

JCAA NEWSPAPER MAY 2012

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on April 19th, 2012)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, April 24th , 2012

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 10th, 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

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 908-913-0551 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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Tournament Dir.

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

April 24th JCAA General Meeting

April 30th-May 3rd ASMFC Meeting

May 10th JCAA Board Meeting

May 12th NJ Environmental Summit

May 16th-17th ASA Government Affairs

May 29th JCAA General Meeting

June 2nd JCAA Fluke Tournament \$120 Early entry Cut-Off

June 9th JCAA Fluke Tournament

June 15th JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony

2012 High Rollers Raffle

The 2012 JCAA High Rollers comes to an end on April 24th. The drawing will be at the JCAA General Meeting. Last Chance to buy tickets.. This is a major fundraiser for the JCAA. If you would like to buy raffle tickets call the JCAA office. 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*

JCAA's 18th Annual Fluke Tournament, June 9, 2012

With New Striped Bass Category!

By Paul Haertel

JCAA's 18th Annual Fluke Tournament will be held on June 9th, 2012. This year we will have a new striped bass category for those of you who might like to fish for both fluke and striped bass during this time of the year. However, contestants will have to enter the fluke tournament in order to be eligible to enter the optional striped bass category. Those who enter the striped bass category will be competing only against others who are fishing out of the same port. For this category, JCAA will pay out 60% of the money taken in from each port. The entrant weighing in the heaviest striped bass for each port will receive all the cash paid out for that particular port. The entry fee for the fluke tournament is \$120 provided payment is made by 6/2/12 and \$150 after 6/2/12. The optional striped bass category entrance fee is \$50. Entrance fees cover up to six anglers per boat.

Soon you should be receiving our mailing of this year's Fluke Tournament entry forms and High Roller Raffle tickets. Mark your calendar with these two important dates, **June 9th (Fluke Tournament)** and **June 15th (Awards Ceremony)**. Now is the time to get on your phone or get to the computer and start contacting your fishing buddies. Get your crew of up to six anglers onboard with these dates. These two dates mark opportunities to fish and win big! There are 120 port prizes available to be won on June 9th. That's twelve prizes for each of the ten ports ranging from Jersey City in the north to Fortescue in the south. Each port competes against its own registered boaters and serves as its own weigh station. The heaviest fluke weighed in at the ten ports will **win \$1,200 cash 1st Place Prize!** The remaining eleven prizes can be seen on our website.

Then there's the **\$5,000 to \$10,000 Grand Prize*** (*depending on the number of entries over 500). Winning the Grand Prize at the **June 15th Awards Ceremony** isn't determined by who weighs in the largest fluke, nor does it matter if your crew consisted of the most highly skilled or the least experienced anglers. The odds of winning this bundle of cash and door prizes are the same for one

and all. You will automatically be entered to win provided that you or one of your crew registers at the tables outside the Trump Marina Hotel Casino Grand Cayman Ballroom. Entry forms are available at jcaa.org.

President's Report

By Joseph Puntasecca

The 18th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament is in full swing. Mark your calendars for June 9th (fishing day) and June 15th (awards ceremony). New this year for the 18th Annual Fluke Tournament is the Optional Striped Bass Cash Category. With striped bass fishing getting off to a hot start this spring, don't forget to enter for an additional \$50 and cash in on this winner-take-all (per port) option! Just like the Fluke Tournament, entrants only compete against other entrants from their same port. JCAA will award the single largest striped bass in each port 60% of the entry fees taken in for that port. We also have an on-line entry for the Fluke Tournament where Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, eCheck and PayPal are all accepted. This year we have also added the option to purchase commemorative Tournament hats and t-shirts while entering on-line. Visit www.JCAA.org for complete Tournament details and entry.

JCAA needs the help of each and every member club to spread the word and promote the JCAA 18th Annual Fluke Tournament. Posters and entry forms will be available for distribution at the next General Meeting on April 24th. We also need you to spread the word about the new Optional Striped Bass Cash Category for this year's Fluke Tournament.

Get your raffle tickets in, the drawing for the High Roller Raffle, one of JCAA's major fundraisers, is coming up on April 24th at 7:30 PM in Brick, NJ! We have a great prize list once again this year. I would like to thank everyone who not only donated the prizes, but also supported JCAA in this fundraising event. Good luck to those who entered and congratulations to all the winners.

Calling all volunteers! JCAA cannot operate without volunteers and your help. Even if it is for just an hour here or there helping to get the mailings together for the Fluke Tournament, distributing flyers or volunteering on one of our committees. Volunteering also doesn't always require a trip to the

JCAA office. We now have audio conferencing for those who can't always make it to a committee or special meeting, allowing them to participate remotely. We have open committee seats for Access (central), Menhaden and others. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at 908-913-0551, jpuntasecca@jcaa.org or the JCAA office.

There is a NJMFC meeting coming up for both Black Sea Bass and Tautog. We will get information from that meeting out to the club representatives via e-mail. If you are not on our e-mail list and would like to be, please contact me at jpuntasecca@jcaa.org.

As we prepare for another season and some of us are rushing to get back in the water and in on the early return of striped bass, I would like to remind anglers to either register or renew their registration with NJ's Saltwater Recreational Registry Program (NJSRRP) at www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov. Registration is required each year and registration is quick, easy and FREE!

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

Pots Off the Reefs

The good news is the Pots Off the Reefs Bill has received a great deal of attention at the beginning of this legislative session. The Pots Off the Reefs Bill has been reintroduced both in the Senate and Assembly. The Senate Environment Committee Chairman Senator Bob Smith posted the Bill S1177 and it was moved out of the committee with only one negative vote. It has passed the full Senate with only 3 votes against it. Senators Gerald Cardinale, Michael Doherty and Jim Whelan all voted against the bill. Senators Jeff Van Drew and Kevin O'Tool did not vote. JCAA would like to thank Senate President Stephen Sweeney for posting S1177 so quickly and helping in its quick passage.

We no longer have to focus our attention on the Senate but need to focus all of our attention on the Assembly. We already have over 45 cosponsors in the Assembly for the companion bill A1343. Half the battle is done so we need to put the pressure on Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver to make sure that A1343 will be heard and posted for a vote. This is

the only bill that would allow for the use of the Sport Fish Restoration Fund to build artificial reefs. As reported in last month's newspaper, there is another bill introduced by Assemblyman Albano (A-2645) that is not acceptable. The only people that voted for this bill in Assemblyman Albano's committee were the Democratic members. Fortunately, Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver pulled the bill from the voting list for the full Assembly at the last minute. We appreciate Speaker Oliver's action and are hopeful the appropriate bill (A-1343) will receive the attention it needs.

