

# JCAA NEWSPAPER SEPTEMBER 2011

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*  
(Published on August 23rd, 2011)

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

## **JCAA REGULAR MEETING:**

**Tuesday, September 27th, 2011**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

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

## **NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, September 8th, 2011**

**Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office**

## **OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.**

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**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.**

## **2011 OFFICERS**

|                            |                |              |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>           | Eileen Smith   | 732-899-2681 |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b> | Joe Puntasecca | 908-913-0551 |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b> | Don Marantz    | 609-259-6368 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Doug Tegeuder  | 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 |

**Tournament Dir.**

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**September 8<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting**

**September 8<sup>th</sup> NJMFC Meeting**

**September 27 JCAA General Meeting (No meeting August 30)**

**October 2<sup>nd</sup> Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament**

**October 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> ASA Summit New Orleans**

**October 13<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting**

**October 27 JCAA General Meeting**

**November 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> ASMFC Annual Meeting**

**November 10<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting**

**November 13<sup>th</sup> JCAA Dinner**

## **President's Report**

*By Eileen Smith*

Summer is fast coming to an end. Remember, there is no General Membership Meeting in August. Our next General Membership Meeting will be on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual State of New Jersey Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be held on Sunday, October 2, 2011 at Island Beach State Park. The Tournament is a great opportunity to learn more about the sport of surf fishing and to enjoy a great family activity. 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

The early-entry fee is \$10 for adults over Age 18, \$5 for Ages 13-17 and free for Ages 12 and under if post- marked by September 10, 2011. Same-day registration is permitted on the day of the tournament at Pavilion #1 IBSP after 5:00 AM.

The Day of Tournament Registration Fees are: Age 18 and older; \$15; Ages 13 –17, \$5. Tournament Pamphlets and entry forms are available at bait and tackle stores, or visit [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) for complete information about the event.

Fishing begins at 6:30 AM and ends at 1:00 PM with the Raffle Drawings 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM and the Awards Ceremony at 2:00 PM.

If you would like volunteer to serve as a beach judge on the day of the tournament, please E-mail **Tim Burden** at: [tb2fishon@aol.com](mailto:tb2fishon@aol.com).

### **SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD CEREMONY AND DINNER**

Associate clubs in good standing are encouraged to submit, in writing, their nomination for the Sportsperson-of-the-Year Award. The letter of nomination should include details of the nominee's activities that have contributed to the improvement of recreational fishing. Letters may be mailed to the JCAA office or hand-delivered to the September 27th, 2011 General Meeting by your club representative. Representatives in attendance will vote on the nominees at the October General Meeting. The successful nominee will receive the Sportsperson of the Year Award at the Awards Dinner at Crystal Point Yacht Club on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. If you or your club needs tickets, contact **Dan Miller** at **609-641-7821**.

We are still in need of raffle and door prize items. If you or your club can help us out with a donation, contact **Paul Turi** at **609-660-2126**.

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

Mark your calendar for **November 13th**, 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 13, 2011 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's 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 significant other and treating him or her 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 13th 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*

### **ASMFC Meetings**

I attended the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Week and the Joint Meeting for ASMFC and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council. Motions and summaries from the Commission and the Council are below. Here are my thoughts on what took place.

#### **Striped Bass**

I have always been for striped bass conservation. However, I could not support sending out an addendum to reduce the striped bass fishery by 40% at this time. The ASMFC has in the past required New Jersey to completely change our regulations for an addendum that was unnecessary. To do those changes required considerable time for negotiation and legislation. Much staff time was required. In 1998, when the Division had more staff, this was still an imposition. Now this work would take much needed attention from other species. There are two stock assessments for striped bass that will be completed within the next 12 months. There is a turn-key assessment due in November that will review the data. There is a benchmark assessment that will be a peer review assessment due in 2012. We don't need to jump the gun and make any changes before this data is available. There was talk about recruitment failure. When I checked the available data, I did not find any evidence to support a statement that striped bass was experiencing recruitment failure. The tables in the available documents suggested recruitment was above average in most jurisdictions. The Hudson in 2007 had its highest JI ever and Delaware in 2009 had its third highest. Most of the problems seem to be related to water quality and forage species. Reducing the catch will not solve either of those problems. My consistent requirement is that decisions are made based on the best science.

### **Menhaden**

It is amazing to me that it has taken this long for us to actually set coastwide quotas on menhaden. We have seen the stock drop precipitously in the last 50 years. This has had a dramatic impact not only on the menhaden but on all the species that depend on menhaden as a forage species. For the Atlantic Coast, menhaden is one of the most important species in the ocean. We all know when menhaden are abundant; striped bass, bluefish, weakfish, tuna and others are caught around the menhaden schools. When the menhaden disappear from an area, all the species we target disappear with them. To suggest this stock is in good shape when we have no year class distribution is ridiculous. All other fishery management plans I deal with require good age class distribution. The reduction fishery makes up the majority of the catch. It harvests 1, 2 and 3 year old menhaden. Menhaden can live up to 11 years. We do not see older fish in the stock assessment. Menhaden was once abundant from Maine to Florida. Huge amounts were harvested for the reduction plants in every state along the coast. Now there is only one reduction plant along the east coast and the amount they are harvesting is small in relationship to what they harvested when the stocks were healthy. This addendum is a step in the right direction. There will be opposition from the commercial harvesters of menhaden. They have had free reign with no restriction on this stock for years and they will fight to maintain the status quo. I expect this will take until at least 2013 but this is a fight we cannot afford to lose. Otherwise, we will continue to see problems with the fish, marine mammals and birds that depend on them for forage. Just because there is an addendum on the table does not mean action will be taken. You need to keep the pressure on your Governor and your commissioners.

