

JCAA NEWSPAPER MAY 2010

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on April 20th, 2010)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday April 27th, 2010

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 13th, 2010

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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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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Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

April 27th JCAA General Mtg and Raffle Drawing

May 3rd -6th ASMFC Meeting in Alexandria VA

May 13th JCAA Board Meeting

May 13th NJMFC Meeting

May 25th JCAA General Meeting

June 6th BBEP Festival

June 12th JCAA Fluke Tournament

June 18th JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony

JCAA's 16th Annual 2010 Fluke Tournament

Getting Bigger and Better Again 120 Port Prizes & 10 Ports

By Phil Celmer

Mark your calendar for June 12th (fishing) and June 18th (ceremony). This year's tournament promises to be once again the best fun filled tournament on the east coast and in Jersey Coast's 26 year history. We have super port prizes - 120 of them, and a fun time for you and your crew while you help JCAA maintain its ability to fight for your fishing rights. This tournament, in its sixteenth year, is one of the largest fishing events in the country.

The Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament is a unique concept that will have ten ports with each one having its own mini-tournament with its own set of 12 prizes for 2010. JCAA in combination with Fisherman's Headquarters for LBI, Gateway Marina for Sandy Hook, Ocean County Board of Tourism for Barnegat, Hudson River Fishermen Association for Jersey City and others united to donate \$12,000 to sponsor the first place prizes of \$1,200 cash for each port. Our second place sponsor, Penn and Uglystik, have a great fishing second place prize of 2 rods and 2 Conquer reels. Third prize is another Uglystik rod and Conquer reel. Both prizes come

with packages of Gulp bait and the new Ultracast Invisi-Braid. Fourth place is a \$350 gift card from West Marine. Check out the web to view the other eight prizes. Yes, that is right, there are 12 prizes for each port this year. Additional major port sponsors include: Sunglasses by Costa Del Mar, trolling motors from Minn Kota, bait and line from Gulp and Spiderwire, Paint from Interlux, luggage sets from Canyon Gear International and fishing rods and reels from New Jersey Angler and Nor'east Saltwater Magazines.

This year JCAA will be giving away over \$70,000 in cash & prizes. Each contest is held at one of the ten ports from Jersey City in the north to Fortescue in the south with each port serving as its own weigh station. Your crew, with up to six anglers, will compete for 10 prizes at the port you select.

All participants are automatically eligible for the Grand Prize; \$10,000 CASH awarded to a lucky angler after the huge door-prize drawing at Trump Marina Hotel Casino in Atlantic City the following Friday, June 18th. Entry forms are available at www.jcaa.org as well as links to our great sponsors and the latest JCAA news.

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

The **JCAA Fluke Tournament** in is full swing. Mark your calendars for June 12th which is the date for the tournament. We have ten ports this year thanks to the people involved that worked hard to getting Jersey City as a port. I would like to give a special thanks to Joe and Margaret Julian for hosting the tournament at Julian's Bait and Tackle for several past tournaments as a weigh-in station for Sandy Hook. They did a great job. For those that used Julian's in the past, this is a reminder that there is a new weigh-in station for Sandy Hook which is Gateway Marine. We are looking for more volunteers to help making this major fundraiser a great success. If you can volunteer a few hours, contact me or the JCAA Office. You can read more on this in the newsletter or visit the website.

The **High Roller Raffle** has been in full swing and coming to an end. The drawing is April 27th at our regular monthly meeting in Brick so get your raffle tickets in before that meeting starts. As usual the items that are in the raffle are of great quality. So I would like to thank all those people that supported JCAA in this fundraising event by taking a few chances. Good luck to those that entered and congratulation to all the winners.

Congratulations to Thomas P. Fote for receiving the New Jersey Governor's Jefferson

Award for the category of the Environmental Stewardship Award. I will be attending the ceremony on April 28th. Tom volunteers a lot of endless hours trying to educate everyone on the issues and he deserves this honor.

We are keeping an eye on issues as they arise and to get the updated information to you as fast as possible. The Presidents of each of the member clubs should make sure that their delegates attend the regular monthly meeting so they can bring this information back. There are things that come up between meetings so you need to be put on the JCAA Email Alert. To get on this list you need to send an email to tfote@jcaa.org. When you send the email put in the subject JCAA Email Alert List and in the body of the email your name and the name of your club.

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.

Just a reminder that there is a new federal law that is affecting all New Jersey saltwater recreational fishermen. Starting January 1, 2010 there 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. There is no reason to be stopped without it.