The alternate bill (A-2645) is flawed in many ways. It is crucial to know that this bill (A-2645) is just a delaying tactic. Instead of accomplishing anything through legislation, it sends the problem to the NJ Marine Fisheries Council. The NJ Marine Fisheries Council has 5 commercial members and 4 recreational members. The last time the Council, because of its commercial majority, failed to resolve this problem but did drag its heels for 2 – 3 years. The Council could have addressed this issue at any time and we have no faith that will happen. We don't need another delay. That is all A-2645 does. The only sponsor for this bill is Assemblyman Albano and all the Republican members of his committee abstained. Assemblyman Albano did not attempt to meet with JCAA, Reef Rescue or NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs before presenting this bill. We hope this is one of the reasons Assembly Speaker Oliver pulled this bill before a vote.

Since this bill passed the Senate so quickly, we can give our full attention to the Assembly to guarantee the original bill (S-1177/A-1343) is finally passed. We need to make the problems with NJ reefs part of our history, not a current problem. Now we need to work with Assembly Speaker Oliver to help post and pass A-1343 which is the only bill that has the JCAA, Reef Rescue, NJOA, and all our member clubs support. Today, we need to demand that our local Assemblymen and women contact Speaker Oliver and support A-1343, the bill that a majority of the Assembly, both Democrats and Republicans cosponsor. If Assemblyman Albano is unwilling to post this bill in his committee, Speaker Oliver needs to move the bill to another committee or post it directly for a vote. It would also be appropriate to contact Speaker Oliver directly, thank her for pulling the alternative bill and ask for her

help in passage of A-1343. Sample letters will be posted on the JCAA webpage.

We also need to contact Governor Christie's Office and Commissioner Bob Martin at DEP. We need for the Governor and Commissioner to work with the Legislature to pass S-1177/A-1343. JCAA, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, Reef Rescue and NJ Dive Association have had discussions with the Commissioner and Legislators to move this bill. I know the Governor and Commissioner would like to accomplish this goal through regulation instead of legislation but until the inequities favoring the commercial fisheries in the structure of the NJ Marine Fisheries Council are addressed, we could work 2 more years and accomplish nothing. History proves that legislation is the only way to address certain issues in fisheries management. The Council cannot be trusted. Here is the new letter we are sending to Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver and a sample letter that you can send to your Assembly representative to join on as a cosponsor.

JCAA Letter to Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver

Dear Speaker Sheila Oliver:

Thank you for your action in withdrawing (A-2645) before a vote could be taken by the Assembly.

Now, JCAA is writing to request your support for Assembly and Senate Bills S1177/A1343 which prohibits the use of traps on artificial reefs. This legislation has 43 co-sponsors in the Assembly. You need to tell Assemblyman Nelson Albano to post this bill for a vote in his committee or move the bill to another committee. Then we want you to post it for a full vote in the Assembly. This bill was passed by the full Senate with only 3 no votes. Now is the time for the Assembly to pass this legislation. JCAA wants this legislation passed before the summer recess. JCAA and the fishing clubs throughout New Jersey will be watching your actions on this matter and we will be judging you and the Assembly on its action or inaction. Our members and 800,000 New Jersey anglers are in support of this issue.

New Jersey's artificial reef system is one of the nation's most successful reef building programs. Though it occupied just 0.3 percent of the sea floor off New Jersey's coast, a 2000 study by the state's Division of Fish and Wildlife revealed that 20 percent of New Jersey's recreationally landed fish come from the state's 15 reefs. As more and more

severe fisheries restrictions are placed on the more than 800,000 New Jersey anglers and the more than 500,000 out-of-state anglers who fish New Jersey's waters, the reef sites have become even more important to the state's recreational anglers, tourism and jobs. In the case of summer flounder, aka fluke, the reefs are the best opportunity for most recreational anglers who target fluke to catch one that meets the new minimum size of 17.5 inches.

This fishing effort provides a tremendous trickle-down economic effect in both shore and inland communities, as these anglers support marinas, boat liveries, bait and tackle stores, fuel stations, restaurants, convenience stores, sporting goods stores, toll highways, hotels/motels, real estate rentals, etc. These considerations add \$4 billion to New Jersey's economy, \$150,000 in sales taxes, and provide for 37,000 jobs.

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

After our contact with you last year, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the Wallop-Breaux Funds, ordered New Jersey to cease using \$250,000 in Sport Fish Restoration Funds for artificial reefs. Until New Jersey passes legislation to resolve this issue, New Jersey cannot use any Wallop-Breaux money for artificial reefs and may be required to repay money used for previous use projects. The responsibility for the shutdown of the artificial reef program lies with the Assembly, a program that has been in existence for 20 years.

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

Delaware found itself in the same situation as New Jersey but their Legislature responded with legislation. Delaware has now petitioned the Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council to remove pots from their reefs in Federal waters as well. Delaware's artificial reef program never ceased due

to their quick action in solving this problem. Their recreational fishermen have unrestricted access to the reefs in state waters and may soon have the same unrestricted access to the reefs in Federal waters as well. New Jersey's recreational anglers deserve the same treatment.

The issues are clear and the precedent has been set: Traps are not compatible with the purpose or the laws governing New Jersey's artificial reefs. JCAA looks forward to your support in enforcing this mandate and voting for Bill S1177/A1343. If you have any questions, please contact our legislative chairman, Tom Fote, at 732-270-9102 or tfote@jcaa.org.

Sincerely,
YOUR NAME

Letter to your Assemblyman/woman

Dear _____ (Your Assemblyman or woman):

We are asking for you to join 43 of your colleagues and co-sponsor Assembly and Senate Bills S1177/A1343. This bill has already passed the Senate. The attached letter to Assembly Speaker Oliver states the reasons this bill is crucial to the recreational fishing community. We are asking you to let Speaker Oliver know that you support this legislation and want it voted on in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee or moved to another committee. Then you want Speaker Oliver to post it for a vote by the entire Assembly. We are asking you to also contact Assemblyman Albano, Chairman of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee to request his immediate action to post this bill. Jersey Coast Anglers Association, our member clubs and the 800,000 recreational anglers want this legislation passed before the summer recess. Since the Senate has passed this bill in four sessions and the Assembly has refused to post this bill for a vote, we clearly know that the problem is in the Assembly. We will be watching and hold you accountable for your action or inaction.

