

# JCAA NEWSPAPER DECEMBER 2013

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on November 18th, 2013)

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

## **JCAA REGULAR MEETING:**

**Tuesday, November 26th, 2013**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**AT JERSEY COAST SHARK ANGLERS**

## **NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, December 12th, 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>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b>	Mark Taylor	732-245-9445
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<b>Mem. Sec.</b>	John Toth	732-656-0139
<b>Tournament Dir.</b>	Paul Turi	609-660-2126

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**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>** AC Boat Show  
**March 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>** Saltwater Expo

NOAA has decided that recreational fishing for *sea bass* in federal waters for January and February of 2014 will be ***prohibited.***

## **President's Report**

*By Joseph Puntasecca*

### **Sportsperson of the Year**

The 2013 Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner which was held on November 10th at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant was a great success. Congratulations to our 2013 Sportsperson of the Year, Sergio Radossi! There was a great speech from our keynote speaker, Robert Beale, Executive Director of ASMFC. I would like to thank him for making time for us in his busy schedule to speak to all that were in attendance. I would like to recognize the dinner committee co-chairs Paul Turi and Dan Miller, as well as everyone that helped out, you all did a great job and I look forward to them returning next year.

At our last General Membership Meeting which was held October 29, 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 to 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 has sent letters to the Governor and DEP requesting the appointment and reappointment of Pat Donnelly and Sergio Radossi, respectively, to the NJ Marine Fisheries Council. Those letters are printed below.

### **Letters for Appointment & Reappointment to the NJ MFC**

October 22, 2013  
Honorable Chris Christie  
Governor of the State Of NJ  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Christie:

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association recommends that you re-appoint Dr. Patrick Donnelly to the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (NJMFC).

Dr. Donnelly was a member of the NJMFC from 2001 - 2012. On this Council, he chaired the Black Sea Bass, Tautog and Reef Committees. He was an advisor to the council from 1998 – 2001 and he is a member of the TRAC Artificial Reef Committee. In addition, he has been an advisor to the Tautog Committee from 1994 – 2005. He also chaired the Advisory Panel from 1996 – 2001.

Dr. Donnelly is also an avid fisherman, belonging to the Manasquan Fishing Club since 1983 and served as its President from 1987 – 1989.

Dr. Donnelly, as a member of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), served as Vice President in 1999 and 2000. As a member of the JCAA, he headed the Tautog and Fish Habitat Committees. In 2008, Dr. Donnelly himself was the recipient of the prestigious JCAA Sportsperson-of-the-Year award.

Dr. Donnelly and his wife, Deanna, live in Brick with their three children where he maintains a private dental practice.

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association strongly recommends your re-appointment of Dr. Donnelly to the NJMFC due to his extensive background and experience with the fishing industry. He will be an asset to your continuing efforts to make New Jersey one of the best states to live in and enjoy its tremendous fishing opportunities.

Very truly yours,  
Joseph Puntasecca, President  
cc: Bob Martin, Commissioner DEP

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October 25, 2013  
Honorable Chris Christie  
Governor of the State Of NJ  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Christie:

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association recommends that you re-appoint Sergio Radossi to the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (NJMFC).

Mr. Radossi is currently an active member of the NJMFC. You appointed him to this Council in June 2011 and his term expired on January 1, 2013. Mr. Radossi currently sits on the following committees within the NJMFC: Bluefish Committee, Crab Committee, Enforcement Committee, Executive Committee, Fish/Lobster Pot Committee (chair), Landing Licenses/Limited Entry Committee (chair), Scup & Black Sea Bass Committee, Striped Bass Committee (chair), Summer Flounder Committee, Tautog Committee (chair), Winter Flounder Committee, Sturgeon Committee.

Mr. Radossi is an avid fisherman and he also belongs to the Hudson River Fishermen's Association. He is affiliated with the American Littoral Society, Clean Ocean Action, The New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, The International Game Fish Association, The Coastal Conservation Association, The NY/NY Bay Keeper, The Jersey Coast Anglers Association, The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance.

Mr. Radossi is very knowledgeable in the area of recreational fishing and he also is an IGFA world record holder. He is also a freelance outdoor writer and his publications appear in the New Jersey Fisherman and the Saltwater Sportsman magazines.

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association strongly recommends your re-appointment of Sergio Radossi to the NJMFC due to his extensive background and experience with the fishing industry. He will be an asset to your continuing efforts to make New Jersey one of the best states to live in and enjoy its tremendous fishing opportunities.

Very truly yours,  
Joseph Puntasecca, President  
cc: Bob Martin, Commissioner DEP

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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 2014. You can start re-registering now for 2014. You can register or renew your registration for 2014 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 December General Meeting, on December 17, 2013, will be held at the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers Clubhouse, 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick, NJ.

**Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

**Striped Bass**

I have included the meeting summary for the Striped Bass Board at the annual ASMFC meeting. The complete summary and stock assessments are at the ASMFC webpage. There seems to be much confusion about what this stock assessment means. There are certain fishermen who are always pushing for a very limited striped bass harvest. They are

looking for a reduction in the 2 fish bag limit. Some of these same people who are pushing for a reduction in the 2 fish bag limit are the same people who historically wanted a one fish limit no matter what the stock assessment says. Remember, when the coast-wide fishery opened, some states put in place measures that were more restrictive than required. Until recently, New York had a one fish bag limit on the recreational anglers who fished on their own. The party and charter boats were allowed 2 fish. There were people from the private recreational fishery who objected to the 2 fish limit on party and charter boats and wanted a one fish limit no matter what data was in the stock assessment. This was their goal even when the stocks were at an all-time high.

We all agree that the spawning stock biomass has been decreasing. Many of us who have been dealing with the management of striped bass realize that sooner or later the fishery would not be the same as it was in the late 90's into the early 2000's. There has been an increase of harvesting striped bass for personal consumption and less just catch and release. There are more striped bass anglers than before. There are many reasons that this happened and I will discuss this in greater depth in a longer article as the time for discussing the addendum approaches. I will also ask some of the scientists who have been involved in striped bass management to write some articles for this newspaper. Hopefully, this will be a process that will be based on science and not on the personal feelings of striped bass fishermen.

