

JCAA NEWSPAPER JANUARY 2012

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on December 19th, 2011)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, December 27th, 2011

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 12th, 2012

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

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This publication is printed and mailed one week prior to each regular monthly meeting of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. One of the prime goals of JCAA is to get accurate information into public hands as soon as possible.

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**JCAA General Membership Meetings are for club representatives and invited guests only. These meetings are not open to the general public. If you would like to attend as a guest, call the President at (732) 929-2591 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**

## **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 |
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| <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**

**December 27 JCAA General Meeting**

**January 12<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting**

**January 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> Garden State Sportsmen Show**

**January 31<sup>st</sup> JCAA General Meeting**

**February 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> AC Boat Show**

**February 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> ASMFC Week**

**February 9<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting**

**February 11<sup>th</sup> NJ's Salt Water Sportsman**

**Magazine's National Seminar**

**March 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Saltwater Expo**

## **2012 High Rollers Raffle**

It is now time for the JCAA High Rollers 2012 Raffle. We have put together a terrific selection of rods and reels and other prizes for a raffle that will be drawn on **April 24, 2012**. This is a major fundraiser for the JCAA. The 8 prizes are listed below with a value of over \$3,832. 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 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, the Atlantic City International Power Boat Show Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, the Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar February 11<sup>th</sup>, the Saltwater Fishing Show Mar. 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Stop by and say hello. Raffle ticket books will also be mailed along with entries for the 18<sup>th</sup> 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. Penn 30VSX International Reel with Penn VS3080TS60 6' Rod Value \$709 Donated by JCAA
2. Tony Maja Products Bunker Spoon Rod, Reel, Metered Braided Line and Bunker Spoon Value \$623 Donated by *BarnegatFishinHole.com*
3. Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor model RT 55/SE/L&D Value \$550 Donated by *Johnson Outdoors Inc*
4. \$500 Gift Certificate to Fishermen Headquarters Value \$500 Donated by *Fishermen Headquarters*
5. Canyon Reels HS-15 Reel with G Loomis SWR84-40C 7' Value \$477 Donated by *Canyon Reels and JCAA*
6. Penn 965 Reel with Penn Torque TG1220C66 6' 6" Rod Value \$413 Donated by *Penn*
7. Two Gallons of Interlux Micron CSC Antifouling Paint Value \$400 Donated by *InterLux*
8. Shakespeare Ugly Stik SP1166 1MH 6' 6" Rod with Penn Battle BTL 4000 Reel Value \$160 Donated by *Penn*

## President's Report By Eileen Smith

As the new season begins, here is the check list for starting the New Year off on the right foot.

First, register for your New Jersey Salt Water Anglers Registry Program for 2012.

Second, as you make preparations for your income tax, consider the fact that Jersey Coast Anglers Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations to JCAA are tax deductible and are a wonderful way to secure your fishing future and protect the rights of anglers. Third, volunteer just one hour a week at the office. This may sound like the smallest of gestures, but it will have a large impact on the wonderful things we do. Your time may be spent in our Toms River office helping out at a sport show or going to a government hearing. This can be the gift that has the most power. And in the long term you will meet the best men and women who want the very best for New Jersey and the future of salt water fishing.

It is very important for the Presidents of our member clubs to please take the time to see that your annual JCAA membership dues are paid promptly in 2012. We also need updated information on your club's delegates to JCAA meetings with phone and email contact information. We need to contact your club on vital and urgent issues throughout the year. Thank you for your support.

A lot of hard work has gone into the improved JCAA website. All the latest news and information is available at any time for you. Thank you Phil Celmer, Jr. and Joe Puntasecca for all the time you have put into this project.

The new slate of officers being nominated for the year 2012 is as follows: President, Joe Puntasecca; 1st Vice President, Mark Taylor; 2nd Vice president, Paul Haertel; Treasurer, Doug Tegeder; Recording Secretary, Tom Siciliano; Corresponding Secretary, Paul Turi and Membership Secretary, John Toth.

It is the best time of the year to see the latest and newest in fishing gear by attending the sports shows. Jersey Coast Anglers Association will be on hand with our High Roller Raffle and the best eight prices going. Tickets will be available at the general meetings and at the shows. Mark Taylor has all the details so call him at (732)245-9445. Or email him at [mtsports@aol.com](mailto:mtsports@aol.com).

Only \$25.00 per year supports the goals of JCAA on an individual basis. You will receive a subscription to the newsletter and the most up-to-date information about fisheries management and environmental issues. Simply fill out the form on the back of the newsletter or go to our web site for details.

## Electronic Press Releases, Alerts and the JCAA Newspaper By Joseph Puntasecca

We recently upgraded our e-mail alerts, press releases and monthly e-mailing of the *JCAA Newspaper*. You may have noticed a new look and feel to the last few *Press Releases* and *Alerts* we sent out. If you don't already receive our monthly newspaper electronically or you don't receive our *Press Releases* and *Alerts*, you can sign up to receive them at [www.jcaa.org](http://www.jcaa.org). Just click on the *subscribe* link near the top of the page.

On the *Registration* screen just enter your e-mail address. The system will ask you to confirm your e-mail address and you can then select your areas of interest. You can select to receive our monthly newspaper electronically or to receive press releases or notices on environmental issues. We will also be updating our alert categories in the future and will notify you via e-mail and in the monthly newspaper.

You don't have to worry about spam, the contact information you submit to us is secure and is never sold or shared, and if you so choose you can opt-out at any time.

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

### **We're not Kids Anymore!**

When I first began attending JCAA meetings I was in my mid-thirties. I was neither the youngest nor the oldest person in the room. We ranged in age from the 30's to the 60's. The average age was probably in the mid-forties. There were many veterans at our general meetings and serving on our board. There was a general sense of involvement in the seventies that carried into the eighties. There was a sense of responsibility to make things better, not just now but for future generations. Those times have changed. At the JCAA Board Meetings, the average age is probably mid-sixties. Our young guys are few in number and more of us are over 70 every year. When I get to the beach to fish, I see many young men and women fishing. I know their lives are busy, especially in these hard economic times. They ask questions and are truly concerned about what is happening in fisheries and environmental issues. My questions to the men and women who are age 20 – 40 are; What can JCAA do to get you involved? We need to know. Are there things we can change? Are there better ways we can reach out to your age group? What media can we use to help you get involved? My fear is you are so disillusioned with politics in general, and fisheries more specifically, that you don't feel you can have an impact. I would argue that is not true. But I need to hear from you. Please contact me or one of the other JCAA Board members if you have any ideas, questions, concerns. This is your organization and we need to hear from you. As the active board members get older, we need for your generation to take an active leadership role.

### **The Summer Flounder: The Craziest is Back**

The Northeast Science Center did a turnkey stock assessment for summer flounder after we met at the joint August meeting. When I read the stock

assessment report, I realized some things never change. Due to this latest turnkey stock assessment, the Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission reduced the summer flounder quota 10 million pounds below the quota that was approved by the SSC in August.

