

# JCAA NEWSPAPER NOVEMBER 2013

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*  
(Published on October 22nd, 2013)

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

## **JCAA REGULAR MEETING:**

**Tuesday, October 29th, 2013**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**AT JERSEY COAST SHARK ANGLERS**

## **NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, November 14th, 2013**

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

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

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**JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote**

**JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi**

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

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**JCAA General Membership Meetings are for club representatives and invited guests only. These meetings are not open to the general public. If you would like to attend as a guest, call the President at 908-913-0551 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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## **2013 OFFICERS**

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<b>Tournament Dir.</b>	Paul Turi	609-660-2126

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**October 29<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting  
**November 10<sup>th</sup>** JCAA 2013 Sportsperson of the Year Dinner  
**November 14<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting  
**November 26<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting  
**December 12<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting  
**December 17<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting  
**January 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>** Garden State Outdoor Show  
**January 25<sup>th</sup>** Saltwater Sportsmen Seminar  
**January 28<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting  
**February 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>** ASMFC Week  
**February 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>** Atlantic City Boat Show  
**March 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>** Saltwater Expo

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

*By Paul Turi, Co-chairman*

Our Sportsperson-of-the-Year dinner is fast approaching. As you know, every year JCAA honors an individual or organization that has done outstanding work to enhance sport fishing or the environment. The dinner this year will be Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, again being held at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. Ticket prices will be the same as last year. Individual tickets are \$75 each and tables of 10 are \$600, which is a \$150 savings. This gala event will accommodate 300 supporters and friends for a semi-formal sit-down dinner with choice of entrees and cash bar. There will also be hors d'oeuvres prior to dinner with a cash bar.

Member clubs should start thinking about who they would like to nominate for the sportsperson-of-the-year award. A short bio of 250 words or less as to why the nominee should be considered for this award can be presented at any

time prior to our general membership meeting on October 29th or can be mailed or emailed to the JCAA office or emailed to me at [pturi6@comcast.net](mailto:pturi6@comcast.net). So far I have one nomination from the Berkeley Striper Club which is printed at the end of the President's Column.

The keynote speaker this year will be Robert Beale, Executive Director of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Also speaking will be Congressman Frank Pallone.

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

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

For tickets call Dan Miller at (609) 641-7821.

## President's Report

*By Joseph Puntasecca*

At our last General Membership Meeting which was held September 24, 2013, I mentioned the upcoming elections for 2014 officers of JCAA. We need people to step up and become more active, there is a never-ending attack on our recreational resources. If you are interested in being more involved and filling one of the positions, contact Don Marantz at 609-259-6368. Elections of officers will be voted on at the December 17th General Meeting. That is not a typo. We all agreed at the September meeting that due to the holidays we would hold the December meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>. All JCAA member club presidents make sure your delegates attend the next meeting.

The JCAA will be sending letters to the Governor and DEP requesting the appointment and reappointment of Pat Donnelly and Sergio Radossi, respectively, to the NJ Marine Fisheries Council.

Show time is rapidly approaching and JCAA is looking for volunteers to man the booths. If each member club volunteers just half a day we will be

able to fully staff the booths for each show. Please contact Mark Taylor at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com). JCAA is committed to the following ones so far:

- Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar in Long Branch on January 25th
- Garden State Outdoor Sports Show at the NJ Convention Center in Edison on January 9th – 12<sup>th</sup>
- Atlantic City Boat Show February 5<sup>th</sup> – 9th
- The Saltwater Fishing Expo in Somerset on March 14<sup>th</sup> -16th

### **Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament was held on Sunday, October 6 at Island Beach State Park. The weather was very pleasant for a change. The Lt. Governor and representatives from the sponsors handed out the prizes and this year's Governor's Cup Winner was Barry South of Morrisville, PA. He caught an 18½" bluefish. Mr. South received two rod-and-reel combinations, a plaque, and will have his name engraved on the Governor's Cup, which is permanently on display at Island Beach State Park. I would like to congratulate all the people that participated in this year's event and all those that donated their time and prizes. This 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.

### **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 before the October 29<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting. At this time we have one nomination from the Berkeley Striper Club. The nomination is printed at the end of this column. 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! The JCAA Youth Education Committee is accepting nominations for the 2013 Youth Education Award. Please submit your nominations by October 25,

2013. Submit your nominations in writing to JCAA Youth Education Committee, [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com).

### **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 October General Meeting, on October 29th, 2013, will be held at the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers Clubhouse, 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick, NJ.

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### **Sportsperson-of-the-Year Nomination**

The Berkeley Striper Club would like to nominate Fred Bogue as the JCAA Sportsperson of the Year. Fred is an avid striped bass fisherman and a dedicated member of the Berkeley Striper Club. Fred has been a member of our club for 20 years during which time he has been active in all committees including awards banquets, picnics, tournaments and flea markets. Fred was elected to eight terms as an officer for collective service of three years as vice president and five years as president, and has served on the Executive Board for the past seven years. During his presidency, the membership grew from 50 to 200 as Bogue strove to maintain the balance between recreation and conservation. Fred is a two-time recipient of the Bill Sculerati award, presented to members who exemplify sportsmanship and dedication to the Club.

Fred is an advocate of tag and release, and has managed the Club's database and program since 1993. He publishes annual studies to track size, migration and mortality, and has participated in tagging symposiums and workshops through NOAA and the ASMFC. Fred has promoted tagging within the Club by conducting how-to seminars and

presenting his yearly studies. He established an annual tagging weekend with the primary goal to tag a body of fish for more meaningful return results. The Berkeley Striper Club has tagged 32,000 fish in total and Fred's personal record is 3,200.

Under his guidance BSC started a scholarship program in 1998 for students of marine biology at Stockton, which has, in recent years, evolved into the John Bushell Memorial Youth Education Program. This initiative is focused on underprivileged children from local communities. The program raises funds to purchase fishing equipment, prizes and food and involves Club members in a day of hands-on. The children are taught knot tying, casting and safety, and after being fed lunch, are taken on the beach to work one-on-one with a Club volunteer. The program has been active for five years, and this season each child went home with their own rod and reel. Fred is HOFNOD (Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs) certified through the Future Fisherman Foundation and the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Fred's dedication to his fellow fishermen was evident during the aftermath of Sandy when he organized a Club cookout to promote camaraderie among displaced members. He helped a fellow member clean out his flooded home and after collecting Christmas trees in his neighborhood, participated in the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association's dune restoration project at Island Beach State Park.