I think my real hesitation with starting the discussion now is we have gone through this exercise before. The current year stock assessment sometimes shows certain trends and we begin an addendum to address these trends. Unlike other species striped bass is unique. For most species, a regression analysis will show an underestimation of mortality. This requires action. For striped bass, a regression analysis a few years out will show an overestimation of mortality by 12 – 15%. This is the opposite of the data we get about many other species. We finally do nothing after a lengthy process of public hearings, dedicating staff at the Commission and State level in lengthy analysis. In these days of losing personnel and poor funding, we cannot afford to engage in a process that eats time and staff with no results.

But, in other ways, striped bass is like other species. Not only does the size of the spawning

stock biomass affect recruitment but a large factor in the success of a year's recruitment is based on environmental factors. For example, warm water, Irene and Sandy, and drought can all be major factors in the recruitment. One of the biggest factors is the availability of forage species. That is why we are working hard to restore the stocks of river herring, menhaden, squid and other bait that striped bass and the other predators eat. Without the proper amount of forage species available, we cannot build all species to the highest levels recorded at the same time. Add to the mix power plants, loss of habitat and human pollution and we can understand why we cannot build all species to the highest levels in the current environment. That has always been the problem with fisheries management. For the most part, fisheries management agencies (ASMFC, states, NMFS) can only impose restrictions on the fishing community. They can only comment on the other factors that impact on the resource. It is going to be interesting to see what goes on with a stock that is not being overfished and overfishing is not taking place.

### **Summer Flounder**

A few months ago when I was making projections for the 2013 summer flounder fishery, I predicted we could not go over. With the loss or damage of so many boats, the continued rebuilding of marinas, the long-term recovery of anglers homes and businesses, and the continued economic problems, we could predict that fewer recreational anglers would be fishing. This prediction proved to be true in estimating the number of anglers. We have a one-third reduction of anglers participating in New Jersey's Saltwater Registry. We have a one-third reduction in the number of party and charter boats. We still have marinas that are not open or back to normal business. I live in a community on lagoons. Many of our neighbors are still rebuilding their homes or not here at all. They are still dealing with insurance companies or FEMA, not spending time fishing. We also know the numbers of boats have decreased dramatically since the 2000's. We had over 220,000 boats register then and in 2012 before Sandy hit we were down to 160,000 boats. We know that number is way down but I do not have the 2013 figures yet. For these reasons I predicted our number of fish caught would be down. But I did add a caveat. I predicted common sense might not prevail in the mysterious world of marine

recreational statistics. In prior years when there were significant weather events in a two-month wave, the statistics showed we had all time high catches. The perfect example is 2003 when statistically New Jersey caught two-thirds of the whole coast weakfish catch. The statistics showed New York caught less than 200 fish. The statistics showed Delaware caught less than 5,000 fish. The statistics showed we caught over a million pounds of fish. Since 2006 the Magnusson/Stevens Act required the collection of better data. We have been making some progress but we are far from having reliable data. For the most part, we have not increased the sampling size or used the saltwater registry for the phone calls. For example, the PSE (percentage of standard error) for the July/August wave in 2013 so far is more than 2 ½ times the PSE for previous years. I understand this is preliminary data. At the annual meeting I asked about the review process. We were told by NMFS that they would be reviewing this data in the next few weeks. The Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council and the ASMFC will be meeting the week of December 9<sup>th</sup> to establish the recreational measures for 2014. The ASMFC will also have a meeting in February to discuss all the wave data and whatever information comes from the review. Stay tuned. This is going to be a bumpy ride. To add insult to injury, the 2013 July and August wave data is the highest number on the table. In 2008 & 2009 we had 626,090 fish harvested. In 2010 we had 391,595 fish harvested. In 2011 we had 458,000. In 2012 we had 542,352. The preliminary data for this year is an outstanding 1,159,303, almost double any of the 5 previous years. Maybe I'm crazy!

### **Getting JCAA Alerts**

People I meet have many questions about JCAA and fisheries management and the 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 Meeting Week Summaries**

Atlantic Striped Bass Benchmark Assessment Finds Resource Not Overfished and Overfishing Not Occurring Board Initiates Draft Addenda to Adopt New Reference Points & Considers Management Measures to Address Declines in Spawning Stock Biomass St. Simons Island, Georgia – The 2013 Atlantic striped bass benchmark assessment indicates the resource is not overfished or experiencing overfishing relative to the proposed new reference points defined in the assessment. Although the stock is not overfished, female spawning stock biomass (SSB) has continued to decline since 2004 and is estimated at 128 million pounds just above the SSB threshold of 127 million pounds, and below the SSB target of 159 million pounds. Additionally, total fishing mortality is estimated at 0.20, a value that is between the proposed new fishing mortality threshold (0.219) and fishing mortality target (0.18). The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approved the benchmark stock assessment for management use.

Projections of female SSB and fishing mortality suggest if the current fishing mortality rate (0.20) is maintained during 2013-2017, the probability of the stock being overfished (SSB less than the SSB threshold) is high and increases until 2015-2016, but declines thereafter. This trend is driven by the lack of strong year classes currently in the fishery, and the emergence of the strong 2011 year class that matures into the spawning stock in three to four years. Despite recent declines in SSB, the stock is still well above the SSB during the moratorium that was in place in the mid-1980s (see Figure 1). Given these findings and the management plan's triggers (e.g., both fishing mortality and SSB are between their respective target and threshold limits), the Management Board initiated the development of two draft addenda. The first addendum will propose adoption of the new fishing mortality reference points recommended by the benchmark assessment. These include fishing

mortality reference points for the coastal stock as described above, as well as stock-specific reference points for the Chesapeake Bay and Albemarle/Roanoke stocks that will be developed by the Technical Committee. The second addendum will propose a range of commercial and recreational management measures for the coastal, Chesapeake Bay, and Albemarle/Roanoke stocks to reduce fishing mortality to at least the target with a proposed implementation date of January 2015.