#### **Joint Meeting**

I have included this year's quotas and motions below. Every year I come home from this exercise even more discouraged than I was the year before. We keep rebuilding stocks to all time high levels and yet we are not allowed to fish as if the stocks were recovered. We did get increases in the overall quotas for summer flounder and scup. Because of the omnibus amendment passed by the Mid-Atlantic Council, I am not sure what the actual increases will be. The jump in the scup quota will actually give us some opportunity to change the regulations in New Jersey.

### **Summer Flounder**

Some people will be praising the quota increase but it will not be as great as it seems for the recreational fishery. Because of the omnibus amendment, when we set the quota for the recreational catch limits in December, there will be more factors to deduct from the approved quota. The recreational sector will have their quota reduced because of the regulatory discards forced on them by the crazy regulations. Summer flounder was never meant to be a catch and release fishery. This is a fishery that is for catch and eat, not catch and release like other fisheries. The ASMFC and the Mid-Atlantic Council have turned this into a fishery in which the regulatory discards equal the amount of fish kept by the recreational sector. This is unacceptable in a fishery that is not a primary catch and release fishery. We now release a large number of fish to get one keeper. It gets worse each year and nothing is done. We talk a lot, we make suggestions but nothing happens. Because of these onerous regulations we are now forced to kill at least one fish for every one we take home. In my opinion, the quota is way below what is appropriate and the abundance of fish sets up the recreational community for failure. If I was a teacher grading the NMFS on their management for summer flounder, they would get an "F". We have rebuilt the stocks because of the sacrifice of both the recreational and commercial communities but nowhere do we see any benefit from this sacrifice. The sacrifice gets lost in all the wrong data. What we should be looking at is the actual number of summer flounder anglers take home to eat. At most, we now take home less than a quarter of the fish we used to because the regulations require us to keep larger fish. The anglers who catch a big fish take one home but the majority of the anglers are forced to catch and release. The shore-based anglers are taking almost no fish home because of the size restrictions. We have virtually eliminated the pier, the canal and the beach anglers. You should not manage fisheries by playing one group of anglers against another.

### **Black Sea Bass**

I think the species that discourages me the most is black sea bass. In 1994 when we began working on the black sea bass plan, I thought both the commercial and recreational communities would eventually benefit the sacrifice required to rebuild this stock. Both groups have sacrificed since the plan was put in place in the mid 90's. What benefits

have they seen? None! This stock is listed on the webpage for NMFS and the Mid-Atlantic Council as recovered. That should mean we can harvest more fish than when they were rebuilding. How could I be so naïve? We can't! This year we will actually fish with regulations and quotas that will allow us to harvest fewer fish than we were allowed during most of the rebuilding years when the stocks were being overfished and overfishing was taking place and they were not recovered. NMFS is now repeating their errors on summer flounder for black sea bass. Due to the size limits along the coast, we are seeing an increase in regulatory discards. These regulatory discards will require us to further reduce the quotas that were set as though black sea bass was overfished and overfishing was taking place. We are also seeing an increase in the number of fish kept in the northern range since the south is required to fish at higher size limits. This species has one of the same characteristics as summer flounder. The larger fish seem to migrate out and north. This is one of the reasons that we are seeing the northern states catch increase and this is pushing us over quota in recent years.

We will have to wait until the December meeting to learn what the quotas will actually be. Because of the cutbacks for stock assessment work and real biological studies, I have no faith that we will see favorable results from the current system. The more I look at the consequences of the Magnusson/Stevens Act without appropriate funding and appropriate science, the more discouraged I become. Unless we start doing more basic science research, we will never be able to appropriately manage any of these species.

### **Bluefish**

According to the management plan, bluefish should be divided into 80% recreational and 20% commercial. This has not been true since the plan was put in place. When unused recreational quota is transferred to the commercial side, the split becomes about 60/40. Look at the motions below to understand the numbers. We never transfer quota to the recreational side. There would be lawsuits filed by both states and commercial fishermen. But the recreational community allows fisheries managers to reallocate the resource for bluefish to the commercial sector with no outcry. I guess we're asleep at the wheel. We know the commercial sector wouldn't be. Just look at what happens when we suggest modifying the summer flounder quota.

