

# JCAA NEWSPAPER JANUARY 2013

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on December 11th, 2012)

**Monthly Meeting at Jersey Coast Shark Anglers, 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick**  
**"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"**

## **JCAA REGULAR MEETING:**

**Tuesday, December 18th, 2012**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**At 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick**

## **NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, December 13th, 2012**

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

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

### **2012 Dates:**

**December 13<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board meeting

**December 18<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting at Jersey Coast Shark Anglers Clubhouse

### **2013 Dates:**

**January 5<sup>th</sup>** Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series at Golden Nugget AC

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

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

**January 29<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Mtg.

**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

**April 14<sup>th</sup>** Sportsperson of the year dinner

**August 24<sup>th</sup>** JCAA 19<sup>th</sup> Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament

**September 6<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony at Golden Nugget AC

## **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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<b>Mem. Sec.</b>	John Toth	732-656-0139
<b>Tournament Dir.</b>	Paul Turi	609-660-2126

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series Returns to Atlantic City!**

For Immediate Release

Contact 800-448-7360

The Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series will kick off its 2013 Tour in Atlantic City on Saturday, January 5. The Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino will host the 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. presentation inside their Grand Ballroom. **George Poveromo** – Host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on the NBC Sports Network, and Editor-At-Large for Salt Water Sportsman, will headline the program, along with **Gary Caputi** – Field Editor for Salt Water Sportsman. The Tour is being presented by Sperry Top-Sider.

Joining **Poveromo** and **Caputi** in Atlantic City will be: **Captain Adam Crouthamel** –

Distinguished Cape May-area authority on catching trophy fluke and striped bass, along with blackfish, sea bass and cod with *Adam Bomb Sport Fishing*; **Captain Tom Daffin** – Premier tuna and canyon pro who also excels at catching deep water fluke and trophy striped bass, with *Fishin' Fever Sportfishing*; **Nick Honachefsky** – Normandy Beach-based authority on catching trophy fluke and blackfish, and fishing the back-bays; **Crazy Alberto Knie** - Legendary trophy striped bass authority, and also a noted specialist at catching trophy class fluke and blackfish; **Captain John Sowerby** – Cape May-based authority on catching tuna, swordfish and Makos, inshore sharks, black drum and stripers aboard his charter boat - *Hooked Up II*; **Captain Dan Schafer** – Stone Harbor-based light-tackle striped bass and back bay pro with *Insomniac Charters*; **Captain Dave DeGennaro** – A 35-year veteran at catching striped bass and fishing the back-bays and offshore waters from Barnegat Bay, aboard the *Hi Flier*; and **Captain Sam Rescigno** – Distinguished bottom- and wreck-fishing veteran and specialist at catching trophy class blackfish aboard his *Mary M III*;

Courses for the January 5 presentation will focus on: Trophy stripers on ultra-light tackle; Live-lining for trophy stripers; Top trolling tactics for stripers; Chunking for bluefish; Bluefish on surface lures; Inshore wire-line techniques; Jetty tactics; How to catch more and bigger fluke; Targeting trophy fluke; Top southern tactics for jumbo fluke; Secrets of fishing the Cape May Rips; Trophy drum in Delaware Bay; Secrets of fishing Delaware Bay; Top tactics for big blackfish; Catching blackfish by the score; Jigging for blackfish; No-nonsense weakfish tactics; How and where to locate weakfish; Variety fishing in and around inlets; How to locate and fish productive bottom (blackfish, sea bass, spot and fluke); Back-bay stripers; Can't-miss tunatrolling patterns; Chunking for tunas; Live-baiting for tunas; Advanced methods for bluefin and yellowfin tuna; Cutting edge lure-trolling tactics; Subsurface offshore trolling; Cutting edge spreader bar and dredge tactics; Secrets for catching more inshore tuna; Reading water temperature charts; Targeting trophy Makos; Basic and advanced sharking techniques; Offshore kite fishing for sharks and tuna; Specialized tactics that take more big-eye tuna; How to troll up more wahoo and white marlin!

New this year will be a special Kid's Seminar from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., presented by Sperry Top-

Sider. In addition to their seminar, the kids will participate in a meet-and-greet with George Poveromo, have chances to win special door prizes, enjoy a free lunch courtesy of Sperry Top-Sider, and have their names entered into a Grand Prize drawing to win a Florida fishing trip with George Poveromo. **Note: One child, 15 years and younger, per paying adult, will be admitted for the full day at no charge!**

The Seminar Series kicks off at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude by 4:00 p.m. There is a one-hour break at noon for the adults, and the conducting of the Kids seminar during this hour. Long considered the best bargain in sportfishing, a Seminar Series ticket is only \$55.00.

The ticket price covers six hours of instruction from the best pros in the business, a course textbook, a one-year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman, one Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, 16-ounce bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, one spool of Sufix fishing line, one bottle of Star tron fuel treatment, a \$20.00 discount card off any purchase of \$150.00 or more from Capt. Harry's Fishing Supply, and chances to win thousands of dollars' worth of door prizes! The Grand Prize at the conclusion of the Jersey seminar is a Bahamas fishing trip for two to the prestigious Bimini Sands Resort & Marina. The Super Grand Prize, to be awarded two weeks after the conclusion of the 2013 series, is a new Mako Pro Skiff 17 cc!

**HOW TO REGISTER** - Get your tickets now, as the Atlantic City seminar is always a popular venue. To pay with Visa, MasterCard and American Express, call (800) 448-7360, or register on-line, visit: [www.nationalseminarseries.com](http://www.nationalseminarseries.com).

## President's Report

By Joseph Puntasecca

For those seeking a little bit of normalcy after the storm and return to fishing, don't forget to register or re-register with the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program in the New Year. You can register or renew your registration for 2013 by going to: [www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov](http://www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov). If you do go fishing please consider filling out the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey to help the Bureau of Marine Fisheries better manage our resources by going to [this link](#).

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

Consider a donation to JCAA when you make preparations for your income taxes for 2012. Jersey Coast Anglers Association is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Donations to JCAA are tax deductible and are a wonderful way to secure your fishing future and protect the rights of anglers.

It is very important for the Presidents of our member clubs to please take the time to see that your annual JCAA membership dues are paid promptly in 2013. We also need updated information on your club's delegates to JCAA meetings with contact information including phone number and email address.

It's time for everyone to get more involved with the issues that face us. I am asking for more people to step up and be even more active in this organization. We are looking for volunteers to help out with printing our newspaper, at the upcoming shows and we also have our election coming up in December and in need of officers to serve on the Board. If you are interested, please contact Mark Taylor at (732) 245-9445 or [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com). There are many different ways that you can get more active in JCAA, as an individual or a club. Please attend the next meeting for more details.

