

JCAA NEWSPAPER APRIL 2010

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on March 22nd, 2010)

Monthly Meeting Room Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd "WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday March 30th, 2010

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 8th, 2010

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753

Phone 732-506-6565 Fax 732-506-6975

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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2010 OFFICERS

President	Mark Taylor	732-929-2591
1st V.P.	Eileen Smith	732-899-2681
2nd V.P.	Don Marantz	609-259-6368
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

March 30th JCAA General Meeting
April 8th JCAA Board Meeting
April 10th Opening Day of Trout season
April 16th -17th NMFS Recreational Summit
April 27th JCAA General Mtg. and Raffle Drawing
May 3rd -6th ASMFC Meeting in Alexandria, VA
June 12th JCAA Fluke Tournament
June 18th JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony

HIGH ROLLER RAFFLE

It is now time for the JCAA High Rollers 2010 Raffle. We have put together a terrific selection of rods and reels and other prizes for a raffle that will be drawn on April 27, 2010. This is a major fundraiser for the JCAA. The 8 prizes are listed below with a value of over \$3,536.00. Tickets will be two dollars each and Club Representatives can get books of tickets to sell by attending a JCAA meeting. If you would like to buy raffle tickets call the JCAA office. When your club representative brings them to your club, please help with your purchase. Without your continued support we cannot function as an organization in protecting the marine resource and angler's rights.

Here is the 2010 Prize List - drawing April 27, 2010 at Brick Civic Plaza at 7:30 p.m. Total value - \$3,536.00

- 1) Shimano Tiagra TI-30WLRSA Reel with Shimano TLC X58 MHRSA Rod (donated by JCAA) - \$688 value
- 2) Igloo Great White 250 Quart Cooler (Donated by West Marine) - \$599 value
- 3) Minn Kota Riptide Trolling motor model RT 55/SE/L&D (Donated by Johnson Outdoors Inc) - \$550 value

- 4) Shimano Calcutta 400 BSV Reel with Shimano Calcutta CLC-X76H Rod (Donated by JCAA) - \$430 value
- 5) Shimano Tyrnos 20 Reel with Profile G15630 MH Rod (donated by JCAA) - \$389 value
- 6) Shimano Stradic 5000 FI Reel with Shimano Teramar TMS-70MH Rod (donated by JCAA) - \$380 value
- 7) Shimano Calcutta 400 BSV Reel with Shimano Trevala TVC 66M Rod (donated by JCAA) - \$350 value
- 8) Penn 320 GT Reel with Ugly Stik BWC/A0 2201 Rod (donated by Bruce Freeman) - \$150 value

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

For a little over a year JCAA has had an Operations Manager in the office to answer your questions. Unfortunately, the Operations Manager, Sharon McKenna, will be leaving that position. She will surely be missed and we at JCAA wish her the best. I am sure Sharon will continue to volunteer and help JCAA.

With the warm weather that we are having everybody is talking about getting their boat ready. Don't forget about our Fluke Tournament which will be held on June 12th. You can read more on this in the newsletter.

I would like to thank the NJMFC for scheduling their Summer Flounder Committee on February 23rd in Toms River. I hope they will continue to schedule some of the meetings there. At the meeting some of the seasons and bag limits were voted on by the NJMFC. There was a nice turnout of people present at the meeting.

We all still need to continue to write and call our legislatures on issues such as Pots off the Reef bill, New Jersey Registry Bill, Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs, just to name a few. There is list of bills that is being put together to help you keep your eye on. When the list is completed it will be available.

The High Roller Raffle is in full swing. The drawing is April 27th at our regular monthly meeting in Brick. There is a little over month to get your raffle tickets, so make arraignments to get yours. As usual the items that are in the raffle are great quality. So support JCAA by taking a few chances.

With the spring show season now ending for JCAA, I would like to thank all the people that

volunteered their time to staff a booth at each of the shows. At the booth we were able to interact with people who do not belong to any clubs as well as members of clubs and answer their questions on the issues. We will be at **The NJ Wild Outdoor Expo** which runs Sept. 25th to 26th. I will give more information when it gets closer and I hope to see you all there.

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. So send in a description and promote your club and possibly get new members that live or fish in your area.

After talking with a lot of people at the recent shows, there are many people that don't know that there is a new federal law in effect. At the booths we informed those individuals but we, as New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Fishermen, need to help get the information out to fellow fishermen. The New federal law that is affecting all New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Fishermen starting January 1, 2010 is a National Saltwater Angler Registry. The National Saltwater Angler Registry is free in 2010. To register anglers can visit <http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov> and click on the Angler Registry link, or call the toll-free registration line at 1-888-MRIP411 (1-888-674-7411) from 4:00 am to 12 midnight EST daily. Anglers will need to provide their name, date of birth, address and telephone number, and will receive a registration number that will allow them to begin fishing immediately. Anglers will receive a registration card in the mail in about 30 days.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Coast Guard will be terminating its transmission of LORAN-C. The Coast Guard published a Federal Register notice on Jan. 7, 2010, regarding its intention to terminate transmission of the LORAN-C signal Feb. 8, 2010. A LORAN Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision stating that the environmentally preferred alternative is to decommission the LORAN-C Program and terminate the North American LORAN-C signal was published in the Federal Register on Jan. 7, 2010. Don't be one of those individuals that reads this and forgets about it until you are getting your boat ready.

