

JCAA NEWSPAPER MARCH 2011

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on February 15th, 2011)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday February 22nd, 2011

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 10th, 2011

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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2011 OFFICERS

President	Eileen Smith	732-899-2681
1st V.P.	Joe Puntasecca	908-913-0551
2nd V.P.	Don Marantz	609-259-6368
Treasurer	Doug Tegeder	732-341-5674
Rec. Sec.	Tom Siciliano	609-296-3774
Cors. Sec.	Paul Turi	609-660-2126
Mem. Sec.	Bruce Smith	732-695-3431
Fluke Director	Tim Burden	732-279-3177

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

2011 HIGH ROLLER RAFFLE

It is now time for the JCAA High Rollers 2011 Raffle. We have put together a terrific selection of rods and reels and other prizes for a raffle that will be drawn on April 26, 2011. This is a major fundraiser for the JCAA. The 8 prizes are listed below with a value of over \$3,391.00. 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. JCAA will have a booth at the following venues where the raffle tickets will be available for sale and the prizes will be on display: **Outdoor Sportsmen's Show(Raritan Show) in Edison on January 13 to 16, the Atlantic City International Power Boat Show Feb. 2nd-6th, the Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar January 8th, the Saltwater Fishing Show Mar. 18th to 20th.** Stop by and say hello. Raffle ticket books will also be mailed along with entries for the 17th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament. 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.

- 1)Shimano Tallus TLC-58 HRSA Rod-Tiagra 30W LRSA Reel
Value \$688 *Donated by JCAA*
- 2)Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor model RT 55/SE/L&D
Value \$550 *Donated by Johnson Outdoors Inc.*
- 3)\$500 Gift Certificated to Fishermen Headquarters
Value \$500 *Donated by Fishermen Headquarters*
- 4)Tony Maja Bunker Spoon Rod w/ Shimano Tekota 800 Reel
Value \$470 *Donated by BarnegatFishingHole.com*
- 5)Lamiglas IC 70 MH Rod with Canyon Reels HS-15
Value \$459 *Donated by JCAA*
- 6)Lamiglas TFX7650 CT Rod with Shimano Torium 20 Reel
Value \$424 *Donated by JCAA*
- 7)Shakespeare Ugly Stik BWLB 1100 M Rod-Penn 320GT2 Reel
Value \$160 *Donated by JCAA*
- 8)Shakespeare Ugly Stik BWSL 2200 M Rod-Sportfisher Fin-Nor FS50 Reel
Value \$140 *Donated by JCAA*

Total Value \$3,391

IMPORTANT DATES

February 22nd JCAA General Meeting
February 24th at 7:00pm ASMFC Hearing on spiny dogfish at Nacote Creek Law Enforcement Office
March 3rd at 4:00 NJ Marine Fisheries Council Meeting, Galloway Township Public Library
March 3rd at 6:30 ASMFC Hearing on Black Sea Bass, Galloway Township Public Library
March 10th JCAA Board Meeting
March 17th Talk at West Marine Brick about Barnegat Bay
March 18th-20th Saltwater Fishing Expo, Somerset
March 21th-24th ASMFC Meeting Week, Alexandria VA
March 29th JCAA General Meeting
April 7th NJ MFC Summer Flounder Meeting
April 7th Talk at West Marine Brick about Fisheries Regulations
April 14th JCAA Board Meeting

JCAA's 17th Annual Fluke Tournament, June 11, 2011 by *Tim Burden, Tournament Director*

We've seen and spoken to hundreds of JCAA supporters visiting our show booths recently at the Atlantic City Boat Show and at The Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen show in Edison last month. For those at the Edison show signing the list for tournament applications, the registration forms will be mailed shortly.

Many stated they eagerly wait for the **JCAA 17th Annual Fluke Tournament** scheduled for **Saturday, June 11th 2011** (rain or shine). While at the shows, I feel privileged to have spoken with dozens of past participants from each of the ten ports around the state. Quite a few were past port prize winners that are already signing up to be in the largest one-day fishing tournament of its kind in the United States.

Everyone agreed to be part of this year's **Awards Ceremony at Trump Marina Hotel Casino on June 17th, 2011** in Atlantic City. This is where the fun really begins and one lucky Fluke Tournament registrant will win the Grand Prize, even if their boat didn't weigh in a fluke! More times

than not, in past years, the Grand Prize winners never used their affidavit at the weigh station.

Last year, upwards of 2,200 anglers, family and friends showed up for the celebration. Through the evening, the port winners were called up onto the stage to receive their prizes and accolades from the crowd. On this night, all tournament registrants attending have an equal opportunity to not only bring home fantastic door prizes, but also have an automatic entry to win the Grand Prize. Win or lose, it's always a night to be remembered by everyone in attendance.

At this time, the Grand Prize is not yet finalized. However, participants can be assured there will be **tens of thousands of dollars in cash and prizes** to be won! Each of the ten ports will have 12 port prizes. All 1st place winners still get a \$1,200 prize! The eleven remaining winners get prizes such as rods, reels, line, bait, premium sunglasses, quality marine products, and other items. This would not be possible without the support of the following sponsors: Trump Marina, Penn Reels, Shakespeare Uglystik, Berkley Gulp Bait, Spiderwire, West Marine, Canyon Gear Outfitters, Minn Kota, Humminbird, Nor'East Saltwater, Costa, Interlux Paint and others. The tournament committee is meeting with sponsors to finalize: the port and grand prizes, printing of the collectable Fluke Tournament t-shirts & hats, and hopefully a means of allowing boaters to easily register online.

Registering for the tournament is easy. Just complete the form in the monthly newsletter. Mail it with a check made payable to the JCAA, and address it to:

JCAA Fluke Tournament, 1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753.

Or, to pay by credit card, fill in the additional information needed and fax it to the JCAA office, fax #: 732-506-6975. We will mail you the complete tournament rules, the weigh-in locations and your numbered weigh-in affidavit.

For additional information call the JCAA office: 732-506-6565.

Go to www.jcaa.org for more entry forms, rules, orders for t-shirts & hats, and complete list of prizes.

**TO GET EMAIL ALERTS &
TOURNAMNET INFO GO TO
THE JCAA WEB & SUBSCRIBE**

President's Report

By Eileen Smith

On January 25th, at our General Membership Meeting, I was elected as President of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. I am truly honored to be JCAA's president for the next two years. There is much work to do and I welcome the challenges that come with being president of JCAA.

The first thing I would like to do on behalf of JCAA is to thank Mark Taylor for his service and dedication to JCAA as president for the last two years. Mark has put in countless hours working on behalf of recreational fishermen throughout the state of New Jersey and will still continue as a past president to work on behalf of recreational fishermen well into the future. Thank you, Mark, for your service and dedication.

Also elected as officers and directors at the January 25th General Membership Meeting were the following:

Joe Puntasecca 1st Vice President
Don Marantz 2nd Vice President
Doug Tegeder Treasurer
Tom Siciliano Recording Secretary
Paul Turi Corresponding Secretary
Bruce Smith Membership Secretary
Tim Burden Fluke Director
Congratulations to the newly elected slate.