Striped Bass

Tom Fote 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 more go to the March JCAA Newspaper.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report *By Thomas Fote*

ASMFC Spring Meeting **May 3 - 6, 2010**

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

This agenda has been substantial changes from the agenda that was printed in last month's JCAA Newspaper. 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

12:30 PM - 3:00 PM American Lobster
Management Board

3:15 PM - 5:45 PM Atlantic Herring Section

7:00 PM MAFMC Public Hearing for the Omnibus
Annual Catch Limits and Accountability Measures
Amendment

May 4, 2010

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Summer Flounder, Scup, and
Black Sea Bass Management Board

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Law Enforcement Committee

9:45 AM - 11:45 AM Atlantic Striped Bass
Management Board

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Weakfish Management Board

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Management and Science
Committee

2:45 PM - 4:45 PM Horseshoe Crab 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 - 11:00 AM Commissioner Workshop on Parliamentary Procedures

11:15 AM - Noon American Eel Management Board

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board

2:45 PM - 5:30 PM Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

May 6, 2010

7:15 AM - 8:00 AM (includes breakfast) Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will meet in closed session to discuss issues related to pending litigation against the Commission.

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Business Session -- Commissioners Meet with Eric Schwaab, NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Management Board

10:30 AM - 12:15 PM ISFMP Policy Board

12:15 PM - 12:45 PM Business Session

12:45 PM - 1:15 PM Lunch for Commissioners and Proxies

1:15 PM - 3:15 PM Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Coordinating Council

President Obama Allows for Exploration for Oil and Gas Off the East Coast

The JCAA position against drilling for oil or gas off the coast has never changed. JCAA was disappointed with President Obama's recent announcement that would allow for some exploration for oil and gas. This announcement ended an over 20 year moratorium and sets a new and dangerous precedent. On this Earth Day we will all be conscious that President Obama is the one to end this very positive and environmentally sound moratorium. In New Jersey, Governor Christie, Senators Lautenberg and Menendez and Congressman Pallone all immediately challenged this decision. I have enclosed articles on this topic. We must be mindful of the impact on any part of the coast and not fool ourselves into thinking that drilling off Virginia poses no threat to New Jersey. Many of our fish already have mercury advisories and the drilling mud will only add to the mercury problem. As a kid, I remember the tar balls on the beach in New York from oil spills. The east coast

beaches are too important to risk what has happened on the Gulf of Mexico beaches and in other areas. Please contact the White House and express your concern. To find out more about oil spills and the problems they cause, check out the Clean Ocean Action webpage.

Six Days in DC

The week of April 12th was a busy week. I was parked in Alexandria from Monday until Saturday. My schedule was filled with Hill visits, an ASA Government Affairs meeting and the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Summit.

Hill Visits: I joined ASA members and staff on visits to Congressional Offices. On the Senate side I met with the staff from Senators Menendez & Lautenberg, and Vermont Senator Sanders and his staff. I also met with Congressman Pallone's staff and the staff of the Fisheries Subcommittee, both Republicans and Democrats. I was with ASA members and staff on these visits. The goal of the Hill visits was to have a conversation about important issues pertaining to recreational fishing. The general topics were improved data (collection, economic analysis and fisheries independent data), unacceptable deadlines that are causing fisheries closures, reallocation of the resource for greater economic value and investment in recreational fishing. Our concerns about catch shares were discussed. The response from staff in every office suggested they were equally concerned about money being diverted from important scientific projects and observer coverage and into catch shares. Senator Sanders and I talked about drugs in drinking water and drugs in the fish population. I appreciate the warm receptions we received in each office and the time people were willing to take from their overwhelmingly busy schedules. We were never pushed out of an office and often had to leave to make our next meeting.

ASA Government Affairs Meeting

The next two days were spent at the ASA's Government Affairs meeting. We dealt with many topics that concerned salt and fresh water fisheries. We also discussed topics that have an impact on the industry. There will be a press release from ASA posted on their website. If you would like to receive ASA alerts, sign up at their webpage.

Saltwater Recreational Fishing Summit

April 16 and 17 I attended the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Summit sponsored by NOAA and the National Marine Fisheries Service. I have attended a few of these summits in prior years and always had expectations that weren't met. This summit was the best organized and was designed to allow for our maximum participation. They surveyed the participants when we were invited so our ideas could be included in the agenda. This was a two-day, structured, facilitated meeting. We were assigned seats that allowed us to talk with people outside our own experience or geography. I interacted at my table with people from Florida, Samoa, Alaska and California. There was also a representative of media and industry at our table and two facilitators. There were panel discussions to help stimulate the conversation and those panels were equally diverse. Dr. Lubchenko, the head of NOAA, was in attendance for part of both days. Eric Schwaab, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, was there for the entire summit and made himself available for discussions after the structured day was over. Those of use who represented organizations from around the country had an opportunity to share ideas and discuss plans. Our discussions confirmed that the differences we have are more often in style than in substance. Our concerns were the same over catch shares, lack of recreational economic data, lack of timely and accurate data collection survey, and the failure to allocate fairly between recreational and commercial interests. There was no disagreement that NMFS and NOAA need to spend money on recreational fishing in these specific areas.