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

### **ASMFC Week**

At the upcoming ASMFC Week, there will be an interesting number of topics discussed. Each board meeting will be different and long. The materials for these board meetings are posted on the ASMFC webpage. If you find a board meeting that is of interest, you are able to listen to the discussion online. All the presentations will also be streamed at the time of the presentation. Sometimes I watch on my computer as it is easier to see. This is an opportunity to see how your commissioners represent you and your position on issues. With the cost of travel and the time considerations, this is an

inexpensive way to attend a meeting. At this time there is no way for you to interact from off site. However, even when you attend the meetings there is little opportunity for public input on plans. If you have the time and interest, please get online and listen. If your commissioners have their email open, you may even ask a question or make a comment while the meeting is in progress. When your commissioners get home, you will have a better understanding about how they voted. If you have questions, listening to the meeting will allow you to ask specific questions based on what happened at the meeting. This is one way to hold your commissioners accountable. Find a comfortable spot for a couple of hours and join us at the meeting. The information to listen is later in this report and here are the agenda and times for some of the meetings you might want to listen to.

**Monday October 28th**

3:00 - 5:00 PM

Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

- Welcome/Call to Order (R. Boyles, Jr.)
- Board Consent
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from August 2013
- Public Comment
- Review Episodic Event Set Aside Pilot Program (M. Waive) Action
- Consider Postponed Motion on Episodic Event Program for 2014 and Beyond
- Technical Committee Report
- Benchmark Stock Assessment Progress Report (M. Waive)
- Other Business/Adjourn

**Tuesday October 29th**

8:30 AM - Noon

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board State Compliance Reports (to be posted)

- Welcome/Call to Order (T. O’Connell)
- Board Consent
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from August 2013
- Public Comment
- 2013 Atlantic Striped Bass Stock Assessment Report Action • Presentation of Stock Assessment Report (G. Nelson)
- Presentation of Peer Review Panel Report (C. Jones)

- Consider Acceptance of Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report for Management Use
- Discussion of Management Response to the Stock Assessment Results (T. O’Connell)
- Consider 2013 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance (M. Waive) Action
- Other Business/Adjourn

2:30 - 4:00 PM

Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board

- Welcome/Call to Order (D. Pierce)
- Board Consent
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from August 2013
- Public Comment
- Summer Flounder Recreational Working Group Report
- Technical Committee Report (J. McNamee)
- Review of Wave 4 Data, if Available (K. Rootes-Murdy)
- Overview of 2014 Recreational Management Process for Black Sea Bass (K. Rootes-Murdy) Action
- Consider Initiation of an Addendum to Allow for Continuation of Ad Hoc Regional Measures

**Wednesday 30th**

9:30 AM - Noon

American Eel Management Board

- Welcome/Call to Order (T. Stockwell)
- Board Consent
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Proceedings from August 2013
- Public Comment
- Update on the Proposed Endangered Species Act Listing of American Eel
- Consider 2013 Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance (K. Taylor) Action
- Consider Harvest Permit Request in North Carolina (L. Daniel) Action
- Consider Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment (K. Taylor) Action
- Recess

1:30 - 2:30 PM

American Eel Management Board (continued)

- Continued Consideration of Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment (K. Taylor) Action
- Other Business/Adjourn

## **Striped Bass**

I have already heard from the New York delegation about a controversy regarding striped bass. I wrote a column about this in last month's newspaper which is posted on the JCAA website. Paul Hartel included his comments in this month's newspaper. He also received permission from Fred Garafalo and the Fisherman Magazine to include Fred's editorial on this subject.

I have been down this road many times over the years. Certain groups are never happy with the size of the stock and the way it is managed. We have put in measures over the years, just to repeal them within 2 years. Or we create addendums that weren't necessary and are not passed. When we do this, we waste much time and effort of the Commission staff, the staff in each state, the technical committee and the commissioners.

There are many stocks that need the additional time and attention. We are all dealing with limited resources. When the science says that it is not necessary to change the regulations on striped bass stock, that is the way I will vote. Striped bass is the only stock that has almost identical regulations for recreational anglers along the coast for many years. It gives a great baseline to measure how the stocks are doing. It is a shame we don't have the same consistent regulations for other species. Until the science shows that the striped bass stock is in trouble, I am not going to support needless changes in regulations because of parochial issues. Striped bass is a stock that is managed coast wide and it is doing well.

### **Report on Joint MAFMC & ASMFC Summer Flounder, Black Seabass, and Scup and Bluefish Board Meeting (Philadelphia, October 9<sup>th</sup>)**

I attended the meeting in Philadelphia and as usual I was frustrated by the way NMFS manages these species. NMFS continues to allow the information from the SSC to drive all decisions. There is no appeal process and the boards have no power. This was so obvious when it came to scup.

The ASMFC Board made a motion that did not agree with the SSC. The members of the Council made a similar motion but were ruled out of order by the chairman. This was compounded by the government shutdown since none of the lawyers were present to render a decision. Once the

Council's motion was ruled out of order, the ASMFC Board was not allowed to discuss their motion any further. It always amazes me that NMFS continues to state that their summer flounder data is the best of any species on the east coast.

The SSC, even with the "best" data, still decides summer flounder data is tier 3. This designation requires precautionary quotas. The SSC deducts quota because they are not happy with their "best" data. I learned a long time ago most scientists are never happy with the amount of data they have. But this is the real world where decisions need to be made with the data at hand. Anglers should not be penalized because a lack of funding at both the federal and state level keeps the SSC from having all the data they think they want. It is interesting that NMFS has declared that all three of these stocks are not overfished and overfishing is not taking place. These stocks, according to NMFS, are recovered and are held up as the poster fish for NMFS decision-making. Why then are anglers not allowed to reap the benefits of fully recovered stocks.

It is the anglers that did without for many years to get the stocks to their current level. It is not just the anglers but also the recreational and commercial fishing industries that drive the economy which suffer the consequences. I find the SSC is very cavalier in determining that we cannot harvest more fish without any consideration of the economic impact. Perhaps we should consider tying pay raises for NMFS to their success in increasing the quotas for both commercial and recreational anglers. Wonder how they would interpret the data then?

