

JCAA NEWSPAPER MARCH 2013

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on February 19th, 2013)

Monthly Meeting at JCAA Office, 1201 Rte. 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, February 26th, 2013

Starting at 7:30 PM

At JCAA Office

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 14th, 2013

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote

JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi

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

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**JCAA General Membership Meetings are for club representatives and invited guests only. These meetings are not open to the general public. If you would like to attend as a guest, call the President at 908-913-0551 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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Tournament Dir.	Paul Turi	609-660-2126

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

February 26 JCAA General Meeting at the JCAA Office

March 14th JCAA Board Meeting

March 15th -17th Saltwater Expo

March 26th JCAA General Meeting

April 14th Sportsperson of the year dinner

August 24th JCAA 19th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament

September 6th JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony at Golden Nugget AC

President's Report

By Joseph Puntasecca

Elections were held at our January General Meeting. There were no nominations from the floor. Your officers for 2013 are:

President: Joseph Puntasecca

First Vice President: Mark Taylor

Second Vice President: Paul Haertel

Treasurer: Doug Tegeder

Recording Secretary: Tom Siciliano

Corresponding Secretary: Paul Turi

Membership Secretary: John Toth

It has been very busy lately here at JCAA. Several bills threaten to hijack the Division of Fish and Wildlife from the DEP, NMFS is attempting to protect the dusky shark by implementing a minimum size for all sharks at 96" and we are facing drastic cuts to the black sea bass quota once again. Not to mention, as I write my column, we are following a potentially devastating coastal storm that could set back all the hard work and recovering that the Jersey Shore and the rest of the state have already accomplished.

Jersey Coast Anglers Association has submitted public comment on Addendum XXIII for

Black Sea Bass this past month. Those comments can be found at the end of my column.

With all that is happening lately in the HMS world, JCAA would like to form an HMS committee similar to what it once had in the past. If you would like to serve on this committee, please email myself at jpuntasecca@jcaa.org. Many of the meetings this committee needs to have throughout the year can be held via conference call so you don't necessarily need to drive to the JCAA office to go to a meeting.

The show season is coming to a close. JCAA is still looking for volunteers to staff our booth for our final show, The Saltwater Fishing Expo March 15th – 17th (Somerset Show). Make sure to mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact Mark Taylor at mtsport64@aol.com. This is where we interact with people who do not belong to any clubs and are misinformed on issues. It is a great experience to meet many different people who enjoy something you love to do.

For those of you who took advantage of giving a contribution to non-profit or charitable organizations that support fishing or anglers, I thank you. Your contribution will be utilized to support and protect the rights of all anglers who fish in New Jersey.

Sportsperson-of-the-Year

Just a quick reminder, don't forget our 2012 Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner is coming up on April 14, 2013. We had to postpone this great event due to the effects of Hurricane Sandy. We look forward to seeing everyone at Crystal Point in April!

NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program / NJ Volunteer Angler Survey

Don't forget to register or re-register with the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program for 2013. You can register or renew your registration for 2013 by going to: 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](#).

You can also check regulations changes, get current advisories, check launch ramp and park locations, report violations, as well as fill out the NJ Voluntary Angler Survey now on your smartphone or tablet with the new Official NJ Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife [application!](#)

REMINDER

FEMA is operating out of the Brick Civic Plaza. Our February General Meeting will be held at the Jersey Coast Anglers Association office, 1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ.

To Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

Toni Kerns
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland St. Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Va. 22201

Toni,

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association represents 65 recreational fishing clubs and over 30,000 anglers who fish the waters off New Jersey. Our member clubs have reviewed and discussed the draft addendum and provide the following comments.

We are pleased that the MAFMC voted to request that the Scientific and Statistical Committee reconsider their recommendation for the 2013 allowable biological catch (ABC) limit in light of the most recent black sea bass landings and stock information. We are confident that this action will result in more reasonable harvest levels. We believe that this anticipated increase should be large enough to allow all of the affected States to have the same regulations that they had in 2012. Regulations were tough last year and negatively affected many fishermen and the various businesses that they support. Restricting us further from a healthy fishery particularly in these economic times while our coast is trying to recover from Hurricane Sandy is just wrong. Further leaving the regulations the same for two or more years would result in much more accurate data being acquired.

Additionally, we are aware that the FMP does not allow for conservation equivalency. However, we are in favor of an amendment to the plan that would make the necessary changes consistent with those proposed in the document

In recent years the options that have been best for New Jersey and some of the other states have not been the ones chosen by the majority. In the past, JCAA has favored State by State measures. We are confident that the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council will make more prudent decisions than other states and therefore we are opposed to most regional management proposals. The regional approach tends

to favor States that far exceed their target. Further regulations that are good for the northern part of a region might be far different than what is best for the southern part of the region. Last year there was a proposal for regional management where New Jersey would have been its own region. Since there were no public hearings on the development of proposals this year, we suggest that you add a proposal where the States to the South of NJ would be one region and the States to the north of NJ be another region. New Jersey would be its own region because the fishery we have here differs from that of the States north of us as well as the States south of us.

This year the proposed State by State measure is one of the least favorable options as it would force our State to have either a 52.8% or 53.2% reduction. Yet it seems to be the option that will favor the majority of the other States. Whether this is the option that is chosen or not, you need to be fair and follow the same procedure for 2014. Therefore in regard to Addendum XXIII, section 4.2 we support option 2 which would extend the addendum by one year. These reductions would most likely be the same if New Jersey were to become its own region. All of the options being considered under section 4.1 are unacceptable. We are hopeful that you will consider our suggested alternatives. If not, we reluctantly support option 2 provided it is implemented for two years.

Additionally, we would like to comment further on the addendum as follows:

The Statement of the Problem has not presented a cogent case that there is indeed a problem. In fact it is obvious that the problem lies with an unrealistic harvest limit that is inconsistent with the historical information provided and the continued reliance on the fatally flawed MRFS data which has not been significantly improved by the introduction of the new MRIP system.

1. In the Stock Status section it is stated that “Based on the June 2012 update, the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, relative to the biological reference points. Spawning stock biomass (SSB) in 2011 is 24.6 million pounds.”

Therefore the projected 2012 catch of 2.99 million pounds represents a catch rate of 12.15% of the SSB. It is not logical that removing 12.15% of the available fish will have a negative impact on the fishery.