The Board intends to consider approval of the first draft addendum for public comment in February at the Commission's Winter Meeting, and consider approval of the second draft addendum for public comment in May at the Commission's Spring Meeting. A more detailed description of the stock assessment results is available on the Commission's website from [this link](#). The 2013 Atlantic Striped Bass Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review is still being finalized by the Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop/Stock Assessment Committee; please check [this link](#) for its availability. The Commission's 2013 Stock Assessment Update, which revises the benchmark stock assessment with final 2012 landings, is available [here](#). For more information, please contact Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 703.842.0741 or [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org).

### **Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board**

Press Release, October 29, 2013

#### **ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Board Initiates Draft Addendum XXIV to Address 2014 Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Recreational Fisheries**

St. Simons Island, GA – The Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board initiated the development of a Draft Addendum XXIV to the Summer Flounder Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Draft Addendum will propose alternate management approaches for the 2014 recreational summer flounder fishery to achieve more equity in recreational harvest opportunities along the coast. It will include options that allow for the averaging of harvest estimates, mandatory regions, and the sharing of unused quota.

Draft Addendum XXIV is initiated to respond to the unintended consequence of using conservation equivalency (e.g., state-specific recreational management measures) to stay within the annually established coastwide recreational harvest limit for summer flounder. Although the shift away from coastwide management to state conservation equivalency addressed the interests of some states, it created difficulties for other states as overages occurred due largely to state shares and limits not reflecting local abundance of summer flounder and its availability to recreational fishermen. State targets were based solely upon the 1998 estimate of harvest from the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey.

The FMP did not provide the flexibility to adjust state harvest targets or the management strategy except through the addendum process. This has resulted in ever increasing size limits, reduced bag limits, and shorter seasons for most of the states while the stock was at a low level and recovering. The impact of these restrictive measures seemed to affect New York the most, where the size limit reached 21 inches by 2009, which also saw a very short season including mid-season closure. In 2012, with a fully recovered stock, New York's minimum size (19.5 inches) was at least one inch higher than any other state, one and a half inches higher than its Long Island Sound bordering state, Connecticut and two inches greater than its ocean / New York Harbor bordering state, New Jersey.

The Draft Addendum will also propose the continuation of ad hoc approaches to regional measures in the black sea bass recreational fishery. Addendum XXIII allowed for a combination of regional and state-by-state measures for the 2013 fishing year. Addendum XXIII expires at the end of 2013. Due to the wide geographic range of this species, the application of a coastwide minimum size, possession limit, and season restrictions may not affect every area involved in the fishery the same way.

States were concerned the coastwide regulations disproportionately impact states within the management unit; therefore, the Board approved Addenda XXI-XXIII which allowed for regional and state-by-state measures in 2011- 2013 for state waters only. The initiation of Draft Addendum XXIV is intended to provide continued management

flexibility to mitigate potential disproportionate impacts on the states that can result from coastwide measures.

Draft Addendum XIV will be presented to the Board for its consideration and approval for public comment at its joint December meeting with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council in Annapolis, Maryland.

For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:krootes-murdy@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

### **Meeting Summary**

The Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board met to receive an update from the Technical Committee (TC) and the Summer Flounder Recreational Working Group; review current recreational landings data for the 2013 fishing year; and to consider action on the management of the recreational black sea bass fishery for the 2014 fishing year. The TC presented an update on recent meetings and an assessment of two modeling projects for use in recreational management specifications. The TC noted concerns in applying either of the models to the management process for the 2014 fishing year. The TC intends to proceed with setting the technical evaluation process for the 2014 fishing year similar to previous years. The Summer Flounder Recreational Working Group provided an update regarding a variety of management tools that are being considered to achieve more equity for recreational harvest opportunities along the coast. The Board was briefed on the latest estimate of the recreational harvest for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass in 2013. Lastly, the Board moved to request the Policy Board write a reply to Kathleen Moser, Asst. Commissioner of the NYSDEC, regarding the State of New York's efforts to address equity in the summer flounder recreational fishery. It also requested the Policy Board send a letter to the Northeast Fisheries Science Center and the MAFMC expressing the Commission's concern regarding the perceived lack of progress in addressing a key source of scientific uncertainty pertaining to the black sea bass stock status – specifically pertaining to the spatial analysis of the stock structure.

For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:krootes-murdy@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

## **ASMFC American Eel Board Postpones Action on Draft Addendum IV**

Press Release

### **Maine Commits to Develop Plan with Industry to Control Glass Eel Harvest**

St. Simons Island, GA - The Commission's American Eel Management Board has postponed action on Draft Addendum IV until the 2014 Spring Meeting so that it can continue to develop options for implementation during the 2015 fishing season. In the interim, Maine will meet with stakeholders in the glass eel fishery and develop a plan to reduce harvest of glass eels by 25-40% from the 2013 harvest for the 2014 fishing season. Landings in 2013 totaled 18,253 pounds and were valued at nearly \$33 million. Draft Addendum IV was initiated in response to 2012 American Eel Benchmark Stock Assessment. The assessment found that American eel populations are depleted coastwide and recommended to reduce mortality across all life stages. Draft Addendum IV proposes management changes to the commercial glass, yellow, and silver eel fisheries. The Board approved Addendum III in August 2013 which implemented a 9 inch minimum size for the commercial and recreational yellow eel fishery, gear restrictions for the commercial yellow eel fishery, restrictions to the commercial silver eel fishery, and a decrease to the recreational creel limit. Combined both addenda intend to reduce fishing mortality and improve the health of the resource.

For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Senior FMP Coordinator, at [ktaylor@asmfc.org](mailto:ktaylor@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

### **Meeting Summary**

The American Eel Management Board met to consider approval of Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment, receive an update on the petition to list American Eel under the Endangered Species Act 17 (ESA), to approve the FMP Review for 2013 and *de minimis* requests, and considered a request for glass eel harvest for aquaculture purposes from the state of North Carolina.

The Board was briefed on the timeline of the potential ESA listing of American eel. American eel were petitioned to be listed in 2010. A status review, as required under the Endangered Species Act, is expected to be completed by USFWS and a proposed rule will be published by September 2015. The Board accepted the 2013 Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Review of the 2012 fishing year and granted *de minimis* requests for commercial yellow eel fisheries in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Georgia. The Board considered a request from the State of North Carolina to allow for the harvest of up to 750 pounds of glass eels under a Scientific Collection Permit for aquaculture purposes. The request was not approved by the Board.