## **Research Set Aside**

At the last few meetings, New Jersey has voted against using research set-asides. I was one of the original people who pushed to have recreational and commercial quota set-asides for research by universities, commercial and recreational anglers. We felt that we could design some research projects that would help us manage species that NMFS, the councils, the states and the Commission were ignoring. In the beginning, this was a successful program. We set aside quota that was converted to money to pay for scientific projects that involved commercial and recreational anglers and university personnel. When funding was cut at the state, federal and commission level, the NMFS Northeast Center (which handles the money) began diverting this money away from projects we were designing to fund NMFS, state or commission projects. This is a corruption of the original intent. These NMFS-funded programs are important but they should be line items in NMFS budget. NOAA has allowed funding for projects that have no impact on fisheries. Even when the funds are being spent on research projects, they are not spent on the species generating the funding. New Jersey, myself and others have been asking for a return to the original intent of this project. To date, we have been stonewalled. Black sea bass is one example. When the stock quota is so small and the transfer of fish into the research set-aside can have a great economic impact on the industries that depend on that quota, there must be an economic evaluation before any set-aside is agreed to. The question I asked on black sea bass was, "What does the 33 thousand fish that go to the research set-aside mean to the anglers and the industry that depends on those recreational anglers? Will this allow us to increase the season or reduce the size limit?" Of course, no one had an answer and the question was largely ignored. We will never know the positive impact that 33 thousand pounds of fish might have on the quotas. It might have meant millions of dollars into the recreational community and weeks more fishing. For these reasons we can no longer be cavalier in the transfer into RSAs and we need a total economic evaluation of what this transfer means. This is why New Jersey is voting no on research set-asides until these questions are answered and the program returns to the original intent.

## **ASMFC Summer 2011** **Meeting Summaries**

### **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board** **(August 1, 2011)**

#### ***Meeting Summary***

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board reviewed Draft Addendum III, which contained management options to reduce fishing mortality up to 40% and provide increased protection for the stock when it is concentrated and vulnerable. The Draft Addendum was initiated due to increased concern over declining catch and abundance, as well as low recruitment. Additionally, there is increasing uncertainty and concern over the prevalence of mycobacteriosis in Chesapeake Bay striped bass. The Board postponed releasing the Draft Addendum for Public Comment, pending the results of the Stock Assessment Update in November.

*For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Fishery management Plan Coordinator, at ktaylor@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.*

### **Tautog Management Board** **(August 2, 2011)**

#### ***Meeting Summary***

The Tautog Management Board met to review 2010 state compliance and consider state proposals to implement Addendum VI. The Plan Review Team presented findings that all states met or exceeded all Fishery Management Plan (FMP) measures in 2010. Delaware and North Carolina met the requirements for *de minimis* status in the 2011. Following the presentation, the Board accepted the 2010 Tautog FMP Review and *de minimis* status for Delaware and North Carolina in 2011. *De minimis* status allows a state to apply their recreational regulations to their commercial fishery (bag/size limits). States are still required to implement recreational or monitoring measures in the FMP.

The next order of business was a Technical Committee (TC) review of state proposals to implement the Addendum VI  $F_{target} = 0.15$ . Based on the coastwide assessment ( $F_{coastwide} = 0.38$ ), states must implement regulations to achieve a 53% reduction in harvest to achieve the  $F_{target} = 0.15$ . Addendum VI allows states that can demonstrate a regional  $F$  that is lower than the coastwide assessment "at the same level of precision as the coastwide assessment" to only reduce harvest based on their regional  $F$  rate. The TC 6 provided a

**Press Release:**  
**ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Board Approves  
Draft Addendum V for Public Comment**  
August 2, 2011

guidance document to help states calculate reductions on June 19, states submitted proposals for TC review around July 15, and the TC held its meeting to review state proposals on July 25, 2011. Massachusetts and Rhode Island submitted a regional VPA assessment (MA/RI VPA) using identical methodology as the coastwide assessment and demonstrating a regional F below the target. The TC endorsed the MA/RI VPA as at the same level of precision as the coastwide assessment based on a mean square residual (MSR) value of 0.69 compared to MSR = 0.61 for the coastwide assessment. The TC also noted that Rhode Island voluntarily lowered its private recreational bag and vessel limit in 2010, and combined MA/RI harvest was reduced by 25% in 2008 even though these states were only required to reduce harvest by 12%. The Board reviewed and unanimously approved the MA/RI VPA proposal.

Due to a lack of fishery-independent data, several states are unable to run a regional VPA and directly compare precision with a metric in the coastwide VPA. New York, Maryland, and Virginia submitted catch curve analyses demonstrating lower regional F's than the coastwide assessment for TC review. The TC could not determine the precision of the New York or Maryland catch curve analyses and suggested some modifications. The TC did not suggest any modifications to the Virginia catch curve proposal and recommended that the Board consider the analysis. After considering the TC's review, the Board agreed to postpone taking action on all catch curve proposals until the ASMFC Annual Meeting, allowing New York and Maryland to modify their proposals as requested by the TC.

The TC found that regulations in state plans to achieve a 53% reduction are risk neutral for Connecticut, New York, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. The Board unanimously approved these states proposals to achieve the 53% reduction based on the TC recommendations. Following the approval of these plans, the Board agreed that states will submit all new and revised proposals by September 15, 2011 to allow for TC review prior to the November ASMFC meeting week. All states will be required to implement regulations to implement Addendum VI by January 1, 2012.