### **Funding the 2006 Magnusson/Stevens Act**

We are now in the process of another reauthorization of the Magnusson/Stevens Act. Before we start tweaking the 2006 MSA, we should consider how well we did with the last reauthorization.

There were many high ideals included in the last reauthorization and a great deal of power was given to the Science and Statistical Committee. We were also promised a new recreational statistical program would be in place by 2009. It is now 2013. Both of these programs are data intensive which requires funding. The President and Congress never appropriated the funds necessary to gather the data.

We are tweaking some of the same bad stock information using different models. We have not funded more basic stock assessment research.

NMFS still has no line item to fund NEMAP and steals the money from research set aside (RSA) funds.

In order to accomplish the goals set in 2006, more appropriations were necessary. Fishermen, both commercial and recreational, environmentalists, fisheries managers and scientists are all complaining about the lack of data and the negative impact that lack of data causes in the management process. I have gone through the reauthorization exercises since 1992. The bills contain many lofty expectations but there is never the funding necessary for implementation. We need a commitment from Congress and the President that, if we are going to require us to follow the rules, they need to allocate the funds to make the rules reasonable for everyone. This is the only industry that works on such poor data and uses that data in ways that impact on millions of people. When any of us are called to testify or make comments on the reauthorization, we need to speak in one voice that demands full funding for every mandate included in the bill.

### Getting JCAA Alerts

People I meet have many questions about JCAA and fisheries management and JCAA Fluke Tournament. I always ask if they read the current JCAA newspaper. Or I ask if they are on the JCAA email list for frequent updates. Too many of them say no to both. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, there is considerable effort put into every JCAA newspaper and all the email alerts. If you don't read them, all that time and energy doesn't have much payoff. If I don't have your email address, you miss the alerts entirely. If you want to be on the email list, go to the JCAA webpage ([www.jcaa.org](http://www.jcaa.org)) and click on the word "subscribe" about half way down the page. Or send me an email and I will add you to the list. All I need is your name and email address. This list is confidential and is never shared with anyone outside of JCAA. What is also disappointing is that every club does not have a representative on the email list. This is something your club can remedy easily. Just send me an email at [tfote@jcaa.org](mailto:tfote@jcaa.org) and say you are the club representative.

## ASMFC & Mid-Atlantic Council Approve Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass and Bluefish Specifications and Terms of Reference for 2014 Bluefish Benchmark Stock Assessment

ASMFC Press Release, October 18, 2013

For Immediate Release

Press Contact, Tina Berger, 703.842.0740

Philadelphia, PA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) have established commercial quotas and recreational harvest limits for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish for the 2014 fishing season and beyond. The Commission's actions are final, while the Council will forward its recommendations to NOAA Fisheries' Northeast Regional Administrator for final approval. The table below summarizes quotas and limits (2013 values are provided for comparison purposes). Please note that specifications for years beyond 2014 may be adjusted based on changes in the fishery or new scientific information.

Species	Year	Commercial Quota (millions of pounds)	Commercial Minimum Fish Size (TL)	Recreational Harvest Limit (millions of pounds)
Summer Flounder	2013	11.44	14"	7.63
	2014	10.51	14"	7.01
	2015	10.74	14"	7.16
Scup	2013	23.53	9"	7.55
	2014	21.95	9"	7.03
	2015	20.60	9"	6.60
Black Sea Bass	2013	2.17	11"	2.26
	2014	2.17	11"	2.26
	2015	2.17	11"	2.26
Bluefish	2013	8.67	---	14.07
	2014	7.49	---	13.59

For summer flounder, the Commission approved and Council recommended a commercial quota of 10.51 million pounds and the recreational harvest limit of 7.01 million pounds for the 2014 fishing year, a decrease from 2013 levels. The reduction responds to the findings of the 2013 benchmark stock assessment and peer review which increased the spawning stock biomass (SSB) target level (now 137.6 million pounds) and estimated a decrease in spawning stock biomass (112.9 million

pounds in 2012). While SSB has dropped below the new target it is well above the new SSB threshold (68.8 million pounds), with the stock still considered to be rebuilt. The Commission approved and the Council recommended specifications for 2014 and 2015 in response to industry's request for increased stability in management measures from year to year.

Last year, both the Commission and Council approved multi-year specifications extending through 2015 for the scup fishery; those quotas have not changed. The 2014 commercial quota is 21.95 million pounds and the recreational harvest limit is 7.03 million pounds. This represents a decrease of 1.58 and 0.52 million pounds, respectively, compared to 2013 levels due to a slight decrease in SSB. Additionally, the Commission approved and the Council recommended an increase in the scup possession limit for the 2014 Winter II commercial season (November 1 – December 31) from 2,000 to 12,000 pounds. The rollover provision from the Winter I fishery still remains intact.

For black sea bass, the Commission approved and Council recommended a commercial quota of 2.17 million pounds and 2.26 million pounds for the recreational fishery in 2014 and 2015. This is a continuation of the specifications set for the 2013 quota due to little change in the scientific information for black sea bass.

Finally for the bluefish fishery, the Commission approved and the Council recommended a commercial quota of 7.49 million pounds and 13.59 million pounds for 2014. These levels represent a decrease from 2013 to account for scientific uncertainty regarding age-length key data and retrospective bias, which underestimates recruitment. These issues will be evaluated in the upcoming benchmark stock assessment. The Commission also approved the Fishery Management Plan Review for the 2012 fishing year and the Terms of Reference for the 2014 Bluefish Benchmark Stock Assessment.

For all four species, the approved and recommended actions are consistent with the recommendations of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee regarding acceptable biological catch, which is the level of total removals that cannot be exceeded based on the best available scientific information. The Commission and Council maintained the 2013 commercial management measures for all four species, with the exception of the scup commercial Winter II trip limit and

approved a Research Set-Aside (RSA) quota of up to three percent for each fishery.

For more information about summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, or bluefish please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, FMP Coordinator, at [krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:krootes-murdy@asmfc.org).