We are still waiting for the Governor to sign S-1122, our Free Fishing Registry Legislation. Please contact Governor Christie's office and let him know how important it is to sign this legislation into law. Let us continue to put New Jersey on the map for thinking forward about our future fishermen.

The High Roller Raffle is in full swing. If you missed getting your tickets at the show, call the JCAA office at 732-506-6565. We had four good days at the Atlantic City International Boat and Power Show which ran from February 2-6th. We had a wonderful showing of support at the show, providing answers about the Salt Water Registry, and had knowledgeable staff on hand to listen to the visitors. If you would like to sign up and be part of an exciting day at the next expo, contact Mark Taylor at mtsport64@aol.com.

Our next show will be the Saltwater Fishing Expo in Somerset March 18-20. When you are finished reading the newsletter, put it next to the

computer and be sure to check out the full schedule of upcoming events. The JCAA Fluke Tournament is just around the corner, so mark your calendars now before the season gets booked.

I look forward to meeting all JCAA member club representatives at our next general meeting which will be held on February 22nd. One of my goals is to get a better club representative turnout. You can see how important it is when you look at the upcoming possible votes on three JCAA positions at the upcoming meeting. Unless your representative is there your club's voice is not heard and does not take part in the democratic process. Remember also to show up and bring your ideas and positions on the Tautog, Black Sea Bass and Summer Flounder hearings. It will be a pleasure to work with all of you and to continue to make JCAA one of the most respected organizations in the state and nation-wide.

Promote Your Club

As was 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. They can be sent to Eileen Smith at eileen-at-the-sea@comcast.net.

JCAA Committees

If you are interested in getting more involved, one of the JCAA committees might be the place to start. With all the issues that are affecting the recreational community it is very hard for one person to stay on top of them all. If you are interested in a specific species or topic, please contact me at eileen-at-the-sea@comcast.net and join that committee. "What you do now to protect the resource will be the future of the recreational fishing community."

Upcoming Hearings and Meetings

There will be two upcoming ASMFC hearings and one state Summer Flounder hearing. We have an opportunity to vote on positions for all three at our upcoming meeting on February 22. If you cannot send your club representative to the meeting to vote you can send in your club vote on

club stationary to the JCAA office but it must be received in the office by February 20th to count.

Tautog Addendum

Draft Addendum VI to the Tautog FMP was discussed at a public hearing in Toms River on February 15th. JCAA needs to vote on a position to send in before the March 4th comment date. The Addendum is available on the ASMFC web page <http://www.asmfc.org/> under recent news. Please go to the web page and read the addendum before the February 22 meeting so we can vote on a JCAA position. If you want a copy of the Addendum sent to you by email, send an email to tfote@jcaa.org.

Black Sea Bass Addendum

The Back Sea Bass addendum is a one year state-by-state and regional management for black sea bass. I have included the background and the addendum is on the ASMFC web page <http://www.asmfc.org/> under recent news. Please go to the web page and read the addendum before the February 22 meeting so we can vote on a JCAA position. The public hearing is March 3rd a 6:30PM Galloway Township Public Library, 306 East Jimmie Leeds Road. Absecon after the NJ Marine Fisheries Council Meeting If you want a copy of the addendum sent to you by email when it becomes available, send an email to tfote@jcaa.org.

Background

The recreational fishery for black sea bass is managed on a "target quota" basis. Forty-nine percent of the total allowable landings is established as a recreational harvest limit. Since 1996, a uniform coastwide size, season, and bag limit has been set by the Commission and Council to constrain the fishery to the annual recreational harvest limit. During the last 15 years the harvest target was exceeded five times, most recently in 2009 and 2010 when the harvest target was the lowest in the time series (Table 1). In 2009 the target was exceeded by 1.18 million pounds and by an estimated 1.29 million pounds in 2010.

An examination of the previous 5 years of harvest data shows that the states of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia have seen a decline in harvest (Figures 1-3). The states of Massachusetts and New York have seen an increase in harvest (Figures 1 and 4). Harvest in Connecticut, Rhode Island and North Carolina have remained fairly stable (Figure 3 and 4). Overall since 2005, the states of Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware have exhibited a similar landings pattern. The states of New York and

New Jersey have a similar landings pattern with the exception of the terminal year. The states of Connecticut, Rhode Island and North Carolina have similar landings patterns. The states of Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey have all landed more than 500 thousand fish in 2010, with all other states landing less than 25,000 fish except Rhode Island (146,343 fish) (Figure 1). Due to this recent trend in landings across the species range, there was interest in allowing states to develop regulations on a state-specific or regional basis.

The current management plan for black sea bass does not provide an opportunity to craft recreational measures for regional or state-specific measures. The FMP allows for a single coastwide measure for recreational fisheries. All states, with the exception of Massachusetts, adopted the federal regulations of 25 fish, 12.5 inches TL minimum fish size, and an open season from May 22 to October 11 and November 1 to December 31 in 2010 (Table 5). Massachusetts opted for a more restrictive 20 fish possession limit and adopted all other federal regulations in 2010. Due to the wide geographic range of this species, the application of a coastwide minimum size, possession limit and season restrictions may not affect every area involved in the fishery the same way. In order to develop regulations on a state-specific or regional basis the Board would need to initiate an addendum to the FMP.

If an addendum were adopted it would only be effective in state waters. The federal FMP does not allow for conservation equivalency and it would require an amendment to the plan. Federal permit holders would have to follow regulations set by NMFS regardless of where they are fishing. This could create an inequity between those fishing in state vs. federal waters of a particular state.

Summer Flounder Options for 2011

The table below is the ASMFC approved Summer Flounder Options for 2011. We removed the five options that were not approved and there the options have different numbers than was listed in the ASMFC report. The NJ Marine Fisheries Council will have a committee meeting in March to look at these options and then vote on April 7th at a special NJMFC Meeting for one of these proposals for 2011. We will have the opportunity to vote at the February 22 JCAA meeting for a JCAA preferred option. So please read over the options below and try and come with a club position for this meeting. Some of our clubs have already voted at their meetings for option 5, the 18 inch May 2 - September30.

NJ Summer Flounder Options

Option	Min Size	Bag Limit	Open Season	Liberalization*
1	18"	6	5/28-9/5	31%
2	17.5"	6	5/28-9/5	117%
3	18"	6	5/14-9/18	61%
4	18"	8	5/14-9/18	62%
5	18"	6	5/2 – 9/30	88%
6	17"/18"	1/5	5/28-9/5	97%
7	17"/18"	1/7	5/28-9/5	97%
8	17.5"/18"	1/5	5/28-9/5	72%
9	17.5"/18"	1/5	5/14-9/18	110%
10	17.5"/18"	1/7	5/28-9/5	73%
11	17.5"/18"	1/7	5/14-9/18	111%

* Liberalization results based on catch per trip from NJ VAS and average coastwide weight per fish of 3.35 pounds

Additional Factors accounted for in proposal:

Averages of the most recent three years of data (2008 through 2010) were used. This was more conservative than if only 2010 data were used.