Sincerely,
YOUR NAME

**SIGN UP FOR JCAA
ALERTS AT
www.JCAA.org**

Howard Lab Closing

April 12th was a beautiful day to be outdoors at Sandy Hook. I began the morning with Senator Menendez and Tim Dillingham from the American Littoral Society for a presentation on the importance of recreational tagging. Tim explained the American Littoral Society's long-standing tagging program which is certified by NMFS that helps supply information for stock assessment. The tagging program has helped prove the migratory patterns of many species. I explained the importance of all the recreational tagging programs including Berkeley Striper Club that supply information to the NMFS that is free. The cost is paid by the members of the groups involved in these tagging programs. I also explained that programs run by respected groups like Woods Hole Laboratory and many state agencies provide reliable and valued data that would otherwise be cost prohibitive. Since I was not warned that waders and a fishing pole were required, I watched while Senator Menendez and Tim Dillingham tried their luck with striper fishing at Sandy Hook.

This was followed by a press conference at the Howard Lab at Sandy Hook. The speakers were Senators Menendez and Lautenberg, Congressman Pallone, Marie Howard (daughter of Congressman Jim Howard), Cindy Zipf (representing Clean Ocean Action) and me. The consensus of the speakers was that the Howard Lab is a unique, vital resource that cannot be closed. It would be impossible to duplicate the services at any other facility. Our legislators pledged to use their influence to keep the lab open. They indicated some of the unique facilities, including the 32 foot tank that is unavailable at any other facility for bluefish and other fin fish research. One of the reasons for the ongoing cost of the lab was the inclusion of these tanks at NOAA's insistence. New Jersey put in the up-front money through a bond issue which will be paid in 2013, dramatically reducing the operational costs. In doing a web search I found an interesting source of information. Most towns now have Patch. Many of the local coastal towns had information about the lab and the Middletown Patch was rerunning a great video celebrating the 50th anniversary of the lab. Here is the link <http://middletown-nj.patch.com/articles/howard-laboratory-marks-a-milestone#video-7851400>

Marie Howard talked about her late father Jim Howard's love of fishing and the NJ coast. When the lab burned down in 1985, Congressman Howard made it his mission to rebuild a lab that could provide the most efficient scientific research for the next 50 years. His vision lives on at the Howard Lab and we cannot afford to lose this valuable resource. Marlene Howard, Congressman Howard's widow, attended the press conference and tour. She and I discussed Congressman Howard's vision for the ending of ocean dumping and other coastwide issues. Now I understand why Congressman Howard's district (frequently called the fish hook) reflected his love of all things aquatic.

In my remarks, I pointed out how humbled I was by my presence at this press conference. The Howard Lab is a model for scientific research and the people who work there are my science heroes. The three legislators in attendance are the best protectors of the ocean and its resources anywhere in this country. I also pointed out that all of the reviews in the New York Bight area are done at the lab. If these services were removed from the lab, the expense of recreating them elsewhere would be prohibitive and the loss of expertise would be critical. The recreational and commercial fishing communities need to work together to guarantee that one of the most important laboratories for ocean and fisheries research in the Mid-Atlantic region is not closed.

Actions to take:

- Sign the Clean Ocean Petition online at [this link](#).
- Write President Obama to express your concern and explain why the lab must stay open.
- Write your Congressmen/women from both New York and New Jersey to ask for their support.

Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs moves in Senate and Assembly

Nothing has happened since I ran the update below last month since the Assembly and the Senate are not holding committee hearings and voting sessions while the budget hearings are going on.

Reprinted from last month's JCAA Newspaper

The Senate Bill S178 and the Assembly Bill A638 that establishes the Hooked on Fishing-Not on

Drugs Program in DEP and appropriates \$200,000 from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund passed out of the Senate Environmental & Energy Committee and the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee respectively with unanimous votes. It was voted out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee and was given a second reading with amendments. It now needs to be voted on by the full Assembly. In the Senate it needs to be posted and voted on in the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. This committee has historically been the bottleneck. It is usually the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee that has failed to take action. We have several sponsors for the bill who are on that Committee. We need to write to Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, to the members of the Senate Committee and especially the sponsors, to make sure this bill is given a hearing in the Senate Committee. We are hopeful that Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver will post this bill for a vote by the full Assembly. This is the fourth session this bill has been considered but never passed by both houses. You need to reach out to your elected officials in support of this bill.

National Ocean Policy

After the two Oceans Commissions, President Bush and Congress decided there should be a national ocean policy. The President proposed establishing a National Oceans Council. Both this Congress and the previous one have been unable to pass legislation making this a reality. President Obama continued the process. JCAA has expressed concerns at numerous meetings beginning during the Bush Administration. Our concern has been the establishment of an additional bureaucracy created to manage the ocean. Tom Siciliano, Bruce Freeman, Bruce Smith and I attended meetings at Monmouth University including one a field hearing on the draft. When the draft was published, Bruce Freeman wrote a letter expressing the JCAA position. The entire letter was included in a previous newspaper. I have included two key paragraphs below.

The Plan indicates that ESM is a comprehensive big picture approach to resource management with its actions supported by science. Based upon our state of knowledge today and what is needed to understand the complex interrelationships of the biological world, considerably more scientific studies will be needed. The Plan states that no new

bureaucracy will be created and any necessary operating funds will come from the existing federal budget. Nevertheless, we see that the FY 2013 budget calls for the elimination of existing programs to monitor water quality, end cooperating programs with coastal states and interstate fishery commissions, and close federal fishery laboratories critical to understanding the relationships of the biological world. What the Plan advocates as a critical need and what we see occurring seems diametrically opposed. How will the Ocean Council address this issue?

The Plan gives little mention of how the public will be directly involved in any sort of advisory capacity. It is our experience that public advisors are important to federal fishery programs. Public advisors play an important role in both interstate fishery commissions as well as federal councils. Will such advisors be part of the NOC, and if so, what is the process?

It seems the comments we have made have been ignored. The National Ocean Council has gone far beyond what was proposed in the draft that we commented on. It appears the Council will be a new bureaucracy that is unnecessary. As we have stated time and time again, it appears commercial and recreational fishermen have been ignored. With the tightness of money for fisheries and ocean research, this is not the time to redirect our efforts and our limited resources into creating an additional bureaucracy that seems misguided from inception. The President needs to rethink this proposal. For a variety of reasons, many diverse groups are opposed to establishment of the National Ocean Council as currently proposed. We will be working with our Congressional delegation to deal with this problem.