Tina Berger  
Director of Communications  
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1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200A-N  
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## **ASMFC Final Agenda and How to Listen to the Meeting On-line**

ASMFC Press Release, October 16, 2013  
For Immediate Release  
Press Contact, Tina Berger, 703.842.0740

The final agenda and meeting materials for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's 72nd Annual Meeting are now available at [www.asmfc.org/home/Annual-2013](http://www.asmfc.org/home/Annual-2013). Some documents may be large, so please be patient downloading. Meeting materials are also available on CD-ROM; to obtain a CD please contact Cindy Robertson. Supplemental materials will be posted to the website next Wednesday, October 23rd.

The agenda is subject to change. The agenda reflects the current estimate of time required for scheduled meetings. The Commission may adjust this agenda in accordance with the actual duration of meetings. Interested parties should anticipate meetings starting earlier or later than indicated herein.

Board/Section meeting proceedings will be broadcast daily via webinar beginning at 8:30 a.m. on October 28th, continuing daily until the conclusion of the meeting (expected to be 1:30 p.m.) on October 31st. The webinar will allow registrants to listen to board/section deliberations and view presentations and motions as they occur. No comments or questions will be accepted via the webinar. Should technical difficulties arise while streaming the broadcast, the boards/sections will continue their deliberations without interruption. We will attempt to resume the broadcast as soon as possible. Click [here](#) to register for the webinar. Board/Section summaries, presentations, and audio

files will be available on the Commission website the week of November 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **Governor Should Scuttle LNG Port**

Editorial, Home News Tribune,  
8/20/2013

A company pitching a liquefied natural gas terminal off the New Jersey coast didn't get very far a couple of years ago, when Gov. Chris Christie vetoed the plan. An amended proposal moving the project more toward the New York coast didn't get a much better review from Christie; then-Attorney General Jeffrey Chiesa told federal officials in March 2012 that Christie remained opposed to the amended project.

Now Liberty Natural Gas has come back with a "new" proposal no different from the old — amended — version, but the governor hasn't yet pulled the plug. Public hearings have been held, and a public comment period is scheduled to end on Thursday.

We don't know what Christie is waiting for, but we urge him to shut down this project as soon as possible. It is still as bad an idea for New Jersey as it has been all along.

Under the plan, gigantic ships carrying the liquefied gas would arrive off the coast, and regasify the product as it connects to underwater buoys and into pipelines heading to Long Island. Liberty Natural Gas officials have promoted the project as a means of bringing needed energy and hundreds of jobs to the region — claims that should be greeted with more than a little skepticism.

Clean Ocean Action, an environmental group leading opposition to the port, counters that the project would create barely a half-dozen permanent jobs, and that the company plans to convert to exports as soon as possible — doing little to meet the region's energy demands, or contribute to American energy independence.

The truth likely lies somewhere in the middle, but this much is certain: Liberty Natural Gas isn't in business to magnanimously provide energy to local residents. If greater profits beckon elsewhere — and they will — the company will turn in that direction. Any debate over the project must maintain that understanding.

We opposed the first version of the plan in part because it involved pipelines running past schools and neighborhoods through several

Middlesex County towns. The potential for an environmental disaster off the coast — accidental, or the result of a terrorist attack — is also undeniable. While the pipeline plans no longer directly affect New Jersey, the threat to our offshore waters hasn't changed.

This isn't merely Not in My Backyard resistance. There's also little evidence of any great need for the facility. This debate comes at a time when the nation is tapping into vast fossil-fuel reserves that had previously been inaccessible, thanks to a process known as "fracking" — injecting a mix of water and chemicals into the ground under high pressure — and other new drilling technologies. But obtaining them also comes with great environmental risk; the chemicals used in fracking, for instance, could pollute our waterways and watersheds.

Meanwhile, in the rush to exploit these newly available supplies, companies are harvesting the energy and selling much of it off to other countries. Public policy has yet to catch up with technology in determining how to responsibly manage these "new" resources.

State Sen. Jennifer Beck introduced a bill on Tuesday urging rejection of the project, which we hope will help push Christie into action. The Liberty Natural Gas project offers little meaningful benefit to New Jersey — or anyone else, for that matter.

## **Future Uncertain for Plan to Revive State Forests by Allowing Logging**

by Ryan Hutchins, Star Ledger,  
8/21/2013

TRENTON — Lawmakers say they're not sure what they are going to do about a contentious measure that would allow commercial logging in state forests as part of a plan to revive the land.

Gov. Chris Christie this week said he agrees with the premise — calling it an "important environmental issue" — but refused to sign the bill (S1085), instead issuing a conditional veto that stripped it of a requirement for outside scrutiny.

The legislation would require the Department of Environmental Protection to establish a program to manage the state's 600,000 acres of protected forests. Lumberjacks would be allowed to harvest trees in some areas so natural light could be let in to spur new growth, supporters say.



## **"Green" Group Gives Legislators Low Scores on Environmental Issues**

by Tom Johnson, 9/10/2013  
NJ Spotlight

But the Republican governor said a provision forcing the DEP to comply with an independent group's guidelines would "abdicate its responsibility to serve as the state's environmental steward," violating the state constitution.

That requirement was added to the legislation as a safeguard, used to convince some wary lawmakers to vote in favor of a bill that has split the state's environmental community over the years — with some suggesting it would open up the forests to money-making logging operations.

Now sponsors aren't sure what to do.

Assemblyman John McKeon (D-Morris), the bill's biggest advocate in the lower house, said he was "certainly concerned" about the governor's changes and doesn't think the Legislature should concur. He said he thought the requirement that the program meet the "gold standard" set by the non-profit Forest Stewardship Council would ensure it was free of political motives.

"That, to me, assured that what would occur would only be in the best interest of the state," McKeon said. "The administrations come and go, and there are different agendas. This is something that is going to be the law."

McKeon said he would work with Christie to develop a version of the bill the governor would be willing to sign.

The Sierra Club and the New Jersey Environmental Federation has opposed the measure, in part because they said the Forest Stewardship Council requirement wouldn't be legally enforceable. The governor's conditional veto made "a terrible bill even worse," said Jeff Tittel, the Sierra Club's state director.

Sen. Bob Smith (D-Middlesex), the bill's top sponsor in the Senate, said he had asked the non-partisan Office of Legislative Services to look into the governor's assertion that a review requirement would violate the state constitution. If the governor is right, he said, he will consider agreeing to the amended version.