Bruce Freeman also attended the meeting and spoke on one of the panels representing JCAA. Bruce has been selected as one of the four Northeast representatives on the Recreational Fisheries Working Group that will be advising MAFAC. Read about MAFAC and the Recreational Fisheries Working Group below.

Visit the summit's webpage (<http://consensus.fsu.edu/Saltwater-Recreational-Fishing/index.html>) for more information and to read the papers generated by the summit.

My optimism at the end of this summit is negated by the reality that surrounds. Without constant vigilance and follow-up, all the good conversation is for naught. I am hoping that under the directorship of Eric Schwaab we will begin to see progress. And I am hoping that Dr. Lubchenko will

approve the necessary transfer of funds to make this progress a reality. It is up to us to hold them accountable and to offer all the support necessary. Stay tuned for a new JCAA newspaper scorecard, one that we will issue every 6 months to keep us on track. Making the JCAA Dean's list may be a challenge!

MAFAC and the Recreational Fisheries Working Group

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) advises the Secretary of Commerce on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce. MAFAC established a working group under the charge below.

Establishment of a Recreational Fisheries Working Group (RFGW) was endorsed by MAFAC at its November 2009 meeting, and appointments to the Working Group were announced March 19, 2010. The purpose of the RFGW is to advise MAFAC on issues of importance to the recreational fishing community, including, but not limited to: 1) the Ocean Policy Task Force report; 2) review and possible revision of the NOAA Recreational Fisheries Strategic Plan; 3) marine spatial planning; 4) catch share policy; and such other recreational fisheries issues identified as appropriate by MAFAC. Please see the complete Terms of Reference that MAFAC has provided to the RFGW.

Members have been selected to represent the diversity of national, regional and sector perspectives. Criteria for selection included having a sound expertise in the science, management or business of recreational fishing, a well-informed background in recreational fisheries issues, and an operational knowledge of federal agencies and interactions with the Fishery Management Councils and/or regional and state partners.

Initial appointments will be for a term of one year, with reappointment possible at the end of the term. Nominations were solicited by Federal Register Notice (dated December 16, 2009) and through announcement by NMFS to recreational community leaders, in the FishNews newsletter, and on the NMFS website. MAFAC made its recommendations for appointments at its February 2010 meeting. The NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries made final selections of 22 appointees based on the MAFAC recommendations, including its recommendation to fill a few key positions that cover sectors not sufficiently represented by the

initial nominees. Additional appointments are possible, up to 25 members in total.

The RFWG members will be participants in the Recreational Fishing Summit, April 16-17, 2010, in Alexandria, Virginia, and will be actively involved in the post-Summit implementation of actions. Bruce Freeman will be spending considerable time reviewing and developing suggestions to handle the many issues discussed at the summit. Bruce has joined the recreational working group for the Marine Fish Advisory Council for the Secretary of Commerce. To read the charge and see all the members assigned to the working group, go to

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocs/mafac/recreation.htm>

**Obama to Open Offshore Areas to Oil
Drilling for First Time
New York Times March 30, 2010
By John M. Broder**

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is proposing to open vast expanses of water along the Atlantic coastline, the eastern Gulf of Mexico and the north coast of Alaska to oil and natural gas drilling, much of it for the first time, officials said Tuesday.

The proposal — a compromise that will please oil companies and domestic drilling advocates but anger some residents of affected states and many environmental organizations — would end a longstanding moratorium on oil exploration along the East Coast from the northern tip of Delaware to the central coast of Florida, covering 167 million acres of ocean.

Under the plan, the coastline from New Jersey northward would remain closed to all oil and gas activity. So would the Pacific Coast, from Mexico to the Canadian border.

The environmentally sensitive Bristol Bay in southwestern Alaska would be protected and no drilling would be allowed under the plan, officials said. But large tracts in the Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea in the Arctic Ocean north of Alaska — nearly 130 million acres — would be eligible for exploration and drilling after extensive studies.

The proposal is to be announced by President Obama and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland on Wednesday, but administration officials agreed to preview the details on the condition that they not be identified.