ASMFC Week April 30th - May 3rd

As you can see from the schedule, this will be another busy week at the ASMFC meeting in Alexandria, VA. On Monday there will also be a Mid-Atlantic Council hearing on Draft Amendment 14. Chris Zeman has written an article for this newspaper explaining Amendment 14. There has been considerable time allocated for menhaden to review the public information so an amendment can be prepared for public hearing. The Sturgeon Board will deal with the fallout from the listing of Atlantic Sturgeon on the endangered species list by the

NMFS. It is interesting that the listing of Atlantic Sturgeon as an endangered species was not supported by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Councils or the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The fifteen states along the coast are attempting to decide on what actions will be required and how this will be funded. The funding in New Jersey could be greater than the current Marine Fisheries budget. If you cannot be in attendance, sign up for the comprehensive releases that are sent out by ASMFC. Go to their webpage to review the material for the species that are of importance to you.

April 30, 2012

1:00 - 3:00 PM Atlantic Herring Section
3:15 - 5:15 PM American Lobster Management Board
5:30 - 7:00 PM MAFMC Public Hearing on Draft Amendment 14

May 1, 2012

8:30 - 10:00 AM Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Law Enforcement Committee
10:15 - 11:45 AM American Eel Management Board
1:00 - 2:00 PM South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board
2:15 - 4:45 PM Shad & River Herring Management Board
5:00 - 6:00 PM Executive Committee
6:30 - 8:00 PM Annual Awards of Excellence Reception

May 2, 2012

8:30 - Noon Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
1:15 - 3:15 PM Sturgeon Management Board
3:30 - 6:00 PM ISFMP Policy Board

May 3, 2012

8:30 - 10:30 AM Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Management Board
10:45 - 11:45 AM Horseshoe Crab Management Board
11:45 AM - 12:15 PM ISFMP Policy Board
12:15 - 12:30 PM Business Session
1:00 - 3:00 PM Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program

NOAA has yet to Explain Sandy Hook Marine Lab Moving Costs

By Kirk Moore, Asbury Park Press, 4/13/2012

SANDY HOOK — Nearly two months after revealing a plan to close the James J. Howard Marine Laboratory, top officials with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have yet to explain how much it would cost to relocate scientists and their projects to other sites in Connecticut and Maryland, Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., D-N.J., said Wednesday.

NOAA leaders say much of that work can be done elsewhere, but Pallone said NOAA admits it will give up some assets at the Howard lab — including its signature 32,000-gallon saltwater tank, an aquarium used to study fish behavior and the largest of its kind on the East Coast.

The saltwater tank was a centerpiece of the design when NOAA and New Jersey collaborated to rebuild the lab after a devastating 1985 fire. New Jersey still owns the lab building that opened in 1993, and the 20-year building bond will be paid off in 2013.

New Jersey rents the lab to NOAA and closing it would save the agency \$2.8 million in rent, at a time when NOAA is scrambling to find more money for its satellite programs, agency managers have said.

But lab supporters point out the rent includes \$1.18 million to pay back the 1993 construction bond — in effect, a mortgage that will be paid off next year. New Jersey paid to build the state-of-the-art lab building in a joint venture with NOAA and supporters say the state can re-negotiate a more favorable lease next year. “We’re working very closely with the governor’s office on this,” Pallone said.

Pallone and Sens. Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez, both D-N.J., spoke at what was billed as a press conference and tour of the Howard lab, which took on the trappings of a rally as supporters from local environmental and fishing groups made up most of a crowd of 150. Several carried signs, such as “JUST SAY NOAA TO CLOSING THE HOWARD LAB.”

New Jersey’s senators pledged to seek permanent funding in Congress to keep the lab open and prohibit the NOAA from any further attempt to close the lab.

We really need the permanence of legislation to preserve what’s here,” said Cynthia A. Zipf, the executive director of Clean Ocean Action the Sandy Hook-based environmental group.

Zipf recalled how as a youngster “I wanted to be a marine biologist. I wanted to be Jacques Cousteau.” While a student at the University of Rhode Island, Zipf scored a summer internship at Howard, working as a “lab rat” alongside scientists studying the potential effects of offshore oil drilling on fish.

“I wanted to use that science in an advocacy role,” Zipf said. It was science coming out of the Howard lab that helped put an end to ocean dumping, and will be critical to future problems like saving the newly-endangered Atlantic sturgeon, Menendez said. Closing the lab would be a loss to the nation as a whole, and “we cannot allow a national treasure to close,” he said.

Pallone, who quizzed NOAA administrator Jane Lubchenco and her assistant Eric Schwaab at a congressional hearing, said he got no explanation of moving costs then and has not heard anything new since.

Lab supporters say that without looking at moving costs, it’s impossible to tell whether closing the Sandy Hook lab really saves any money. The closest estimate that lab advocates have in a 1985 NOAA document, which back then looked at moving the lab to Rhode Island rather than rebuilding from the fire.

Moving costs then were estimated at \$2 million to \$3 million — around \$4 million to \$6 million in 2012 dollars.

“There’s been no numbers, clearly no thoughtful analysis of what the real costs will be,” said Tim Dillingham of the American Littoral Society, an ocean conservation group that has a decades-old relationship with the lab.

NOAA officials are “under tremendous pressure to fund the satellite program, and fund it quickly,” Dillingham added. “The state has a lot of decision making power here. I can’t imagine it’s in the state’s interest to have an empty lab on Sandy Hook.”

“This team is going to resist,” said Lautenberg, who sits on a Senate committee that allocates spending money for NOAA. “Ocean life and health are under assault, and this lab is our early-warning system.”

Just months after the lab celebrated its 50th anniversary, NOAA officials announced plans to close it, and move its research and jobs to older NOAA labs at Milford, Conn., and Oxford, Md.

With its aquarium and lab system for studying ocean acidification, and central position between an urban coast and the deep sea, the Howard lab is unique among NOAA facilities, backers said.

“I was astonished that anyone would close” such a valuable asset, said Frank Steimle, a fisheries biologist who retired from the lab after a career that included linking ocean dumping to toxins in fish. Steimle said he can't believe NOAA managers seriously think they can get the same work done “in Chesapeake Bay and Long Island Sound backwaters. This is where the action is.”

Lautenberg, Menendez, Pallone Visit NOAA's Howard Lab at Sandy Hook, Fight to Keep It Open

Office of Senator Frank R. Lautenberg,
April 12th, 2012 - 4:56pm

NEWARK, NJ — Today, U.S. Senators Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and U.S. Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ-6) toured the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) James J. Howard lab in Sandy Hook to highlight its importance to New Jersey's coastal economy and environment. The Fiscal Year 2013 budget request released by NOAA in February proposed to eliminate funding for the lab, which would result in its closure. During a press conference today outside the lab, Lautenberg, Menendez and Pallone vowed to work through the congressional appropriations process to protect funding for this critical research facility.

“Closing this lab would jeopardize important efforts to protect New Jersey's shore and coastal areas across the country,” said Lautenberg, who is a member of the Appropriations Committee and serves on the Subcommittee that funds NOAA. “The Howard Lab is a blessing for our state's economy and a boon for our environment. It has helped New Jersey's fishing industry and our state's prosperous coastal economy thrive. From my position on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will fight to keep the Howard Lab open.”

