

# JCAA NEWSPAPER MID-SUMMER 2013

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on August 13th, 2013)

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

## **JCAA REGULAR MEETING:**

**Tuesday, September 24th, 2013**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**AT JERSEY COAST SHARK ANGLERS**

## **NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, September 12th, 2013**

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

## **OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.**

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**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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**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

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

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

**September 12<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**September 24<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**October 6<sup>th</sup>** Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

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

**October 29<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**November 10<sup>th</sup>** JCAA 2013 Sportsperson of the Year Dinner

## **President's Report**

*By Joseph Puntasecca*

### **19<sup>th</sup> Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament is next week! The Tournament takes place in August this year on the 24<sup>th</sup> instead of in June. Take advantage of our money-saving early entry and enter by August 17<sup>th</sup>. You can enter on-line at [www.JCAA.org](http://www.JCAA.org). Just click on the link at the top of the page in the yellow banner for our secure on-line entry form.

### **Sportsperson of the Year**

Our next fundraising event will be our Sportsperson of the Year Dinner which will be held on November 10th at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. We are looking for nominations for this important honor. Please submit a short biography of at least 250 words detailing the accomplishments of the nominee to the JCAA Office. If your nominations are submitted by October 11, 2013 they will be printed in the JCAA Newspaper prior to the General Membership vote for SPOY at our October General Meeting. It is not too early for your club to start planning on getting a table for this great event.

All of us together can make this event a great success! Look for more information from our Sportsperson of the Year Dinner Committee in future editions of the JCAA newspaper.

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

Mark your calendar for the 22nd Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. The tournament will be held on **Sunday, October 6, 2013** at Island Beach State Park. The Tournament is a great opportunity to learn more about the sport of surf fishing and to enjoy a great family activity. The tournament is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Fish and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry, the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, and the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association.

The early-entry fee is \$15 for adults over Age 18, \$5 for Ages 13-17 and free for Ages 12 and under if post-marked by September 13, 2013. Same-day registration is permitted on the day of the tournament at Pavilion #1 IBSP after 5:00 AM. The Day of Tournament Registration Fees are: Age 18 and older, \$20; Ages 13-17, \$5.

Tournament Pamphlets and entry forms are available at bait and tackle stores, or visit [www.njfishandwildlife.com](http://www.njfishandwildlife.com) for complete information about the event.

Fishing begins at 6:30 AM and ends at 1:00 PM with the Raffle Drawings 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM and the Awards Ceremony at 2:00 PM.

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All of us at JCAA would like to wish everyone a safe summer; remember to take your kids and their friends fishing because they are the future of the recreational fishing community.

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### ***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](http://www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov). If you do go fishing please consider filling out the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey to help the Bureau of Marine Fisheries better manage our resources by going to [this link](#).

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!](#)

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### REMINDER

Our September General Meeting, on September 24, 2013, will be held at the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers Clubhouse, 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick, NJ.

## JCAA 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament

*By Paul Turi, Tournament Director*

Time is running out! The JCAA 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament on **August 24<sup>th</sup> is fast approaching**. It is time to get your registration and entry fee in. There is a 4-page insert in this newspaper explaining the tournament, an entry application and a listing of the weigh stations. Once I get your application and entry fee, I will immediately get out an affidavit which you will present at your particular weigh station if you wish to enter a fish. The back of the affidavit will also list the ports with names, addresses and phone numbers of the 10 ports and weigh stations. JCAA volunteers will start manning the phones at the JCAA office on a regular basis starting on August 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have volunteers at the office in the evening also to accommodate those who work and can't get to a phone until the evening hours. If the phone is unattended you can leave a message on our answering machine and someone will get back to you. We can take your application and payment by credit card over the phone or you can go to our website and register online. You can also fax your application to the JCAA office. And don't forget, the awards presentations will be held on **September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013** at the Golden Nugget Hotel/Casino in Atlantic City.

Our major sponsors this year are:

- **Berkeley Gulp**
- **Costa**
- **Golden Nugget**
- **Interlux Paint**
- **Minn Kota**

- **Nor'East Saltwater**
- **Penn**
- **Shakespeare**
- **Spiderwire**
- **West Marine**
- **Igloo/Yukon Coolers**

Right now we only have three port sponsors. **Fisherman's Headquarters** is sponsoring the LBI port and putting up the \$1,200 1<sup>st</sup> place prize money and **Canyon Reels** is sponsoring the Manasquan port and putting up the \$1,200 1<sup>st</sup> place prize money for that port. **The Golden Nugget Hotel/Casino** is sponsoring the Atlantic City port and putting up the \$1,200 1<sup>st</sup> place prize money for that port. As of right now **JCAA** is putting up the \$1,200 1<sup>st</sup> place prize money for the additional 7 ports. If you know of any individual, company or entity that is willing to put up \$1,200 and be a port sponsor, or even part of the \$1,200, let me know and I will follow up on it. JCAA is also putting up the Grand Prize drawing money of \$5,000. 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.

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 that would be greatly appreciated. For more information or to donate a prize, contact Paul Turi, 609-660-2126 (H), 609-709-9215(C) or email [pturi6@comcast.net](mailto:pturi6@comcast.net).