IMPORTANT

The Next General Membership Meeting will be **February 22nd**, 2011 at Brick Civic Plaza, 270 Chambers Bridge Road in Brick.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

The Problem with Emails: **Editorial by Tom Fote**

A few years ago, I wrote some articles about working together. Last month I again called for a positive working environment. One of the issues we need to address again is emails. When I first addressed this issue, I was talking about how we communicate with one another or small groups who are copied on an email. The world has changed again. We now have Facebook, YouTube, and list servers that can send to thousands at once. This means we need to use even more caution in what we send or post. The growing tendency is to respond to an email or post immediately without giving the tone or content of your message any thought. Frequently people post or email becomes personal rather than a reasoned debate about the issue. People will often say something in an email they would never say to

someone's face. It is hard to look someone in the eye and repeat some of the things I see in emails. If you feel that strongly, it takes courage to confront someone directly. It seems easier to hide behind a keyboard than have a face-to-face conversation. I am calling on everyone to consider a phone call or a personal conversation in lieu of an email or post. At the very minimum, emails should go directly to the person involved and not be sent out to an entire list.

Don't hit reply to all. We are losing an audience because people are disgusted with these back and forth arguments. List serves are meant for facts and alerts. They are not for personal arguments or a boxing ring. Emails should be kept to the facts regarding the issues, not the personalities. There is room for personal opinion, not personal attacks. The "attackers" often agree on most of the issues but sometimes want to go to war to denigrate the other person and their organization for their purposes. I know many of these people and know what appears in the emails is only a detail, not the real issue. We need to understand that this "infighting" only empowers those with whom we don't agree at all. They enjoy that we "divide" so they can "conquer".

Summer Flounder

As you read in the President's Report, we now have the summer flounder options. Please read that column before the next meeting so JCAA can take a position.

I want to focus on the Connecticut 2011 Summer Flounder proposal. One of the options Connecticut proposed is a smaller fish allowed for shore-based anglers. This is something JCAA has been calling for, for years. When we raise size limits on any species, the most affected are the shore-based anglers. That includes our fellow anglers who can't afford a boat, a charter or a party boat ticket. This is a man, woman or child who stands on a dock and tries to catch something they can take home to eat. We have greatly limited their ability to do so. The larger fish are not so available at the dock, in the canal, on the pier or from the shore. They are also the anglers who have not caused any of these problems because of their limited ability to target the fish where they are feeding, spawning or congregating. Connecticut considered the data that showed that they had basically eliminated the shore-based anglers from taking home summer flounder. I am hoping that in 2012, after looking at the results of the Connecticut pilot project, ASMFC and all the

federal fisheries management councils will make this a coastwide priority. New Jersey needs to look at the same type of proposals for many of its managed species. We need to stop using discriminatory fisheries management practices. I was proud to make the motion and fight for its passage.

Cleaning Up the Lakes, Rivers, Streams, Estuaries and Bays

The Governor and the Legislature have taken the first steps to cleaning up Barnegat Bay. The fertilizer bill will actually have statewide implications and will help in every river, lake and stream. Limiting the use of fertilizer will cut down on the nitrogen flowing into every body of water. The major sources of nitrogen, mercury and other pollutants are from air deposition from power plants and other industries located in the Midwest. There are many more pollutants flowing into our water from the air, sewer systems and ground water. These are having a major negative effect on the ecosystem of the entire country. The Clean Water and the Clean Air acts were passed during the Nixon Administration to address these problems. This was not a Republican or Democratic issue. Currently, however, there are individuals in both parties who care more about their state-based businesses than they do about the nation's health. We see this at both the federal and state level. They are using the struggling economy and jobs to support their anti-environment actions. Most of us recognize that environmental laws were not the cause of the economic crash and the loss of jobs.

We need to be creating jobs and infrastructure to address these problems, not ignoring them until they get worse. JCAA is focused on the drugs and other pollutants that enter the environment through the sewer systems. We need to invest in sewage treatment plants so we don't have fish and wildlife that are failing to reproduce or showing other anomalies. If we see those problems in wildlife, we're next. At a recent congressional hearing, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson stated, "Chairman Upton's bill is part of an effort to delay, weaken or eliminate Clean Air Act protections of the American public...Politicians overruling scientists on a scientific question – that would become part of this committee's legacy." (NY Times, 2/13/11)

We need to be vigilant. In the last 35 years I have seen more excuses used to justify environmental degradation. We are here as stewards

of the environment. By being stewards of the environment, we are protecting our families and their families to come.

Pots Off the Reefs

Reef Rescue asked JCAA, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance and other interested groups to meet and reinvigorate the pots off the reefs campaign. We all agreed that this campaign must move forward immediately. This is an election year and our representatives will be eager for our votes. You will be hearing more from Reef Rescue in the upcoming weeks. Please respond to any action alerts and help us move these bills through the legislature and to the Governor's desk. The Senate bill is S221 and the Assembly bill is A1152. The Senate bill already moved out of committee unanimously and is ready for a vote by the full Senate.

Below is a letter that JCAA is sending to all New Jersey State senators and Senate President Sweeney. It is crucial that you write Senate President Sweeney and your own state senator immediately. Senator Sweeney has already committed to posting this bill if we ask for this action. JCAA is now asking and he needs to hear from everyone. Please use the letter below as guide in creating your own letter.

The Assembly bill has not been posted by Assemblyman Nelson Albano for a vote in the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Please contact Assemblyman Albano, particularly if you are in his district. Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver has the power to encourage him to post the bill. Please contact her as well and let her know this action is important to you. JCAA will be writing to the Assembly Speaker, Assemblyman Albano and other members of the Assembly asking them to follow the Senate's lead and pass A1152. Your help is needed. To find the appropriate addresses, go to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>. You can find the names and addresses of your legislators. You can also check their votes on important legislation. JCAA, Reef Rescue and other member organizations will keep you posted. More information about Pots Off the Reefs at <http://www.njreefrescue.com/> or at <http://www.jcaa.org/> newspaper archives.

Dear Senator,

JCAA is writing to request your support for Senate Bill S221, which prohibits the use of traps on artificial reefs. You need to contact Senate President

Sweeney, let him know you support this bill and ask for a vote before the full Senate. This bill was unanimously passed by the Senate Environment Committee on February 2, 2010 and sent to the full Senate for a vote. Moreover, two session's ago, bill S2635 was unanimously passed out of committee and unanimously passed when voted on by the Senate. Last session on 10/23/2008 it passed the Senate (32-4). Now is the time to finally pass this legislation. JCAA wants this legislation passed before you leave for recess. JCAA and the fishing clubs in your district will be alert to your actions on this matter. Our members are voters in your district and this is an issue of great importance to them.