2. A close examination of Table 5 shows a dramatic inconsistency between the harvest limit and

the actual harvest. When the size limit was increased from 9” to 10” for the 1998 season the harvest limit dropped from 4 million pounds to 1.2 million pounds. As the fish had an opportunity to grow from 9” to 10” the harvest increased to 1.7 million pounds in 1999 and then 4.0 million pounds in 2000. In 2001 the size limit was again increased, this time to 11” and the season shortened. This resulted in a decrease in the harvest to 3.4 million pounds. This occurred while the harvest limit remained at 3.15 million pounds. In 2002 the size limit was raised to 11.5” and the season opened all year. This resulted in a harvest of 4.3 million pounds. For 2003 the size was raised yet again, this time to 12” and the season shortened. As expected the harvest dropped to 3.3 million pounds. The size limit remained at 12” for 2004 – 2008 and the harvest varied from a low of 1.56 million pounds in 2008 to a high of 2.25 million pounds in 2007. During this period the Harvest limit set dropped from 4.13 million pounds in 2005 to 2.11 million pounds in 2008. What we had for five years is a relatively consistent harvest and each year was below the harvest limit set. There was no apparent reason to increase the size limit and decrease the harvest limit almost in half for 2009. It was certainly no surprise to anglers who are actually out fishing that the harvest limit would be exceeded in 2009. The only thing that changed was the harvest limit. Simple common sense indicates that the problem was the harvest limit was set incorrectly. This pattern of changing the harvest limit and changing the seasons is the problem that we face today. The trends shown by the MRFS and MRIP data indicate that the fishery is healthy and that there is season to season variability in the catch levels. Additionally as protogenous hermaphrodites, most sea bass change to males by the time they reach 13”. With a size limit of 12 ½”, the vast majority of females are protected. This is the reason that there are far more sea bass in our waters than assessments and surveys have shown. It is also why their size and range has been increasing. It seems to have been forgotten that MRFS and MRIP are designed to show trends in fishery abundance. They are in no way indicative of what is actually being caught. Until the sample size for the surveys is dramatically increased they will continue to be suspect.

Respectfully submitted
Joseph Puntasecca
President - JCAA

Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner

By Paul Turi

Due to Hurricane Sandy we will be holding our 2012 sportsperson of the year dinner on Sunday, April 14th, 2013 at the Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. At that time we will be honoring JCAA's 2012 sportsperson of the year, **Tim Burden**. Tickets are \$75 each and \$600 for a table of 10. Many clubs have already reserved their tables for the dinner. If you need a ticket or need to reserve a table, please contact Dan Miller at (609) 641-7821 or by email at blueangray@comcast.net. Dan will be happy to reserve a table for you or your club. There will be a cocktail hour with an open cash bar and a full course dinner following the cocktail hour.

I am in need of door prizes, Chinese Auction and Silent Auction prizes. If you or your club can donate a prize, please contact me at (609) 709-9215 or by email at pturi6@comcast.net. No donation is too small. I can always combine two or three prizes together to make a nice gift package.

I would also suggest that club members contact their local bait and tackle shops that they buy their supplies from year after year and ask for a donation. This is an important fundraiser for Jersey Coast and any monies realized from the event go towards the operation of Jersey Coast and allows us to continue the work that we do for the recreational angler year after year.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

Managing Our Nation's Fisheries Conference: Unaffordable for all but the Bureaucrats and Council Members

The third Managing Our Nation's Fisheries conference will be held May 7-9, 2013 in Washington, D.C. The conference is convened by the eight Regional Fishery Management Councils and hosted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. I put a notice about this conference in the February Newspaper and was looking forward to attending. However, I discovered that the registration fee is \$299 and the hotel cost is \$289 per

night before all the other fees. It will cost well over \$300 per night. In this economy, I cannot believe the organizers scheduled this conference at a site that is so expensive. These fees are beyond the means of most anglers and even the recreational groups that usually send people to attend. Without transportation costs, which could include expensive air fares for those living further away, the cost will be more than \$1500 if you don't eat. Commercial fishermen are in the same boat as the recreational anglers when it comes to attending expensive conferences. They are having a hard time just paying the bills and are unlikely to attend. We complained about Congress spending money on expensive junkets and this is a perfect example. The Council members and their staffs will have their expenses paid for by tax dollars. The members of the National Marine Fisheries Service and other bureaucrats will have their expenses paid by tax dollars. They will also get paid for attending. The commercial and recreational fishing industry members will need to fund their own attendance from their own pockets and won't get paid for the hours they spend at the conference. If their intention is another "love fest" they can insure that by making sure no one who might be critical can afford to attend. I will recommend that JCAA officially complain about this abuse of tax payer's dollars. When I first got on the Commission I complained about the cost of hotels they were using. I also complained about the Mid-Atlantic Council and the cost of attending meetings that impact the livelihoods of both commercial and recreational anglers. I would suggest that you follow JCAA's lead and write to the members of your Congressional delegation complaining about this abuse of power and total disregard of fiscal responsibility by the convening Councils and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Shark Plan

The HMS report and my report in the February Newspaper both discuss the absurdity of the proposed changes to the HMS Shark Plan. Below are North Carolina's comments to the NMFS. We are in agreement on the impact on the recreational community. Years ago they moved HMS from the Council system to NMFS. This was proposed by the long liners so they could have more control and eliminate input from the recreational sector. Since NMFS holds most of its meetings in

Washington DC, input from the public is limited to people who can afford the time and money. Maybe it is time to eliminate the bureaucracy NMFS has created and place HMS back in the Council system. When the Councils controlled the fisheries management plans for HMS species, proposed amendments required meetings in all of the states the plan impacted. HMS does not have that same responsibility and the public is short-changed. NMFS decisions never favors the recreational sector and these decisions usually impose more stringent regulations on the recreational sector than on the commercial sector. That did not happen when HMS was under the Councils. I think it is up to JCAA and other groups to petition the Department of Commerce to move HMS back to the Councils and away from the bureaucracy in Washington DC. Some of us actually remember the “good old days” when we actually had input into HMS plans.

Pots Off the Reefs

Last month I discussed the possibility of a compromise suggested by the Governor’s Office. To date, there has been no formal compromise presented to the public. I think what happened at the Mid-Atlantic Council should have an impact on any proposal coming from the Governor’s Office. The Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council did the right thing. They set up special management zones that would eliminate fish pots from the 4 Delaware artificial reefs. They also set up 500 ft. buffer zones to make this enforceable. This should be the blueprint for what New Jersey does in state waters and what it sends forward to the Mid-Atlantic Council as a request for New Jersey’s artificial reefs in federal waters. We know this will meet the guidelines set up by the Sport Fish Restoration Program (Wallop-Breaux Act) funds for the Artificial Reef Program. Below is John Oswald’s article from the Asbury Park Press dealing with this issue.