Before this action by the Council, I received an email from a young environmentalist who was explaining the summer flounder history to me. What is interesting is that he is looking backwards to find support for his current position. I was going to reply with the history and began researching previous articles in the JCAA archives. Reading these articles reminded me that stock assessments available to the Council and the Commission have constantly provided contradictory data from one year to another. The environmental community has stood by these faulty stock assessments and expected decisions that accepted these assessments as incontrovertible. In order for each of us to understand what NMFS has done to undermine any respect the recreational and commercial fishing communities have for the stock assessments, we need to look clearly at the history. I have chosen to research in the JCAA Newspapers that are archived on our webpage beginning in 2001. I have done no editing, just selected from the archives. You will find articles authored by me, Gary Caputi, Tom Siciliano, John Toth, Bruce Freeman and reprints from newspapers. I realized the information is too extensive for one edition of the newspaper. In this edition you will find the articles from 2001 – 2005. In next month's edition, we will include articles from 2006 to the present (depending on space we may need another month). I have reread all these articles and the history is fascinating and very enlightening. I hope some of the environmental organizations and other fisheries groups will take the time to read these articles. You will notice there is a Congressional Testimony from 2004 talking about data. If I had to testify tomorrow, there would be few if any changes. If you can't wait for the next edition, just go to the JCAA webpage ([www.jcaa.org](http://www.jcaa.org)) and browse at your leisure. If you are really motivated, you can check out the same history for striped bass, black sea bass, tautog and scup back to 1995. Happy reading!

## **Fluke, Scup, Bluefish, Sea Bass Management Update**

By Gary Caputi

*(from JCAA September 2001 Newsletter)*

The Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council met in joint session with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in Philadelphia on Aug. 6 and 7 to review stock assessments and set management measures for 2002 for these species.

### **Fluke**

A group of scientists were assembled to review the biological reference points for the plan and to consider the possibility of increasing the F rate (fishing mortality rate) level as the stocks continues to expand. The panel then had its work reviewed by the S&S Committee and their work as presented to the Summer Flounder Monitoring Committee which decided there were no compelling arguments to change the reference points from those currently being used. It was interesting that during questioning of the process, it became evident that there was no compelling evidence that the current F rate was the correct one to be using either, other than the fact that the stocks were rebuilding even if in every year since the plan went into effect fishing mortality was well above the F rate set. A higher F rate would have meant an increase in quota, but it is not to be, at least not this year.

The stocks continue to expand according to the latest assessment with spawning stock biomass (mature fish over 2 years) nearly triple the highest level in the past 18 years and the overall biomass just short of the highest level since 1982. That's the good news and with that news alone, the monitoring committee recommended an increase in quota to 24.3 million pounds. With the com/rec split of 60/40, that increases the recreational harvest target from about 7 million to 9.72 million pounds. Just keep in mind that the MRFSS survey said recreational anglers landed over 15 million pounds in 2000, so the increase still falls well below the level at which MRFSS says we are harvesting.

Other issues discussed were how to precede going forward. Another review of the reference points was commissioned, as was a motion to review all phases of the plan including a method to decouple recreational and commercial harvest so one does not impact the other. This will entail a lot of work and a possible plan amendment.

## **MAFMC Report**

By Tom Siciliano

*(from JCAA September 2002 Newsletter)*

On July 25th I traveled down to Baltimore to attend a meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. The agenda included a discussion of the Stock Assessment for Summer Flounder along with Scup, Black Sea Bass and Bluefish. A draft copy of the Advisory Report on Stock Status was presented and was the basis for the decisions on Summer Flounder.

The stock is considered over fished for 2002 but is projected not to be over fished by 2003! The report goes on to try to prove this point through statistical manipulation. Maybe someone from Enron helped with the math. The National Marine Fisheries Service considers the estimates of the recreational landings accurate. They are considered to be + or - 5-10%. The TAL (Total Allowable Landing) does not achieve the target F (fishing mortality rate). It was .27 instead of .26. This is about as close as you can get considering in 1994 the F was 1.32. One can certainly question if .01 is really statistically significant.

The discard mortality is considered to be 10% for the recreational fisherman. The council members feel that this may be too low, but is a result of studies done in Virginia so will be used until new information is developed. The discard mortality is considered to be 80% for commercial sector and this may be too high but again no data is available.

The total biomass for 2001 was calculated to be 95 million pounds. Based on this estimate a TAL of 23.3 million pounds is recommended. A motion was made for 24.3 million pounds that would have been the same as this year but that was defeated.

What will this mean? The recreational harvest limit will be 9.32 million pounds for 2003. This is down from 9.72 million pounds for 2002. They will review the data in November before making recommendations regarding changes in the recreational possession limit, minimum size or season. If I were a betting man I would put my money on further restrictions in terms of bag limits, size limits or season length.

So what is wrong with this picture? Recreational anglers are catching more fish but taking fewer home. The size limits keep going up so more and more fish are being returned to the water.

If we were keeping 15 1/2" fish as we were just a few years ago fewer big fish would be caught simply because anglers would be on their way home early in the day and the bigger fish would be left alone.

What the fisheries managers have done is create a trophy fishery for fluke. The bigger fish are being targeted. It is a simple fact that if the fish were not there the recreational anglers would not be catching them and there are a lot of fish between 14" and 16 1/2" that are being released.

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

By Tom Fote

*(from JCAA September 2004 Newsletter)*

### **Summer Flounder**

Summer flounder stocks are rebuilding. The stocks are at one of the highest levels since 1986. The latest assessment indicates that the stock is not overfished but overfishing is occurring relative to the biological reference points detailed in Amendment 12. The fishing mortality rate estimated for 2002 is 0.29, a significant decline from the 1.32 estimated for 1994 and slightly above the threshold F of 0.26. In addition, total stock biomass has increased substantially since 1991 to 149 million pounds in 2003, 27% above the biomass threshold (117 million pounds). Spawning stock biomass has increased each year since 1993 to 109 million pounds in 2003, the highest value in the time series. There has been some discussion at previous meetings about the exact appropriate reference points. We set 106,000 metric tons as the target that would show we were totally rebuilt by 2010. This affects the probability tables and determines the guidelines for the total allowable catch for each year. By using a .25 probability we would be at only 96,000 metric tons by 2010. By using .5 probability we would be at 99,000 metric tons by 2010. If we use .75 probability we would be at 106,000 metric tons by 2010. We used .25 until 1998 and the stocks were rebuilding. In 1998 we began using .5 and the results were terrific. Continuing to use .5 will get us close and may actually produce the target of 106,000 metric tons. Using .75 is a more conservative measure. Under .5 our total allowable catch for 2005 would have been 32.6 million pounds. Using .75 reduces our total allowable catch to 30.3 million pounds, a difference of 2.3 million pounds. If we used .5 we would have

had 900,000 pounds more for the recreational sector. At this meeting, for the first time, the total allowable catch was decided for two years, 2005 and 2006. This extends the .75 probability for 2006 as well. In 2006 instead of a total allowable catch of 35.5 million pounds, the total allowable catch will be 33 million pounds. New Jersey argued that we should continue to check these reference points and rebuilding schedule. The council agreed for 2005. New Jersey also argued that we should not set a 2 year catch limit. The council declined to revisit the 2006 total allowable catch.

