is the Council report. At least we were able to get a motion passed to require the Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Monitoring Committee to have a conference call to discuss the black sea bass quota.

Council and Board Adopt 2010 Recreational Management Measures

	Summer Flounder	Scup	BlackSea Bass
2010 Harvest Limit	8.59 m lbs	3.01 m lbs	1.14 m lbs
Possession Limit	state-specific	10 fish (EEZ)	25 fish
Minimum Fish Size	state-specific	11 inch TL (EEZ)	12.5 inch TL
Open Season	state-specific	1/ 1 – 2/ 28 & 6/12 – 9/ 26	6/1 – 6/30 & 9/1 – 9/30

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) met in Wilmington, Delaware from December 8 through December 10, 2009. The

Council met with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board (Board) on December 8 and adopted the following 2010 recreational fishery management measures:

The above 2010 recreational harvest limits are consistent with the National Marine Fishery Service's (NMFS) proposed rule (November 4, 2009) which accounts for the research set-aside (RSA) deductions being applied to the recreational sectors' initial quota allocations. For the recreational summer flounder fishery, the Council and Board adopted the conservation equivalency alternative in lieu of a coastwide option. This decision requires states to develop state-specific management measures (i.e., possession limits, size limits, and seasons) to achieve state-specific harvest limits. States will develop management proposals and submit them to the Commission for approval at its February 2010 meeting. As a non-preferred alternative, the Council and Board adopted a coastwide daily bag limit of two fish with a 19.5 inch total length (TL) minimum size requirement, and an open season from May 1 until September 30, 2010. In addition, a precautionary default measure of a 21.5 inch TL minimum fish size, a two fish possession limit, and a coastwide season from May 1 to September 30, 2010 was also approved. This measure would be imposed on any state that does not develop and implement conservation equivalent management measures.

For the 2010 recreational scup fishery, the Board voted to adopt conservation equivalency for state waters. Like summer flounder, states will develop state-specific management measures for approval at the Commission's February 2010 meeting. For federal waters, the Council voted for a 10 fish possession limit and an 11 inch TL minimum fish size in 2010. The federal season would be open January 1 through February 28 and June 12 through September 26, 2010.

For the 2010 recreational black sea bass fishery, the Council and Board voted to adopt a 12.5 inch TL minimum fish size and maintain the current 25 fish possession limit. The season would be open June 1 through June 30 and September 1 through September 30. In addition, the Council voted to convene a joint meeting of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and the Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committee to share available data and relevant information regarding the 2010 black sea

bass recommendations for purposes of allowing the Regional Administrator to consider whether it would be appropriate to adjust the black sea bass quota through an emergency action.

The Council and the Board also voted to initiate a review of the RSA process to determine the effectiveness of NMFS monitoring of RSA recreational fishery catches and landings for party/charter boats. This review will also address reconciliation of RSA recipients' landing levels with their purchased quotas.

The Council also adopted quota and management measures for the 2010/2011 Spiny Dogfish fishing year. A commercial quota of 12.0 million pounds was approved and would be divided into two semi-annual quota periods. Period 1 (May 1 -September 30, 2010) would be allocated 57.9% of the quota, i.e., 6,948,000 pounds, Period 2 (October 1, 2010 - April 30, 2011) would be allocated 42.1% which equates to 5,052,000 pounds. Commercial trip limits (daily possession limits) for the 2010/2011 fishing year would be set at 3,000 pounds. Additionally, in anticipation of the Spiny Dogfish TRAC assessment, the Council voted to include a commercial quota of 29.0 million pounds (derived from the application of $F_{target} = 0.284$) as a non-preferred alternative in order to provide a sufficient range of alternatives for the Regional Administrator to implement measures that are responsive to the best available data at the time of final rulemaking. The New England Council had already recommended a quota of 21.0 million pounds based on an F rate of 0.20 which will also be analyzed as a possible quota level.

JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Speech

By Anthony Mauro

November 15, 2009.

Firstly, I must thank my wife, Carol. During the first 22 years of our marriage we had finally settled into a quiet routine that we both appreciated. Then for the past two years I found a way to turn both of our lives upside down. Carol has been extremely patient with me pursuing my interests and I know that on some level she knows that even as I continue saying that things will finally begin to settle down it appears unlikely it will happen anytime soon.