Also, just as a little side note, due to the destruction visited upon us by Hurricane Sandy, participation in the tournament this year is way down and chances of winning a \$1,200 1<sup>st</sup> place port prize with a small fish is very high. So if you catch a small fish (but a legal fish) you have a good shot of either winning the 1<sup>st</sup> place prize or one of the other 9 port prizes. But you can't win unless you are in the tournament!

As of Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, here are the ports and the number of entrants registered in each port:

- Manasquan River – 25 entrants**
- Sandy Hook – 22 entrants**
- Barnegat Inlet – 20 entrants**
- LBI – 17 entrants**

- Shark River – 15 entrants**
- Great Bay – 15 entrants**
- Cape May – 12 entrants**
- Fortescue – 8 entrants**
- Ocean City – 7 entrants**
- Atlantic City – 7 entrants**

Even though entries are down, we are still paying out **thousands of dollars** in port prize money, the \$5,000 Grand Prize drawing in AC and the many door prizes that will be given away also in Atlantic City. **So get your entry in now!**

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

### **Striped Bass**

The Striped Bass meeting at the ASMFC week was not a long meeting. There was nothing accomplished since we are waiting for the stock assessment. I made some comments because of the knee-jerk reactions I have seen in the management of striped bass over the years. One of my JCAA board members said that there were comments on the internet about my statements. Some of them comments suggest a misunderstanding or misinterpretation. But other comments suggest that the writers have their own agenda. I find I have interesting that I have been attacked as elitist because I helped make striped bass a No-Sale fish in New Jersey in the 90's. I have also been attacked for being too friendly to the commercial fishermen or the party and charter boats or the anglers who fish for personal consumption. Striped bass engenders strong feelings in everyone who fishes for them. Everyone has a strong opinion about the management of this species based on their own fishing habits. The catch and release anglers want big fish and many fish so they can enjoy catching and releasing large numbers of fish. Many of those anglers don't even eat fish but just enjoy the sport. The charter boat captains who cater to the catch and release fishermen support their ideas. There are the anglers who are the historical striped bass fishermen but occasionally want a striped bass for dinner. They may release a lot of fish but will take a few home to eat. There are also the new striped bass fishermen who have been pushed into fishing for

striped bass. They used to fish for summer flounder, weakfish, winter flounder or black sea bass and fish for food for dinner and for the winter. The regulations on these species have greatly reduced the opportunity to bring home these fish for dinner or storage. They have not focused their attention on striped bass as a food fish and want regulations that allow for significant catch. There are also recreational anglers who historically sold their fish and want to continue to do that to supplement their income or help pay for their fishing trips. Then there are the full-time commercial fishermen whose commercial practices depend on where they are located and whether they fish the oceans or bays. They have also been restricted as some states have determined that striped bass cannot be sold.

I will only deal with the recreational sector in this article. I will not deal with commercial hook and line since selling striped bass makes you a commercial fisherman, not a recreational angler. That is by definition. Trying to meet all the wants, needs and expectations of the diverse groups within the recreational anglers presents an ongoing challenge. I consider myself a member of all three groups; I like to fish for striped bass, I generally release striped bass and I enjoy an occasional striped bass for dinner. The only way to have enough striped bass to satisfy all of these needs is to create a sustainable fishery. That is where the problem lies. The catch and release anglers want an overabundance of striped bass with no harvest for anyone. They would like to see the stocks where they were just after the moratorium in the 90's. That fishery can only exist if no one wants to eat striped bass and that is an unrealistic expectation. As more anglers enter the fishery and start to consume striped bass, it becomes a more popular dinner. The stock can accommodate that if managed properly. That is what the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has been balancing since the fishery opened in 1992. The Commissioners have been considering how to allow a harvest for commercial use, subsistence use and catch and release. The ASMFC does this by not aiming for an all-time high in the stocks but by creating a management plan that accommodates all the user groups.

When I go to ASMFC representing New Jersey, I need to weigh the balance of how the fishery is being managed coast-wide and try to accommodate all the user groups. This very seldom makes anybody happy. But that is part of my job.

When it comes to the recreational sector, my votes and my comments reflect the needs of all the anglers, not a single group. As long as the stocks can accommodate a harvest for personal consumption, I will make sure that happens. When many of us got involved in managing striped bass in the 70's our goal was to bring the stocks back to a level that was sustainable and create a viable fishery. Because of environmental factors, competition from other species and human abuse of the resource, we cannot support levels of harvest that we had in the past. As an example, fishermen from Maine have not seen striped bass in a few years. It had an economic impact on the recreational fishing industry that depended on striped bass. Maine is also a no-sale state. In response to their anglers, Maine's delegation has been supporting a cut-back in the recreational harvest. It was interesting to hear from this delegation the amount of striped bass caught in Maine waters in 2013. This was done without the implementation of restrictions that are unnecessary. I have a long memory. Beginning in 1996, there have been people at the table representing the catch and release anglers who believe we are harvesting too many fish. New Jersey, through legislation, had to change the regulations to accommodate the knee-jerk reactions due to this pressure. In a few years, we were required to return to the original regulations since the changes had been unnecessary.

