

JCAA NEWSPAPER MAY 2013

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on April 22nd, 2013)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, April 30th, 2013

Starting at 7:30 PM

At 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 9th, 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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2012 OFFICERS

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| President | Joe Puntasecca | 908-913-0551 |
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| Mem. Sec. | John Toth | 732-656-0139 |
| Tournament Dir. | Paul Turi | 609-660-2126 |

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

April 30th JCAA General Meeting

May 2nd NJMFC Meeting 4pm

May 2nd ASMFC Eel Hearing after NJMFC meeting info below FLMR

May 9th JCAA Board Meeting

May 20th -23rd ASMFC Meeting Week

May 28th JCAA General Meeting & JCAA Raffle Drawing

June 13th JCAA Board Meeting

June 25th JCAA General Meeting

August 24th JCAA 19th Annual Fluke Tournament

September 6th Awards Ceremony at Golden Nugget AC

JCAA 2013 High Rollers Raffle

Drawing Date: May 28th, 2013

8 Raffle Prizes & you do not have to be present to win and the drawing date is May 28th, 2013. Support JCAA. Only \$2.00 a Ticket.

1. Fin-Nor Santiago SA25 Reel & Fin-Nor Sportfisher rod & spool of 30lb Ultracast FluroBraid Spiderwire
Value \$680 *Donated by Zebco, Fin-Nor & JCAA*
2. Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor Model RT 55/SE/L&D
Value \$670 *Donated by Johnson Outdoors, Inc.*
3. \$500 Gift Certificate to Fishermen Headquarters
Value \$500 *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
4. Penn 965 Reel & Lamiglas XTC704 3 piece travel rod
Value \$500 *Donated by Penn & Lamiglas*
5. 2 Cans of Interlux Micron CSC Paint
Value \$400 *Donated by Interlux*
6. 2 Cans of Interlux Micron CSC Paint
Value \$400 *Donated by Interlux*
7. Canyon Reel HS-15 & Profile Rod GLC 7108
Value \$310 *Donated by Canyon Reels & JCAA*
8. Shakespeare Ugly Stik SP1166 1MH 6' 6" Rod with Penn Battle BTL 4000 Reel
Value \$160 *Donated by Penn & Shakespeare*

Total Value \$3,620

President's Report

By Joseph Puntasecca

The 2012 Sportsman-of-the-Year Dinner which was held on April 14th at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant was a great success. There was a great speech from our keynote speaker, US Congressman Frank Pallone. I would like to thank him for making time for us in his busy schedule to speak to all that were in attendance about Magnusson reform and Sandy fisheries relief. I would like to recognize the dinner committee co-chairs Paul Turi and Dan Miller, they did a great job and I look forward to them returning next year.

There are proposed changes to the JCAA by laws that were read at the last General Meeting. If you were unable to attend the last General Meeting they are published in this month's newspaper and there will be discussion on the proposed changes at the upcoming General Meeting.

It is not too late to get tickets for the High Rollers Raffle! If you have not received tickets, please contact your club's representative or call the JCAA Office. Ticket books will also be going out shortly in our Fluke Tournament mailing in the next week or two. The drawing will take place at our May General meeting on May 28th.

JCAA submitted a letter to the ASMFC requesting that NJ take advantage of unused quota for the 2013 summer flounder season. Since submitting this letter NJ has been awarded about 30% of the unused quota and will be able to extend its summer flounder season by about 11 days if the NJ Marine Fisheries Council votes to take advantage of this unused quota awarded to NJ. The letter submitted to the ASMFC follows my Report.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 19th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament. The Tournament takes place in August this year on the 24th instead of in June.

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 April General Meeting will be held at Jersey Coast Shark Anglers, 385 Herbertsville, Road, Brick.

If you would like to help out at the JCAA office or be on a committee, contact Paul Turi at the JCAA office at jcaa@jcaa.org or by calling the JCAA office at (732)506-6565. Paul Turi can use a lot of help in the coming months with getting out Fluke Tournament mailings and the JCAA monthly newspaper.

Letter to ASMFC

Toni Kerns
ASMFC
1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N
Arlington, Va. 22201

Toni,

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association which has approximately 75 member clubs supports option 2 of section 3.0 of Draft Addendum XXIV to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. We believe that it would be wise to fully utilize any projected underage of the RHL since participation in the recreational summer flounder fishery will be down significantly due to the damage caused by Super Storm Sandy.

There seems to be little downside to the utilization of additional harvest limits for this year. The only negative would be that if the projected underage of fish was allowed to be utilized and then the coast wide quota was exceeded, it could cause a reduction of the coast wide quota for 2014. However, it is very unlikely that this will happen this year. When the coast wide quota was set for 2013 and the states were assigned their allocations, they were forced to develop regulations that would most likely result in them not exceeding their quotas.

However, the problem for this year is these regulations are based on the states having nearly the

same amount of participation that they had in prior years. There is no doubt that participation in New Jersey and other states affected by Super Storm Sandy will be down significantly. Many of the marinas in New Jersey were damaged or destroyed and may not open again until later in the season if they are able to open at all. In New Jersey alone there are an estimated 58,000 boats that were lost or damaged. Further, many fishermen who live in the shore area had their homes damaged or destroyed. Access to the beach for those who like to fish there is still restricted in many places. The situation is similar in other states as well and therefore not nearly as many people will be able to go fishing this year. Option 2 would allow states like New Jersey to liberalize their regulations somewhat. More specifically, if New Jersey were to receive approval to utilize a portion of the projected underage of the RHL, it would likely result in the NJ Marine Fisheries Council extending the fluke season into the fall. New Jersey had to reduce its season by 25 days from what it was last year so that it would not have to increase the size limit or reduce the bag limit. Extending the season would allow our state to stabilize its regulations by having a similar season length as last year. An extended season would result in many fishermen continuing to come to the New Jersey shore thereby giving a much needed boost to the local economy.