I'd like to thank my son Anthony and daughter Tori for joining their mom and dad today, for their support and for putting up with changes to our lifestyle. Even though the two of them, now in college, are probably looking at each other and thinking – *hey, I didn't notice any life style change I have no idea what mom and dad are up to.*

I will take this opportunity to thank the members of Jersey Coast Anglers Association for considering me for this honor. I was introduced to JCAA through Tom Fote at a state federation convention just over 2 years ago and then met John Toth shortly thereafter. I was thoroughly impressed with their knowledge of salt water matters and how willingly they threw their support behind the fledgling initiative of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance. They, and all of you at JCAA, have remained squarely behind us at every step and through some very challenging experiences, I might add.

I have been impressed with the way JCAA members conduct themselves, the quality of past nominations and the caliber of recipients of the Sportsman of the Year award. This has made the honor all the more treasured for me. It's noteworthy that since 1981 the Jersey Coast Anglers Association has united a fragmented group of marine sportfishing clubs to form and promote a consensus on issues relevant to saltwater anglers in New Jersey.

In my opinion, one of the most important accomplishments of JCAA has been to establish itself as a respected advisory voice in Trenton and Washington. Additional achievements have been gamefish status for Striped Bass in New Jersey, initiatives for healthy fisheries management and a commitment to ensuring our natural resources are available to youth and tomorrow's anglers.

I wouldn't be standing before you if it weren't for the efforts of the officers of the NJOA; Ed Markowski, Pete Grimbilas, Jerry Natale, Cory Wingerter and all of our volunteers. I also owe a special thanks to Rob Winkle for his dedication and work. These men have worked tirelessly on behalf of the outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen of NJ. These volunteers have their characters tested nearly everyday by making difficult decisions and carrying out self imposed responsibilities that many people wouldn't choose to do even if they were paid. Their caring about the future of our natural resources is an inspiration to me.

I accept the honor of Sportsman of the Year on behalf of these gentlemen and all sportsmen and sportswomen who have joined our effort to educate the public and our legislators about the inherent value of environmental stewardship by means of conservation; this includes fishing, hunting, forestry and best practices for sound ocean ecology.

I must admit that all of us in this room have our work cut out for us. We are faced with a culture that is becoming increasingly urbanized, which is creating a widening misperception that we are not linked to nature for survival. Today, more and more people believe that food comes from the supermarket and water from the tap. This misguided thinking is resulting in initiatives designed to preserve Mother Nature, when in fact Mother Nature has no such prescription as preservation for things in her care – she works to achieve balance for her resources by means of conservation. It is conservation or “sustainable use” of resources - and not preservation - that is the fundamental design of a healthy ecosystem.

Unfortunately, this idea does not fit on a bumper sticker and it makes our mission of educating others about the precepts of conservation all the more difficult. But I know each of us realizes that nothing worthwhile comes easily, or we wouldn't be here today. Continuous work is the medicine of lasting results.

So today we gather to celebrate and acknowledge our accomplishments. Today we measure the distance between where we were last year and where we now find ourselves. Today we pause and imagine how much closer to our goal of conservation education we will be one year from now and wonder who might be the person we recognize for passing the baton.

It was Albert Pine who said; “*What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal.*”

Each of us is here because we understand the profundity of these words. I am exceptionally proud to be among you. My thanks to all of you for the things you do, for instilling a tradition of “*doing for others*” and for your commitment to environmental stewardship.

Time to take stock
Editorial Asbury Park Press
December 9, 2009

Federal fishery managers are continuing to place strict catch limits on certain species of fish, even though the fish are not deemed "overfished." These limits punish the local fishermen and charter boat businesses that are already struggling with reduced limits from other fish species.

The local fishing industry suffered a setback in October when federal officials ordered a six-month emergency closure for recreational black sea bass, a popular fish for the fall charter boat industry. Now managers want to restrict that to two, 30-day fishing seasons for 2010. And the fisheries managers set the same low limits for winter scup — called porgies by Shore anglers — that were put in place when that stock was deemed overfished.

Members of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission met Tuesday to set the 2010 limits. Fortunately, the panels agreed to reconvene in the coming months to update the stock status. Those members sympathetic to the plight of the recreational industry should make sure the local interests are better served. New scientific data showing that scup and black sea bass are not overfished, as had been previously thought, should result in an increase in catch limits.

The six-month closure eliminated about 85 percent of the 2009 black sea bass fishing season. And new limits for porgies could cut New Jersey anglers' daily limit from 50 to 10. Some members of the two panels say they are worried about their credibility with the fishing community. They should be.

Atlantic States Fisheries Commission member Thomas P. Fote said, "This is the same quota that was in place when the stock was overfished. This sends a very bad message out to the public. We have said this stock is not overfished."