“For more than 50 years, the Howard Lab has been a unique and invaluable resource for our

fisherman, scientists, students, the surrounding communities and the nation. Our fishermen and our scientists need to know what is happening here to scup, to black sea bass and to summer flounder. Our regional economy needs the good jobs that are sustained through the important research performed here. And our nation needs the critical scientific understanding of how we can best maintain a clean and sustainable ocean environment,” said Menendez.

“The Howard lab at Sandy Hook is the only one of its kind in the region and is doing critical scientific research to keep our waters clean and fishable and improve the health and safety of coastal communities,” said Pallone. “I am committed to doing everything possible to keep this important facility open and functioning at full capacity and to make sure that the lab has the necessary funding to continue its important work.”

In February, Senators Lautenberg and Menendez and Representative Pallone sent a letter to President Obama urging the Administration to reconsider its decision to close the lab. Senators Lautenberg and Menendez have also called on Senate Appropriations Committee leaders to provide the necessary funding to preserve the NOAA lab in Sandy Hook.

NOAA Howard Lab Tour to Save Facility

Legislators and environmentalists push to keep the lab open by promoting its premier marine life research role in the state

By Elaine Van Develde,
Long Branch-Eatontown Patch, 4/13/2012

As a measure of highlighting its importance to New Jersey's ecology and economy, national politicians will join with area environmentalists to tour the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory on Sandy Hook at 11 a.m. tomorrow, April 12.

U.S. senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez (both D-NJ) will join U.S. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Cindy Zipf, executive director of Clean Ocean Action, Howard's daughter Marie and Tom Fote, legislative chair of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association on the tour of the research lab which has been on the Hook for 50 years.

The group is rallying to save the lab from being cut off from federal funding and closed, due to

impending budget cuts. Federal officials have claimed that closing the lab will save \$2 million a year.

The national politicians and environmentalists maintain that the lab is critical to the coastal environment and economy in the state because of all the research and educational programs conducted at and in concert with the facility.

"It is imperative that the lab remains here, because this location allows the lab to continue studies of marine resources, habitats and environment of the mid-Atlantic region," environmental activist Steve Fromm said in a previous interview. "It provides direct access to one of the most important and urbanized coasts in the world and a direct path to habitat assessment and ecosystem based research that cannot be duplicated elsewhere"

Last month, Pallone sought an increase in NOAA's funding for the lab and at an appropriations meeting in Washington, DC, sought to divert funds from elsewhere to save the Howard lab.

The Fair Haven Borough Council last month passed a resolution opposing the impending closure of the lab.

The Eatontown Council passed the same resolution in March and spoke about the importance of the lab to New Jersey.

A Facebook page has been set up and is dedicated to the mission of trying to remove the closure of the Howard lab from the list of NOAHH facilities slated for closure in the 2013 budget.

The View from the Bridge

By Susan M. Kennedy,

The James J. Howard Marine Lab, 4/13/2012

YOU'RE DRIVING DOWN Route 36, heading east, cursing under your breath at each light you miss, which is all of them. Shopping centers, gas stations and convenience stores give way to woods and hills as you travel down a steep one, then back up, curve right and left and right again as you approach the Highlands Bridge. Gradual at first, the incline steepens until you crest the span and the Shrewsbury River flows a distant 65 feet below. But your eyes are trained straight ahead until suddenly, it's right in front of you – a massive dark green swell extending as far as the eye can see, surging towards you and then away, spots of light like glitter dancing across its surface. A twenty-ton tanker glides silently

by in the distance, while right in front of you, waves crash on a white strip of sand, empty this time of year except for a spattering of fishermen out to catch spring Stripers.

The approach to Sandy Hook is one of the joys of living in this area, but did you know that all of the things that make it special – the clean ocean, the wide beaches, the recreational fishermen, the fish they seek and even the tanker ship and its cargo – have one thing in common? They, and every single person who enjoys them, have reaped the benefits of the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory.

Located on Sandy Hook just a few miles from the bridge, the Lab houses a group of scientists who have quietly gone about their business of making this a better place to live for more than 50 years. Recently, it has been announced that, due to federal budget cuts, the Lab will be closed. The current plan is to move the scientists and the work they do to Milford, Connecticut and Oxford, Maryland. This plan makes no sense when you consider the type of work that is done there.

Established in 1961, the Lab was the first federal facility in the nation devoted solely to the research of marine recreational fish species and has remained at the forefront of studies on the impact of human activities on the marine environment. What better place to engage in this important research than at the heart of the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area and within the 15,000 square mile area of the Atlantic Ocean known as the New York Bight? The accomplishments of the Marine Lab are many and ongoing and as a direct result of its Sandy Hook location, New Jersey has been a direct beneficiary of its efforts.

It is the Lab's science that led to the closure of the sewage dump sites that spoiled our beaches in the 1980's, and has been critical to the development of regulations for the deepening of New York Harbor, allowing tankers to come and go with ease. The lab also provides guidance to the Army Corps of Engineers for beach replenishment programs, led the State Department of Environmental Protection to a better understanding of the cause of red tides, and conducted exhaustive research on seafood safety to protect our status as a top seafood producer. Since its doors opened, Lab scientists have documented the life cycles, characteristics and distribution of major fish species in the Mid-Atlantic that for decades has served as the main source of information for recreational and commercial fisherman, scientists,

universities and the public up and down the eastern seaboard.

The Lab is an important research partner to numerous educational institutions, including Rutgers University, Monmouth University, New York University, Brookdale Community College, the Marine Academy of Science and Technology (M.A.S.T.), Stevens Institute of Technology, Stockton State College, and the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium with over 30 additional member institutions and universities. In this role the Lab has provided internships for hundreds of students over the years, myself included.

If the importance of the Lab's work is not readily apparent, it is better understood when you look at the numbers. Recreational fishing contributes approximately \$1.6 billion to New Jersey's economy every year, to which the commercial fishing and aquaculture industry adds another \$ 1 billion. Tourism, which is dependent upon our clean, wide beaches, adds a stunning \$35.5 billion dollars to our state coffers each year. We simply can't afford to lose a major force in the protection of these precious resources

The buildings that house the Lab are leased from New Jersey for \$2.8 million annually, a cost that will drop to approximately \$1.6 million next year when a construction bond for the facility is paid off. It is this cost, and the lease's 2013 expiration date, that led the federal government to consider it as an opportunity to trim the budget. Given the important contributions the Lab makes to our area, these savings are specious and are simply not worth the cost. Governor Christie must step in to renegotiate the lease and we all must do what we can to keep the Lab in New Jersey where it belongs.