Sincerely,
Joe Puntasecca
President, JCAA

JCAA 19th Annual Fluke Tournament

By Paul Turi, Tournament Director

The JCAA 19th Annual Fluke Tournament will be held this year on **August 24th, 2013**. If there is a hurricane we will have the tournament on August 31st, 2013. **Other than a hurricane we are having the tournament on August 24th rain or shine.** The awards presentations will be held on **September 6th, 2013** at the Golden Nugget Hotel/Casino in Atlantic City.

I am pleased to announce that the **Golden Nugget** is also sponsoring a port in Atlantic City this year and putting up the \$1,200 1st place prize money.

I am also pleased to announce that **Yukon Coolers**, made by Igloo, is also coming on board this year as a *major sponsor* and is providing JCAA with Yukon coolers to give out as port prizes.

Our major sponsors this year are:

- **Berkeley Gulp**
- **Costa**
- **Golden Nugget**
- **Interlux**
- **Minn Kota**
- **Nor'East Saltwater**
- **Penn**
- **Shakespeare**
- **Spiderwire**
- **West Marine**
- **Yukon**

Right now we only have two Port Sponsors. **Fisherman's Headquarters** is sponsoring the LBI port and putting up the \$1,200 1st place prize money and **Canyon Reels** is sponsoring the Manasquan Port and putting up the \$1,200 1st place prize money for that port. As of right now JCAA is putting up the \$1,200 1st place prize money for the additional 8 ports. If you know of any individual, company or entity that is willing to put up \$1,200 and be a **Port Sponsor** let me know and I will follow up on it. JCAA is also putting up the **Grand Prize** drawing money of \$5,000-\$10,000 (Depending on how many entrants we have). Again, if you know of any individual, company or entity that would be willing to put up the Grand Prize drawing money let me know.

JCAA urges recreational anglers to support these **Major Sponsors** and **Port Sponsors** as they support you and the JCAA in support of the work that we do on behalf of recreational anglers.

For more information on the tournament this year see the 4-page Fluke Tournament insert in this newspaper.

The first Fluke Tournament mailing will be going out shortly. Included in the mailing will be an entry form for the tournament along with a book of **High Roller Raffle** tickets. We are a little late this year getting the High Roller Raffle tickets out, so if you did not get any tickets yet they will be coming your way very shortly. Drawing for the raffle is May 28th at the JCAA office so you have plenty of time to get your tickets. As long as you get your

tickets to the JCAA office by May 27th, they will be included in the drawing.

Also in the first fluke mailing will be a form to order T-shirts. Please be advised that we are still working on the T-shirt design and order and if you order T-shirts there will be a delay in receiving those T-shirts. If you order any T-shirts we should have them in the mail by sometime in May.

I also need a lot of door prizes for the Awards Presentations in Atlantic City. If you or your club can donate a nice door prize then that would be greatly appreciated. I would like to give out door prizes in a value of between \$50.00 - \$100.00. If you have something of lesser value I can always combine one or more prizes together.

For more information or to donate a prize, contact Paul Turi, 609-660-2126 (H), 609-709-9215 (C) or email pturi6@comcast.net.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

Testimony before Senate Subcommittee

I want to thank Senator Lautenberg for inviting me to testify, representing JCAA and New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and Chairman Mark Begich for allowing me to testify.

My written testimony is below. I have not included the tables or the articles I referenced. These are all available on the JCAA website. If you want a copy including all the tables, send me an email.

On the first panel to testify were Erik Schwab, representing NOAA, and the three executive directors from the Pacific, Gulf and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. It was interesting to hear the executive directors from the Pacific and Gulf Commissions stating that they wanted no part in regulating fisheries. Bob Beale, ASMFC executive director, did an excellent job in representing how ASMFC manages fisheries in state waters. On the second panel there was a scientist from Cornell University, Jim Gilmore representing New York Department of Environmental Protection and myself.

Since my oral testimony was only 5 minutes, I had to summarize my written testimony into two pages. Some of the questions asked were related to

my written testimony and my experience serving on ASMFC since 1990. Senator Begich asked many follow-up questions on the impact of climate change on fish populations along the east coast. Since he is from Alaska and can see the impact of the warming trend on their fishery, he was interested in what was being observed here. He thanked me for being the only person on either panel that included concerns about the impact of climate change on fish populations. I was also asked many questions about how the quotas were established in New York and New Jersey and had an opportunity to expand on my testimony in greater detail.

I was not surprised that another organization took a cheap shot at my testimony. I made essentially the same testimony in 2004 on what happened in New York and everyone agreed at that time. Now, there is general agreement with one notable exception. If you read my written testimony carefully, you will see that the most crucial reason for New York's problem was the consistent underestimation of anglers and trips from 1978 to 2000. I explained that higher numbers for anglers and trips produced a huge increase in New York's catch figures. My thought was that the real numbers had not increased but that NMFS simply counted more. This caused New York to exceed their quota and that continues to have an impact today. I said this could have an impact on any state, particularly as we implement new data collection and our numbers could either increase or decrease dramatically. Here is a simple fact. Because of the new data system, NMFS will be sampling blue fish and striped bass trips made at night. Those trips have been in existence since I was a little kid. The question is how are we going to deal with this increase in numbers that has no increase in the number of fish caught, only in what is recorded? To repeat my testimony of 2004 and 2013, we need a system in place to deal with numbers that show a catch increase when, in fact, the problem is not an increased catch but an historical underestimation of the catch. The bottom line is, because our blue fish and striped bass numbers will go up due to new methods of recording, not an actual increase in catch, states should not be penalized for exceeding quota. The catch figures should be adjusted to reflect the new data measures and the apparent increase in catch.