"We need to get this program going to protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens, but also to have ecologically viable forests," he said.

Scorecard from League of Conservation Voters reveals poor ratings on bills to protect NJ's environment.

Apparently, it still isn't easy being green -- particularly in the New Jersey Legislature.

At least that's the conclusion of the New Jersey League of Conservation Voters, which issued a scorecard yesterday that indicated lawmakers are sliding in their ratings for voting on environmental bills. It is a trend previously cited by more prominent and politically active groups, such as the New Jersey Environmental Federation and the New Jersey Sierra Club.

The NJLCV is generally viewed as a more moderate environmental group than the aforementioned organizations, one not prone to lash out at lawmakers on either side of the aisle. Instead, it prefers trying to work on bipartisan measures to advance its goals. But many of the groups that belong to the league often were at odds with other environmentalists over conservation issues before elected officials.

In the end, those goals often were thwarted in the current legislative session.

Most notably, lawmakers failed to approve a measure that would have provided up to \$200 million a year in funding to preserve open spaces and farmland, and protect historic treasures. It was a top legislative priority of many of the organizations that belong to the league, who argued that the state would run out of money to preserve open spaces without a new infusion of funding.

The other failures listed by the NJLCV included the Legislature's refusal to combat climate change by not overriding a veto by Gov. Chris Christie that prevented New Jersey from rejoining a regional effort to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

"Clearly, the New Jersey Legislature is headed in the wrong direction," said Ed Potosnak, executive director of the NJLCV. "The number of legislator receiving an 80 percent or better on NLCV's scorecard has fallen in both the Senate and Assembly. Both chambers are failing. The Senate earned a dismal average of just 68 percent, with the

Assembly close behind at only 67 percent," Potosnak said.

Among other issues cited by the organization was the Legislature's failure to reverse a controversial rule to waive critical environmental regulations put in place to protect public health and safeguard natural resources.

"We are deeply troubled about the recent downturn in support for conserving the environment among our elected officials," said Debbie Mans, the chair of NJLCV. "Our children are counting on adults to stand up for their health and wellbeing. It is clear from looking at the scores of our legislators that we need more environmental champions in the Legislature.

That view was endorsed by the New Jersey Environmental Federation, which issued a similar report this past July. Its own scorecard found less than half (48 percent) of lawmakers supporting pro-environment positions over the past three years.

"This scorecard shows that despite New Jersey's proud legacy of environmental leadership, our critical environmental and health protections have been put at risk by state officials these past few years. The governor's contribution to this crisis is well documented, but the state Legislature's is not. This scorecard corrects that," said Amy Goldsmith, director of the federation.

The federation noted pro-environmental positions succeeded on only four of the 18 bills scored—11 times blocked primarily by Democrats and three times by Republican refusal to override vetoes by the governor.

## **Rutgers Fish Surveys Show Effects of Climate Change**

by Sandy Bauers, 9/23/2013  
Philadelphia Inquirer Staff Writer

On a dark night in the middle of a wide marsh near Tuckerton, N.J., a team of Rutgers University researchers lowered a net over the railing of an old wooden bridge. Then they turned off their flashlights and waited. Below, in Little Sheepshead Creek, the incoming tide was washing hundreds of tiny fish larvae into the net.

By now - 24 years after these weekly surveys began - Rutgers ichthyologist Ken Able is seeing the unmistakable effects of warming oceans and climate change. Especially in the last decade, the

researchers have been seeing more southern species, including the larvae of grouper, a fish common in Florida. At the same time, they've been capturing fewer northern species, such as winter flounder.

The changes Able is recording at Little Sheepshead Creek, near Great Bay, are reflected along the East Coast and worldwide. They have the potential not only to alter ecosystems, but also to change the seafood on our dinner plates.

Out on Jersey's beaches, where Atlantic croaker catches used to be a rarity - this was considered the northern end of the fish's range - anglers now commonly reel them in.

"As far as fishermen are concerned, climate change is here. This is a reality," said Tom Fote, of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. "We're going to have to change the way we fish." Mackerel, once an important species for Cape May's commercial boats, have moved north, out of reach. Within the last two decades, New Jersey's renowned surf clams, once common just off the beaches and harvested for chowder and fried clams, have moved 40 miles offshore into deeper, cooler water. "The environment is changing. Our critters are moving because they have to," said David Wallace, who heads Wallace & Associates, a consulting firm to the fishing industry.

Many factors could be at work, fisheries experts say. Ocean currents and fishing pressure itself affect where fish go. And as anyone who chases fish for fun or a paycheck knows, huge natural variability is a given.

But what tells researchers that climate change is likely a significant factor is much simpler. It's temperature. Temperature is one of the most important environmental influences for marine organisms, affecting their metabolism, growth, and other factors. "A couple degrees of difference will cause fish to move," said Jeff Kaelin of Lund's Fisheries in Cape May, whose boats target 20 species. "There are very narrow niches where they survive."

While Able has been collecting his larvae, other researchers have been monitoring the water temperature at a nearby boat basin. Amid year-to-year variability, the overall trend is clear: The water is warming. For 12 of the last 15 years, temperatures have been above average.

The same thing has been happening out on the northeast coast's continental shelf. In 2012, sea

surface temperatures hit their highest in 150 years of recorded history.

Able, bearded and friendly, started the larvae project because he hoped to learn more about summer flounder, a valuable commercial species. What he now sees is a steady progression of newcomer fish. "Things are changing. People who spend a lot of time on the water know this," he said. Anglers are catching Atlantic trigger fish and sheepshead. "Big schools of cow-nosed rays are here," he said.

Some of the fish Able and his researchers collected were just oddities, swept northward by the Gulf Stream, and didn't survive the winter. "Now, our winters are milder. They're surviving," Able said. "And they're growing up to reproduce and be harvested." It's not just New Jersey. More broadly, a 2009 study found that about half the 36 fish stocks off the northeast coast of the U.S. were shifting northward or seaward, into deeper, cooler water.

What was important about the paper, said NOAA fisheries expert and coauthor Jon Hare, is that it charted not only commercial fisheries - since fishing itself has an effect - but also fish that were not. In a study in the journal *Nature* in May, scientists analyzed global catch data and found that hauls were already changing, favoring warm-water species.