Operations Manager

By Sharon McKenna

Tuesday, March 23rd was my last day as both Fluke Tournament Director and Operations Manager at JCAA. I thank the JCAA Board for the opportunity and look forward to some exciting times as I face new challenges ahead. Before leaving, I have printed up the entry package for the 16th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament, so please expect it in the mail, along with the high roller raffle book. Give early and often! You will receive the express entry form if you have entered the Fluke Tournament in the past four years. A fantastic foundation has been built for the 16th Annual Fluke Tournament which is well on its way to being one of the best ever for JCAA, with the inclusion of several new national sponsors.

What's new for this year? Plenty! To start, more ports, more and even better prizes! Because of new sponsors, this year promises to be another great event in the tournament's 16 year history. Our new sponsors include: Penn Reels, Shakespeare Uglystik, Berkley Gulp Bait, Spiderwire, Costa Del Mar and West Marine. Please thank them through your purchases over the coming year. They are supporting the JCAA and its important mission to represent you while you continue to enjoy recreational fishing. Also new - due to popular demand, **Jersey City** will return as a port, bringing the grand total up to ten ports. Even better news - port prizes have increased from ten to twelve, giving you an even better chance of walking away with a prize this year!

Here's the news on the **2010 fluke season** - six fish at 18", open May 29th through September 6th. So, get your boat on the water so you will be ready to participate in the JCAA Fluke tournament on Saturday, **June 12th**. The tournament fee for early entrants (by June 5) is \$120. After June 5th, the tournament fee goes up to \$150, so early entry really pays off. Your participation not only guarantees a great time and a chance for many fabulous prizes for you & your crew, but it also supports the work that JCAA does for all recreational anglers. Remember, the JCAA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to your interest and JCAA is the only salt water fishing advocacy group working exclusively in New Jersey.

Finally, thank you all for your support of JCAA. Several grants have been applied for and soon we will start hearing about our successes. Thank you to those of you who have shared possible granting and fundraising opportunities. Tight lines, all! Let's have a great season!

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

Pots off the Reefs

With the election of a new governor and a change in leadership in the legislature, we were optimistic that the Pots Off the Reefs legislation might finally pass. Senator Smith, chairman of the Environment and Energy Committee, has always supported this bill and worked to make sure it passed at the initial committee meeting. Senator Codey, as Senate President, posted this bill and it successfully passed by a large margin in every session. This year, the Senate bill (S221) has once again been voted unanimously out of the Environment and Energy Committee. The Assembly bill (A1152) has not been posted for a vote.

We were assured that there would be no problem posting this bill in the Senate and that we would have support in moving the bill through the Assembly. Unfortunately, Senator Sweeney, Senate President, feels it is necessary to change the content of this legislation in order to garner the necessary votes in the Assembly. He tells us that the bill could pass in the Senate but lacks the necessary votes to pass in the Assembly at this time.

It is necessary for us to clearly state that there is no appropriate compromise on the existing legislation. When asked to provide a compromise that would be acceptable, we realized there isn't one. We have never been opposed to the pot fishermen seeking funding and approval for their own reefs. That has never been acceptable to the commercial fishermen because the draggers and gill netters can't use the reefs. It creates a conflict within the commercial fishing community. The draggers and gill netters would like all the pots on the recreational reefs so the problem is ours and not theirs. If you watch any of the TV shows about commercial lobster fishermen, you have seen the conflicts between various types of fishing gear. Since the

beginning of the reef program, the draggers and gill netters have always opposed artificial reefs and I don't believe that will change.

There are several reasons why there is no change in this legislation that would be acceptable to us. When Peter Grimblas began Reef Rescue and asked for JCAA support, there was considerable discussion about how we would move forward and the groups decided that there was no compromise. At the same time there was a committee at the NJ Marine Fisheries Council investigating possible solutions to the conflicts about using the reefs. After a number of meetings there was no consensus among the user groups. The Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife was unable to suggest a compromise that could be passed.

