

# JCAA NEWSPAPER OCTOBER 2010

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on September 20, 2010)

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

### JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

**Tuesday September 28th, 2010**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

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

### NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, October 14th, 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

<b>President</b>	Mark Taylor	732-929-2591
<b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b>	Eileen Smith	732-899-2681
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b>	Don Marantz	609-259-6368
<b>Treasurer</b>	Doug Tegeder	732-341-5674
<b>Rec. Sec.</b>	Tom Siciliano	609-296-3774
<b>Cors. Sec.</b>	Paul Turi	609-660-2126
<b>Mem. Sec.</b>	Bruce Smith	732-695-3431

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

### IMPORTANT DATES

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September 28<sup>th</sup> JCAA General meeting  
October 3<sup>rd</sup> Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament  
October 10<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Retreat  
October 15<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting  
October 25<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting  
October 25<sup>th</sup> ASA Summit  
November 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> ASMFC Annual Meeting  
November 11<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting  
November 14<sup>th</sup> JCAA Sportsperson of the Year  
Dinner

## **19<sup>th</sup> Annual - State of New Jersey Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament Sunday, October 3rd, 2010**

*By Paul Smith, Tournament Committee*

The Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament (GSFT) is held at Island Beach State Park, NJ on Sunday, October 3rd 2010. Approximately 1,000 anglers of all ages annually enter this tournament. This event is one of the most popular surf fishing contests for the individual angler on the East Coast. The tournament is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry, the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, and the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association.

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

### **Registration Fees:**

Ages 18 & over - \$10 for early entry if postmarked by Sept. 11 (\$15.00 fee on Tournament Day)

Ages 13-17 - \$5.00

Children 12 & under are FREE!

### **Schedule**

6:30 a.m.-1:00p.m Fishing  
1:30 p.m.-2:00p.m Raffle Drawing  
2:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony

Special arrangements are made for handicapped anglers. Balloon tire equipped beach wheelchairs are available for anglers with disabilities. Volunteers will be needed to assist anglers with special needs who fish on tournament day. To volunteer, or to make arrangements for a handicapped angler, please contact Greg Kucharewski at 732-840-9197.

**Special Note:** Due to the closure of the N.J. fluke season in September there will be no fluke category in the list of eligible species for this year's tournament.

We need your help! If you are not fishing in the tournament, please consider volunteering to be a tournament judge. Each judge will receive a special issue Governor's Cup Surf Fishing Tournament cap with "Judge-2010" embroidered across the back.. Also, the IBSP beach pass is not required for judge's 4x4 vehicles during the hours of the tournament. Please call Paul Harris at 732-269-8878 for more information.

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

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

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

Harsh economic times have eliminated state funding of many worthy programs that are of interest to New Jersey's salt water anglers. The surf fishing clinics at IBSP are an example of the type of program that is now only made possible as the result

of the participation by so many anglers at each year's Governor's Cup Tournament. More than \$120,000 has been raised since the inception of the tournament for conservation and education projects, and improved beach access.

## President's Report

*By Mark Taylor*

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. With that being said it's time for everyone to get more involved with the issues that face us. I will be asking for more people to step up and be even more active in this organization. There are many different ways that you can get more active in JCAA, as an individual or a club. Please attend the next meeting for more details.

The last General Membership Meeting was June 29, 2010. This is a reminder that there has been some time since our last meeting and there is a lot of information that needs to be relayed to the membership. I would ask that all membership clubs send a delegate to the next meeting which will be held on September 28, 2010, so they can take it back to their clubs.

Our next fundraising event will be our **Sportsperson of the Year Dinner** which will be held on November 14th at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. We have not received any nominations at the time of this newsletter so there are no bios published. We are still looking for nominations for this important honor. Please send a short bio of 150 words explaining the accomplishments of the nominee to the JCAA Office. It is not too early for your club to start talking about getting a table for this great event. Let all of us together make this event a great success. Look for more information in future articles from our Dinner Committee in the newspaper.

Mark your calendar for the annual **Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament** which is being held on Sunday, October 3 at **Island Beach State Park**. Come out and participate in the event, it is a lot of fun for the whole family. We all need to spend more time doing actives with our families. Read more about this in our newsletter. This tournament is sponsored by the **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of**

**Parks and Forestry, the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, and the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association.**

In a press release dated August 20, 2010 the ASMFC & Mid-Atlantic Council approved 2011 TALs for Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass and Bluefish. They will be forwarding its recommendations to NOAA's Northeast Regional Administrator for final approval. I will have copies of the press release at the next meeting.

The Bill S-1181/A-1683 (perimeter bill) that changes the perimeter for bow hunting around occupied buildings was signed into law by Governor Chris Christie. We worked with the NJOA, New Jersey State Federation and the United Bow hunters of New Jersey on the bill.

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](mailto: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.

What you do now to protect the resource will be the future of the recreational fishing community.

**IMPORTANT**

The Next General Membership Meeting will be September 28, 2010. at the Brick Civic Plaza, 270 Chambers Bridge Road in Brick.

