

# JCAA NEWSPAPER OCTOBER 2012

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*  
(Published on September 19th, 2012)

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

## JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

**Tuesday, September 25th, 2012**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

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

## NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, October 11th, 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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## 2012 OFFICERS

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**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

### **2012 Dates**

**September 25<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**October 7<sup>th</sup>** Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

**October 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>** ASA Summit Hilton Head

**October 11<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**October 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>** MAFMC Mtg. Long Branch

**October 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>** ASMFC Annual Mtg Philadelphia

**October 30<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

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

**November 11<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Dinner

### **2013 Show Dates**

**January 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>** Garden State Sportsmen Show

**February 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>** Atlantic City International Power Boat Show

**March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>** Saltwater Expo

## **October 7<sup>th</sup> is the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament**

*By Greg Kucharewski*

The 21st annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be held on **Sunday, October 7** at Island Beach State Park. Don't miss a day of family fun and prizes! Pick up a brochure about the tournament at Island Beach State Park, your favorite tackle dealer, or online. The tournament is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry, the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, and the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association. A brochure with information about the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament as well as a registration form can be

accessed by visiting [this link](#). Be sure to visit sponsor displays/food court and the JCAA "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" learning booth. Support our hard working sponsors. Tee shirts, hats, and tournament related merchandise is available at the pavilion #1.

The individual who catches the overall largest fish wins the "Governor's Trophy," and has his/her name engraved on the Governor's Cup which is permanently displayed at the park. Fishing equipment is awarded to winners who catch the largest fish in each species category. Length of the fish determines the winner, not weight. The contest is reasonably priced so register early and save. Funds generated through the tournament are used to support a variety of programs including: improving access to public fishing areas, construction of access ramps for disabled anglers, marine education and surf fishing instruction programs, educational displays for Island Beach State Park's interpretive center and the purchase of specialized wheelchairs that provide beach access for disabled and elderly anglers.

Balloon tire equipped beach wheelchairs (capacity 250 lbs.) are available. For information about disabled access and surf fishing beach chair reservation, please phone Greg Kucharewski, 732-785-9278 (leave message & phone #). The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice anglers at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and this will require extra volunteer hours from member clubs in JCAA. Help is needed to provide assistance for disabled anglers, youth anglers, and novice anglers. We also need judges with 4X4 vehicles. This is a fun day. Come out and share your surf fishing expertise and help cast a line of caring. Veteran anglers please think about donating some of your time to teach children the joy of fishing. E-mail [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com).

**Special Note:** (1) Tournament anglers may be asked to verify their compliance with the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program. If you have not already registered please make sure you do before hitting the beach the day of the tournament. Registration is quick, easy and free. Anglers simply need to go to [this link](#) and follow the instructions on the page. (2) The purchase of a beach buggy permit is required to drive on the beach. Permit applications will be available at the park entrance. For information and fees, phone 732-793-0506. Please make sure whoever the vehicle is registered to

is either present or you have a copy of their driver's license with you.

## Sportsperson-of-the-Year

### Award Dinner

*By Paul Turi, Co-chairman*

It is getting near that time of year again when JCAA hosts its second largest fundraiser of the year, our annual Sportsperson-of-the-year dinner. As you know, every year JCAA honors an individual or organization that has done outstanding work to enhance sport fishing or the environment. The dinner this year will be **Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**, again being held at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. Ticket prices will be the same as last year. Individual tickets are \$75 each and tables of 10 are \$600, which is a \$150 savings. This gala event will accommodate 300 supporters and friends for a semi-formal sit-down dinner with choice of entrees and cash bar. There will also be a cocktail hour prior to dinner.

Member clubs should start thinking about who they would like to nominate for the sportsperson-of-the-year award. A short bio of 250 words or less as to why the nominee should be considered for this award can be presented at any general membership meeting or can be mailed or emailed to the JCAA office or emailed to me at [pturi6@comcast.net](mailto:pturi6@comcast.net). If I receive the bio prior to a vote at our October general membership meeting, I will include the essay in our monthly newspaper.

Also, it would help us out with prizes if each club could donate a gift for a door prize or Chinese or Silent auction prize. Some clubs have been very generous over the years donating some very expensive gifts. Even a small gift worth \$10.00 would be greatly appreciated. Many times we can package several gifts together to make a nice door prize or Chinese Auction prize. It can be a fishing or non-fishing related gift. Remember, I also need gifts for the ladies too.

If anyone has any questions or would like to donate something, I can be reached via email at [pturi6@comcast.net](mailto:pturi6@comcast.net) or at (609) 660-2126.

## President's Report

*By Joseph Puntasecca*

The JCAA does not have regular meetings during the summer since delegates are either busy fishing (which they should be) or on vacation. However, while we have not met since June, there are many issues that are facing anglers who fish in NJ and these issues need your attention.

Attention delegates, our first meeting of the fall is **September 25<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30PM located at 270 Chambers Bridge Road, Brick, NJ. Our December meeting will not be at the Brick Civic Plaza so stay tuned for details on where the December General meeting will be held.