Open the Pandora’s Box: A Discussion about Fisheries Allocations

NOAA Fisheries has released the first-ever compilation and discussion of fisheries allocation issues which summarizes input received from a broad spectrum of stakeholders. The report is a direct outcome of commitments made by NOAA during the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Summit to address stakeholder concerns regarding

allocation. To read the report, go to [this link](#). I have included the white paper’s conclusions below.

In politics the third rail is social security. In fisheries the third rail is allocation. This is the topic everyone avoids at all cost. It is one of the most difficult to deal with. I have asked Bruce Freeman to develop a white paper on the history of this issue. I have also asked some sports writers who have the institutional memory to consider writing articles on this topic. The recreational community has taken it on the chin on allocations because of the failure of the NMFS to historically gather good recreational statistics. NMFS never thought that the recreational sector would catch enough fish to need regulations. NMFS was created from the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries was the site of all the money. They had port agents and were spending millions of dollars to collect commercial landings. The restrictions on the commercial fisheries go back hundreds of years. The Bureau of Sports Fisheries looked at trends in recreational fishing but was never intended to set up allocations. The money was never spent for Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Surveys. We were spending millions of dollars on commercial catch figures and a pittance on surveying all the recreational anglers in the country. This continues to this day under NMFS. While the budget for recreational surveys has doubled, double almost nothing is still almost nothing.

In the 1980’s NMFS looked at historical recreational surveys and literally cut the numbers for the recreational sector fisheries in half with no scientific validation. When the Councils and Commissions began setting quotas, the only data available was from NMFS. This data was the flawed MRFS data and the 50% reduction data. Hardly scientifically valid! This has extremely negative consequences on the recreational sector to this day. The report referenced above will be used to generate a discussion about changing present allocations and making future allocations. Remember, the recreational sector is already in the penalty box and any decisions based on previous allocations will continue to handicap the recreational sector. We need to be skeptical in discussing the issues raised in this report since it fails to recognize the systemic problems already in existence. Without an acknowledgement of the history, the future will not be favorable for recreational anglers. We need to get

the people who have the historical knowledge to share with all of us before any decisions are made.

***Marine Fishery Allocation Issues White Paper
Conclusions by George Lapointe***

Allocation issues pervade fishery management discussions and decisions in the US, and likely elsewhere. Almost all fishery management decisions, direct and indirect, have allocative effects and stakeholders in fishery management are attuned to these impacts. Perceptions about the fairness of individual and cumulative allocation decisions can drive stakeholder's perspectives about the fairness of the overall fishery management system.

As mentioned in a number of project discussions, fishery managers have a difficult time explaining the process, rationale, and outcomes of allocation decisions because. At best, it's very hard to explain to a group or individual why a decision was made in a way that they do not agree with. In more difficult allocation discussions, it is nearly impossible to achieve an outcome that is not perceived as very unfair by some stakeholders.

Also evident from this project is that most managers and stakeholders favor an allocation process that is more efficient and understandable than currently done. Many suggestions were made about improvements to the management process to make allocation decisions more clearly understood, fairer, and based more on quantitative factors and less on qualitative factors which are often perceived as biased and arbitrary.

Clearly, there is difficult work to be done on allocation in the Nation's fishery management system. A logical conclusion from this type of perception is that fishery managers at the state, regional, and national levels need to focus more time and resources to allocation discussions and decisions. This should begin in the initial stages of a fishery management action and should include clear, direct language about the allocation definitions and decisions to be made, who is responsible for the decisions, and how stakeholders can engage in the process.

Similar to most difficult policy issue, progress lies in hard work, additional attention to the issue, and frank discussion among stakeholders. This project has identified some courses of action for decision makers to consider. Other options will likely be identified by decision makers and stakeholders as future discussions about how to best

address fishery allocation is discussed in states, at Council meetings, and at National venues. This project is clearly an initial step in this important discussion.

**North Carolina Dept. of Environment
and Natural Resources**
Division of Marine Fisheries

January 13, 2013

Marin Hawk
FMP Coordinator
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Comments on Draft Amendment 5 to the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan

Dear Ms. Hawk:

The NC Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) would like to provide comments to the Commission's Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Shark Management Board on Draft Amendment 5 to the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan (FMP). NCDMF's goal is provide North Carolina's recreational and commercial fishermen access to coastal shark fisheries, maximize the available quotas and promote stock recoveries while minimizing by-catch, release mortality and waste. While we agree with the intent of Amendment 5, several of the Preferred Alternatives in the Draft Amendment 5 will have negative impacts on North Carolina and other East Coast fishermen.

NCDMF's comments and possible options to the Amendment 5 Preferred Alternatives are as follows:

TAC and Commercial Quota Measures – Alternative Suite A2 Quota Linkages – Link Atlantic scalloped hammerhead and Atlantic Aggregated LCS quotas/Link Atlantic blacknose and Atlantic non-blacknose SCS quotas

- Having one species as a “trigger” or choke species for closure of other species can result in reduced fishing opportunity and significant economic consequences

- Expected post-quota bycatch mortality for scalloped hammerhead or Atlantic blacknose could be calculated and subtracted from the overall quota and allow fishermen to continue fishing on the other “linked” quotas.
- Alternate Suite A3 with no linkages may present a better option for management

Recreational Measures – Alternate Suite A2 – Increase shark minimum recreational size to 96”

- A 96” fork length recreational size limit would almost eliminate all recreational shark harvest in North Carolina (other than the one Atlantic sharpnose (no minimum size) and one bonnethead (no minimum size) per person per day regulation for SCS)
- In 2000, NCDMF issued regulations (proclamation) in state waters to protect sandbar and dusky sharks in recreational fishery by using a slot limit 54” to 84” (only thresher, tiger, mako and hammerheads were allowed over 84” fork length). This protected the dusky and sandbar pups as well as the large mature adults on the “pupping” grounds and would allow for harvest to continue on allowable LCS.
- A 96” size limit and no education (need to educate anglers to stay away from ridgeback sharks) could encourage the harvest of mature dusky sharks (if the shark is over 96” then it must be OK to harvest)
- Maintain a 54” size limit for thresher, tiger, mako and blue sharks because they are not easily confused with dusky
- Remove greater, scalloped and smooth hammerhead from the recreational harvest since the flesh is of very poor quality and they are almost never consumed – release fishery only
- NCDMF’s recreational proposal (especially for East Coast state waters) - slot limit 54” to 84” for LCS (blacktip, spinner, lemon, bull, nurse) and SCS (finetooth, blacknose), 54” size limit for tiger, thresher, blue and shortfin mako, It is unlawful to possess more than one (1) shark per vessel per day or if no vessel is used, it is unlawful to possess more than one (1) shark per person per day and One (1) Atlantic sharpnose (no minimum size) and one bonnethead (no minimum size) per

person per day may be landed in addition to allowable bag limits for other sharks.