History tells us that there is no change in the current legislation that is acceptable. In the Gulf, the South Atlantic and in other state waters with large artificial reef programs (Florida, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia and New York), the only solution has been to ban pots from the reefs and this is the legislation that has passed in these areas or was approved by Federal Fisheries Management Councils. There is pending legislation in Delaware. The reasons why anything less than a total pot ban is unacceptable are:

1. These reefs are built with money from the Sportfish Restoration Fund. This money is generated by the excise tax on fishing tackle and recreational boating. It is recreational money. According to Wallop-Breaux, which authorizes this fund, the funds can only be spent on projects to which recreational anglers have unencumbered access. David Chanda, Director of Fish and Wildlife, stated in a letter dated May 22, 2008, "Although commercial fishing on reefs is not a violation of Federal Aid to Sportfish Restoration regulations, Federal regulations (part 80-Administrative Requirements, Federal Aid in Fish and Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Acts - 50 CFR 80.14) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service policy (Allowable Commercial Activities and Related Facilities on Federal Assistance Lands 522 FW 22) are explicit that such use cannot interfere with the purposes for which the lands are managed. In New Jersey's case, reefs were constructed for recreational anglers and sport divers. The Artificial Reef Management Plan for New Jersey adopted as policy in 2005, states that the objectives of the Reef Program are:

- 1) Construct hard-substrate reef habitat for marine fish and invertebrates;
- 2) Provide spawning, nursery, refuge and feeding area for marine life;
- 3) Increase diversity and abundance of marine life;
- 4) Create fishing ground for hook-and-line fishermen;
- 5) Provide underwater structures for scuba divers; and
- 6) Provide economic benefits to recreational fishing and dive industries

In summary, the Department is now supporting the proposed legislation in the Senate and Assembly (S-336 and A-1519). If passed, the legislation will restrict fishing on reefs to hook-and line and spear only at the two reef sites located in state waters (Sandy Hook and Axel Carlson).

To completely alleviate conflicts on reefs, the Department will petition the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) for similar regulation on the remaining 13 reef sites located in the Economic Exclusion Zone (EEZ)."

2. After long discussions with law enforcement, it has become clear that anything other than a total ban of the pots is unenforceable. We have been told this by the Division of Fish and Wildlife numerous times. In the present economy, there is no chance New Jersey will be increasing law enforcement or investing in additional boats and other equipment.

3. Understand how pots and reefs work as fish attractors is crucial. Fish are attracted to any structure placed in the water that redirects the flow of water or changes the contour of the bottom. Fish are also attracted to any structure that provides safety from predators. Fish pots are not historically baited. The structure itself becomes a fish attracting device. When you put 1,500 to 2,000 in a small area, they become their own artificial reef in attracting fish. Anyone who fishes or understands fish biology knows that even a tin can becomes an artificial reef. The reason the potters like the existing artificial reefs is that the structure is already inhabited, there is no conflict with those who use mobile fishing gear (netters, draggers and scallopers) and these artificial reefs are close to shore. This is like squatting in a house you didn't build, you don't pay rent or taxes.

4. The pots placed on the reefs are catching fish 24/7. There is never a day off or a season closure. These pots are highly efficient and are literally sucking the fish off the reef. When the pots are lost

in storms they become ghost pots and continue to capture and kill fish and the gear remain on the bottom to restrict recreational fishing. The pots, both the ones in current use and the ghost pots are magnets for recreational fishing gear. Recreational anglers lose gear to these pots constantly.

5. New Jersey's artificial reefs were mainly designed so boats would not anchor but would drift over the reefs. This allows for the greatest participation since boats didn't anchor and deny access to other boats. This affords the greatest angling opportunities to the most fishermen. It's the most bang for the buck. Because of the way pots are laid out in strings, they become encumbrances to drift fishing and therefore defeat the original design intent.

6. Recreational fishing in New Jersey is not just a quality of life issue. It is big business. It is one of the economic engines that brings tourists to the Jersey Shore. The historical data from the National Marine Fisheries Service tell us that we have between 900,000 and 1.3 million anglers who spend between \$900,000,000 and 1.3 billion annually. In 2000, reefs accounted for 18% of all the fish caught by recreational anglers throughout New Jersey's entire marine environment (Figley 2001) although reefs comprise only 0.7 percent of the sea floor within 30 miles of the Jersey coast. To enhance fishing for 251 commercial and 26 recreational fishermen who have state pot licenses (2006), we are limiting fishing access to hundreds of thousands of recreational anglers. In a state that is in the midst of an economic crisis, it is foolish to do anything to limit the revenue source. The recreational fishing industry is one of the hardest hit and we are losing jobs and revenue daily. Tackle stores are closing, charter boats are going out of business, bait and gas sales are down dramatically. Recreational anglers are frustrated by the Federal regulations but the loss of the access to the artificial reefs might just be the final nail in the coffin costing New Jersey tens of thousands of jobs and uncountable revenue loss in tourism dollars and the boating industry.

7. There are three studies available both in New Jersey and in other states with similar reefs that confirm the impact of pots on the reefs. Any suggestion that we need more studies before passing legislation is just a delaying tactic.

8. Many organizations have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in support of the artificial reef program. The Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat

Association alone has raised more than \$300,000 in support. Individual anglers have also made monetary commitments to the artificial reef program. These financial commitments will quickly disappear if recreational anglers can't take advantage of what their money is creating. That will mean no outside funding for building additional artificial reefs.

9. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could ask New Jersey to repay the millions spent on artificial reefs if the reefs are not accessible to recreational angling because of New Jersey fail to get commercial pots off the. They could also deny any additional funding be spent on artificial reefs if we don't get the pots off the reefs.

In summary, these are the reasons that the Pots Off the Reefs legislation (S221/A1152) must be passed as currently written. We are our own worst enemy. We somehow thought that this legislation would pass quickly in the current session. Clearly, we were wrong. If you support removing the pots from the reefs, you need to call and write your Senators and Assemblymen and women, the Senate President and the Speaker of the Assembly. You must tell them that you want S221/A1152 passed immediately. You want the legislation passed as it is currently written without any changes. You also need to write Governor Chris Christie and the Commissioner of DEP, Bob Martin, and let them know you want the fisheries regulatory package to include removing the pots from the reefs. In addition, you need to let Governor Christie know that once the bills are passed you expect his immediate signature. Don't assume that anyone else is writing on your behalf. This takes 10 minutes and makes a huge difference.

SAMPLE LETTERS

Dear Senate President Sweeney or Assembly Speaker Oliver:

I support S221/A1152 that removes Pots off the Reefs. I am calling on you to immediately post this legislation and do everything possible to insure passage without any changes.

Sincerely, A Concerned Angler (must include your name and address)

Dear Governor Christie and DEP Commissioner Martin:

Please make sure the regulatory package that will remove the pots off the reefs continues to move

through the regulatory process without any changes. When the current legislation reaches the Governor's desk, we urge your immediate signature.

To find the names and addresses of your local legislators, go to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp>

Senator Stephen M. Sweeney (D)
(Senate President)
935 Kings Highway, Suite 400
West Deptford, NJ 08086
(856) 251-9801

Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver (D)
15-33 Halsted Street, Suite 202
East Orange, NJ 07018
Phone: (973) 395-1166

Governor Chris Christie
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

DEP Commissioner Bob Martin
401 E. State St., 7th Floor, East Wing
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Striped Bass

Last month, I pointed out that because of the vote by NMFS and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, ASMFC is drafting an addendum to increase the commercial quotas. This was done after spending most of the meeting hearing about the dismal shape of striped bass in Chesapeake Bay. It seems disease is running rampant and there is much concern about the stocks. What anglers in other states need to do is to contact their state directors and make sure they vote no to putting forth an addendum at the May meeting. Hopefully, we will come to our senses and defeat this addendum before it goes to public hearings. To read the more go to the March JCAA Newspaper

Black Sea Bass

At the time of writing this article I am not sure what the regulations in federal waters and state waters will be on black sea bass. The ASMFC has not changed what it voted on in February, a black sea bass season for 2010 that runs from May 22 to September 12. The Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries

Management Council recommended a split season to the NMFS. Some states have already put the ASMFC season in place. I presume this will be discussed at the upcoming ASMFC meeting May 5th.

Shark Fishery to Remain Open in NJ

NOAA decided to give New Jersey until July 30 to comply with the ASMFC Shark Plan. JCAA would like to thank Amy Cradic, assistant DEP commissioner of natural and historic resources, and Tom McCloy for all their hard work in making this happen. I also would like to thank the clubs that run shark tournaments for making sure their rules comply with the new regulations and writing letters to NOAA to inform them of that. Please read the Press of Atlantic City article below on this topic.

ASMFC Spring Meeting

May 3 - 6, 2010

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

Preliminary Schedule agenda is subject to change. The agenda reflects the current estimate of time required for scheduled Board meetings. The Commission may adjust this agenda in accordance with the actual duration of Board meetings. Interested parties should anticipate Boards starting earlier or later than indicated herein. The agenda may also be viewed at <http://www.asmfc.org/spring2010Mtg.htm>.

May 3 , 2010

Noon - 2:30 PM American Lobster Management Board
2:45 PM - 5:15 PM Atlantic Herring Section

May 4 , 2010

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Law Enforcement Committee
9:45 AM - 11:45 AM Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM American Eel Management Board
1:00PM-5:00 PM Management and Science Committee
2:15 PM - 4:45 PM Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Business Session
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Annual Awards of Excellence Reception

May 5, 2010

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Horseshoe Crab Management Board
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Management Board

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board (includes 1 hour lunch break)
2:45 PM - 4:45 PM South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board
May 6, 2010
9:30 AM - 10:30 AM Executive Committee
10:45 AM - 11:15 AM Weakfish Management Board
11:30 AM - Noon ISFMP Policy Board (continued)
Noon - 12:30 PM Business Session (continued)
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council

Shark Anglers Granted Reprieve
Press of Atlantic City, March 19, 2010
By Richard Degener, Staff Writer

New Jersey shark fishermen got a reprieve from the federal government Thursday with news that the state will be given more time to conform to management measures.

The state faced a moratorium on shark fishing this year for being out of compliance with 22 rules governing 40 species of coastal sharks.