The next time you drive over the Highlands Bridge, look around and enjoy the view. And remember, even though you can't actually see it from the bridge, the James J. Howard Marine Science Lab is an integral part of that.

Susan M. Kennedy is an environmental attorney who got her start as a summer intern at the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Lab at Sandy Hook. [This link](#) to the radio broadcast by Jason Allentoff is about the Tour of the Lab.

Advocates and Lawmakers Want Marine Research Lab to Stay Open

By Jason Allentoff, NJ101.5.com, 2/28/2012

The James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory, located on the Jersey shore in Sandy Hook, is a state-of-the-art marine research facility operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA.

It is shared with the Federal agency and the state of New Jersey. According to a budget proposal released last week by President Barack Obama, it's been marked for closing as of next year. The reason? Too expensive.

That answer isn't sitting too well with environmentalists, clean ocean activists and state & local lawmakers. The facility costs a mere \$3-million-dollars a year with 38 on-site staffers doing all sorts of research to better understand the ocean, coastal & estuarine organisms and the effects of human activities on marine life. It serves not only New Jersey but the entire eastern seaboard. Several are speaking out about Obama's plan and are scrambling to try to keep it open.

Recently, the facility, named for the late Monmouth County Congressman, turned 50 years old. It first opened in 1961 by the Department of the Interior and when NOAA was created, they took control. Over the years, the research lab has conducted thousands of hours of study on everything from plants and fish to pollution and the negative effects of mother nature on our bodies of water.

Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez along with Congressman Frank Pallone have written letters to the President indicating the importance and need for the lab. Tom Fote, head of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, says a closure makes absolutely no sense. Fote explains "they want to save 3-million bucks? It's a drop in the bucket and it's going to cost more to re-locate those 38 employees to other sites around the country. It is puzzling since just a few years ago, they were considering closing the Connecticut based NOAA facility and moving everyone to Jersey. Now this?!"

Fote tells Townsquare Media that the fight is far from over and they won't take this sitting still. He says "it was responsible for discovering toxic fish contamination in the 1970s and is one of the best facilities around for the type of work. We can't lose this."

Groups like Clean Ocean Action and the American Littoral Society are also pressing the Senate Appropriations Committee to make sure the decision is quickly reversed.

Show me the Bait!

By Tom Siciliano

H. Bruce Franklin's book aptly called "The Most Important Fish in the Sea: Menhaden and America" spells out how critical the lowly mossbunker is to the health of the sea and the whole ecosystem that feeds on it. To quote from the book, "If we do not put the heat on the ASMFC to do the right thing, Omega Protein will prevent any meaningful protection, the menhaden population will continue to crash, and species after species of the valued fish dependent on menhaden will crash with them."

It doesn't take a fishing Guru to know if there is a lot of bait in an area there will be a lot of predators lurking in the vicinity. Find the bait and you find the fish. But what if there is no bait? Simple, the fish disappear. That is what all the fuss is about menhaden. If these fish are not around then the bass are not around either. You can remember what happened to the bass fishery when the reduction boats were kicked out of state waters. We had and are still enjoying some great bass fishing.

Yet the stock of these important bait fish is in a serious decline. Too many are being taken out of the water by the reduction and bait boats. This is an example of technology gone wild. Aircraft are used to spot the huge schools of fish, then they call in the boats that circle the school with huge nets so that very few of them escape.

In November the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission took the first step to protect menhaden. A few weeks ago there was a public hearing in Toms River to review a new management plan. The plan would include such options as Season closures, Area closures, Gear Restrictions, Size and Bag limits for recreational anglers. Yet the recreational take of these fish is less than 2% of that taken by the commercial boats. While there is no definition of deminimis in the Amendment, the recreational catch certainly comes close to that and any recreational restrictions would not have a measurable impact on the stock.

Go to [this link](#) to view the document. The public comment deadline is 5:00 PM (EST) on April 20, 2012 and should be forwarded to Mike 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 (Subject line: Menhaden PID).

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the PID by either attending public hearings or providing written comments.

The following are two articles that were recently published in the New York Times and The Washington Post.

Little fish are most valuable when left in the sea, researchers say

By Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post, 4/1/2012

The smallest fish in the sea are more than twice as valuable when they're eaten by bigger fish than when they're caught by humans, according to a report released Sunday by a scientific task force.

The 120-page analysis by the Lenfest Forage Fish Task Force — a group of 13 scientists specializing in everything from fish ecology to marine mammals and seabirds — underscores the growing concern researchers have about the fate of forage fish, including anchovies, menhaden, herring and sardines that serve as food for bigger fish, sea birds and marine mammals.

Forage fish account for 37 percent of the world's commercial fish catch, with an annual value of \$5.6 billion. (Only 10 percent of forage fish caught are eaten by humans; the remaining 90 percent are processed into fish meal and fish oil, which feed livestock and farmed fish.)

But the team of scientists, who worked for three years on their analysis, concluded that forage fish support \$11.3 billion worth of commercial fish by serving as their prey. In the North Sea, for example, sand eels help sustain cod, and tuna in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean feed on sardines.

The group's economic analysis did not include the value forage fish provide to sea birds and marine mammals, many of which are highly dependent on them. University of Washington conservation biologist Dee Boersma, one of the task force's members, has conducted studies showing that the breeding success of Magellanic penguins is directly related to how far they had to forage for

food. If they could find fish between 30 and 50 miles of their colony they produced two chicks; if they had to travel more than 90 miles away, they had one; and if they had to go 125 miles, they had none.

In an interview, Boersma said that with fewer forage fish, seabirds were having to travel farther for less food. “Suddenly, instead of 90 percent, you’re settling for 10 percent. That’s what’s happening to seabirds. When fish is not there, they don’t do as well.”

Ellen Pikitch, chairman of the task force and executive director of Stony Brook University’s Institute for Ocean Conservation Science, said society may need to reassess its reliance on small marine species to sustain the growing aquaculture trade. Farmed fish accounts for roughly half of the world’s commercially sold fish.

“People don’t understand how massive this fishery is,” Pikitch said, referring to how many forage fish are processed. “It seems we may be on a collision course at some point, where increased demand is going to pull the rug out from under the ocean ecosystem.”

The issue has become increasingly important for fishery managers in the mid-Atlantic, who voted in November to cut the amount of menhaden that can be harvested annually from 183,000 metric tons to 174,000, out of concern that the fish have been depleted.

One company, Omega Protein, took 160,000 metric tons of menhaden — 80 percent of about 450 million fish harvested in 2010 — off the coast of Virginia, which is the only state that allows industrial fishing of menhaden.