New Jersey's artificial reef system is one of the nation's most successful reef building programs. Though it occupied just 0.3 percent of the sea floor off New Jersey's coast, a 2000 study by the state's Division of Fish and Wildlife revealed that 20 percent of New Jersey's recreationally landed fish come from the state's 15 reefs. As more and more severe fisheries restrictions are placed on the more than 800,000 New Jersey anglers and the more than 500,000 out-of-state anglers who fish New Jersey's waters, the reef sites have become even more important to the state's recreational anglers. In the case of summer flounder, aka fluke, the reefs are the best opportunity for most recreational anglers who target fluke to catch one that meets the new minimum size of 18 inches.

This fishing effort provides a tremendous trickle-down economic effect in both shore and inland communities, as these anglers support marinas, boat liveries, bait and tackle stores, fuel stations, restaurants, convenience stores, sporting goods stores, toll highways, hotels/motels, real estate rentals, etc. These considerations add \$4 billion to New Jersey's economy, not counting boat sales the estimated sales tax is \$120,000,000 and provides for 37,000 jobs.

At issue here is the very legality of the use of traps on the artificial reef sites. According to the state-approved 2005 Artificial Reef Plan, the intent of the reef sites is for "hook-and-line" angling activities. Continuing to allow fixed gear on the reefs is in complete disregard for this Department of Environmental Protection-approved measure.

Furthermore, the continually increasing use of fixed gear for commercial fishing purposes on New Jersey's reef system may directly violate federal law. For more than 20 years, the

administration of the reef program has been funded by Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish (Wallop-Breaux) Restoration Funds. These funds are derived from an excise tax on recreational fishing purchases, and as a "user pay, user benefit" program, federal law requires that these funds be used to benefit recreational fisheries. Under 50 CFR 80.14 and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Assistance Toolkit, Part 521, Section 2.9 lists ineligible activities for the use of these funds, with paragraph C specifically disallowing their use for "*Providing services or property of material value to individuals or groups for commercial purposes or to benefit such individuals or groups.*" Violation of these rules is subject to repayment of funds.

The majority of states that have artificial reef programs, including New York, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, have identified traps as incompatible with their reef programs and no longer allow traps on their reefs. Furthermore, this action has been supported federally by classifying reefs in federal waters for a number of those states as Special Management Zones (SMZs), restricting the use of traps on those sites.

The issues are clear and the precedent has been set: Traps are not compatible with the purpose or the laws governing New Jersey's artificial reefs. JCAA looks forward to your support in enforcing this mandate and voting for Bill S221. If you have any questions, please contact our legislative chairman, Tom Fote at 732-270-9102 or tfote@jcaa.org.

Sincerely,
Jersey Coast Anglers Association

West Marine Talk on March 17

Before you go out and celebrate on Saint Patrick's Day, come to West Marine in Brick and join me and Stan Hales, Ph.D. as we talk about Barnegat Bay and other estuaries. We will discuss their important role as nurseries for the fish we catch and the bait these fish depend on. We will be discussing the legislation designed to protect the bay and Governor's proposals for the bay. We will also discuss the Barnegat Bay Partnership. I will also be doing a talk at West Marine on April 7th discussing this year's upcoming fisheries regulations and how they come about.

West Marine Release.
West Marine Brick Presents

Help Save Barnegat Bay Thursday, March 17th at 7:30 pm. Come spend an evening with Tom Fote and Stan Hales, two leaders in their fields, as they discuss the problems facing Barnegat Bay and its watershed today along with possible solutions to the problems. Refreshments to be served. Please sign up on the board at the store. 51 Chambersbridge Road (732) 864-8140

ASMFC Meeting Week & Hearings

There are upcoming ASMFC hearings in New Jersey. Although the Tautog hearing has already happened, the public comment period is still open. The other two hearing dates are below. The draft documents are on the ASMFC webpage. At the upcoming meeting week, we will be voting on these draft addendums. Do not sit on the sidelines. This is a time for your participation. Don't complain if you haven't done the research, attended a hearing or sent in your comments. The ASMFC makes comments easy on their webpage. Your comments may be brief and just express your feelings about the proposals. Just speak from your own experience. A simple yes or no on a proposal is better than not responding at all.

ASMFC Meeting Week Schedule

March 21, 2011

Noon - 3:00pm American Lobster Management Board
3:15pm - 5:45pm Atlantic Herring Section

March 22, 2011

8:30 AM - 9:30am Shad & River Herring Management Board
9:45am - 10:45am Weakfish Management Board
10:00am - 5:00pm Law Enforcement Committee
11:00am - 1:00pm Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
2:15pm - 4:45pm Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board
6:30pm - 8:00pm Annual Awards of Excellence Reception

March 23, 2011

8:00am - 9:30am Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
9:45am - 11:45am South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board
1:00pm - 2:30pm Horseshoe Crab Management Board
2:45pm - 5:45pm ISFMP Policy Board

March 24, 2011

8:00am - 9:00am Executive Committee
9:30am - Noon Tautog Management Board
Noon - 12:30pm Lunch for Commissioners & Proxies
12:30pm - 2:00pm Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board

2:00pm - 2:30pm ISFMP Policy Board
2:30pm - 3:00pm Business Session

ASMFC PUBLIC HEARINGS

The NJ black sea bass public hearing (assuming the Draft addendum will be approved by the FAX/e-mail vote):

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

March 3, 2011; 6:30pm

Galloway Township Public Library

306 East Jimmie Leeds Road

Absecon, NJ

Contact: Peter Himchak at (609) 748-2020

The spiny dogfish public hearing on Addendum III is changed to:

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

February 24, 2011; 7:00pm

Nacote Creek Law Enforcement Office

360 Rt. 9 N. (milepost 51)

Port Republic, NJ 08241



Governor Christie Vetoes LNG Offshore Natural Gas Project to Safeguard New Jersey's Environment, Economy and Security

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Trenton, NJ - Further demonstrating his commitment to protect New Jersey's coastal waters and natural resources, Governor Chris Christie today invoked his authority under the federal Deepwater Port Act, vetoing a proposed deepwater liquefied natural gas operation 16 miles off the coast of Asbury Park. The action prevents Liberty Natural Gas from constructing and operating its proposed offshore port to receive foreign vessels transporting liquid natural gas (LNG) to the U.S. for regassification.

"I take very seriously our obligation to protect the environmental health of our coastal waters," said Governor Christie. "Offshore LNG poses unacceptable risks to the State's residents, natural resources, economy and security. We must ensure that our 126 miles of shoreline remain an economic driver for tourism and that our fishing and shellfish industries remain healthy and productive now and for future generations."

As outlined in federal filings last September and October, the proposed deepwater port, at which

the company would regasify liquefied natural gas for transport onshore, is only one component of Liberty Natural Gas' proposal. The project also would entail construction of a 9.2 mile onshore pipeline from Linden to Perth Amboy, and 44 miles of submerged pipeline designed to transport up to 2.4 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas from the deepwater port to shore.