The state Department of Environmental Protection, arguing among other things that a shark-fishing ban would hurt the tourism industry, appealed to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the parent agency of the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The state has been out of compliance with shark rules since Jan. 1, 2009, but was already given a one-year extension.

Amy Cradic, assistant DEP commissioner of natural and historic resources, said Thursday that the NOAA decided to give the state until July 30 to comply. She said the DEP has devised a plan to come into compliance by July 19.

The plan includes filing the new rules with the Office of Administrative Law, publishing them in the New Jersey Register, hosting a public comment period and other measures.

"Overall it's good news. They accepted our action plan to come into compliance and will not impose a moratorium as long as we do it on time," Cradic said.

A ban threatened summer shark tournaments at the shore and also could have hurt party and charter boats that take anglers out for species such as mako, blue and thresher sharks. Commercial fishermen who target species such as smooth dogfish also would be affected. The spiny dogfish, another

important commercial species, was not one of the 40 species.

American Sportfishing Association -
Policy Alert
March 9, 2010

Tell the White House that the new national policy for the ocean, coasts and Great Lakes must safeguard recreational fishing.

For more information, contact Gordon Robertson, vice president and Government Affairs lead, 703.519.9691, x237, or Patty Doerr, Ocean Resource Policy director, x244.

Your input is needed to ensure that this new national policy does not restrict people from enjoying saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing.

Within the next 30 – 60 days, the Obama Administration is planning to issue a final report, and possibly other management guidance, intended to govern the management of the nation's oceans, coastal areas and Great Lakes. The plan originated in June 2009, when President Obama created the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. The Task Force, led by the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), was charged with developing a national policy for conserving and managing the United States ocean territory and the Great Lakes. The policy will govern ocean and Great Lakes resource management and coordinate efforts among the many federal, state and local agencies that oversee a significant portion of our nation's waters.

The White House is in the final stages of developing the final report, which must balance sustainable uses with ocean and Great Lakes conservation. It is important that the administration recognizes and promotes the economic and conservation contributions of outdoor recreation, including recreational fishing and boating. Without such recognition, decisions made under this national oceans and Great Lakes policy could be used to close saltwater and freshwater recreational fishing areas.

Anglers and boaters are the original stewards of our environment. If you take us off the water, this country will lose a vital element in the conservation of our fisheries resources. Outdoor recreation is a part of our way of life and we need to ensure that it remains an option for all Americans.

Click [here](#) or visit www.keepamericafishing.org to send a letter to President Obama and other key policy makers urging

the Task Force to include recreational fishing and boating in the national policy. When you send this letter to President Obama, it will automatically be sent to your Members of Congress.

Make sure your voice is heard so that anglers' and boaters' conservation, economic and social contributions are recognized as a key component of the policy.

ASA Communications
American Sportfishing Association
225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 420
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 519-9691 ex. 222
asacomm@asafishing.org

**Groups: Oyster Creek Must Safeguard
Fish
Asbury Park Press, February 8, 2010
By Kirk Moore**

Screening and diverting devices that save fish from the Oyster Creek nuclear plant's cooling water intake are "about as good as it can get" in modern techniques, and the reactor's major impact on Barnegat Bay is with the tiny organisms that get sucked in and destroyed, a top state environmental official told a state Senate committee Monday.

Fishermen and environmental groups have insisted for years the power plant is reducing numbers of clams and fish in the bay. "Technically, the issue is more entrainment than impingement," said Nancy Wittenberg, an assistant commissioner in the state Department of Environmental Protection, referring to the intake of fish eggs and larvae.

A system of fish ladders and chutes — what "I like to call an amusement ride for fish" — screen out and bypass the larger animals, releasing them back into the plant's canal that flows to Oyster Creek, Wittenberg said. But the only way to reduce the entrainment losses of tiny life stages is to reduce the daily needs for water by constructing cooling towers, she told the state Senate Environment and Energy Committee.

The DEP has proposed a new permit for the plant discharge that would require cooling towers; Wittenberg said the plant now uses an average 660 million gallons per day for its heat exchangers, plus an additional 730 million that's drawn into the canal to dilute the heated discharge water.

Oyster Creek operator Exelon Corp. has warned it will close the plant if it is forced to build the towers, saying that expense would make the reactor uneconomical.

However, Wittenberg said the DEP does not have the science yet to quantify the plant's impact on the bay ecosystem in relation to other problems, such as nutrient over-enrichment from storm water runoff in the bay's suburban watersheds. The agency is working with the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program to define those impacts, she told the Senate Environment and Energy Committee.

The committee chairman, Sen. Bob Smith, D-Middlesex, had introduced legislation to require cooling towers before the DEP last month announced it would make that a requirement of a new discharge permit. Smith has promised in this legislative session to move on several proposals aimed at dealing with the bay's ecological problems.

He asked Wittenberg how long the DEP will need to act on the plant permit. "At least a year," she said. Two public hearings are planned during the comment period that ends March 15, and then the DEP will need help from outside experts to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the towers proposal, Wittenberg said. "It will be a heavy lift for the department," she added.