New Jersey has always been conservative on summer flounder. But the lag time of the stock assessment and the underestimation of the recruitment resulted in underestimating total stock and the recovery. The curves are going up dramatically every year. We have seen how difficult it is for states, including New York, to stay within the total allowable catch and the dramatic economic problems that occur when states exceed the total allowable catch. If we keep underestimating the stock available for harvest, more states will go over total allowable catch and pay drastic economic costs. The other problem when the total allowable catch is set so low and we set high size limits in the recreational fishery is that the recreational discard mortality continues to rise dramatically. It is a shame we are wasting a lot of fish and we need to address that problem.

## **Congressional Testimony Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans**

By Thomas Fote for JCAA & New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, June 16, 2004

Thomas P. Fote  
Legislative Chairman of JCAA & NJFSC  
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My name is Thomas Fote. I am here today representing the Jersey Coast Anglers Association and the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. These two organizations are comprised of 150,000 concerned sportsmen and women throughout New Jersey. I would like to thank the Chairman, Congressman Gilchrest and this committee for this opportunity to testify on this important issue. I would especially like to thank Congressman Frank Pallone

and Congressman Jim Saxton for all their hard work for the citizens of New Jersey.

I have testified before this committee on many fisheries management issues. However, data management is certainly one of the most important topics. Most of what takes place in fisheries management is based on data. Data determines the stock assessment, the size of quotas and the rebuilding period. Without data we can't manage fisheries. The quality of fisheries management decisions is directly tied to the quality and accuracy of the data. The data we need does not come cheaply. As the federal and state demands on fisheries management increase, particularly in the area of quota management, the need for quality data continues to increase and so does the cost. When I first got involved in fisheries management, there were quotas on only four or five species on the East coast. Now almost every species managed at the state or federal level is based on quota management. Quota management is data intensive. To get good data you must have the proper systems in place to collect and quantify this data. It also takes a lot more money than we have in the present system

The systems we are using were not designed for Quota or Total Allowable Catch (TAC) management. We are trying to use tools like the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey (MRFSS) to set up state-by-state quotas for recreational fishing. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) designed (MRFSS) to show trends, not to give real time information and produce data good enough for quota management. . The weaknesses of the MRFSS are the confidence levels and the lag time. The number of intercepts that are done in each state varies greatly. Some states collect enough data to make the data slightly more reliable. Other states have sample sizes that are so small for specific species that a couple of outliers can totally skew the data. These results do not accurately reflect what is happening in the state. In the early 90's, I remember a discussion at a Striped Bass Board Meeting. The director from Maine insinuated that New Jersey fishermen were baby killers since we were fishing at 28inch size fish and they were fishing at 34inch striped bass. One of the scientists present wanted to have some fun with Maine and gave me the MRFSS and indicated which statistics applied. I turned to the director from Maine and said, "What difference does it make what size limit you have? What really matters is the size of the fish landed." With this I pointed out that according to MRFSS, the average size fish landed in New Jersey was about 11 ½ pounds or about 33 inches long. In Maine, the MRFSS indicated the average size fish

landed was 2 ½ pounds. Either Maine's anglers were catching the skinniest striped bass in the world or they were all poaching. With this the director from Maine demanded a copy of the MRFSS and discovered that the statistics from Maine were based on only 2 intercepts of illegal fish. The result was his demand that the NMFS correct these statistics for the next year. The following year, based on only a few intercepts again, Maine's statistics showed that size rose to 3 ½ pounds average striped bass catch. Still making no sense. That exchange made me realize how vulnerable the MRFSS was and remains. We have continued to add more intercepts, especially in New Jersey. But the confidence level is still not of sufficient reliability to use the statistics for fisheries management decisions. A couple of million dollars will not fix the MRFSS. It is possible that many millions of dollars will fix the confidence levels. However, lag time will remain a significant issue. We are currently managing this year's fishery with last year's data. It is impossible using the present system to develop midseason corrections. We may need to revamp the entire system, rather than simply trying to fix the existing MRFSS. Remember, this system was designed to show trends, and was not intended for use in quota management.

Everyone is demanding a more accurate count of the number of recreational anglers and the fish they are catching. As we get better data, we are confronting new problems. I believe we have been underestimating the number of recreational anglers and the number of fish they are catching. This also means we have been underestimating the size of the available stocks of species that have a major recreational catch. The virtual population analysis (VPA) uses catch figures and release figures in estimating the size of the stocks. What happens if a state starts adding intercepts? Or what happens if a state begins doing intercepts at night? I believe that we will discover that a state has more anglers making more trips and catching more fish. This would not reflect a change in fishing behaviors or overall catch, just a change in actual reporting. The management tools we presently use have no way to address this potential change. What will show up statistically will be more anglers entering the fishery, making more trips and catching more fish. This will erroneously indicate possible overfishing and lead to more restrictive management rules for the following year. This is what I think happened in New York regarding the summer flounder, scup and seabass fisheries.

New York was required to make a 48% reduction in summer flounder TAC and a 55% reduction in the scup fishery TAC. After a careful

review of the data available, I believe that New York was treated unfairly. I think this is partially due to issues discussed in the previous paragraph. I was born and grew up in Brooklyn. I fished the North and South Shores of Long Island from one end to the other. When I moved to New Jersey, I was amazed to find that we usually counted double and sometimes triple the number of anglers that were counted in New York. I have always been interested in the trends from the MRFSS for both New York and New Jersey. The trends were generally similar. This makes sense since we share the same weather, the same fishing seasons and often the same waters. I will use summer flounder catches in New York and New Jersey as an example. According to the MRFSS, for about 20 years New York averaged between 400,000 and 600,000 participants. During that same period, New Jersey has ranged from 1.5 million to 800,000. In 2001, MRFSS indicated New Jersey had 1.3 million participants. New York had over 700,000. Although that was not an all time high for New Jersey, it was for New York. I wish I could share the 2002 figures but NMFS gave the contract for 2002 to the lowest bidder, fired the contractor after 6 months and then extrapolated figures from previous data to arrive at figures for 2002. They failed to tell ASMFC or the states about this problem and allowed management decisions to be made using this bizarre data. I have included more details in the attached article from the JCAA Newspaper. Given this problem, we really cannot use the faulty data from 2002. In 2003, the MRFSS showed New Jersey had 1,054,000 participants. This decrease in 2003 may represent a legitimate trend in New Jersey due to weather and changes in fishing conditions. In 2001, we had excellent conditions. The drought allowed fishing almost every day. The winter was mild and we were able to fish comfortably through January 2002. In 2003 we had a rainy spring, lousy early fishing and we were freezing in November. A drop of about 250,000 participants makes sense. The total number of trips dropped by about 800,000. What happened in New York? In 2001, New York had its highest participation level in 20 years. In 2003, sharing our weather and fishing conditions, we would expect to see a decrease. Instead, MRFSS reported a huge increase to over 900,000 participants, the highest level ever recorded in New York. Perhaps bad weather and lousy fishing is attractive to New Yorkers. Or the data was horrible. Or the data was finally more accurate and the previous 21 years were inaccurate. The ASMFC had no choice but to interpret the data as a huge increase in New York. They were unable to even consider that it was the previous data that was inaccurate. This led to a