If you have any questions about my testimony, please email me.

**JCAA & NJSFSC Testimony before the
Senate Subcommittee on Oceans,
Atmosphere, Fisheries, and
Coast Guard Hearing**

**Developments and Opportunities in
U.S. Fisheries Management**

March 19, 2013

**JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION
Working for the Saltwater Resource and Marine
Anglers**

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Subject: Testimony before the Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard's hearing on March 19, 2013 on Developments and Opportunities in U.S. Fisheries Management

I am here testifying for Jersey Coast Anglers Association and New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. These two organizations are comprised of 150,000 concerned sportsmen and women throughout New Jersey. I would like to thank the Chairman Mark Begich and the committee for this opportunity to testify on this important issue. I would especially like to thank Senator Lautenberg for all his hard work for the citizens of New Jersey, the environment and the marine resource. I would also like to thank Senator Schumer for being a strong advocate for recreational anglers and working with Senators Menendez and Lautenberg for funding for stock assessment research through other groups including Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science Research. In addition to my volunteer work

with JCAA and the NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, I have served on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission as the Governor's appointee for 12 years including 2008 – the present, Legislative proxy for 5 years and a concerned citizen since 1990. That experience forms my testimony today. The reason I can do all this volunteer work is because I retired as an Army Captain in 1970 after being wounded in Vietnam. I am a disabled vet. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the work of the Senate has become even more vital in restoring the fishing industries in New Jersey and New York. I remain hopeful that the House of Representatives will follow your lead and fund this crucial work. The following is NOAA's current assessment which was released March 15, 2013.

- NOAA's "Initial Assessment of the Economic Impacts of Sandy on New Jersey and New York Commercial and Recreational Fishing Sectors. "The report estimates total uninsured losses of \$78 million to \$121 million in New Jersey and \$77 million in New York.
- The greatest damage from Sandy was to businesses supporting recreational fishing in New Jersey (\$62 million to \$105 million) and New York (\$58 million). These damages included damage to marinas, docks, spoiled bait, destroyed tackle and damages to for-hire vessels.
- Impacts to commercial fishing were estimated at \$14 million in NJ and \$19 million in NY but this total in both states excludes damage to state-licensed vessels. The main types of damage included structural damage to processor and dealer facilities, loss of product, damages to commercial fishing vessels and lost gear.
- The evaluation provides information specific to the fishing industry in each state to assist governors information to help them assess storm-caused damage. It supplements ongoing work by the states.
- I reread my testimony from 2004 on data management and the problems we encounter. I discovered I would need to repeat much of what I said then since little has changed. The reauthorization of the Magnusson Act in 2006 required the NMFS to fix the data problems. Five years later much remains to be done.

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

The systems we are using were not designed for Quota or Total Allowable Catch (TAC) management for recreational fisheries. We were trying to use tools like the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey (MRFSS) to set up state-by-state quotas for recreational fishing. We are now switching to Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, as the new way that NOAA Fisheries is collecting and reporting recreational fishing catch and effort data. Even with the new program, the data is still insufficient to allow for accurate state-by-state quota management. The new program is still only showing trends, not giving real-time information and producing data good enough for quota management. The weaknesses of the MRIP are that for the most part that program has only tweaked the models to look at bad data in different ways. There is still a lack of confidence levels and the same lag time, especially the confidence among recreational anglers. The number of intercepts that are done in each state varies greatly. Some states collect enough data to make the data slightly more reliable with less percentage of statistical error (PSE). Other states have sample sizes that are so small for specific species that a couple of outliers can totally skew the data. The problems with the intercepts are both in the number

and in the quality. For 30 years many fisheries managers have been questioning the data collected, particularly on species that have large night time fisheries. For example, many private, charter and party boats along with surf anglers fish for bluefish and striped bass at night when no intercepts are collected. I understand that this will start being implemented in the immediate future. The lack of that data indicates a smaller stock and then impacts on overall stock assessment. When you passed the Magnusson Act in 2006, you authorized NMFS to collect better recreational data but did not supply the necessary funding.

Everyone is demanding a more accurate count of the number of recreational anglers and the fish they are catching. As we get better data, we are confronting new problems. I always believe we have been underestimating the number of recreational anglers and the number of fish they are catching. This also means we have been underestimating the size of the available stocks of species that have a major recreational catch. The virtual population analysis (VPA) uses catch figures and release figures in estimating the size of the stocks. What happens if a state starts adding intercepts? Or what happens if a state begins doing intercepts at night? I believe that we will discover that a state has more anglers making more trips and catching more fish. This would not reflect a change in fishing behaviors or overall catch, just a change in actual reporting. The management tools we presently use have no way to address this potential change. What will show up statistically will be more anglers entering the fishery, making more trips and catching more fish. This will erroneously indicate possible overfishing and lead to more restrictive management rules for the following year. This is what I think happened in New York in 2001 – 2003 regarding the summer flounder and scup fisheries.

New York was required to make a 48% reduction in summer flounder TAC and a 55% reduction in the scup fishery TAC. I think this is partially due to issues discussed in the previous paragraph. After a careful review of the data available, I believe that New York was treated unfairly and testified to this fact on 6/14/04 to the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans on Data Collection and suggested solutions to NMFS that were ignored.

I was born and grew up in Brooklyn. I fished the North and South Shores of Long Island from one

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

Council falls under Federal guidelines which do not allow for the necessary flexibility. They were unable to even consider that it was the previous data that was inaccurate. This led to a significant decrease in the summer flounder TAC for New York for 2004 and did have a devastating impact on New York's recreational fishing industry and all the ancillary businesses.