**Washington Rally
By Thomas Siciliano**

It was a great day for a trip down to our Nation's Capital. The day before it rained cats and dogs. The day after it snowed. On Rally day it was clear, sunny and brisk. Buses left from various spots in NJ, NY, North and South Carolina, Florida, and other fishing ports around the nation. There were anglers from California and Alaska and each had one thing on their minds: The fisheries management system is broken and needs to be fixed. The National Marine Fisheries Service and NOAA have not lived up to their mandate as spelled out in the Magnuson/Stevens Act. They are not the friends of either commercial or recreational anglers. They have exceeded their authority and power.

It is, therefore, necessary to get NOAA's attention and the Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act is designed to do just that. The House bill HR1584 is sponsored by Frank Pallone and co-sponsored by many congressmen who understand the importance of reasonable regulations to the health of both the fisheries and the angling community. The primary sponsor of the Senate bill S1255 is NY Senator Schumer. The JCAA fully supports this bill

and the efforts of all the recreational groups that are working together to get this accomplished. We urge each and every angler to write their Senators and Congressman asking them to become co-sponsors. A short simple letter giving your name and feelings is all that is needed.

The RFA did a fantastic job in organizing the event and arranging over 20 speakers. The three hours of the rally went exceedingly fast. Hard to believe with that many politicians talking.

The NMFS continues to ignore data, which is readily available to them from both commercial fishermen and recreational anglers. Somehow they have confused the terms "Science" and "Data." Data is data regardless of how it is collected and it cannot be overlooked or ignored.

What would happen if Toyota ignored the "data" provided by their consumers? Toyota did all their scientific testing and I'm sure they have a lot of data showing that they do not have a problem. If they had seen a problem they would never have made cars with faulty accelerators. Since their consumers have not conducted a proper scientific study, they should be ignored. Right? The car buyers only have anecdotal information. Right? Toyota has the "science" so they should ignore their customers. No, Toyota is listening to their consumers and fixing the problem. No company seeking to do business would ignore issues brought to their attention by their customers

Why then do NOAA and the NMFS flagrantly ignore their consumers? The commercial and recreational communities are their customers. If the NMFS were listening to their customers and truly wanted to be helpful then the Rally would be unnecessary. No, the system is broken and needs fixing and the Pallone Bill and the Schummer Bill are intended to fix the system. The NMFS needs to be told that they can no longer ignore their consumers.

There was a fellow from the Rhode Island Fisherman's Alliance who had a video called "TRUTH." I purchased one and it was well worth the \$10. It is well done and tells the story of the issues facing the commercial fishermen. It should be required viewing for everyone working at NOAA and the NMFS. It shows the waste that is required by the regulations. Two fishermen describe the net used in the trawl survey conducted by NMFS and compare it to a commercial net that is designed to catch fish. They have a demo that shows how the

NMFS net is used and why it doesn't catch fish. Among other things it is towed too fast and it is set up wrong so that it collapses and fish have a very difficult time getting caught. They tell of one side-by-side tow for porgies. The NOAA boat caught 300 pounds of porgies. The commercial boat towing next to them had 30,000 pounds of porgies in their net. But then that was not scientific so it must be anecdotal and, therefore, should be ignored! We must get the attention of NOAA and the NMFS. To get a copy to show to your club or send to your congressman, contact Brian Loftes at bkloftes@live.com or give him a call at 401-742-1545.

**NJ Marine Fisheries Council Meeting on
Summer Flounder Options**
By John Toth

The NJ Marine Fisheries Council held a meeting on March 4th in the Toms River Municipal Building Complex to hear public comments on a number of proposed options concerning the upcoming fluke season. These options cover the minimum size limit on fluke, the season you can fish for them and how many fluke you can keep (bag limit). There was a large turnout of interested anglers, perhaps 125 to 150 anglers.

I have been to a number of meetings on fluke and there is usually some yelling that goes on with hot tempers flaring about the lousy options available to us. This meeting in comparison to other ones was rather tame. The overriding comment from the audience was that the options available to us are bad, but we have to pick the lesser of the evils presented to us. Also, the audience laughed/sneered when we were told that we exceeded our 2009 fluke quota by 24% since we all know that the season started with terrible wind/cold and rainy conditions and most of us did not get out for fluke for most of June.

There were eight options on the screen for us to see, but most anglers and charter/party boat captains chose option # 1. That calls for a size limit of 18 inches, a season starting from May 29th to September 6th and a bag limit of six fish. I counted 27 comments from anglers favoring this option. The fourth option called for a size limit of 18 1/2 inches, and a season that starts from May 29th to September 26th with a six fish bag limit. I counted 7 anglers favoring this option.