The proposal is intended to reduce dependence on oil imports, generate revenue from the sale of offshore leases and help win political support for comprehensive energy and climate legislation.

But while Mr. Obama has staked out middle ground on other environmental matters — supporting nuclear power, for example — the sheer breadth of the offshore drilling decision will take some of his supporters aback. And it is no sure thing that it will win support for a climate bill from undecided senators close to the oil industry, like Lisa Murkowski, Republican of Alaska, or Mary L. Landrieu, Democrat of Louisiana.

The Senate is expected to take up a climate bill in the next few weeks — the last chance to enact such legislation before midterm election concerns take over. Mr. Obama and his allies in the Senate have already made significant concessions on coal and nuclear power to try to win votes from Republicans and moderate Democrats. The new plan now grants one of the biggest items on the oil industry's wish list — access to vast areas of the Outer Continental Shelf for drilling.

But even as Mr. Obama carries favors with pro-drilling interests, he risks a backlash from some coastal governors, senators and environmental advocates, who say that the relatively small amounts of oil to be gained in the offshore areas are not worth the environmental risks.

The Obama administration's plan adopts some drilling proposals floated by President George W. Bush near the end of his tenure, including opening much of the Atlantic and Arctic Coasts. Those proposals were challenged in court on environmental grounds and set aside by President Obama shortly after he took office.

Unlike the Bush plan, however, Mr. Obama's proposal would put Bristol Bay, home to major Alaskan commercial fisheries and populations of endangered whales, off limits to oil rigs.

Actual drilling in much of the newly opened areas, if it takes place, would not begin for years.

Mr. Obama said several times during his presidential campaign that he supported expanded offshore drilling. He noted in his State of the Union address in January that weaning the country from imported oil would require "tough decisions about opening new offshore areas for oil and gas development."

Perhaps in anticipation of controversy, the new policy has been closely held within the administration. White House and Interior Department officials began briefing members of Congress and local officials in affected states late Tuesday.

It is not known how much potential fuel lies in the areas opened to exploration, although according to Interior Department estimates there could be as much as a three-year supply of recoverable oil and more than two years' worth of natural gas, at current rates of consumption. But those estimates are based on seismic data that is, in some cases, more than 30 years old.

The first lease sale off the coast of Virginia could occur as early as next year in a triangular tract 50 miles off the coast that had already been approved for development but was held up by a court challenge and additional Interior Department review, officials said.

But as a result of the Obama decision, the Interior Department will spend several years conducting geologic and environmental studies along the rest of the southern and central Atlantic Seaboard. If a tract is deemed suitable for development, it is listed for sale in a competitive bidding system. The next lease sales — if any are authorized by the Interior Department — would not be held before 2012.

The eastern Gulf of Mexico tract that would be offered for lease is adjacent to an area that already contains thousands of wells and hundreds of drilling platforms. The eastern Gulf area is believed to contain as much as 3.5 billion barrels of oil and 17 trillion cubic feet of gas, the richest single tract that would be open to drilling under the Obama plan.

Drilling there has been strongly opposed by officials from both political parties in Alabama and Florida who fear damage to coastlines, fisheries, popular beaches and wildlife. Interior Department officials said no wells would be allowed within 125 miles of the Florida and Alabama coasts, making them invisible from shore.

The Interior Department and the Pentagon are discussing possible restrictions on oil and gas operations in some areas off Virginia and Florida, home to some of the nation's biggest Navy and Air Force facilities. States are also likely to claim rights to the revenues from oil and gas deposits within 3 to 12 miles of shore and to some portion of lease proceeds, officials said.

Mr. Salazar developed the offshore drilling plan after conducting four public meetings over the past year in Alaska, California, Louisiana and New Jersey. The Interior Department received more than 500,000 public comments on the issue.

Mr. Salazar has said that he hoped to rebalance the nation's oil and gas policy to find a middle ground between the "drill here drill now" advocacy of many oil industry advocates and the preservationist impulse to block oil exploration beneath virtually all public lands and waters.

He has called the offshore drilling plan a new chapter in the nation's search for a comprehensive energy policy that can open new areas to oil and gas development "in the right way and in the right places," according to an aide.

In many of the newly opened areas, drilling would begin only after the completion of geologic studies, environmental impact statements, court challenges and public lease sales. Much of the oil and gas may not be recoverable at current prices and may be prohibitively expensive even if oil prices spike as they did in the summer of 2008.

At the Wednesday event, Mr. Obama is also expected to announce two other initiatives to reduce oil imports, an agreement between the Pentagon and the Agriculture Department to use more biofuels in military vehicles and the purchase of thousands of hybrid vehicles for the federal motor pool.

