

JCAA NEWSPAPER JUNE 2014

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on May 20th, 2014)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, May 27th, 2014

Starting at 7:30 PM

AT JERSEY COAST SHARK ANGLERS

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 12th, 2014

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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

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

IMPORTANT DATES

May 27th JCAA General Meeting

June 12th JCAA Board Meeting

June 24th JCAA General Meeting

August 2nd JCAA Fluke Tournament

August 6th JCAA Awards Presentations

President's Report

By Paul Haertel

So many fish, so little time - that is the problem. Fishing has definitely picked up with some nice bass being caught, several all-out bluefish blitzes along our beaches and a few nice weakfish around as well. Sea bass season will be open by the time this goes to print and fluke season will be opening on 5/23, just in time for Memorial Day weekend. Now if only the weather and my wife cooperate, I should be into some good fishing.

Kidding aside though, this has been the busiest year for JCAA that I can remember. We have been working hard to try to stop seismic blasting, beach replenishment and jetty notching in the Loch Arbor to Elberon area, and sand mining of lumps such as Manasquan Ridge. We are also preparing for next year's battles over the regionalization issue as it pertains to fluke. We are seeking political help in all these areas as well as assistance to ensure that our state will be treated more fairly by the ASMFC in the future. On top of all this the ASMFC is considering making changes to reduce the mortality on striped bass. The exact options are still very much in doubt and everything including public comment is being delayed. It seems to me that there is one group that prefers status quo and another possibly even larger group that wants the mortality decreased substantially. The problem is that just like striper fishermen, our fisheries

managers have many varying opinions and it will be difficult to get a consensus.

I attended the NJMFC meeting on 5/1/14 and was pleased with some of the action the council took. They voted in favor of the special pilot program for Island Beach State Park. The program will allow those fishing from shore there to have a bag limit of 2 fluke at 16" or greater. The program will be closely monitored with intent of gathering data that can be compared to the MRIP data. However, this will not go into effect until some time after the 5/23 opening of the fluke season. The regulation has to be further developed, reviewed and then signed off on by DEP Commissioner Bob Martin before it becomes law. The program may be expanded further next year if it is successful and approved by the ASMFC.

The NJMFC also voted to write letters opposing seismic blasting off of Barnegat Inlet. They also voted to write letters opposing sand being taken from lumps such as Manasquan Ridge to use for beach replenishment.

Lastly, just a couple reminders, there is still time to buy tickets for our High Roller Raffle. We have some really great prizes and the drawing will be held 5/27. Nominations for the Sportsman of the Year and the Youth Education Awards must be in by June this year. Our fluke tournament will be on August 2nd followed by the awards ceremony on August 6th. To spice things up we have added a new optional cash category. Please read all the details elsewhere in the newsletter and sign up! This is one of our major fundraisers and we need your support.

20th Annual Fluke Tournament

By Paul Turi, Tournament Director

Our first mailing for the tournament went out a couple weeks ago. Included in the envelope were tickets for our High Roller Raffle, an Express Entry Form for the tournament, and a hat & t-shirt order form. Entries for the tournament have been coming in, along with hat and t-shirt orders and High Roller Raffle tickets.

I should mention at this time we do not yet have a design ready for the hats and t-shirts. They are being worked on as I write this column. I should have the hats and t-shirts in stock by the middle of June at which time we will begin mailing them out to those of you who have placed orders.

Affidavits for those of you who have already entered the tournament will be going out by the end of the week or early next week.

We are also in the process of updating our website. Right now you can go to our website and print out an entry form for the tournament, order hats and t-shirts and either mail or fax the orders to the JCAA office. I am also working on getting our online Eventbrite order forms for the tournament and hats and t-shirts up on the site. That should be up there in the next several days. Once that is available you will be able to enter the tournament and order hats and t-shirts and pay by credit card right from your computer.

I should mention that in our first mailing there is an error in a couple places on the Express Entry Form. It seems no matter how many eyes we put on these things something always seems to slip by. As you may or may not know at this time, we **will not** be having our awards presentations this year at the Golden Nugget Hotel/Casino in Atlantic City. For whatever reason, the powers that be at the Golden Nugget have decided not to be a sponsor this year and we received that information late in the game and were not able to secure another AC hotel. The Express Entry Form erroneously indicated that we would be at the Golden Nugget. **This year we will be having our Awards Presentations at the Holiday Inn on Rte. 72 in Manahawkin (Stafford Township).** I have received a number of emails and phone calls on this because of the confusion. **To be clear, the Awards Presentations will be at the Holiday Inn in Manahawkin on Wednesday – Yes, Wednesday – August 6th, 2014.** Fishing will be on **Saturday, August 2nd** and the awards will be handed out on **Wednesday, August 6th** at the **Holiday Inn.** We will begin registrations at 5:00 PM and start the awards presentations at 7:00 PM.

Let's talk about what's new this year. The **Grand Prize** this year will be a 14' Starcraft Boat, a 20 HP Yamaha Motor and a Sea Lion Trailer. The package is worth about \$9,000! In addition, this year we are adding an **Optional Cash Category** to the tournament. I have received a number of phone calls on this also. It seems a lot of people don't know what this is. The Optional Cash Category is just that – it is optional. You do not have to enter that part of the tournament. For those of you who do enter the Optional Cash Category part of the tournament, the fee is an additional \$60.00 to enter. You will only be competing against those who enter the Optional

Cash Category for the port that you signed up for. Two-thirds of the money will be paid out to the winner with the largest fish who entered the Optional Cash Category and one-third will go to JCAA. In effect, it is a winner-take-all. You must be entered in the Optional Cash Category to be eligible to win the money. If you weigh in the largest fish for your port and you did not enter the Optional Cash Category, you do not win the cash. The person who entered the Optional Cash Category and had the largest fish will receive two-thirds of the money collected for that port. JCAA will retain one-third of the money.

I would like to give a big shout-out and thank you to **Grumpy's in Seaside Park**. Grumpy's donated 9 Tica rods for the tournament. The rods have a retail value over a hundred dollars. We will be adding a nice reel and line to the rod and that will make for a nice port prize for each of our 9 ports.

We still need some more port prizes. If your company would like to donate anything as door prizes or port prizes, please let me know. We also still have four ports that need sponsors who would be willing to put up the 1st place prize money of \$1,200. Right now we have five port sponsors. **RJ Marine Service in Cape May** is sponsoring the Cape May Port and is putting up the 1st place prize of \$1,200 for that port. **Liberty Landing Marina in Jersey City** is putting up the \$1,200 for that port. **Hoffman's Marina in Brielle** is providing the \$1,200 1st place prize for the Manasquan Port. **South Harbor Marina in Waretown** is providing the \$1,200 1st place prize for the Barnegat Bay Port. **Fisherman's Headquarters in Ship Bottom** – as always – is providing the \$1,200 1st place prize for the Long Beach Island Port.