### ***Federal Disaster Relief for Recreational Anglers***

If you can't fish because your marina, favorite fishing access point, or dock has been damaged by the storm, please email Chris Zeman. He will be writing NOAA and the Mid-Atlantic Council to obtain federal disaster aid for the recreational fishing industry and is looking for the help of NJ's recreational anglers. Chris is looking for specific details of the infrastructure damage that has occurred. Please e-mail Chris at [chrisze@optonline.net](mailto:chrisze@optonline.net) with details of how your fishing efforts are affected by Hurricane Sandy with one or two paragraphs, and include location or locations and a couple of pictures. Put 'Sandy's fishing related damage' in the subject and also include your name and hometown.

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### **REMINDER**

FEMA is operating out of the Brick Civic Plaza. Our General Meetings will be held at the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers, 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick until further notice. The December General Meeting will be on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

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In last month's newspaper I included the schedule for both of these meetings which will be held in Baltimore, December 12, 14. Because of the early press date, information from these meetings is not available. There will be an update at the JCAA meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup> and we will post the report on the webpage. To review JCAA's position on menhaden, go to last month's newspaper on the webpage. The comment period has passed. By the time you read this newspaper, the vote will be completed.

As a personal note, this holiday season will be different from many others. The last time I had so many concerns about everyone's welfare was the holiday I spent in Vietnam. I know many of you are still not in your homes and are struggling with the clean-up. Since I am located on the mainland side but at the foot of the Route 37 bridge, I see the long lines of cars waiting every morning headed to the barrier island. It makes me think of all of you who are not in your homes. I am always an optimist and know better days are ahead. I am hopeful that the bipartisan effort at both the state and federal level will continue. It is up to us to make sure our elected officials continue to put their focus on the welfare of the Jersey Shore rather than their political lives. This is also an opportunity for all of us who are concerned about the Jersey Shore to put aside our differences and focus on the big picture.

Next month I will write the year in review for JCAA. Please let me know your thoughts about rebuilding the shore with the issues of marine environment problems and fisheries issues. I would also like to have your thoughts on access, particularly as the rebuilding begins. I am hoping you share your thoughts with your club members and forward a letter to me summarizing your discussion. Have a happy holiday.

## Unused Pills Raise Issue of Disposal and Risks

By Andrew Pollack, New York Times, 12/6/2012

Brand name drug makers and their generic counterparts rarely find themselves on the same side of an issue, but now they are making an exception. They have teamed up to fight a local law in California, the first in the nation, that makes them responsible for running — and paying for — a program that would allow consumers to turn in unused medicines for proper disposal.



Michael Macor / The San Francisco Chronicle

**United Pharmacy in Berkeley, Calif., already has a bin on site to dispose of expired drugs.**

Such so-called drug take-back programs are gaining in popularity because of a growing realization that those leftover pills in your medicine cabinet are a potential threat to public health and the environment.

Small children might accidentally swallow them and teenagers will experiment with them, advocates of the laws say. Prescription drug abusers can, and are, breaking into homes in search of them. Unused pills are sometimes flushed down the toilet, so pharmaceuticals are now polluting waterways and even drinking water. One study found the antidepressant Prozac in the brains of fish.

Most such take-back programs are run by local or other government agencies. But increasingly there are calls to make the pharmaceutical industry pay.

“We feel the industry that profits from the sales of these products should have the financial responsibility for proper management and disposal,” said Miriam Gordon, California director of Clean Water Action, an advocacy group.

In July, Alameda County, Calif., which includes Oakland and Berkeley, became the first locality to enact such a requirement. Drug companies have to submit plans for accomplishing it by July 1, 2013.

But the industry plans to file a lawsuit in United States District Court in Oakland on Friday, hoping to have the law struck down. The suit is being filed by the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, or PhRMA, which represents brand-name drug companies, the Generic Pharmaceutical Association and the Biotechnology Industry Organization.

James M. Spears, general counsel of PhRMA, said the Alameda ordinance violated the Constitution in that a local government was interfering with interstate commerce, a right reserved for Congress.

“They are telling a company in New Jersey that you have to come in and design and implement and pay for a municipal service in California,” he said in an interview.

“This program is one where the cost is shifted to companies and individuals who are not located in Alameda County and who won’t be served by it.”

Mr. Spears, who is known as Mit, said that the program would cost millions of dollars a year to run and that pharmaceutical companies were “not in the waste disposal business.” He said it would be best left to sanitation departments and law enforcement agencies, which must be involved if narcotics, like pain pills, were to be transported.

Nathan A. Miley, the president of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the champion of the legislation, said late Thursday, “It’s just unfortunate that PhRMA would fight this because it would be pennies for them.”

“We will win legally and will win in the court of public opinion as well,” Mr. Miley said.

The battle in Alameda could set the direction for other states and localities. Legislators in seven states have introduced bills to require drug companies to pay for take-back programs in the last few years, said Scott Cassel, founder and chief executive of the Product Stewardship Institute, a nonprofit group that advocates such programs. But none of the bills have passed.

Mr. Cassel said about 70 similar “extended producer responsibility” laws have been enacted in 32 states for other products, like electronic devices,



mercury-containing thermometers, fluorescent lamps, paint and batteries. He said he was not aware that any had been struck down on constitutional grounds.

The pharmaceutical industry already pays for take-back programs in some other countries. The law in Alameda is modeled partly on the system in British Columbia and two other Canadian provinces. There, the industry formed the Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship Association, which runs the programs.

Consumers can take unused drugs back to pharmacies, from which they are periodically collected. Drug companies pay for the program in proportion to their market share, said Ginette Vanasse, executive director of the association. The program for British Columbia, with a population over four million, costs about \$500,000 a year, she said.

The extent of the problem of unused pills and how best to handle them are matters of debate.

The United States Geological Survey has found various drugs, including antidepressants, antibiotics, heart medicines and hormones, in waterways it has sampled. Sewage treatment plants and drinking water treatment plants are not meant to remove pharmaceuticals.

Still, it is not known what effect the chemicals might have. "It's a hard-to-pin-down problem," said Sonya Lunder, a senior analyst at the Environmental Working Group, an advocacy group. It is thought that trace amounts in drinking water are probably not harmful. But larger amounts found in wastewater could be having an impact on wildlife.

It is also unclear whether take-back programs will help. Experts generally agree that the bigger source of pollution is urine and feces containing the remnants of drugs that are ingested, not the unused pills flushed down the toilet.

PhRMA also argues that take-back programs will not help much with the problem of drug abuse either. Mr. Spears said that it was better to have consumers tie up unused pills in a plastic bag and throw them in the trash. That is more effective, he said, because people would not have to travel to a collection point. Such collection points could become targets for thieves and drug abusers.