Because the summer flounder fishery is such an important one for New York, the estimates are a loss of tens of millions of dollars to the New York economy. In order to be in compliance, New York implemented 3 fish, 17 inches and a season from May 8th to September 6th. The irony of New York's draconian regulations is this is only a 20% reduction and according to the tables they are out of compliance since New York needs to take a 48% reduction.

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

I carefully considered Senator Schumer's letter to the Commissioners for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Senator Schumer has been a strong advocate for recreational anglers. He has also been a strong advocate with Senators Menendez and Lautenberg for funding for stock assessment research through other groups including Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science Research. Because of this funding we have better

information about summer flounder. Because of my respect for his work, I need to respond to some of his concerns. First, when we set the years for quota distribution for summer flounder and black sea bass using 1998 as the base year, it was done with much deliberation and concern. New Jersey gave up 20% of its catch so other states could raise their commercial levels. After much deliberation and a year of reviewing the charts, a motion was made at the Management Board Meeting by Gordon Colvin, the then director of Marine Fisheries for New York. Mr. Colvin is without a doubt the toughest negotiator for his state's interests that I have ever met. I always joke that he gives away snow in the winter. This was not the best or worst year for New Jersey and we were willing to agree to support the needs of other states. We are a compact of states. It is not our job to take advantage of other states for our own interest. Our job is to make interjurisdictional decisions in the best interest of the marine resource and the states. This decision in 1998 predated the great increase in counting recreational anglers in New York in 2001 – 2003. It is this data that has helped create the difficulty for New York. Common sense suggested to me that we were not only underestimating the number of anglers and trips in New York but also underestimating the stock size. Despite my suggestion to resolve this issue, NMFS refused to address this problem. There is something else happening with this fishery. In order to stay within these quotas with this huge spawning biomass, we are required to further restrict the recreational catch. We can restrict bag limits, size limits and seasons. New York has been relying on size limits rather than seasons. New Jersey emphasizes changing seasons to gain the needed reductions. I understand the concerns facing New York's managers. Long Island Sound, Montauk, Captree, Sheepshead Bay and City Island, all areas I fished while living in New York, represent different management needs as far as size and seasons. Sometimes those varied needs are difficult in a single plan. We have the same problem in New Jersey dealing with Fortescue, Cape May, Barnegat Bay and Sandy Hook. We even have species like winter flounder and scup that don't migrate south of Barnegat Bay. I have included a comparison (Tables 1) of New York and New Jersey's regulations for the past few years. I have also included a table showing the reductions in other states from 2001 (Table 2). In our latest guidance in an ASMFC conference call last week on black sea

bass, the technical committee recommended shorter seasons would give the most opportunity to meet the quota. It is important to point out that research done beginning in the 70's, showed that some species like black sea bass and summer flounder have an interesting migratory pattern. These species move back and forth from the offshore to inshore waters from one season to another. Summer flounder travels as far as the continental shelf to spawn. They do not return directly to the same bay or estuary. It seems as these fish get larger, they go out and return further north. Because we are uniformly raising size limits for southern states, it causes the stocks to migrate farther north. We have continually seen larger and larger black sea bass and summer flounder harvested in the northern states. By raising size limits, we are causing other problems. If we caught the same poundage in 1994 and 2013, the number of actual fish is about 25% in 2013. That means the four anglers on a boat can catch only one fish to have the same poundage. Everyone else will need to catch and release despite the mortality problems that causes. Striped bass has a big hook and release contingent. We always knew the numbers for striped bass would be high. In many years we kill as many fish by catch and release as we do by catch and keep. Summer flounder and black sea bass are not considered the same way by anglers. Summer flounder and black sea bass are considered catch and eat, prime dinner fare in New York and New Jersey. We are not seeing figures for some years that suggest we are killing more summer flounder and black sea bass with catch and release than we are for catch and eat. These are called regulatory discards and the problem is created when the size limits are so large anglers need to discard multiple fish before they have a legal size for dinner. This is a terrible waste and has a huge impact on stock assessment. A dead fish is a dead fish. We need a better way to manage. I am a Brooklyn boy who grew up fishing from Canarsie Pier, Steeple Chase Pier and party boats from Sheepshead Bay. I understand the needs of the anglers who continue to fish in those areas and would like to work with this committee to make sure they are able to harvest fish for their families. I was always proud to bring home a fish for my Mom to cook for dinner in Brooklyn.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service are trying to manage the recreational catch effectively with the tools available. The tools they

are using are not designed for the task due to a lack of funding. The current tools were designed to establish trends for the recreational fishing industry as cheaply as possible. We are requiring them to use data that is not appropriate for the task. It is no wonder that the decisions made using this data creates more problems than they solve. In a 2003 article which is included, Menakhem Ben-Yami stated, "Fisheries management is all about people. People are all it can manage, and people are those who either enjoy or suffer from its consequences, including depletion of fish stocks. Therefore, it cannot be feasible if it is perceived by fishing people as erroneous, wrong, unjust, etc. This is one more reason for fisheries management not working." I absolutely believe this is true. ASMFC and NMFS have been working on the Atlantic Coast Cooperative Statistical Program (ACCSP) to design and implement a better system for compiling fisheries catch data for both recreational and commercial fishing. They signed an agreement a number of years ago and are making some progress with this task. But the demands for fisheries management are increasing more quickly than the new system is being developed and implemented. With the reauthorization of the Magnusson Act in 2006, MRIP is slowly being implemented. What has lagged behind is the stock assessment work needed to make MRIP accurate.