*For more information, please contact Christopher Vonderweidt at [cvonderweidt@asmfc.org](mailto:cvonderweidt@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.*

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Atlantic Menhaden Management Board has approved Draft Addendum V to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden for public comment. The Draft Addendum proposes establishing a new interim fishing mortality threshold and target (based on maximum spawning potential or MSP) with the goal of increasing abundance, spawning stock biomass, and menhaden availability as a forage species.

The Draft Addendum will also initiate the scoping process (comparable to that of a Public Information Document) on the suite of management tools that could be used to implement the new fishing mortality threshold and target levels. As in a PID, it will contain preliminary discussions of biological, environmental, social, and economic information, fishery issues, and potential management options for action through an addendum.

The MSP approach, as recommended by the 2009 peer review panel, identifies the fishing mortality rate necessary to maintain a given level of stock fecundity (number of mature ova) relative to the potential maximum stock fecundity under unfished conditions. The Draft Addendum presents two options for the new interim fishing mortality threshold (status quo based on an MSP of 8% and an MSP of 15%) and four options for the interim fishing mortality target (status quo and F based on MSPs of 20, 30 and 40%). For illustration purposes, a 15% MSP would equate to a fishing mortality rate threshold required to maintain approximately 15% of virgin stock fecundity. The current MSP level is 8%.

Based on the revised 2009 Atlantic menhaden stock assessment, menhaden was not overfished but had experienced overfishing in 2008. Given the current overfishing definition, which sets the fishing mortality rate (F) target at 0.96 and the F threshold at 2.2, this is the first time overfishing has occurred since 1998. Over the time series, overfishing had occurred in 32 of the last 54 years. F in 2008 (the latest year in the assessment) is estimated at 2.28.

States will be conducting hearings on the Draft Addendum; the details of those hearings will

be released when they become available. Staff will be finalizing the Draft Addendum over the next couple of weeks. A subsequent announcement will be made once it is available for public comment. The Board will meet in November at the Commission's Annual Meeting to review public comment and consider final action on the Addendum. Having gathered scoping information on management tools to implement Addendum V, the Board will also consider moving forward on a subsequent addendum to establish associated management measures. The Board's intent is to finalize these management measures for implementation in 2013.

### Motions

#### **Main Motion:**

**Move to adopt Draft Addendum V for public comment with one change: remove Options 3 through 5 from section 2.3.1.**

Motion made by Mr. Grout and seconded by Mr. McElroy. Motion substituted.

#### **Motion to Substitute:**

**Move to substitute to adopt Draft Addendum V for public comment.**

Motion made by Mr. Fote and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion passes (In Favor – NH, MA, CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, NC, SC, GA, FL, NMFS, USFWS; Opposed – ME, RI, VA, Abstention – PRFC).

#### **Main Motion as Substituted:**

**Move to adopt Draft Addendum V for public comment.**

Motion made by Mr. Fote and seconded by Mr. Augustine. Motion carries.

## **Joint Meeting of MAFMC & ASMFC**

**August 17, 2011**

### **Summer Flounder Management Measures for 2012**

Move that the sum of the commercial and recreational ACLs be set equal the ABC of 35.55 mil lb in 2012 (commercial ACL=19.59 mil lb + recreational ACL = 15.96 mil lb). The recreational-ACT be set as 15.96 mil lb and the commercial-ACT be set as 19.59 mil lb in 2012. For 2012 the commercial landings level will be 18.95 mil lb and a recreational landings level will be 12.63 mil lb.

Move that up to 3% TAL be allocated for an RSA in 2012.

### **Scup Management Measures for 2012**

Move that the sum of the commercial and recreational ACLs be set equal the ABC of 53.35 mil lb in 2012 (commercial ACL=41.61 mil lb + recreational ACL = 11.74 mil lb). The recreational-ACT be set as 11.74 mil lb and the commercial-ACT be set as 41.61 mil lb in 2012. For 2012 the commercial landings level will be 34.43 mil lb and a recreational landings level of 10.85 mil lb. The RSA be set up to 3% for 2012.

#### **Bluefish**

Move to adopt an ACL of 32.044 million pounds, equivalent to ABC, a recreational ACT of 27.336 million pounds and a commercial ACT of 4.708 million pounds corresponding to a recreational TAL of 22.986 million pounds and a commercial TAL of 4.708 million pounds and to allow a transfer of up to 5.792 million pounds from the recreational to the commercial TAL resulting in a recreational harvest limit of 17.194 million pounds and a commercial quota of 10.500 million pounds.

Move to allow for a research set aside of up to 3% (830,834 lbs) of the combined recreational/commercial TALs.

Move that the Board approve draft addendum I for public hearing.

#### **Black Sea Bass**

Move that the sum of the commercial and recreational ACLs be set equal the ABC of 4.50 mil lb in 2012 (commercial ACL = 1.98 mil lb + recreational ACL = 2.52 mil lb). The recreational-ACT be set as 1.86 mil lb and the commercial-ACT be set as 1.98 mil lb in 2012. For 2012 the commercial landings level of 1.76 mil lb and a recreational landings level of 1.36 mil lb. Set RSA up to 3%.