Fortunately, the panels voted overwhelmingly in favor of directing their scientific advisers to meet again with the monitoring committee to review the latest available data. Hopefully, further evidence of a healthy fish stock will allow for increased catch limits and, in the case of black sea bass, a lengthier season.

Groups sue to stop dredging to deepen the Delaware River
Friday, 11-20-09 Star-Ledger
By Brian T. Murray

Five environmental groups filed a federal lawsuit yesterday to prevent the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from beginning a \$379 million project to deepen the shipping channel in the Delaware River.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, the National Wildlife Federation, the New Jersey Environmental Federation, Clean Water Action and the Delaware Nature Society claim in the lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Trenton, that the Army Corps' decades-old plan to deepen the channel from 40 feet to 45 feet violates seven federal environmental laws.

The groups claim the Corps has no up-to-date environmental impact statements.

Yesterday's lawsuit comes on the heels of similar suits filed earlier this month by New Jersey and Delaware.

"The Corps of Engineers, with its projects, has too often ignored the damage to the environment and safety of the public," said David Conrad of the National Wildlife Federation. Conrad cited a federal court ruling on Wednesday that found the corps' failure to maintain a shipping channel linking New Orleans to the Gulf of Mexico led to catastrophic flooding during Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

The Delaware River project involves deepening nearly 103 miles of man-made conduit linking Philadelphia to the Delaware Bay. Pennsylvania officials back the project, contending it will create jobs and ensure the future of the region's shipping industry.

But the environmental groups, as well as New Jersey and Delaware officials, say Army Corps has failed to fully address concerns about the impact the dredging will have on wildlife and the recreational and commercial fishing industries. They also say they are concerned the project will allow sea-water to infiltrate drinking water supplies in South Jersey and Philadelphia. In addition, the groups argue the dredging will stir up dormant toxins in the river that will leach from the material the corps plans to dump on seven sites in New Jersey and one site in Delaware.

The Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contends the clay, silt and dirt at the bottom of the river contain no more toxins than

the material that has been dumped on the same federally owned sites by ongoing maintenance dredging in the Delaware River. The channel, built in 1885 at 18 feet deep, was dug to 40 feet deep in the 1940s. There has been regular maintenance dredging ever since.

Brian T. Murray may be reached at bmurray@starledger.com

**Most dredge material will likely end up in
New Jersey
Standard Speaker : November 20, 2009
By Kent Jackson**

Most of the material dredged from the Delaware River would go to New Jersey rather than Hazleton, representatives of environmental groups said Thursday when suing to stop the Army Corps of Engineers from deepening the river's shipping channel.

New Jersey would receive 80 percent of the dredged materials from the project to deepen the channel, Jeff Tittel of the New Jersey Sierra Club said. Delaware also would accept dredged material at one site, Delaware Riverkeeper Maya van Rossum said. Van Rossum also said Army Corps found the cost prohibitive for taking dredged material to mine sites.

In Hazleton, a company has taken more than 800,000 cubic yards of dredged material to reclaim a mined site under a \$38 million contract with the Army Corps. The company, Hazleton Creek Properties LLC, which is based in Kingston, needs up to 10 million cubic yards to reclaim the site. It hopes to obtain some of the 16 million cubic yards that the Army Corps would remove when deepening the channel. The company might be able to obtain dredge material from impoundment sites after it dries.

Where to store the dredge material and whether storing material in stockpiles up to 94 feet high would pollute drinking water are among the questions that the groups raised when announcing that they filed lawsuits in federal court in New Jersey. The groups questioned the project's economic value, its effect on fishing and oyster industries and whether the Army Corps could proceed after Delaware denied a permit for the project. "We believe not even the federal government is above the law. Federal agencies like the Army Corps of Engineers need to follow the law and can't ignore

states," Bob Wendelgass of Clean Water Action said. In addition to filing their own lawsuit, Clean Water Action, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, the National Wildlife Federation, New Jersey Environmental Federation, and Delaware Nature Society joined a suit that Delaware filed to stop the project. New Jersey also opposes the project, which Pennsylvania favors.

In New Jersey, Tittel said that state's rules permit covering landfills with dredged material. "You get a double hit of leachate from the landfill," he said, referring to the surface water that can absorb contaminants and pollute groundwater as it leaches through the dredged material.

Pennsylvania's rules also allowed Hazleton Creek to cover an old landfill with dredged material on the site between Routes 309, 93 and 924. Mark McClellan of Evergreen Environmental, a consultant for Hazleton Creek, said tests on dredged material shows it doesn't leach anything that would impact leachate levels at a landfill.