"Climate change is suddenly an unexpected guest at dinner," wrote Mark Payne of the National Institute for Aquatic Resources in Denmark in an accompanying commentary.

Overall, the effects on New Jersey's \$200 million-a-year commercial fishing industry aren't as dramatic, the exit of mackerel and surf clams notwithstanding. The state is a midpoint for the range of a lot of fish, so even if they shift, New Jersey still has the species.

But at \$3.60 a gallon for fuel, adding extra miles to get to the fish - or finding them in the first place - is significant. Many commercial species have been overfished and are subject to management plans aimed at rebuilding their stocks. Without adequate rebuilding, some experts have predicted an end to commercial fisheries - and readily available seafood - within the century.

Fisheries managers already dole out state-by-state allotments, a political as well as a scientific challenge. The industry worries that regulations will change in response to conditions that, evidently, are very much in flux. In recent discussions on

mackerel, said Lund's Kaelin, "we argued strenuously that we not have our quota reduced because of climate change. With a few cold winters, the fish could come back."

Black sea bass, common in New Jersey waters, are now being seen far to the north. "Potentially, Rhode Island or Massachusetts may be arguing for a bigger piece of the pie," said Patrick Campfield, director of fisheries science for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, one of many coastal management agencies.

When officials started assessing summer flounder distribution in the 1970s, it was found mostly from South Jersey into Virginia. Now, the core is off northern New Jersey, and the fish have extended their range into New York. Juveniles have been caught off Rhode Island.

Not all species will be winners like croaker, whose juveniles need warm water to survive. Cod, whose productivity declines at higher temperatures, will be a loser. Also, other effects of climate change - all of which could affect fish - are becoming apparent. Changing ocean temperatures have influenced blooms of fish food - plankton - and the range and abundance of fish predators. Data show the waters off the northeast continental shelf are becoming more acidic. The northernmost waters are becoming less salty, suggesting the influence of melting Arctic and Greenland ice.

In August, the published results of a three-year worldwide project showed that warming oceans are causing not only shifts in fish ranges, but also changes in breeding times. "What it reveals is that the changes that are occurring on land are being matched by the oceans," said British researcher and lead author Camille Parmesan, of Plymouth University. "And far from being a buffer and displaying more minor changes, what we're seeing is a far stronger response from the oceans."

Late at night, back in the Rutgers lab near Tuckerton, heads bent over clear casserole dishes, researchers sort through the night's haul with forceps, plucking out tiny creatures that are little more than two eyeballs atop inch-long transparent bodies. Able and his team have amassed the most comprehensive data set of its kind on the coast, Able said. It's crucial to understanding the long-term trends. At the beginning, Able struggled to find the money. "Everyone wants long-term data, but no one wants to fund it," he said. Then, as the trend began to emerge, he knew he had no choice but to continue.

In a room at the lab, an old Coast Guard station deep in the marsh, are hundreds of vials of larvae, preserved in alcohol. In a nearby warehouse are thousands more: Each specimen they've ever caught in a quarter century. Able isn't sure of the count. But he's awed by the potential.

Even on something as small as a larvae, scientists can examine the otolith - akin to an ear bone - and can tell how old the fish is. They can analyze the organ for substances showing where it has been and whether the waterway was polluted. To him, the collection is a vast time series, and potentially a road map to climate changes we're already experiencing, just waiting to be understood.

## THE SEAS' CHANGE

Northern fish species becoming less abundant in larvae surveys:

Grubby

Furbear rockling

Threespine stickleback

Snake blenny

\*Winter flounder

Southern fish species becoming more abundant in larvae surveys:

Gray snapper

Pinfish

Gag grouper

Black drum

Crested blenny

Feather blenny

Green goby

\*Economically important species

SOURCE: Ken Able

## River Herring and Shad Take Another Lethal Blow

by Capt. Paul Eidman, Chairman Forage Fish

At the October meeting, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) voted down a motion to initiate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that could have added river herring and shad as stocks in the mackerel fishery. The vote was very close. During the public comment session, a diverse group of stakeholders spoke up, including myself. Public comments were counted and categorized that amounted to 37,000 in favor to 1, which was presented by the Garden State Seafood

Association (GSSA). The case for conservation and better offshore management couldn't have been presented more clearly.

It is very important to note that even after I and several other conservation-minded anglers went to Gloucester to meet with him, Mr. John Bullard, the Northeastern regions director of NOAA/NMFS, spoke at length in *opposition*, and then voted against any further conservation measures.

The Council motion failed 10-9, with Mr. Bullard casting the deciding vote that killed the motion. Instead, by this slim margin, the MAFMC passed a motion that will create a working group and clearly decided to sandbag the federal management decision down the road at least three years.

Please help me to understand why, in this DEM administration, this man was directed to travel to and show up, while on federal furlough, be aggressive and make sure that there was no money spent and that the commercial interests are appeased.

It is also important to note that although others voted NO, two council members that openly declare themselves "pro recreational fishermen" voted against conservation measures as well. They are both supported by the RFA (Recreational Fishing Alliance): Tony DeLernia of New York, Jeff Deem of Virginia.

If these two council members truly cared about recreational fishing, then why would they vote against conserving the forage species that key gamefish like striped bass need to survive?

This vote portrays yet another fine example of how commercial lobbying pressure is being exerted to make sure that the commercial fleet is able to continue to fish without oversight. As you read this, 97% of the mid water trawl fleet is busy out in federal waters continuing to haul enormous nets and dump the "incidental catch" overboard without accounting or observation.

River Herring and American Shad numbers are at historic lows coastwide and especially depleted right here in NJ waters and considered a "Species of Concern," mainly due to lack of funding to collect data needed. As fishermen, we are in the unique and unfortunate position of watching the extinction process unfold before our eyes, while at the same time we get to watch the very people in charge of making sure this doesn't happen look the other way.

## Membership Report

*By John Toth*

We are approaching the end of the year and some member clubs still have not paid their annual dues. Invoices for **2013** club membership dues have been sent out to all member 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 October 29th 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).

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

## More on the Striped Bass Harvest or Release Debate

*By Paul Haertel*

In last month's newsletter Tom Fote wrote an interesting article pertaining to the status of our striped bass stocks which also touched upon whether striped bass should be kept or released. He also mentioned that Fred Golofaro had recently written an excellent article about the different types of striped bass fishermen. With the permission of Fred and the Fisherman Magazine it is printed below my article.