- Provide outreach to recreational anglers on prohibited ridge-backed species and encourage circle hooks for recreational shark fishing

Pelagic and Bottom Longline Effort Control Measures - Alternative Suite B3 - Establish time/area closures based on high levels of dusky shark interactions – Alternatives B3b, B3c and B3d – Prohibit use of pelagic longline (PLL) gear May, June and November in the Hatteras Shelf area

- The Hatteras Shelf area is located approximately 30 miles off Oregon Inlet and is the “home” fishing grounds for 8 to 12 boats based out of Oregon Inlet. These are small PLL vessels (required due to shallow NC inlets) with small crews that typically fish 2 to 5 days. Longlines (20 nm required by the Cape Hatteras Special Research Area to protect marine mammals) and soak times (most around 6 to 8 hours due to current) are shorter than other PLL on the east coast.
- The economic evaluation of this closure grossly underestimated the economic loss to the Oregon Inlet PLL fishermen. Redistributing effort to other “open” areas may not be possible due to vessel size, current, or available catch. Trip expenses would also increase with fuel, food, ice and more travel time versus fishing time. The economic evaluation suggested the displaced PLL could shift to dolphin which would result to changes in gear and would increase the problems with dolphin allocation in the South Atlantic.
- The Hatteras Shelf closure is based off of interactions with dusky sharks from PLL logbook data and a 33% mortality rate (from Observer Program) was used to estimate the number of mortalities. With the shorter longlines and soak times, the mortality rate on dusky sharks should be lower in the Cape Hatteras Special Research Area. With only 11 interactions for the month, May (Alternative B3b) should be removed from the Preferred Alternatives.
- In the process of forming the Draft Amendment 5, many of the Oregon Inlet PLL fishermen remarked about their lack of

interactions with dusky sharks and questioned the location of the logbook interactions. The fishermen indicated dusky interactions would occur if PLL gear fished inside 50 fathoms but they usually fished on or outside of 100 fathoms where there were very few interactions. The proposed closure area is much larger than the area needed to reduce dusky interactions. NCDMF is proposing two options to reduce the closure area and still allow PLL to fish in this important area. One option is to use the 100 fathom curve in the proposed area and not allow PLL to fish inshore of this line "100 Fathom Curve Adjustment." The second option is to use straight line Lat/Long Coordinates to approximate the 100 fathom contour "Lat/Long Coordinates to Approximate the Areas Inside the 100 Fathom Curve Adjustment." (Maps Attached)

- PLL fishermen need the ability to transit the closed areas if gear is stowed - stow gangions, hooks could not be baited, and buoys removed from the mainline and drum

Pelagic and Bottom Longline Effort Control Measures - Alternative B5 - Current time/area closure modifications - Modify the timing of the existing mid-Atlantic shark time/area closure to December 15 to July 15

- NCDMF supports the intent of this alternative - closure end date to coincide with the season opening date (July 15) in the ASMFC Coastal Shark Plan
- The December 15 start date for the closure will disadvantage North Carolina fishermen if quota still remains in the LCS non-sandbar fishery after the start date - move start date to January 1

NCDMF appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this issue and would be willing to clarify or discuss any of our concerns.

Sincerely,
Randy Gregory
NC Division of Marine Fisheries

Fisheries Management SMZs Approved for Delaware Reefs

By John Oswald, Asbury Park Press, 2/15/2013

Forces fighting to get commercial fishing gear off artificial reefs got a boost on Wednesday at the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) meeting in Virginia. The council approved several options for designating the sites as Special Management Zones (SMZs) in the Delaware EEZ. The Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife had petitioned the Council for the designation under provisions of Amendment 9 to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The request was made in an effort to mitigate conflicts between hook and line fishermen and fixed pot and trap gear in use at those locations. The Council approved options 2a, which designates all five of Delaware's five reef sites as SMZs; option 3b, which restricts fishing activities to hook line and spear fishing; option 4b, which designates the sites as SMZs for the entire calendar year; and option 5c, which creates a 500 meter buffer zone around each reef. Under option 3b, commercial hook and line fishing gear would still be permitted in the SMZs. Capt. Peter Grimbilas, chairman of the Reef Rescue Fund, and a tireless worker to get commercial gear off New Jersey's artificial reefs called Wednesday, "a really good day." "The best thing about yesterday (Wednesday) was that finally, the MAFMC is paying attention to what the Sport Fish Restoration Funds are all about," said Grimbilas. Grimbilas was referring to the fact that a good portion of the funding for artificial reefs comes from the Sport Fish Restoration Fund, which is to be used to support recreational fishing.

Grimbilas said that Dr. John Organ, chief of the fund, has repeatedly warned states that they can't continue to take funds for reefs that benefit commercial interests.

These actions by the MAFMC are far from set in stone. The recommendations will go out for public comment and then on to the National Marine Fisheries Service for a final decision.

"It just so important that Delaware gets their way because we're (New Jersey) going to be following right on their shirt tails. "We're going to be asking for the same things for the same reasons," Grimbilas said.

Grimbilas said that New Jersey already got it hand slapped for not requesting SMZ status earlier.

The state's funding from the federal government has been put on hold until it resolves the issue of commercial use of its artificial reefs.

"Delaware was smart enough to request SMZs and because they had the wheels rolling, U.S. Fish and Wildlife didn't cut the funding," he said.

The request for SMZ status for New Jersey's reefs won't be too far in the future. Grimbilas believes DEP Commissioner Bob Martin will be making the request once a proposal can be crafted that will be acceptable to all the parties involved.

Also on Wednesday, the MAFMC approved the Scientific and Statistical Committee's recommendation to increase the 2013 black sea bass quota by one million pounds. Discussion of the black sea bass quota will continue at next week's meeting of the ASMFC Winter Meeting in Virginia

Traces of Anxiety Drug May Affect Behavior in Fish

By Pam Belluck, New York Times, 2/14/2013

Traces of a common psychiatric medication that winds up in rivers and streams may affect fish behavior and feeding patterns, according to a study in the journal *Science* published Thursday.

Researchers in Sweden exposed wild European perch to water with different concentrations of Oxazepam, an anti-anxiety medication that can show up in waterways after being flushed, excreted or discarded.

Researchers reported that fish exposed to Oxazepam became less social, more active and ate faster, behaviors they said could have long-term consequences for aquatic ecosystems.