It is not too late to sign up for the 21st Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament held at Island Beach State Park on **October 7, from 6:30am to 1:00pm**. The tournament offers participants an excellent opportunity to learn more about surf fishing with family and friends. The registration fees help in the purchase of specialized wheelchairs that provide the disabled and elderly beach access, surf fishing instruction programs and equipment, marine education and restoration efforts, and surf fishing access. JCAA is only one of the sponsors along with the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, New Jersey Beach Buggy Association and NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife. For more information, go to [this link](#).

It is time to start thinking of your nomination for the coveted JCAA's Sportsperson of the Year award. Clubs in good standing are encouraged to submit in writing their nomination for this prestigious award. The letter of nomination should be limited to about 150 words detailing the nominee's activities that have contributed to the improvement of recreational fishing and/or the environment. If you have a nomination you can also bring it to the September 25th meeting. For the nomination to be included in the next JCAA Newspaper Paul Turi needs it emailed to him no later than October 19<sup>th</sup> and if you are mailing, it needs to be at the office by October 19<sup>th</sup>.

If it does not make the next JCAA Newspaper it can still be mailed to the JCAA office but must be there by October 26 or hand carried to the October 30th meeting when the nominations are read and a vote taken on who will receive the award.

Paul Turi will be taking over many of the Office Manager responsibilities. Please welcome Paul as our new Office Manager.

## JCAA Letter on Proposed New Park Rules & Regulations

9/9/2012

Alice A. Previte, Esq.

Attention: DEP Docket Number 01-12-06

NJDEP Office of Legal Affairs  
401 East State Street, 4th Floor  
Mail Code 401-04L  
P.O. Box 402  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

Dear Ms. Previte:

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association is respectfully requesting that the comment period for the proposed regulatory changes to our parks be extended. We also request that a public hearing be held on this matter. Further, we would like to meet with you to discuss our concerns pertaining to the proposed changes.

This matter was only recently brought to our attention, and while some of us were able to read through the document, many of our member clubs as well as the general public are still unaware of the proposed changes. Specifically, we are concerned with rule changes that would increase fees, prohibit or further restrict vehicles that have traditionally used our parks and create regulations that are vague and ambiguous.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Puntasecca  
President

## Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

*By Thomas Fote*

### Pat Donnelly Replaced on the NJ Marine Fisheries Council

In 2000, JCAA recommended Pat Donnelly for a position on the NJ Marine Fisheries Council knowing that Pat would be an independent and intelligent voice. We were delighted when he was

appointed. He certainly lived up to our expectations. Pat was known to consider every option and piece of information and then make the decision he felt was good for the entire fishing community, not just recreational anglers. Pat was one of the most respected Council members and maintained good relationships with everyone. It is difficult to calculate how much time and effort Pat invested in the Council, away from his business and his family.

JCAA, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance and the NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs were all shocked when we were informed that Pat was being replaced. This is a tremendous loss to the entire fishing community. Pat has served for many years on committees and has a bank of knowledge that will be impossible to replace. JCAA is not familiar with the two new members of the Council and can only hope that they can live up to the high standards that Pat set for them.

### **New Jersey Fishing Industry Continues to Suffer**

We are reprinting an article from the Star Ledger that was included in last month's JCAA Newspaper. We were concerned that summer vacation and a lack of club meetings might have caused some of our readers to miss this important article. In a follow-up to that article, New Jersey Network did an interview with me, Capt. Bobby Quinn, who owns the Ocean Explorer, and Bob Mathews, who works at Fisherman's Den, discussing the factors that have led to a decline in the number of recreational fishing trips in New Jersey. I discussed many of the factors involved including fisheries regulations, the lack of funding for fisheries science, the general economy and gas prices. Of course, the interviews were cut to a couple of minutes so a lot of the topics were not covered. These factors not only impact on the recreational fishing industry but have the same impacts on the commercial fishing industry. Cumulatively, this has a tremendous negative impact on our state's economy.

Some of the factors are beyond our control. Fishermen don't control gas prices or the general economy and we are just one of many groups feeling the impact of these factors. However, fisheries regulations and fisheries research are within the control of our politicians at the state and federal level. We get much lip service from NOAA, Congress, and the President on how important jobs are to our overall economy. But when it comes to

making the investment that would have an impact on fisheries issues, they are nowhere to be seen. It is easy to blame tight money for a lack of investment at both the federal and state level. I have been doing this work for 30 years and the lack of investment is consistent in good times and bad. New Jersey has consistently been one of the lowest spending states for the Bureau of Marine Fisheries. In my participation at ASMFC and the Mid-Atlantic Council for the last 25 years, my fellow commissioners have always been shocked when I have shared the funding numbers from New Jersey. Even though New Jersey has historically had one of the most important recreational and commercial coastal fisheries, we are consistently at the bottom of the spending list. From 1980 through 2010, the decline in personnel and budget at the Bureau of Marine Fisheries was slow but steady. We all recognized that certain projects were not done and research funding was less available. The dedicated staff at the Bureau got more done than we could have imagined with so little financial support. The Bureau has finally reached a tipping point where the loss of every dollar has a gigantic impact on the functioning of the Bureau. Just working harder is not enough anymore. With the decline in staffing, the Bureau needs to make difficult decisions about what meeting can be attended and what projects can be undertaken. This puts New Jersey at a disadvantage in competing with other states for limited resources. If you aren't at the table your voice isn't heard and no one is looking out for your interests. Commissioner Martin requested additional positions in the 2012 budget but this was denied.