"New Jersey has invested much time, energy and resources into encouraging renewable energy, and its commitment has made the State one of the leaders in the nation on this front," Governor Christie wrote in his veto letter to David Matsuda, Administrator of the federal Maritime Administration. "The Liberty Natural Gas project could stifle investment in renewable energy technologies by increasing reliance on foreign energy sources, which would undermine all of the progress made by New Jersey to promote sustainable energy."

In addition to potential harmful impacts on recreational and commercial fishing, shellfisheries and tourism industries vital to the State's economy, other reasons for the Christie Administration's opposition to the Liberty Natural Gas proposal include its proximity to large population centers; potential discharges of harmful wastewater into the environment as well as increased homeland security demands on the U.S. Coast Guard and New Jersey's Homeland Security personnel to deal with potential environmental disasters and the disruption of port commerce.

"The Governor continues to prove his commitment to protecting our air, lands, waters and natural resources, and recognizes that the ocean is our most valued treasure," said DEP Commissioner Bob Martin. "This project just has too many unacceptable risks to our environment and to the safety and welfare of the State's residents.

Last year, Governor Christie announced his strong opposition to oil drilling off the New Jersey coast, and on Earth Day 2010 first publicly stated his opposition to allowing LNG facilities to be located off the State's coast.

Oyster Reefs are Vanishing from Overharvesting

by John Collins Rudolf,
New York Times, 2/3/2011

Roughly 85 percent of the world's oyster reefs have disappeared since the late 19th century,

with many formerly prolific reefs rendered "functionally extinct" because of overharvesting and other manufactured causes, according to a new study published in BioScience.

Areas where wild oysters have largely been extinguished include the Wadden Sea in Northern Europe and Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island.

Oyster reefs were once the dominant ecosystem in the world's temperate bays and estuaries, but destructive dredging by fishermen, pollution and the spread of disease through the introduction of non-native oyster species have led to their widespread decline.

"Oyster reefs were hugely abundant — they were the coral reefs of our temperate world," said Mike Beck, leader of the research team, and senior scientist with the Nature Conservancy. "Now we've lost 85 percent of those reefs."

About three-quarters of the world's remaining wild oyster reefs are found in just five locations in North America, the study found. But in only one of these regions — the Gulf of Mexico — were oyster populations deemed relatively healthy.

"The Gulf of Mexico is likely the last best place where there's a chance for large-scale reef conservation and sustainable fisheries," Mr. Beck said.

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico last year did not significantly harm oyster reefs in the region, he said. But in the early days of the spill, Louisiana officials ordered the opening of giant valves on the Mississippi River, in a bid to flush incoming oil out of fragile marshes. In the process, some key oyster beds were killed by the sudden drop in salinity.

Kenneth Feinberg, the administrator of the \$20 billion BP spill compensation fund, recently authorized payments to oyster harvesters for losses related to the spill, which are estimated to run higher than those for other fisheries.

Despite the damage from the BP spill, the oyster reefs of the Gulf of Mexico remain the healthiest and most productive on the planet, Mr. Beck said.

In the past, oysters made for inexpensive food for the working class, but as reefs have vanished, their scarcity has made them more of a delicacy. In San Francisco, for instance, oysters were one of the primary foods given to Chinese workers building the railroads at the turn of the century.

While the abundance of oysters has declined sharply, global demand remains high, putting increasing pressure on the world's last wild reefs.

"The fact of the matter is, anywhere where there are oysters in abundance, we're doing the job to take every last one, it seems," Mr. Beck said. "That's even true in places like Chesapeake Bay."

Appeal Filed in Dredge Project

by Jessica Beym, (jbeym@sjnewsco.com)

Today's Sunbeam, 2/3/2011

Five environmental groups have filed an appeal in U.S. District Court in Delaware and plan to appeal a similar ruling by a judge in New Jersey that allowed the Army Corps to proceed with its Delaware River deepening project.

Work on a 12-mile stretch of the river near Salem was completed between March and November 2010 at a cost of \$30 million. While there's currently no federal budget allocated for the project, the Army Corps plans to deepen another 5-mile stretch of the river going north from the Delaware Memorial Bridge this July or August, according to Ed Voigt, Army Corps spokesman.

The environmental groups are trying to put a stop to it, saying the Army Corps is violating a number of federal and state laws protecting the water and environment.

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network, New Jersey Environmental Federation, Clean Water Action, Delaware Nature Society and National Wildlife Federation filed the paperwork to begin the appeal process of U.S. District Judge Sue Robinson's decision.

In November, Robinson, whose courtroom is in Wilmington, denied a motion filed by the State of Delaware and several environmental groups seeking a stay on dredging the river channel to a depth of 45 feet from the current 40 feet.

A similar lawsuit to stop the project was thrown out of federal court in New Jersey in January by federal Judge Joel Pisano. The five environmental groups plan to appeal that ruling as well, according to Maya van Rossum, Delaware Riverkeeper.

Van Rossum said the District Court judges both ruled, but for different reasons, that the deepening project was not in violation of state and federal laws and should be allowed to proceed.

The Riverkeeper Network and the other environmental groups say otherwise. They contend

the dredging project violates a number of federal and state laws and that the proper environmental impact studies have not been performed.

Van Rossum said they're appealing Robinson's ruling on both the legal interpretations and what they believe are "factual errors" in the rulings.

"What we think is that the judge inappropriately applied the law and gave undue deference to the claims and positions of the Army Corps of Engineers, essentially limiting our ability to talk about documents to only those documents the Army Corps put forth," van Rossum said.

She said there are other public documents that would support their belief that the Army Corps is circumventing laws to push the project forward.

"Our appeal isn't just about the Delaware deepening; it is about the precedent that is getting set for all federal projects on our river and every other river in the country. If the Army Corps is allowed to operate above the law here and now, it will be allowed to do so everywhere and every community, every river, every environment, and all the drinking water, jobs, and fish for food they provide will be in jeopardy from our very own federal agency."

Jane Nogaki, vice chair of the New Jersey Environmental Federation, said the Corps should be held to the same standards as other private or public entities.

"We are confident that when the full weight of evidence is heard by the judge, that a ruling will go in our favor to protect the precious resources of the Delaware River," said Nogaki.

Supporters of the dredging project have long contended that the deepening is necessary to keep Philadelphia's ports viable and able to serve the larger ships that travel through the Delaware River.

Voigt said the Corps by practice does not comment on pending litigation.

Delaware Estuary Improving as Three-day Conference on the Watershed Kicks Off

by Michael Miller, Staff Writer,
Press of Atlantic City, 1/31, 2011

CAPE MAY - Scientists and government regulators are meeting this week to address future

risks to the Delaware estuary, the sprawling region that provides drinking water to millions of people.

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary is hosting a three-day conference that started Monday at the Grand Hotel to talk about water quality, energy demands, climate change and conservation in this watershed that covers 6,000 square miles.

For the most part, the news is good, said Jennifer Adkins, the group's executive director.

"We have a lot of uses on the Delaware Bay. It's a pretty resilient system," she said.

The estuary is home to a major shipping channel, provides fisheries for commercial and recreational fishermen, is a major spring stopover for migrating shorebirds and is home to rare species such as shad and shortnose sturgeon, which are showing signs of recovery.