Clean Ocean Action Calls
Obama Ocean Drilling Plan "Pure Snake
Oil" And "A Deal With The Devil"
Contact: Cindy Zipf 732-872-0111

Highlands, NJ-- Statement of Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action, a coalition of 125 organizations in the New Jersey/New York Region responding to President Obama's call for new offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean.

"We are utterly shocked and outraged with President Obama's opening of huge portions of our sensitive oceans to dirty offshore drilling. The policy is a deal with the devil and pure snake oil that puts New Jersey and New York beaches at risk.

It's a deal with the devil as the clear objective for opening up drilling in the Atlantic Ocean and other sensitive areas is to buy votes for legislation to reduce emissions causing climate change. It is twisted logic at best to increase a dirty, polluting industry that will increase greenhouse gas emissions

in the name of reducing climate change and at the same time threaten our national shore tourism and fishing.

The US Government has estimated that there is about a ½ year of oil from Maine to Florida. Even if new studies double that amount— it will do nothing to increase energy independence or provide a meaningful domestic oil supply. To suggest otherwise is pure snake oil.

Moreover, locating oil in these vast areas is like finding a needle in a hay stack and in order to do so, you must blast the area with seismic charges that will endanger marine mammals and fish.

Finally any spill in the south and mid-Atlantic can get carried north to the Jersey Shores by the Gulf Stream, making drilling off Virginia a threat to enjoying the beaches in New Jersey.

Clean Ocean Action stands with our strong bi-partisan NJ Congressional delegation and Governor Chris Christie who oppose offshore oil drilling and vow to work with them to fight against this attack on our way of life.”

NJ Democrats Criticize Obama drilling Policy

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Posted by Jonathan Tamari at Philly.com

New Jersey's Democratic Senators and a Shore-area Congressman have spoken out against President Obama's plan to open parts of the American coastline to oil and natural gas drilling.

Each raised concerns that an oil spill could endanger Jersey shores and the state's coastal economies. Obama's plan could allow drilling on the coastline just south of New Jersey, all the way to Florida.

“Drilling off the Virginia coast would endanger many of New Jersey’s beaches and vibrant coastal economies,” Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D, N.J.) said in a news release. “Giving Big Oil more access to our nation’s waters is really a Kill, Baby, Kill policy: it threatens to kill jobs, kill marine life and kill coastal economies that generate billions of dollars.”

U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone (D., Long Branch), said allowing drilling on the Atlantic Coast "is an invitation to an environmental catastrophe."

"The coastal beaches and ocean waters of the Jersey Shore are environmental treasures that anchor the state's tourism industry and possess special meaning as a part of New Jersey's identity. An oil

spill anywhere along the coast could cause severe environmental damage to fisheries, popular beaches and wildlife," Pallone said in a news release.

Sen. Robert Menendez (D., N.J.) said New Jersey should receive at least a 125-mile buffer from any drilling.

"Instead of expanding coastline drilling, we should be focused on developing a 21st century green economy. We cannot drill our way out of this problem," Menendez said in a news release.

Gov. Christie Also Opposes Obama Offshore Drilling Plan

By Raju Chebium • Gannett Washington Bureau • March 31, 2010

WASHINGTON - Add Gov. Chris Christie to the growing list of opponents to President Barack Obama’s oil exploration plan.

Obama said today he wants to lift a ban on offshore drilling along parts of the U.S. shoreline.

Several New Jersey lawmakers, all but one of them Democrats who represent the Garden State in Congress, expressed opposition.

The Republican governor has now added his dissenting voice.

“I oppose the idea of drilling off the coast of New Jersey,” Christie said in a statement. “New Jersey’s coastline is one of our economic engines and I would have to be really convinced of both the economic viability and environmental safety of oil and gas exploration off our coast. At this point, I'm not convinced of either.”

The administration’s plan would allow studies and potential exploration in the Atlantic from Delaware south to the middle of Florida. The northern Atlantic – from New Jersey on up through Maine – are still off limits.

NEW JERSEY OUTDOOR ALLIANCE REPORT

By John Toth

Members of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) met on March 22 and the following is a short summary of the major points that were discussed.