Jane Nogaki from the New Jersey Environmental Federation said material dredged from contaminated sections of the river might be blended with material from cleaner stretches to meet the standards. In addition to the concentration of contaminants, the total amount of contaminants poses a threat that regulations don't consider, at least in New Jersey and Delaware, she said. "They don't look at cumulative impact," Nogaki said.

McClellan said Pennsylvania sets the limits for dredged material low enough to account for cumulative effects. "They've calculated fixed limits to ensure â | no problem through volume," McClellan said.

Hazleton Creek sampled 800,000 cubic yards of dredged material transported as slurry from various sections of river to storage sites at Fort Mifflin in Philadelphia and found minimal variation, he said.

The Delaware Navigation Channel runs 102 miles from the Delaware Bay to the ports of Philadelphia and Camden, N.J. Plans call for deepening the channel to 45 feet from 40 feet to accommodate larger ships.

Environmental groups said dredging could affect fishing and oyster industries, horseshoe crabs - which biomedical firms use - and bird nesting areas. The Army Corps should update a 12-year-old environmental impact statement and obtain a permit from Delaware before proceeding, the group said.

Citing a study by the U.S. General Accounting Office, the groups said the economic return from the project amounts to less than 50 cents for each dollar spent to deepen the channel.

The Army Corps said the project will generate \$1.15 for every \$1 spent and said plans now call for removing less material than in 1997 when the last environmental impact study was done. In April, the Army Corps conducted an environmental assessment of the project.

Van Rossum, the Riverkeeper, said a deeper channel won't bring more freight to the ports, but will spare the inconvenience of transferring freight to smaller ships.

That still makes the ports more economically viable, said Dan Fee of the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority, the local government sponsor of the project. "There have literally been dozens of studies that said this project will lead to economic development, but will have little to no environmental impact," Fee said. Failing to deepen the channel could cause Philadelphia to lose business to the other ports, he said. The ports of New York and New Jersey are dredging a channel to depths 50 feet, and a project already deepened Baltimore's port.

JCAA Newspaper December 2003

Article by Tom Fote

Working together in the NGO community

It is a shame that we have to spend so much time on issues that really should be non-issues. I am upset that every statement is put under a microscope because of the strain with the NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) community. I feel some people are just looking for things to discredit a person or group. JCAA is an NGO as are some other recreational and commercial fishing organizations. Some NGOs have decided to ignore this and treat all recreational and commercial organizations as the enemy. It has made some groups look for allies in the wrong place. It has also made most recreational anglers and commercial fishermen very suspect of the motives of other NGO groups that do not fish for consumption and we are always looking for their hidden agendas. Since I am also legislative chairman for New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, even though I do not hunt I believe the same feelings are true in the hunting community. Without the help and support of fishing and hunting groups many of the environment successes in the last 100 years

would not have happened. Just think of all the land that has been purchased to protect the environment and wildlife with hunting and fishing funds. How many land acquisitions, state and federal parks and environment laws been passed due to the hard work of fishing and hunting groups.

We also have some NGOs that think fishing and hunting should not occur at all and this also makes it tough for the community to work together.

What are the costs of these divisions? As I see it, the distrust among groups that should be allies has brought us to a standstill on many important issues. It also puts legislators in a difficult position as they are torn between two constituent groups. The groups that oppose our work in conservation and environment are united and can take advantage of our dissension to meet their own aims.

Some of our environmental allies are occasionally oblivious to the consequences of their actions and don't see the big picture. What they think is a minor point with little impact may, in fact, have a major disruptive impact on the fishing community. For example, the subway cars. People who fought against the subway cars had their stated reasons but they were totally unaware of the positive social and economic impact of those cars for the recreational fishing community. The reefs built with these subway cars provide quality of life for the anglers who want to bring fish home to eat. They provide jobs to the recreational industry because the reefs encourage more people to fish. The same was true of summer flounder. One of the lawyers said to me, "It's only a million pounds. What's the big deal?" A million pounds meant 20 - 30 days closure in states. A million pounds meant people didn't fish for those 20 - 30 days, bringing no fish home for personal consumption and no money spent. I would guess along the coast the total economic impact was in excess of \$250,000,000.

Some of us who have been doing this for a time wonder where it all went wrong. We wonder when friends became adversaries, allowing our opponents easy victories.