The other problem we face is really good stock assessment. Because we cannot physically count every fish in the ocean, we rely on modeling to get an estimation of the stocks. My experience with these models is that they are based on assumptions that are very conservative. When you begin to layer one conservative assumption on another, the resulting model is extremely conservative. This is great when you are rebuilding stocks. It is necessary to take a very precautionary approach when stocks are rebuilding to guarantee success. However, I believe once the stocks are rebuilt or are well on the way, these models can result in a significant underestimation of the existing stocks. Summer flounder is a good example. We began rebuilding the stocks in 1994 when there was a low spawning stock biomass. We implemented measures to rebuild this spawning stock biomass with a target goal. The scientists set an unrealistic target which created numerous problems until several revisions became more realistic. We have been hovering at close to or slightly above that spawning stock rebuilding target

since 2011. However, there has been relatively little or no increase in the summer flounder quota. The SSC (Statistical and Scientific Committee) for the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council has insisted on keeping the spawning stock biomass number the highest since we have recorded data. The last stock assessment concluded that recruitment is not based on how large the spawning stock biomass is. There are other factors that impact on the successful recruitment beyond the spawning stock biomass number. We can only guess what those other factors might be. We can make some assumptions about the availability of forage species, water temperature, weather and environmental contaminants. Without reliable data, it remains only a guess. But we know for sure that there is often no reliable relationship between actual recruitment and the spawning stock biomass number. We have had some of the highest recruitments in years when the spawning stock biomass was half of what it is now. And with this very high spawning stock biomass we have had some low recruitment. Again, what is needed is more money to develop appropriate data gathering tools. I know these models have been peer tested but in the article below, Menakhem Ben Yami states, "I think that another reason for having inadequate science in charge for so many years is that the "peer reviewing" of publications and scientific reports is being done by scientists, however independent, who come from the same discipline and the same, prevailing school of thought as the authors. Thus, assessments made on the basis of statistical models are reviewed by statistical modelers, who obviously believe in their basic methodology, but not by scientists who may think that the whole existing modeling methodology cannot produce reliable results." I have been saying the same thing for years.

There has been ongoing conversation about flexibility. There are varied opinions about the amount of flexibility the managers should have. Historically, some federal management councils did not act responsibly in implementing rebuilding measures. Because of the few irresponsible decisions there is a general mistrust of all of the councils by some of the scientific and fisheries advocate groups. With the last reauthorization of the Magnusson Act, more power was given to the SSC. This created problems rather than resolving them. The scientific modelers can take bad data in which we have little confidence and find ways to treat it as

credible. It should be up to the fisheries managers to use the data in responsible way. In 2014, we will have to reduce the catch for summer flounder and black sea bass in New York and New Jersey. The SSC is telling us that unless we reduce this catch in 2013 NY & NJ will exceed the recreational quota on summer flounder and black sea bass. In the beginning of this presentation I gave you the economic numbers from Hurricane Sandy. What I didn't give you were the number of damage boats (estimated at over 52,000 combined New York and New Jersey attached article). This means less boats in the water, marinas and boat ramps still inaccessible, many of the beaches remain closed due to hurricane damage. If I was a betting man I would give you 4 to 1 odds that our catch will go down significantly on both summer flounder and black sea bass for no other reason than the hurricane. So what will happen in 2014? The SSC with the lower catch numbers will suggest we can expand our catch in 2014 by increasing seasons and lowering bag limits. Common sense management experts would consider the impact of the hurricane on the numbers and suggest status quo for 2013 and 2014 based on 2012. The managers should have the flexibility to take this huge event into consideration rather than just relying on the SSC numbers crunching. Common sense should prevail.

I would like you to consider the following suggestions:

1. The Federal Government needs to appropriate real money to develop and implement a system that will give us the data we need and need to make the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program a line item in NMFS budget.
2. The money should be allocated to the states to do the actual data gathering. The states have proven they can implement any data-gathering program more efficiently, accurately and cost effectively than government contractors.
3. We need a fund new stock assessment that counts fish more accurately. We also need to collect the Recreational Data necessary to bring the Percentage of Statistical Error to an acceptable level.
4. We need to develop a culture that respects the expertise of responsible fisheries managers that allows them to use the data in a flexible way. The SSC is charged with providing data, not

making management decisions. The SSC should not be allowed to insert their own perspective on additional conservation since the need for conservation is already built into the models.

5. The elephant in the room is climate change. As far as fishermen are concerned, climate change is already here. This is a reality. Water temperature is having a huge impact on fish habitat. The change in temperature by just a couple of degrees pushes some fish further north or eliminates the surf clam fishery off Island Beach State Park. Who knows what the next 5 – 10 years will bring? We need to spend the money to study the impact of climate change and be flexible enough to address these changes in fisheries management. Of course what we really need to do is halt the progress of man-made climate change.
6. NMFS and ASMFC needs to revisit all the allocation of fish between commercial and the recreational sectors, State allocations and sector allocation. Especially before NMFS tries to set up catch shares.

In closing, in the last hundred years there have been amazing advances in science and technology. We can count the craters on the moon. We are able to use satellites to photograph a four foot area on earth from tens of thousands of miles away. We can actually land a vehicle on Mars to analyze the soil. These are things we couldn't even dream of 50 years ago. But when it comes to knowledge about what is happening in the ocean, we are still in the dark ages. The two recent Oceans Reports point this out dramatically. We're not even sure about the impact of human activity on the ocean. It is my hope that Congress and the President will see the ocean as a priority. That will have the most dramatic effect on all of our lives. I know these are difficult economic times but dollars invested in research and data collection will pay huge dividends in the economic recovery of the fishing industry and all its ancillary businesses.

States Schedule Hearings on American Eel Draft Addendum III: RI Changes Hearing Date from April 29 to May 1

ASMFC Press Release, 4/12/2013
Contact: Tina Berger, 703-842-0740

Arlington, VA – Atlantic coastal states from Maine through Georgia have scheduled their hearings to gather public comment on Draft Addendum III to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Eel. The dates, times, and locations of the scheduled meetings follow.