Climate change will have a long-term impact on striped bass. We will need to deal with it but I am not discussing it in this article. Nothing that I have seen in the past 40 years involved in striped bass and the past 24 years at ASMFC has shown me that we need to change our current practice. If the science and the triggers show the need for a change, then I will support that.

## **Menhaden**

The other species managed by ASMFC that is as controversial as striped bass is menhaden. We are now seeing the impact of the most recent addendum. In response to the most recent addendum, the bait and reduction industries aligned themselves to fight any reduction in quota. Once a reduction was agreed to, the reduction boats maintained their existing share of the quota and the bait boats suffered a loss. Instead of working with the recreational and other segments of the community that needed bait, the bait industry maintained its alliance with the reduction industry

and attacked the recreational community, the ASMFC commissioners and the NGOs. When New Jersey's delegation attempted to get a change of quota that would allow for the growth of the bait industry along the coast, we could not get any support from the other states. We now have a great deal of finger pointing and blame for the shut-down of the bait industry that fails to recognize the original source of the problem. I find it disingenuous that one recreational organization is attacking people who worked to reduce the coast-wide quota as though that has caused the problem of the bait industry. The bait industry's problem was their original strategy that aligned them with the reduction industry. I understand trying to keep a community together but sometimes you need to identify your friends across community lines. The bait industry serves the recreational community and the commercial community that uses bait. Menhaden has always been an important bait for both communities. The bait industry needs to identify its consumers and see them as allies. Instead of finger pointing we need to work together to find a way to allow for the continual growth of the bait industry within the existing quota. The only way that can be accomplished is to take that growth from the reduction boats. Instead of attacking your allies, let's start working together.

### **Eels**

It is interesting how fast money can influence the way we manage a species. When I first joined the Commission, there were concerns about the viability of the eels. Eels are among the most amazing creatures we manage in ASMFC. They have a life history that is different from every other species we manage. An eel only spawns once and, unlike salmon, it is many years before that one spawning. Unlike salmon, it doesn't spawn in the rivers that are its main home. It spawns thousands of miles away. And its spawn takes almost a year and a half before returning to the original rivers where they grow to sexual maturity. When we talk about data poor stocks, eels are near the top of the list. The eel that spawns in the Sargasso Sea can enter a stream anywhere from Canada to Argentina. That is complicated. We have been managing eels conservatively, particularly in the glass eel phase. The Asian market for glass eels to farm drove up the price in the 90's which caused real problems in New Jersey. At the time, many states considered banning

glass eel harvest permanently. Only 2 states kept a glass eel fishery, South Carolina and Maine. The fishery in South Carolina was relatively small. The prices fell in the late 90's and we began to discuss the depleted stock of eels. We began to discuss how to increase the population and what measures might be needed. With the sorry state of eels in the Great Lakes, there was discussion to list eels as endangered. In the late 90's, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considered banning the sale of eels. When the market collapsed in the 90's and remained low in the 2000's, the focus remained on rebuilding the stocks. Then in 2011 and 2012 the price of glass eels skyrocketed. The Maine fishery was suddenly worth 30 million dollars. Fishermen were becoming millionaires harvesting glass eels. It is interesting to see states that were working hard to rebuild the eel stocks are suddenly interested in finding ways their states can capitalize on this economic windfall. At the same time, we haven't rebuilt the stocks and some of us are concerned with any eel harvest. People who can make money begin to see the stocks as an opportunity, not as a problem. I tried to point out that there are times when it appears we have an abundance of glass eels. But the high mortality depletes these stocks quickly. This is part of the ecosystem and their role in the natural food chain in both salt and fresh water. Depleting the glass eels will have a negative impact on all the salt and fresh water species that eat them. I know we pointed out that menhaden is the most important food in the salt water, but eels are important in both. Eels only spawn once and it takes the females 14 – 18 years to become sexually mature. We will not know the consequences of this huge harvest for more than 2 decades. We need to take a conservative approach and not go for the quick buck.

### **LNG no friend to Anglers and their Families**

LNG is raising its ugly head again! It is interesting to see how some recreational fishing groups have missed the real purpose of an LNG facility. As we pointed out before, these facilities are being promoted as bringing in gas. Just read the newspapers. This country is currently producing more and cheaper natural gas than at any time in our history. The projections are for continued growth and no problems with supply for at least 40 – 50 years. The purpose of the LNG facility is to export natural gas to markets in Europe and elsewhere.

This will not make natural gas cheaper for U. S. consumers. In fact, since we will be exporting some of this supply, the price of natural gas will rise. The other problem is that an LNG facility is quite honestly a terrorist target. It is an explosion in the making. The LNG facility that was operating in Boston Harbor shut down a 5 mile circle for all boats while off loading natural gas. That means you need to move at least 5 miles away as they are off loading. I have talked to Boston anglers and this is a nightmare. Of course the nightmare stopped when they mothballed the facility since there was no demand for imported natural gas. The pipe line does not yet exist for export. This is not good for recreational anglers, commercial fishermen, boaters, and for the American public.