Why not go for the longer season was answered very well by Tony Bogan who, of course, would like to have a longer season like the rest of us to fish for fluke, but the extra one-half inch (18 1/2) makes it all the more difficult to land keeper fluke. Increased fish mortality also results since we will throw back more fish to reach the magic 18 1/2 inch number. Also, perhaps the biggest issue is the once we agree to a larger size limit, this size limit only increases and does not go down in the future.

So, the new regulation for our upcoming fluke season has a minimum size of 18 inches, a season that starts on May 29th and ends on September 6th and it has a bag limit of 6 fish.

The NJ Marine Fisheries Council usually holds its public meetings on fluke in the southern part of our state (near Atlantic City) making it difficult for many anglers to attend. This is the first time this type of meeting was held in Toms River and many of us expressed our gratitude to the Council for holding it at the more convenient Toms River location.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH
By Thomas Siciliano

We have all heard the term “there is more than one way to skin a cat.” So while the RFA is working on legislative efforts to fix the problem, the American Sportfishing Association has taken a different tack which, if successful, would give the same results as the legislative approach and would be a lot quicker. The ASA leads a coalition of fishing groups that are going directly at NOAA and the Obama Administration in an effort to fix the problem.

They have laid out an initial framework to immediately address the serious and escalating problems resulting from inadequate implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the chronic problems that exist within the federal marine fisheries management system. The coalition called upon the administration to:

- Take decisive, immediate action to improve recreational fisheries data by redirecting existing funds and personnel to focus on real-time management data.

- Collect socio-economic data on recreational fishing in the communities most likely to be impacted by near-term or expected fisheries closures.
- Provide federal level direction to the fishery management councils to use common sense in their management approaches while the administration collects the requisite data to make sound management decisions.
- Develop a recreational fishing program and staff within NMFS commensurate with the national economic contribution of recreational saltwater fishing.

This is a different approach to achieve the same result as legislation. Unfortunately, there does not seem to be any desire with NMFS to follow the law as currently stated in MSA. The NMFS has repeatedly demonstrated that they do not understand recreational fishing and its impact on the economy and quality of life. It is also clear that they don't understand recreational fishing. The “science” they insist on using is woefully inadequate. The sample size used does not take into consideration the great variability of such things as simple as the skill of individual anglers and the difference a few miles up or down the coast will have on success. I won't even mention the weather. Oh, I just did! The only thing that the NMFS seems to understand is lawsuits and the extreme environmental groups are the only ones who have the money and knowledge to launch successful suits. Recreational anglers are outmanned, outspent, and outmaneuvered by the huge numbers of environmental groups. Look at the sheer number of environmental groups all working against us. What we as anglers have are votes and numbers. What each angler needs to do is get personally involved. Write letters, make phone calls and make sure that the NMFS, your legislators at both the state and federal level know that you have had enough and you want immediate relief from the unreasonable regulations forced on you by the NMFS. Another great way to help is to go on line after each fishing trip and report your catch or lack thereof on the NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife website at <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/marinesurvey08.htm>. This will help NJ challenge the MRFS data. If we don't provide them with the information they will be unable to help us at the federal level.

Currently, there is no accountability within NMFS except by lawsuits. If the administration

implemented the actions recommended by the ASA, it would not be necessary to seek a legislative fix.

Highly Migratory Species

By John Koegler

Recreational Fishing Under Siege!

Our federal government is putting recreational fishing under siege!

All kinds of anti-recreational issues have support from newly created fanatical administration czar groups. Under current US law there is no basis for them to assume total control of our federal regulatory bodies. Somebody forgot to tell them!

President Obama in June 2009 created a new administration group named the "Interagency Oceans Policy Task Force." They were given just 90 days to develop a comprehensive federal policy for "ALL United States Coastal, Ocean and Great Lake waters."

90 days later, on December 9, 2009, this group was to develop zoning which could permanently close vast areas of this nation's fishing waters. Understand, the President's directive specified "Develop a comprehensive federal policy for ALL United States coastal, ocean and Great Lake Waters." In March the President stated the government would not accept any additional comments on this issue!

The September report from this administrative group never even mentioned recreational fishing in any way whatsoever. Shimano Corporation alerted everyone on October 5, 2009 how serious this problem was with a company letter to anglers titled "Feds to 60 million American anglers, WE DON'T NEED YOU"!

The proposed new management is based on the "United Nations 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea." This 300 page document was rejected by the US Senate in the 1980's. Is it not illegal, wrong, against US laws to propose such a thing?

Bluefin Tuna

Nothing in US law or imposed regulations has ever been as absurd as the rules NMFS imposed on US fishermen regulating US Bluefin Tuna landing. NMFS first imposed their first unilateral conservation rules way back in 1976.

The world's scientists knew unilateral rules for any ocean crossing tuna were worthless. The total

cooperation of all fishing nations was required to make such rules work.

Despite this knowledge US ICCAT representatives plus NMFS administrators kept reducing US quotas without any cooperation from other nations since 1976. Did NMFS really expect European and African nations to give up millions of dollars yearly of bluefin tuna income as a conservation measure! But hope springs eternal when you are still paid.