### **ASMFC Press Release**

For Immediate Release, August 19, 2011  
Contact Tina Berger, 703.842.0740

### **ASMFC Bluefish Board Approves Draft Addendum I for Public Comment Addendum Proposes Establishment of Coastwide Sampling Program to Improve Data used in Stock Assessment**

Wilmington, DE – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Bluefish Management Board has approved Draft Addendum I to Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery

## JCAA Letter on Marine Debris Bill

Management Plan (FMP) for Bluefish for public comment and review. The Draft Addendum proposes a coastwide sampling program to improve the quantity and quality of information used in future bluefish stock assessments.

The last peer-reviewed stock assessment, conducted in 2005, supported the finding that the bluefish stock was rebuilt and not experiencing overfishing. However, the peer review panel expressed concern regarding the level of uncertainty in the assessment, particularly with regards to bluefish ageing data. It noted discrepancies in ageing protocols (e.g. the use of scales versus otoliths), gaps in the age-length keys from a lack of samples, and samples being geographically limited to Virginia and North Carolina. Age information is an important component of stock assessments because it is the basis for determining growth rates, the life-span of a species, and size-at-age to evaluate stock structure. The panel recommended that ageing practices be standardized and sampling expanded to overcome these deficiencies in the assessment.

In May 2011, the Commission's Bluefish Technical Committee conducted a workshop to review current bluefish ageing data, establish consistent ageing techniques, and explore opportunities to make aging efforts more cost-effective. A primary workshop recommendation was the establishment of a coastwide sampling program for bluefish. This recommendation provides the basis for Draft Addendum I.

States will be conducting hearings on the Draft Addendum; the details of those hearings will be released when they become available. The Board will meet in November at the Commission's Annual Meeting to review public comment and consider final action on the Addendum. If approved, the biological monitoring program would be implemented for the 2012 fishing year. Copies of the Draft Addendum can be obtained via the Commission's website ([www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)) under Breaking News or by contacting the Commission at 703.842.0740. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on September 30, 2011 and should be forwarded to Michael Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Bluefish Addendum I).

July 26, 2011

Subject: Letter on Marine Debris Bill

Chairman Lobiondo  
Congressman Larsen  
Subcommittee on Coast Guard & Maritime  
Transportation  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman LoBiondo and Ranking Member  
Larsen:

On behalf of the 75 fishing clubs represented by Jersey Coast Anglers Association and our associate members, we would like thank you and the other members of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation for including H.R. 1171, The Marine Debris Act Reauthorization Amendments in today's hearing. The pervasive threat of ocean trash, or marine debris, is a significant challenge for our time that affects us all. We need solutions so that future generations have clean waterways and a healthy ocean to enjoy, and one of these solutions is HR 1171. This legislation will help to address and minimize the adverse impacts of ocean trash and we strongly support this bill.

Marine debris, or ocean trash, includes everyday items from bottles, plastic bags, and lighters to lost fishing gear, tires and even shipping containers lost at sea. All of these items and many more have significant impacts on wildlife, ecosystems and economies. For instance, derelict fishing gear can have detrimental impacts of the value of recreational and commercial fisheries. For example, it is estimated that over \$250 million in marketable lobster is lost each year in derelict fishing gear. Additionally studies in the Puget Sound area indicate that a single derelict gill net is estimated to catch and kill 4,368 crabs over its lifetime. Furthermore, derelict gear poses as a navigational hazard and causes up to \$792 million in damages to vessels every year. In a time where our



fishermen are facing serious challenges due to requirements under the Magnuson Stevens Act, something must be done to prevent these unnecessary economic losses.

In the recreational sector, we have been collecting unwanted fishing line. For example, at New Jersey's Island Beach State Park, every station where 4 wheel drive recreational fishing vehicles fill their tires with air, there is a container for old fishing line. This keeps the line from entangling birds and getting caught in boat's propulsion systems.

In an effort to address the economic impacts of derelict fishing gear, the NOAA Marine Debris Program has partnered with the private sector in a partnership called "Fishing for Energy." This partnership provides recycling bins in fishing ports where fishermen can dispose of old gear at no cost. To date, this partnership has collected over 1,000,000 pounds of gear from 24 ports across the continental U.S. and was honored with the Coastal America Partnership Award for its action-oriented, results-driven collaboration process dedicated to restoring and preserving coastal ecosystems. In New Jersey, the Fishing for Energy Partnership has installed a recycling bin at the port in Cape May, and this site has collected over 48 tons of gear. Not only does this partnership provide fishermen another option besides costly landfill disposal, it incentivizes the fishermen to collect any derelict gear they come across while on the water. Ultimately, this partnership benefits the fishermen, our economy, and our local marine environment. If this Act fails to get reauthorized, this beneficial initiative will be at risk.

The problem of marine debris is growing everyday. This legislation will ensure that NOAA can continue its crucial work to reduce the prevalence and impacts of derelict fishing gear. HR 1171 reaffirms NOAA's commitment to address marine debris and will streamline the program to avoid duplicating with the efforts of other agencies. Thank you again for hearing this bill, and we urge the committee to continue to advance this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Fote  
Legislative Chairman

## Drug Waste Harms Fish

**Discharges from pharmaceutical factories contaminate rivers on three continents**

by Natasha Gilbert, [nature.com](http://www.nature.com), 8/15/2011

[http://www.nature.com/news/2011/110815/full/476265a.html?WT.ec\\_id=NEWS-20110816](http://www.nature.com/news/2011/110815/full/476265a.html?WT.ec_id=NEWS-20110816)



Gudgeon downstream of a wastewater-processing plant had swollen abdomens and other abnormalities.