## **This is Your Brain on Toxins**

By Nicholas D. Kristof,  
New York Times Op-Ed, October 16, 2013

“Lead helps to guard your health.”

That was the marketing line that the former National Lead Company used decades ago to sell lead-based household paints. Yet we now know that lead was poisoning millions of children and permanently damaging their brains. Tens of thousands of children died, and countless millions were left mentally impaired.

One boy, Sam, born in Milwaukee in 1990, “thrived as a baby,” according to his medical record. But then, as a toddler, he began to chew on lead paint or suck on fingers with lead dust, and his blood showed soaring lead levels.

Sam's family moved homes, but it was no use. At age 3, he was hospitalized for five days because of lead poisoning, and in kindergarten his teachers noticed that he had speech problems. He struggled through school, and doctors concluded that he had “permanent and irreversible” deficiencies in brain function.

Sam's story appears in “Lead Wars,” a book by Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner published this year that chronicles the monstrous irresponsibility of companies in the lead industry over the course of the 20th century. Eventually, over industry protests, came regulation and the removal of lead from gasoline. As a result, lead levels of American children have declined 90 percent in the last few decades, and scholars have estimated that, as

a result, children's I.Q.'s on average have risen at least two points and perhaps more than four.

So what are the lessons from the human catastrophe of lead poisoning over so many decades? To me, today's version of the lead industry is the chemical industry — companies like Exxon Mobil, DuPont, BASF and Dow Chemical — over the years churning out endocrine-disruptor chemicals that mimic the body's hormones. Endocrine disruptors are found in everything from plastics to pesticides, toys to cosmetics, and there are growing concerns about their safety.

The Endocrine Society, the Pediatric Endocrine Society, the European Society of Pediatric Endocrinology and the President's Cancer Panel have all warned about endocrine disruptors — also referred to as E.D.C.'s, for endocrine disrupting chemicals. The World Health Organization and United Nations this year concluded: "Exposure to E.D.C.'s during fetal development and puberty plays a role in the increased incidences of reproductive diseases, endocrine-related cancers, behavioral and learning problems, including A.D.H.D., infections, asthma, and perhaps obesity and diabetes in humans."

Alarm about endocrine disruptors once was a fringe scientific concern but increasingly has moved mainstream. There is still uncertainty and debate about the risk posed by individual chemicals, but there is growing concern about the risk of endocrine disruptors in general — particularly to fetuses and children. There is less concern about adults.

Scientists are also debating whether the old toxicological models are appropriate for chemicals that mimic hormones and thus may trigger bodily changes, especially in fetuses and children.

These are the kinds of threats that we in journalism are not very good at covering. We did a wretched job covering risks from lead and tobacco in the early years; instead of watchdogs, we were lap dogs.

One common thread is industry's greed, duplicity and powerful lobbying in Washington and around the country. The chemical industry spent \$55 million lobbying last year, twice the figure a decade earlier, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

The Chicago Tribune last year documented how the chemical industry created a fake movement for flame retardants in furniture, supposedly to prevent fires; in fact, flame retardants don't reduce

fires but do contain endocrine disruptors that may be harmful to our children.

This summer 18 scientists wrote a scathing letter railing against European Union regulations of endocrine disruptors. That underscored the genuine scientific uncertainty about risks — until Environmental Health News showed that 17 of the 18 have conflicts of interest, such as receiving money from the chemical industry. Meanwhile, more than 140 other scientists followed up with their own open letters denouncing the original 18 and warning that endocrine disruptors do indeed constitute a risk.

Andrea C. Gore, the editor of *Endocrinology*, published an editorial asserting that corporate interests are abusing science today with endocrine disruptors the way they once did with lead: for the "production of uncertainty."

She added that the evidence is "undeniable: that endocrine-disrupting chemicals pose a threat to human health."

When scientists feud, it's hard for the rest of us to know what to do. But I'm struck that many experts in endocrinology, toxicology or pediatrics aren't waiting for regulatory changes. They don't heat food in plastic containers, they reduce their use of plastic water bottles, and they try to give their kids organic food to reduce exposure to pesticides.

So a question for big chemical companies: Are you really going to follow the model of tobacco and lead and fight regulation every step of the way, once more risking our children's futures?

## Forage Fish

*By Capt. Paul Eidman*

As a follow-up to last month's article entitled "River Herring and Shad take another blow" regarding October's decisive MAMFC meeting, I have decided, on behalf of myself and my organization, to file suit. Yes, this is that serious.

From my perspective, all the millions of dollars and man hours spent on stream habitat work, dam removal, fish passage construction and individual sacrifice that we make on shore is pointless if giant netloads of herring and shad continue to be unaccounted for and dumped dead overboard as bycatch at sea.

Anglers from Maine to Florida need to learn more about this issue because these fish are the



backbone to our ecosystem and sport. Please stay connected and get involved, because without forage fish like alewife and blueback herring, immature American shad, hickory shad, etc. our gamefish starve.

## **Fishermen Sue National Fisheries Service to Protect River Herring and Shad from Industrial Trawlers**

EarthJustice Press Release, 11/8/2013

Contact:

Roger Fleming, Earthjustice, (978) 846-3612

Capt. Paul Eidman, Anglers Conservation Network, (732) 922-4077

Louis DeRicco, Gateway Striper Club, (516) 578-7428

### **Recent decision to kill new plan violated federal law**

Washington, DC – Recreational fishing groups have filed a lawsuit in the D.C. District Court challenging a decision by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to terminate a plan to protect river herring and shad in the Atlantic Ocean.

Last June, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council initiated an amendment (Amendment 15) to a fisheries management plan known as the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan to recover depleted river herring (Alewife and Blueback) and shad (American and Hickory) populations. Serious concerns had been raised by scientists, managers, fishermen, conservation groups, and other members of the public because hundreds of thousands of river herring and shad are caught and killed in the mackerel, squid and butterfish fishery without any management plan or meaningful regulatory protections. Coast wide, populations of these fish have dwindled to historically low levels. Unfortunately, in October 2013, the Council and NMFS voted to terminate development of Amendment 15 and instead voted to establish a multi-year study group designed to operate outside of the legal mandates for U.S. fisheries management.