significant decrease in the summer flounder TAC for New York for 2004 and will have a devastating impact on New York's recreational fishing industry and all the ancillary businesses. Because the summer flounder fishery is such an important one for New York, the estimates are a loss of tens of millions of dollars to the New York economy. New York is currently at 3 fish, 17 inches and a season from May 8<sup>th</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup>. The irony of New York's draconian regulations is this is only a 20% reduction and according to the tables they are out of compliance since New York needs to take a 48% reduction. A letter was sent by ASMFC on June 15 to the Secretary of Commerce informing him of that and asking him to take action. I am not sure what will happen.

I'm from New Jersey. Why should I be worried about this? Most people feel this is strictly New York's problem. In addition to my concerns about using faulty data to make management decisions, this will also have an impact on New Jersey. I never thought I would hear charter boat captains from New Jersey talking about their concerns if tens of thousands of New Yorkers begin fishing in New Jersey waters. Our bag limit of 8 fish, 16 ½ inches and a season from May 8<sup>th</sup> to October 8<sup>th</sup> will be attractive to any New Yorker within reasonable traveling distance. New York is currently at 3 fish, 17 inches and a season from May 8<sup>th</sup> to September 8<sup>th</sup>. Our regulations were based on our historical catch, not with consideration of a significant influx of New York anglers. This could have devastating impact on our 2004 statistics and on our regulations for 2005. We could go over TAC even after taking the most conservative path according to the tables we use to calculate seasons. What a hell of a way to run a system! I could discuss many other data gathering strategies including the Large Pelagic Survey but the message would be the same. You need only look at what happened in 2003 and 2004 with bluefin tuna to confirm this.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service are trying to manage the recreational catch effectively with the tools available. It is not their fault that the tools they are using were not designed for the task. The current tools were designed to establish trends for the recreational fishing industry as cheaply as possible. We are requiring them to use data that is not appropriate for the task. It is no wonder that the decisions made using this data create more problems than they solve. In the article I have included, Menakhem Ben-Yami states, "Fisheries management is all about people. People are all it can manage, and people are those who either enjoy or suffer from its



consequences, including depletion of fish stocks. Therefore, it cannot be feasible if it is perceived by fishing people as erroneous, wrong, unjust, etc. This is one more reason for fisheries management not working.” I absolutely believe this is true. ASMFC and NMFS have been working on the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistical Program (ACCSP) to design and implement a better system for compiling fisheries catch data for both recreational and commercial fishing. They signed an agreement a number of years ago and are making some progress with this task. But the demands for fisheries management are increasing more quickly than the new system is being developed and implemented.

The other problem we face is stock assessment. Because we cannot physically count every fish in the ocean, we rely on modeling to get an estimation of the stocks. My experience with these models is that they are based on assumptions that are very conservative. When you begin to layer one conservative assumption on another, the resulting model is extremely conservative. This is great when you are rebuilding stocks. It is necessary to take a very precautionary approach when stocks are rebuilding to guarantee success. However, I believe once the stocks are rebuilt or are well on the way, these models can result in a significant underestimation of the existing stocks. Summer flounder is a good example. From 1994, when the stocks were in bad shape to 2004 when the stocks are well rebuilt, the number of fish landed has remained relatively stable. The size of the fish has risen dramatically. Our original goal was more 14inch fish and that remains in the plan. This allows the fish to spawn once or twice. To keep the recreational sector within its TAC, we have greatly increased the size and lowered the bag limit. Some states are currently up to 17 ½ inches and a 3 fish bag limit. This means we have dramatically increased the quota but the anglers are taking home the same amount of fish they were 10 years ago. This makes no sense. To further complicate the stock assessment problem, we are using tools that were designed to survey halibut for the management of numerous species. We know this is not the best tool to estimate the stocks but it is currently the only tool available. Again, what is needed is more money to develop appropriate data gathering tools. I know these models have been peer tested but in the article below, Menakhem Ben Yami states, “I think that another reason for having inadequate science in charge for so many years is that the "peer reviewing" of publications and scientific reports is being done by scientists, however independent, who come from the same discipline and the same, prevailing school of thought as

the authors. Thus, assessments made on the basis of statistical models are reviewed by statistical modelers, who obviously believe in their basic methodology, but not by scientists who may think that the whole existing modeling methodology cannot produce reliable results.” I have been saying the same thing for years.

I would like you to consider the following suggestions:

1. The Federal Government needs to appropriate real money to develop and implement a system that will give us the data we need.

2. The money should be allocated to the states to do the actual data gathering. The states have proven they can implement any data-gathering program more efficiently, accurately and cost effectively than government contractors.

3. A workshop should be designed to develop alternative management regimes for the recreational sector that are not based on either quota or total allowable catch. This would allow us to look at more cost effective possibilities.

4. A new stock assessment tool must be developed that responds to stocks that are rebuilding faster than the present information is suggesting. We need to rethink the entire way we do stock assessment.

In closing, in the last hundred years there have been amazing advances in science and technology. We can count the craters on the moon. We are able to use satellites to photograph a four foot area on earth from tens of thousands of miles away. We can actually land a vehicle on Mars to analyze the soil. These are things we couldn't even dream of 50 years ago. But when it comes to knowledge about what is happening in the ocean, we are still in the dark ages. The two recent Oceans Reports point this out dramatically. We're not even sure about the impact of human activity on the ocean. It is my hope that Congress and the President will see the ocean as a priority. In my estimation, we need to focus less on outer space and more on our own planet. That will have the most dramatic effect on all of our lives.

## **Summer Flounder Report**

*July 2004*

At the ASMFC meeting there was a lengthy discussion about New York's summer flounder overages and the necessary reduction. I fought hard for a motion that would give New York some relief. Some people asked me why I fought so hard to reach a solution that was not allowed for in the plan. The implication was that I had not fought as hard when other states faced reductions due to overages. My



reply is that times are different and the situation is different. My responsibility as commissioner is to look at each issue individually and consider the current situation. Circumstances change and in this case there were some outstanding reasons why I changed my mind. In 2002, because of the issue of paybacks, states were being very conservative on the implementation of changes in their fluke regulations for 2003. Most states made a good faith effort to develop regulations that would keep them in compliance with their targets. They used the available data conservatively in developing their regulations. None of us were told there was a problem with the 2002 Marine Recreational Statistical Survey. New York, New Jersey and other states used those figures as though they were calculated in the same way as the figures from 2000 and 2001. Even though we know none of these figures are accurate we expected some consistency from year to year. The National Marine Fisheries Service should have told us about the problem with the data for 2002. It is irresponsible to punish a state for developing regulations when they were given inconsistent data. Right now, New York is required to take a 48% reduction in the summer flounder fishery. This will have a devastating economic effect on the marine recreational fishing industry in New York and impact on the quality of life for recreational anglers. If this happened in New Jersey the impact would be even more devastating and I am not sure what actions we would need to take. We just can't use the Marine Recreational Statistical Survey to do quota management. It was not designed for this task and continues to create problems throughout the system. We are encountering the same problems in scup, sea bass, tautog and any other species that uses this data.