## **Menhaden Catch Limits Vital to Ecosystem and Economy**

By H. Bruce Franklin, Asbury Park Press, 12/8/2012

Years ago I bobbed in a friend's fishing boat in New Jersey's waters and watched the little creature I would later label "the most important fish in the sea," the Atlantic menhaden. I watched the water boil as voracious bluefish tore into a large school of menhaden at the surface. A cloud of seabirds dove into them from above, while far beneath, striped bass swallowed whatever scraps drifted their way.

This is what the menhaden do best: they get eaten. Game fish and seabirds, sharks and whales all seek out these oily fish as a favorite meal, making menhaden a crucial link in the ocean food chain. These little filter feeders scoop up algae, acting as the kidneys of our coastal waters, then convert that energy into fat and protein to feed the rest of the sea.

But all that is threatened by one company's industrial fishing fleet and its unrestricted overfishing. Menhaden populations have been in free fall for the past 30 years, a 90 percent decline that's left them at historically low levels. The collapse of menhaden threatens not only our ocean ecosystem but also our coastal economy. Recreational fishing is a multibillion-dollar business, and without menhaden to eat, game fish and the businesses they support are in jeopardy.

Now menhaden might be getting their moment. An alliance of recreational fishermen, scientists and conservationists has pushed the 15-state body that's supposed to regulate the menhaden fishery to the cusp of meaningful action. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will vote next Friday on what could be the first coast-wide limit on the menhaden catch. Leading scientists are asking for a 50 percent cut in the catch to rebuild the menhaden population.

One company is working to stop this step toward sanity: Omega Protein. Omega takes 80 percent of the Atlantic menhaden catch. By tonnage, it's the largest fishery on the Atlantic coast. But no one eats these fish — not directly, at least. Menhaden are cooked and crushed into fertilizer, industrial and nutritional oils, and feed for livestock and fish farms.

Omega operates the only remaining menhaden processing facility on the East Coast. Executives have threatened to lay off workers there

if the catch is restricted because the company says it can't afford to fish sustainably.

Omega's investors, however, get a different story. In its most recent quarterly earnings report, Omega recorded the highest revenues in company history, nearly \$78 million. SEC filings on Omega's executive pay show that over the last two years Omega's top executives raked in more than \$15 million.

Records also show the company was fined for 21 serious workplace safety violations following the April death of an Omega worker.

On Dec. 14, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission will choose between allowing Omega Protein to continue devastating our coastal environment or rescuing the fish that can help restore our coastal waters and New Jersey's economy.

When the fisheries commission asked for public comment on these choices, 594 were in favor of the status quo, which is no limit whatsoever on the allowable catch of menhaden, while 114,795 voted for major reductions in the annual catch of menhaden. So we have good reason to hope for the salvation of New Jersey's most important fish.

## **Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner**

*By Paul Turi*

Well, it seems that Hurricane Sandy did more than destroy homes and businesses; it also disrupted many planned events such as our annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year dinner. I have to say the folks over at the Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant where we hold our dinner every year were very helpful and understanding and actually even suggested it might be a good idea to postpone the dinner to a future date to allow everyone time to recover from this horrific storm. So, with that being said, our new date for the dinner is Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 4:00 to 9:00 PM. We will have a cocktail hour with plenty of hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar and three main entrees, fish, chicken & beef, and plenty of desserts with coffee and tea.

This year's honoree and our Sportsperson-of-the-year is Tim Burden from the Beach Buggy Association. Tim was also understanding of our postponing the dinner and was in support of it.

If you need tickets for the dinner, contact **Dan Miller** at [blueangray@comcast.net](mailto:blueangray@comcast.net) or (609) 641-

7821. Tickets are \$75.00 per ticket and \$600.00 for a table of 10 which is a \$150 savings.

I am still collecting donations, so if you wish to donate something I can be reached at (609) 660-2126 or [pturi6@comcast.net](mailto:pturi6@comcast.net).

So get a table of 10 together and come on out and have a good time with some friends and take home one or more of the many prizes we will have this year. And as always I have prizes for the ladies too. This is a major fundraiser for Jersey Coast, so if you can make it to the dinner and honor our sportsperson-of-the-year, it will go a long way toward supporting Jersey Coast in our efforts in representing the best interests of the recreational angler.

## **Highly Migratory Species Report**

*By Tom Fote*

I do not do the HMS report. However, we have not had an HMS report in the past few newspapers and I think this information is important. JCAA needs a functioning HMS Committee to deal with shark, tuna and the other highly migratory species. Some of our clubs run the largest shark tournaments along the coast, but we can't seem to interest anyone in serving on this committee. We have time for JCAA to submit comments on these proposed changes. We need a committee to gather the information and make recommendations. If you are interested in serving on this committee and helping to develop JCAA's comments, please contact Joe Puntasecca. He can be reached by phone (201-320-8133) or email at [puntasecca@jcaa.org](mailto:puntasecca@jcaa.org).

Below you will see the announcement for Amendment 5 to the Shark Management Plan. Written comments will be accepted until February 13, 2013. [This is the link](#) for the entire 32 page document. I have included the summary that was posted in the Federal Registry. In addition, there is an email sent by Marin Hawk the FMP Coordinator. He did a good job of summarizing the varied alternatives contained in this Amendment. These comments were directed at Commissioners but it will give everyone a good starting point for reading these documents. You will also find a chart listing the size of sharks at maturity. This was requested by one of the Commissioners and I think it is information everyone should have.

**DOC/NOAA**  
**50 CFR Part 635**  
**[Docket No. 110831548–2430–01]**  
**RIN 0648–BB29**

Highly Migratory Species;  
Atlantic Shark Management Measures

**AGENCY:** NMFS and NOAA, Dept. of Commerce

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; request for comments

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is amending the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan based on several shark stock assessments that were completed from 2009 to 2012. The assessments for Atlantic blacknose, dusky, and scalloped hammerhead sharks indicated that these species are overfished and experiencing overfishing. The assessment for sandbar sharks indicated that this species is overfished, but not experiencing overfishing. The assessment for Gulf of Mexico blacktip sharks, adopted in this rulemaking, indicated that the stock is not overfished and not experiencing overfishing. The assessment for Gulf of Mexico blacknose sharks was not accepted; therefore, the overfished and overfishing statuses have been determined to be unknown. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) requires the Agency to implement management measures that prevent overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks, as necessary. Based on the new stock assessments, and after considering public comments received during scoping and on a predraft document, we are proposing measures that would reduce fishing mortality and effort in order to rebuild overfished Atlantic shark species while ensuring that a limited sustainable shark fishery can be maintained consistent with our legal obligations. The proposed measures include changes to commercial quotas and species groups, the creation of several time/area closures, a change to an existing time/area closure, an increase in the recreational minimum size restrictions, and the establishment of recreational reporting for certain species of sharks. The proposed measures could affect U.S. commercial or recreational fishermen who harvest sharks within the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.