### Stewardship

Unlike many organizations, JCAA always considers our stewardship of the resource as a major factor in any decision. When it comes to the environmental issues or the long-term fisheries issues, we realize that we might not see the results but our children and grandchildren will. That need is to remain our first and most important responsibility. When we talk about climate change and the impact of fossil fuel as key JCAA positions, people respond that the rest of the world won't make that sacrifice or we won't live long enough to see the benefit. Our response is always; our future generations are our first responsibility. It is interesting how in recent years many religious groups are taking the lead in honoring these issues. They see the responsibility to all we have been given. This emphasis on stewardship is the reason many of us continue our efforts. Our board is getting older but our commitment remains the same. I am so proud of that!

### **There is Nothing Liberating about Liberty Natural Gas – Especially for Fishermen**

by Cindy Ziph

You might have heard Liberty Natural Gas is back. They will not take “no” for an answer. They are re-proposing the Liquefied Natural Gas tanker (LNG) port at a location 24 miles off the coast of Long Branch that would be able to import or export. This time they are calling it “Port Ambrose,” and there is a public comment period opened until

August 22, 2013, by Maritime Administration and US Coast Guard. It is critical that we stop this project.

JCAA has long opposed the offshore LNG ports, and with good reason—it is not in the public interest. In fact it:

- Is a significant source of pollution to our ocean and air, and will devastate marine life and habitat;
- Represents significant security risks to the ocean and the New York/New Jersey Harbor, indeed the US Coast Guard has said they are underfunded and staffed to handle the existing LNG ports, much less additional ports.
- Is a threat to our economy – imported foreign LNG will drive up local prices, ocean exclusion zones will affect our fishermen, and construction and operation impacts will affect commerce entering and leaving the Port of New York and New Jersey; and
- Threatens our domestic national energy independence by creating a gateway for exports of Marcellus Shale gas to Europe and beyond. Exports would accelerate and escalate fracking in the Delaware Watershed and intensify the many ecological impacts including more wastewater contaminating our waterways.

The port would also be vulnerable to storms and hurricanes - wave heights in the proposed area were near 30 feet during Superstorm Sandy, and would displace renewable energy such as wind. Indeed New York Power Authority has already been working to set aside this exact area as a Bureau of Offshore Energy Management wind energy area.

In 2011, Governor Christie vetoed this project, citing its economic shortcomings, potential security risks, displacement of investment in renewables, backsliding on environmental progress made over the past few decades, and overall negative impact on the environment. The Governor still has the power to stop this project, but he will need to renew his veto.

Liberty Natural Gas and federal agencies ask us to believe that this is an **import** terminal only. Really? Our country is loaded with natural gas - we now have energy independence and do not need imports. In fact existing import terminals have requested to become export terminals. And the offshore import facility near Gloucester Massachusetts just requested and received permission to shut down for 5 years due



to a lack of need. On the other hand Europe and other countries are begging for the US to export natural gas. Already, licenses have been granted to export over 40% of all U.S. daily production, and Congress recently passed a law allowing exports from ports like Liberty. And they want us to believe this is an import facility?

Fortunately, most people are not so easily duped. At public hearings on Port Ambrose, over 700 people turned out and 116 speakers testified in strong opposition, including Bruce Smith of the JCAA, who also has long participated in the campaign against LNG. Only seven had anything to say in favor of the proposal.

JCAA stands with thousands of citizens, federal, state, and local elected officials from both sides of the isle and in both states have taken a strong stance against Port Ambrose. But we must be vigilant. Governor Christie must again veto this project so our voices must be loud and clear. Fishermen are significantly threatened by this proposal, and your voices need to be heard.

**August 22, 2013 is the deadline for comments.** If you haven't already, please submit comments to the Maritime Administration and Coast Guard. They do not make it easy. Here is their [link to comment](#).

Or you can go to [CleanOceanAction.org](http://CleanOceanAction.org) and click on the link on the home page. There are also fact sheets and more information.

## General Management Plan – Gateway National Recreation Area

Dear Park Friend,

We are pleased to present the Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Gateway National Recreation Area for your review and comment.

Today, Gateway is at a crossroads and a new vision is necessary to shape the park's future. This new vision is found in the Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS). The general management plan will help park managers focus on what is most important in carrying out a new 20-year vision for Gateway and the mission of the National Park Service. This Draft GMP/EIS is the culmination of four years of collaborative work with elected officials, stakeholders, partners, and the public. We believe it sets a successful path for Gateway's future.

We employed a rigorous planning process to explore a range of alternatives and create the National Park Service's preferred alternative, Alternative B: Discovering Gateway, which encompasses what we believe are the best ideas.

We invite you to review the draft general management plan and share your thoughts with us, and let us know how to keep Gateway great. The comment period begins August 2, 2013 and extends until October 2, 2013. Please provide comments electronically on our [public comment website](#). Or attend one of our public open houses to learn more about the general management plan and provide your comments in person.