Much of the problem is our fault. The recreational and commercial communities have not worked together to speak with one voice about funding issues. In coalition with environmental groups with whom we share the goals of having a healthy marine resource in New Jersey, we should have a greater voice in Trenton and be able to generate more pressure to secure the necessary funding. Remember, recreational anglers are 10% of New Jersey's population. We have not spoken clearly or forcefully enough in the past, nor have we made our votes count.

In November 2013, our entire state legislature and the Governor are up for re-election. Now is the time for all of us (commercial, recreational and environmental) to develop a scorecard to rate the votes of every elected official.

We will follow this year's budget process closely to inform our members of the positive or negative positions taken by our state officials. JCAA will be reaching out to the NJ Outdoor Alliance, the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and any other interested organizations to develop this scorecard.

We also need to work with Congress and the President in the upcoming years to guarantee that the National Marine Fisheries Service focuses its attention on the issues that are having a negative impact on both commercial and recreational anglers on the East Coast. We get lots of lip service in legislation but not the funding to implement. I have listened to politicians complain about unfunded mandates but they continue to pass legislation without any funding source. This is especially true for recreational issues. If the fishing industry got 10% of the funding made available to the oil industry that continues to raise our gas prices, we would have the best fisheries science of any nation in the world. We would not be frozen at the black sea bass quota for a couple years because of inadequate science. That is true of many species. Instead we would be an economic engine that could help drive our country's economic recovery. We need to act in 2012!!!

### **Hooked on Fishing Not On Drugs Waits for the Governor's Signature**

We are still waiting for the Governor's signature. It passed both Houses and was sent for the Governor's signature before the summer recess. After a month and a half, it remains on the Governor's desk. There are no reports that the Governor will not sign this bill but he hasn't done so yet. It would be good to remind Governor Christie by email or phone that we want this bill signed immediately.

### **Pots Off the Reefs**

Nothing has changed!!! We are still waiting for this bill to pass the Assembly. JCAA's position remains that we do not support a compromise. We will review the status of this legislation at the September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. There are some compromise proposals and we will keep you posted.

## **The Hypocrisy of Discussions on Quota Splits**

*(Reprinted from the Mid-Summer Newspaper)*

Because the economic report on scup discussed above was worthless, on Wednesday we decided to create an addendum to look at splits between the commercial and recreational sectors for scup. I knew what I would hear from the audience so I wanted to point out a few facts before audience made comments. I can remember how decisions were made for these three species in the 90's. I refreshed the memory of the few members who have been present since the 90's and educated the overwhelming number of new members. The facts are when we set split for the commercial and recreational scup quota in the mid-90's, we did it differently than any other quota. Every quota except scup is based on an average for several years. The years were chosen when the commercial harvests were the greatest and led to the collapse of the fisheries. This gave them the largest percentage of the quota. The data from the Bureau of Sport Fisheries was largely ignored even though it was the only Federal agency that collected all the recreational data before 1978. When NMFS was formed and absorbed both the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, they only used the data from the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. In the 90's the Mid-Atlantic Council voted on a quota using the same process. But they added a caveat. The commercial fishermen said they would eliminate their discards so the Council and the Commission changed the quota to add the commercial discard figures. This increased the commercial quota and reduced the recreational split. Nobody in the Council thought we would be where we are today. They anticipated better data and an end to discards and by-catch in this fishery. I remember a conversation about never needing any regulation on the recreational sector since the by-catch fishery alone was larger than the recreational and commercial fishery combined and the recreational catch was such a small part when you combined commercial by-catch, discards and catch. With discards and by-catch eliminated, there would no longer be a problem.

Eighteen years later, we still have a by-catch and discards and now they are having a negative impact on the recreational catch. We need to reallocate this quota based on reality not on a phony debate that happened 18 years ago. I was not

surprised when there was an outcry from some of the commercial lobbyists in the audience claiming this violated the Magnuson Act and was against the rules.

Now comes the hypocrisy! A few hours later we discussed bluefish. This plan was established in the early 90's with an 80/20 split in favor of recreational anglers. That split was never implemented even though that is what the plan called for. The recreational sector was not fully utilizing its quota. It was proposed to transfer the unused recreational quota to the commercial sector. At first it was only a million pounds. Over the years the numbers have increased. At times it was greater than 6 million pounds. NMFS has never allowed the transfer to go from commercial to recreational. NMFS always fights against allowing the recreational sector to recoup unused quota. For the last 15 years, NMFS has had no problem allowing this to happen with bluefish. This has become tens of millions of pounds of fish that would have been saved. What would the stocks be if we had not transferred that unused amount of bluefish quota.