Our **major sponsors** this year are **West Marine, Costa Sunglasses, Interlux Paints, The Fisherman Magazine, Yamaha Motors, Canyon Reels** and **RJ Marine Service**. These companies are putting up cash and/or merchandise that is worth a minimum of \$3,000!

RJ Marine Service in Cape May not only is donating a 14' Starcraft Boat but they are also putting up the \$1,200 1st place prize for the Cape May Port.

Costa Sunglasses is donating a nice prize for each of the 9 ports as they do every year.

Our friends over at **The Fisherman Magazine** in addition to donating door prizes & port prizes for each of the 9 ports is also donating full

page ads to JCAA to advertise the tournament, amongst other things.

Yamaha Motors is donating a 20HP engine for the Starcraft Boat that RJ Marine Service is donating.

Last year **Canyon Reels** was very generous to JCAA and this year they are coming up big-time. They are donating thousands of dollars in high quality reels for each of the 9 ports. We will have enough reels to make two high end port prizes for each of the 9 ports!

West Marine again this year is donating gift certificates for each of the 9 ports in addition to giving us numerous door prizes. **West Marine** has also been very generous to JCAA over the years.

I would be remiss if I did not mention **Sea Lion Trailers**. Sea Lion, although not a major sponsor, is donating a Sea Lion Trailer for the 14' Starcraft Boat that RJ Marine Service is donating.

Our friends over at the **Holiday Inn** on Rte. 72 in Manahawkin are helping us out in a pinch this year. They are providing a very nice ballroom for us to have our awards ceremony this year at a very reduced price. They are also cutting their room rate for those who desire to stay over that night. And they are also going to give a discount or a free drink to anyone desiring to have dinner. They are also donating some rooms to JCAA at no charge! Management suggests anyone desiring to stay over should make a reservation well in advance.

Remember, Atlantic City is only 40-45 minutes from Manahawkin via the Parkway. Long Beach Island is a stone's throw from the Holiday Inn. If anyone wants to come down to LBI and make a day of it prior to the awards presentations, LBI has some of the nicest beaches along our coast for anyone who just wants to bake in the sun. There are also boat rentals available for crabbing or fishing for the day. There are also many fine bars and restaurants on the island. Bay Village and Fantasy Island with all the shopping and amusements will keep adults and kids busy. There are plenty of things to do on LBI for those who want to make a day of it.

So mark your calendar for fishing the tournament on August 2nd and the Awards Presentations on Wednesday, August 6th. If you have any questions on the tournament or would like to register by phone, call the JCAA office at (732) 506-6565 and I can take your order over the phone via credit card. If no one answers, leave a message and I will call you back.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

States Might Take Over Intercepts for MRIP

I attended an ASMFC workshop on state implementation of the dockside survey of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). There is a proposal for the states to take over the contracting work for the dockside intercepts. This would be a move in the right direction. The Gulf Commission and the Pacific Commission are already doing this. There are already states along the east coast who are the contractors for the intercepts. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission would be the contractor to distribute the funds to the states. The biggest concern I have is that there is no money in the New Jersey budget to pay for this and we continue to have difficulty hiring any employees for NJ Fish and Wildlife. NMFS is talking about providing funding to hire the staff and pay for any additional needs. I am not sure how we circumvent the hiring freeze but ASMFC could hire for New Jersey. This contract needs to be for more than one year since you don't want to start something new and quit after one year. This could be the beginning of getting better intercepts because it would provide consistency, not a new contractor every year. The state would be better equipped to hire and train the personnel and keep track of the data.

Senator Bob Smith's Senate Resolution

I attended a Senate Environment Committee meeting on May 19th where Senator Bob Smith's resolution opposing summer flounder forced regionalization and requesting a removal of voting rights for NMFS and the US Fish and Wildlife Service was passed unanimously. Senator Smith is also working on resolutions on seismic blasting and sand mining. He hopes to have those passed at the next committee meeting. Senator Smith's support and hard work have been invaluable. Call your Senator and ask for co-sponsorship of this resolution. JCAA will be looking for a sponsor in the Assembly to introduce the same resolution.

JCAA sent a letter to Governor Christie on all of these issues. We are waiting for a reply. As a

Commissioner to ASMFC I am looking for a discussion of the summer flounder forced regionalization and removing the voting rights for NMFS and US Fish and Wildlife Service at the August meeting.

Below is the full text of the resolution. It can also be found at [this link](#).

Senate Resolution No. 68 State of New Jersey 216th Legislature

Introduced May 5, 2014

Sponsored by:

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator SAMUEL D. THOMPSON

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to reject mandatory regionalization for 2015 under summer flounder management program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to reject mandatory regionalization for 2015 under the summer flounder management program.

WHEREAS, Summer flounder are among the most sought after commercial and recreational fish along the Atlantic Coast and, in particular, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Summer flounder fisheries are managed cooperatively by the states through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) in state waters; and

WHEREAS, The ASMFC is responsible for developing summer flounder fishery regulations, as part of the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, The plan seeks to ensure the protection and maintenance of the summer flounder resource, primarily through harvest limits, which are divided between commercial and recreational fisheries in each state; and

WHEREAS, Since 2001, the plan has allowed for, and the ASMFC has utilized, a state-by-state allocation formula for recreational fishing, based on estimates of state recreational landings from 1998, to establish individual state harvest limits; and

WHEREAS, Under the plan, each state has flexibility to devise conservation equivalent management measures, including minimum fish size limits, bag limits, and seasons, to reach its target harvest limit; and

WHEREAS, Previously, states were permitted to voluntarily combine their harvest limits with other states to create a region, which could mitigate the potential disproportionate impacts resulting from coast-wide management measures; and

WHEREAS, Nevertheless, there was concern among some states that the regulations set forth under the plan were not providing recreational fishermen in some states along the coast with equitable access to the summer flounder fishery; and

WHEREAS, Consequently, the ASMFC adopted Addendum XXV to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan, which imposed mandatory regionalization on certain states, including New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Under Addendum XXV, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut must combine their summer flounder quotas and adopt regional management measures that meet the recreational harvest limit for the 2014 season; and

WHEREAS, Although Addendum XXV states that regionalization “allows states the flexibility to mitigate potential disproportionate impacts” and “pursue more equitable harvest opportunities,” it does not explain what those impacts are, or how regionalization is the most effective and fair method for improving management; and

WHEREAS, To date, there has been no formal explanation as to why regionalization is the best response; and