As an avid striper fisherman who fished through the years of moratoriums, there are two groups of striper fishermen that concern me the most. One is the group of people who fish often and keep their limits of stripers every time they are able to. To them keeping a limit of stripers is no different than keeping a limit of fluke or sea bass. I can understand fishermen who fish occasionally keeping their limit but I am concerned that our striper stocks will collapse under the pressure of those who fish several times a week often keeping a limit of breeding-sized stripers.

More troubling to me, though, is another group of anglers who are now often being referred to as "catch and release Nazis." While it is commendable that they choose to release all of the stripers they catch, their overbearing attitude may be causing more harm than good. They are almost demanding that others release all their stripers as well. It is simply wrong to do that and it is causing a lot of resentment amongst striper fishermen. I know of some fishermen who are now keeping stripers out of spite because they are so angry about others telling them to let go of a legal fish. One fisherman I know of recently obtained bonus tags and is now keeping 3 bass a day when he can rather than two he normally kept because he is fed up with others telling him to release his fish. Some members of this same group are killjoys who will condemn someone who posts a picture on the internet of a striper they kept. They will say something to the effect "you should have let it go" rather than at least explaining why. It would be far more beneficial for these individuals to start their own threads and try to educate others as to why these fish should be conserved.

Though quick to condemn those who keep stripers, many of these elitists give little consideration to the damage they are doing to the stock through catch and release mortality. They may take great care in releasing their catch as we all should but still a certain percentage will not survive even if they swim away.

While many of us are very passionate about striper fishing, we need to respect others who fish for stripers for different reasons. We need to work together to ensure that our striper stocks remain healthy for many years to come. We can do this by becoming more involved with fisheries management. Attend fisheries meetings when you can and voice your concerns. Rather than complaining to others on the beach or on the internet, take a few minutes to write a letter to our commissioners on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission or to those who serve on the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council. Become active or at least join a group like Stripers Forever which is an internet group seeking to have striped bass declared a no-sale or gamefish along the entire east coast rather than just in certain states like New Jersey.

## Editor's Log: Catch and Release

by Fred Golofaro, The Fisherman, 8/22/2013

It has become abundantly clear in recent years that some of our most popular species of fish have inspired a level of controversy that spans a large segment of the angling fraternity. Whether to catch and kill or catch and release has spawned a number of camps with various views on this often controversial issue. The issue is further complicated by the type of species involved in the discussion. While it may be difficult to find an angler who would take issue with keeping several fluke for dinner, it becomes an entirely different story when the subject turns to striped bass, sharks and any other species deemed to be in danger of being overfished.

There is little doubt that angler consciousness has been raised considerably in recent years, and that's a good thing to a point. But the downside is that it has created a split in the angling fraternity which has resulted in various levels of acceptance where catch and release is concerned. We have always promoted the concept of catch and release for as long as I have been involved with *The Fisherman*, but every individual interprets that message in their own way.

At one extreme are those who have developed the belief that no fish should be killed, especially when the species in question is striped bass. Unfortunately, some in that camp have taken to condemning those who choose to take or "kill" a fish for the table. At the very extreme of this group, are a handful of people who border on having a People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) mentality. They scare me because they have crossed over the line – gone over to the dark side if you will allow me the journalistic liberty.

Less scary, but still worrisome are those who believe that killing a striped bass is worthy of a sentence in purgatory. It's been my experience that a fair percentage of these people are non-fish eaters who have no appreciation for a fresh fish dinner. Some are simply more selective about the fish they choose to consume. But some of folks will also at times try to intimidate, or look down at those who do choose to take a bass for dinner. If that is the route you choose to go, more power to you, but have a little tolerance for others who see nothing wrong with eating a meal of striped bass a few times a year.

Then there are those who release most of the gamefish they catch. They often fish by self imposed guidelines on what size fish, or how many of them are acceptable to keep over the course of a season. They preach catch and release and practice it to a large degree but make no bones about keeping a fish for the dinner table when the situation warrants it.

Another group is comprised of anglers who fish according to the limits governed by state regulations. They mostly feel that there is nothing wrong with staying within size and bag limits that are established within the guidelines of fishery management mandates designed to maintain healthy fish stocks. A large segment of this group is made up of those who rely on charter and open boats for their fishing. For some, keeping their limit of fish is a justifiable return for the cost of their fishing trip.

Finally, there are those who feel a need to impress people by showing off their catch, whether they intend to eat it or not. These same people are just as likely to keep undersize fish or exceed their limit. At the far extreme are some who will cull dead stripers by tossing them overboard to make room in their limit for a bigger fish. Hard to believe, but it does happen. Some simply ignore the limits, keeping excessive numbers big striped bass, showing no respect for the fishery or other fishermen.

Each of us is able to establish our own guidelines for catch and release, and ideally, it should be based on your own personal needs balanced by what is best for the fishery. Keeping a fish now and then when regulations allow a far more lenient harvest is not deserving of guilt or condemnation by others who embrace a total release philosophy. Likewise, those who choose to release most of what they catch should not raise an eyebrow to those who adhere to bag and size limits. The issue then should be with the fishery management system when a species like striped bass could benefit from a reduction in harvest. Fortunately, many anglers have taken it upon themselves to "manage" the fishery by voluntarily reducing the number of bass they keep over the course of a season.

I believe it was the late Joe Brooks who said many years ago during an appearance on *The American Sportsman* that "any fish is too valuable to be caught only once." Those are good words to build your catch philosophy around. In any case, we need to be united as anglers, and showing a little more tolerance toward those who don't share the same philosophy as ours will help accomplish that. For the

slobs who abuse the fishery by ignoring size and bag limits, they will always remain a very small piece of the pie. You can do your part by reporting their behavior to the DEC (1-800-TIPP DEC).

## **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 you are 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.