Let us review the past: 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006, 2010. My heavens, that is 34 years!! The eastern Atlantic nations have never accepted, imposed or enforced ANY ICCAT approved bluefin tuna regulations on their fishermen. Meanwhile, NMFS keeps yearly unilaterally reducing US bluefin quotas and making US rules tougher.

Did someone forget to tell NMFS there is no fence in the middle of the Atlantic to keep US conserved bluefin corralled. Is it really possible after so many years of failure for NMFS to admit they could not do such a thing with an ocean-crossing species!

The EU administration has proposed to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife and Fauna and Flora (CITES) to ban all international commercial trade at their March 2010 meeting. Assistant Secretary for Interior Tom Strickland announced that: "The United States continues to have serious concerns about the long-term viability of both the bluefin tuna fish and the fishery it supports."

WOW! After imposing draconian unilateral US conservation rules on our fishermen for 34 years, your government finally figured out unilateral conservation of an ocean-crossing fish does not work! WOW! Who said miracles do happen eventually!

At last count just 40 of the 150 countries attending the current CITES meeting have supported the bluefin tuna ban.

Mako Sharks

NMFS announces the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Amendment 3 to the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan. NMFS proposes to take action at the international level to end over fishing of shortfin Mako sharks! Is the international group that will end over fishing be ICCAT? Note in the above article bluefin tuna after 34 years is now recommended for a CITES ban on international trade

to save them. Does the Mako population have 34 years time to be protected? You have less than 30 days to make your comment to NMFS.

But here is the good part!! NMFS will promote the release of shortfin Mako sharks brought to US fishing vessels alive! WOW! NMFS will continue a commercial US fishery that is illegal because such a fishery has been PROVEN to be biologically unsustainable. It has been documented many times and world wide that no commercial directed shark fishery has ever been sustainable. Is it possible that US fishery managers cannot read?

YOUTH EDUCATION

BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI

YOUTH FISHING FUN NIGHT

Over forty-five children attended the Newark Bait and Flycasting Club's Youth Fishing Fun Night. We gave a presentation about the "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" program, Take Me Fishing, and How to start a Youth Fishing Club at school. Many thanks go to my wife Catherine for baking the Trout fish cookies that were used as a fundraising example. Everyone enjoyed the Trout fish cookies - youngsters and adults.

SILVERTON FISHING CLUB

I had the pleasure of attending the Silverton Fishing Club's March meeting to speak about promoting youth fishing to Boy Scouts and children at risk. Bill Browne introduced me to the membership and we gave a brief overview of the Scouting Patch Program that is sponsored by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation. 1. Passport Patch – Cub Scouts and Scouts aged 6 to 11 earn this patch by completing an introductory six-step program that teaches various skills to be knowledgeable, safe and confident while boating and fishing. The Passport to Fishing and Boating Program has been recognized by the Boy Scouts of America for excellence in aquatic education. 2. First Catch Patch – Cub Scouts and Scouts aged 6 to 11 earn this patch by organizing a real-life fishing trip using the resources found on TakeMeFishing.org. 3. Mentor Patch – Scouts aged 12 to 17 earn this patch by organizing a fishing trip for newcomers to the sport. The Mentor Patch develops leadership qualities and introduces someone new to boating and fishing.

Bill Browne and his team of fishing equipment experts are doing a great job of collecting and fixing "Rods and Reels for Kids." Members of the Silverton Club offered to repair recycled rods and reels for

children that would like to distribute the equipment to youngsters in Ocean County. The "Rods and Reels for Kids" program will begin during National Fishing Week. The program is designed to teach students about healthy outdoor activities as an alternative to drugs, alcohol, gangs and violence. To donate equipment, 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 Neville Street, Toms River, NJ 08753. 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.

OPEN HOUSE TO BE HELD MARCH 27 AND 28

The NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife will be holding its annual Open House and Fishing Flea Market at the Pequest Trout Hatchery and Natural Resource Education Center on Saturday and Sunday, March 27 and 28. The event runs from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on both days, and admission is free. The Open House is held prior to the Opening Day of Trout Season and provides the Division of Fish and Wildlife an opportunity to highlight its state of the art trout raising facility, as well as showcase the multitude of programs the Division is responsible for. The Open House also serves as a reminder that spring, and the Opening Day of Trout Season (April 10), is just around the corner. Additional information regarding the Open House can be obtained by calling (908)-637-4125 or at: <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/peqoh.htm>.

TAKE THE PLEDGE

Over 200,000 have taken the pledge to take someone fishing and help teach the joy of fishing and boating. 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

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.

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

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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.

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

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

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Legislative	Tom Fote	732-270-9102 tfote@jcaa.org
Office Manager	Phil Celmer	609-693-3414 jcaa@jcaa.org

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	edwardwc@verizon.net
Webmaster	Phil V. Celmer	webmaster@jcaa.org
Youth Education	Greg Kucharewski	732-840-9197

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