Free Salt Water Registry – The NJ Assembly on March 22nd passed bill A823 that calls for a free

registry for New Jersey's anglers. A similar bill (S 1122) is waiting for senate passage. Nobody will argue about something that is free, but the main concern with the free registry is the administrative cost of the program to register our state's anglers and this cost ranges from \$500,000 to possibly close to one million dollars. This free registry will be administered by NJ's Division of Fish & Wildlife. The Division already has severe financial difficulties and lack of staff to manage its existing programs. Our state's dire financial situation will make it all the more difficult to get the necessary funding from our state to pay for the administrative costs for this program. This financial issue will have to be addressed before a free registry is in place. The NJOA is very concerned about the adverse effects for the hunting and fishing programs in our state if the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife's budget is further reduced by its administering a free registry.

Pots Off the Reefs Bill – The NJOA has invested a lot of time and effort in getting this bill passed. Unfortunately, roadblocks to its passage by the commercial industry continually pop up along the way and the NJOA still has a way to go to convince legislators that this bill should be passed. Various strategies were discussed to persuade legislators to vote for this bill and NJOA representatives plan to meet with them in the near future.

Indian Point
New York Times
Editorial
April 6, 2010

Showdown at Indian Point In a very welcome decision for the health of the Hudson River, New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation has ruled that the obsolete cooling system at the Indian Point nuclear power plant violates the federal Clean Water Act by polluting the river with heated water and needlessly killing vast numbers of fish. The agency has now left the Entergy Corporation with a choice between spending many millions of dollars to install a system that recycles cooling water or shutting down the plant.

No one should be hoping for a too-hasty shutdown. Indian Point supplies 30 percent of the electricity used by New York City and Westchester County, and replacing that power won't be easy. Instead, Entergy should get serious about finally obeying environmental laws.

The Indian Point plant sucks up 2.5 billion gallons of water a day, circulates it through the system and then dumps it back in the river, hotter and untreated. This kills almost a billion fish, fish larvae, eggs and other aquatic organisms each year.

The damage was starkly illustrated by New York State's recent decision to close the Hudson to all fishing for American shad — one of several fish species in steep decline, partly because of power plants.

Though Entergy has tried hard to market Indian Point as safe, clean and reliable, its public-relations efforts have been hurt by years of news about tritium leaks, faulty warning sirens, an unrealistic emergency evacuation plan and that disastrous cooling system, whose technology became obsolete decades ago.

Environmentalists and politicians — including the group Riverkeeper, State Assemblyman Richard Brodsky and the folk singer Pete Seeger, among others — were right to press the issue: suing to get New York to enforce clean-water laws at Indian Point. We hope they keep pressing.

The future of the power plant was not immediately clear. The federal licenses for the reactor expire in 2013 and 2015, and the water-quality certificate that has now been denied is a prerequisite for renewal. But Entergy officials said they might fight the ruling in court and, if they fail there, take their case to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Washington.

The worst outcome now would be a long legal battle and some unwelcome intervention by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission that protects the status quo. Entergy should clean up its plant and stop abusing the Hudson River.

Highly Migratory Species

By John Koegler

Bluefin Tuna, CITES, ICCAT and You

CITES is short for The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. This is the international organization that determines what fish, animals or plants are put on their internationally banned trade list. CITES banning of international trade is supposed to save listed species from extinction.

On Tuesday March 18, 2010, CITES voted on a proposal to put the eastern Atlantic (European) bluefin tuna population on their trade ban list and end international trade in bluefin Tuna. Europeans have for the last 34 years refused to impose any ICCAT tuna management rules on their fishermen. This occurred because ICCAT rules are self imposed by each country on their fishermen.

The European Union has recently become a strong supporter of reducing the European landings of bluefin tuna to a sustainable level. After many years of total avoidance of ICCAT rules, the EU got a country to put bluefin tuna on the proposed CITES list that would have totally banned international trade in bluefin tuna and reduced the slaughter.

That Bluefin tuna were proposed for a CITES listing was no big deal. The United States strongly supported this listing. What was shocking was that so many CITES members voted NOT to list bluefin tuna. The CITES vote was 20 countries for a listing, 68 against and 30 abstained. But as always happens money has language of its own. Strict international conservation for a tuna species that is worth tens of millions of dollars yearly just gets shoved aside. So far, No European nation has given up their share of the multi-million dollar bluefin fishery for conservation reasons.

What happens next is anyone's guess. But after 34 years of total regulation avoidance it would take a real miracle to stop the Europeans from continuing their bluefin tuna slaughter. Those voting for a bluefin tuna trade ban must be in shock. Twenty countries voted for a listing, 68 against and 30 abstaining is not a close vote in any language. Only in the US is the dollar importance of fishermen to their family, their port, state and country totally ignored.