Earthjustice represents New Jersey-based Anglers Conservation Network and Captain Paul Eidman, New York's Gateway Striper Club, and

Massachusetts Herring Warden Philip Lofgren in this matter.

Industrial fishing boats drag nets as wide as a football field often catching tens-of-thousands of pounds of non-targeted species in a single net tow. As the industrial fishing fleet grew during the 1990s, fisheries scientists documented a dramatic decline in forage fish like river herring and shad.

“Without healthy forage fish populations, the entire ocean ecosystem unravels,” said Captain Paul Eidman of the Anglers Conservation Network.

“The Magnuson-Stevens Act is crystal clear that all fish stocks requiring conservation must be included in a fishery management plan that will bring them to recovery,” said Roger Fleming, Attorney at Earthjustice. “Sadly, fisheries managers entrusted with assuring the health of America’s fish for all types of fishermen and the public, decided to punt on first down.”

“In the past 15 years, striped bass anglers along the Atlantic coast have witnessed the depletion firsthand,” said Captain Eidman. “Just like our fathers and grandfathers did each spring, surf fishermen would head to a local spillway, dip a net down into thousands of river herring, grab a few for bait, run to the beach and live line them for big bass. Now you are lucky to see even a single herring in the same spots. It’s no accident that this decline coincides with the introduction of super-efficient pair trawl ships off our coastlines. The practice of dumping incidental catch overboard at sea is insane and has to be monitored and stopped.”

“We joined this lawsuit in an effort to support the conservation of forage fish, which are critical to the health of a striped bass fishery that we are very passionate about,” said Louis DeRicco from the Gateway Striper Club. “If the largely unregulated harvest of river herring and shad is allowed to continue it threatens the future of the Atlantic Coast striped bass population that is already in decline.”

River herring and shad are vitally important forage fish in the ocean ecosystem. As “anadromous” species that spawn in rivers but spend the majority of their life cycle at sea, they play a critical role in the biology of rivers, estuaries and ocean waters along the Atlantic seaboard as prey, or “forage”, for many species of fish, birds, and marine mammals. These species include striped bass, weakfish, bluefish, bluefin tuna, marlin, sharks, ospreys, loons, herons, bald eagles, egrets, kingfishers, harbor seals, porpoises, whales, and

river otters. River herring and shad are particularly critical to striped bass because in the spring when river herring and shad swim up the coast and enter into freshwater rivers, striped bass follow feeding on them en route to their own spawning grounds.

“Public comment favoring this amendment was 37,000 in favor to one against,” said Fleming. “Regional Administrator John Bullard, Council Member Lee Anderson of Delaware, and Jeff Kaelin of New Jersey’s Lund’s fisheries, who led the charge to kill this amendment, should be held accountable for their actions. Political pressure brought by the industrial trawl industry should not be allowed to trump the recovery of one of the keystone species upon which so much of the entire East Coast fishing industry and related business depends.”

Read the complaint filed today [here](#).

## **Double Trouble for Fluke**

*By Paul Haertel*

Despite the fact that participation in our recreational fluke fishery was significantly off this year, the MRIP preliminary wave data shows that we have over fished our quota. More specifically, this survey has shown that by the end of August, New Jersey had harvested 1,438,961 fluke, 460,963 more than our quota of 977,998 fish. That means that we have over fished our quota by approximately 47% and that does not even account for the fluke that were harvested in September. Amazingly we did this with only about 60% of the fishermen that we had last year. As of 10/4/13 there were only 199,258 anglers registered in the New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registry Program as compared to 340,398 last year, a 42 % decrease. Further, the for-hire registrants were down to 840 from 1267 last year, a 34% decrease. It would appear that only the expert fishermen must have fished this year and they were able to catch all these fish despite the very cold ocean waters that plagued most of our coast for much of June and July. Somehow they still managed to get out and fish despite all the marinas and boats that were destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.

Additionally, the overall recreational harvest quota has been reduced from 7.63 to 7.01 million pounds which equates to approximately an 8% cut. At their October meeting the ASMFC did vote in favor of looking into sharing the unused quota from

states that are anticipated to under fish their quotas with those that exceeded their quotas. This is similar to what happened this year when we eventually were granted an 8 day extension to our season. However, even if something along similar lines is approved for 2014, it appears that NJ will be forced into having a shorter season, a higher size limit and perhaps a lower bag limit as well if the MRIP numbers are allowed to stand. They are preliminary meaning that they could be changed but I would not bet on that occurring.

The only thing that I can think of that might help is to participate in the New Jersey Recreational Saltwater Angler Survey by going to [this link](#). It is important for all those who kept fishing logs to enter their info into this survey and most important to include the bad days where few or no fluke were caught. The ASMFC might allow NJ to develop regulations using this information rather than the MRIP survey.

As if that news was not bad enough, New York's Senator Charles Schumer has proposed a bill called the "Fluke Fairness Act." This bill would force the ASMFC and MAFMC to use a regional approach in fluke management. The bill would create three regions and New Jersey would be included in the region that would extend from Delaware to Connecticut. While we may sympathize with our fishermen friends in New York who do have some tough fluke regulations, the end result would be that New York would end up with more fluke at New Jersey's expense.

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

*By Paul Turi, Co-chairman*

On Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, we held our annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year dinner at the Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant, NJ. Robert Beale, Executive Director of the ASMFC, was our keynote speaker. Mr. Beale gave an excellent speech explaining the workings of the ASMFC and his job as Executive Director.

This year's honoree was Sergio Radossi. Sergio was nominated by and is a 31 year member of the Hudson River Fishermen's Association (HRFA). Sergio has held numerous Executive Board positions during his tenure with the HRFA which include

being President, Trustee, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Under his leadership the HRFA went from 30 members to over 600.