Scientists who study pharmaceuticals in waterways said the research was intriguing because it examined the potential effect on animals of a specific medication intended to affect human behavior.

"It seems to be a solid study with an environmentally relevant species," said Donald Tillitt, an environmental toxicologist with the United States Geological Survey, who was not involved in the study. He said it made sense that a medication that binds with a certain brain receptor in people could act similarly in fish, and the measures of behavior — activity, sociability, boldness and feeding rate — "are all important ones that we like to look at when we're trying to see the environmental effects of pharmaceuticals."

Still, because even the lowest concentration of Oxazepam in the study was higher than that found in a Swedish waterway that researchers tested, "the relevance of their study to the real world is unclear," the United States Environmental Protection Agency said in written answers to questions.

The agency said that while "most pharmaceuticals do not seem to pose known risks to humans, animals or the rest of the ecosystem" at the levels they occur in the environment, there are some medications "for which some researchers have noted physiological effects in fish exposed to levels close to those occasionally reached in the environment. These include some ingredients used for contraception, hypertension and mood disorders."

The agency said how often this occurs and the possible environmental repercussions are unknown.

The study joins a small but growing body of research exploring the possible environmental impact of chemicals in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and other products. Many of these chemicals are not removed by wastewater treatment plants, which are intended to remove bacteria and nutrients, experts said.

The topic is difficult to study partly because concentrations of chemicals in waterways can vary with season, hour and distance from treatment plants, and other medications in water may influence a chemical's effects.

The United States Geological Survey has found "intersex fish," or male fish that develop female sexual characteristics, in the Potomac River and its tributaries, raising questions about whether hormone residues might be responsible. A study in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology* found antidepressants like Prozac and Zoloft in the brains of fish collected downstream from wastewater discharge in Colorado and Iowa. But some antidepressants that were more common in those waterways, including Zyban and Citalopram, were not found as frequently in the fish.

In the Swedish study, researchers first tested perch in the wastewater-treated Fyris River, near the city of Uppsala, and found their muscle tissue contained six times the river's concentration of Oxazepam, said Tomas Brodin, the lead author and an assistant professor of ecology at Umea University.

Researchers then took baby fish hatched from the roe of wild perch in what they considered a drug-

free waterway, and divided them into three groups of 25. One group had no exposure to Oxazepam; the other two were placed in water with what researchers called a low concentration, at three times higher than the Fyris River, or an extremely high concentration, at 1,500 times higher.

The more Oxazepam they ingested the more active the fish were, measured by the number of swimming motions in a 10-minute period. They were also less social, spending less time near a section of the tank with other fish and more time near an empty compartment. And they were quicker to grab and eat zooplankton. At the highest Oxazepam concentration, fish were also bolder, measured by how long it took them to leave a box in the tank and explore new territory.

“Basically, no one left the box before they were subjected to the drug,” said Dr. Brodin, who said he saw the difference when he entered the room each day. The non-exposed fish “were hiding basically,” while the others “were out there, greeting me. They were totally different fish.”

In a statement, Matthew Bennett, senior vice president of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, said the study yielded “somewhat expected results” because of its higher-than-natural concentrations. He said the behavioral changes were small, and the study methods contradicted “widely accepted protocols that determine how the low levels of Oxazepam found in the environment accumulate in fish. The environmental relevance and potential for long-term impact from this drug, which has been in use for decades, are therefore debatable.”

Joel A. Tickner, an environmental scientist at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, who was not involved in the research, said he considered the study significant. “These effects may be very subtle,” he said, but “what they’re finding is it’s biologically relevant.”

Dr. Brodin said the implications were unclear for perch, which might benefit from Oxazepam exposure by becoming more efficient eaters or be disadvantaged because enhanced risk-taking behavior might increase their vulnerability to predators. Zooplankton, algae and other organisms could also be affected by changes in fish behavior, he said.

Dr. Tillitt, the toxicologist with the United States Geological Survey, said, “We’re smart enough and we should be able to design chemicals that fulfill

these same sorts of functions but with less stress on the environment.”

It’s A Saltwater Angler’s Paradise at The Saltwater Fishing Expo

Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, NJ
March 15-17, 2013

For Immediate Release

Paul Fuller, Show Director

(603) 431-4315; www.sportshows.com

DOVER, NH– February 4, 2013 —If you have saltwater running in your veins, then do not miss the Saltwater Fishing Expo, March 15-17, 2013, at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset, NJ. This is the largest show dedicated to saltwater sportfishing north of Miami, FL. Visitors will find fantastic deals on tackle, exhibits, activities, and a bevy of saltwater superstars will be on hand to share their secrets.

“From stripers to bluefin, fluke to bluefish, and everything in between, the saltwater angler will find everything he or she needs to catch their dream fish,” says Paul Fuller, show manager. “We’re also featuring some incredible products that are not available in retail stores, catalogues or web sites. These are produced by small custom tackle makers who only exhibit at specialized shows. The Expo is your chance to uncover unique products and unique deals.”

Major tackle manufacturers will be showcasing the latest in fishing technology, and showgoers will be able to buy this brand new gear right at the Expo. This includes tackle and gear from inshore to offshore, and from light to worthy of big game. Exhibitors include Shimano, Daiwa, St. Croix, Quantum, Zebco, Lamiglass, Van Stahl, Cortland and dozens more.

Once you have your gear, then it is time to plan that perfect fishing escape. Captains are on hand to book your dream trip to the exotic destination of your choice.

If a new boat is your dream, then don’t miss the Boatyard, which offers aisle after aisle of the latest saltwater boats, motors, kayaks, marine accessories and equipment.

Every fisherman dreams of landing a truly legendary fish, and Greg Myerson has done just that—twice. In August 2011, Myerson caught an All-

Tackle World-Record Striper weighing 81.88 pounds; in May 2012, he set the All-Tackle Length Record for a caught-and-released striped bass. His 3.7 foot long striper is the longest one ever caught and released, setting a new IGFA record. Meet Myerson and hear about his record catch at the Expo.

It is a monster! Don't miss your chance to view the actual taxidermist mount of a Great White Shark, caught on August 5, 1983 by Captain Greg Dubrule and the crew of the charter boat "Seaweed Too," out of Noank, CT. This massive fish is 16.5 feet long, 10.5 feet in diameter and weighed in at a whopping 3,412 pounds when alive. The taxidermist made a fiberglass mold of the original fish, and then put both halves together; the fiberglass teeth were also molded off of the originals.