**Sportsperson-of-the-Year  
Awards Dinner  
By Paul Turi, co-chairman**

Mark your calendar for November 14th, the night of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year Awards Dinner. Now is the time to buy your tickets. It is one of our major JCAA fundraisers. It takes place on Sunday, November 14, 2010 from 4:00-9:00 p.m. at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club, RT. 70 & River Rd, Point Pleasant, NJ. We will honor this year and past years' recipients of the JCAA "Sportsperson-of-the-Year" award. Past honorees include legislators,

environmental leaders, outdoor writers and other worthy recipients.

As of this writing we do not yet have a keynote speaker. As soon as we secure a speaker I will let everyone know in a future issue of our paper.

At our September general membership meeting we will be taking nominations for this year's sportsperson of the year and selling tickets. So, if you or your club would like to nominate someone as this year's honoree, please present a short biography, no more than 100 words, as to why you or your club feels this person should receive this year's award.

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

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

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

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

If you obtain a donation, please make arrangements with either myself or someone from

Jersey Coast to have these prizes picked up. We need these prizes well in advance of the November 14th dinner.

I can be reached at (609) 660-2126. Dan Miller will be co-chairing the event and tickets for the dinner can be obtained by calling Dan at (609) 641-7821.

Thank you for your continued support.

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report** *By Thomas Fote*

I hope you all enjoyed the summer. JCAA is a volunteer organization and some family emergencies prevented us from publishing the mid-summer newspaper. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Striped Bass**

On July 22<sup>nd</sup> ASMFC held a Striped Bass hearing in Toms River. The message I received loud and clear from the audience was no different than the email messages I received from striped bass fishermen from up and down the coast. This message is status quo. There were many concerns with the health of the Chesapeake Bay striped bass stocks which was once considered between 75 – 80% of the coastal migratory stocks. Because of the disease and a lack of forage species in the Chesapeake Bay, many of us believe Chesapeake Bay is not contributing anywhere near 75%. That could be one of the reasons that we are not seeing large striped bass in Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and certain areas of Massachusetts in the way we did 10 years ago. The Hudson River and Delaware stocks don't have the same migration patterns as the Chesapeake Bay stock. We have scientific reports that there is a dramatic increase in disease in the Chesapeake Bay stock, that there is a lack of forage species and water quality issues are increasing. Until we deal with these issues and determine how the health of the Chesapeake Bay is impacting the coastal migratory stocks, we should not be loosening regulations on either the recreational or commercial communities.

As I said in June, it will be interesting to see if the public hearing process changes the votes of some of the states that voted yes. Remember, the

vote was very close at that time. It surprised me that Connecticut, a state that considers striped bass a gamefish, supported the addendum. It also surprised me that Maryland, Washington, DC and Potomac River, that have expressed their concerns about the Chesapeake Bay stock and disease, also supported the addendum. It also surprised me that the US Fish and Wildlife Service voted to support the addendum when the National Marine Fisheries Service went on the record in opposition. NMFS stated that their concerns about the Chesapeake Bay stock showed this was the wrong time for an increase. There is still time to contact ASMFC since the comment period is still open. The press release is below and the information remains on the ASMFC webpage. Anglers in other states also need to pressure their state directors and commissioners not to vote for the increase. There is also a measure in this addendum to transfer the recreational quota to commercial fisheries. Since we don't have a state by state striped bass quota, I can't see how this would happen. But commissioners voted to move forward with this proposal.

### **States Schedule Hearings on Striped Bass Draft Addendum II**

**Public Comment Accepted Until October**  
**Note: All the Hearings have taken place**  
**ASMFC Release**

**June 3, 2010, Contact Tina Berger 202-289-6400**

Washington, DC – Atlantic coastal states from Maine through North Carolina have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum II to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass.

The Draft Addendum proposes two changes to the striped bass management program: (1) an increase in the coastal commercial quota, and (2) revising the definition of recruitment failure based on Technical Committee advice.

The proposal to increase the coastal commercial quota is intended to improve equality between the commercial and recreational fishery sectors. Although Amendment 6 established management programs for both fisheries based on the same target fishing mortality rate, the implementation of state-specific quotas for coastal commercial harvest (and not for recreational harvest) has prevented the commercial and recreational fisheries from responding equally to changes in striped bass population size. Since 2003, coastal commercial harvest has decreased by 3.6 percent, while recreational harvest has increased by 13.7 percent. Under the option, the Board

would select a percent increase to be applied to the coastal commercial allocations assigned in Amendment 6.

The Management Board voted to include a second issue in the Draft Addendum based on information presented at the meeting. As part of its review of the juvenile abundance indices, the Striped Bass Technical Committee recommended to the Management Board a revision to how striped bass recruitment failure is defined. Juvenile abundance indices are an important component of the striped bass monitoring program and are used to determine periods of recruitment failure which can trigger management action under Amendment 6. Adopting the proposed recommendation would result in a fixed value to determine recruitment failure in each surveyed area rather than a value that changes from year to year. Use of either the Amendment 6 definition or the Technical Committee recommendation for recruitment failure does not result in any necessary changes to the current management program.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum, either by attending public hearings or providing written comments. The Draft Addendum can be obtained via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on October 1, 2010 and should be forwarded to Nichola Meserve, FMP Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at [nmeserve@asmfc.org](mailto:nmeserve@asmfc.org) (*Subject line: Striped Bass Addendum II*). For more information, please contact Nichola Meserve, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator at (202) 289-6400 or [nmeserve@asmfc.org](mailto:nmeserve@asmfc.org).