What I do know is that I spend an inordinate amount of my time on the 3% of the issues that we disagree on instead of the 97% that we all agree on. Most of the time these issues are not even crucial to the environment. I have certainly been guilty of taking things personally. But I have also learned how destructive this can be. We are only successful

when we can leave our egos in the parking lot and focus on the big issues that unite us.

My involvement in the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program has taught me many lessons. Most importantly, I have learned to put myself in the other person's shoes and find ways to work for consensus. Consensus means none of us win and all of us win. We find ways to satisfy the varying needs and opinions that bring us to the table and allow everyone to participate in the decision-making. On occasion, we will not reach consensus for the group and will take the issue off the table. That may leave groups or individuals to pursue an issue on their own outside of the framework of the umbrella group. At least the discussion gives us all a better understanding of the different positions and an opportunity to come back together again as a functioning community. I believe it also leads to more civility and understanding. We may be adversaries on occasion when we decide the issue is important enough but we can take those adversarial positions outside of the group, allowing the group to continue functioning on issues where we agree.

Sincerely
Tom Fote

JCAA Newspaper February 2004

Article by Tom Fote

Working Together in the NGO Community Part 2

After writing the article **Working Together in the NGO Community** for the December JCAA newspaper, I began to think about more reasons why there is a lot of difficulty with groups and people working together lately both at the state and federal level. JCAA has been in the middle of some of these battles where former friends and allies are not talking or working together anymore. These battles get a lot of press but it is not the best utilization of our time. There are a lot of missed positive opportunities because of this.

This was not to single out any particular group but to discuss the problems. There is enough blame to go around and none of us are without blame. As a volunteer, I am concerned with the amount of time that I am spending on nonproductive battles. I could instead be spending my limited time on issues of substance that will make a difference.

The same is true for the paid staff and volunteers at some of the other organizations.

What I was trying to say is that we should be a little more civil with each other and try to work things out. We really should make an effort to understand the other person's concerns and to address them. The comments I have received on this article have been very positive. This was especially true from the people who have been in the middle of these battles from all parts of the NGO community. They were happy someone said it out loud. I was trying to be constructive based on some of the lessons I have learned in over 30 years of doing this. It was not a ranting but an attempt to stimulate some productive dialog between groups.

Many people are afraid to put anything in writing since they feel it can be misunderstood or taken out of context. We communicate much differently than we did 10 years ago. Face to face meetings and phone conversations are interactive and seem to be more civil. Looking into the face of someone or talking to them gives you a better understanding of how they are really feeling and tends to make you think a little more about what you are saying. Letters and articles take time and you have the opportunity to read them over again before you finish and do a lot of changes. You might give a letter or article to someone else to be proofed and receive comments.

Emails, texting and some internet conversations are not like that. For the most part they are instantaneous and done without a lot of deliberation. The emails are short and sometimes they are your first thoughts on a subject. People do not look them over and think about how they would sound to another person. I do not know how many emails there has been that I have sent back and asked the person to read his or her email as if I were sending it to them. It is surprising how many apologies I have received or how often people say that is not what they meant and then they restate it in a more productive way. I have learned not to send an email written when I am upset but to let it sit and read it over again and try to think about the impact. I need to consider whether I am trying to pick a fight, discuss an issue or bring about a solution to a problem.

It seems to be even worse when people do not use their real names and feel they can say whatever they want. They really do not want to discuss an issue but, instead, look for fights or an

opportunity to prove how right they are and how wrong you are. **Sometimes** they just want to be the center of attention. I call these internet bullies. Some of the most negative comments and the strongest attacks I have received have been from people who will not say anything to me in public. One individual has made numerous attacks on me on the internet but has never called me or showed up to a meeting to even ask a question. This does not lend itself to open discussion or a solution to the disagreement. I feel sometimes as though that is not what these people want **anyway** and that they are just looking to make attacks to get attention.

Writing this has also been helpful for me in doing a little reflection on my interaction with people. After spending two weeks in Hawaii I am also learning to hang loose a little more.

Sincerely
Tom Fote

**Dery Bennett, "one of the best" ocean
advocates, dies at 79**
Asbury Park Press December 16, 2009
By TODD B. BATES
ENVIRONMENTAL WRITER

Dery Bennett, a leading environmental activist who fought against ocean dumping off the Jersey Shore, for preserving coastal lands and wetlands, and for public access, died Tuesday. He was 79.

"He was probably one of the best advocates that the nation's coast and ocean has ever had," said Tim Dillingham, executive director of the American Littoral Society, the Sandy Hook-based coastal conservation group that Bennett once headed.