Edward D. Houde, a task force member and a professor at the University of Maryland’s Center for Environmental Science at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, said the task force concluded that fishery managers should leave at least 40 percent of adult forage fish in the sea. Menhaden support a range of species in the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean, including striped bass, osprey, bald eagles and brown pelicans.

Traditionally, fishery managers aim to leave 20 percent of adult fish unexploited. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will finalize its menhaden rule next year, and is crafting limits that would ensure at least 15 percent of adult menhaden, and perhaps as much as 30 percent, are left to spawn in the ocean and its tributaries after the yearly harvest. Current limits are to leave at least 8 percent.

“That would not be as precautionary as we’re recommending in the task force,” Houde said, though he said it was a step in the right direction. “It’s still very hard for them to reduce fishing, which means reducing catches and reducing profits. It’s not easy for them to take these precautionary steps that are important for the environment.”

Too Many Small Fish are Caught, Report Says

By Henry Fountain, New York Times, 4/2/2012

An international group of marine scientists is calling for cuts in commercial fishing for sardines, herring and other so-called forage fish whose use as food for fish farms is soaring. The catch should be cut in half for some fisheries, the scientists say, to protect populations of both the fish and the natural predators that depend on them.

“The message is, if you cut back on harvesting of forage fish, there will be benefits,” said Ellen K. Pikitch, director of the Institute for Ocean Conservation Science at Stony Brook University and chairwoman of the task force that produced a report on the issue that was released Sunday.

The report, “Little Fish, Big Impact,” financed by the Lenfest Foundation through the Pew Charitable Trusts, details how fishing has increased for these fish, which now account for 37 percent, by weight, of all fish harvested worldwide, up from about 8 percent half a century ago. The consumer market for forage fish is relatively small; most of the fish are ground and processed for use as animal feed and nutritional supplements and, increasingly, as feed for the aquaculture industry, which now produces about half of all the fish and shellfish that people eat.

Forage fish are an important link in the food chain, eating plankton and being consumed, in turn, by large fish like tuna and cod, as well as by seabirds and dolphins and other marine mammals. The task force estimated that as a source of food in the wild for larger commercially valuable fish, forage fish were worth more than \$11 billion, or twice as much as their worth when processed for aquaculture and other uses.

“Sometimes the value of leaving fish in the water can be greater than taking it out,” Ms. Pikitch said.

The report cites several cases in which overfishing of forage fish has led to the collapse of

populations of larger fish or other predators, and suggests that such cases could increase unless catches are reduced.

On the East Coast, the fishery for menhaden, a forage fish, is the largest in the region, and about 80 percent of the catch is processed into meal and other products. The abundance of menhaden has declined over the last quarter-century, said Edward D. Houde, a professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and a member of the task force, as the fish's reproductive rate has fallen. Yet fishing has continued at a high rate.

Bob Beal, an official with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, a regional group that coordinates management plans for the menhaden and other fisheries, said that in 2010, the menhaden population was estimated to have been reduced to 8 percent of its maximum potential. As a result, Mr. Beal said, the commission has recommended reducing the allowable catch so that the population roughly doubles, to a threshold of 15 percent of the maximum level, with an eventual target of 30 percent. The reductions would take place next spring, after a period to allow for public comments on the proposal.

But Mr. Houde said that in the case of menhaden, the task force would recommend a threshold of 30 percent and a target of perhaps 40 percent, which would mean even greater catch reductions. "Our recommendation is to be very precautionary," he said, "mostly to protect other things in the ecosystem, but also to protect the fish itself."

Mr. Beal said while the commission's new plan for the menhaden fishery is not as conservative as some scientists have sought, "it's a pretty big departure from where it's been managed." He said that the commission had to weigh the needs of the fishing industry as well.

"Ultimately, the hope of the managers is to rebuild the stock," he said, "so the industry can get what they want out of it, and prey animals can get what they want out of it, too."

Membership Report

By John Toth

I recently sent out a package of information to member clubs asking clubs to pay their 2012 dues

(\$50) and if clubs want to be sponsors at levels of \$50, \$100, \$250 and \$500. Also included in this package was the 2012 Annual Club Survey. This survey gives the JCAA information on the club's profile, such as who is the club's President, Treasurer and other contact information. We need this information since club members continually change positions in a club and we do not want to send JCAA information to the wrong person. Also, the package included a "Hooked on Fishing, Not On Drugs" HOFNOD Survey. I have received these documents from a number of clubs with all the forms filled out and I **Thank You** for your cooperation! However, I have not yet received this information from some clubs. Please take the time to send this information to me. If you have misplaced this information and need more forms, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If there are problems with the JCAA sending newsletters to the wrong addresses or to the wrong club members, please let me know so that corrections can be made. I can be reached at (732) 656-0139 or at tothjohn@verizon.net

As always, **Thank You** for your continued support!

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

HOFNOD BILL PASSES

Persistence pays off. The "Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs" (HOFNOD) bill (A638), was approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and HOFNOD will be heard by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and then passed by the full Assembly and full Senate so it can be sent to Governor Christie and signed into law. Several New Jersey education organizations supported the bill, along with the hard work of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, and Recreational Fishing Alliance.

Press Release 3/2012:

Belmar, NJ - Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs (A638), a bill that the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance has made a priority to become law was unanimously approved by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

NJOA (CF) council members present at the hearing and testifying in favor of the bill were New Jersey Outdoor Alliance and Jersey Coast Anglers Association. Various education organizations also supported the bill.

Assembly Appropriation Committee members: Burzichelli, John J. – Chair, Barnes, Peter J. – Vice-Chair, Casagrande, Caroline, Conaway, Herb, DiMaio, John, Lampitt, Pamela R., McHose, Alison Littell, Prieto, Vincent, and Spencer, L. Grace.

Bill sponsors: Rumpf, Brian E. as Primary Sponsor, Conaway, Herb, Jr. as Primary Sponsor, Gove, DiAnne C. as Primary Sponsor, Albano, Nelson T. as Primary Sponsor, Wolfe, David W. as Co-Sponsor, Diegnan, Patrick J., Jr. as Co-Sponsor, McHose, Alison Littell as Co-Sponsor, Moriarty, Paul D. as Co-Sponsor, Chiusano, Gary R. as Co-Sponsor, Rumana, Scott T. as Co-Sponsor, Peterson, Erik as Co-Sponsor, Burzichelli, John J. as Co-Sponsor, Coutinho, Albert as Co-Sponsor, and Casagrande, Caroline as Co-Sponsor.