### **ASMFC WEEK**

I have included the summaries of the important votes from the ASMFC meeting in August. I always learn new lessons when dealing with governing bodies. I am accustomed to dealing with legislative bodies. Every time a law is passed, some interpretations will change the original intent. I have supported bills that were well-intentioned but in the end the problem wasn't solved or loopholes were discovered by those who didn't want the legislation in the first place. By the time an addendum to a plan is passed at ASMFC, we generally know what the addendum means. During the August meeting week, I learned that wording is everything. Please read the two articles below about weakfish, shad and river herring. You will then understand that in the future I will read every word and ask for every possible interpretation before making a vote. This may slow the process but I can't rely on commissioners respecting the original intent and not looking for loopholes.

### **Weakfish**

Last year after the weakfish stock assessment was approved through peer review, we decided we needed to take action. By any form of stock assessment, this stock is in dire shape. Even though strong management measures were in place for 15 years, the stock began to reverse itself and go in a negative direction. If this was a stock managed federally, we would be in a moratorium. When we went to public hearings, the recreational community and most of the commercial community (with some southern exceptions) were supporting a moratorium. I voted to include an option to allow one fish recreationally and a 100 pound bycatch. The only reason I did this was all the stock assessments and all the advice from the technical committee suggested that the problem was not fishing pressure. The problem is some unknown natural mortality. I knew recreational anglers would not target weakfish for one fish and commercial fishermen would not direct a trip to return with 100 pounds. The reason I supported this is that it would allow an angler to keep one fish. It also would allow the commercial fishermen who landed weakfish unintentionally while fishing for other species, to keep and sell the bycatch rather than throwing it back with 100% mortality. This was not a percentage reduction. Essentially this vote closed the fishery with the two small exceptions.

To my surprise, at the next weakfish board meeting, North Carolina presented a proposal to use conservation equivalency to allow 10% bycatch up to 1,000 pounds. They justified this proposal by saying it would achieve a similar reduction to the original proposal. I have never seen more voodoo math in my life. Regardless of the math, there was never any discussion about conservation equivalency before the original vote. The original discussion was either a complete moratorium or allow for a minor bycatch fishery. The National Marine Fisheries Service has been unbending on overfishing definitions and on implementing draconian reductions on the recreational community or allowing no increase on stocks that are recovered. I could not believe they would support this North Carolina proposal. But they did. I could not believe several other states that previously supported a moratorium because of the outcry from the commercial and recreational anglers would support this North Carolina proposal. But they did. The North Carolina proposal passed and you can check out the votes below. If you read through the record you will notice that I spoke in opposition to this proposal. New Jersey, Delaware and New York spoke out against this proposal. I was really disappointed that the US Fish and Wildlife Service did not say a word against the proposal even though historically there supported the moratorium. They did vote no but I expected more active opposition. I can only speculate.

I feel I must apologize to the public since I made the original motion. I should have simply supported the moratorium. I got snookered but I have learned from my mistake. What I found most disappointing was that my original motion sought to accommodate North Carolina and Virginia and they bit the hand that fed them. It will be a long time before I am so accommodating again.

### **Shad and River Herring**

New Jersey had real concerns about the new addendums to the shad and river herring plans. Because of the way the plan was worded, we realized that many of the river herring runs in New Jersey would be closed and some of the shad runs as well. Because the plan clearly states that if you don't have a management plan in place that can prove the runs are sustainable, you must have a moratorium. I was surprised again. In some states, a moratorium clearly does not actually mean a moratorium. Instead it means we should allow a bycatch since the fish will be caught any way in a pound net fishery which can release fish alive. Thankfully this decision is not final and will be debated again in Charleston at the annual meeting. If this comes to pass, it would allow a bycatch in pound net fisheries which could be a huge catch, while forcing other states to completely close their recreational catch even though the numbers are negligible. The issue is clearly not "fair and equitable" for everyone, it is "every man (or state) for himself." This is not what the compact intended. Hopefully, we see a different result than the weakfish travesty.

### **Oil Spill: Out of Sight, Out of Mind**

BP, the government, the states of Louisiana, Florida, and Alabama have declared victory. They want us to believe that all is well, we should come enjoy the beaches, go fishing and spend money. Our attention span may have moved on as well. However, those of us who deal with the fishing industry know the impact is just being realized. We don't know the damage to the bluefin tuna stocks. We don't know the impact of all that oil will have as it settles to the bottom of the Gulf. We also do not know the effects on the fish who consumed the dispersants. We're not sure how their reproduction or life span will be affected. We know in Alaska they are still recovering from the Exxon Valdes spill. We need to be vigilant and we need to continue to support a moratorium on offshore drilling off the east coast. Thankfully, our Senators and most of our

Congressmen have never wavered in their opposition to offshore drilling. Particular thanks go to Senators Menendez and Lautenberg and Congressmen Pallone and Adler for their public opposition to any offshore drilling along the east coast. New Jersey's economy is troubled enough without the possibility of oil on our beaches.

### **ASMFC Summer Meeting Week**

#### **Weakfish Management Board August 4, 2010 *Meeting Summary***

The Weakfish Management Board met to discuss a number of issues related to the implementation of Addendum IV, and also review the state biological sampling plans for 2010.