Bennett, a 41-year Fair Haven resident, was an avid surf fisherman, bird watcher and author. He served as executive director of the littoral society from 1968 until 2003. Since then, he directed special projects at the society and focused on "educating kids and working on the (public) access issue, the things that he really loved," Dillingham said.

"I think we're still feeling the impact of his work on clean water and open spaces and public access along the beaches," he said. "Probably his longest lasting contribution is that he mentored a whole generation of coastal advocates."

Bennett, who hailed from Philadelphia, spent summers with his family in the Avalon area of the southern Jersey Shore. He was a geology major at

Amherst College and an oil tanker deckhand during three college vacations.

"He liked everything that was natural," his wife, Barbara, said. "He just didn't want development and man to ruin what was the natural beauty. He just figured that the land belonged to the animals and the ocean belonged to the fish."

Bennett learned about the littoral society after reading a New York Times fishing column. Initially, he served as conservation director.

Today, the society is a national coastal conservation group with about 5,000 members, according to Dillingham.

In a 2003 interview, Bennett listed some of the littoral society's accomplishments:

Spearheading the passage of the 1970 state Wetlands Act for preserving tidal wetlands.

Pressing for the Coastal Area Facility Review Act, a 1973 state law that regulates coastal developments.

Establishing an Ocean Dumping Task Force, the forerunner of Clean Ocean Action, a nonprofit Sandy Hook-based coalition. In the 1980s and 1990s, the coalition waged war against eight ocean dumping sites off the New Jersey coast. It now includes 125 environmental, fishing and other groups.

Fighting for public access to the beaches.

Bennett co-founded Clean Ocean Action and served as president of its board of trustees for 25 years, according to Cindy Zipf, the coalition's long-standing executive director.

"Dery's legacy is profound and extends beyond our shores, around the country," Zipf said. "His work has helped coasts from the Pacific Northwest to the Caribbean oceans and there are people that . . . have been empowered by Dery to continue fighting for coastal and ocean environments."

Andrew J. Willner, former executive director of the nonprofit NY/NJ Baykeeper organization in Keyport, called Bennett "a giant."

The Baykeeper organization, launched in 1989, was a littoral society subsidiary until 2007, when it became independent.

Without the littoral society and Bennett, "there would be no Baykeeper," Willner said.

Jeff Tittel, director of the Sierra Club's New Jersey chapter, said "I think he was a great environmentalist and great human being."

Bennett was "so wonderful to work with and so good on so many issues, but he also had that gleam in his eye and that little smile," Tittel said.

Zipf said Bennett "would always find the light side, and that was a remarkable skill that kept moving campaigns forward, and he would always find time to get outside, go look for birds, go fish, go for a walk on the beach."

Dery is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughters Melanie Bennett of Olympia, Wash., and Becca Bennett of Seattle; and three grandchildren, Eric, Adrienne and Galen.

A memorial gathering will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday at Thompson Memorial Home, 310 Broad St., Red Bank.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Littoral Society, Clean Ocean Action or Fair Haven Fields.

A memorial service is being planned for February at Sandy Hook. For more information visit www.littoralsociety.org.

**SALT WATER SPORTSMAN
NATIONAL SEMINAR SERIES
RETURNS TO THE JERSEY SHORE!
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE contact
1-800-448-7360**

Circle Saturday, February 27 on your calendar! That's when the Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series returns to the Jersey Shore with an entertaining and information-packed day on how to catch more and bigger saltwater fish off New Jersey - inshore and offshore. The 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. event, presented by Sperry Top-Sider, will be held inside the Performing Arts Theater at Monmouth Regional High School (1 Norman J. Field Way, Tinton Falls, NJ). Headlining the event will be **George Poveromo** – Host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on ESPN2, and a Senior Editor for Salt Water Sportsman, and **Gary Caputi** – Offshore Editor for Salt Water Sportsman.

Entering into its 23rd consecutive year of touring in 2010, the Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series has earned the distinction of being the nation's most popular and longest-running educational seminar on recreational marine angling.