D. Gonseau

Consumers who flush unwanted contraceptives down the drain have long been blamed for giving fish more than their fair share of sex organs. Drugs excreted by patients can also taint rivers, even after passing through wastewater-processing facilities.

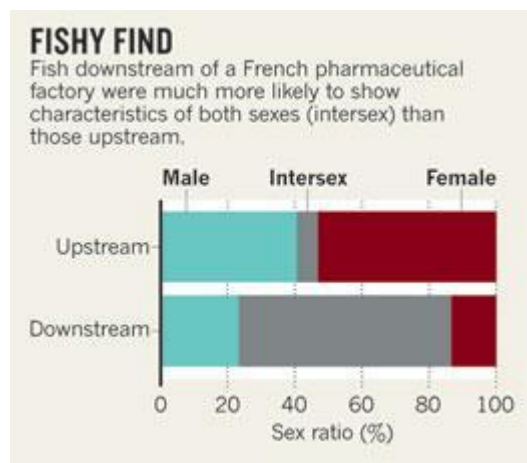
But evidence is accumulating that the effluent coming from pharmaceutical factories could also be carrying drugs into rivers. Many ecotoxicologists had assumed that water-quality standards, along with companies' desire to avoid wasting valuable pharmaceuticals, would minimize the extent of bioactive compounds released by factories into wastewater, and ultimately into rivers.

A string of studies suggest otherwise. In 2009, for example, researchers reported very high levels of pharmaceutical ingredients in treated effluent coming from a plant that processes wastewater from factories near Hyderabad, India. The following year, a similar discovery was made at two wastewater-treatment plants in New York, both of which received discharges from drug-production plants.

Now, researchers have provided the first evidence of similar problems in Europe, and have linked it to sex disruption in wild fish populations found in the Dore River in France. "People thought this could not happen in a country that has high environmental standards and good manufacturing practices," says Patrick Phillips, head of the National Water-Quality Assessment Program at the US Geological Survey in Troy, New York, and lead author of the US study. "The evidence from the

United States and now from France shows that this is not the case."

The discovery has prompted calls for more effective oversight of the industry. The United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom and France do not have regulations limiting the concentrations of pharmaceuticals released into the aquatic environment in either municipal wastewater or in effluent from manufacturing facilities. "People think drug release is regulated, but its not," says Joakim Larsson, a pharmacologist at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, and an author of one of the Indian studies.



The French study investigated the health of wild gudgeon (*Gobio gobio*) populations in a river near a facility close to Vertolaye, owned by pharmaceutical multinational Sanofi, which produces steroid compounds. It was commissioned by the French environment ministry after anglers spotted abnormal fish in the area.

Downstream from the factory, the researchers found that on average 60%, and in one case 80%, of the fish had both male and female sexual characteristics. Upstream of the effluent discharge, such intersex fish made up just 5% of the populations (see ['Fishy find'](#)).

Male fish living downstream from the factory also had significantly higher blood levels of vitellogenin, a protein normally found in eggs, than those living upstream.

"This is a real problem," says Wilfried Sanchez, an ecotoxicologist at the French National Institute for Industrial Environment and Risks, and lead author of the study. Sexual abnormalities in gudgeon may not only prevent the fish from breeding, but also signal problems in other species,

and a reduction in the fish population could have broader consequences for the river ecosystem.

#### Main culprits

In results they have yet to publish, Sanchez and his colleagues identified the main pharmaceutical pollutants in the river as being dexamethasone (an anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressant), spironolactone (a diuretic that also blocks the effects of male sex hormones) and canrenone, also a diuretic. All were measured at concentrations of around 10 micrograms per litre, which is "very high" for biologically active substances, says Sanchez. It is unclear how these compounds ended up in the river.

Ian Weatherhead, Sanofi's communications director, points out that because "no effect has been observed in other fish species", it is difficult to be sure how widespread the problem is. He says that the company is cooperating with regulatory agencies, researchers and ecological associations to help identify the cause of the "disturbances", which are "probably multifactorial".

Some scientists and policy-makers say that broader regulations are needed. The European Commission is now considering whether to set limits on the handful of drugs commonly found in waterways, including the anti-inflammatory drug ibuprofen and the contraceptive compound ethinylestradiol. It expects to publish its decision in the autumn as part of proposed reforms to the Water Framework Directive, which governs water pollution. The reform may, for example, demand more extensive cleaning processes in wastewater-treatment plants.

Complicating the regulators' efforts, scientists have not determined safe limits for many pharmaceuticals in the aquatic environment, or how widespread the problem is, says Susan Jobling, an aquatic ecotoxicologist at Brunel University in London. "We don't know the extent to which it is happening," agrees Larsson. "Very few manufacturing sites have been measured."