Whether his efforts were as an Executive Board Member, a committee leader, a volunteer, or just in an advisory capacity, Sergio was committed to "Fighting for the Hudson" and all it stood for. His dedicated stewardship included advocating public access efforts to insure public access rights for all to the Hudson River Walkway. He worked in cooperation with the NJ DEP on the Hudson River Walkway and Caven Point/Port Liberty. This led to a close working relationship with the NJ DEP on additional Hudson River Access Projects. He helped facilitate the hiring of a dedicated NJ DEP access representative for New Jersey's Hudson River Waterfront. He represented the HRFA in voicing concerns and opposition to the Hudson River Landfill West Way Project. He represented the HRFA in efforts to provide public input to insure fishing access at Liberty State Park in Jersey City. He worked to promote shoreline public access through the JCAA. He led the HRFA efforts to legislate game fish status for Striped Bass. He championed support for the American Littoral Society tag and release program which HRFA still participates in. He also supported efforts to establish the Hackensack River Keeper organization.

His HRFA accolades include being a "Fisherman of the Year" and the first recipient of "The Pete Barrett Achievement Award." This award is in the name of the organization's founder and is HRFA's most prestigious award for efforts to protect and conserve the resources of the Hudson River, the recognition of devoted and outstanding service to the entire membership. Other activities include the "Pete Barrett Award" Committee Chairman, "Hooked on the Hudson" Chairman/committee member/advisor for more than 14 years since Hooked on the Hudson's inception in 1985.

Sergio is also a JCAA representative reporting on fish regulatory status and other issues. He is the HRFA representative to the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen Clubs, the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance since 2008. He helped coordinate the "Pots off the Reefs" postcard distribution and mailings, attended the Cape May rallies and first Sportsman Rally at New Egypt Raceway for Chris Christie, and covers NJOA booths at the Raritan Center's Garden State Outdoors

Sportsmen Show and the Somerset Saltwater Fishing Expo.

In 2011 Sergio was appointed by Governor Christie to the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council. He diligently serves on the following NJMFC committees: Chairman Fish/Lobster Pot Committee, Chairman Landing Licenses/Limited Entry Committee, Chairman Striped Bass Committee, Chairman Tautog Committee, Winter Flounder Committee, Summer Flounder Committee, Scup & Black Sea Bass Committee, Sturgeon Committee, Bluefish Committee, Crab Committee, Enforcement Committee and Executive Committee.

The JCAA Youth Education Award this year went to George Foreman. George was nominated by the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association. George was selected to receive the Youth Education Award by the JCAA Youth Education Committee for George's work over the years with children. 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.

Also receiving a surprise award was Tom Fote. Unbeknownst to Tom, at our last General Membership Meeting, in which Tom was not present, a motion was made and approved unanimously by our member clubs present to give Tom a Lifetime of Dedication and Service award. Paul Haertel presented the award and here is what he said:

“At this time I would like to point out that in the past we have honored many great individuals as sportsperson of the year. As some of you may know, JCAA board members are not eligible to receive this award. However, there is one person who for many years has been the face and voice of the JCAA. The name of this person is Tom Fote and we would like to take a couple of minutes to show our appreciation for all that he has done.”

“We could make a long description of Tom’s contributions of protecting our fisheries, but will just mention a few of those accomplishments. Tom led successful fights to stop ocean dumping of industrial and municipal wastes in the ocean, secure beach access for anglers and to have striped bass declared a no-sale or gamefish in New Jersey. He has also been involved in a very long list of environmental issues that affect the health of our fisheries.”

“Tom has and is still wearing many official hats that include but are not limited to: NJ Commissioner on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, Legislative Chairman for the Jersey Coast Anglers Association and New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen’s Club, longest serving member on the Policy Board of the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program, board member of the New Jersey Environmental Federation, member of the Government Affairs Committee of the American Sportfishing Association and he also serves in various capacities in other environmental and trade organizations. Because of his extensive experience with fishing-related issues, he is regularly called upon for advice by our legislators and other fishing organizations on how they should handle fishing and environmental concerns.”

“Tom also deserves special recognition for the many hours he has spent over his 30 years answering numerous telephone calls he receives every day about some fishing issue, responding and sending emails daily, spending many hours away from home in Washington or some other city to

attend an important conference, sitting hours in Trenton waiting for an agenda to be heard that sometimes get canceled, and sitting at an airport for hours waiting for a flight and putting up with all the hassles of airport travel involving security. He has sacrificed many fishing days doing all of this so that others could better enjoy the sport we all love. He has also sacrificed much of his family life to do this for us. He could not have done this without the support and assistance of his lovely wife Linda, so we would like to thank her too.”

“We would like to thank Tom Fote for volunteering his time and energies to protect the rights of all anglers who fish in New Jersey’s waters. We are proud to present Tom with this special plaque which is inscribed "In Appreciation for a Lifetime of Dedication and Service."”

“Congratulations Tom!”

I’d like to thank Pat Donnelly again for another great job this year as our Master of Ceremonies. He always does a terrific job. I’d also like to thank those JCAA members who helped me make the dinner a success. Many thanks to Paul Haertel, Mark Taylor, Don & Al Marantz, John Toth, Paul Eidman, Dan Miller, Tom Fote, Tom Siciliano, Frank Richetti, Joe Puntasecca, Greg Kucharewski.

I’d also like to thank our many sponsors for the donations they made to make the dinner a success:

Adrienne McCauley  
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Run Off Lures  
Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County  
Shimano  
South Harbor Marine  
Sportsmen Center  
Surf City Bait & Tackle  
The Bait Shop  
The Brunch Spot  
Tom & Rosalie Siciliano

I hope I haven't missed anyone. Donations don't always come to me the way I would like them to come to me. People hand me things at meetings or drop things off at the office and don't tell me or bring them to the dinner and hand them to someone else. If I have missed anyone I apologize in advance. Thank you one and all for all your help. Without the support of our many sponsors the dinner would not be a success.

**Salt Water Sportsman  
National Seminar Series Returns  
to the Jersey Shore on 1/25/2014!**

For Immediate Release, Contact 1-800-448-7360

Tickets for the January 25, Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series, to be held at the Performing Arts Theater inside Long Branch Middle School (350 Indiana Avenue, Long Branch), have officially gone on sale.

The 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. presentation will be hosted by **George Poveromo** – Host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on the NBC Sports Network, and Editor-At-Large for Salt Water Sportsman, and **Nick Honachefsky** – Noted fishing writer and authority on New Jersey's coastal fisheries.