All states have implemented the requirements of Addendum IV, which include a 100 lb commercial trip limit and bycatch limit and a one fish recreational creel limit. The Management Board discussed the implications of the new commercial trip limit on weakfish discarding, both in the short-term (under low weakfish biomass) and in the long-term (under rebuilding weakfish biomass). An increase in discarding was an anticipated effect of the 100 lb commercial trip limit.

However, under a rebuilding stock, the trip limit has the potential to create excessive discarding, an unwanted outcome for managers and stakeholders alike. Consequently, the Management Board tasked its Technical Committee with developing a set of indicators to monitor the stock and prompt consideration of easing the trip limit.

The Management Board also reviewed a conservation equivalency proposal from North Carolina. The Board approved North Carolina's request to implement commercial regulations allowing 10 percent bycatch of weakfish up to 1000 lbs, in place of the 100 lb trip limit. Analysis of North Carolina commercial data for 2005-2008 indicated that the alternative regulations would result in an equivalent landings reduction as the 100 lb commercial trip limit. The methods used in the proposal were the same as those used to develop the estimated landings reduction from coastwide implementation of the 100 lb trip limit for Addendum IV. Concern that the bycatch allowance may not reduce landings the same amount as a trip limit under a rebuilding weakfish stock prompted the Management Board to request that the Technical Committee annually review the fishery to ensure that conservation equivalency is maintained. The Management Board reviewed the 2010 Weakfish Biological Sampling Plans. Under Addendum I, states are required to measure the length of six weakfish per commercial metric ton of landings, and collect and age three weakfish otoliths per total metric ton of

landings. These biological samples are used to characterize the landings for use in stock assessments. In addition to approving the plans, the Board also supported a recommendation from the Plan Review Team to develop a template to streamline the sampling plans.

For more information, please contact Nichola Meserve, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or nmeserve@asmfc.org.

### *Motions*

**Move that the Weakfish Management Board direct the Technical Committee to develop indicators for possible management use as the stock recovers.**

Motion made by Mr. Carpenter, second by Dr. Daniel. Motion passes unanimously.

**Move to approve the North Carolina request for conservation equivalency with a 10% bycatch allowance up to 1000 pounds, and require an annual review by the Technical Committee and Board to ensure conservation equivalency is maintained.**

Motion made by Dr. Daniel, second by Mr. O'Reilly. Motion passes (Roll Call Vote: In favor – MA, RI, CT, MD, PRFC, VA, NC, FL, NMFS; Opposed – NY, NJ, DE, USFWS; Null – SC, GA).

**Move to approve the 2010 sampling plans, and support the PRT recommendation to minimize the content of sampling plans.**

Motion made by Mr. Augustine, second by Mr. Himchak. Motion passes without opposition.

## **Atlantic Menhaden Management Board August 3, 2010 Meeting Summary**

The Board reviewed state compliance and the FMP Review for 2009 and found all jurisdictions to be in compliance with the plan. Reported coastwide landings for 2009 were 181,674 metric tons (reduction fishery: 143,800 mt + bait fishery: 37,874 mt).

The Technical Committee and Multi-Species Technical Committee presented their initial findings and work plans to address the Board tasks to develop alternative reference points. The Board provided both committees further guidance to refine its tasks. In addition, the Board initiated an addendum to include options for alternative reference points of percent spawning potential ratio (SPR) at the current level (10%), as well as 15%, 25%, and 40%. A draft addendum will be presented to the Board at the Commission's Annual Meeting in November.

The Board received a presentation from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science regarding a study it conducted to estimate menhaden's net removal of nitrogen from Chesapeake Bay.

The Board approved the nomination of Donald Swanson (NH) to the Menhaden Advisory Panel.

For more information, please contact Brad Spear, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator for Policy, at (202) 289-6400 or bspear@asmfc.org.

## **ASMFC & MAFMC Joint Meeting**

I attended the joint meeting of ASMFC and MAFMC on August 18. There were increases in summer flounder and scup but black sea bass remains status quo for the third year. Because of the lack of data on scup and sea bass for the last 20 years, the SSC was very conservative in their recommendations for the quota on these two stocks. It is really a shame that the recreational and commercial fishing communities continue to suffer the consequences of poor data. With scup and sea bass, this is not a new problem. Along with the council and commission members, I have been calling for improved data since 1993. According to the stock assessment, we could be harvesting these two species at considerably greater levels. It is only NMFS unwillingness to spend money on gathering the necessary data that keeps this from happening.

New Jersey's representative on the Mid-Atlantic Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission delegation from New Jersey voted against establishing research set-asides for these four species. The reason we voted no is the research set-asides money is not being used as intended. This money has not gone for research on summer flounder, scup, black sea bass or bluefish. Some of the money is used for NEMAP. NEMAP is the trawl survey that NMFS is required to perform for the status of the stocks. I find it discriminatory since NMFS funds NEMAP in the South Atlantic but refuses to do so in the northeast. This is not the first time we have discussed this subject and you can read more in the previous JCAA newspapers. The research set-aside program was designed to fund outside research to gather better data on the stocks using the 3% quota on each of these stocks. The commercial and recreational communities have been willing to give up 3% of our quota to provide the fish for this research, not to give NMFS a slush fund.