Many scientists did extensive research on this shark, which led to the discovery of a new drug to fight off the massive infection that frequently occurs in the wounds of shark attack victims. The shark also holds the distinction of being the most traveled fish ever, having been a featured attraction at all the major sport and fishing shows nationwide. Captain Dubrule still takes to the seas, running the party boat "Black Hawk" out of Niantic, CT.

Seminars by the superstars of saltwater sportfishing run continuously all three days of the Expo. On hand are Captain Al Ristori, Ron Arra, Rich Johnson, Mike Laptew, Jimmy Gahm, Captain Pete Meyers, and many more. Now's your chance to learn from the masters and improve your fishing skills.

Sunday is Family Day so bring the kids! Children will enjoy the Scavenger Hunt and "Reel Kids" Casting Event, and the first 100 kids under age 11 and accompanied by a paying adult will receive a FREE Plano tackle box. To participate in the Scavenger Hunt, stop by the Kid Fun activities area on the first floor, get your activities checklist stamped, and then visit the Grand Prize Giveaway booth for a free prize. "Reel Kids" gives kids of all ages instruction in the three most important casting skills needed in bass fishing--flipping, pitching and casting. Members of the New Jersey Bass Fishing Federation will provide instruction.

The Saltwater Fishing Expo runs March 15-17, 2013 at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset, NJ. Hours are Friday, March 15, 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Saturday, March 16, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday, March 17, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$12.00 for adults and \$3.00 for

children ages 5 to 11. Children under age five are admitted FREE. A portion of all ticket sales goes toward funding "Keep America Fishing," the American Sportfishing Association's angler advocacy campaign devoted toward keeping our nation's waters open, clean, and abundant with fish. Tickets may be purchased online.

The Garden State Exhibit Center is easy to reach from throughout New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic. Take Interstate 287 and Exit 10. The Saltwater Fishing Expo is sponsored by Costa Sunglasses, Plano Molding Company and Zancudo Lodge. For more information, visit www.sportshows.com.

The American Sportfishing Association (ASA) is the sportfishing industry's trade association committed to representing the interests of the entire sportfishing community. We give the industry a unified voice, speaking out on behalf of sportfishing and boating industries, state and federal natural resource agencies, conservation organizations, angler advocacy groups and outdoor journalists when emerging laws and policies could significantly affect sportfishing business or sportfishing itself. ASA invests in long-term ventures to ensure the industry will remain strong and prosperous, as well as safeguard and promote the enduring social, economic and conservation values of sportfishing in America. ASA also gives America's 60 million anglers a voice in policy decisions that affect their ability to sustainably fish on our nation's waterways through KeepAmericaFishing™, our angler advocacy campaign. America's anglers generate \$48 billion in retail sales with a \$115 billion impact on the nation's economy creating employment for more than 828,000 people.

JCAA 19th Annual Fluke

Tournament

August 24th, 2013

By Paul Turi, Tournament Director

Mark your calendar for the JCAA 19th annual fluke tournament which this year will be held on Saturday, August 24th, 2013. If there is a hurricane on August 24th the tournament will be held the following week on August 31st. The awards

ceremony will be held on September 6th, 2013 at the Golden Nugget in Atlantic City.

We have secured our 10 ports for this year. New this year will be the Atlantic City Port which is being sponsored by the Golden Nugget. They have informed us that they will be putting up the \$1,200 first place prize money for a port in Atlantic City. Dan Miller has indicated he will be our weigh master at Atlantic City.

Since we are having a new port in Atlantic City this year, it was necessary to eliminate one port and after much discussion and looking at the numbers from previous years, the tournament committee has decided to eliminate the Jersey City Port. Therefore, our 10 ports for 2013 will be:

- Atlantic City
- Barnegat Bay
- Sandy Hook
- Shark River
- Manasquan River
- Long Beach Island
- Great Bay
- Ocean City
- Cape May
- Fortesque

We will have applications ready in the near future, along with hats and t-shirts. Watch the JCAA Newspaper for further news by going to the JCAA web page and subscribe to the JCAA Newspaper to get Email Alerts, JCAA Email Alerts and fluke Tournament alerts.

Black Sea Bass and Fluke Regulations Update

By Paul Haertel

Sea Bass

As we go to press we received a little bit of good news regarding sea bass. On 2/14/13 the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) voted to accept the recommendation of their Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) to increase the Allowable Biological Catch (ABC) to 5.5 million pounds. This is an increase of 1 million pounds from what was initially approved. The ABC will be split with 51% going to the recreational sector and 49% to the commercial sector. However, we are still going to end up with more stringent

regulations than last year as the increase will not cover the overage that occurred in the recreational sector last year. Still, regulations are expected to be much better than the draconian measures that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) was set to consider at their upcoming meeting on 2/21/13. The various proposals included reductions for New Jersey that ranged from approximately 44-53%. At their upcoming meeting, the ASMFC will discuss various state by state and regional options but with the increase in the harvest limit the reductions will no longer be as severe. Once one of the options is approved it will be up to the individual states or regions to develop regulations that comply with that option. The New Jersey representatives to the ASMFC will work closely with the New Jersey Bureau of Marine Fisheries (NJBMF) in attempting to have the best possible options and regulations approved for our state. On 2/26/13, the NJBMF will hold an advisors meeting before the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (NJMFC) is expected to finalize our regulations at their March 7th meeting.

Fluke

New Jersey has been forced to take approximately a 15% reduction from the recreational quota it had last year. This is due to a cut in the overall coastwide quota and the fact that New

Jersey slightly exceeded its quota last year. This may very well renew the battle that we had last year when commercial representatives on the NJMFC overruled the standing motion recommended by the advisors and the council's recreational representatives. That resulted in a shorter season with a 17 ½" size limit and a 5 fish bag limit rather than a longer season with an 18" size limit and 8 fish bag limit that the vast majority of JCAA member clubs favored. The NJBMF has recently developed a number of preliminary options for this year including those with varying seasons and size limits. However, all have the same 5 fish bag limit that we had last year. Unfortunately, at this time no options are being considered to return the bag limit to 8 fish as there is insufficient data to increase the bag limit when increasing the size limit. The JCAA pointed out last year that it was not a good idea to give up a portion of the bag limit unless it is absolutely necessary.