The US NMFS bureaucrats continue their 20 year unilateral restrictions on US fishermen for an ocean crossing fish species like bluefin tuna. US fishery scientists have proven with satellite tagged bluefin that a big part of US conserved bluefin are caught and sold by Europeans and Japanese fishermen yearly. The international community says thank you very much for your fishermen's conservation so we the international bandits can sell your conserved fish. .

After 20 years of recreational support for tougher and tougher fish conservation rules, every year the US season gets shorter, the keeper limit is reduced and the legal size limit is increased. Please

show me what anglers have to show for their 36 years of conservation?

Will President Obama's New Ocean Policy rules eventually eliminate anglers from fishing using catch share allocation plans or sector limits? The Administration's stated desire to totally change the way this nation's fisheries are managed has totally ignored recreational fishing!

If you do not think that is bad enough review the Ocean policy rules. If for any reason anglers do not land their allocated quota under the Ocean Policy rules Anglers quota will automatically be transferred without limit to commercial fishermen. I have reported this three times in the last 6 months. I guess no one cares about their tuna fishing future. By the time you read this, you will know where and how far recreational fishing has sunk.

HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

May 11-13, 2010

DRAFT AGENDA

Crowne Plaza Hotel

8777 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD

(301) 589-0800

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

10:30 am HMS Advisory Panel 101 for new members (optional)

1:00 pm Welcome, Introductions, & Agenda adoption

1:30 pm Overview of recent activities and upcoming actions/issues, including

- Sea turtle status proposed rule
- Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Update
- International Update
- Communications

2:30 pm Overview of Final Amendment 3

3:00 pm Break

3:15 pm Introduction to new NMFS Assistant Administrator, Eric C. Schwaab

4:15 pm Working Group Introduction: Bluefin tuna & Sharks

4:30 pm BLUEFIN WORKING GROUP convenes (CONCURRENT)

- Government Detailed Presentation
 - o Recent fishery trends – catches, bycatch, relevant research
 - o 2010 Bluefin tuna fishery
 - o 2011 and Beyond
 - o Linkages between Bluefin tuna & Swordfish revitalization

- Discussion
- 4:30 pm SHARK WORKING GROUP convenes (CONCURRENT) • Government Detailed Presentation
 - o Recent regulations – Amendment 3, ASMFC Shark FMP
 - o Stock assessments - SEDAR process and other assessments
 - o Future of fishery - catch shares, landings and closures, domestic implications of ICCAT recommendations
 - o Outreach and other issues - smoothhounds, shortfin mako
- Discussion
- 6 pm Adjourn

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

- 8:30 am Welcome & Agenda Review
- 8:45 am BLUEFIN WORKING GROUP reconvenes (CONCURRENT)
- 8:45 am SHARK WORKING GROUP reconvenes (CONCURRENT)
- 11:30 am Working Groups begin wrap-up and development of report out
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm Working Group Report Outs and AP group discussion
 - Bluefin Tuna Working Group
 - Shark Working Group
- 3:00 pm Break
- 3:15 pm Swordfish Issues
 - Swordfish revitalization – accomplishments and challenges
 - Buoy gear/user group conflict
 - General Commercial Handgear permit
- 5:15 pm Public comment
- 5:30 pm Adjourn

Thursday, May 13, 2010

- 8:30 am Billfish Issues
 - Roundscale spearfish
 - Domestic implication of potential ICCAT recommendations on Sailfish
 - Pelagic longline bycatch in the Gulf of Mexico
- 10:15 am Break
- 10:30 am Vessel Monitoring System Issues and Options
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:30 pm Marine Recreational Information Program - Overview of recent reports
- 2:00 pm Public Comment
- 2:15 pm HMS Advisory Panel Wrap-Up
- 3:00 pm Adjourn

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Meeting of the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS will hold a 3–day Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Advisory Panel (AP) meeting in May 2010. The intent of the meeting is to consider options for the conservation and management of Atlantic HMS. The meeting is open to the public.

DATES: The AP meeting will be held from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, 2010; from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12, 2010; and from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, May 13, 2010.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 8777 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Parker or Margo Schulze-Haugen at 301-713-2347.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq., as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act, Public Law 104 297, provided for the establishment of an AP to assist in the collection and evaluation of information relevant to the development of any Fishery Management Plan (FMP) or FMP amendment for HMS. NMFS consults with and considers the comments and views of AP members when preparing and implementing FMPs or FMP amendments for Atlantic tunas, swordfish, billfish, and sharks. The AP has previously consulted with NMFS on Amendment 1 to the Billfish FMP (April 1999), the HMS FMP (April 1999), Amendment 1 to the HMS FMP (December 2003), the Consolidated HMS FMP (October 2006), and Amendments 1, 2, and 3 to the Consolidated HMS FMP (April and October 2008, and February and September 2009). At the May 2010 AP meeting, NMFS plans to discuss the management measures in Amendment 3