I met with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, and Bluefish Boards (Board) to adopt 2011 fishery management measures. The Council and Board recommended a (total allowable catch) TAC of 33.95 million pounds for the 2011 summer flounder fishery. The total allowable landings (TAL) would be 29.48 million pounds, an increase of about 7 million pounds compared to the 2010 level. If approved by NMFS, 17.69 million pounds would be allocated to the commercial fishery as quota and 11.79 million pounds as a recreational harvest limit for the 2011 fishing year.

Both the Council and Board recommended a TAC of 24.10 million pounds for scup. The associated TAL would be 20.00 million pounds, an increase of about 6 million pounds compared to the 2010 TAL. If approved, the scup commercial quota would be 15.60 million pounds and the recreational harvest limit would be 4.40 million pounds for 2011.

In regard to the specifications for the 2011 black sea bass fishery, the Council and Board recommended that the TAC be set at 4.50 million pounds. The associated TAL would be 3.60 million pounds which would result in a commercial quota of 1.76 million pounds and a recreational harvest limit of 1.84 million pounds if approved.

The Council and Board recommended a TAC of 31.74 million pounds for the 2011 bluefish fishery. The corresponding TAL is 27.29 million pounds, which is about a 2 million pound decrease from the 2010 TAL of 29.26 million pounds. Under the bluefish FMP, a transfer of landings from the recreational to the commercial fishery is allowed if there are sufficient landings available in the TAL above the expected landings amount in the recreational fishery. Since this is the case for 2011, the Council recommended a transfer of 4.77 million pounds resulting in a commercial quota of 9.41 million pounds and a recreational harvest limit of 17.88 million pounds. A Research Set-Aside (RSA) of up to 3% of the TAL was also approved for each of the four species considered during the specification meetings. Under the RSA program, these landings would be used to fund research activities.

The Council also approved the 2012 RSA Program Research Priorities List and approved the RSA Committee's Mission Statement which states the goal and core principles of the program.

## **NEW JERSEY OUTDOOR ALLIANCE REPORT**

*By John Toth*

On behalf of the JCAA, I attended an August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) and the following issues were discussed:

NJOA Chairman, Anthony Mauro, reported that Governor Christie signed into law a new Bow Hunting bill. At the strong urging of the NJOA, this bill was sponsored by Senators Van Drew and Orho, and Assemblypersons Bruzichelli, McHose, Albano, Milam, Moriaty, Chuisano, Addiego, Rudder and Riley. This bill modifies the perimeter for bow hunting around occupied buildings.

The new law changes the area for bow hunting around occupied buildings to 150 feet and will assist in providing means of accessing deer populations for culling purposes. Restrictions for bow hunting within 450 feet of a school playground will remain in effect. The law also stipulates that an arrow may only be released when the hunter is in an elevated position which ensures that the arrow has limited travel and a downward trajectory.

Additionally, Anthony Mauro announced that Governor Christie signed into law a measure that will authorize counties to develop community based deer management permits for county-owned lands. The purpose of the law is to reduce deer overgrown populations that stress forests for food and to also cut down on vehicular collisions with these animals.

The New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife is exploring new ways to obtain needed revenues to operate its various programs. These new revenue streams may include the issuing of new license plates that would be attractive to anglers and hunters, and a new lottery dedicated to the Division.

Mr. Robert Williams, an NJOA representative who specializes in forestry issues, reported that our state's forests lack a comprehensive management program. The lack of it causes decay of our forestry and the reduction of all types of wildlife. He asked the NJOA to bring this issue to our state's legislators for resolution.

## **JCAA PRESS RELEASE**

On September 25, 2010, between 10:00AM & 2:00PM, Operation Take Back NJ is sponsoring an opportunity to dispose of your unwanted or expired drugs in an environmentally safe fashion. The web page states that, "The mission of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) New Jersey (NJ) Division Operation Take Back NJ is to provide a safe and legal method for the citizens of New Jersey to dispose of their unwanted, unused, and expired medicines." It discusses that this is a way of keeping drugs out of the hands of teenagers. The extra benefit is keeping these drugs out of the environment. As you know from previous articles in the JCAA newspaper and the congressional testimony on the JCAA web page about endocrine disrupters

([http://jcaa.org/news/CongressionalTestimony\\_20090609.htm](http://jcaa.org/news/CongressionalTestimony_20090609.htm)), keeping drugs out of our drinking water



and the environment is a major concern. We know that these chemicals are affecting the sexual reproduction of fish in our fresh and saltwater environment. While we can't solve every problem, this is a chance to take an important step to secure our water supply and environment. So check your medicine cabinets and dispose of your expired or unwanted drugs in a responsible manner.

Go to [operationtakebacknj.com](http://operationtakebacknj.com) and click on your county of residence. You can find your town and choose the place to take your old drugs.

Sincerely,

If you have any questions please contact Tom Fote.

Thomas Fote  
Legislative Chairman  
Phone 732-270-9102  
Fax 732-506-6409  
[tfote@jcaa.org](mailto:tfote@jcaa.org)

### **Groups Promote Sustainable Fisheries through Cooperative Research**

For Immediate Release, August 23, 2010

Contact: Ray Bogan

Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science, 732-899-9500

The Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science (PMAFS), a multi-state, multi-institutional partnership formed in 2008 to address urgent scientific issues limiting successful management of the summer flounder fishery, has been making the most of the \$1 million in federal appropriations supporting research in 2010.