While a 5 fish bag limit is really not all that bad, most fishermen would not want to reduce it any

further. This could become a problem if we exceed our quota this year. Therefore, this year's battle will be between those preferring a shorter season with a size limit of 17 ½" and those who prefer a longer season with an 18" size limit. Last year, even with the 17 ½" size limit, we had a season that lasted 147 days. This year if we keep the size limit at 17 ½" we will be forced to reduce the season to 117-122 days. On the other hand, if we raise the size limit to 18" we will probably be able to have a season ranging from 131-149 days. Below are some of the preliminary options being considered. Some of these may be modified or deleted and others will be discussed as well at the advisors meeting on 2/26/13. Ultimately, though, only a few options will be chosen for the public to have input on at the NJMFC meeting on March 7th. The meeting will begin at 4:00 PM and it will take place at the Galloway Township Library on Jimmie Leeds Rd. in Absecon. The regulations will be set immediately after the public comment portion of the meeting. Therefore, those interested are encouraged to attend and give their opinions.

The 2012 season had a 5 fish bag limit at 17 ½" and ran from 5/5 – 9/28 for a total of 147 days. Below are just a few of the preliminary proposals being considered for this year. All have a 5 fish bag limit.

- 17 ½" with a season from 5/11 – 9/4 for a total of 117 days
- 17 ½" with a season from 5/18 – 9/16 for a total of 122 days
- 17 ½" with a season from 5/24 – 9/22 for a total of 122 days
- 18" with a season from 5/25 – 10/2 for a total of 131 days
- 18" with a season from 5/2 – 9/12 for a total of 135 day
- 18" with a season from 5/4 – 9/29 for a total of 149 days

Membership Report

By John Toth

I have already received **2013** membership dues from the **South Jersey Saltwater Anglers, Newark Bait and Flycasting Club, the Asbury Park Fishing and the Berkeley Striper Clubs**. I will be sending out invoices for 2013 club membership dues in the near future, but please feel

free to pay your club dues now. Also, when you do, please return not only your check but the names of your club officers (President, Treasurer and the member who will represent your club at our monthly JCAA meetings). It is important to provide the name and telephone number of your club's treasurer so that we can contact that person if there is a problem with your payment.

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 to us.

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

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

Sportsperson of the Year Dinner April 14th, 2013 Crystal Pt. Yacht Club

New Jersey Outdoor Alliance Report

By John Toth

Representing the JCAA, I attended a January 28th meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA), and the following is a brief summary of this meeting:

The NJOA is very involved in taking wounded American veterans on hunting trips so that they can enjoy nature and just have a good time surrounded by people who appreciate their service to our country. NJOA member Pola Galie reported that the NJOA provides meals, lodging and mentoring for wounded veterans so that they can participate in this program and feel comfortable while doing it. Pola also indicated that the veterans not only enjoy hunting, but they also enjoy just being out in the fields with people who care for them and want them to have a good time. What a worthwhile and impressive program for our wounded veterans who need to have a ray of sunshine in their lives!

Mr. Larry Niles from the Audubon Society gave a report on the declining stocks of horseshoe crabs and the red knot population, especially in the Delaware Bay area. The red knots feed on the eggs of the horseshoe crabs as they migrate from South America, stopping in the Delaware to eat eggs to gain strength for their flight to the Arctic. Less crab eggs would negatively affect the population of these birds. According to Mr. Niles, the declining stocks of horseshoe crabs are attributable to a number of factors including illegal harvesting, poor water quality, and harvesting in states that do not have a moratorium like Maryland and Virginia (NJ has a moratorium on these crabs). Another factor cited included the poor handling of the crabs by drug companies that bleed the crabs and use the blood for medical purposes. Mr. Niles was critical of the drug companies and indicated if these companies were better controlled in handling horseshoe crabs there would not be such a high mortality of them.

The National Marine Services (NMFS) is concerned about the stocks of various sharks (Duskies, etc.) that we rarely see if at all in our waters and NMFS wants to prohibit anglers from bringing sharks into marinas that are **less than 96 inches!** If this proposal becomes law, it would

effectively shut down many if not all shark tournaments that we have during our fishing season. NMFS is obviously unaware of the implications of what they are trying to do with the shark fishing industry, and it needs comments from the recreational community to steer them in the right direction. JCAA's Tom Fote urged NJOA's representatives to write letters to President Obama and the Commerce Secretary and complain about how NMFS is moving in the wrong direction with this fishery.

Several fishing club members reported their attending a Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council hearing in Toms River on January 17, 2013 concerning designating Delaware's artificial reefs as Special Management Zones (SMZ). They spoke in favor of it with the hope that if Delaware's artificial reefs received this designation, it would help the NJOA in making a better case for extending this SMZ status to New Jersey's artificial reefs resulting in getting the commercial traps off our reefs.

Considerable discussion focused on the devastation created by Sandy. Tim Burden from the NJ Beach Buggy Association reported that his club has been trying to improve beach access with the shore towns affected by Sandy. He indicated that in his discussion with Sea Bright officials, this town still does not want to change their restrictions on public access to their beach.

Highly Migratory Species

By John Koegler

NMFS closed the commercial Bluefin tuna category as of Feb 15, 2013. This category will reopen on May 31, 2013. This is an amazing fishery that is now centered in North Carolina. For over 50 years this fishery was centered in New England from Montauk to Maine. New England fishermen have gone from landing 100% of the US Bluefin tuna quota for over 20 year starting in the 1960's to zero in the late 1990's. There was wide debate about the reason these tuna bypassed New England. A large number began being landed from Canada. Commercial interests blame global warming as the reason these tuna could not be found in New England waters. Some fishermen blame the out of control spiny dogfish shark population because they eat all the bait chunks that are thrown overboard to

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

NJ HOFNOD DEVELOPMENT

On February 15, 2013 Tim Burden and I attended a HOFNOD meeting at the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife's Central Office to discuss their HOFNOD Action Plan for New Jersey that Liz Jackson and Jessica Girglik designed to take NJ HOFNOD to the next level.

Frank Virgilio, NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and Ed Markowski, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance were in attendance to discuss the expansion of HOFNOD and explained the importance of utilizing the twenty-two week learning sessions. Frank and Ed are familiar with HOFNOD since its inception and are very knowledgeable about meeting legislative protocol to meet original HOFNOD objectives.

The working group is looking to recruit core volunteers and conduct a NJ HOFNOD training program that will establish working group leaders and support volunteers in urban areas.

Jim Sciasia, Chief of Information and Education, stated the plan is still in development and more dialog on the subject will continue over the next few weeks with project participants. The Division of Fish and Wildlife is also designing a program that will train NJ facilitators who will then train group leaders and support volunteers.

If members in your fishing club or organization would like to be part of the NEW NJ HOFNOD expansion, please phone 732-785-9278 or email gkucharews@aol.com and leave your contact information. You will be contacted about meeting the volunteer criteria for the NEW NJ HOFNOD requirements.