**DATES:** Written comments will be accepted until February 12, 2013. NMFS will announce the dates and locations of public hearings in a future **Federal Register** notice. **ADDRESSES:** NMFS will announce the dates and locations of public hearings in a future **Federal Register** notice. You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2012–0161, by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal *www.regulations.gov*. To submit comments via the e-Rulemaking Portal, first click the “submit a comment” icon, then enter NOAA–NMFS–2012–0161 in the keyword search. Locate the document you wish to comment on from the resulting list and click on the “Submit a Comment” icon on the right of that line.

- **Mail:** Submit written comments to Peter Cooper, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

- **Fax:** 301–713–1917; *Attn:* Peter Cooper

**Instructions:** *Comments must be submitted by one of the above methods to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on *www.regulations.gov* without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only. Written comments regarding the burden-hour estimates or other aspects of the collection-of-information requirements contained in this proposed rule may be submitted to the Highly Migratory Species Management Division of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries and by email to *OIRA\_Submission@omb.eop.gov* or fax to (202) 395–7285.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Peter Cooper, Guy DuBeck, Michael Clark, or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301–427–8503

## Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Memorandum, 12/4/2012

**To:** Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board and Technical Committee

**From:** Marin Hawk, FMP Coordinator

**Subject:** NOAA Fisheries' Draft Amendment 5 to the Highly Migratory Species Coastal Shark FMP

The National Marine Fisheries Service announced the release of a proposed rule for Amendment 5 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan. The Commission is seeking guidance from the Board on whether or not to send comments to NOAA Fisheries as a Commission. Amendment 5 addresses results of recent stock assessments for scalloped hammerhead, sandbar, dusky, blacknose, and Gulf of Mexico blacktip sharks. The preferred suite of measures (Alternative A2) to end overfishing and rebuild overfished stocks includes creating new complexes, establishing total allowable catches, commercial quotas and quota linkages (when one complex closes, the other complex also closes, regardless of the amount of quota caught), modifying recreational minimum size limits and reporting requirements, and creating and modifying time/area closures.

Alternative 1 would involve no action and keep the HMS FMP as it currently is. On the opposite side of the spectrum, Alternative 5 would close all commercial and recreational shark fisheries, except spiny dogfish.

Alternative 2 would remove scalloped, smooth and great hammerhead sharks from the non-sandbar LCS complex, and establish an Atlantic hammerhead complex with a quota of 28.3 metric tons. This quota was determined from recent landings of hammerheads, which averaged 28.7 metric tons annually between 2008 and 2011. A new complex, called the Atlantic aggregated LCS complex would be established, which consists of blacktip, bull, lemon, nurse, silky, spinner and tiger sharks. This complex would take the place of the non-sandbar LCS complex and have a quota of 168.2 metric tons. This quota is based on the average annual landings of the remaining species in the complex, once hammerheads are removed. These

two complexes would be linked, so when either quota is reached, the other would also be closed, regardless of how much of the quota had been filled. This alternative also creates linked, regional quotas for non-blacknose SCS sharks and blacknose sharks. Under this alternative, the recreational size limit would increase by 42" (3.5 feet) to 96" (8feet) for all species except Atlantic Sharpnose and bonnethead.

Alternative 3 would remove scalloped, smooth and great hammerhead sharks from the non-sandbar LCS complex and establish a non-regional hammerhead complex with a quota of 52.2 metric tons. A new complex, called the Atlantic aggregated LCS complex would be established, which consists of blacktip, bull, lemon, nurse, silky, spinner and tiger sharks. This complex would take the place of the non-sandbar LCS complex and have a quota of 168.2 metric tons. Under this alternative, only the recreational size limit for the hammerhead complex would increase by 24" to 78". All other size limits would remain the same. There would be no new quota linkages with this alternative. Alternative 3 also establishes a new regional quota for the blacknose SCS complex.

Alternative 4 would remove scalloped hammerhead sharks from the non-sandbar LCS complex and establish a regional quota of 27.8 metric tons for just that species. A new complex, called the Atlantic aggregated LCS complex would be established, which consists of smooth and great hammerhead, blacktip, bull, lemon, nurse, silky, spinner and tiger sharks. This complex would take the place of the non-sandbar LCS complex and have a quota of 180 metric tons. The hammerhead and LCS complexes would be linked. This alternative also establishes new regional quotas for the non-blacknose SCS complex and the blacknose complex.

The Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Sharks complements the Highly Migratory Species Coastal Shark FMP. The Interstate FMP states that non-sandbar LCS or SCS species groups will close in state waters when NOAA Fisheries closes the species groups in Federal waters. For example, when NOAA Fisheries closes the non-sandbar LCS complex in federal waters, the same closures apply in state waters. Therefore, any amendment that changes the quota or quota linkages for a species group will impact the regulations in state waters. The Proposed rule species groupings are also different than those identified in the Interstate FMP. The Interstate FMP size limit for all



sharks (except Atlantic sharpnose, blacknose, finetooth, bonnethead and smooth dogfish) is 54". Options in the Proposed Rule are larger for some shark species. In order to change any of the above Interstate FMP measures, an addendum would be needed.

Please see the table below outlining all of the proposed measures concerning quotas, recreational size limits and species complexes. Other measures concerning pelagic long-lining effort, community outreach and quota transfers can be found in the attached proposed rule as well.

The public comment period for the proposed rule ends on February 12, 2013. If the Board would like to comment as a Commission, we will need your feedback on what issues to include in the comments. We are seeking guidance from the Board by January 10, 2013. If you have any questions or would like clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at 703-842-0740 or [mhawk@asmfc.org](mailto:mhawk@asmfc.org).

Species	Current Spp Grouping	Age @ Maturity (yrs)	Length @ Maturity (in)
Silky	Non-sandbar LCS		90.6
Tiger	Non-sandbar LCS	M: 7, F: 10	114
Blacktip	Non-sandbar LCS	M: 4-5, F: 6-7	57-61
Spinner	Non-sandbar LCS	M: 4-5, F: 7-8	55.1
Bull	Non-sandbar LCS	M: 14-15, F: 18+	86.6
Lemon	Non-sandbar LCS	12	90
Nurse	Non-sandbar LCS		88.6
Scalloped HH	Non-sandbar LCS		70-78
Great HH	Non-sandbar LCS		82.6
Smooth HH	Non-sandbar LCS		88.5-106.3
Atlantic sharpnose	small coastal sharks		31.5-33.5
finetooth	small coastal sharks		51.2
blacknose	small coastal sharks		39
bonnethead	small coastal sharks		29.5
shortfin mako	pelagic	M: 2, F: 7	M: 76.7, F: 110.2
porbeagle	pelagic		78.8
common thresher	pelagic		125
oceanic whitetip	pelagic		74.8
blue	pelagic	M: 4-5, F: 5-6	63-70.8

Based on biological data section (1.4.3.1) of Interstate Coastal Sharks FMP.

# NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

*By John Toth*

On November 26<sup>th</sup> I attended a meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) on behalf of the JCAA, and a brief summary of that meeting follows:

## Artificial Reefs Issue

- NJOA has been working on it for about 6 years to remove the traps off the reefs, but efforts for removal have been stymied by politics.
- DEP was going to issue recommendations on resolving it, but Hurricane Sandy has put the reefs issue on a temporary hold.
- Once a formal proposal is issued on the reefs by the DEP, the NJOA will first review it with its members and then take a vote on it. The NJOA cannot do anything until it hears from DEP on what they propose.
- Frank Vergilio (NJ Federation of Sportsmen clubs) said reefs have to have strict enforcement. He mentioned he is working on possible enforcement regulations with Rob Winkel and does not have a final report yet. Enforcement would include suspensions and fines.

## NJOA Priorities – What issues should the NJOA focus on for the near future?

After some discussion it was generally agreed that the NJOA should have these priorities.

1. More funding for the Marine Fisheries – Bureau cannot respond to all the management plans that it has to address, etc.
2. Resolve the Artificial Reef issue – Dragging for 6 years and so much effort has already gone into it
3. Improved Beach Access – especially with the aftermath of Sandy
4. Implement a campaign to promote better awareness of NJOA to the public. This campaign will be spearheaded by Roger Staib.

## Considerable discussion centered on Hurricane Sandy and the issues it raised.

1. Funding (\$30 million?) needs to be approved by Congress. Funding will be needed to repair marinas, docks and infrastructure. Beach replenishment is also an issue along with constructing dunes.
2. This is also the time to focus on improved beach access for anglers since much of the shoreline has been altered and damaged. The NJOA wants to partner with Tim Dillingham (American Littoral Society) to secure better access for anglers. The Littoral Society has lawyers on staff to research the new DEP Beach Access plan to make a good case on improving access for anglers through beach communities that have continually made access very difficult.
3. Funding from Sandy should also be allocated to provide research on the effects of Sandy on blackfish, flounder and on other species. This funding through Sandy will give the Bureau of Marine Fisheries an opportunity to do the research on fisheries that it has not been able to do because of the lack of funding.
4. There is a lot of trash in our waterways because of Sandy and the Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for removing all of it.

The NJOA plans to invite Tim Dillingham and Senator Menendez at its next meeting to discuss beach access and funding issues raised by Sandy. The next NJOA meeting will be held in January 2013. The NJOA December 24<sup>th</sup> meeting has been canceled.

## Rewarding Research: Winter Flounder Tracking Project Update

**Rutgers University researchers are asking anglers and commercial fishermen to keep an eye out for tagged winter flounder. Archival tags returned to the address listed on the tag will net fishermen a \$200 reward.**

Dr. Kenneth Able, Dr. Thomas Grothues, and graduate student Kaycee Coleman from the Rutgers' Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, recently

boarded a local trawler to capture and tag winter flounder on the Continental Shelf in the area known as The Mudhole. The research team tagged 51 winter flounder with archival (data storage) tags and 126 streamer tags and another 12 winter flounder with acoustic tags.

One week later, the team returned to locate the tagged fish with a hydrophone. Two fish were located, but the remaining fish had dispersed. Locating the fish with the acoustic tags helps to confirm survival of the tagging process and track movement of the winter flounder. More information on returning tags and the project please can be found at <http://coseenow.net/ru-fish-tracking>.

This research project is funded in part by the New Jersey Sea Grant Consortium. To learn more about the project and its objectives, visit [this link](#).

## JCAA Elections By Mark Taylor

With this year coming to an end it is that time of year again, JCAA elections of officers for 2013. If you are interested in becoming a JCAA officer you need to contact Mark Taylor at 732-245-9445 or the JCAA Office. We are looking for dedicated individuals to get more involved. Jersey Coast Angler's Association is your organization and to make it better we need more people to get involved in different areas. There are a lot of areas that we need people for, such as committees, volunteers for the shows and officer positions. So if you want to help make Jersey Coast better, then contact me. Let's make 2013 even better than all the other years and it starts with you. Elections will be held at the December meeting if there is a quorum.

## Membership Report By John Toth

I have already received **2013** membership dues from the **South Jersey Saltwater Anglers** and the **Newark Bait and Flycasting clubs**. I will be sending out invoices for 2013 club membership dues soon. Please return these invoices not only with your check, but also fill out the form that requests the names of your new club officers. It is also important to provide the name of you club's

treasurer so that we can contact that person if there is a problem with your payment.

This year is rapidly coming to a close. If you think your club has not paid its **2012 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).

**May you and your loved ones have a joyous Holiday, and a safe and prosperous New Year!**

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

## 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 cooled winter season starts and we all start to winterize our tackle and start thinking of what we need to get for the start of the new fishing season. A few great places to get those supplies are the local tackle stores and the upcoming shows. JCAA will have a booth at a few of the shows before the fishing season starts. So stop by and talk to the volunteers that are manning the booth and get the latest JCAA Newsletter and take a chance on the High Roller Raffle and help support JCAA. By attending the shows and visiting all the booths, talking with tackle manufactures, 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:

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association will be participating at the **30<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen Show**, January 10-13, 2013 at the NJ Convention & Exposition Center in Edison, NJ. Show management is proud to bring back the Garden State Deer Classic, Fly Casting Pond, World

Famous Bass Tub, trout pond, expert seminars, and much more! Check out [www.GSOSS.com](http://www.GSOSS.com) to see what celebrity guests are coming and what else will be going on during the show! Be sure to buy tickets online for a \$5 discount (\$10) and your choice of complimentary magazine!

<http://osg.ticketleap.com/garden-state/t/JCANA/>.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at this year's shows!

- **Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar Series** on January 5<sup>th</sup>
- **Garden State Sportsmen Show** on January 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>
- **Atlantic City Boat Show** on February 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>
- **NJ's Salt Water Sportsman Expo** on March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<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*

### FISHING EQUIPMENT FOR KIDS

We know it will be hard for families to purchase fishing equipment in the spring for their children, let alone themselves. If you know of a child that lost fishing equipment due to the storm, please contact the JCAA Youth Education Committee or help them directly. Storm victims will need time to heal and we can assist by getting people back on the water to enjoy one of our greatest gifts, the recreational water resources of the Jersey Shore. If you would like to donate fishing equipment (small freshwater and back-bay rods and reels,) please contact Greg Kucharewski, 732-785-9278. Members of the Shore Surf Club, Point Pleasant Beach have already donated over 15 rod and reel outfits to help keep kids fishing.