### **Some More Comment about Fisheries Science** *July 2004*

Menakhem Ben-Yami is a fisheries Management and Development Advisor from Israel. I communicate with him through a message board that includes people from around the world. He sent me this email and I wanted to share it with you. Pay particular attention to #5 where he discusses the peer review process. I have been saying the same thing for years. I mentioned to Menakhem that he did not include recreational fishing in his definitions. He

replied that most of the countries he deals with pay little attention to recreational fishing.

### **Article from Menakhem Ben-Yami** *(appeared on Fishfolk)*

I think that it might be useful to recall some definitions that we discussed here several years ago:

1. Fishery management is about maintaining the production of fish and the well-being of fish producers at sustainable levels.

2. Good assessment of the desired level of production (expressed either in the terms of input or output, or a combination of both), and of the production sector are necessary for successful management. The fishery science, as practiced today, may not be able in many cases to produce such assessment. It may be "the best available" but not necessarily adequate science.

3. Fisheries management is all about people. People are all it can manage, and people are those who either enjoy or suffer from its consequences, including depletion of fish stocks. Therefore, it cannot be feasible if it is perceived by fishing people as erroneous, wrong, unjust, etc. This is one more reason for fisheries managements' not working.

4. Choice of management strategy (by the authorities in charge) is in most cases political and economic. The two basic strategies are (1) favoring the existing fishing people and their communities, and (2) favoring larger and financially more efficient owners, which as a rule includes large corporations. Both strategies may eventually achieve similar fish yields, but each at different social and economic costs.

5. Within each strategy various technical / technological means can be adapted. Some of those are today criticized as based on inadequate, or just wrong science and assumptions. An example: selective fishing for only larger individuals in groundfish fisheries that, according to some scientists, leads to creation of stunted, starving populations of undersized, early and weak spawners, and, perhaps, genetic changes in those fish populations where genetically slower growers enjoy the selective fishing and bequeath this trait over an increasing share of the stock.

I think that another reason for having inadequate science in charge for so many years is that the "peer reviewing" of publications and scientific reports is being done by scientists, however independent, who come from the same discipline and the same,

prevailing school of thought as the authors. Thus, assessments made on the basis of statistical models are reviewed by statistical modelers, who obviously believe in their basic methodology, but not by scientists who may think that the whole existing modeling methodology cannot produce reliable results.

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

By Tom Fote

*(from JCAA September 2004 Newsletter)*

### **Summer Flounder**

Summer flounder stocks are rebuilding. The stocks are at one of the highest levels since 1986. The latest assessment indicates that the stock is not overfished but overfishing is occurring relative to the biological reference points detailed in Amendment 12. The fishing mortality rate estimated for 2002 is 0.29, a significant decline from the 1.32 estimated for 1994 and slightly above the threshold  $F$  of 0.26. In addition, total stock biomass has increased substantially since 1991 to 149 million pounds in 2003, 27% above the biomass threshold (117 million pounds). Spawning stock biomass has increased each year since 1993 to 109 million pounds in 2003, the highest value in the time series. There has been some discussion at previous meetings about the exact appropriate reference points. We set 106,000 metric tons as the target that would show we were totally rebuilt by 2010. This affects the probability tables and determines the guidelines for the total allowable catch for each year. By using a .25 probability we would be at only 96,000 metric tons by 2010. By using .5 probability we would be at 99,000 metric tons by 2010. If we use .75 probability we would be at 106,000 metric tons by 2010. We used .25 until 1998 and the stocks were rebuilding. In 1998 we began using .5 and the results were terrific. Continuing to use .5 will get us close and may actually produce the target of 106,000 metric tons. Using .75 is a more conservative measure. Under .5 our total allowable catch for 2005 would have been 32.6 million pounds. Using .75 reduces our total allowable catch to 30.3 million pounds, a difference of 2.3 million pounds. If we used .5 we would have had 900,000 pounds more for the recreational sector. At this meeting, for the first time, the total allowable catch was decided for two years, 2005 and 2006. This extends the .75 probability for 2006 as well. In 2006 instead of a total allowable catch of 35.5 million pounds, the total allowable catch will be 33 million

pounds. New Jersey argued that we should continue to check these reference points and rebuilding schedule. The council agreed for 2005. New Jersey also argued that we should not set a 2 year catch limit. The council declined to revisit the 2006 total allowable catch.

New Jersey has always been conservative on summer flounder. But the lag time of the stock assessment and the underestimation of the recruitment resulted in underestimating total stock and the recovery. The curves are going up dramatically every year. We have seen how difficult it is for states, including New York, to stay within the total allowable catch and the dramatic economic problems that occur when states exceed the total allowable catch. If we keep underestimating the stock available for harvest, more states will go over total allowable catch and pay drastic economic costs. The other problem when the total allowable catch is set so low and we set high size limits in the recreational fishery is that the recreational discard mortality continues to rise dramatically. It is a shame we are wasting a lot of fish and we need to address that problem.

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

By Tom Fote

*(from JCAA September 2005 Newsletter)*

### **Summer Flounder**

2005 has been an interesting year for fisheries management. In 2004, the National Marine Fisheries Services told us that summer flounder biomass and spawning stocks were increasing. NMFS also told us that recruitment has been average or above average in recent years. In 2004 the measured biomass was the highest recorded in the last 20 years. With this information in hand, NMFS and ASMFC set the quotas for 2005/2006. The quota for 2005 was about 30 million pounds and the quota set for 2006 was over 33 million pounds. SURPRISE, SURPRISE! When NMFS stock assessment ran the models with the most recent data, the assessment team said that all the earlier predictions were true but, when running the virtual population analysis, we are failing to meet the goals set for the ten year rebuilding period. The NMFS is telling us that even though all the indicators suggest the stocks are continuing to improve at a good rate, this improvement does not meet the expectations of their models. Remember, when ASMFC and NMFS set the goals for 2005 and 2006, they used 75% probability. This is the highest probability of

## Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Tom Fote

(from JCAA December 2005 Newsletter)

### Summer Flounder

Here is the bad news on summer flounder. NMFS is going to set the quota at 23.59 million pounds. This will be an extreme hardship on the both the recreational and commercial fishing industry. Our only hope is that the states get some backbone but I do not hold out high hope for that. The joint meeting of ASMFC and the MAFMC will take place on December 7th. I have included that agenda below as well as the press release on the quota and the link to the NMFS web page. I will be attending that meeting and so should you. It will take place at Trump Plaza Hotel, Mississippi and the Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ 08403 (telephone 609-441-6000).