I would have been thrilled if the same commercial lobbyists who complained about unfairness during the scup discussion had raised that issue again during the discussion about bluefish. But instead I could hear a pin drop. Since I have commented on this issue many times at these meetings over the years, I decided to wait and see what others would say. Not one Council member or Commissioner raised this issue. It did not surprise me. Years ago, when I tried to raise the recreational bag limit from 10 to 15 fish because of the transfer of quota, NMFS and a majority of Council and Commission members fought against it. It took over a year and action by the head of NMFS to rectify this situation. Again, it was another example of the hypocrisy that seems to be prevalent.

We now have a chance to correct a mistake that was made in the 90's. I applaud the majority of the Council and Commission members that voted to start an amendment. It will be interesting to see if the Council and the Commission members have the guts to do it right thing when it comes to actually adjusting the scup quota.

### **ASMFC Annual Meeting Week October 22<sup>nd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> Agenda**

ASMFC Annual meeting will be held in Philadelphia, making it possible for many of you to attend. The agenda is below. As the materials for

the meetings are developed, you can find them on the ASMFC webpage under "Breaking News." A week before the meeting you should visit the JCAA webpage, click on the link to ASMFC and get prepared. I am hoping to see many of you at the meeting. If you have any questions, send me an email.

**ASMFC 71st Annual Meeting**  
Radisson Plaza - Warwick Hotel  
220 South 17th Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

### **Preliminary Agenda**

#### **October 21, 2012**

2:00 - 5:30 pm Registration

#### **October 22, 2012**

7:30 am - 1:00 pm & 2:30 - 4:00 pm Registration

8:00 - 9:00 am Atlantic Herring Section

9:15 - 11:15 am American Lobster Management Board

11:30 am - 12:30 pm Tautog Management Board

1:00 - 5:00 pm Law Enforcement Committee

8:30 am - 5:00 pm Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee

1:30 - 3:00 pm Winter Flounder Management Board

3:15 - 5:15 pm Shad and River Herring Management Board

6:30 - 8:00 pm Welcome Reception

#### **October 23, 2012**

8:00am - 1:00 pm & 2:30 - 4:00 pm Registration

8:30am - 11:30 am (Closed Session begins at 9:30 am) Executive Committee

8:30 am- Noon Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership Steering Committee (continued)

8:30 am- Noon Law Enforcement Committee (continued)

12:30 - 1:30 pm Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

1:00 - 5:00 pm Habitat Committee

1:45 - 2:45 pm Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

3:00 - 4:00 pm American Eel Management Board

4:15 - 5:15 pm South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board

6:00 - 10:00 pm Annual Dinner at The National Constitution Center

**October 24, 2012**

8:00 - 9:00 am Closed Session Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Executive Committee  
9:00 am - Noon ACCSP Coordinating Council  
8:30 am – 11:30 am Legislators and Governors' Appointees Blank Rome Workshop  
8:30 am - Noon Habitat Committee (continued)  
8:30 am - 5:00 pm Management & Science Committee  
10:30 am - 12:30 pm Registration  
12:15 - 1:15 pm Captain David H. Hart Award Luncheon  
1:30 - 2:30 pm Horseshoe Crab Management Board  
2:45 - 5:00 pm Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board  
5:00 - 6:00 pm Business Session

**October 25, 2012**

8:30 - 10:30 am Atlantic Sturgeon Management Board  
10:45 - 11:45 am Weakfish Management Board  
11:45 am - 12:15 pm Lunch for Commissioners & Proxies  
12:15 - 2:15 pm Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Management Board  
2:30 - 4:30 pm Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board  
4:30 - 5:00 pm ISFMP Policy Board (continued)  
5:00 - 5:15 pm Business Session (continued)

**MAFMC Meeting in NJ**

We have another opportunity to attend a fisheries management meeting. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council meeting is October 15-18, 2012 at Ocean Place, One Ocean Blvd., Long Branch, NJ 07740. If you look at the agenda below, you will see that on Wednesday they will be discussing the special management zones for removing pots from the artificial reef in Delaware's waters. Because of a lack of movement by the NJ Assembly, they will not be discussing removing the pots off New Jersey's artificial reefs in federal waters. This is a terrific opportunity for you to see fisheries management in action.

**Monday, October 15**

**1:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Visioning and Strategic Planning Working Group**  
*Robins, Anderson, Beal, Berg, Darcy, Elliott, Hemilright, Himchak, King, Linhard, Luisi, McMurray, Nolan, Pate (Clark)*

- Finalize Mission Statement
- Review top themes from the Visioning Project

- Discuss Objectives, Strategies, and Tactics for three to four strategic goals

**Tuesday, October 16**

**9:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Visioning and Strategic Planning Working Group**  
*Robins, Anderson, Beal, Berg, Darcy, Elliott, Hemilright, Himchak, King, Linhard, Luisi, McMurray, Nolan, Pate (Clark)*

- Review outcomes from Day 1
- Discuss Objectives, Strategies, and Tactics for three to four strategic goals (continued from Day 1)

**5:00 - 6:00 pm**                      **Listening Session**

**Wednesday, October 17**

**9:00 am**                                  **Council Convenes**

**9:00 - 10:00 am**

**Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Presentation**

- Proposed rule/DEIS for Amendment 5 to the HMS FMP
- Other current HMS rulemakings and/or operational issues