### BARNEGAT BAY PARTNERSHIP GRANT

We are applying for the Barnegat Bay Partnership Grant and working with Dr. Eleanor Bochenek, Director, Fisheries Cooperative Center, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University who will act as the Project Supervisor, if the grant is approved. The grant will be utilized to reprint two thousand books entitled: "Youth Fishing, Crabbing, and Clamming Guide to Barnegat Bay" authored by Eleanor. A number of the books will be

translated to Spanish. The JCAA Youth Education Committee will distribute the books at 2013 Island Beach State Park surf fishing clinics and at the Interpretive Center along with providing books at JCAA member club HOFNOD seminars and other aquatic education venues.

### **NJDEP 2013 TROUT ART CONTEST**

*(Press Release)*

Students in grades K - 12 are invited to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Pequest State Trout Hatchery by participating in the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife's 2013 Trout Art Contest! This year's contest will be art only (no writing component), and will focus on the three kinds of fish raised at Pequest - brook, brown and rainbow trout. Students should choose one of these trout and using their artistic skills draw a scene of the trout they choose in a habitat where they would be found in New Jersey. Artwork should be creative and original, and incorporate accurate biological and ecological information regarding the fish's habits and habitat.

The artwork must have a finished size of 8.5 x 11 inches and can be done in acrylics, pencils, watercolors, oil, oil pastels, crayons or ink. Students might want to use the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife website as an online resource to learn about New Jersey's trout, the Pequest Trout Hatchery, and the trout stocking program for background information related to their artwork.

First place winners will be selected for each grade level. Winners receive a rod and reel plus a certificate, as well as a Youth Membership to Trout Unlimited. All winners are invited to attend a special luncheon and awards ceremony at the Pequest Trout Hatchery on Opening Day of Trout Season, April 6, 2013. Prior to the luncheon, students will have the opportunity to fish in the Pequest Fishing Education Pond, which is stocked with trout from the hatchery.

Artwork will remain on display at the Pequest Natural Resource Education Center for the year following the contest. Artwork becomes property of the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife and will not be returned. Entries must be received by Friday, March 1, 2013. For more information, see <http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com/fishart.htm> on the division's website.

### **SEND US YOUR EVENT INFORMATION**

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee is asking JCAA member clubs/organizations for a listing of scheduled youth and family events that are going to be held by your club or organization during 2013. The purpose of this request is to alert other fishing clubs and organizations that would like to participate in your youth and family event. The JCAA Newspaper is a way to get the word out about what's happening in your club. Use this opportunity to inform others about events your fishing club/organization is doing to promote fishing. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will support your event with "Hook On Fishing Not On Drugs" materials. Please contact Greg Kucharewski with your listing of youth and family events and don't forget the Sportsmen Shows. Include your booth location, fishing club or organization that will attend. By providing this information your fishing club or organization can improve membership and increase consumer participation.

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

The Brick Cub Scouts will attend a HOFNOD/Passport To Fishing and Boating session every month from December 2012 to June 2013. Cub Scout Pack # 47 will learn the following: Fish Biology, Where Fish Live, Presentation of Baits, Rods and Reels, Terminal Tackle, Knot Tying, Safety & Ethics, Hands-On Casting, Hooking and Fighting Fish, Handling and Releasing Fish, NJ Rules and Regulations, and Local Fishing Opportunities in Brick, NJ. After the seven-month sessions Cub Scouts will fish during National Fishing and Boating Week. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will provide HOFNOD materials and loaner equipment for fishing.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
**AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup> 2013**  
**19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JCAA**  
**FLUKE TOURNAMENT**

# MAFMC Report

By Chris Zeman

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) met jointly in Baltimore on December 10-13<sup>th</sup> to set recreational measures for summer flounder, scup and black sea bass for the 2013 fishing year.

**Summer Flounder:** Wave 5 MRIP data showed that only New York and New Jersey exceeded the 2012 recreational catch quota by approximately 15%. As most other states were under their respective quotas, it is not clear whether any reduction will be necessary. The Council approved conservation equivalency and the ASMFC and individual states will determine state-specific size, season and bag limits to control catch to not exceed the 7.63 recreational harvest limit.

**Scup:** The preliminary scup catch estimate for 2012 is 4.63 million lbs and significantly below the 2012 recreational catch limit of 7.55 million lbs. Therefore, the Council approved less-restrictive management measures for 2013. Scup management is a hybrid of both conservation equivalency and coastwide management. For federal waters, the Council manages scup with coastwide measures and voted to recommend a reduction in the minimum fish size from 11 inches to 10 inches, an increase in the possession limit from 20 to 30 fish, and maintained the year round open season. The ASMFC voted to continue conservation equivalency in state waters and states will develop state-specific management measures for approval at the Commission's February meeting.

There was no discussion regarding the ongoing amendment to reconsider the present scup commercial and recreational allocation of 78%/22% and I will continue to monitor this amendment and provide updates later in 2013.

**Black Sea Bass:** Black sea bass was the most controversial decision as MRIP Wave 5 data reported an overage nearly double the 2012 recreational catch limit, despite restrictive measures in place in both federal and state waters. The bad news is that, under the existing management plan, overages must be accounted for and deducted from

the subsequent fishing year, which would be 2014, as final catch data for 2012 will not be final until mid-2013. If required, such a deduction could mean no recreational black sea bass fishing in 2014.

The good news is that both the Council and Board view the 2012 overage as strong evidence that the black sea bass fishery is rebuilt, very healthy and abundant and expanding into areas where black sea bass was rarely caught in past years. Therefore, the Council initiated a series of measures to avoid any significant catch reductions in 2014 including:

1. a request to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to reconsider the 2013 allowable biological catch,
2. a request that NOAA/NMFS re-assess black sea bass in 2013, and
3. initiating an amendment to re-evaluate Accountability Measures (AMs) for the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan.

In the meantime, the Council maintained generally the same management measures for federal waters in 2013, including a 20-fish possession limit (5-fish reduction in bag limit), a 12.5 inch minimum fish size (0.5 inch increase) and an open season from January 1st – February 28, May 19<sup>th</sup> through October 14<sup>th</sup>, and November 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31st. However, this is subject to the ASMFC ability to develop an addendum at its February meeting to allow for state-specific or regional approaches for management and set appropriate conservation measures for state waters in 2013. If the ASMFC is unable to take this action at its February meeting, the Council will have to modify federal waters measures and severely restrict black sea bass fishing in federal waters in 2013 to achieve the 1.85 million lbs recreational catch limit. Obviously, both the Council and ASMFC's meetings in February will be crucial to attend and/or monitor.