At the end of NMFS press release they include the fact that they have no data to indicate this change will produce any negative economic impact to the industry. The only way they can make that claim is because they never did any economic study. I don't care how dumb you are, if you cut the quota by 7 million pounds there will be a dramatic effect on both the commercial and recreational fishing industries. The greatest impact will be on the recreational industry since summer flounder is one of the most important recreational fisheries throughout the Mid-Atlantic states. A cut of 7 million pounds will be worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Only in fisheries can we get away with either ignoring or refusing to accumulate economic data. This would not happen in mining, forestry or any of the other natural resources. But the President through the Department of Commerce, NOAA, and the National Marine Fisheries Service have proven that the fishing industry is treated as a second-class citizen.

The real crime is that the average angler no longer believes in NMFS. They don't believe in MRFS and now we have proven they shouldn't believe in the stock assessment. At the summer flounder meeting in Atlantic City, Tom Siciliano pointed out that with a 30 or 40:1 ratio to get a keeper, the recreational anglers are catching almost every existing summer flounder in the water just to get a keeper to take home. We know that is absurd and we also know NMFS must be completely

success we have used in 10 years. Yet now the models say we're wrong. As a result of this change, NMFS is telling ASMFC and the Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Management Council to reduce the 2006 total allowable catch for summer flounder from 33 million pounds to just over 23 million pounds.

The impact of this change will be devastating to both the recreational and commercial fishing industries from Massachusetts to North Carolina. Economically it will have the greatest impact on the recreational fishing industry by raising size limits, establishing smaller bag limits and shortening the season. This means less time to fish and less money spent at all the recreational businesses. This also means fewer fish for people to take home to eat. If this reduction is fully implemented, the recreational community will take home fewer summer flounder in 2006 than in 1994 when the stocks and quota were considerably lower. The successful angler will take home a bigger fish but the number of anglers taking home fish will be much smaller. In 1994 with a 14 inch size limit, anglers who fished off docks, piers and in the bays were able to take home fish to eat. In 2006 we may see size limits of 18 inches and above. It will be very difficult for anglers who fish off docks and piers and in the bays to catch a summer flounder that meets these size limit regulations. These anglers were never the ones who caused the collapse of the summer flounder stock but NMFS and ASMFC are making them pay the greatest price. And most disappointing is that NMFS and ASMFC don't seem to care that poor and subsistence fishermen will be shut out of the summer founder fishery.

What can we do? We should demand that ASMFC stand up to NMFS and maintain the quota already approved for 2006, 33 million pounds. You must contact the three commissioners from your state and let them know how you feel. You should also contact the governor of your state and demand that he or she direct the governor's appointee and state director to do whatever is necessary to maintain the already approved quota for 2006. Go to the ASMFC website and find the names of your state's commissioners.

**HAVE FUN TEACH  
SOMEONE TO FISH**

underestimating the total stock. However, no one is listening.

I know the three commissioners from New Jersey will not support going to 23.59 million pounds. They realize that this is totally absurd and will have the guts to tell the truth and vote accordingly. They also know the recreational and commercial communities are watching and will not tolerate any support for this reduction. If past history repeats itself, other state commissioners will kowtow to NMFS and vote in favor of the plan. Remember, New Jersey was the only state in 1998 that voted against decreasing the quota by a few million pounds just to placate a few environmental groups.

It is important for you to contact Dr. William Holgarth and explain your opposition to this lunatic proposal by December 2nd . It is also important to contact your three commissioners and make sure they know how you feel before the December 7th meeting. Two of your state's commissioners are appointed by the Governor and you should write to him or her as well and let him know how you feel. You can find out who represents your state by going to the ASMFC webpage. We should also contact our congressional delegation. The last time something this absurd was considered, Congressmen Saxton and Pallone sponsored a hearing and were able to force NMFS to reconsider. We will need their help again. You should also contact President Bush. He appointed these people and is ultimately responsible for their decisions. Let him know how unhappy you are and how detrimental this proposal will be to the overall economy of your state.

## **MAFMC Seeks Input from Recreational Fishermen**

*By Paul Haertel*

On behalf of the JCAA, I attended the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council's Recreational Focus Group meeting which was held on 12/2 and 12/3 in Baltimore, Maryland. Approximately forty recreational fishermen from various states within the Mid-Atlantic region were also in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to diversify the involvement of the recreational fishing community in the Council management process. Objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- To enhance the recreational community's understanding of the regulatory process, focusing on the recreational summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries;
- To gather perspectives from the recreational community on their engagement in the Council process, including clear steps that the Council can take to improve communication;
- To increase awareness of the Council's Visioning Process, and support the recreational community's participation in creating a vision for the future of Mid-Atlantic fisheries; and
- To identify and communicate different perspectives on the regulatory options and tradeoffs for managing the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass recreational fisheries. The workshop consisted of a number of topics where input from recreational fishermen was solicited. Topics included asking about the public's perspective on fisheries management and how to improve communication with recreational fishermen as well as how recreational regulations are set for various species but with an emphasis on fluke, sea bass and scup which are known locally as pogies.

The MAFMC also discussed their Visioning Project and how the public can participate through various on-line surveys. There is a general survey as well as fishery specific ones. You can complete the multiple choice questions in just a few minutes but there are various optional sections where you may provide written comments which will take more time. This is where you have an opportunity to request better scientific data, an eco-system approach to fisheries management, relaxed rules and regulations for fisheries that are rebuilt, a higher percentage of the fluke quota that currently favors the commercial sector 60%-40%, or anything else you desire. It is refreshing to see that fisheries managers were willing to put together a project like this that was probably somewhat costly and time consuming in order to get input from recreational fishermen. I believe they are sincere in their effort and I encourage fishermen who care about the future of our fisheries to get involved by taking the general and fishery specific surveys on line at [www.mafmc.org/vision](http://www.mafmc.org/vision) no later than 1/31/2012.

## 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 November 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

## Show Time By Mark Taylor

With another good year coming to an end and fishermen are getting their last shot at some last minute fishing before winterizing their boat, then a cooled winter season starts and we all start to winterize our tackle and start thinking of what we need to get for the start of the new fishing season. A few great places to get those supplies are the local tackle stores and the upcoming shows. JCAA will have a booth at a few of the shows before the fishing season starts. So stop by and talk to the volunteers that are manning the booth and get the latest JCAA Newsletter and take a chance on the High Roller Raffle and help support JCAA. By attending the shows and visiting all the booths, talking with tackle manufactures and vendors is a great way to help support all those people that make up the sport you love. Without all those people working together we will not be able to enjoy this sport in the future. Hope to see you all at the Shows. JCAA is looking for volunteers to work the booths. So if you are interested, please contact Mark Taylor at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com). JCAA is committed to the following ones so far:

- Garden State Sportsmen Show on January 12th-15th
- Atlantic City Boat Show on February 1st-5th
- NJ's Salt Water Sportsman on February 11th

If you have already volunteered please send me an email so I don't miss anyone.