### Open Houses:

- Tuesday, August 20, 4 to 8 pm: Ryan Visitor Center, Floyd Bennett Field
- Wednesday, August 21, 3:30 to 7:30 pm: Sandy Hook Chapel, Sandy Hook, NJ
- Thursday, August 22, 4 to 8 pm: Fort Wadsworth, Building 120, Staten Island
- Tuesday, September 10, 4 to 8 pm: Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Thursday, September 12, 3:30 to 7:30 pm: Sandy Hook Chapel, Sandy Hook, NJ

The Draft GMP/EIS can be downloaded [here](#). Copies of the Draft GMP/EIS are also available on compact disk. Please call 718-354-4568 to request a copy. Written comments should be mailed to: Superintendent, Gateway National Recreation Area, 210 New York Avenue, Staten Island, NY, 10305.

Thank you for your continued interest in the general management planning process.

Suzanne C. McCarthy  
Acting Superintendent  
Gateway National Recreation Area

**Fluke Season Extended, Sea Bass Season Closed**  
*By Paul Haertel*

On 7/11/13 the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council voted in favor of extending the recreational summer flounder season by 8 days. The season had been slated to close on 9/16 but will now continue through 9/24. The meeting was well attended by the

## **Response to PEW Factsheet on “The Best Available Science on Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna”**

Steve Cadrin, University of Massachusetts  
School for Marine Science & Technology

Molly Lutcavage, University of Massachusetts,  
Large Pelagics Research Center

Walt Golet, University of Maine

Ben Galuardi, University of Massachusetts, Large  
Pelagics Research Center

public and the council listened attentively while members of the public voiced their opinions. There had been three options on the table that would have extended the season by either six or eleven days or none at all. Representatives from the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Jersey Coast Anglers Association and Alex's Bait and Tackle were amongst those who spoke in favor of extending the season by eleven days. Though a clear majority favored that option, other groups such as the New Jersey Chapter of the Recreational Fishing Alliance and the United Boatmen urged the council to take a more conservative approach and increase the season by only six days. Additionally, our state's fluke advisory panel had also recommended increasing the season by only six days. Previously the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission had approved an additional bonus quota of 88,000 fish that would have allowed the NJMFC to extend the season by up to eleven days. Ultimately, Councilwoman Eleanor Bochenek made somewhat of a surprise motion to extend the season by eight days, an option that had not been on the table. Councilmen Erling Berg, Barney Hollinger, Walter Johnson and Sergio Radossi sided with Bochenek while Council Chairman Dick Herb, Joe Rizzo, Robert Rush and Joe Zaborowski did not want the season to be extended by more than six days. Many of those in attendance applauded as her motion passed by a narrow 5-4 margin.

Due to the extension there will now be a gap of only two days from when the fluke season closes until sea bass season reopens on 9/27. Unfortunately though, sea bass season closed on 8/9. Sea bass are a great by-catch for those who are fluke fishing in the late summer but now they will all have to be thrown back. This long mid-season closure could have been avoided if the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council had opted to increase the size limit from 12 1/2" to 13". However, the vast majority of those who attended the council meeting were opposed to any increase in the size limit. The sea bass season will reopen on 9/27 and continue through 10/14 before closing again for a little more than two weeks. It will then open again on 11/1 and continue through 12/31. The bag limit is 20 fish, 5 less than we had in recent years.

The factsheet implies that PEW is the arbiter of best available science rather than the ICCAT process for developing a scientific basis for fishery management. Atlantic bluefin tuna stock assessments are highly uncertain, primarily because of the highly migratory nature of tuna as well as the diverse, expansive and international fisheries for tuna. Accordingly, many aspects of Atlantic bluefin tuna biology are not known definitively, and alternative hypotheses should be considered by scientists and fishery managers. The PEW factsheet is an irresponsible distortion of the information available to justify reductions in fishing. Responsible fishery management should consider all the information provided by the ICCAT SCRS process.

Stock-recruitment relationship - Uncertainty in predicting future recruitment of Atlantic Bluefin tuna is best viewed as two possible states of nature, represented as the two stock-recruitment hypotheses. Contrary to the PEW factsheet, the low recruitment hypothesis is not an 'unsupported hypothesis.' Procedurally, the low recruitment hypothesis continues to be supported by the SCRS process. Scientifically, the low recruitment hypothesis recognizes changes in the North Atlantic ecosystem and the potential for associated changes in the productivity of bluefin tuna in the North Atlantic. Decadal variability of the North Atlantic marine ecosystem is well documented (e.g., ICES/NAFO symposium on the topic, ICES J. Marine Science 2012 vol. 69), and changes in bluefin tuna productivity are evidenced by the relative absence of bluefin tuna in the historically productive fishing grounds off Brazil and Norway in recent decades and changes in reproductive potential (Golet et al. 2007). Failure to recognize environmental changes and associated changes in fishery productivity can lead to ineffective fishery management.



The report of the Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Session (SCRS Doc. No. SCI-033 / 2012) states that, "This year, the Group maintained the two alternative spawner-recruit hypotheses explored in several prior assessments: the two-line (low recruitment potential hypothesis) and the Beverton and Holt spawner-recruit formulation (high recruitment potential hypothesis)." That conclusion reflects the consensus decision from a two-week meeting of 46 scientists from ICCAT member countries, seven scientists from ICCAT and 13 observers from various stakeholder groups.