Freshwater mussels have been found in the estuary - another sign of good water quality, Adkins said. But the river is still home to perch and catfish with high levels of toxins called polychlorinated biphenyls.

The group's latest five-year report on the estuary found positive indicators such as a high amount of dissolved oxygen, necessary for a healthy fish population.

"At one point the river was in bad shape with no dissolved oxygen," she said.

Now researchers are seeing some predators such as striped bass and American bald eagles bounce back in the estuary.

This is good news for people who rely on the river for their cup of coffee or morning bath, said Josef Kardos, a Philadelphia engineer.

Unlike southern New Jersey, which relies on groundwater drawn from wells, most people north of Trenton get their water from the river or surface reservoirs.

Philadelphia tests river water for acidity, pollution and oxygen levels, among others, Kardos said. "Now we're looking at emerging contaminants such as pharmaceuticals," he said.

Most water-treatment plants do not filter the drugs that Americans consume and inadvertently dispense into the water system when they go to the bathroom. Kardos said the issue now is studying the costs and benefits of filtering these drugs from the water supply.

And climate change could affect river levels, drawing salty Delaware Bay water farther up the river during droughts.

But controlling the flow of the river upstream can keep saltwater from migrating north into drinking supplies, he said.

Maryland DNR Press Release: Illegal Striped Bass Seizure Spurs Shut Down of February Gill Net Season

**DNR, Stakeholders Offer Reward for Information
Leading to Rockfish Poachers' Arrest**

Annapolis, MD (February 4, 2011) — The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has shut down the February striped bass gill net season after Natural Resources Police (NRP) confiscated more than 10 tons of illegally caught striped bass in two days. NRP seized the 20,016 pounds of rockfish from four illegally anchored gill nets found near Bloody Point Light, south of Kent Island in the Chesapeake Bay.

"Wanton illegal behavior cannot, will not be tolerated," said Secretary John Griffin. "The people of Maryland have invested far too much time, effort and money into restoring striped bass, our State fish. These poachers are stealing from every Maryland citizen... including from our honest, hardworking watermen who follow the law. I particularly want to commend our dedicated Natural Resources Police officers, many of whom staked out the sites overnight, during terrible weather conditions."

Maryland's commercial striped bass fishery is managed on a quota system, in cooperation with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission; the commercial gill net quota for February is 354,318 pounds. When the illegally harvested striped bass confiscated by the NRP were deducted from the quota, DNR was forced to immediately shut down the fishery. The fishery will remain closed until DNR can determine the extent of illegal nets out on the Bay and the amount of striped bass caught in those nets.

"Watermen are allowed to catch about 300 pounds of rockfish per day. We seized 20,000 pounds. That means these poachers are stealing 66 days of work from honest watermen," said DNR Fisheries Service Director Tom O'Connell.

The State, along with the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), The Maryland Watermen's Association, the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association and the Maryland Charter Boat Association, is offering a reward of more than \$7,000 for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of a person or persons responsible for setting these anchored gill nets in the vicinity of Bloody Point Light.

JCAA FLUKE TOURNAMENT JUNE 11, 2011

Christie Vetoes Offshore Gas Terminal Project

by Tom Dunphy, BrickPatch, 2/9/2011

Link: <http://brick.patch.com/articles/christie-vetoes-offshore-gas-terminal-project>

Governor Chris Christie has vetoed a proposal that would allow a liquefied natural gas terminal off the coast of New Jersey in a move that environmental groups are calling a major victory in the fight to protect the marine environment. The veto came on Tuesday.

The Liberty Natural Gas project would have consisted of 44 miles of submerged offshore pipeline and nine miles of onshore pipe. The station would have been beyond view from the shore, with pipes extending from a location off the Asbury Park shoreline to a terminal in Linden.

“This is a clear victory for the ocean,” said Cindy Zipf, Executive Director of Clean Ocean Action, in a release. “It is our most treasured natural resource and it will now be free from harmful industrialization.”

The veto comes after several years of protests from various environmental groups, who have opposed the project since its inception.

“The Governor’s veto today keeps New Jersey’s eye on the prize — environmentally and economically, we need to be developing clean renewable energy and becoming more energy efficient instead of relying on dirty and dangerous options like liquid natural gas on the Jersey Shore,” said Dave Pringle, Director of the New Jersey Environmental Federation.

Christie stated publicly on Earth Day 2010 that he would veto any off-shore liquefied natural gas projects. Shortly after that announcement, Atlantic Sea Island Group, who had planned to build an LNG facility off the coast of Sea Bright, and ExxonMobil, who had planned to construct a LNG storage facility off Sea Girt, both withdrew their plans. Only Liberty continued their plans.

“I take very seriously our obligation to protect the environmental health of our coastal waters,” said Governor Christie. “Offshore LNG poses unacceptable risks to the State’s residents, natural resources, economy and security. We must ensure that our 126 miles of shoreline remain an

Funding for the reward will come from dedicated funding as well as contributions from these stakeholder groups, who are publicly denouncing these crimes.

“Today’s announcement demonstrates that illegal fishing that steals the resource from all Marylanders will not be tolerated,” said CCA Maryland Executive Director Tony Friedrich. “We look forward to working with the Department and other stakeholders to insure that the penalties for these types of crimes are strengthened and those responsible are held fully accountable.”

“The Maryland Watermen’s Association is here to protect the honest fisherman,” said Association President Larry Simms. “Like to do anything in our power to catch the person responsible for this and we hope they lose their license.”

“The Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen’s Association is extremely disheartened and outraged over the events of the past several days,” said Executive Director Dave Smith. “This type of flagrant disregard for the law and our vital resource must end. The MSSA is working with the Department and other stakeholder groups to put in place deterrents and meaningful consequences for these types of crimes.”

The NRP found the first anchored gill net on Monday, January 31 at 2 p.m., the day before the February striped bass gill net season opened. Officers began a surveillance detail and after 17 hours without activity officers pulled up the net, which was full of rockfish. Officers continued pulling the net and offloading the fish until 9 p.m., when 6,121 pounds of fish were taken out of the 900 yards of illegal anchored gill net; 400 pounds were given to state biologists for use in an expanded gender sampling survey, and 5,721 pounds were sold.

Officers located another net at about 9 p.m. near the first net and began to pull it up immediately. NRP continued to load the net and fish into patrol boats throughout the night. While loading the second net, officers found two additional nets. The NRP worked until 5 p.m. Wednesday evening, landing an additional 13,895 pounds of illegally caught fish.

Officers also recovered 2,100 yards of anchored gill net from the Choptank River on Sunday, January 30, and 100 yards of anchored gill net from the mouth of the Chester River on Thursday. These nets had a few fish that were released alive.

Information on this crime may be called into the Natural Resources Police Catch-a-Poacher Hotline at 800-635-6124. Callers may remain anonymous.

Photos of the seized rockfish will soon be available at http://www.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrnews/pressrelease2011/020411_photos.asp.

economic driver for tourism and that our fishing and shellfish industries remain healthy and productive now and for future generations.”