**10:00 - noon**

**Delaware Special Management Zone (SMZ) Request**

- Review and approve options for designation of Delaware artificial reefs in the EEZ
- Schedule public hearings for Delaware SMZ request

**12:00 - 1:00 pm**                      **Lunch**

**1:00 -2:00 pm**                      **Dogfish Amendment 3**

- Approve and adopt final measures in Amendment 3 to the Spiny Dogfish FMP

**2:00- 3:00 pm**                      **Dogfish Specifications**

- Review SSC and Spiny Dogfish Monitoring Committee recommendations for 2012
- Adopt recommendations for 2012 management measures

**3:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Framework 7 (Meeting 2) and 8 (Meeting 1) to Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish FMP**

- (7) Consider changing butterfish catch cap for the longfin squid fishery to a butterfish discard cap
- (8) Consider adding butterfish cap closure authority in trimester 2
- (8) Consider procedure for transferring quota between landings and                                  discards in the butterfish cap near the end of the year



**4:00 - 5:00 pm**

**Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) FMAT Report**

- Review and approve alternatives for SBRM Amendment

**Thursday, October 18**

**9:00 - 10:00**

**Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Summer Flounder Study**

- Presentation on recreational management approaches as examined by PMAFS project investigators

**10:00 - 1:00 pm**

**Business Session**

- Approve August 2012
- Address any outstanding actions from August 2012 meeting

**Liaison Reports**

- South Atlantic Council

**Organizational Reports**

- NMFS Regional Administrator
- NMFS NEFSC Director
- NOAA Office of General Counsel
- Federal Enforcement (NMFS and U.S. Coast Guard)
- ASMFC Director

**Executive Director's Report - Chris Moore**

**Science Report - Rich Seagraves**

- Report of SSC Ecosystems Subcommittee on strategies for implementing Ecosystem Approaches to Fishery Management and development of draft OY control rule framework

**Bridgeton Man Charged with Illegally Netting Undersized Striped Bass, Planning to Serve in Restaurant**

By Richard Degener,  
Press of Atlantic City, 8/4/2012

A Bridgeton man has been charged with illegally netting striped bass that he apparently planned to sell in his Commerce Street restaurant.

Jian X. Shao, 47, faces charges of possessing 85 undersized striped bass and catching 77 more than the daily limit. The state Division of Fish and Wildlife, which is prosecuting the case, said Shao faces \$19,000 in fines.

The case began when the division received a tip at 1:45 a.m. July 22 that five people were using a cast net to catch striped bass from the Fortescue Creek Bridge in Downe Township. It is illegal to net striped bass in New Jersey. They can be landed only by hook-and-line or spear fishing.

Armed with a vehicle description, marine conservation officers Thomas Swift and Jeremy Trembley went to the only road leaving Fortescue and at 2:15 a.m. pulled over the suspect vehicle.

According to authorities, a search uncovered a cast net and 11 striped bass under the legal size limit of 28 inches. Authorities said Shao claimed he caught all the fish so the others were not charged. That also left Shao facing charges of catching nine fish over the limit since people are allowed only two striped bass per day.

Authorities said those charges will be heard Aug. 15 in Fairfield Township Municipal Court, which handles court duties for Downe Township.

The officers also found that Shao owns the Fuleen Meng Restaurant on East Commerce Street, and at 11 a.m. July 22 conducted an inspection at the establishment, discovering 74 undersized stripers in a freezer. Shao was charged with catching 74 undersized fish and 68 fish over the daily limit. Shao also was charged with failure to provide accurate records of fisheries resources and for possession of striped bass for the purpose of sale. New Jersey banned the sale of wild striped bass in 1991.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, a compact of East Coast states that regulates migratory fish, gives out allocations for striped bass to the states. New Jersey, unlike other East Coast states, gives its commercial allocation to recreational anglers, 321,750 pounds a year, by allowing anglers to get a bonus tag to catch a third fish per day. Without a commercial catch, striped bass cannot be sold at restaurants unless it is a farm-raised hybrid variety.

The state's case developed at the Fuleen Meng Restaurant is set to go to Bridgeton Municipal Court on Aug. 23.

Shao could not be reached for comment Friday.



## **Hurt by Reeling Economy and Catch Limits, Fishing's Fortunes Sinking in NJ**

By Eric Sagara, Star Ledger, 8/8/2012

*(Reprinted from Last month's JCAA Newspaper)*

This is about the big one that got away. Not a fish, but fishing, a sport and an economic engine in decline.

In recent years, the sport of saltwater fishing in New Jersey has lost more than one of every 10 jobs lost industry-wide, nearly \$200 million in sales and \$109 million in contributions to the state's gross domestic product, according to the most recent economic data from the National Marine Fisheries Service. And since 2007, the industry has continued to lose ground here, according to a Star-Ledger analysis of federal data tracking anglers and the trips they take off of New Jersey's shores.

For a morning fishing excursion a few weeks ago, the Sea Hunter out of Atlantic Highlands was less than half full, with 32 anglers on board at \$42 a head. Capt. Rob Semkewyc said that was a good day for him. Factoring expenses, such as bait, marine fuel, dock fees and two deck hands, he estimates he made about \$10 an hour for the 4.5-hour cruise.