Bill A638 (HOFNOD) would establish a program within the Division of Fish and Wildlife to encourage children to avoid drug use. HOFNOD is a nationally recognized program developed by the Future Fisherman Foundation which has operated successfully in over a dozen states.

The program's funding source would be the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund (DEDRF) from which there would be a \$200,000 appropriation to support the cost of implementing the program. This is a statutory account established to receive fines and penalties from convicted drug offenders that are used to support State authorized drug and alcohol abuse abatement programs.

Ed Markowski, President of NJOA (EP) and a long-time champion of the bill said, "HOFNOD has a proven track record of preventing drug use by our youth. It is as effective with kids living in cities as it is with kids living in suburbia and rural settings. HOFNOD not only teaches an appreciation for conservation of natural resources, wildlife and the outdoors, but helps to develop positive life skills for school age children."

The legislation must now be heard by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and then passed by the full Assembly and full Senate so it can be sent to Governor Christie and signed into law.

NEWARK BAIT - KIDS' FISHING FUN NIGHT A GREAT SUCCESS

Over forty-two children attended the Newark Bait and Flycasting Club's Annual Youth Fishing Fun Night. JCAA President, Joe Puntasecca, was the guest speaker and conducted a presentation about Fish anatomy that included: species identification, how to handle fish, and environmental awareness.

Children also had a chance to win a rod and reel after completing a fun fish anatomy puzzle activity. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association Youth Education Committee has supported this event for a number of years by providing a fishing activity for children, and supplying "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" decals, pledge cards, and prizes.

DISCOUNT FISHING EQUIPMENT

If your fishing club or organization would like to purchase equipment for youth fishing programs at a discount price, check out tightlinz.com. TightLinz, LLC is a private online community that offers all U.S. anglers (salt, fresh and fly) access to core fishing brands at up to 70 percent off of retail prices. Founded in 2011 by seasoned outdoor and business executives, TightLinz enables brands large and small to monetize inventory and cross market to discreet groups of end users.

FREE FISHING DAYS IN NJ

National Fishing and Boating Week, June 2 - 10, 2012: Free Fishing Days in New Jersey are Saturday & Sunday June 16 & 17, 2012. Residents and non-residents may fish the public waters of New Jersey without a license or trout Stamp. All other regulations apply.

For those anglers just starting out, the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife offers many programs and classes to advance from beginner to expert. The Pequest State Trout Hatchery in Oxford, Warren County offers free fishing programs. Pequest offers a Natural Resource Education Center with a variety of exhibits and displays on wildlife, a butterfly garden, picnic areas and hiking trails. There is also a handicapped-accessible fishing site along the Pequest River. Last year, the JCAA Youth Education Committee coordinated fishing and aquatic education programs for the week-long celebration of National Fishing Week.

This year we will teach students about saltwater fishing at Ocean & Monmouth County public schools. Member clubs that wish to conduct a

National Fishing Week program can phone 732/785-9278 and we will guide your organization through the process. Phone if you have questions and please record your event. Let the JCAA Youth Education Committee know how many National Fishing Week participants supported your program. For more information about National Fishing Week in New Jersey check out: <http://njfishandwildlife.com/ffd.htm>

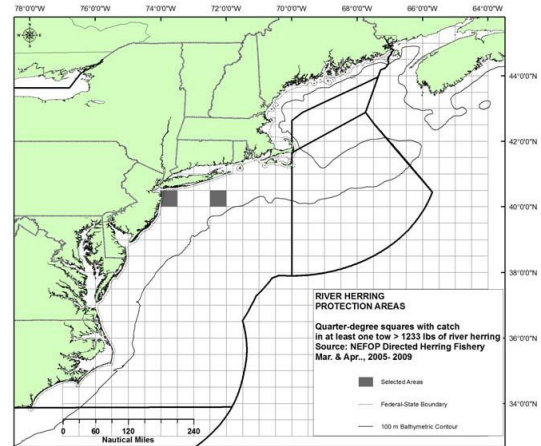
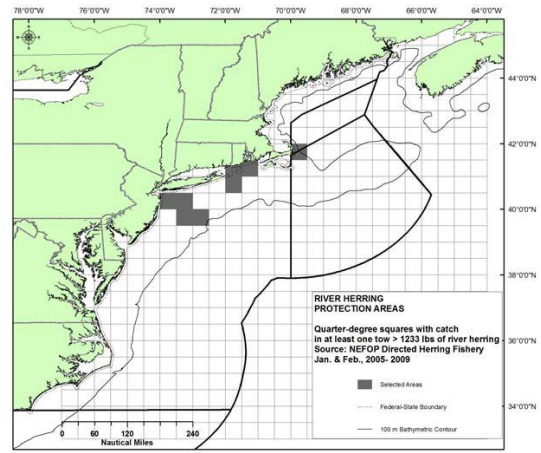
If you would like to help with our youth education efforts and offer some of your time to teach children the joy of fishing, please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail Gkucharews@aol.com.

MAFMC Update

By Chris Zeman

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) met last week in Duck, NC. A significant portion of the Council meeting was dedicated to the recent Atlantic sturgeon listing under the Endangered Species Act. NOAA is focusing on reducing sturgeon takes in various federal and state gillnet and trawl fisheries including monkfish, spiny dogfish, bluefish, and croaker. The MAFMC established an ad-hoc Atlantic Sturgeon committee to recommend measures, including seasonal area closures and reductions in soak times to reduce bycatch mortality. NOAA is not proposing to take any actions affecting recreational fisheries at this time. NOAA has not provided a clear position on its proposed actions to protect sturgeon from federally-authorized non-fishing activities, like dams and dredging operations.

In June, the MAFMC will be addressing bycatch of another anadromous species – river herring and shad. The MAFMC will be taking action on alternatives in Amendment 14 to reduce river herring bycatch in the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Fishery. The MAFMC is coordinating with the New England Council and its efforts to reduce bycatch in the Atlantic Herring fishery. Various alternatives are under consideration, including seasonal area closures, bycatch limits, and providing river herring federal protections under the Magnuson Act as a stock in the fishery. Proposed “hotspot” seasonal area closures would prohibit commercial small-mesh trawling in portions of the Hudson Canyon area from January to April.



The MAFMC scheduled public hearings in April and May on Amendment 14 and is hosting its only New Jersey public hearing in Cape May, NJ on May 17 at Congress Hall from 7-9pm. The public comment period ends on June 4, 2012. The MAFMC will take final action during its June meeting in New York City.

**June 2nd JCAA Fluke
Tournament \$120 Early entry
Cut-Off**

**June 9th JCAA Fluke
Tournament**

**June 15th JCAA Fluke
Tournament Awards Ceremony**