## New Jersey Outdoor Alliance Report By John Toth

On behalf of the JCAA, I attended a November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) and the following issues were discussed.

NJOA Board member Pete Grimbilas indicated that one of the main goals for the NJOA in 2012 is to increase NJOA membership. The NJOA will reach out to prospective new members at the upcoming hunting/fishing shows like the Raritan show scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>.

NJOA Executive Director Anthony Mauro reported that it takes money to be a "Player" in

Trenton for lobbying efforts and influencing legislators to sign on to our hunting and fishing initiatives. The NJOA is going to implement a \$10 membership fee so that more hunters and anglers will join this organization and raise the needed funds for the NJOA to pursue its goals. It is felt that more hunters and anglers will sign on to NJOA membership at \$10 than say at a \$25 or higher membership fee. The new \$10 membership fee will be first promoted at the upcoming Raritan show.

The Traps Off The Reef Bill – generated a lengthy discussion and NJOA frustration over its lack of posting for a vote in the Assembly by Assemblyman Albano and Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver who has not met with the NJOA on this issue in spite of the NJOA asking her for such a meeting on several occasions. Approximately 53 out of 80 members of the Assembly have signed on to support this legislation and Sheila Oliver will not bring it to a vote due to pressure from the commercial industry and their allies in the First District such as Assemblyman Albano. Incredibly, he has signed on to support the Pot Bill, but he will not push to bring it to a vote in the Assembly! Is it any wonder why the public has such a low opinion of politicians like Albano who gives the appearance of supporting a bill but has no intention of passing it.

There has been some discussion (rumor) about a compromise in the works on the Pot Bill and a possible vote for passage in the Assembly before the end of the year during its Lame Duck session. Bills sometime get a new life and may become very altered from their original posting during the Lame Duck session of the legislature. Pete Grimbilas indicated that the NJOA will be closely watching what, if anything, comes up in Trenton on the Pot Bill since we do not want to be stuck with a Pot Bill that does not remove the pots that NJOA members have been trying so hard to achieve. Also, there is a possibility that the HOFNOD bill may come up for passage in the Lame Duck session.

If the Pot Bill is **not** passed during the Lame Duck session, the Pot Bill will have to be again submitted through the legislature like it is a complete new bill with new senate and assembly numbers. Anthony Mauro indicated that if this does happen, the NJOA members will **NOT** give up on the Pot Bill and the NJOA will continue to pursue its passage no matter how long and difficult it will take to get this bill passed. Senator Smith indicated that

if the Pot Bill is not passed this time, he will introduce it in the Senate's new session for 2012.

Board member Jerry Natale indicated that the NJOA will be participating in a number of shows during the winter months and he is looking for volunteers to staff the NJOA booth. The first show is the Raritan show (Edison, NJ) that will be held during January 12-15, 2012.

Beach access is an ongoing problem and the fishing community still has not seen the new regulations on access by NJ's DEP even though a number of meetings have been held by the DEP to hear the comments by anglers. The NJOA will continue to monitor this issue.

Senator Robert Menendez was the keynote speaker at the JCAA's annual Sportsperson of the Year dinner and he was well received by the attendees. Congressman Frank Pallone also made a brief attendance at the dinner and commented on the poor information that is used to develop our fishing quotas.

## Highly Migratory Species Report

*By John Koegler*

### ICCAT Report

In an unusual report the November 2011 ICCAT meeting agreed on a large number of important issues. How many countries will observe and impose ICCAT rules on their fishermen is a major question. Based on past experience they will be totally ignored by most ICCAT members except the US, Canada and Mexico. Japan claims they strictly observe ICCAT rules but their reporting verses observed and satellite data leaves that in doubt.

Strict ICCAT quota rules were to be imposed on Mediterranean landings in 2011. At the last minute the ICCAT chairman delayed imposition of this new quota based management on Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna Fishermen. I could find no comment in their 2011 report about when and if ICCAT bluefin tuna quotas would be finally imposed on the Mediterranean bluefin fishery!

Without that quota agreement on a fishery that has taken 35 years to write and now has an unknown future date for its imposition, ICCAT is just a make believe fishery management organization with all their agreements being just words.

## Sharks and Catch Shares!!

NMFS published on Sept. 16, 2011 a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and fishery management plan amendment that would consider catch share for the Atlantic shark fisheries. The comment period ends on March 1, 2012. There will be 5 regional meetings to cover this issue. The local meeting will be held in Barnegat, NJ on January 12, 2012 from 6:00-9:00 PM at Barnegat Branch Library, 112 Burr St., Barnegat, NJ 08005. This is the mainland Barnegat.

Based on their notice an entire new set of rules will be applied to those fishing this resource. The notice ignores recreational fishermen but you can be sure that new rules will be applied to all fishermen fishing for larger sharks since this is an amendment to the 2006 Consolidated HMS FMP. Anglers once enjoyed a great shark fishery but commercial over fishing has decimated the number of sharks remaining.

Anglers has been eliminated from keeping most large sharks, either because specified sharks are catch and release only or not available to recreational fishermen because they might not be able to tell the difference between Dusky Sharks which are endangered and Sandbar sharks which have a similar skin color and shape. But the commercial fishery continues because of NMFS incompetence and their totally ignoring the known proven fact that NO shark species can survive a directed commercial fishery. Now after this fishery has been destroyed NMFS wants to impose tighter regulations.

It is a good idea that anglers attend this meeting so more new impossible rules are applied only to them.

## Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series Brings its 25th Anniversary Tour to the Jersey Shore!

For Immediate Release  
Contact: 1-800-448-7360

Salt Water Sportsman's National Seminar Series – the nation's premier educational seminar on recreational marine fishing tactics, will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> year of touring with a stop at the Jersey Shore on Saturday, February 11. The 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. event will be held inside the Performing Arts Theater at Monmouth High School (1 Norman J. Field Way, Tinton Falls, 07724). The presentation will be hosted by **George Poveromo** – Host of George

Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on VERSUS, and Editor-At-Large for Salt Water Sportsman, and **Gary Caputi** – Offshore Editor for Salt Water Sportsman.