Joining **Poveromo** and **Caputi** at the Jersey Shore will be **CAPTAIN TREY RHYNE** – Nationally-recognized big game captain and noted Northeast canyon-fishing specialist. Rhyne heads up Over-Under Charters; **CAPTAIN ADAM NOWALSKY** - Premier trophy fluke, bottom, and nearshore tuna fishing specialist aboard his Karen Ann II. **CAPTAIN STEW HITCHNER**– Noted tuna, shark and canyon fishing authority and skipper of the Pez Machine; **CAPTAIN RALPH LEYRER** – Legendary captain with over 30-years experience fishing the inshore and offshore waters of New Jersey aboard his charter boat, The Last Lady. **CAPTAIN JIMMY PRICE** – An innovative expert at catching trophy flounder, Price is regarded as North Carolina's number 1 flounder fishing authority; **CAPTAIN JIM FREDA** – Premier light tackle authority with over 25 years experience fishing New Jersey's coastal waters, and a noted writer and author; *and* **CAPTAIN TERRY SULLIVAN** - Noted light tackle, trophy striped bass authority. Sullivan also excels at catching Jersey weakfish and bluefish.

Courses for the February 27 presentation will focus on - Trophy stripers on ultra-light tackle; Live-lining for trophy stripers; Top trolling tactics for stripers; Secrets of fishing Raritan, Sandy Hook, Silver and Barnegat Bays; Sure-fire weakfish tactics; How to target and catch trophy weakfish; Chunking for bluefish; Bluefish on surface lures; Inshore wire-line techniques; Jetty tactics; How to catch more and bigger fluke; Targeting trophy fluke; Cutting-edge fluke tactics; North Carolina trophy flounder fishing tactics that will yield more and larger New Jersey fluke; Top tactics for big blackfish; Catching blackfish by the score; Variety fishing in and around inlets; How to locate and fish productive bottom (blackfish, sea bass, spot and fluke); Back-bay stripers; Can't-miss tuna-trolling patterns; Cutting-edge tuna chunking tactics; Live-baiting for tunas; Canyon fishing secrets; Advanced methods for bluefin and yellowfin tuna; Zeroing in on big eye tuna; How to choose, rig and fish the best lures and natural baits for tuna; Tournament winning offshore trolling tactics; Subsurface offshore trolling tactics; Cutting edge spreader bar and dredge tactics; Secrets for catching more inshore tuna; Reading water temperature charts; Targeting trophy makes; Basic and advanced sharking techniques; Offshore kite fishing for sharks and tuna; Florida tactics for daytime swordfish off New Jersey.

A ticket to the Seminar Series costs \$ 55.00, and includes a One-Year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman Magazine, a comprehensive course textbook, a Roofer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis (offshore tuna, dolphin, marlin and major kingfish tournaments only), a bottle of Opine Wash & Wax, a spool of Sufix Fishing line, and a \$ 20.00 discount card at Capt. Harry's Fishing Supply (based on a \$ 150.00 purchase). In addition, thousands of dollars worth of door prizes will be awarded at the Jersey Shore seminar!

The names of all attendees from the Jersey Shore seminar will be entered into the Grand Prize drawing to win an incredible bone fishing excursion to the Biminis Sands Resort and Marina. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the seminar that day, and one lucky person will win the trip for two! In addition, the names of all attendees from the 2010 Seminar Series Tour will be entered into the drawing for the Super Grand Prize - a brand new Marko 18 LTS (Light Tackle Skiff)! The drawing for the boat will take place one week after the completion of the final seminar on the tour, and one lucky winner will take home the boat!

To order tickets by phone with a major credit card, call 1-800-448-7360. To order tickets online – and for more information – visit: www.nationalseminarseries.com Remember to order your tickets early, as this seminar sells out quickly!

Highly Migratory Species *By John Koegler*

Fishery Management

Tuna management is shifting into high gear. NMFS has produced their 2010 quota for bluefin tuna. The numbers and divisions are similar to 2009. I could not find NMFS estimate of anglers 2009 bluefin landings. Normally this is not an issue. In 2009 Northern New Jersey had their best large school and small medium fishery in decades. Given the small size of the angler quota for this size bluefin, this fishing went on for over two months. Anglers went over quota. How far is the question.

General category giant bluefin tuna fishing had their best year in the last five years. The fishery management changes in New England sharply reduced the excessive landings of herring. The

availability of herring encouraged giants to come and stay for an extended period of time. The season started late and as a result they did not exceed quota.

The bluefin fishery around Morehead **City** is in full gear with boats landing one or two giants per day. If the current catch rate continues they will cove the fishery before the scheduled end of January scheduled time.

Yellowfin Tuna

YFT fishing in the northeast was poor this year. There were lots of small just legal or sub-legal tuna around. The problem was to find one long enough that it was the legal length. I believe why so many small fish is simple. The long line commercial fleet was very conservative about when and how many days they fished. Given that swordfish have increased in both number and size, the long line fleet is using very large circle hooks. I believe their hooks of 14/0 and 16/0 are large enough that a small tuna rarely gets hooked. The bigger tuna are easily hooked. Result: there are more small tuna fish.