"It's tough living on the water," Semkewyc said. "Every year it gets tougher."

Experts point to the recession and an increase in gas prices for curbing the number of fishermen chartering boats and pleasure craft. Anglers also say restrictive catch limits make the sport less appealing for many.

"That's a major part of the New Jersey tourism industry it trickles down to restaurants and hotels," said Thomas Fote, legislative operations manager for the Jersey Coast Anglers' Association, a cooperative of more than 75 saltwater fishing clubs. "Five years ago, you couldn't get a space in a marina. There's a lot of empty spaces in the marinas nowadays."

Fote said the boat and tackle industries have not been doing as much business lately. Participation in fishing tournaments has also dropped, he said.

"I look at peoples' backyards and their boats are still sitting there," he said. "They haven't put their boats in the water the last couple of years."

Economic data for the past few years is not yet available, but federal fishing data shows people are taking fewer trips every year in New Jersey, with a 27 percent decrease in saltwater excursions from 2006 to 2011, a loss of about 1.9 million trips.

The decline in the number of anglers is slightly less steep, indicating people are still fishing but taking fewer trips, said Brandon Muffley, chief of the Bureau of Marine Fisheries in New Jersey's Department of Environmental Sciences.

Other activities such as hunting and freshwater fishing have suffered as well, he said. "General outdoor activities like that have declined over the past five to 10 years."

There has been about a 26 percent decrease in the number of anglers from out of state who are fishing in New Jersey's coastal waters. These anglers most often come from Pennsylvania or New York and have made up more than 40 percent of all the anglers fishing here in the past, according to federal fisheries estimates.

Over the past three decades, saltwater fishing trips trended upward until about six years ago, according to the federal data. New Jersey leads the Atlantic Coast in sports fishing catches of summer flounder, bluefish, black sea bass and weakfish, Muffley said.

The drop-off in fishing trips is sharpest among the party and charter boats that take anglers out into deeper waters for a chance at larger fish. While the number of people fishing from shore or on private or rental boats has increased over the years, the for-hire industry has experienced a steady decline in business.

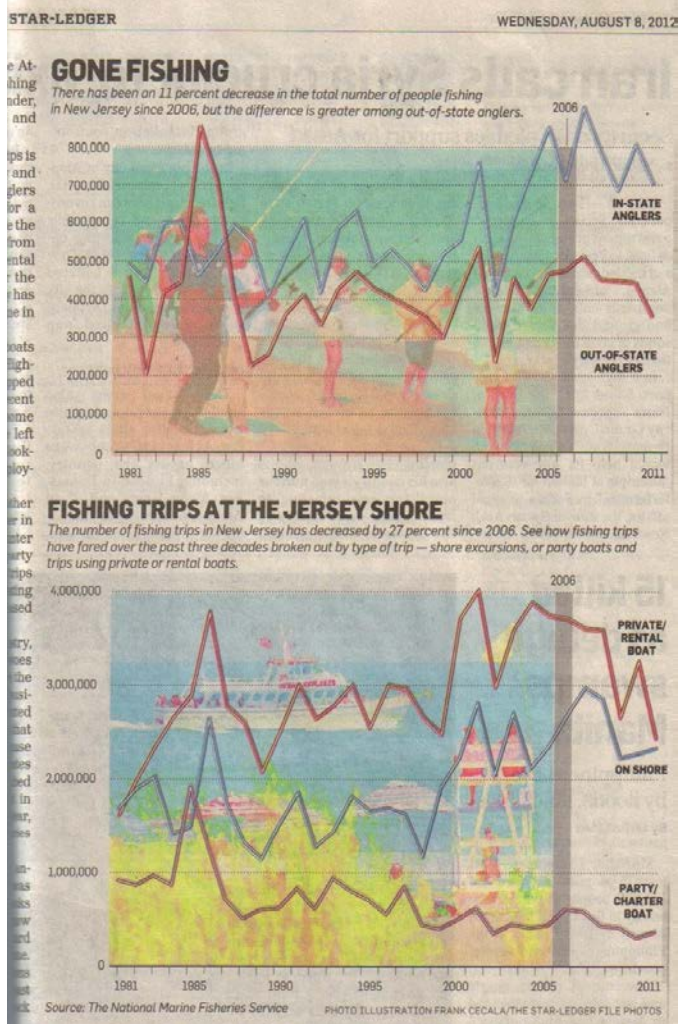
The number of party boats sailing from the Atlantic Highlands Marina has dropped from nine to seven in recent years. Semkewyc said some party boat captains have left the industry altogether, looking for more gainful employment elsewhere.

Semkewyc and his father went into business together in 1993, buying the Sea Hunter and launching it as a party boat. Since then, fishing trips on boats such as his operating in New Jersey have decreased by 60 percent.

Like many in the industry, Semkewyc blames his woes on catch limits put in place the same year he started the business. The limits were instituted to protect several different species that had been overfished. Because of the limits, live release rates for summer flounder climbed from a low of 12 percent in 1985 to 92 percent last year, according to federal fisheries estimates.

"The success rate per angler is one-quarter what it was back in 1992 when the stocks collapsed," Fote said. "We now force the people to discard more fish than they take home."