WHEREAS, Imposing mandatory regionalization, while perhaps addressing the concerns of some states, has the undue effect of reducing New Jersey’s and other states’ harvest limits, thus hurting fishermen all along the Atlantic Coast; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey anglers are projected to lose approximately 20 percent of their flounder catch in 2014 due to mandatory regionalization; and

WHEREAS, The ASMFC first proposed Addendum XXV at its December 2013 meeting, and approved it on February 4, 2014, leaving interested parties with

little or no time to consider the consequences of this radical departure from previous management measures; and

WHEREAS, A short public comment period was held, along with several public hearings, and the vast majority of parties, including three of New Jersey’s largest recreational fishing organizations, opposed mandatory regionalization; and

WHEREAS, On January 22, 2014, two members of New Jersey’s Congressional delegation published a letter calling on the ASMFC to oppose regionalization until a thorough, inclusive evaluation of the plan could be carried out; and

WHEREAS, Despite this, two federal agencies with voting rights on the ASMFC, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), cast deciding votes in favor of the measure; and

WHEREAS, NMFS and USFWS undertook this action with no explanation, and with little or no evaluation of the adverse economic impacts of the new measures on New Jersey anglers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is respectfully urged to reject mandatory regionalization in 2015 under the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. The commission is also urged to re-examine the voting rights of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and every member of the New Jersey Congressional delegation.

Statement

This resolution respectfully urges the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to reject mandatory regionalization in 2015 under the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan.

Summer flounder fisheries are managed cooperatively by the states through the ASMFC in state waters. The ASMFC is responsible for

developing summer flounder fishery regulations, as part of the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. The plan utilizes a state-by-state allocation formula for recreational fishing, based on estimates of state recreational landings in 1998, to establish individual state harvest limits. Under the plan, each state has flexibility to devise conservation equivalent management measures, including minimum fish size limits and bag limits, to reach its target harvest limit. Previously, states were permitted to voluntarily combine their harvest limits with other states to create a region, which could mitigate the potential disproportionate impacts resulting from coast-wide management.

Nevertheless, there was concern among some states that the regulations set forth under the plan were not providing recreational fishermen in some states along the coast with equitable access to the summer flounder fishery. Consequently, the ASMFC adopted Addendum XXV, which imposed mandatory regionalization on certain states. Under Addendum XXV, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut must combine their summer flounder quotas and adopt regional management measures that meet the recreational harvest limit for the 2014 season. To date, there has been no formal explanation of how this new measure impacts flounder fishermen, or of how it is the most effective and fair method for improving management. In fact, imposing mandatory regionalization has the undue effect of reducing New Jersey's and other states' harvest limits, thus hurting fishermen all along the Atlantic Coast.

The ASMFC adopted Addendum XXV with little public input, and in spite of serious opposition. The ASMFC first proposed Addendum XXV at its December 2013 meeting, and approved it on February 4, 2014, leaving interested parties with little or no time to consider the consequences of the measure. A short public comment period was held, along with several public hearings, and the vast majority of parties, including three of New Jersey's largest recreational fishing organizations, opposed regionalization. Two members of New Jersey's Congressional delegation also opposed the measure. Despite this, and with little or no substantive evaluation, the two federal agencies with voting rights on the ASMFC, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the United States Fish and

Wildlife Service (USFWS), cast deciding votes in favor of the measure.

For this reason, the resolution also urges the ASMFC to re-examine the voting rights of NMFS and USFWS.

MSA Reauthorization

The Magnusson/Stevens Reauthorization is moving forward. We had a workshop at the ASMFC meeting discussing their involvement. American Sportfishing Association, Center for Coastal Conservation, National Marine Manufacturers Association and Coastal Conservation Association wrote a response to the Hastings Bill on the reauthorization. That letter is included below. JCAA is continuing to gather information on the MSA reauthorization and will be working with other organizations to develop our final comments. Even though we do not expect passage this year, it is important that the research begins. Tom Siciliano is the chairman of the JCAA committee dealing with the reauthorization. If you want more information, please email tfote@jcaa.org and I will send you the current position papers that are available from other organizations.

Sand Mining & Seismic Blasting

I was hoping the resolution on sand mining and seismic blasting would have been considered on May 19th. However, the resolutions needed additional work before being introduced. JCAA is involved with a strong coalition working in opposition to both sand mining and seismic blasting. The Federal and State Legislators I have spoken with have fully supported JCAA's position. Below is information about the Clean Ocean Action petition on seismic blasting. Clean Ocean Action is hoping for 25,000 signatures by Memorial Day weekend. With the over 1 million sportsmen we have in New Jersey, this should be easy if we spread the word. A million signatures would be even better. Get your friends, neighbors, family members and fellow anglers to log into the webpage and sign.

Clean Ocean Action Petition on Seismic Blasting

Link: [Stop Seismic Testing](#)

Stop Seismic Testing off the NJ Coast This June, All Marine Life at Risk

Author: Clean Ocean Action

Target: President Barack Obama, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Rutgers University President Robert Barchi

Signatures: As of May 17 there were 13,078. Help us get to 25,000 by May 26, 2014

A research study led by Rutgers University and funded by the National Science Foundation is proposed for this June to blast the ocean with sound pulses that are orders of magnitude louder than a jet engine taking off, every 5 seconds, 24 hours a day, for 30 days. These explosive sounds will have devastating impacts on all marine life, including whales, dolphins, sea turtles, fish and shellfish. They will also harm NJ's tourism and fishing industries.

We the undersigned oppose the NJ Seismic blasting study proposed for this summer, and we call upon our elected leaders including President Obama and Governor Christie to stop this study. Furthermore, we urge President Robert Barchi of Rutgers University to stop this study before its proposed June 3 start date.

For more information on who is conducting the study and the impacts to marine life, visit Clean Ocean's [website](#).

To receive status updates on this issue, sign the petition go to [this link](#).

Commissioner Workshop on the Marine Recreational Information Program

Meeting Summary, May 14, 2014

The Commission and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) held a joint workshop on state implementation of the dockside survey of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP). The workshop provided Commissioners with information on proposed transitioning of the dockside survey from a federal contractor to state agencies. The survey is used in part to develop recreational catch and effort estimates. Transitioning to state conduct of the

dockside survey was originally requested by several states and has been supported by MRIP, with ASMFC/ACCSP to serve the role as central survey coordinator for the Atlantic coast. A series of presentations was given on state implementation transition options, an overview of costs, and the experiences of states who are already conducting the recreational dockside survey (select Atlantic and Gulf states, and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission). The Atlantic states, ASMFC/ACCSP, and NMFS MRIP will continue planning over the next several months toward possible state implementation of the survey starting in January, 2016. For more information, please contact Geoff White, ACCSP Data Team, at gwhite@accsp.org.

ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum Development Continues

For Immediate Release, May 14, 2014
Contact: Tina Berger, 703.842.0740

Alexandria, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board met to review and consider approval of Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass for public comment. The Draft Addendum will propose new fishing mortality reference points, as recommended by the 2013 benchmark stock assessment, and associated management measures to achieve the proposed target fishing mortality rate. While the Board did not approve the document for public comment, it approved substantive changes to the document and will reconsider a revised draft for public comment at the Commission's Summer Meeting in August.

The most significant change was the addition of a three-year timeframe to reduce fishing mortality to its target with options to achieve the reduction in harvest incrementally over the three years. This extended timeframe is intended to lessen the impacts of taking the required harvest reductions in one year. As a result, the Draft Addendum will propose measures to achieve the required reduction all in one year or incrementally over three years.

The Board also received a report from the Technical Committee on the development of Chesapeake Bay specific fishing mortality reference points for inclusion in the Draft Addendum. Due to the nature of the fishery, which targets smaller and

predominantly male fish, the Technical Committee could not develop Bay-specific reference points at this time. It reported the reference points approved for management use in the 2013 benchmark stock assessment represent the best available scientific advice to manage fishing mortality on the entire striped bass population. The proposed coastwide target fishing mortality rate is designed to maintain the spawning stock biomass at its target level over the long-term. The effects of the Bay's harvest of smaller fish on the total coastwide stock are already incorporated into the coastwide population reference points due to different selectivity patterns for the Bay and coastal fishing fleets.

The Atlantic striped bass stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring under the proposed reference points. While the stock has declined, it remains at levels similar to 1995 when the stock was declared recovered. The revised Draft Addendum will continue to focus on the same management measures that are currently used to regulate the coastal and Chesapeake Bay striped bass fisheries – recreational bag and size limits, and adjustments to the commercial quotas. The Board established a subgroup to work closely with the Plan Development Team to help guide the inclusion of the new options. The revised Draft Addendum will be considered by the Board for approval for public comment in August, with public hearings conducted throughout the fall and final addendum approval slated for October at the Commission's Annual Meeting. If approved, the states would then implement management measures in early 2015. For more information, please contact, Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mwaine@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

**Recreational Fishing and Boating
Community's Response to
House Natural Resources MSA
Reauthorization Discussion Draft**



In December, 2013, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings released a "Discussion Draft" of a Magnuson-Stevens Fishery

Conservation and Management Act (MSA) reauthorization bill, which provides the first concrete proposal in this Congress for reauthorizing and amending the nation's federal saltwater fisheries management law. The draft legislation has provisions that the recreational fishing and boating community supports as well as language we oppose in its current form. Additionally, several key issues of high importance to our community are not addressed.

Below is our response to specific provisions of interest to our community relative to the MSA Discussion Draft.

Positives:

Section 4 provides several broad exemptions from the current strict Annual Catch Limit (ACL) requirement in the MSA that has caused considerable concern within the recreational fishing community, particularly in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions. In addition, this same section includes language previously supported by our organizations to exempt ecosystem component species (i.e., non-target or incidentally harvested stocks) from the ACL requirement. This section introduces some new concepts that warrant further examination, but in general it provides much needed relief from the ACL requirement where appropriate.

Section 6 provides greater transparency and public involvement in the meetings of the Regional Fishery Management Councils and their Science and Statistical Committees (SSCs). We believe this is a positive change that will mitigate the potential for misconduct within the Councils and SSCs, and will allow greater involvement for anglers in the regulatory process.

Section 7 requires that, prior to the implementation of a new catch shares program on the Atlantic Coast and Gulf of Mexico, a referendum is held in which the majority of eligible participants in the fishery support it. If this language is interpreted to mean that recreational fishermen are eligible to participate in the referendum, we support allowing anglers to have a say in catch shares programs because they have significant, long-term impacts on management and allocations of mixed-use fisheries.

Section 10 would establish a Cooperative Research Program for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Regional Councils for data poor stocks. The section requires stock surveys and stock assessments

for the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic on a continuous 5-year basis, giving priority to those stocks that are commercially or recreationally important. Provided there is funding for this additional data collection, this would be a positive change to better manage red snapper and other data poor stocks.

Section 13 dictates that the MSA will be the relevant fishery management law within National Marine Sanctuaries or in marine designations under the Antiquities Act. In addition, for fisheries restricted under the Endangered Species Act, the processes and time schedules prescribed in MSA for rebuilding stocks will be implemented. This is a positive change to bring consistent federal fishery management under the MSA.

Concerns:

Section 3 incorporates several provisions from previously introduced bills to create greater flexibility in the rebuilding requirements of MSA. While we agree that the 10-year rebuilding timeline currently required under the MSA is overly strict and that additional flexibility should be incorporated into the law, we believe the language as drafted provides excessive exemptions and does not strike the appropriate balance of ensuring fisheries sustainability while considering impacts on commercial and recreational fishermen.

Section 5 creates a new term of “depleted” with respect to fish stock status, and replaces this term for “overfished” throughout the Act. The exact implications of this action are unclear, but could undermine some of the important conservation components of MSA.

Section 10 attempts to address concerns with red snapper management in the Gulf of Mexico by requiring a real-time reporting and data collection program for the charter and recreational fishing sectors in this fishery. Additionally, states boundaries would be extended for the purpose of red snapper management. We believe these actions would be insufficient at truly addressing the problems associated with red snapper management, and instead we support the language in H.R. 3099, the Gulf of Mexico Red Snapper Conservation Act of 2013. H.R. 3099 establishes a coordinated, state-based red snapper management approach under the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission with minimal oversight from the federal government. The

partnership would be similar to how striped bass are managed on the East Coast through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Several sections include provisions to require the integration of additional economic considerations in fishery management decisions. If these provisions are interpreted to require greater consideration of the importance of recreational fishing to the economy, then these changes could be beneficial. However, the interpretations of similar considerations in past versions of MSA have heavily favored preserving commercial fisheries at the expense of fisheries conservation and the recreational fishing community.

Omissions:

Several key priorities of the recreational fishing community are not addressed. These include:

Establishing a national saltwater recreational fishing policy that identifies goals and strategies to promote recreational fishing at the local, state and national levels. Recreational fishing is currently addressed in an inconsistent fashion by NMFS, due largely to the lack of attention given in MSA. The MSA Discussion Draft does little to address this overarching concern. We believe the social, economic and conservation benefits of recreational fishing to the nation would be greatly improved by the establishment of a comprehensive, national policy to define and coordinate efforts throughout the federal government, focusing primarily on NMFS, to advance saltwater recreational fishing.