While lauding the governor’s recent action, environmentalists insist the fight is not over. Local activists will now push for permanent federal protection of New Jersey’s coasts from future LNG projects.

State Adopts Preliminary Rules to Govern Offshore Wind Market

by Tom Johnson,
NJ Spotlight, 2/11/2011

How hot is New Jersey’s offshore wind market?

Hot enough to convince a developer to file an application before the state adopted preliminary rules governing the development of offshore wind farms.

On Wednesday, Fisherman’s Energy of New Jersey, LLC filed an application to build the first phase of its proposed offshore wind farm about three miles off Atlantic City. The project envisions a 25-megawatt facility, the first phase of a proposal expected to deploy up to 300 megawatts of wind capacity.

“We are very focused on building the first offshore wind farm in New Jersey,” said Daneil Cohen, president of Fishermen’s Energy. “We are still looking to build next year.”

As the company was well aware, the filing came the day before the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) approved new rules concerning the development of offshore wind projects. These regulations include an Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Certificate (OREC) program, which will require all projects to demonstrate a positive net economic impact on the state.

Cohen’s optimism may be dimmed by the BPU’s assertion that it is unlikely any ORECs will be operating in the next 18 months. In recognition of that, the new rules do not address some of the major issues concerning the offshore wind farms, which have emerged as a priority of the Christie administration.

Those issues revolve around the funding of the ORECs and how ratepayers will absorb the costs of developing offshore wind farms, which will deliver cleaner electricity but at much higher costs than conventional power sources like nuclear, natural gas and coal-fired plants.

Under the rules, any offshore wind project approved by the state must have a positive net economic impact “and thereby improve and protect New Jersey’s economic standing,” in the words of BPU President Lee Solomon.

The rules require a cost-benefit analysis that indicates the potential impact upon electricity rates of residential and industrial customers over the life of the project; impact on income, employment and business taxes; and net environmental impact.

The net economic impact benefit is emerging as possibly the biggest hurdle to winning approval from the board. Already, one developer, Garden State Offshore Energy, is considering expanding its proposed project from 350 megawatts to 1,000 megawatts because it believes only a project of that scale will be able to attract enough related manufacturing to justify the net economic benefit.

The state rules come on the heels of the designation by the federal government of a wide swath of New Jersey coastal waters as Wind Energy Areas, a move aimed at streamlining the federal permitting process, which before the designation could have taken between seven and nine years.

Besides Garden State Offshore Energy and Fishermen’s Energy, two other developers have expressed interest in building offshore wind farms off the New Jersey coast. They are NRG Bluewater Wind and OffshoreMW.

NEW JERSEY OUTDOOR ALLIANCE REPORT

By John Toth

On behalf of the JCAA, I attended a January 24th meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) and the following issues were discussed. Two previously scheduled meetings of the NJOA were canceled due to winter storms that will not end!

Pete Grimbilas reported that the struggle to get the Pots Off The Reefs bill passed has not been forgotten and is still very much alive. Anglers have been stymied for a number of years in getting this bill passed because several legislators have refused to post the necessary legislation due to their close ties to the commercial fishing industry. Pete indicated that this is an election year and legislators will need votes to win and he exhorted us to call, write and visit your legislators to have them post the bills (S-221 and A-1152) in the two houses of our

Illegal and Unethical Commercial Fishing Kills Thousands of Stripers

by Paul Haertel

JCAA Striped Bass Chairman

legislature and pass them! Pete indicated that he is available to visit your fishing club and explain to them on how they can help to get the Pots Off The Reefs bills passed. Pete can be reached at (973) 454-0315. Also, the NJOA and the JCAA will have Pots Off The Reefs petitions for anglers to sign at their booths at the Somerset Fishing show. So be sure to stop by and sign the petitions to show your support for this important issue. Senator Sean Kean also attended the meeting and reaffirmed his support for this legislation that he has sponsored and attempted to pass through the legislature.

Pheasant's Forever Ken Sass reported that his organization is trying to get a number of pheasants from the Meadowlands area to be moved to the Six Mile Park in Hunterdon County to increase their numbers. Pheasants used to be very numerous in NJ in the past, but their numbers have been significantly reduced to loss of habitat, pesticides and other factors. The discussions with the Meadowlands staff on this issue are ongoing.

The Registry issue generated a lengthy discussion. The NJOA has consistently supported a minimal fee to cover the administrative costs of the registry. However, Chairman Anthony Mauro indicated that while the NJOA can support a no-fee registry, it also wants funding in place to cover the administrative costs (\$600,000) associated with this registry so that the Division of Fish & Wildlife does not have to use its already depleted budget to pay for this registry. Anthony stressed that it is **unwise to have a no-fee registry bill passed and then hope that funds can be found later from some unknown source. The time to request a designated funding source is while the bill is being considered by the Governor, not after it is signed.**

The concern is that if the Division has to absorb the administrative cost, then it will not have the funding and staff to adequately respond to the fishing management programs required by the federal government and other projects that it needs to do and our fisheries will suffer in the long run.

A vote was taken of all of the NJOA members present at the meeting and they supported the current bill for a registry with no-fee attached, with the understanding that administrative funding for it not come out of the budget of the Division of Fish & Wildlife.

According to news reports, thousands of striped bass have recently been killed by illegal and unethical commercial netters fishing in North Carolina and Maryland. The first travesty occurred in mid-January when a commercial trawler off North Carolina was found to be responsible for dumping and estimated 3000-4000 large striped bass off the outer banks of North Carolina. Outraged recreational fishermen took photos of all the dead bass floating on the surface. The suspected cause at the time was high-grading which occurs when small fish are thrown back dead so that they can be replaced by larger ones that were more recently caught. North Carolina had allowed a commercial limit of 50 stripers per day so therefore the larger bass were more valuable when they were sold. The boat responsible for the carnage was located by authorities who interviewed the Captain. He claimed that his net had become so full that the net was too heavy to bring into the boat and therefore the net had to be opened so the fish could be released.

Numerous complaints about the incident resulted in the NC Division of Marine Fisheries changing the law in order to prevent high-grading and to ensure that fish would not be wasted. A new limit of 2000 lbs .of stripers per boat are now allowed each day. Furthermore, trawlers are now allowed to transfer any excess catch to other trawlers, a practice that had previously been illegal. While many anglers applauded this action, I had my doubts that the new law would result in stripers being saved. Previously each boat was allowed to harvest 50 stripers per day and now they are allowed 2000 lbs. per day. Under the previous law, stripers would have had to average 40 lbs. each in order to take that many pounds in a day. This is something even netters are unlikely to accomplish. I also suspected that large trawlers would simply transfer their excess catch to other trawlers so that they all could return to port with their limits. North Carolina's annual commercial quota for bass caught in the ocean is 480,000 lbs. with 160,160 lbs. of that allotted to the trawl fishery. Since commercial fishermen have not caught their entire quota in

recent years, the relaxed rules make it more likely that they will now be able to fill their quotas. While it certainly is better that the practice of high-grading seems to have been curtailed, the end result may be that even more stripers will be killed.