## **NJ Outdoor Alliance Report**

*By John Toth*

### **September 23, 2013 Meeting**

1. A presentation made by Don Donnelly, Stewardship Project Director of Forestry at NJ Audubon, on the status of NJ's forests. NJ has roughly 2 million acres of forests left, but we have to manage them wisely. We can't just put them in Green Acres and let them unattended. A lot of wildlife depend on the health of our forests and if we do not have enough brush for them, we lose grouse, pheasants and other wildlife. For example, the selective cutting of timber may be necessary to let some sun light to come in a heavily wooded area to let this type of brush grow. Don Donnelly said that while Green Acres is a good initiative, it is not a good idea to just let the forests unattended, they need management. On further discussion, Peter Grimbilas

brought up the issue of NJOA supporting Green Acres on a ballot along with the NJ Audubon with the provision that some of the funds from Green Acres would go to fund the NJ Marine Fisheries and Don Donnelly said he would have the Audubon support it. Also, the ballot question on Green Acres would have some type of provision in it to allow for forest management.

2. Rally to support Chris Christie is being considered by the NJOA in Sussex or Warren counties either on November 2nd or 3rd. Details yet not available, but hold the dates.

3. NJOA support for Senator John Sweeney was discussed at length. A number of hunters are livid that he supported the Firearms I.D. card legislation and want to vote against him. Anthony Mauro said that NJOA has been working with Sweeney to stop a lot of really bad hunting bills and he has been helpful in supporting many NJOA initiatives.

4. I requested the NJOA to support the re-nomination of Serge Radossi to the NJ Marine Fisheries Council and this motion passed unanimously with NJ Federation support.

5. I also made a motion to have the NJOA support the nomination of Pat Donnelly to the NJ Marine Fisheries Council and I read background info supplied by Fote on Pat. Not enough to say Pat is a nice guy. This motion also passed unanimously. Question raised by Anthony Mauro as to who Pat would replace on the NJ Council.

6. Approximately 8,500 people came to the NJ Wildlife Expo held in Colliers Mill Park. It keeps on getting bigger! Problem is that NJ DEP is running out of money and may not be able to run it again in 2014. NJOA and other organizations may need to chip in to fund it next year.

**JCAA**  
**Sportsperson of the**  
**Year Dinner**  
**November 10, 2013**

# Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

## JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD NOMINATION

The New Jersey Beach Buggy Association is proud to nominate Mr. George Foreman for the 2013 Youth Education Award. Mr. Foreman is an active member of New Jersey Beach Buggy Association (N.J.B.B.A) and the Association of Surf Angling Clubs (ASAC) for many years. When George joined N.J.B.B.A, he met Joann Baker who was involved in youth fishing and environmental seminars in Brigantine, N J. When Joann passed away, George started an award for children in Joann's name as an ASAC award which has been awarded for Youth Fishing for over 27 years.

When Atlantic City officials wanted to start a youth fishing program/tournament, they contacted George for his assistance and expertise to run the Atlantic City Program. George enlisted the support of many fishing clubs for this event and it has been going on for 10 years. George was appointed Youth Development Chairman for ASAC in 1999 and still is.

With his continued desire to get children fishing, George organized the first ASAC Youth Tournament in Wildwood in 2000 with 38 children coming out to fish. He has made a serious mark in his career as an advocate for children fishing. In 2013 the ASAC tournament moved from Wildwood to Harvey Cedars, NJ and thanks to George over 300 children came to fish.

George has been instrumental in getting many people to become certified in HOFNOD and he works with New Jersey State Officials. Most of the events George is involved in are Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs, Birch Grove Park Youth Tournament, Brigantine Alliance Youth Tournament, Atlantic City Youth Tournament, and Long Beach Island Fishing Club Youth Tournament.

We can't think of another person who has given more to the youth of this state as George has done for over 27 years. He truly deserves the Youth Education Award from JCAA.

Thank You,  
Paul Harris, President  
NJBBA Board of Directors

## IBSP FALL INTERMEDIATE SURF FISHING CLINICS

There is still time to register for the fall intermediate surf fishing clinics at Island Beach State Park. [This link](#) will direct you to the registration page.

Participants ages 14 years and older must register with the state saltwater fishing registry at [this link](#).

Students from prior surf fishing clinics will be introduced to new techniques for catching that fish of a lifetime. You will learn: how to read the water, advanced knot tying, the use of different bait presentations, surface plugs and how to reel in that fish of a lifetime. If you would like to participate you must have some basic understanding of casting, coastal safety and be prepared for any weather conditions.

A registered adult must accompany minors, which can be no younger than 10 years of age. Cost: \$20 per person. Mark the following dates on your calendar: Sundays (10:00 am to 2:00 pm): November 3,17, December 8, 15 The program begins at 10:00 am sharp at the Interpretive Center. To learn more about the fishing clinics at Island Beach State Park, please call the Park Office at 732-793-0506.

## TRAINING FACILITATORS AND GROUP LEADERS

NJ HOFNOD training sessions will be available soon in Ocean County. NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife plans to provide instruction for HOFNOD Facilitators and Group Leaders. The purpose of the trainings are: 1) to create a pool of Facilitators versed in leading reformed HOFNOD workshops; and 2) to educate and support organizations interested in establishing a youth fishing program in a manner that meets the legislative mandate of being long-term sustained engagement in learning about fishing, aquatic and other natural resources. Facilitators will receive in-depth 2-day training with a focus on how to teach and engage youth in fishing and hands-on conservation education lessons. Facilitators will receive teaching materials and supplies. Facilitators can be compensated for the workshops they lead.

Group Leaders are adults who plan to engage youth from beginning to end in the HOFNOD program. During a one-day training session, Group Leaders can learn the following lessons: habitat,



aquatic resources, hands-on field investigations, and a variety of freshwater or saltwater fishing techniques to improve their fishing skills. Youth-centered organizations have the opportunity to request small grants for program support.

For more information date/time/location, please phone or email Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Coordinator Phone: 908- 637-4125 x-122, email: [liz.jackson@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:liz.jackson@dep.state.nj.us).

### **CHECK OUT TAKE ME FISHING.ORG**

Learn how to make a three-way rig, life lessons for kids, and hook anatomy are just a few of the featured articles on the Take Me Fishing.org website. Take Me Fishing was created by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation to teach anglers about fishing, boating and conservation.

Visit their website and view fishing with your family to play “Hatchery Matchery.” It’s a game to test your memory. Other games on the page include: Create-A-Fish, Fish Hangman, Fishmatching, and Fishfinder Pro. Lots of good stuff to explore on this website...check it out.