Muffley said restrictions have been easing over the past few years as the fishing stock rebuilds.



Anglers on Semkewyc's morning fishing trip caught 16 "keepers" above the minimum size limit. They also tossed back an estimated 80 "shorts" that did not meet the requirement.

Ralph Sibona of Lakewood was the only one to catch the limit on Semkewyc's boat, but he had to throw back 16 fish from his position on the starboard side of the stern. "Today was a very good day," he said.

Fifteen feet away on the port side, Kevin Brown of Roselle had a different sort of luck. He caught only two fish — both about 15 inches — and had to throw them back. He toyed briefly with the idea of paying another \$42 for another trip in the afternoon.

"I might be lucky, but I don't want to take a chance," he said, adding that he spent \$70 for the morning outing. "I'm going to go home and get some fish out of my freezer and enjoy that."

The half-dozen anglers fishing from a nearby pier also had a bad day. They too fish for fluke, but

all they managed to catch were a couple of handfuls of baitfish.

"I love being on the piers, it doesn't cost me," said Rocco Galante of Jackson.

Galante is retired with a fixed income, living off of Social Security.

"I'd like to be on a boat — anybody does — but if you ain't got the money you don't do it," he said. "It's a lot cheaper to come here."

## Before a Spill, Group Documents Marine Life in New Jersey

By Wayne Parry, Associated Press, 8/12/2012

**SOUTH AMBOY** - In the distance loomed the huge metal tanks storing oil and gasoline near the water's edge.

But right on the shoreline of the Raritan Bay, amid the deep green sea lettuce washing up in the waves, there were bait fish, clams, mussels, and shrimp, with shorebirds swooping down low in search of a quick meal.

The Raritan and Delaware bays are home to heavy petrochemical operations, with the potential for great environmental damage in the event of a spill.

Because of that, a group of volunteers is fanning out along the coast of some of the state's industrialized waterways to document fish, plants and animals that are there now. The data being collected by the American Littoral Society will help form a starting point to compare with the aftermath of a spill.

"It's to get a baseline of data so that if there ever is a spill, we can go back to the data and see what was here before," said Stevie Thorsen, who is leading the program for the Sandy Hook-based Littoral Society, a coastal advocacy group. "When there's an oil spill, there's a natural resources damage assessment done afterward. If you don't have the 'before' data, it's harder to do a comparison with the 'after.'"

Thorsen also said the data could be extremely helpful in calculating financial damages against parties responsible for a spill. That issue rose in importance following the April 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, in which an estimated 5 million barrels of oil (or 210 million gallons) was released into the gulf.

In South Amboy, Thorsen and two volunteers, 22-year-old Megan Molok of Old Bridge,

and 20-year-old Jessica Valenti of Toms River, documented all the wildlife they could find. They stretched a 40-foot-long seining net through the shallows of the bay near the shoreline, pulling in minnow-like bait fish called silversides; a few small menhaden (which were being devoured a few yards beyond the reach of their nets by schools of young snapper bluefish); soft-shell clams; blue mussels, grass shrimp and a few pipe fish. Sea lettuce and red algae were among the plant life thriving in the shallows.

The data was recorded on inventory sheets that eventually will be compiled into a single database. In addition to South Amboy, so far the group has documented conditions in Waretown and Cattus Island on Barnegat Bay; Villas in Delaware Bay; Keyport, Cliffwood Beach and Sandy Hook in Raritan Bay; and Belmar on the Monmouth County oceanfront.

They hope to assess 50 sites in all, 25 by the end of this year.

"In case there is ever an oil spill, because of this data, we would be able to know what we needed to restore it to," Molok said.

Valenti used a clam rake to scrape through the sediment at the water's edge to document small marine creatures living in it. A marine biology student, she says she has always loved going to the beach, and would be greatly upset if a spill fouled the shoreline.

Jeanne Sax of East Brunswick, who paddled ashore in her kayak, applauded the group's work.

"The water is a little chocolatey-looking, but you still want to save it," she said. "I wouldn't want to see anything happen to it."

## Membership Report

*By John Toth*

Many clubs have paid their 2012 JCAA membership dues. We have recently received club dues payment from both the NJ Beach Buggy Association and the Bradley Beach Surf Casters. Thank You!

However, I have not yet received club dues from some clubs. If you have misplaced club membership information and need it, please do not hesitate to contact me. Also, if you think your club has not paid its dues, please check with your club's

treasurer to see if the check for the dues has been sent out.

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](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net)

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

## Show Time

*By Mark Taylor*

With another good year coming to an end, fishermen are getting their last shot at some last minute fishing before winterizing their boat. Then a cool 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 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>**
- **Atlantic City Boat Show on February 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>**
- **NJ's Salt Water Sportsman on February 11<sup>th</sup>**

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

# Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

## **HOFNOD BILL AWAITS GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE**

We are looking forward to Governor Christie signing the recently approved "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" (HOFNOD) bill by the full senate.

HOFNOD would establish a program within the Division of Fish and Wildlife to encourage children to avoid drug use. 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.