*Original article can be found online at <http://www.nature.com/news/2011/110815/full/476265a.html>.*

## New JCAA Fluke Tournament Director Position Open

The JCAA is seeking a person who will manage its JCAA Fluke Tournament in 2012. This person in this position will promote the tournament with press releases, interacting with tournament sponsors to obtain prizes and recognition in promotional materials, handle promotional mailings to anglers concerning the tournament, distribute promotional material to tackle shops and port locations, enter tournament applicants in the JCAA's data base and be responsible for the overall management of the tournament for its successful result. This position requires the following skills:

- Effective writing skills
- Computer expertise skills with Microsoft Office
- Good verbal skills
- Experience dealing with the public
- Ability to be a self-starter to complete tasks.
- Organizational abilities to prioritize tasks
- Prior experience in managing an event is desirable

The JCAA Fluke tournament will take place in June of 2012. This position **requires** the applicant to work part time starting November 1st and attend Board and General meetings. Starting in April the position becomes almost full time. It becomes full time throughout the month of May 2012 and part of June up to the Awards Ceremony in the Golden Nugget in Atlantic City on June 15<sup>th</sup>. (Salary ranges from \$3,000 up to \$5,000 with possible bonuses dependent on the Tournament Director's ability to increase the number of anglers entering the tournament.)

The JCAA is now accepting resumes for this position. All resumes should be sent to JCAA Board member John Toth by October 1, 2011 at the following address or at his email: [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net).

John Toth  
24 Kings Mill Road  
Monroe Township, NJ 08831

## Development of Alternative Energy *By Bruce Freeman*

Over the last two years JCAA has been involved at a number of meetings dealing with so-called alternative forms of electricity generation. These meetings include those hosted by the Secretary of Interior, the Minerals Management Service, wind generation start-up companies, and, most recently, by a company interested in the transmission of electricity produced by fields of wind generators located in near shore ocean waters, called Atlantic Wind Connection.

Why all this interest in wind generation, especially in ocean waters off the mid-Atlantic? The reasons for this are several. First, the greatest concentrated electricity demand in our country occurs in the area stretching from Boston to Washington, D.C. While there are many electric generation facilities located in this corridor, still much of our electricity demand is met from coal-fired plants to our west in states of the Ohio River valley. Second, the US Department of Energy has determined that among the most attractive offshore wind resources in the country are those occurring off the mid-Atlantic coast. Third, the use of electricity is most efficiently used as it is generated due to the fact that it is not practical to store large amounts of it. The highest demand of electric power occurs during daylight hours. And since wind at sea is strongest during the day and lowest at night, just the opposite of land generated wind, electricity generated by sea winds are more efficient and therefore more valuable. Fourth, the existing land-based electricity transmission grid in the mid-Atlantic region is about at its capacity. Some power experts believe that if it were not for the present recession causing many of our industries to be closed down, we would not have adequate power this summer to meet our usual demands and would experience rolling blackouts. If the transmission grid system could be tied in with offshore wind generation, it would provide for much needed relief. Fifth, some energy experts estimate that up to half of the electricity demands of the east coast could be supplied by wind energy, a proven technology in other parts of the world.

Most energy experts believe that the sighting of clusters of wind turbines, commonly called wind

farms, will occur 12 or more miles off the coast and will be developed in phases over the next 10 to 15 years. The typical wind turbine as seen on land is a single tower some 120 feet high with rotating blades about 60 feet long. Each of these standard turbines can generate about 1.5 MW. However there are now larger ones being built capable of generating 7.0 MW and some on the drawing boards that can generate 10.0 MW.

But there are drawbacks to wind generation as well. The wind does not always blow continuously or it blows too strong. Wind turbines operate in winds between about 5 and 30 mph. A wind less than 5 mph does not provide enough force to propel the turbine blades and a wind greater than 30 mph requires the blades to be feathered to prevent them from self destructing due to the high rotational speed. Because of these limitations, there is a need for some back-up generation system, usually fossil fueled, to generate electricity under conditions where the wind is not reliable. An advantage of the Atlantic Wind Connection proposal is its large central transmission line, called a backbone line, running mostly parallel to the coast from New York to Virginia in order to connect the planned multiple wind farms. Over this large stretch of coast, the wind is almost always blowing somewhere as various weather systems move through the region and some amounts of electricity are always being produced. Because of this regional reliability it requires less conventional back-up power to be built on land.

There is also the issue of cost. At present it costs from 5 to 10 cents per KWH to produce electricity from coal-powered or nuclear plants. It now costs from 10 to 20 cents per KWH for land-based wind generation. It is estimated it will cost 20 to 22 cents per KWH for offshore wind generation. But these costs do not include environmental costs. Coal-fired is the most polluting. Natural gas is only 50% less polluting than coal, and we still do not have a suitable safe and secure disposal system for nuclear waste.

From an environmental standpoint there are concerns about wind farms and their transmission lines. Many species of shorebirds and waterfowl migrate seasonally along the coast and the turbine blades can be a significant cause of mortality. From a fishery standpoint the transmission lines can induce an electromagnetic field along the seafloor that could interrupt the inshore-offshore migration of marine

life including lobsters and crabs, as well as demersal fishes.