Adopting a revised approach to saltwater recreational fisheries management. Currently, catch limits for recreational and commercial fishing are set at or near maximum sustainable yield. While this may be an ideal management strategy for commercial fishing where harvesting the maximum biomass is desired, it is not an effective management tool for saltwater recreational fishing because anglers are more focused on abundance and size structure of the fisheries and ample opportunities to get out on the water. MSA should specifically direct NMFS and the regional councils to consider alternative strategies to commercial management for appropriate recreationally-valuable fisheries.

Allocating marine fisheries for the greatest benefit to the nation. For many mixed-sector fisheries, allocations of harvestable quota for each sector are based on decisions in fisheries management plans written decades ago. MSA should

require NMFS, in conjunction with the National Academy of Sciences, to develop guidelines and criteria that the regional fishery management councils must consider for allocation of all mixed sector fisheries. To help provide necessary information for managers to consider, NMFS must enhance its existing economic program to include bio-economic modeling for mixed sector fisheries. MSA should also require that the regional fishery management councils develop procedures for allocation reviews and adjustments based on those guidelines to occur at regular intervals.

Codifying a process for cooperative management, where fisheries are managed jointly between NMFS and individual states or interstate fisheries management commissions. Cooperative management is currently an option for fisheries management; however, the concept is not fully utilized because of lack of guidance on options and processes to consider for when this is an appropriate management approach. The regional councils should therefore be required to develop a process to determine on a stock-by-stock basis which management entities are most appropriate and capable of successfully managing the stock.

Managing for the forage base. Currently, very few forage fish are considered in fishery management plans, meaning that potential impacts on these critical components of the ecosystem are not considered or controlled. NMFS and the regional councils should be required to identify the most significant forage fish for every fish stock currently being managed and create a finding of whether the identified forage fish should be managed.

The nation's 11 million saltwater recreational anglers are a powerful constituency that wants to actively support and enable passage of a bipartisan MSA reauthorization bill that conserves fishery resources, provides consistency in regulations, and produces the full range of saltwater recreational fishing's economic, social and conservation benefits for the nation. While we cannot support the MSA Discussion Draft in its current form, we look forward to working with the Chairman, other members of the Committee and their colleagues in the Senate to incorporate the recreational fishing and boating community's priorities for MSA reauthorization as this process moves forward.

First Year of Atlantic Menhaden Amendment 2 Implementation Yields Positive Results

Contact: Tina Berger, 703.842.0740

2014 Atlantic Menhaden Quotas		
State	2014 Quota (MT)	2014 Quota (LBS)
ME	66.58	146,787
NH	0.05	112
MA	1417.94	3,126,024
RI	30.29	66,779
CT	29.50	65,034
NY	93.76	206,695
NJ	18924.42	41,721,164
DE	22.33	49,230
MD	2320.98	5,116,874
PRFC	1049.69	2,314,174
VA	144272.84	318,066,790
NC	833.23	1,836,948
SC	-	-
GA	-	-
FL	30.39	66,995
TOTAL	169092.00	372,783,605

Alexandria, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Menhaden Management Board accepted the 2014 Fishery Management Plan Review detailing the results of the 2013 fishing year and implementation of Amendment 2 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Menhaden. Total 2013 harvest excluding bycatch was 166,077 metric tons (mt), 2.8% below the coastwide total allowable catch (TAC) of 170,800 mt established through Amendment 2. In 2013, the reduction fishery harvested 131,034 mt while the bait fishery harvested approximately 35,043 mt. A total of 1,942 metric tons were harvested under the 6,000 pound bycatch allowance with approximately 91% of bycatch coming from pound nets. Bycatch accounted for 1.2% of the total coastwide harvest, but does not count towards the TAC. Amendment 2 does not provide for the rollover of unused quota from one year to the next because the stock is currently experiencing overfishing.

“Through the cooperative efforts of the Atlantic states in implementing Amendment 2, we have taken measurable steps towards ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Atlantic menhaden resource for both its ecosystem services and the fisheries that depend on it,” stated Commission Chair Louis Daniel of North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries.

Amendment 2 implementation has also improved reporting as well as expanded biological monitoring for the bait fishery. The accompanying table details state quotas for the 2014 fishing year after setting aside 1% for episodic events. Any overages in the 2013 quotas because of late reports will come out of the 2014 quotas. Progress on the upcoming benchmark stock assessment continues with an assessment workshop scheduled for June 2 - 5, 2014 at the NOAA Beaufort Lab and the peer review scheduled for December 2014. It is anticipated that the Board will consider the results of the peer review at the Commission’s Winter Meeting in February 2015. For more information, please contact, Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mwaine@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Seismic Testing

Press Release by James Lovgren

Shame on Rutgers University for allowing themselves to be used in the proposed climate change study using seismic testing purportedly to track changes in sea level over the last 60 million years. Rutgers has joined up with Columbia University’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, the National Science Foundation, and the University of Texas to assess deep sea sediments from today to 60 million years ago to better understand climate change and historical changes in sea level. This will purportedly allow us to better prepare for drastic changes that some scientists predict will happen because of global warming. I think Hurricane Sandy has done a pretty good job of that already.

Less than two years ago the fishing industry and environmentalists united in a successful effort to stop a proposed oil industry study that would take place along the whole US Atlantic coast and last for a period of 8 years using seismic testing to locate oil and gas reserves hidden deep beneath the ocean floor. That testing would have allowed the “level A taking” of an estimated 138,612 marine mammals, [that means serious bodily harm or death] including numerous takes of some critically endangered species such as Northern Right Whales. The National Marine Fishery Service was fine with that since they are owned lock, stock, and barrel by their masters in the Commerce department, who are nothing more than pawns for the oil industry who are really running the show behind a curtain of lies and lobbyists. The total hypocrisy of the proposal was exposed by the simple fact that NMFS was enforcing an almost total ban on marine mammal takes on the commercial fishing industry, shutting down whole fisheries if they killed a couple dolphins or turtles, and causing millions of dollars in lost income, while they would allow more marine mammal deaths in a year through seismic testing then would be caused by the fishing industry in decades. This whole scenario was played out in public through a complicated regulatory system set up to allow public input into proposed private uses of our natural resources. Public hearings were held in a number of locations along the eastern seaboard and the overwhelming sentiment was don’t NUKE THE WHALES!

Sportsperson of the year

By Paul Turi

Just a reminder, next month at our June General Membership Meeting we will be voting on our Sportsperson of the Year.

If you wish to nominate someone, please submit a bio of at least 250 words. Don’t worry about typing and spelling, etc. When we have elected someone, if I need more or less words to make the bio fit in our brochure, I will work with the nominating club to accomplish this.