The PEW factsheet cites a SCRS document (Rosenberg et al. 2012) that analyzed stock-recruitment estimates from the 2010 stock assessment to conclude that the information available supports the high recruitment hypothesis. However, when one of the co-authors of the Rosenberg et al. (2012) report updated the analysis with stock-recruitment estimates from the 2012 stock assessment, the revised results had nearly equal support for both the high recruitment and low recruitment hypotheses. The primary author of the PEW white paper on "Managing Atlantic Bluefin Tuna in the Midst of Uncertainty, History of the Stock-Recruit Relationship of the Western Stock at ICCAT" (Miller et al. 2013) was an observer at the 2012 stock assessment meeting, and was aware of the revised analysis, but failed to report that important finding in either the factsheet or the white paper. The omission of the most recent results from the analysis reveals a subjective selection of information in the PEW white paper and factsheet.

Age to first maturity - The PEW factsheet on the information available on maturity of western Atlantic bluefin tuna is inaccurate and misleading. Contrary to the statement that the early maturity hypothesis is unproven, there is evidence of early maturity from macroscopic inspection and histological evaluation of gonads, and more recently from endocrine analysis (see SCRS/2012/161). Determining maturity through histology and endocrine analysis is the state-of-the-art for fisheries science. Life history modeling also predicts an energetics-based, sexual maturation schedule (Chapman et al., 2011). By contrast, the late maturity hypothesis is based on a relatively crude evaluation of the size frequency of tuna in the Gulf of Mexico spawning area (SCRS/2010/018) or is inferred from depth patterns alone. The biological implications of newly revised maturity schedules support the

possibility of undetected western Atlantic spawning areas resulting from inadequate biological sampling (SCRS/2012/157). The report of the Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Session (SCRS Doc. No. SCI-033 / 2012) states that, "there remains considerable uncertainty about the maturation of western bluefin tuna. For this reason the group decided to examine the sensitivity of the perception of stock status in the base case run to two alternative maturity schedules, one with the early maturation schedule used for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (50% maturity at age 4 and 100% maturity for age 5 and older) and one with later maturation (0% at age 8, increasing to 100% at age 16 as described in SCRS/2010/018)." After further consideration of histological evidence, the 2013 Bluefin Meeting on Biological Parameters Review concluded that "The Group recommends to revise the current maturity schedules assumed for stock assessment for both the eastern and western stocks, using the spawning ogives, and to determine a comprehensive maturity ogive for the western Atlantic."

Contrary to the simplistic conclusion in the PEW factsheet, the implications of earlier maturity are complex. As shown in the sensitivity analysis, the earlier maturity assumption influences estimates of historical and recent spawning biomass, thereby changing stock-recruitment relationships and MSY reference points.

Strength of the 2003 yearclass - Movement of bluefin tuna between management areas and mixing of eastern and western spawning populations in North Atlantic fisheries continues to be a challenge for stock assessment and management. Information from tagging and otolith chemistry offer evidence of extensive movement and mixing among spawning populations. However, the implications of movement and mixing for fishery management are complex. The PEW factsheet suggests that catch in the western management area should not be increased, because the apparently strong 2003 yearclass is primarily of western origin, offering evidence that high recruitment is possible if the stock is rebuilt. However, the strength of the 2003 yearclass was revised downward in the 2012 stock assessment, which suggests the 2002 and 2003 yearclasses were of moderate abundance.

As documented in the Report of the 2013 Bluefin Meeting on Biological Parameters Review (ICCAT 2013), considerable investments have been made in electronic and conventional tagging, otolith

# JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner November 10, 2013

## Report on Extension of Our Fluke Season

*By John Toth*

research and population modeling to understand movement and mixing of Atlantic bluefin tuna, but fundamental uncertainties remain in stock structure hypotheses and there are considerable challenges for incorporating movement and mixing in stock assessment and fishery management. Advancements in knowledge and methodology are expected to continue, but until stock assessments can account for movement and mixing, the 2012 stock assessments are the best available information for fishery management. The implications of mixing are complex and should not be considered in such a simplistic approach as proposed in the PEW factsheet.

Western bluefin tuna abundance in the 1970s - The PEW factsheet confounds the issue of historical and recent productivity of bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic. Fishery statistics demonstrate much greater catches of Bluefin tuna in the 1970s than in subsequent decades. The stock identity of historical catch in the western Atlantic is not well known. More importantly, there is considerable uncertainty on whether the resource can be rebuilt to achieve such productivity in the future. This uncertainty is communicated in the 2012 stock assessment as two stock-recruitment hypotheses, so that fishery managers can make decisions in the context of the uncertainty.

One vs. two stocks - As the PEW factsheet states, ICCAT has managed Atlantic bluefin tuna as two separate stocks since 1981. Although there are scientific initiatives to incorporate movement and mixing of spawning populations into stock assessment and fishery management, there is no agenda in ICCAT to manage Atlantic bluefin tuna as a single stock. This aspect of the PEW factsheet appears to be misinformed.

In summary, the PEW factsheet is a subjective selection of information, lacks scientific credibility and appears to be agenda driven. Fishery managers should be aware of the uncertainties involved in Atlantic bluefin tuna biology and stock assessment and should consider the alternative hypotheses identified by the SCRS process, the 2012 Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment Session and the 2013 Bluefin Meeting on Biological Parameters Review.