## Broad Catch Limits are put on an Unglamorous but Essential Fish

By Jess Bidgood, New York Times, 12/14/2012

BALTIMORE — Regulators on Friday voted to reduce the harvest of Atlantic menhaden by 20 percent, placing a broad catch limit on a critical fishery that has until now been largely unregulated.



Fishermen and their supporters waited Friday for the vote on whether to reduce the allowable commercial harvest of the forage fish menhaden.

A small, oily fish — also called bunker or pogey — the Atlantic menhaden is rarely eaten by humans, and little known outside of coastal circles. But for the Atlantic ecosystem as well as commercial and recreational fishermen, it is an essential fish. The question of its management drew hundreds of fishermen, processors and environmentalists to mobilize for a showdown in a windowless ballroom here.

“Menhaden’s one of the linchpins of the near-shore ecosystem in the East Coast,” said Peter Baker, the director of the Northeast fisheries program for the Pew Environment Group, who said that over the past 30 years, the stock of the fishery has fallen about 90 percent.

The fishery had never been subject to catch limits along the entire Atlantic coast — a rarity in contemporary fishery management — allowing fleets to harvest virtually unlimited amounts from the ocean. “The Wild West fishery that’s been going on with menhaden — to have a fishery that’s essentially been unregulated, it’s unheard of,” said Darren Saletta, the executive director of the Massachusetts Commercial Striped Bass Association.

This unglamorous forage fish eats phytoplankton, cleansing ocean water. In turn, its flesh nourishes bigger, more edible and lucrative fish — like striped bass and bluefish — as well as seabirds and marine mammals.

It has long played a role in the American economy. Indians are said to have taught the Pilgrims how to use it to fertilize corn. Today, menhaden are important to commercial fishermen who use them for bait, as well as recreational fishermen who are after the species that feed on them.

“When there’s bunker in the water, I have striped bass, weakfish and bluefish for my customers to catch,” said Capt. Paul Eidman, a charter boat captain from New Jersey and the president of the advocacy group Menhaden Defenders. “Without abundant menhaden in the water, my game fish go somewhere else.”

The hallways outside the meeting here filled with chatter as commercial and recreational fishermen swapped anecdotes about what many claim is an obvious depletion of the species.

“When we first started fishing for menhaden in Chatham, it was not a problem to go out with just a grappling hook and catch 20 in 20 minutes,” said Capt. Dale Tripp, who has operated commercial and charter boats in Cape Cod since 1973. “Now, you can’t go out with a gill net and catch 20 in two hours.”

Many blame the “reduction fishery,” which harvests about 80 percent of the menhaden that come out of the sea each year. It is for the most part operated by a single company, Omega Protein, which grinds up the fish for use in fish-oil dietary supplements, fertilizer and animal feed.

But Omega’s executives and fishermen say that they have not seen a problem with fish stocks and that overregulation could squelch industry jobs. “We’re catching more with less vessels, which, to us, means you can’t have a declining population if less effort produces more fish,” said Ben Landry, Omega’s director of public affairs, who said that the company supported a 10 percent reduction in the catch, but nothing higher.

In 2011, stock assessments from the previous year led the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to commit to make reductions in the fishery, although they did not determine exactly how to do it. Questions about the long-range accuracy of the 2012 stock assessment, however, led the board to decide to take interim actions this year, and conduct another review when 2014 stock assessments are available.

The opaqueness of the latest assessment fueled tension at Friday’s meeting. As the regulators debated catch limits ranging from 10 to 50 percent, commercial and recreational fishermen held up yellow signs in support of menhaden conservation, a group of Omega’s union workers — also clad in yellow — circled the room.

The cut could be damaging to Virginia, where Omega is based, said John M. R. Bull, a spokesman for the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. “This is a very deep harvest cut that’s being made in the absence of clear scientific understanding,” said Mr. Bull, who added that he hoped future stock assessments would vindicate his home state.

And it will hobble the industry beyond those shores, said Robert Isaacson, a third-generation fisherman who, along with his brothers David and Richard, uses purse-seine nets to fish for menhaden off the coast of New Jersey. “It’s going to be less

repairs on the boat, less buying new equipment. We're going to have to work harder on nasty days, put our lives in danger," Mr. Isaacson said.

But many other fishermen at the meeting were heartened by the cuts.

"It is absolutely crumbling, what's happening to the fish," said Chuck Howard, a longtime striped-bass fisherman from Rockville, Md. "Anybody who thinks it's a better use to grind them up and send them to China, rather than have them swimming in the Chesapeake Bay and filtering our water, has to explain to me why that's a good idea.

## Shark Rebuilding Plan Unfairly Places Most Rebuilding Restrictions on Recreational Fishery

By Chris Zeman

During the December meeting, NOAA briefed the Council on the proposed Highly Migratory Species – Shark Rebuilding Plan. The Proposed Rule was published on November 26, 2012 in the Federal Register and can be found at [this link](#). I was very critical of NOAA's Preferred Alternative under the proposed plan and strongly recommend that recreational fishermen review the proposed plan and submit comments during the ongoing comment period that ends on February 12, 2013. NOAA's Preferred Alternative would impose an 8-foot minimum recreational size limit for virtually all managed large sharks. This is a 3.5 foot increase in the minimum size and applies to sharks that NOAA admits never to grow to that size. At the same time, the Preferred Alternative maintains near to status quo management for the commercial fishery and no minimum size limit. A side-by-side comparison highlights the inequity of NOAA's Preferred Alternative in imposing most of the rebuilding 'pain' on the recreational fishery.

My comments highlighted the need for this plan to comply with Magnuson-Stevens Act, Required Provision 14, which requires that any rebuilding plan must allocate "any harvest restrictions or recovery benefits fairly and equitably among the commercial, recreational, and charter fishing sectors in the fishery." Based on my review, the Preferred Alternative does not meet that requirement. Also, NOAA's 8-foot minimum size limit is concerning, as it is overly broadly applied to recreational fisheries, but not applied at all to the

commercial fishery, and it amounts to a recreational prohibition of retention for all sharks that do not grow to that size. As this rebuilding plan is expected to continue to the year 2070, any final measure may be around for decades, so weigh in now before it is too late.