PMAFS members including representatives of Garden State Seafood Association (GSSA), Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA), Save the Summer Flounder Fishery Fund (SSFFF), United Boatmen of New York, Long Island Commercial Fishing Association, New York Fishing Tackle Trade Association, and United Boatmen of New Jersey, along with academic, state, and federal science advisors, have been working to study the dynamics of summer flounder, a vitally important fishery for both the commercial and recreational fishing industries. A 2004 survey (*Southwick Associates*) estimated the total sales impacts of the combined fishing sectors totaled more than \$44 billion, while representing nearly a half-million jobs.

“Much of the science undertaken by the Partnership will be directly applicable to solving the most important impediments limiting the stock assessment programs of finfish stocks such as summer flounder,” said PMAFS science advisor Eric Powell, Director, Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, Rutgers University. “The Partnership represents a unique coming together of

historically competing groups to promote the development of sustainable finfish stocks,” he said.

Cooperative research programs being conducted by the various groups is ongoing, as the Partnership’s ultimate goal is to utilize academic and recreational/commercial fisheries resources to develop targeted science initiatives. Members hope the information that comes from the scientific analysis can be incorporated into the overall fishery management process. This summer, PMAFS announced the funding of seven initiatives focused on summer flounder.

#### **Sex Composition Of Recreational And Commercial Landings**

*(Rutgers University, Cornell University, Virginia Institute of Marine Science)*

Female summer flounder grow faster and live longer than males; fishing regulations which set minimum size limits may unduly target brood stock females. This project in collaboration with commercial docks from Wanchese, NC to New Bedford, MA coordinated by GSSA and Cornell Cooperative Extension and party boats from Virginia Beach, VA to Hyannis, MA coordinated by RFA and Cornell Cooperative Extension, plus support from summer flounder fishing tournaments, will provide the first comprehensive dataset of the proportion of males to females landed during a seasonal fishery.

#### **Natural Mortality Workshop** *(PMAFS)*

Natural mortality rate varies between male and female summer flounder (females live longer), and the measurement of natural mortality rate has proven to be one of the most difficult tasks in fisheries science. This workshop, to be held October 27-28 and the first of its kind in the Mid-Atlantic, brings together experts from the U.S. and other countries to evaluate a range of methods and new technological developments and devise a research plan for summer flounder.

#### **Sex Ratio Of State Surveys**

*(Rutgers University)*

State surveys provide an important database for stock assessment; New Jersey is the only state survey that includes sampling during the height of the summer recreational fishing season. Coordinated by Rutgers and the State of New Jersey, the program will provide information on the proportion of male and female summer flounder taken by the survey to help determine if state survey data can be used to augment landings data in developing future management options in this fishery.

#### **Comprehensive Evaluation Of Reference Points**

*(University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth)*

The management of fisheries relies on a comparison of the status of the fished stock at any time relative to certain biomass and fishery goals, also known as “reference points.” Establishing these goals in the summer flounder fishery has been difficult as uncertainty limits sustainable management of the stock. This project will develop a

theoretical basis for improved estimates of reference points for summer flounder assessments.

#### Geographic Variations In Summer Flounder Population Structure

*(Cornell University and Rutgers University)*

Summer flounder range from North Carolina to Massachusetts, from the inner bays to the edge of the continental shelf, exposing this species to a wide range of environmental conditions over time and in space. Response to the environment may differ between males and females, as well as juveniles and adults, and these differentials in distribution pose challenges in managing the stock. This project utilizes data compiled over the last 30 years to develop an improved understanding of the geographic dispersion of the stock.

#### Relationship Of Adult Size To Egg Quality And Larval Survival

*(Rutgers University and NMFS Howard Marine Laboratory)*

Egg quality is thought to vary depending on female size, with larger females generally thought to spawn eggs of higher quality, and the larvae and juveniles considered to possess a better natural ability to survive. The degree to which this is true may determine the importance of large females in the population, which could be impacted by management options that target the harvest of these larger female fish.

#### Ageing Of Summer Flounder

*(Integrated Statistics, Inc. and NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center)*

The management of summer flounder requires that data from surveys and landings include the numbers of fish at age. Age can be determined from yearly growth increments in scales and otoliths. The fish collected in the landings and state survey projects will be aged to provide additional data by Integrated Statistics in collaboration with experts in fish aging at the NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole.

In helping secure the necessary federal funding for the Partnership, New York and New Jersey legislators worked closely with members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committee to include funding for these projects in the most recent spending bills.

“The summer flounder population is vitally important to the region,” said Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ). “Reliable research is important to have, which will allow us to make the best-informed decisions about these populations.”

“This funding is a boon for the Long Island fishing industry,” said Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY). “While the Long Island fishing industry is reeling from the economic downturn and sky high fuel costs, this funding will provide necessary data to ensure that fishermen and the Long Island economy are not hurt by unfair fishing laws and rules.”

“For far too long, inadequate and archaic data has determined regulations that have affected thousands of lives on Long Island, from Freeport to Greenport to Montauk,” said Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY). “This funding will enable better data collection for the management of these fisheries.”