On 4/17/13, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) approved Option 2 of Draft Addendum XXIV to the Summer Flounder Management Plan. This option allows the projected underage of fluke caught on the east coast to be utilized by New York and New Jersey as these were the only two states that had been forced to further restrict their recreational fluke regulations this year. Consequently, New York was allowed to reduce its size limit from **19½ inches to 19 inches**. New Jersey could be allowed to extend its fluke season by **11 days** if this extension was approved by our NJ Marine Fisheries Council at its July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Our season for fluke started on **May 18<sup>th</sup>** and was **scheduled to close on September 16<sup>th</sup>**, but our New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (NJMFC) could vote to extend it to **September 27<sup>th</sup>**.

The NJMFC held an advisor's meeting and some advisors were **against the 11 day extension** since it could possibly push New Jersey to exceed its 2013 fluke quota that would result in quota reductions for 2014 because of overfishing. Consequently, these advisors **avored extending the fluke season by only 6 days**.

I along with JCAA Board members Tom Siciliano and Paul Haertel and Don Marantz went to the NJ Marine Fisheries Council's July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Galloway Township's public library (just north of Atlantic City) to testify on behalf of supporting the 11 day extension. The options considered by the Council included: 0 days extension, 6 days extension and 11 days extension. I made an economic case that our party and charter boat industries along with bait and tackle shops are hurting because of Sandy, the cold spring and resulting cold waters that are turning off our fisheries, stormy weather about every other day that are keeping anglers home and the continual south

winds means much less anglers fishing and buying tackle. Given these conditions, how could we exceed our fluke quota? Don Marantz also mentioned how the tackle shops and marinas are hurting because of Sandy. Tom Siciliano indicated how much our fishing industry is down and he also read statistics to show the Council that we will not catch enough fish in 2013 to exceed our quota. By my count, 8 of us in the audience, including Paul Harris from the NJ Beach Buggy Assoc., spoke in favor of the 11 days extension. Three people spoke in favor of only 6 days, including Adam Nowalsky from the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA). One of the tackle shop owners from Point Pleasant **even openly begged the Council to approve the 11 days** since he is struggling to stay in business like other tackle shops. **It was sad for me to witness a man to beg like this for his livelihood!**

It looked like the Council was going to vote for the 6 day extension even though the majority of us in the audience spoke for 11 days. Paul Haertel threw out a suggestion that a compromise should be considered by the Council for 8 or 9 days instead of 6 days extension. In the end, the Council voted for **8 days**. So our fluke season will now end on **September 24<sup>th</sup>**. This 11 days extension was supposed to be a “no-brainer” but it shows when it comes to fishing management what is considered a no-brainer is anything but it! Our getting an extension of 11 days for our fluke season was a **gift that should have taken** from other states who under fished their fluke quota. Since New Jersey voted not to take full advantage of the 11 days extension, these states may be reluctant to be so generous in giving us their underused fishing quota for fluke in the future.

## Membership Report

*By John Toth*

Invoices for **2013** club membership dues have been sent out to all member clubs. Dues for club membership are payable by **June 2013** and we still have not received membership dues from a number of clubs. Please check with your **club treasurer** to confirm if your JCAA membership dues have been paid. If your club needs to have an invoice sent to it, please refer to my email and telephone number listed below.

You can mail your payment to the JCAA's office (1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River NJ

08753) or give me your club's check at our September 24th General meeting.

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

## Election of JCAA Officers

*By Don Marantz*

It's time to start thinking of taking the next step of being more involved with fisheries issues. If you don't know what I am talking about then I will explain. If you are the person that complains and belly aches about bag and size limits and really doesn't know the proper procedures how decisions are made, or if are you the type of person that really cares about the sport of recreational fishing and wants to get involved and learn more about the procedures and the process, then you should think about becoming more involved with JCAA. One step is becoming a club representative and the next step would be to become an officer of JCAA. Now is the time to start thinking about how much you really love the sport. If you are interested in becoming a JCAA Officer you need to contact Don Marantz at 609-259-6368 or the JCAA Office. We are looking for dedicated individuals to get more involved and don't be the complainer.

## Sportsperson of the Year Nomination

*By Mark Taylor*

Our next fundraising event will be our **Sportsperson of the Year Dinner** which will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup> at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. We have not received any nominations at the time of this newspaper going to print so there are no bios published. We are still looking for nominations for this important honor. Please send a short bio of 250 words or less explaining the accomplishments of the nominee to the JCAA Office. If you get them in before the next newspaper is published it will be inserted so everyone can see who is fighting for the sport that they may not know of. It is not too early for your club to start talking

about getting a table for this great event. I would like to see all the member clubs get a table to show strong support. When we all get together we talk to other clubs about what they are doing to help in the fight for the sport. That is only one positive thing that makes this event a great success. Look for more in future articles from our Dinner Committee in future newspapers.