The dinner again this year will be held at the Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant on Sunday, November 9th, 2014. Ticket prices are the same as last year, \$75 per head or \$600 for a table of 10.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the JCAA office or by email at pturi6@comcast.net.

So here we are less than two years later and the oil industry has figured out that if they can disguise their seismic testing for oil as some other scientific research that can benefit humanity then because this is scientific research and not private/industrial, they can do it without the public's knowledge or input. There are no public hearings, and no notice for the public to comment on this proposal. Pretty sneaky, but par for the course for big oil as we have seen from the persistence of Liberty Natural gas in still pursuing the Port Ambrose LNG pipeline despite repeated denials. Funders of this study, [cost about 365,000 dollars] include the US BOEM [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management], The Gas technology Institute, and the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund, and includes researchers from the University of Texas, which lists energy geosciences as one of its primary research themes. As soon as I saw the inclusion of the University of Texas in this proposal I smelled something fishy.

Thanks to a very strong public awareness of our ocean environment in New Jersey we have been able to stave off oil industry attempts to drill off of our coast. South of Cape May though, the door is opening. Big Oil has been gaining in their attempts to allow oil exploration through misinformation, coercion, and legal bribery [Oil Royalties to cash starved state governments]. If we do not want to see a BP type catastrophe on the New Jersey and New York shore then we cannot allow this bogus "scientific" study to take place. The proposal itself states that the information gathered may be useful to the oil and gas industry, which if it confirms large deposits of gas or oil will then put on the full court press to drill. For those of you buying into the "Drill Baby Drill" chorus then recognize that there is an estimated 60 day supply of oil off of the US Atlantic coast. If we stopped exporting the massive amounts of refined petroleum that we are now exporting, and kept them here for the benefit of US citizens then our oil reserves would last for way more than presently predicted, and we wouldn't need to drill on the east coast. The cost of a BP type oil spill on the east coast is not worth the possible economic benefits to a few oil oligarchs.

So why shame on Rutgers University? Because they are allowing themselves to be used by big oil for the sake of a few dollars in grant money. An unfortunate reality of being a university professor is that if you do not bring into the university Grant

money from outside sources then you will find yourself looking for another job. It is not how good a teacher you are, it is how much money can you raise, and that in itself is a shame. The fact that Rutgers has very close ties with New Jersey's commercial and recreational fishing industries and has for years worked closely with them on scientific studies to increase our knowledge of said fisheries is quite disturbing. This study will take place over a month long period in very productive fishing grounds in the middle of the summer. The economic impact of these tests could be huge, yet are dismissed by the proposers as minimal. The environmental damage caused is also minimized because it seems that nobody will fund a study in this country about the effects of seismic testing on marine life. Yet coincidentally marine mammal strandings seem to be a common occurrence when seismic or sonar testing is used. Seismic testing is akin to lighting a stick of dynamite off underwater every 5 to 10 seconds, the sound in the near vicinity reaches 230 decibels and is fatal to anything within a few meters. Fish and marine mammals even miles away are effected to some degree. It is a proven fact that seismic testing can kill marine mammals, and certainly severely injure them, and this study recognizes that 26 different marine mammals will be effected to some degree by this testing, including at least 6 endangered species of mammals. This is not to mention the endangered Ridley's sea turtle, Leatherback, and loggerhead all of which are common in the area, and also endangered. Let's blow them all up, then we won't have to worry about protecting them anymore.

What about the fisheries in the NY Bight that Rutgers has cooperatively worked with industry to our common benefit? This seismic testing starts at the Barnegat Ridge area in waters about 60 feet deep, a historically important fishing ground for centuries, from there it runs southeast in a 20 mile wide strip out off the continental shelf over a 1,000 feet deep. The fisheries that will be impacted by this study include Loligo Squid, inshore, and Illex squid on the offshore end, excellent Scallop grounds occur through 120 to 240 feet depths, along with Quahog clams. Tilefish live in adobe type burrows in the 350 to 700 feet depths, while Lobsters and red crabs are important fisheries on the deep edge of the continental shelf. Summer and Winter Flounder are present on the inshore ends of the study, and many other commercially and recreationally important

demersal fish are present in the summer, including Bluefish, Weakfish, Bonito, Spanish Mackerel, A few different species of Tuna, and many different types of sharks. Many of these fish will swim away as fast as they can from the testing area, they are not stupid, when a bomb goes off everybody runs, fish do the same. When the bombs continue for a period of weeks the fish will totally leave or be killed. Either way, the fishing industry will suffer from no fish to catch, and the scientists will say it wasn't them, prove it. If Rutgers wants to be involved in seismic testing then they should grow a pair and do research that will document what really happens to marine life when seismic testing takes place. Good luck finding funding for that.

A recent study in Spain regarding seismic testing found that it had serious to lethal effects on squid, New Jersey's squid industry is always among the largest on the East Coast. June and July are some of the best months for the offshore Illex fishery, while the loligo fishery is at full speed inshore throughout the summer. Seismic testing off Australia a few years ago was blamed for totally destroying a rich scallop bed, and clams have suffered documented negative effects from seismic testing. Tilefish will not swim away from this testing they will seek sanctuary in their burrows and probably die. The coast off of Jersey will be barren for the summer season and Rutgers will pocket a few hundred thousand in blood money. Is it worth the risk? Will they reimburse the fishing industry for the damage they cause?. Do they think that our industry will ever cooperate in any more joint projects with them again? Rutgers can stop this sham, the only reason they are needed is because the oil industry needs them involved so they can check our offshore area for reserves. No Rutgers, No study.

If you think it's wrong that Rutgers can blow up whales, Dolphins, and destroy fisheries for a few grant dollars in the name of bogus research then write Rutgers President and explain your disgust to him. Also call your Congressman and Senators and tell them to close this scientific loophole that allows big oil to get away with this testing without any public hearings or input. It's sad to think that Rutgers has went from being one of our country's oldest universities to being involved in one of mankind's oldest professions.

Membership Report

By John Toth

Invoices for 2014 club membership dues have been sent out. Please make every effort to send in your club dues in a timely manner. Also, please take the time to completely fill out the Dues and Sponsorship form and the Club Survey form that we need to update our mailing list. Club dues are coming in and that makes my job a lot easier!

Thank you for sending in your 2014 dues - Hudson River Fishermen's Association, NJ Beach Buggy Association and the Spring Lake Live Liners. A special **Welcome Back** to the **Spring Lake Live Liners** to the JCAA since this club was instrumental in starting up the JCAA during its early beginnings!

Also, any clubs, companies or individuals who have ads in our JCAA newsletter, please send in your payments to our address: JCAA, 1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753.