Joining **Poveromo** and **Honachefsky** at the Jersey Shore will be **Dave Schunke** – Innovative trophy striped bass fishing authority who also excels at catching sharks and tunas; **Dr. Mitchell Roffer** – Noted authority on locating productive water surface temperature breaks and ocean-circulation features that hold fish; **Harry Vernon III** – Distinguished southern offshore fishing pro who specializes in live-baiting, trolling and day-dropping for swordfish; **Captain Lou Grazioso** - Veteran expert at catching trophy striped bass and fluke, bluefin and yellowfin tunas; **Captain Steve Purul** – Noted striped bass, fluke, and wreck fishing authority who runs Reel Fantasea Fishing Charters from Barnegat; **Captain Tom Daffin** – Veteran South Jersey specialist who excels at catching trophy striped bass, fluke, blackfish and sea bass, as well as bluefin and yellowfin tuna; **Captain Austin Perilli** – Noted trophy fluke fishing authority and innovative light tackle striped bass angler; **Captain Bryan DiLeo** – Renowned back bay and ICW fishing authority; and **Captain David Wicker** – Noted authority on using modern electronics to locate and catch more fish.

Courses for the January 25 presentation will focus on Trophy stripers on ultra-light tackle; Live-lining for trophy stripers; Top trolling tactics for stripers; Secrets of fishing Raritan, Sandy Hook, Silver and Barnegat Bays; Flutter-jigging for stripers and bluefish; Sure-fire weakfish tactics; Chunking for bluefish; Bluefish on surface lures; Inshore wire-line techniques; Jetty tactics; How to catch more and bigger fluke; Targeting trophy fluke; Cutting-edge fluke tactics; Southern flounder tactics that will take more and bigger Jersey fluke; Top tactics for big blackfish; Catching blackfish by the score; Variety fishing in and around inlets; How to locate and fish productive bottom (blackfish, sea bass, spot and fluke); Back-bay stripers; Can't-miss tuna-trolling patterns; Cutting-edge tuna chunking tactics; Live-baiting for tunas; Advanced methods for bluefin and yellowfin tuna; Zeroing in on big eye tuna; Flutter-jigging for tuna; How to choose, rig and fish the best lures and natural baits for tuna; How to catch wahoo off New Jersey; Subsurface offshore trolling

tactics; Cutting edge spreader bar and dredge tactics; Secrets for catching more inshore tuna; Reading water temperature charts; Targeting trophy makos; Basic and advanced sharking techniques; Offshore kite fishing for sharks and tuna; Daytime swordfishing off New Jersey.

A ticket to the Seminar Series costs \$ 55.00, and includes a course textbook, one year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman, one Roffers Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, one bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, one bottle of Corrosion Block, one spool of Sufix fishing line, one bottle of Star Tron Fuel Treatment, \$20 off on any purchase of \$150 or more from Capt. Harry's Fishing Supply, and chances to win thousands of dollars' worth of door prizes.

At the conclusion of the Jersey Shore seminar, there will be a drawing for a chance to win an incredible Bahamas bonefishing excursion to the Bimini Sands Resort and Marina. The drawing will consist of the names of the attendees on hand that day, and one lucky person will win the trip for two!

In addition, the names of all attendees from the 2014 National Seminar Series Tour will be entered into the drawing for the Super Grand Prize - a brand new Mako ProSkiff 17! The drawing for the boat will take place one week after the completion of the final seminar on the tour, and one lucky winner will take home the boat. A New Jersey angler, incidentally, won the boat after the completion of the 2013 Tour!

There will also be drawings from pre-registered anglers, for VIP All-Access Pass upgrades; The winners will be permitted back stage at any time, to join the faculty for lunch in the Green Room.

For more information, click [here](#), or call 1-800-448-7360.

## Membership Report

*By John Toth*

We all want to congratulate the **Manasquan River Marlin and Tuna Club** for joining the JCAA! **Welcome Aboard!**

We are approaching the end of the year and some member clubs still have not paid their annual dues. 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 let me know. I want to thank the **Pennsauken Surf Fishing Club** and the **Lake Ridge Fishing Club** for their following up on my request for 2013 dues payment.

My records indicate that the following clubs need to pay their 2013 dues:

- New Jersey Devils Fishing Club
- Seaside Heights Fishing Club
- Sunrise Rod & Gun Club
- Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat Association
- Mercer County Anglers Association
- Bradley Beach Surf Casters
- Square Circle Fishing Club

Invoices for payment of 2013 club dues were mailed and there is a possibility that these invoices were either misplaced or forgotten. On the other hand, we have had a change in Office Managers and our records may not be in proper order. In any event, 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 November 26th 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!

**SIGN UP FOR  
JCAA ALERTS  
AT  
WWW.JCAA.ORG**

## 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*

### October 23, 2013 Meeting

Assemblymen Ronald Dancer & Robert Clifton from District 12 were present to learn about issues affecting sportsmen and women. Issues discussed:

1. Barbara Reichman from the National Animal Interest Alliance took Assemblyman Dancer to task about a bill he supported related to the slaughter of horses and that he seems to be supporting the animal rights people. Assemblyman Dancer responded that his family has deep ties to the horse racing industry and that all his life has been devoted to protecting these animals. He also indicated that he himself has been harassed by the animal rights group and is no supporter of them!
2. Frank Virgilio (NJ Sportmen's Federation) asked if bills can be better introduced in a comprehensive manner, like a bunch of bills

dealing with a topic like animal cruelty. Assemblyman Robert Clifton answered that this seems like a good idea, but if one bill lumped together with the others and if it draws controversy, then the other bills get tangled with it. Better to do one bill at a time, especially the financing part of it. This is a slower process, but has more results.

3. Assemblyman Dancer said that we have to work for a constitutional amendment guaranteeing anglers and hunters their rights to hunt and fish. More and more these are being eroded, especially from legislators coming from urban areas that do not care for or understand our issues. We need to get it done in several years before it is too late. Big money is coming in to New Jersey from outside our state (Mayor Bloomberg) to defeat our legislators who support hunting issues like Donna Simon.
4. Both Assemblymen heard that we need to have more recreational anglers on the NJ Marine Council. They also indicated that they enjoyed coming to the NJOA meeting since it helps them to learn the issues that are most important to us.
5. Paula Golie gave a report on NJOA's efforts to enjoy hunting as part of its Wounded Warrior program at Hudson Farms. These soldiers really have a fun time by getting back to nature.
6. NJOA members were requested to join a "Governor Christie Sportsmen Rally" to thank the Governor for supporting the issues important to hunters and anglers. The rally, held by the NJOA, is scheduled to place on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 p.m. at Camp Jefferson Ampitheatre, at Lake Hopatcong.