HOFNOD focuses on preventing drug use through sport fishing and aquatic education. The program is nationally recognized and offers youth alternatives such as fishing which can keep children from drug use. One of its primary purposes, besides increasing a youth's angling skills, is to enhance the development of life skills that divert children from using drugs. There are many reasons to get "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs." As with any drug prevention program there is no guarantee that children will become drug free or remain that way. The HOFNOD program offers youths positive choices for living and options to overcome problems. These are possibly the best reasons that will effectively help keep children away from and experimenting with drugs.

## **2012 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD**

It takes the support of many volunteers to bring successes to the fishing community but sometimes individuals and sport-fishing organizations go above and beyond to make the future of fishing better for our youngsters. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is accepting nominations for the 2012 Youth Education Award. Please submit your nominations by October 2012. Submit your nominations in writing at the JCAA monthly meeting or email the JCAA Youth Education Committee, [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com)

## **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

The Seaside Heights Fishing Club is hosting their Annual Children's Surf Fishing Tournament on Oct. 6th (the day before the Governor's Cup). It's a free event for children, ages sixteen years and under. Registration is at 9:00AM on the boardwalk at the Franklin Ave stage. The tournament starts at 10:00AM and ends 2:00PM. Every child gets lunch on the beach at noon and a raffle prize after the event. Awards are presented for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. For more info, contact SHFC President John Amodio at 609-775-7190. Some other surf fishing tournaments scheduled in October for children and adults can be found at the Association of Surf Angling Clubs (ASAC) website, [www.asaconline.org](http://www.asaconline.org). (click on tournament and events). Fishing locations include Wildwood, Brigantine, and Seaside Park, NJ. There is a fee for registering in these highly competitive ASAC events and awards are given to adults (teams and/or individuals) and sometimes children scoring 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place fish. Interested anglers are advised to contact the tournament's host for additional information regarding team/individual registration, tournament fees, youth participation/awards, and rules.

**IBSP WILDSIDE Fall Schedule Beginner's Surf Fishing Clinics** - This is a great opportunity to learn the basics of surf fishing. Learn the techniques for successful surf fishing from veteran surf anglers and have a great chance to catch a fish. Dates: September 28, October 5, 12, 19, 26, Time: 10 – 1 p.m. Cost: \$10.00 per person. Ages 10 years old and up. Minors must be accompanied by a registered adult.

On September 8th, the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association held their 19th Annual Children's Surf Fishing Tournament at Island Beach State Park. Despite torrential rain in many areas other than at IBSP, over a hundred twenty participants took part in the event. Tournament activities began with registration and included multiple instructional tables where they learned knot tying, use of (metal, wood, & soft plastic) lures, one-on-one casting lessons, and a picture taking opportunity with a replica mount of New Jersey's State Record and the former IGFA World Record striped bass weighing 78 lbs 8oz. Upon completion of the instructional tables, each child received a grab bag full of assorted fishing tackle, a colorful NJBBA Tournament T-shirt, an IGFA Junior Angler Member

Gift Certificate, and assorted bait for a fun day of fishing and family bonding on the beach. Strong winds and currents (where ten plus ounces wasn't holding) didn't deter these anglers from scoring a total of forty-nine fish. While blues, kings, and spot made for most of the species caught, a single croaker and an undersized striped bass rounded up the total catch. After fishing, participants were treated to lunch and a free raffle. Every child had a winner's choice of prizes from five tables to take home as part of a memorable day at the shore. Trophies were then awarded to first, second, and third place winners in three different age groups. Additionally, "NJBBA Judges Awards" were presented for the Largest Fish, the Most Fish, the Most Unusual Fish, and the Smallest Fish so that more children were able to bring home an award. Sponsors and donors included the JCAA Youth Education Program, the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County, the Berkeley Striper Club's Youth Ed' Program, Sea Grant Consortium, NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife, NJBBA members, and other local businesses, including numerous bait & tackle shops. JCAA's Youth Ed Chairman, Greg Kucharewski provided the sketch of a seagull reeling in a fish that appeared on the front of the tournament t-shirts. For more information on this tournament, visit. [www.njbba.org](http://www.njbba.org) (click on charitable events). For information on becoming a sponsor/donor at next year's tournament, contact Tim Burden at 201-983-2300 or [tb2fishon@aol.com](mailto:tb2fishon@aol.com). As of this writing, the 39th National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 22, 2012 at Island Beach State Park has yet to arrive. Hosted by the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, this event is for special needs children. The goal is for these children to have fun while learning about nature and surf fishing on the beach. There's a hot dog lunch, boxes of ice cold drinks, NJBBA T-shirts, fishing magazines, and sometimes other assorted goodies for each of these very special kids. If Mother Nature and the Fishing Gods were thoughtful, they provided these youngsters with a memorable day and some fish to brag about to their family and friends! For information on how you can help at this event, contact NJBBA Board members: Reb Gilliland ([reb@rebsrods.com](mailto:reb@rebsrods.com)) or Angel Prouty ([prouty5@comcast.net](mailto:prouty5@comcast.net)).

**SIGN UP FOR  
JCAA ALERTS  
at [www.JCAA.org](http://www.JCAA.org)**