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

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

NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

By John Toth

On behalf of the JCAA, I attended the April 28th meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA), and the following agenda items were discussed:

Beach Replenishment and the notching of the jetties from Elberon to Loch Arbor dominated most of this meeting's agenda. JCAA President Paul Haertel at the NJOA's March meeting wanted the NJOA to oppose beach replenishment and the notching of the jetties, but the NJOA felt that it did not have enough information about these issues so that it could effectively explain them to our legislators. It is one thing to say that you oppose something, but you have to have a good understanding of it or otherwise your credibility with legislators can be jeopardized. Accordingly, the

NJOA invited Tom Dillingham, Executive Director of the American Littoral Society, to this April meeting since he has also been involved in these issues, and he also has an extensive background of the environmental/ecosystem impacts resulting from them. Both Tim and Paul Haertel have had discussions with the Army Corps of Engineers over the replenishment and notching issues. Some of the key comments on these issues follow:

- **Sand Mining** - taking sand from various locations by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) for beach replenishment and not checking the possible environmental damage it may be causing is an issue of concern (Tim Dillingham)
- **Notching** is not a proven method to better distribute sand on the beaches - (Tim Dillingham)
- **Notching** will create dangerous riptides and endanger lives - (Mary McElroy - Jersey Coast Shark Anglers)
- **Notching** not some permanent solution - when the storms come in - the sand goes out (Paul Harris - NJBBA)
- **Dumping sand** by the beaches disrupts and destroys marine life like crabs, sand fleas, and good fishing areas (Paul Haertel)
- **Beach Replenishment** is a "colossal waste of money" since dumping sand on the beaches just gets washed away. A lobbyist in Washington gets the contracts to do it so much he is called "the sand man" (Paul Harris)
- **Public money** is spent to replenish sand on the beaches, but anglers do not have easy access to the beaches and face restrictions like little or no parking (Paul Harris)
- **Vote on this issue** - Paul Haertel made the motion (and seconded by Arnie Ulrich from the Hudson River Association) that the NJOA should oppose the Army Corps of Engineers plans for beach replenishment and the notching of the jetties from Elberon to Loch Harbor. Motion was passed unanimously.

Seismic Blasting Issue - All members of NJOA against it since it will disrupt marine life.

NJ Federation of Sportmens Club will hold their annual convention at the Tropicana during June 6th - 8th. Many events planned and discount rates available for attendees.

Pequest Hatchery - More trout killed (44,000) due to a fungus-type disease. These fish were killed so that they would not be stocked in streams and possibly transmit this disease to healthy fish stocks already there.

ASMFC American Eel Board Approves Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment

*By Capt. Paul Eidman,
Forage Fish Committee Chairman*

*May 14, 2014 -- The following was released by the
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission:*

Alexandria, Va. -- The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's American Eel Management Board approved Draft Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Eel for public comment. Draft Addendum IV proposes a suite of options to address the commercial glass, yellow, and silver eel fisheries along the Atlantic coast. Management options under consideration include glass and yellow eel quotas, a catch cap for the yellow eel fishery, a moratorium on the glass eel fishery, and a seasonal closure and license cap for the silver eel fishery in the Delaware River (NY). The Draft Addendum also includes glass eel harvest allowances for aquaculture purposes and a conservation-based allocation program in which the states may earn a glass eel quota via stock enhancement programs that increase glass eel passage. The Draft Addendum intends to build upon the management measures established under Addendum III in order to reduce overall mortality and increase conservation of American eel stocks.

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

Commercial regulations vary by state. Glass eel fisheries currently occur in Maine and South Carolina. Significant yellow eel fisheries occur in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, the Potomac River, Virginia, and North Carolina. Although commercial fishery landings and effort in recent times have declined in most regions, current levels of fishing effort may still be too high given the depleted nature of the stock. The recreational fishery is managed under a 25 recreational fish per day creel limit (with an exception for party/charter boats) and 9 inch minimum size.

As part of the Board's deliberations, it received a report on ongoing law enforcement activities to address American eel poaching. The Board commended the states and federal government in devoting significant resources to curtail the illegal harvest of glass eels. The implementation of Maine's swipe card system, which allows for real time quota monitoring and harvester verification, has also been effective in inhibiting illegal harvest.

It is anticipated that the majority of states will be conducting public hearings on the Draft Addendum throughout the summer. A subsequent press release will announce the Draft Addendum's availability as well as the details of the scheduled hearings. For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, Senior FMP Coordinator, atktaylor@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Shark River Bunker Die Off The Clean Up Continues

By Capt. Paul Eidman

This past Monday we had a massive fish kill occur locally. NJDEP helicopters, local media and news crews descended upon the shorelines of Belmar, NJ to get a shot of all the dead bunker (Atlantic Menhaden) Normally, the bunkers don't go this far into the river, which is actually a large shallow bay. Local fishermen connected this incident to the arrival of enormous schools of bluefish from 8-16 pounds showing up along the coastline and scaring the valuable baitfish into the inlet and not letting them out. The tide dropped overnight and the fish basically choked themselves out due to a condition called Hypoxia (lack of oxygen), or simply put, too many fish, not enough water. Important to note that our area has experienced a lot of rainfall

this spring that has been washing all of the lawn fertilizers into the marine environment and this appears to have added to the situation and may have accelerated the die off.

Normally, this is a natural occurrence that happens from time to time with bunker and many other smaller schooling filter feeders, like anchovy and herring across the country but when water temps are much higher and dissolved oxygen levels are super low.

Although a few other species have been found, it's important to note that the local fluke (Summer flounder) population that is also on the bottom appears to be unaffected at this time and this is a good thing because the season opens on May 23rd.

The waters are still cold and this has been a blessing up until now, as all the fish went to the bottom. Now, a week later the fish have started to float up to the surface and clog the marinas in the area. No doubt that many of these fish will float out with the tides and land on area beaches. If you need chum or crab bait, this is a perfect opportunity to stock up and freeze some.

The township released this statement:

For Immediate Release: Township Tackles Massive Fish Kill Clean Up in Shark River

As a result of a fish kill in the Shark River on Monday, Neptune Township, along with Belmar and Neptune City, has experienced tens of thousands of dead fish washing up along our shoreline each day, impacting the residents who reside along the Shark River.

Over the past 72 hours, Neptune Township DPW personnel have collected nearly 3.5 tons of the dead fish, disposing of them at the Monmouth County Reclamation Center. The clean-up continues today and will likely for several days to come.

Today, Thursday, May 15, 2014 the Township has supplemented our DPW staff with inmates from the Monmouth County Detention Facility assigned by Sheriff Shaun Golden.