JCAA has expressed concern over the restrictions that could be placed upon recreational fishermen being excluded from the area occupied by wind farms which can each measure several square miles. So far we have been told that no restrictions would be placed on recreational fishermen since the turbine blades would be 60 feet or so above the sea and pose no safety problems. However, there remains the concern that for possible security reasons, the government may exclude any use of the area covered by wind farms.

JCAA has asked potential developers of wind farms if they would be willing to place rip-rap around the base of the transmission towers. This would serve to increase the area of solid substrate and act as artificial reefs to enhance the productivity of fishes and other marine life. They said they would consider this request.

Although valid concerns remain over the building of wind farms and transmission lines situated off the New Jersey coast, the production of electricity by such means holds tremendous environmental improvements over the use of those through cooling water at both coal-fired and nuclear power plants, and even over cooling towers now required for new plant construction. In addition, unlike offshore oil rigs, a wind farm will not spill millions of gallons of crude oil into the ocean the way BP's Deepwater Horizon did last year.

## **Youth Education Report**

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### **ROD, REEL, AND MATERIAL SUPPORT**

During June, July and early August the JCAA Youth Education Committee was busy supplying JCAA member clubs and organizations with a variety of fishing/crabbing equipment to promote marine sport fishing. Throughout the summer several organizations have borrowed fishing equipment and learning aids to teach youngsters about the joys of fishing and we supplied rods and reels to promote youth fishing in Monmouth County. The JCAA has also supplied drug awareness material from the Future Fisherman Foundation's "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" program. Our on-hand quantity of drug awareness materials are now



depleted and we are looking to replenish our supplies for upcoming outdoor sportsmen events and boat shows. If your fishing club or organization is planning a youth fishing event for the fall of 2011 or the beginning of the year 2012 and will need sport fishing promotional material, please phone 732-785-9275 to let us know the amount of items needed for your event. Keep in mind that we have a number of saltwater rods and reels available at Island Beach State Park. The rods and reels are to be used by member clubs and organizations that would like to host a saltwater fishing class.

### **NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM**

Campers attending the National Youth Sports Program (NYSP) at the University of Toledo enjoyed learning to fish at Olander Park. Approximately 150 children, ages 10 to 16, participated in a week-long fishing workshop that featured aquatic education classes, freshwater fishing, nature hikes, and classroom instruction that supported aquatic education and the Future Fisherman Foundation's "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" (HOFNOD) programs. Volunteers from the Merickel-Farley Trout Club donated funds to purchase prizes and support material from HOFNOD's program. The Merickel-Farley Trout Club, family members, and friends spent many hours at Olander Park teaching children casting and angling basics. We thank the Merickel-Farley Trout Club and friends for supporting this event and giving the gift of time to make the event a success. Neighborhood children were grouped together to create fishing buddies so youngsters could fish with each other for the remainder of the summer. We also provided a special presentation about outdoor job opportunities for teens seeking employment during the summer.

### **FORT MONMOUTH SUMMER FISHING COMES TO AN END**

Due to Fort Monmouth closing, I am sad to report the youth summer fishing program that provided fishing fun for hundreds of children for sixteen years came to an end. Many youngsters caught their first at Huskey Brook Pond. We thank all the volunteers from the Army Community Service program, Vietnam Veterans Chapter 12, US Army Garrison Safety Office, Government employees, and Contractors for their time and caring to teach children about fishing. Several children that participated in the summer fishing program at a

young age advanced to become mentors to support the program.

### **YOUTH FISHING ACTIVITY BULLETIN BOARD PRESS RELEASE**

Calling All Volunteers! The 2nd annual New Jersey Wild Outdoor Expo slated for September 17 and 18, 2011 is rapidly approaching. The Expo hosts, DEP's Divisions of Fish and Wildlife and Parks and Forestry, the Green Acres Program, and the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, are looking for volunteers excited by the thought of helping people connect to the natural world. The Expo is a free event that seeks to help people connect with the natural world by providing a unique blend of conservation information, education and hands-on opportunities to learn outdoor skills and activities. Visitors can learn about and try a wide array of activities including fishing, hiking, shooting sports, kayaking, rock climbing, camping skills, wildlife watching and much more. The Expo will be held on Saturday and Sunday, September 17 and 18, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily at the Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area in Jackson Township, Ocean County. Volunteers are needed from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily to: Provide assistance to children fishing in the lake and kiddie tank, Assist with "WILD Crafts" activities, administer a participant survey to evaluate the event. If you would like to volunteer for this event, you must be at least 18 years of age. Please e-mail the following information to Michelle Smith at Michelle.Smith@dep.state.nj.us :Your Name, Your E-mail and Mailing Address, Date(s) you are available to volunteer, and, The activity(ies) you would like to volunteer for from the list above. Please indicate whether or not you are a Wildlife Conservation Corps (WCC) volunteer for the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. If you are not a WCC volunteer an application will be e-mailed to you when your information is received. Questions should be directed to Michelle Smith at Michelle.Smith@dep.state.nj.us. For more information about the Wild Outdoor Expo, visit <http://www.wildoutdoorexpo.com>.

**Share Your Fun  
Take Someone New  
Fishing**