“Sustaining a robust fishing industry is vital to New Jersey's economy,” said Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ). “With more accurate data about fish populations and their habitats, we can help to protect the livelihood of commercial and recreational fishermen.”

“For too long we have failed to adequately invest in fisheries science, which has created uncertainty about the fish population and uncertainty for New Jersey's fishermen,” said Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ). “I am proud to have fought for this funding, which will create jobs and hopefully lead to more of our fishermen being allowed back on the water.”

“Commercial and recreational fishing is a proud tradition in South Jersey and a critical part of our economy. A continued federal commitment will ensure that information about our fisheries is accurate, thus supporting the industry for generations to come,” said Congressman Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ). “I'm proud to work with South Jersey fishermen to protect this valuable resource.”

PMAFS members hope their continued research will be of further benefit to fishermen from Cape Hatteras to Georges Bank, including all Mid-Atlantic Bight states and all significant fishing ports, both recreational and commercial.

### **Attack on Shimano = An Attack on Us All**

**By Doug Olander**

**Sport Fishing Editor's Blog**

**<http://www.sportfishingmag.com/blog.jsp>**

**Aug 18, 2010**

You probably know Shimano as a manufacturer of high-quality fishing rods and reels.

What you don't know about Shimano is that - even though its fishing division needs abundant marine resources to prosper - the company is actively engaged in an all-out war to destroy our oceans!

No doubt you're as shocked as I was to learn that. But it's all there, on the website of a group called Shame on Shimano ([www.shameonshimano.com](http://www.shameonshimano.com)).

That campaign, which got its start earlier this summer on the website of the well-heeled National Resources Defense Council, wants bicyclists around the country to boycott Shimano, a major manufacturer of bicycle parts. Why? Because their purchases of bikes with Shimano parts "unknowingly boost Shimano's profits that, in turn, feed anti-ocean protection efforts."

The Shame on Shimano campaign rails against Shimano's "War On the California Coast." Actually understanding exactly how the company is ruining the

Pacific Ocean takes a good bit of digging and wading through all the vitriol. Turns out that an obscure ex-state assemblyman who seems to be spearheading the campaign doesn't like the fact that Shimano and recreational-fishing groups happen to have some ideas about implementing the state's Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) that differ from his and some other environmental interests. Therefore, the campaign has determined, Shimano wants to destroy the oceans.

Nevermind that Shimano is just one of many recreational-fishing interests (including other sport-fishing clubs, tackle manufacturers, charter operations and bait/tackle shops) concerned with problems it sees in the MLPA, and that a great many have helped in the effort to oppose not the act itself, but an implementation some groups want to steamroll over insufficient scientific data.

Nevermind that Shimano, as one of those many interests, contributed a pittance - particularly when compared to the huge budgets to push through the MLPA from the seemingly infinite pockets of organizations like the NRDC - to a coalition of anglers and angling interests striving for balance and science in the implementation of the MLPA.

Nevermind that Shimano (like all tackle manufacturers) pays many millions of dollars annually in excise taxes specifically designated for fish restoration in this country (or that the company has always supported that tax over the years when it has come up for reauthorization). Nor that Shimano has provided resources to programs promoting the healthy release of fish and fish-habitat improvement over the years.

Nevermind that when the campaign cites Shimano's claim that no evidence shows "any adverse habitat impact of consequence from traditional, regulated recreational fishing practices," Shame on Shimano throws out a huge red herring: "Shimano lies" because "overfishing is one of the causes of the decline of fish." It no doubt assumes the general public won't notice the shift from "recreational fishing" to "overfishing" in general; that of course includes all commercial fishing (speaking of lies and deceptions).

Why Shimano, since it's but one player in a larger coalition with shared goals? Because it has a bicycle division to go after. That makes it a convenient whipping boy.

And the Shame on Shimano interests are doing their best to whip up a frenzy against the company. The accusations and claims in their literature are maliciously shrill, treacherously misleading and truly bizarre.

For example, the campaign tells us "how far Shimano executives will go to distort the truth." Yet it refutes claims that the state's major coastal fish populations are generally in good shape by pointing to white abalone being on the verge of extinction and claiming that 75 percent of the state's kelp forests have

disappeared. Apparently, more areas need protection from anglers who must be filling their boats with abalone and kelp.

One of the few reasonable claims that I did find while wading through this cesspool of invective was that "Our oceans are under attack." Indeed they are, but not from Shimano. If a group like this truly wanted to help the oceans, instead of piddling away large amounts of cash from organizations with unlimited funds, it would focus not on invented villains, but on real ones - commercial industrial overfishing and illegal fishing, a woeful lack of scientific data for properly managing (especially sport) fisheries, habitat degradation, pollution and so on.

Instead Shame on Shimano is going after one company with the bad fortune to manufacture rods, reels and bike parts.

And that's the real shame. Make no mistake. This is an attack not only on Shimano, but on all businesses that make and sell tackle, and in fact on all men, women and children in this country who enjoy the chance to spend time on the water hoping to catch a few fish.

That's why what at first glance seems just plain goofy is no laughing matter. Yes, the Shame on Shimano campaign represents a fringe among otherwise responsible environmental groups, but an ostensibly sizeable and growing fringe that's decidedly and openly anti-recreational fishing.