Joining Poveromo and Caputi will be "**Crazy**" **Alberto Knie** – Innovative trophy striped bass fishing authority who also excels at catching trophy fluke and blackfish; **Captain Ken "Big Kid" Gallop** – Distinguished shark and tuna fishing pro and expert at catching trophy striped bass and fluke; **Captain Steve Purul** – Noted striped bass, fluke, and wreck fishing authority who runs Reel Fantasea Fishing Charters from Barnegat; **Captain Gene Nigro** – Veteran Sandy Hook inshore specialist who excels at catching striped bass and fluke aboard his Phantom Charters; **Captain Jimmy Price** – North Carolina's premier trophy flounder fishing authority and innovative light tackle angler; **Bill Carson** – Noted striped bass and wreck-fishing expert; **Captain John Oughton** – Renowned Ocean City, Maryland-based tuna and white marlin expert aboard his charter vessel "That's Right"; and **Captain Joe Trainor** – Noted expert at fishing the canyons off the Northeast aboard the charter vessel Over Under.

"New Jersey has always been a popular and fun stop on the National Seminar Series, right from the very beginning 25 years ago." says George Poveromo. "We are thrilled to bring this special edition seminar here, and conduct an information-packed and entertaining day. The amount of cutting edge information dispatched by our faculty teams borders on the incredible. And with our line up of leading national and regional angling authorities, it's hard to leave the seminar without learning something new, despite an angler's level of experience. The fact that we've been touring going on 25 years now is the greatest endorsement to the amount of how to and where to information contained within the Seminar Series, and the quality in which we dispatch and reinforce that information to the audience."

Courses for the February 11 presentation will focus on Trophy stripers on ultra-light tackle; Live-lining for trophy stripers; Top trolling tactics for stripers; Secrets of fishing Raritan, Sandy Hook, Silver and Barnegat Bays; Flutter-jigging for stripers and bluefish; Sure-fire weakfish tactics; Chunking for bluefish; Bluefish on surface lures; Inshore wire-line techniques; Jetty tactics; How to catch more and bigger fluke; Targeting trophy fluke; Cutting-edge fluke tactics; Southern flounder tactics that will take



## Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

more and bigger Jersey fluke; Top tactics for big blackfish; Catching blackfish by the score; Variety fishing in and around inlets; How to locate and fish productive bottom (blackfish, sea bass, spot and fluke); Back-bay stripers; Can't-miss tuna-trolling patterns; Cutting-edge tuna chunking tactics; Live-baiting for tunas; Advanced methods for bluefin and yellowfin tuna; Zeroing in on big eye tuna; Flutter-jigging for tuna; How to choose, rig and fish the best lures and natural baits for tuna; Tournament winning offshore trolling tactics; Subsurface offshore trolling tactics; Cutting edge spreader bar and dredge tactics; Secrets for catching more inshore tuna; Reading water temperature charts; Targeting trophy makos; Basic and advanced sharking techniques; Offshore kite fishing for sharks and tuna.

A ticket to the Seminar Series costs \$55.00, and includes a course textbook, one year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman, one Roffers Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, one bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, one spool of Sufix fishing line, one bottle of Star Tron Fuel Treatment, \$20 off on any purchase of \$150 or more from Capt. Harry's Fishing Supply, and chances to win thousands of dollars worth of door prizes.

At the conclusion of the Jersey Shore seminar, there will be a drawing for a chance to win an incredible Bahamas bonefishing excursion to the Bimini Sands Resort and Marina. The drawing will consist of the names of the attendees that day, and one lucky person will win the trip for two!

In addition, the names of all attendees from the 2012 National Seminar Series Tour will be entered into the drawing for the Super Grand Prize - a brand new Mako 184 Center Console! The drawing for the boat will take place one week after the completion of the final seminar on the tour, and one lucky winner will take home the boat.

For more information, and to order tickets on line, visit: [www.nationalseminarseries.com](http://www.nationalseminarseries.com). To order tickets by phone with a major credit card, call 1-800-448-7360.

Remember to order your tickets early, as this seminar sells out quickly!

## SUPPORT THE ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM

### FATHER TIME FISHING EXPO

Save the date. Father Time Fishing Environmental Expo will be held on Saturday, **January 21, 2012**, 9:30 a.m. till noon at the Bolger Middle School, 100 Palmer Pl., Keansburg, NJ. The JCAA Youth Education Committee will provide a special learning activity for children, prizes, and HOFNOD materials. If your fishing club would like to support this event, please contact Jeff Johnson [sumrwind@optonline.net](mailto:sumrwind@optonline.net) with a short description with your contact info or call Jeff at 732 787-2007 Ext 5833. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is looking for volunteers to support this event.

### WEBSITE RESOURCES

The following websites provide useful information for planning events and researching fishing equipment:

Places to fish and boat in New Jersey:

<http://www.takemefishing.org/fishing/select-a-state/places/state/NJ>

The Future Fisherman Foundation "Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs":

<http://www.futurefisherman.org>

Find out everything you want to know about fishing, Fishopedia:

<http://www.takemefishing.org/fishing/fishopedia/home>

Recreational Fishing and Boating Foundation Event Planning:

<http://www.rbff.org/page.cfm?pageID=47>

Sport Fish Restoration Program:

<http://www.rbff.org/page.cfm?pageID=321>

National Fishing and Boating Week:

<http://www.rbff.org/page.cfm?pageID=11>

Free Fishing Days by state:

<http://www.rbff.org/page.cfm?pageID=186>

Boating Safety for Kids, a website of fun activities for children:

<http://www.boatingsidekicks.com/kidsite/easy.htm>

Grant Information:

<http://www.futurefisherman.org/f3programs/physhed/grant-information/>

Boys and Girls Club Partnership:

<http://www.futurefisherman.org/f3programs/boys-girls-club-partnership/>

New Jersey Fish and Wildlife:

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/njregs.htm>

### **TRAIN THE TRAINERS SEMINAR VA**

**Press Release:** This is a good opportunity to receive HOFNOD training at reasonable rates.

The Future Fisherman Foundation and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Announce "Train the Trainers" Seminar. The next step in F3's commitment to train the trainers of aquatic education programs is Harrowgate Elementary School in Chester, Va., 15501 Harrowgate Rd. Chester, Va. 23831. The seminar begins at 9am, February 18-19, 2012. It's open to any organization. Interested applicants can go to the F3 web site, [www.futurefisherman.org](http://www.futurefisherman.org), to register. There's a \$20 registration fee which is refunded to those who complete the two-day program as a training/travel stipend. Also, applicants who complete a post event survey will receive a tackle package for their students. Stipend amounts vary, but typically anyone traveling more than 50 miles will receive \$150 to help defer hotel and travel costs, and those traveling within a 50 mile radius of the site will receive \$75. This seminar is open not only to teachers but also 4H leaders, Boy/Girls Scout Clubs and leaders, FFA members, and anyone interested in getting students involved with aquatic education. Learning the principles of successful programs like Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs will be the focus of this two-day seminar.

### **SPORTSMEN SHOWS**

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's, Youth Education Committee, will feature special youth education seminars at upcoming sportsmen shows. During the sportsmen show season, please stop by the JCAA booth and ask about how to start a school fishing club.

*If you would like to help with our youth education efforts and offer some of your time to teach children the joy of fishing, please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com).*

**PLEASE RENEW  
YOUR  
JCAA CLUB &  
INDIVIDUAL  
MEMBERSHIP**