## **Youth Education Report**

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### **HOFNOD: MUCH SUCCESS AND MANY PURPOSES**

The JCAA Youth Education Committee presented two HOFNOD programs entitled "Fun Jersey Shore Jobs" for students attending the Private Industry Council program at T.H.E. Technologies located in Toms River, New Jersey. Students from Toms River North and South High Schools learned how volunteering to keep our environment clean would help them find a fun summer job that could lead to full-time employment or possibly a career in the marine industry.

Michael Colwell, Agent from the Ocean County Prosecutors Office, assisted with the presentation and reinforced our message about setting goals and utilizing healthy and constructive outdoor activities such as fishing and networking with local merchants to make job connections. High school students were encouraged to use fishing/boating and other related water sports as an alternative to drugs, alcohol, gangs, and violence. They also learned how to start a high school fishing club and how fishing/boating can be a great way to relax with family and friends. Students received "Hook On Fishing Not On Drugs" materials and books to learn about surf fishing.

For more information about promoting the "Hooked on Fishing Not On Drugs" program at your school, please phone 732-785-9278 or email [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com) and place HOFNOD in the subject line. Or contact Liz Jackson, Division of Fish and Wildlife, NJ HOFNOD Coordinator [liz.Jackson@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:liz.Jackson@dep.state.nj.us) phone 908-637-4125.

### **2013 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD**

It takes the support of many volunteers to bring successes to the fishing community but sometimes individuals and sport-fishing

organizations go above and beyond to make the future of fishing better for our youngsters. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is accepting nominations for the 2013 Youth Education Award. Please submit your nominations by October 2013. Submit your nominations in writing at the JCAA monthly meeting or email the JCAA Youth Education Committee, [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com).

### **TRAINING OPPORTUNITY**

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife is offering an exciting training opportunity for individuals who have previously taken a Project WILD, WILD Aquatic, WET or Project Learning Tree workshop to become facilitators for future workshops.

A two-day facilitator training is being offered on Thursday, September 26 at the Forest Resource Education Center in Jackson, NJ and on Thursday, October 10 at the Benjamin Moore Paint Center in Flanders, NJ. Both sessions run from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Participants will learn directly from project coordinators the skills necessary to plan, conduct and lead workshops for all four of these exciting, nationally recognized education programs, and how to become a successful facilitator.

Attendance at both sessions is required, and every participant will need to co-facilitate a future workshop with a current facilitator in order to complete the training. Facilitator certification is based on the specific workshop(s) program taken prior to September 16. The cost is \$10.00 which includes facilitator materials and lunch. Don't miss this great opportunity to become a facilitator and introduce educators to activities that engage and excite students, while also becoming a role model and leader in the field of environmental education! For questions contact Karen Leskie at 609-748-4347 or via e-mail at [karen.leskie@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:karen.leskie@dep.state.nj.us). To register for this training opportunity please complete and submit the application form available at [this link](#) on the Division's website.

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

The 20th Annual Children's Surf Fishing Tournament, Saturday, September 7, 2013. The Tournament is open to the public. You do not have to be a Beach Buggy member to enter the tournament.

Get the word out this is a great day for children to surf fish and experience a fun time at Island Beach State Park. Tell your family, friends

and neighbors about this amazing FREE event spent fishing with your kids. At Ocean Beach Pavilion #1 Island Beach State Park in Seaside Park, NJ. Registration is FREE for all children age 16 and under and includes a FREE Tournament t-shirt and FREE hot dog & beverage lunch, FREE Awards, FREE Prizes, and FREE Grab Bags. Registration & education tables 8:00am-10:00am. Fishing Portion 10:00am-1:00pm. NJBBA Tournament Judges will measure and record fish caught only between Area 7 through Area 23. Fish caught at other areas are considered off-limits and will not be recorded. Refreshments / Lunch 1:00pm-2:00pm. Prize Tables 2:00pm- 3:00pm. Awards Ceremony 3:00pm 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place trophies will be presented to three age groups.

### **SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT IBSP**

Get ready to enter the largest surf-fishing tournament along the Jersey Shore. The Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be on Sunday, October 6, 2013. Don't miss a day of family fun! Pick up a brochure about the tournament at Island Beach State Park or at your favorite tackle dealer. The contest is reasonably priced. Register early and save. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice anglers at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and this will require extra volunteer hours from member clubs in JCAA.

The JCAA Youth Education Committee and members of Vietnam Veterans of America will assist disabled veterans that would like to fish at the Governor's 22nd Annual Surf Fishing Tournament, Sunday, October 6, 2013. Special arrangements are made for handicapped anglers. Balloon tire equipped beach wheelchairs (capacity 250 lbs.) are available for anglers with disabilities. Volunteers will be needed to assist anglers with special needs who fish on tournament day. To volunteer or to make arrangements for a handicapped angler, please contact Greg Kucharewski at 732-785-9278. For more information go to [this link](#).

### **CAPE MAY KIDS FISHING PROGRAM**

During August the JCAA Youth Education Committee assisted Dr. Eleanor Bochenek, Director, Fisheries Cooperative Center, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University with teaching children about fishing.

Children learned knot tying, casting, and a variety of fishing techniques. JCAA supplied HOFNOD fishing books and stickers and decals.

# **September 6 JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony at Golden Nugget, Atlantic City**