to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP for small coastal, shortfin mako, and smoothhound sharks, and conduct working group sessions regarding Atlantic bluefin tuna, sharks, and swordfish buoy gear fishery management. Other potential items for discussion include billfish and vessel monitoring system issues. An introductory session for new AP members will be held at 10:30 a.m. on May 11, 2010. Special Accommodations This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Brian Parker at (301) 713-2347, at least 7 days prior to the meeting. Dated: April 9, 2010. Emily H. Menashes, Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Servi

YOUTH EDUCATION

BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI

NJ FREE FISHING DAYS

Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6, will be New Jersey's Free Fishing Days in 2010. Free Fishing Days are held annually in conjunction with National Fishing and Boating Week, and on these days anyone may fish the Garden State's public waters without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations, including size and daily catch limits, remain in effect. Anglers should also note that any smallmouth or largemouth bass caught during this time must be released.

NATIONAL SALTWATER ANGLER REGISTRY

Please remember if you are over 16 years old, you must register for the National Saltwater Angler Registry this year. <http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov/outreach.html>

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is a popular program, in place in more than 1,000 classrooms in 35 states. In winter, participating teachers and students raise trout from eggs to fry. In spring, they release the small fish in local streams. In the classroom, students monitor tank water quality, care for the trout and observe the fishes' growth. The trout also become part of interdisciplinary studies, giving relevancy to lessons in science, physical education, mathematics, social studies, language arts and fine arts.

Most participants are part of the Trout Unlimited (TU) TIC network, but adapt TIC to fit their school

curriculum and the local watershed. Teachers can work with volunteers from their local TU chapter to customize TIC to their region. They also can rely on them for fundraising help, paperwork coordination, technical/program support and field day coordination. TU provides educational resources and support at www.troutintheclassroom.org. To find out more about TIC, visit <http://www.troutintheclassroom.org/teachers/state-specific-resources>. If you have trouble finding TIC programs in your state, contact Rochelle Gandour, TU's Youth Education Coordinator, at rgandour@tu.org. She can connect you with your state TIC coordinator or participating teachers in your area. Trout Unlimited is a conservation organization dedicated to protecting, reconnecting, restoring and sustaining coldwater fisheries across North America. Education of the next generation of environmental stewards is a crucial part of this task. By giving K-12 students a personal connection to their local streams, TU hopes they find love for and dedication to this most precious resource.

NEWARK BAIT AND FLY CASTERS

On Tuesday, April 6, 2010 the Newark Bait and Fly Casters invited the JCAA Youth Education Chairman to their Annual Dinner. It was nice to sit and break bread with the members of the NB&FC. Captain Peter Grimbilas gave an excellent overview about the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance and how the organization works towards the betterment of protecting the rights of outdoor's men and women. It was a fun night with many fish stories and everyone enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow fly casters. The NB&FC Annual Dinner supports their youth fishing program and it was a pleasure to attend.

FISH ART WINNERS LIST

The NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife announces the winners of the fish art contest as well as links to their artwork, visit <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/news/2010/fshartwinnrs10.htm> on the division's website..

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

**Remember to Sign up for the
JCAA 16th Annual Fluke
Tournament June 12th, 2010**

We need the support of your club and its members

Your club should be a member of JCAA and make a difference for only \$50 a year. Your club will have a voice in all JCAA positions that affect your fishing future. Your club will receive up-to-date information on vital issues each month.

Club Membership Application

Date _____

Club Name: _____

President's Name: _____

Pres. Address: Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

Please make check \$50 payable to JCAA

JCAA SPONSORSHIP

The JCAA has four levels of sponsorship, \$50, \$100, \$250 & \$500.

Sponsors are recognized in our newspaper. For more information call JCAA at 732-506-6565. Become a JCAA sponsor and help our cause. As you can see by our newspaper many 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

JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICATION

Date _____ New ___ Renewal _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

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

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

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Office Manager	Phil Celmer	609-693-3414 jcaa@jcaa.org

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Access: (South)		
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Blue claw Crab	Jack Miktus	732-477-5184
Blue Fish	Al Marantz	732-280-2643
Habitat	Pat Donnelly	732-528-8181
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If you would like to receive JCAA Email alerts email your Name, Club, if you belong to one, and your interest to [<tfote@jcaa.org>](mailto:tfote@jcaa.org) or just go to the JCAA Web and subscribe from there.