New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
May 2, 2013; 7 PM*
Atlantic County Library
Galloway Branch
306 Jimmie Leeds Road
Galloway, New Jersey
Contact: Russ Allen at 609.748.2020

*Hearing to immediately follow Marine Fisheries Council meeting which starts at 4 PM.

The Draft Addendum proposes a wide range of management options with the goal of reducing mortality and increasing the conservation of American eel stocks across all life stages. Specific management options focus on both the commercial (glass, yellow, and silver eel life stages) and recreational American eel fisheries. The document also proposes increased monitoring by the states and recommendations to improve American eel habitat.

Draft Addendum III responds to the findings of the 2012 benchmark stock assessment indicating the American eel population in U.S. waters is depleted. The stock has declined in recent decades and the prevalence of significant downward trends in multiple surveys across the coast is cause for concern. Causes of decline are likely due to a combination of historical overfishing, habitat loss, food web alterations, predation, turbine mortality, environmental changes, toxins and contaminants, and disease.

Commercial regulations vary by state. Glass eel fisheries currently occur in Maine and South Carolina. Significant yellow eel fisheries occur in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, the Potomac River, Virginia, and North Carolina. Although

commercial fishery landings and effort in recent times have declined in most regions, current levels of fishing effort may still be too high given the depleted nature of the stock. States and jurisdictions are required to annually report on commercial harvest and monitor juvenile abundance. The recreational fishery is currently regulated by a 50 fish per day creel limit and a six inch size minimum, although recreational harvest is believed to be low.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum III by either attending public hearings or providing written comments. The Draft Addendum is available at [here](#). The public comment deadline is 11:59 PM (EST) on May 2, 2013 and should be forwarded to Kate Taylor, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: American Eel). Final action on the Addendum is scheduled to occur in May. For more information, please contact Kate Taylor.

Good News for Fluke and Sea Bass Regulations

By Paul Haertel

On April 17, 2013 the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) approved option 2 of section 3.0 of Draft Addendum XXIV to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) and the Berkeley Striper Club (BSC) were two of only three organizations to submit comments on this matter. They supported option two while the other group from Virginia opposed it. Option 2 allows the projected underage of fluke caught along the east coast to be utilized by New Jersey and New York as these were the only two states that had been forced to further restrict their recreational fluke regulations this year. New York will be allowed to reduce its size limit from 19 ½” to 19” and New Jersey will be allowed to extend its season by up to 11 days. Our season is currently scheduled to close on 9/16 but the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (NJMFC) could vote to extend our season though 9/27. The fish that both states have been allocated are considered bonus fish that will be added to each state’s quota.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

By Paul Haertel

While the passage of an extended season might seem like a slam dunk to some, it is not a sure thing. The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council held an advisors meeting on sea bass on 4/18. During this meeting some time was devoted to talking about fluke and a couple advisors and council members expressed concerns about allowing the fluke season to be extended. Therefore, it was decided that the NJMFC would schedule another advisors meeting for fluke and that the council would consider any proposed change to our fluke regulations at their July meeting. Ultimately, our council could decide not to utilize any of the fish and leave our season as is or they could choose to utilize all of them and extend our season by the full 11 days. However, it is also possible that they could utilize some of the fish and extend our season by just a few days.

The ASMFC also reviewed and approved new data that will allow states in the northern area, including New Jersey, to reduce their recreational sea bass catch by 24 % rather than the 32% that had been previously mandated. This will allow us to keep our size limit at 12 ½" rather than having to increase the size limit to 13" which was likely prior to the latest liberalization. The majority of advisors and council members present favored the option for sea bass that would maintain a 12 1/2" size limit, reduce the bag limit to 20 from 25 and have seasons from 5/19-8/8, 9/27-10/14 and 11/1-12/31. That will result in an open season of 161 days, 30 less than we had last year. Numerous other options were also discussed and some will be made available to the public in the near future. The sea bass regulations are expected to be set at the May 2nd meeting of the NJMFC. Those interested are encouraged to attend and give their opinions.

The only problem now, as I see it, is that if our fluke season ends on 9/16 and the sea bass season is closed until 9/27, there will be little for inshore fishermen to fish for inshore during those 11 days. Anyone interested in having our fluke season extended should come to the NJMFC meetings and urge our council members to add these additional days to our season. Both of the upcoming NJMFC meetings are scheduled to begin at 4 PM and will be held at the Galloway Township Branch of the Atlantic County Library, 306 East Jimmie Leeds Rd., Galloway, NJ 08205. Again, the sea bass regulations are expected to be set at the meeting on 5/2, while new fluke regulations might be considered at the meeting on 7/11.

Our bylaw committee reviewed our bylaws and is recommending the following changes. These were discussed at our last membership meeting. For them to be adopted they have to be posted in our newsletter and then passed by at least a 2/3 majority at our next general meeting which is scheduled to be held at 7:30PM on April 30, 2013.

ARTICLE #3 - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Membership in the Association is open to fishing clubs and associations and to any organization whose purpose is to enhance the sport of angling for all persons who follow the sport. To accomplish this objective, the Association will initiate, pursue, support, or condone any activity or policy that preserves, protects and advances angling for fishing enthusiasts.

Section 2 - Associate membership is also open to individuals and organizations whose role is to support the policies and objectives of the Association. Associate members receive copies of the Association newsletter but may not participate in any Association meetings or vote upon Association business.

Section 3 - Application for membership must include a Membership Application Form, first year's dues payment and a list of the members of the applying club. Applications will be reviewed by the Executive Board, published in the Association newsletter and voted on at the first meeting after publication in the Association newsletter.

Proposed - Application for membership must include a Membership Application Form, first year's dues payment and include the name and contact information of the President, Treasurer, and representative for the applying club.