URBAN PROMISE/URBAN TRACKERS

On January 24th Tim Burden and I met with Jim Cummings, Director Experiential Learning from Urban Promise, Camden, NJ to discuss how HOFNOD would complement their already successful Urban Trackers/Boatworks program. Youngsters learn how to build boats and knowledgeable volunteers guide students through the boat-building process.

Last year, students traveled to Island Beach State Park and spent time at Sedge Island learning

attract the Bluefin tuna. Currently there is no debate the out of control spiny dogfish population has a major negative impact on all New England fisheries. Spiny dogfish commercial landings have been greatly increased during the last three years. Commercially can again target the female spiny dogfish. They have made a start but the out of control spiny shark numbers have yet to be noticeably reduced. Commercially must also land and sell the male spiny dogfish to reduce their unbelievable population numbers. So far fishery managers have yet to make that choice.

Other observers blamed the huge purse seine fishery that has grown to land the vast schools of herring that school in New England waters each summer. Herring were originally used mostly as bait in the huge lobster trap fishery. Herring fishers began selling their bonanza for many different uses. New England Fishery Management first imposed major herring landing limits inshore and later offshore in an attempt to again be rewarded with a Bluefin tuna fishery. The result is a few giant Bluefin are now being again landed each year from New England waters despite Global Warming. I guess that this proves beyond any doubt an honestly managed fishery benefits both commercial and recreational fishermen. The real problem is the managers have to get the quota numbers right.

Another valuable fishery is lobsters that are now available live in most east coast areas all summer long. Landing limits have been imposed for the entire east coast in both Federal and State waters. The result is this fishery has continued to land huge number of lobsters. In fact, where most New England commercial fishermen had caught and sold many different fish species, many have shifted to landing lobsters.

Naturally conservation groups believe lobster landings should be reduced but New England fishery managers have permitted lobster landings to continue at a high quota level for the last ten years. This has enabled east coast customers to enjoy live lobsters all summer long. Live lobsters retail price has remained at a modest price. Shore customers enjoy live lobster dinners at a reasonable price all summer long.

about aquatic education. We explained how their students could experience surf fishing by attending a fishing clinic for novice anglers. We also encouraged them to start an after school fishing club. They already have excellent crafted boats to go fishing.

COOKINGHAM SCHOLARSHIP

(Press Release)

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife has announced that the NJ Chapter of The Wildlife Society is again offering the Russell A. Cookingham Scholarship to a qualified undergraduate in the wildlife / fisheries or conservation education / communication field.

This scholarship is made possible by an endowment from Russell A. Cookingham, former Director of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. The NJ Chapter of The Wildlife Society manages the endowment fund and awards the scholarship.

For more information on the scholarship, including the application process, visit [this link](#) on the division's website.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Brick Cub Scouts Pack # 47 completed their first two HOFNOD/Passport To Fishing and Boating sessions. December session 1 consisted of a HOFNOD introduction/video, how to have a fun-time learning about fishing and why it is important to keep our environment clean. We explained to the scouts that we are preparing for National Fishing and Boating Week and they would learn about 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 Ocean County. Because they showed an interest in both saltwater and freshwater, we told the scouts they could decide where to go fishing in Ocean County.

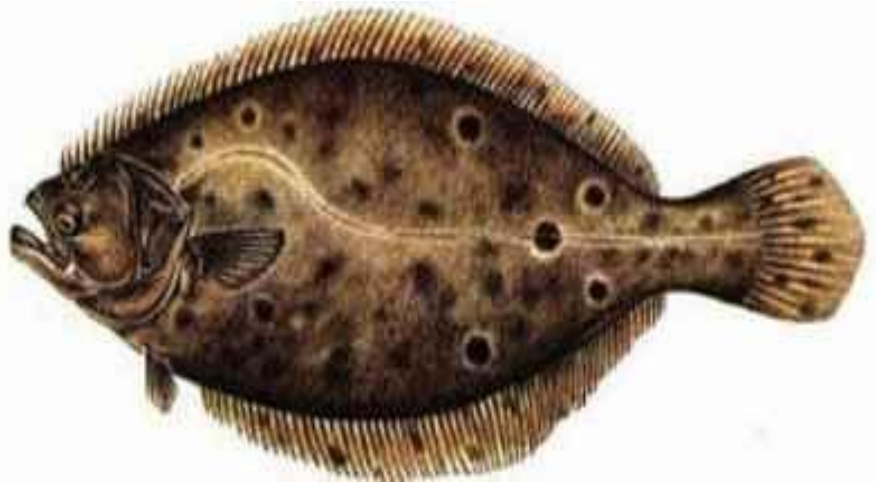
February session 2 the Cub Scouts competed in a fish anatomy puzzle competition. The Scouts formed two lines and raced to assemble all the parts of a fish. We discussed where fish live and how important it is to keep our waterways clean. Fish handling and how we can hurt fish and how fish can hurt us. Pack Leader 47 had all the Scouts make posters about what they learned about pollution and fish. Can't wait to see them.

NEWARK BAIT AND FLY CASTING CLUB

Tim Burden, JCAA Youth Education Committee member, will visit the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 5, 2013 and present a "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" event for youngsters attending their Kids Fishing Night. The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club hosts this annual event at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located in Union, NJ. Children and their families are welcome to come and enjoy a night of fun fishing activities and refreshments. We always enjoy working with the membership of this club because they are devoted to teaching the joys of fishing to our young people. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will support this worthwhile event by providing "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" packets for all the youngsters. Tim Burden will conduct a water safety seminar and demonstrate the importance of life vests.

August 24th
JCAA 19th Annual
JCAA Fluke
Tournament

September 6th
JCAA Fluke
Tournament
Awards Ceremony
at Golden Nugget



2013 Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament Saturday - August 24, 2013

Rain or shine except if there is a hurricane the tournament will be held on August 31, 2013

Traditionally our tournament was held in June but after soliciting input from many of our past participants we decided to hold it in August. In this way we will be able to accommodate the many fishermen who have been targeting stripers during June while also having the tournament near the peak of the fluke season for most of our coast.

Fishing Hours: Dawn until 5 P.M. To be eligible all fluke must be weighed in at one of the 10 official weigh stations (that you previously selected) starting from 12 noon, but not later than 5 P.M. and must be accompanied by your official weigh slip affidavit with entry number.

Fishing Location: Fish all ocean, bay and river waters stretching from Raritan Bay & Hudson Harbor in the north to Delaware Bay in the south.

Awards Presentation & Celebration: Friday, September 6, 2013 at the Golden Nugget in Atlantic City, N.J.

For additional information contact Paul Turi at jcaa@jcaa.org or visit

www.jcaa.org