As of early February it appears that there is very little transferring of excess stripers from one boat to another. Once again, on or about 2/2/11, thousands of dead stripers were found to be littering the ocean's surface as evidenced by photos taken from a helicopter. There is no doubt that these fish were, once again, dumped by trawlers. The question of exactly why these stripers are being dumped is unresolved. Some claim that it is simply the fact that the nets became too full and the excess bass were dumped as there were no other trawlers nearby to transfer them. Others claim that the stripers were, in fact, lost in the act of being transferred or that they were dumped because the seas were too rough to make a transfer. Some individuals believe that transfers are not being made in order to prevent the price of the bass from being driven down and also so that the state's quota will not be quickly filled, thereby making it possible for the offending trawlers to continue to fish for and devastate a public resource. There have even been claims that the stripers are being discarded out of spite as the commercial fishermen are upset over the fact that recreational fishermen have been reporting their unethical actions. It was further reported that they were thumbing their noses at authorities in an act of defiance to prove that they can get away with anything.

Whatever the reason, we need to put an immediate stop to this carnage. I spoke with Dr. Louis Daniel who is the Director of North Carolina Marine Fisheries Division. He stated that the trawler fishery will be closed at least until after a special marine fisheries commission meeting which is scheduled for 2/10 and 2/11. He further stated that his agency's investigation could not confirm that thousands of bass were killed and suggested that the number may have been more like a couple hundred bass being lost in each incident. His agency also dismissed one of the photos taken from a helicopter as being birds sitting on the ocean rather than dead bass. He went on to say that some of the discarded bass were under the minimum size limit of 28". Regardless, though, Dr. Daniel seemed sincere in his desire to properly manage our striped bass resource and intends to do whatever he can to correct the

situation. He stated he will be recommending changes that will prevent the unnecessary waste of striped bass. He further explained that he does not have the authority to make regulatory changes. However, he intends to make recommendations for regulations that will benefit our striped bass resource, and while this will take time, he is optimistic that his proposals will be in effect by next year.

Over 20 years ago JCAA worked hard to make striped bass a no-sale fish in New Jersey. JCAA has always supported and worked toward making striped bass a no-sale or game fish along the entire east coast as it is in New Jersey and five other east coast states. JCAA believes that this is the best solution. In the interim, I suggest that we ask North Carolina to eliminate the netting of stripers in the ocean and restrict their commercial fishing for them to hook and line only. At the very least we should encourage them to eliminate their trawler fishery for striped bass and transfer its quota to other commercial netters who are not as destructive. Those who would like to help may mail their comments to Dr. Louis Daniel, NC Director of Marine Fisheries, 3431 Arendell St., Morehead City, N.C. 28557, or email him at louis.daniel@ncdenr.gov or call 1-800-682-2632.

The situation in Maryland is not much better. Within the first two days of the Chesapeake Bay gillnet season which began on 2/1, authorities seized 10 tons of illegally caught striped bass. Authorities also confiscated an illegal 2,100 yard long net that recently had been placed in the bay. At that time there were only a few fish in it which were released. The net had been hidden, submerged and not properly marked with floats as are the legal nets.

I also learned that in 2008, a staggering 43 % of Maryland's 3,940 active watermen received summonses for violating the law. It certainly appears that these offenders just accept their fines as part of the cost of doing business. However, Maryland's Department of Natural Resources has taken notice and legislation creating stricter penalties was recently passed and will become effective on 2/22. Those wishing to recommend game fish status or otherwise comment may do so by writing to Secretary John Griffin, Maryland Department of Resources, 580 Taylor Av., Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, MD. 21401, or email him at customerservice@dnr.state.md.us or call (410) 260-8367.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

NEWARK BAIT AND FLYCASTING CLUB

On March 1, 2011 we will visit the Newark Bait and Flycasting Club and present a "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" program for youngsters attending their Kids' Fishing Night. The Newark Bait and Flycasting Club will host the event at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located in Union, NJ. Children and their families are welcome to come and enjoy a night of fun fishing activities and refreshments. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will support this worthwhile event by presenting a fish identification activity and provide "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" materials for all youngsters attending.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The application period for the Russell A. Cookingham Scholarship has opened. Wildlife/Fisheries majors, or Conservation Education/Communications majors who have at least 15 credits in the biological sciences, may apply for this \$1000 scholarship. Students can be enrolled at any university but must be New Jersey residents. The NJ Chapter of the Wildlife Society manages the endowment fund and awards the scholarship. Details about the scholarship, including the application form, can be found at <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/cookhmschol.htm> on the division's website.

JCAA LENDING LIBRARY

Last year several fishing clubs and organizations used the services of the JCAA Lending Library. We are pleased with the recent interest to provide youth fishing programs within the membership of the JCAA. Remember to e-mail your youth fishing events to: gkucharews@aol.com so that we can publish your success stories in the JCAA newspaper. If your organization would like to use materials for your event, please phone 732-785-9278 and leave a message. We will return your call as soon as possible and support your event. Plastic bags are also available for making goodie bags for children attending your event.

TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM

PRESS RELEASE:

Would you like to incorporate an exciting, inexpensive, science - based program that is enlivening year-round curriculums throughout New Jersey into your classroom? Then join the 111 schools and more than 14,000 students in the Garden State currently participating in the Trout in the Classroom program! Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is a science-based program that teaches children about the importance of coldwater conservation through a hands-on approach to learning. Schools across New Jersey receive brook trout eggs in mid-October from the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife's Pequest State Trout Hatchery in Warren County. Students then hatch and raise these trout, monitor water quality, learn fish biology and anatomy, and much more. At the end of the school year, the trout are released into approved streams. Raising trout is a hands-on activity that engages students and helps to connect them to real-life water quality and fish and wildlife issues and problems, and inspires them to seek solutions. Watching fish hatch from eggs and develop from fry to fingerlings generates enthusiasm among students, and helps them develop caring attitudes about fish species and their habitats, as well as a conservation ethic. The TIC program has interdisciplinary applications in science, social studies, fine arts, mathematics and language arts, and is unique in that it allows teachers to tailor the program to fit their curricular needs. There is an activity guide provided for teachers that is correlated to NJ State Science Core Curriculum Standards at the middle school level. However, classes ranging from preschool through college levels are also participating in the program. Start-up cost for the Trout in the Classroom program is approximately \$1,200.00. This covers all equipment needed to provide a healthy river-like ecosystem for the fry. Equipment includes a tank, chiller, aerator, filter, tank stand and habitat materials. After the first major purchase, the program will cost approximately \$50.00 a year. If you would like to get involved with TIC in your classroom for the 2011 - 2012 school year this is the time! Tanks must be set up and running by the middle of September, which is why schools interested in participating need to start planning now. The Trout in the Classroom program is made possible in New Jersey through a partnership between the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife and the conservation organization Trout Unlimited. For more information please visit <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/tic.htm>.