ARTICLE #5 - EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1 - The Executive Board shall consist of the elected Officers, the Past Presidents and each Standing Committee Chairman.

ARTICLE #6 - COMMITTEES

Section 1 - The Standing Committees of the Association are:

1. Budget and Finance Committee
2. Articles and Bylaws Committee
3. Grants Review Committee
4. Legislative Committee
5. Membership Committee
6. Newsletter Committee
7. Nominating Committee
8. Ways and Means Committee

Proposed - Add Youth Education Committee, Fluke Tournament Committee Chairman and Dinner Committee Chairman

Section 4 - Special and Ad-Hoc Committees will be appointed by the President and the duties of such Association Special and Ad-Hoc Committees will be established by the President upon the creation thereof.

Proposed - Add that the President may also appoint certain individuals who do not belong to a member club or organization to chair an ad-hoc committee but only with approval of the executive board. Ad-Hoc Committee chairmen who do not belong to a member club or organization may be invited to attend board and general meetings but shall have no voting privileges.

ARTICLE #8 - QUORUM

Section 1 - A quorum shall consist of not less than fifteen (15) member clubs, who are in good standing, who are present at regular meetings; provide, however, if there are less than fifteen (15) member clubs, then a quorum shall consist of not less than two thirds (2/3) of such member clubs.

Proposed - A quorum shall consist of the lesser of fifteen (15) member clubs or one half (1/2) of our member clubs who are in good standing and are present at regular meetings.

ARTICLE #11 - DUES

Section 1 - Annual dues shall be established by the Executive Board and approved by two-thirds of the membership present at a meeting. Dues are payable in January of each year or upon presentation of a dues notice by the Membership Secretary.

Proposed - Annual dues shall be established by the Executive Board and any changes must be approved by two-thirds of the membership present at a meeting. Dues are payable starting in January of each year.

Section 2 - Any organization that has not paid annual dues shall be considered delinquent following the April meeting and shall be considered inactive and not in good standing and will be removed from the Roster of Active Members and from any Office or Committee to which elected or appointed.

Proposed - Any organization that has not paid annual dues shall be considered delinquent as of June 30th and shall be considered inactive and not in good standing and will be removed from the Roster of Active Members and from any Office or Committee to which elected or appointed except as exempted in Article VI Section 4. (SEE ARTICLE VI SECTION 4 FOR CLARIFICATION)

2012 Sportsman-of-the-Year Dinner

By Paul Turi

On Sunday, April 14th, JCAA held its annual Sportsman-of-the-Year award dinner at the beautiful Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. This year's honoree was Tim Burden. Tim was nominated by and is a member of the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association and was elected by JCAA member clubs at our general membership meeting in October. On behalf of the JCAA and its member clubs, I would like to congratulate Tim Burden on being elected this year's sportsman-of-the-year.

On hand to honor Tim was our keynote speaker for the evening, Congressman Frank Pallone.

JCAA's Youth Education Committee, represented by Greg Kucharewski, presented this year's Youth Education Award to Jeff Johnson, Father-Time Association

This affair is JCAA's second largest fundraiser, and as of this writing I can report that it was very successful. It should be noted that this event could not have taken place without the generosity of the many people and companies that donated the many different items that were auctioned

off and given away as door prizes. I would be remiss if I did not mention each and every one of them because JCAA could not exist without their generosity and support.

The following is a listing of all our sponsors who donated prizes, and on behalf of JCAA, I would like to thank each and every one of them:

Albivi's Brick Oven
Art Post
Atlantic Bait & Tackle
Bimini Bay (The Folsom Group)
Buck Knives
Canyon Reels
Captain Cal II
Chambliss Marine
Chuck Santoro
Fisherman's Den
Fisherman's Headquarters
Forked River Tuna Club
Frabill
Frank Tenore (Fins on Feathers Charters)
Guy Harvey
Inerlux Paints
JCAA
Jersey Coast Shark Anglers
Jersey Hooker Outfitters
Julians Bait Co.
L & S Bait Co.
Lamilglas
Marty Adams
Minn Kota (Johnson Outdoor Products)
Miss Belmar
Norma K III
Paul & Bernadette Turi
Profile Fishing Rods
Quikut
Rapala Lures (Normark)
Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County
Saltwater Magazine
Sandy Hook Bay Anglers
Sergio Radazzo
Shimano
South Harbor Marina
The Ocean Explorer
Uncle Josh Bait Co.
Village Harbour Fishing Club
Wordens Lures (Yamaha Bait Co.)
Zebco Brands

Special thanks to Dr. Pat Donnelly for the terrific job he did again this year as our Master of Ceremonies.

I would also like to thank the following fishing clubs for their support and representation at the dinner:

Jersey Coast Shark Anglers
Sandy Hook Bay Anglers
Berkeley Striper Club
Newark Bait & Fly Casters
Forked River Tuna Club
Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat Association
Manasquan Fishing Club
Saltwater Angler's of Bergen County
Village Harbour Fishing Club
NJ Beach Buggy Assoc.
Father Time
Hudson River Fisherman's Assoc.

I would also like to thank the many individuals who also attended and who have shown their support of the JCAA.

Also, special thanks to Dan Miller who handled the ticket sales. I would also like to thank Don & Al Marantz, Tom Fote, Mark Taylor, John Toth, Paul Haertel and Joe Puntasecca.

I hope I have gotten everyone and every company and club that participated to make this event a successful one this year. If anyone has fallen through the cracks and I have neglected to mention them, I apologize in advance. I have made every effort to keep accurate records, but, unfortunately, not everything gets into my hands the way I would like it to.

Again, on behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, thank you, everyone!