**Post Script:** JCAA does not endorse candidates. But a number of JCAA Board members chose to attend the rally with members of the Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County and the Hudson River Fishermen's Association. The rally day turned out to be very chilly and windy. However, Governor Christie was very happy with the warm reception he received from the hunting and fishing communities. He thanked us a number of times for our support for him. It was an exciting rally and one Governor Christie fully enjoyed. He told us he helped stop proposed gun laws that made no sense and that he

will continue to support us in our efforts to enjoy hunting and fishing in New Jersey.

## **Youth Education Report**

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### **JCAA ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD**

It takes the support of many volunteers to bring successes to the fishing community but sometimes individuals go above and beyond to make the future of fishing better for our youngsters. This year Mr. George Foreman was selected by the JCAA Youth Education Committee to receive the 2013 JCAA Youth Education Award. Mr. Foreman has been a member of the Association of Surf Angling Clubs and N.J.B.B.A. for many years.

Since 1986, Mr. Foreman promoted youth fishing and environmental programs. He is a certified instructor for Hooked on Fishing Not On Drugs and was appointed Youth Development Chairman for the Association of Surf Angling Clubs in 1999. George takes great pride in connecting children and families to our natural resources and creating an opportunity for families to enjoy fishing well into the future.

George and the members of the Association of Surf Angling Clubs have given countless volunteer hours so children will have opportunities to enjoy fishing and teach others about conservation. For all of his tireless efforts in bringing happiness to children and their families, we were proud to honor Mr. George Foreman as this year's recipient of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Award. The awards ceremony was held at Crystal Point Yacht Club, RT. 70 & River Rd, Point Pleasant, NJ.

### **LOANER FISH CASTING PLUGS**

We received our order of fish casting weights from Pure Fishing. If your club would like to teach outdoor casting or indoor pitch casting, please let us know and we will supply your club with fish casting weights. We also have Back Yard Bass and hula-hoop targets from the JCAA Youth Education Lending Library.

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

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee is asking JCAA

member clubs/organizations for a listing of scheduled youth and family events that are going to be held by your club or organization during 2014. The purpose of this request is to alert other fishing clubs and organizations that would like to participate in your youth and family event. The JCAA Newspaper is a way to get the word out about what's happening in your club. Use this opportunity to inform others about events your fishing club/organization is doing to promote fishing. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will support your event with "Hook On Fishing Not On Drugs" materials. Please contact Greg Kucharewski with your listing of youth and family events and don't forget the Sportsmen Shows. Include your booth location, fishing club or organization that will attend. By providing this information, your fishing club or organization can improve membership and increase consumer participation.

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

Youngsters attending Brick High School are interested in forming a high school fishing club. Greg Kucharewski met with their principal to discuss the Future Fisherman Foundation's "Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs" program and offered to help organize their high school fishing club.

Members of the JCAA Youth Education Committee will attend a two-day NJ HOFNOD workshop to support fishing clubs in schools and community-based organizations. The NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife will host the workshop in Central NJ. If you are interested in attending a NJ HOFNOD workshop, 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)

### **HUDSON COUNTY STUDENTS SET SAIL ON HOOKED ON FISHING NOT ON DRUGS TRIP**

*(By Michaelangelo Conte, The Jersey Journal)*

Thirty-four sixth and eighth grade anglers from Hudson County Schools of Technology Explore 2000 Middle School sailed from Atlantic Highland last week as part of the Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs program.

The state funded program is aimed at teaching children about fishing, the marine environment and how to protect our natural resources, said Don Marantz, a longtime fisherman and member of several area fishing organizations.



"It helps explain what conservation is and why it's important to all us and equally important, it helps our youth focus on constructive activities, keeping them off the street and away from drugs," said Marantz, who went along with the Jersey City students on the Oct. 24 fishing trip.

The trip was set up by Liz Jackson of the state Division of Fish and Wild Life, Hudson County Freeholder Jose Munoz, Guttenberg Mayor Gerald Drasheff and Explore 2000 Middle School Coordinator of Field Experiences John Pontecorvo.

While at sea, the children were aided by experienced anglers provided by The Hudson River Fisherman's Association, The Jersey Coast Anglers Association and The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance.

"The group enjoyed a beautiful day on the ocean but regrettably, the fish did not cooperate and not many were caught," said Marantz, adding that more fishing trips will be organized.

If you would like to help with our youth education efforts and offer some of your time to teach children the joy of fishing please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail [vkucharews@aol.com](mailto:vkucharews@aol.com).

### **BERKLEY HIGH SCHOOL FISHING CLUB**

Berkley has a high school fishing club that is really getting youngsters interested in fishing and the outdoors. The program is free and open to all high school students in the US and Canada. To get started you must have a high school fishing coach. Talk to your principal and explain you would like to start a high school fishing club or enhance an existing fishing club. This is really taking off in other states and I know young NJ anglers would have fun winning free BERKLEY products, prizes, \$4000 in fishing gear, and custom items. There is also a BERKLEY challenge and if your school wins the challenge BERKLEY will host an awards presentation at your school. So get started and visit "Fishing's Future" [website](#).

The JCAA Youth Education Committee is looking to work with New Jersey high schools that are interested in starting a high school fishing club. We will improve your club's fishing team skills and provide fishing workshops. Remember, only one coach per school can [register](#). We received the "Fishing's Future" information from Lindsay Fuller, Charter Fishing Association sponsors the Junior Mate Training Program in Beach Haven, NJ. Thanks, Lindsay, for staying in touch. Also congratulations to Roxanne Coleman, Senior Field

Marketing Manager & Youth Programs for Pure Fishing Global, HQ. Roxanne was recently appointed to the Board of Fishing's Future.