Shark species/group	Proposed Recreational Measures	Proposed Commercial Measures
Sandbar	8-foot minimum size limit (NOAA admits that sandbar sharks do not reach a size of 8-feet)	No proposed changes to current management – no minimum size limit
Atlantic Aggregated Coastal Sharks (incl. bull, lemon, nurse, silky, spinner, tiger)	8-foot minimum size limit	No proposed changes to current management – no minimum size limit
Scalloped Hammerhead	8-foot minimum size limit	1,000 pound reduction in commercial quota from 115,984 pounds to 114,840 pounds
Non-blacknose Small Coastal Sharks	8-foot minimum size limit	No proposed changes to current management – no minimum size limit
Atlantic Blacknose	8-foot minimum size limit (NOAA admits that blacknose sharks do not grow beyond 4.5 feet)	
Dusky	Status quo – no possession	Status quo no poses

## JCAA & NJSFSC Testimony to NJ Senate Budget Committee on Hurricane Sandy

By Tom Fote (for JCAA & NJSFSC)

December 11, 2012

I am testifying today as the legislative chairman for the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. JCAA represents 75 recreational fishing clubs in New Jersey and it has been in existence since 1981. The New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs represent 150,000 anglers, hunters and trappers in NJ. I have been testifying before committees about fisheries issues for over 35 years as a volunteer for sportspersons of NJ. Last March I testified before this Committee about the lack of funding for the Bureau of Marine Fisheries. Instead of getting better it actually went in the other direction so I have attached a copy of that testimony for next year's budget consideration. Today I am

here to discuss Hurricane Sandy's impact on the Marine Resources, anglers and the recreational fishing industry of NJ.

I was looking forward to the fall fishing season. I was not traveling until December and looking forward to fishing for the great fall run of striped bass, bluefish and blackfish. That was before October 29<sup>th</sup>. Like many of you, Hurricane Sandy changed our plans for this fall and the upcoming years. In my estimation the impact on the recreational fishing industry in New Jersey will last for many years. We have no idea yet what the long-term fallout will be. In the short term, people have lost boats, access to the beach and just the time to go fishing. But that's the short term. We will need to wait to determine the long-term impact. Which recreational fishing businesses that were already struggling will survive Sandy?

Many tackle stores are located on barrier islands that have no current public access. The infrastructure that supports recreational fishing including the marinas has been devastated. Will these marinas be able to repair their facilities to accommodate the boaters of NJ? Will there be boaters for them to accommodate? BoatUS in its release on November 14<sup>th</sup> estimates over 32,000 boats were damaged in NY, followed by New Jersey's 25,000. I have concerns that number is larger in NJ. With the loss of thousands of boats what will be the long-term impact? We used to have over 220,000 boats registered in NJ. When the bad economy hit there was a huge decrease in the number of registered boats. The number that I heard quoted for this year was 160,000 registered boats. What will that number be in 2013? The number one question I used to get asked is, what will the season look like for summer flounder, black sea bass and black fish? When are ASMFC & MAFMC going to loosen up the regulations? Some of the questions I now get asked everywhere I go are:

- Are we going to be able to boat next year?
- Is it going to be safe to boat next year with all the marine debris in the water?
- Will I have access to my surf fishing areas?
- How will Sandy affect the fish that depend on bays and estuaries for their nursery areas?

I wish I knew the answers to all the questions but I do not. At your hearing that I was at in Toms River I heard the Mayors from Brick and Toms River ask who is going to be responsible for getting the marine debris out of the lagoons, bays, rivers and channels

and I did not hear an answer. There was talk about beach replenishment but not about increasing public access. I hope you have found the answers to those questions and can share the answers with the anglers of NJ.

Chris Zeman, member of the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, immediately called for disaster relief for the recreational and commercial fishing industry. He and others reached out to Governor Christie, senators and congressmen to call on the Secretary of Commerce to declare New Jersey's fishing industry, both commercial and recreational, a disaster. The Governor, Senators Lautenberg and Menendez and Congressman Pallone have already reached out to the Secretary of Commerce. One of the fastest actions I have seen is the approval of this disaster declaration and the subsequent funding by the Secretary of Commerce.

I recognize much of this money will be spent to resolve short-term problems. I am hoping the decision-makers will also realize that the impact on recreational fishing and the industries that depend on it will be astronomical

In speaking to my congressional delegation, I have indicated we also need to spend some money looking at the impacts on Raritan Bay, Barnegat Bay, and the other estuaries where the tidal surge has a tremendous impact on these nursery areas. Maybe we should be funding some research on the impacts on summer flounder, black sea bass and tautog. Previous hurricanes in other areas have caused ecological changes that have taken years to reverse. We have no BP to fund a clean-up. We need the Federal and State government to fund this research and recovery.

JCAA and the NJSFSC are asking you to really look at the impacts Sandy will have on the anglers, recreational fishing industry and the businesses that depend on the anglers coming to the shore to fish. I was down in New Orleans after the BP spill and watched how their governor and other politicians went fishing to publicize the great fishing off Louisiana. They also spent money promoting the great fishing and charter and party boats available to take people fishing and enjoying their beaches.

On a personal note I would like to share the main reason I live in Toms River. In 1970 when I was recuperating at Fort Dix from Vietnam I started dating a young lady who was volunteering her time helping wounded soldiers get their GEDs. This young lady who grew up on farm in NJ took this

Brooklyn boy who could not drive down to Island Beach State Park. I fell in love with Lynda and the Jersey Shore. So after we were married we moved as close to IBSP as possible. Before I started volunteering my time sitting at meetings I was on IBSP every day during fishing season. So I jumped at the chance about a week after the storm when Ray Bukowski, manager at Island Beach State Park, invited me to tour the park before a meeting with other stakeholders. It has been the only time I have been over the bridge since the storm. The feeling I had looking at the devastation I cannot describe. There are areas with devastating damage and other areas that appear to have had little damage. For example, the handicapped walkway at area 7 is gone. The blueprints for this walkway were funded by the second Governor's Tournament. Governor Whitman loved the project for the access it provided to so many who could not enjoy the beach otherwise for fishing and swimming. She was able to secure the funding. The walkway was also extended to Tices Shoal to allow boaters access to the beach. The bayside walkway is intact. The walkways from the bathing pavilions are also gone. There is much debris and exposed once buried debris that will make driving on the beach hazardous until the sands once again cover it up. Governor Christie and the DEP Commissioner are discussing when limited fishing access will be available. The limited access to the towns on the barrier island will be a factor in developing any plan. The one thing I know for sure is that Island Beach State Park will recover and the hundreds of thousands of NJ and out of staters will once again enjoy one of New Jersey's great treasures. We need to make sure that these treasured facilities are rebuilt and that the handicap access is again provided.

Thomas Fote  
Legislative Chairman for JCAA & NJAFSC

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
JCAA SPORTSPERSON OF  
THE YEAR DINNER  
APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> 2013**