Membership Report

By John Toth

Invoices for 2013 club membership dues should be sent out to all clubs by April 26th. When you receive your club invoice, please take care to fill out all of the information detailed on two enclosed forms. The first one (**2013 Dues and Sponsorship**) requests general information about your club and club dues payment of \$50. Additionally, this form requests if your club would also like to be a club

sponsor in the categories of \$50, \$100, \$250 or \$500 amounts. Sponsorships of \$250 and \$500 receive ad space in the JCAA newsletter (see detailed information on sponsorship).

The second form (**2013 Annual Club Survey**) requests detailed information about your club, its officers, their addresses, club representative to the JCAA meetings and other information that the JCAA will need to stay in contact with your club. One of the reasons we ask for this information is that club officers frequently change with new club administrations and we need at least one contact person that we can communicate with concerning JCAA business and to keep our files updated. So it is important that this form be **completely** filled out. It is also important to provide the name and telephone number of your club treasurer in case we have an issue with your payment.

Club dues for 2013 should be paid by June 1st 2013.

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!

NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

By John Toth

Representing the JCAA, I attended a March 25th meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA), and the following is a brief summary of this meeting:

In the wake of the Newtown tragedy, many legislators are proposing all types of legislation to curb guns, permits and ammunition, and it is very difficult to sort out what laws have real value. At the time of this March 25th meeting, **83 legislative proposals have been submitted to control gun ownership!** Stores like Cablelas and Dick's are either out of or restricting sale of guns and ammunition gun owners can buy because gun owners fear these legislative proposals will prohibit their sales. NJOA members will try to make sense of

them and recommend which of these proposals the NJOA should support and work with legislators for possible passage.

The New Jersey Beach Buggy Association (NJBBA) members Paul Harris (President) and Tim Burden reported on their efforts to clean up Sandy's destruction on Island Beach State Park. The NJBBA with 71 workers put up 230 rolls covering three miles of snow fencing to help trap sand for the depleted dunes. Additionally, they helped place 3,000 recycled Christmas trees on the beach to catch sand and create dunes. They also filled 40 truckloads of debris. For the work that they did to clean up Island Beach State Park, Commissioner Boomazian has sent a letter to the White House recommending that NJBBA be considered for their Challenge for Change Award. Congratulations, NJBBA members!

Barbara Reichman from the Animal Rights Interests Alliance reported on the detrimental effects of the legislation proposed by the Humane Society through Assemblyman Albano (D – 1st District). These proposals concern all types of restrictions concerning animal ownership like water temperature, length of leash, space for animals, etc. Animal owners accused of these types of violations would be required to post bond whether the animal owner is guilty or not and the animal(s) can be also seized. Barbara Reichman has been trying to convince Assemblyman Albano about the problems associated with these proposals and that he should either amend or not pursue them.

Paul Haertel (Berkeley Striper Club) asked NJOA members if he could represent the NJOA at various fishing-related management meetings and he was given permission to do so. Paul will also report back to the NJOA membership on the status of these meetings.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS

Press Release:

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife is informing the public about the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Conservation Innovation Grants. The grants support

the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. Applications are requested from governmental or non-governmental organizations or individuals for competitive consideration of grant awards for projects located entirely within New Jersey between one and three years in duration. The application deadline is Monday, April 29, 2013. For more information on the grants program see <http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/StateFundingOpportunities.html> on the NRCS website.

JCAA AWARDS

All that attended the JCAA 2013 Sportsperson of the Year Dinner had a great time. There were plenty of prizes, good food, and fishing conversation. The dinner committee did a great job of reorganizing the event after super storm Sandy. Tim Burden, NJBBA/JCAA Youth Education Committee, received the Sportsperson of the Year Award and Jeff Johnson, Father-Time Association received the JCAA Youth Education Award.

NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK

National Fishing and Boating Week, June 1 - 9, 2013: Free Fishing Days in New Jersey are Saturday & Sunday June 15 & 16, 2013. Residents and non-residents may fish the public waters of New Jersey without a license or trout Stamp. All other regulations apply.

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

This year we will teach students about saltwater fishing at Ocean & Monmouth County public schools. Member clubs that wish to conduct a National Fishing Week program can phone 732/785-9278 and we will guide your organization through the process. Phone if you have questions and please record your event. Let the JCAA Youth Education Committee know how many National Fishing Week participants supported your program. For more

information about National Fishing Week in New Jersey check out:
<http://njfishandwildlife.com/ffd.htm>

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

During May Brick Cub Scouts Pack # 47 will learn how to make a casting can and tie freshwater fishing rigs. We plan to introduce the scouts to "Fish Bingo" a game that teaches them to remember the parts of a fish.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the March session was postponed and was conducted during April.

28th ANNUAL HOOKED ON THE HUDSON

The JCAA Youth Education Committee will support the 28th Annual Hooked on the Hudson with a variety of handouts for children attending the event. Save the date: May 11, 2013 at Ross Dock, Palisades Interstate Park. The fishing contest will start at 8:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. and is FREE to all. Bait will be provided and loaner rods and reels. If you never fished before come out and give it a try. Assistance is available for novice anglers.

A Kids Casting Contest will take place from 1:00 p.m. till 2:00 p.m. and the awards ceremony is at 2:30 p.m. sharp. For more information about the event view the HRFA website at www.hrfa.org.

WINTER FLOUNDER FISHING TIP

During the early spring, there are a number of places to try your luck fishing. Try the following locations for winter flounder: Point Pleasant Canal - Bay Avenue - Pinebluff Ave., and by the bridges. Manasquan Inlet - both sides are productive and the Mantoloking bridge area. Shark River Inlet and Barnegat Inlet - you might also hook into a Striped Bass if you are using worms, but fresh clams work well for both species. Cut the clams into small strips and use a small hook. Winter flounder have a mouth a little larger than the size of a Cheerio.

AUGUST 24TH 2013 THE 19TH ANNUAL JCAA FLUKE TOURNAMENT