That makes an outfit like Shame on Shimano a very real threat. It threatens \$82 billion that saltwater anglers contribute to the national economy and the \$2.2 billion to the California economy annually; it threatens the half a million jobs that the sport generates in the country each year; it represents a mindset threatening to deprive 13 million saltwater anglers and, ultimately, 40 to 60 million anglers across the nation of the chance to enjoy their sport.

Should this boycott of Shimano bike parts succeed, it would have accomplished absolutely nothing to help the oceans while managing to punish our economy. If campaigns like Shame on Shimano flourish, they would succeed only in compromising a traditional and important American pastime and one of the country's primary outdoor family activities today. Their boycott would also serve to further alienate two conservation-minded groups - recreational anglers and green groups - that should be working together for the good of the resource.

I can't imagine a better reason for anyone who loves to fish and/or is in any way involved in the sport to visit [www.keepamericafishing.org](http://www.keepamericafishing.org). A coalition of nearly all major sport-fishing interests formed this effort recently to "keep our nation's public resources open to recreational fishing through sound policy, science and conservation." As a poster child proving why such an effort has never

been more timely, Shame on Shimano does an admirable job.

So - Shame on Shimano? Hardly. Shame on anyone associated with that misguided, irresponsible and needlessly destructive campaign.

## **YOUTH EDUCATION BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI**

### **YOUTH EDUCATION SUPPORT**

During the months of June, July, and August the JCAA supplied fishing equipment, aquatic information, and HOFNOD materials to the Monmouth County Association of Retarded Citizens, Fort Monmouth Outdoor Recreation/School Age Services and supported Dr. Eleanor Bochenek, Rutgers University, Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, with supplies to present a youth fishing program. Dr. Bochenek also did a great job of teaching over 50 children at the Cohansey Riverfest, Bidgeton, NJ about fishing, casting, and knot tying.

### **2010 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD**

It takes the support of many volunteers to bring successes to the fishing community but sometimes individuals and sport-fishing organizations go above and beyond to make the future of fishing better for our youngsters. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is accepting nominations for the 2010 Youth Education Award. Please submit your nominations by October 25, 2010. Submit your nominations in writing to JCAA Youth Education Committee, [Gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:Gkucharews@aol.com)

### **SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT IBSP**

Get ready to enter the largest surf-fishing tournament along the Jersey Shore. The Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament, Sunday, October 3, 2010. Don't miss a day of family fun! Pick up a brochure about the tournament at Island Beach State Park or at your favorite tackle dealer. The contest is reasonably priced so register early and save. For information about disabled access and surf fishing beach chair reservations, please phone Greg Kucharewski, 732-785-9278 (leave message & phone #). The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice anglers at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and this will require extra volunteer hours from member clubs in JCAA. If members in your fishing club would like to help others learn the joy of surf fishing, please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail [Gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:Gkucharews@aol.com) and place IBSP in the subject line. Help is needed to provide assistance for disabled anglers, youth anglers, and novice anglers. This is a fun day. Come out and share your surf fishing expertise and help cast a line of caring.

### **NJ FIRST WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT OUTDOOR EXPO**

The Assunpink Wildlife Management Area in Upper Freehold Township will be the site of an exciting new event this year, when New Jersey's first Wild Outdoor Expo kicks off the fall season. The Expo will be held on September 25 and 26 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. each day, and is free of charge. The Wild Outdoor Expo is designed to build appreciation for New Jersey's bountiful natural resources and to encourage increased participation in outdoor recreation through a unique blend of conservation information, education and hands-on opportunities to learn about and experience a wide range of outdoor skills and activities. Attendees will be able to try their hand at fishing, hiking, shooting sports, kayaking, camping, wildlife watching and much more. Numerous environmental and conservation exhibits will be on display and a wide range of experts will be on hand to talk to visitors and to provide demonstrations and seminars throughout the weekend. Hunters and anglers in New Jersey already understand the importance of conserving and protecting our wildlife and natural resources. In fact, it is mainly because of you that wildlife thrives in the Garden State, and people have so many opportunities to enjoy great hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation here. The Expo showcases those resources and the outdoor recreation opportunities that are available to all New Jersey citizens and visitors. Please mark your calendars and join us at the inaugural Wild Outdoor Expo to celebrate and help perpetuate New Jersey's great wildlife and outdoor heritage. More information about the Expo including directions, activities, and a map of the grounds can be found by visiting [www.wildoutdoorexpo.com](http://www.wildoutdoorexpo.com) The Wild Outdoor Expo is sponsored by the NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry, and the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey.

### **OHIO NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM**

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Chairman traveled to the University of Toledo to support their National Youth Sports Program NYSP, and Youth Fishing Program. Over 100 children participated in the University of Toledo's National Youth Sports Program and celebrated another successful summer recreation program. The Merickel-Farley Trout Club and Olander Park supported the program. The JCAA Youth Education Committee presented the "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" portion of the program. Many thanks go to the volunteers that helped organize the event and a special thanks to the members of the Merickel-Farley Trout Club for their donation to purchase prizes for campers. Several campers caught their first fish and now have the fishing bug.

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](mailto:Gkucharews@aol.com).