Those Canyon fishermen who enjoy White Marlin fishing had a great season.

ICCAT

The reports as usual are full of optimism for a huge reduction in the eastern Atlantic's excessive landing of bluefin tuna. Whether any European or African country pays any attention is another issue. After ignoring ICCAT's regulations for the last 40 years, how likely is it they will pay any attention to the **rules?**

They did pass tighter rules and lower quotas for Swordfish. They propose to impose now controls on big eye and long fin tunas. Whether any nation except the US follows the rules is the question. Given their 40 years of ignoring the rules, how likely is it any European or African country will observe the 2010 rules? But you can bet your last dollar the NMFS will lead all nations in imposing tough new rules on US fishermen.

Enjoy a great holiday season. Thanks for reading this column. Let us hope that fishery management of all species improves so they treat anglers fairly!!

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YOUTH EDUCATION

BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI

RODS AND REELS FOR KIDS

Bill Browne and members of the Silverton Fishing Club are assisting the JCAA Youth Education Committee with providing "Rods and Reels for Kids." It's a new program that we are introducing to children at risk for the 2010 fishing season. Members of the Silverton Club offered to repair recycled rods and reels for children that would like to start a fishing club and learn about fishing in a public school environment. The "Rods and Reels for Kids" program will begin at the start of the new year and continue through National Fishing Week at schools in Monmouth and Ocean County. The program will include learning materials from the Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs program and there is also a \$5,000.00 grant for schools to submit. The program is designed to teach students about healthy outdoor activities as an alternative to drugs, alcohol, gangs, and violence. Students will learn about aquatic conservation, biology of a fish, water safety, how to maintain and repair fishing equipment and New Jersey rules and regulations. If you would like to donate used rods and reels that the Silverton Fishing Club can recycle, please phone Bill Browne 732-929-9112. If Mr. Browne is not available please leave a message and he will return your call. Rod and reels can also be delivered to Mr. Browne's home address: 907 Navel Street, Toms River, NJ 08753. We already received donations from the Shore Surf Club and Peg Gleeman, NCMS/ISAC Committee Member. The JCAA Youth Education Committee will instruct educators and students about utilizing HOFNOD printed materials and assist with the development of organizing a school fishing club. If you would like to help with this worthwhile project, please send me an e-mail with HOFNOD in the subject line at gkucharews@aol.com.

FISHOPEIDA

What is Fishopeida? It's a great place to learn how to fish. If you visit this website <http://www.takemefishing.org/fishing/fishopedia/home> you will learn the following: Fishing Safety and Glossary, Conservation, Species Explorer, Bait/Equipment, and Preparing your Catch. This web page has it all. You will learn everything you

need to know about fishing by clicking on the learning tabs. You can also learn how to tie knots and how to reel in a fish without **losing** your prize catch.

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN WRITE

Take the challenge and enter the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife's 2010 Native Fish Art and Writing Contest. It's for students in grades 4 through 7 and they are invited to learn about New Jersey's native fish by participating in the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife's 2010 Native Fish Art and Writing Contest. The purpose of this annual contest is to encourage children to learn about New Jersey's native fish species and their biological requirements, including the habitats they need to survive. Participants must write an original short story about a year in the life of a native New Jersey fish of their choice and draw a scene from their story. The story must include accurate biological and ecological information about the fish, such as its habitat needs, food preferences, and behavioral characteristics. The drawing must have a finished size of 8.5 x 11 inches and can be done in acrylics, pencils, watercolors, oil, oil pastels, crayons or ink. Creativity and originality in both the story and artwork will weigh heavily with judges, as will the use of proper grammar, sentence structure and spelling. First and second place winners from each grade level will receive a fishing rod and reel and a certificate. First place winners will also receive a youth membership in Trout Unlimited. All winners will be invited to the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center on the Opening Day of Trout Season, April 10, 2010 for a special luncheon, awards ceremony and the opportunity to fish for trout in the Pequest Fishing Education Pond. Entries for the contest must be received no later than Friday, March 5, 2010. Sponsorship for the Native Fish Art and Writing Contest is provided by NJ Chapters of Trout Unlimited. For more information, see <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/fishart.htm>.

If you would like to help with our youth education efforts and offer some of your time to teach children the joy of fishing, please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail Gkucharews@aol.com.

JCAA Fluke Tournament

Saturday, June 12th, 2010

We need the support of your club and its members

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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 of 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.

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