The clean-up is a daunting task for the three affected communities. Neptune has reached out to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection for assistance in the form of manpower, equipment and funds to help cover the cost of this clean-up, however; no assistance is forthcoming at this time.

Our Department of Public Works will be out throughout the weekend, from 8 AM until 2 PM continuing the clean-up. Those wishing to volunteer their time to assist in the clean-up may report to the Neptune Township Municipal Marina at 149 South Riverside Drive between 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM on either day to register. Each volunteer will be provided with gloves and trash receptacles. Volunteers are urged to bring rakes and shovels.

As the dead fish continue to float up on the shorelines our residents may think that nothing is being done, but rest assured our personnel have worked very hard over the last four days and we are making every effort to clean up the affected areas.”

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

NATIONAL FISHING & BOATING WEEK

NF&BW Free Fishing Days in New Jersey are Saturday & Sunday, June 14 & 15, 2014. Residents and non-residents may fish the public waters of New Jersey without a license or trout Stamp. All other regulations apply. For those anglers just starting out, the Division of Fish and Wildlife offers many programs and classes to advance from beginner to expert. The Pequest State Trout Hatchery in Oxford, Warren County offers free fishing programs. Pequest offers a Natural Resource Education Center with a variety of exhibits and displays on wildlife, a butterfly garden, picnic areas and hiking trails. There is also a handicapped-accessible fishing site along the Pequest River. Last year, the JCAA Youth Education Committee coordinated fishing and aquatic education programs for the week-long celebration of National Fishing Week. This year we will be working with disadvantaged students in Monmouth County. Member clubs that wish to conduct a National Fishing Week program can phone 732-785-9278 and we will guide your organization through the process. Phone if you have questions and please record your event. Let the JCAA Youth Education Committee know how many National Fishing Week participants supported your program.

FLY TIER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer fly tiers are needed to support a HOFNOD fly tying program at Chews Landing. The

date is Thursday, June 19, 2014 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. We will need about five volunteers to help 15 – 20 youngsters tie flies. Volunteers will assist youngsters with adding natural and synthetic materials on a hook.

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 gkucharews@jcaa.org.

2014 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

The JCAA Youth Education Committee is accepting nominations for the 2014 Youth Education Award. It takes the support of many volunteers to bring successes to the fishing community but sometimes individuals and sport-fishing organizations go above and beyond to make the future of fishing better for our youngsters. Criteria: Promoting “Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs (HOFNOD),” Certified HOFNOD instructors, number of fishing or aquatic education events, JCAA lending library usage, and creativity for promoting youth fishing events. Submit your nominations in writing at the JCAA May meeting or email the JCAA Youth Education Committee, gkucharews@jcaa.org.

NJ HOFNOD CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club’s annual Kids Fishing Derby at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside, NJ is off to a great start. NB&FCC runs the derby for three weeks starting from April 12 and going through May 3, 2014. NB&FCC members worked the registration table and handed out gift bags until 2:00 P.M. Prizes for the derby will be awarded at the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club's meeting on June 3, 2014 at 8:00 P.M.

BEGINNER SURF FISHING CLINICS

Get ready to learn about all the tricks and tips about how to surf fish at the Jersey shore. Surf fishing clinics will be offered at Island Beach State Park July 4, 11, 18, 25 and August 1, 15, 22, 29. Now is the perfect time to register for a fun-filled day of learning at Island Beach State Park. Pre-registration is required and a small fee to cover bait and terminal tackle for the surf fishing clinics.

Veteran anglers will teach many of the techniques needed to catch striped bass, fluke, bluefish and other fish that swim close to the shore. The clinic includes the following: knot tying, rods

and reels, rig making, bait, species identification, fish cleaning, surf casting and reading the beach. Surf fishing rods and reels will also be provided or attendees can bring their own equipment.

To learn more about how to register for the fishing clinics at Island Beach State Park, please call the Park Office at 732-793-0506.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

JUNIOR MATES TRAINING PROGRAM

The Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association will have their organizational meeting for their Junior Mate Training Program at 7 p.m., Thursday, June 26, 2014 at the New Jersey Maritime Museum, Dock Road West Ave., Beach Haven, NJ. The BHCFA Junior Mate Program is co-sponsored by Berkley Fishing and offers more opportunity for junior mates to become better anglers. Youngsters must register for the Junior Mate program and applicants must have parental signatures and permission forms completed. For more information about the Junior Mate program please phone: Capt. John at 609-290-3349 or visit www.BHCFA.com.

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO HOFNOD VISIT

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Chairman is invited to visit the University of Toledo from June 23-27, 2014 and assist with their National Youth Sports Program NYSP, Youth Fishing Program. NYSP is a program that helps children build the skills and the confidence they need to tackle future challenges. The University of Toledo's National Youth Sports Program provides summer recreational, sports and educational enrichment programming for approximately 200 youths aged 10 to 16. Our JCAA Youth Education Chairman will provide guidance about the Future Fisherman Foundation's Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs program and demonstrate a variety of angling techniques. Marine aquatic education will be discussed for children visiting coastal states during the remainder of their summer vacation.

BAY FISHING TOURNAMENT

The Fish Hawks Saltwater Angler's Club will kick off their 1st Annual Bay Fishing Tournament on August 1, 2014. It will end on August 31, 2014. The tournament will have two divisions, adults and children (up to & including 17 years of age.) Entrance fee is very reasonable \$15.00 for adults and

\$10.00 for youngsters. All proceeds go to the Fish Hawks Youth Education & Training programs.

I suggest you get some fishing practice in before the 1st Annual Bay Fishing Tournament and learn as much as you can about Kingfish and Blowfish. The tournament is geared towards family fun fishing in the bay. Results will be posted weekly on the Fish Hawks Web Site: www.fishhawksnj.com.

CAPE MAY YOUTH FISHING CAMP

The JCAA Youth Education Committee will assist Dr. Eleanor Bochenek, Director, Fisheries Cooperative Center, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University at New Jersey Audubon, Nature Center of Cape May with their summer fishing camp August 18-22, 2014.

NJBBA ANNUAL YOUTH SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

Don't miss it. The next NJBBA 21st Annual Surf Youth Fishing Tournament will be held on September 6, 2014. NJBBA members do a great job of making children and their families have a fun day fishing the surf at Island Beach State Park. There is always lots of prizes, goodie bags, learning stations, and plenty of how to information about surf fishing. For information about the event contact Chairman Tom Coopey at (908) 415-3805 or tomnjen126@msn.com.

KID'S CAST A LINE OF CARING FOR VETERANS

Children attending the Monmouth County Armed Forces Day Open House on Saturday, May 17th at 3000 Kozloski Rd. were part of a program called "Cast a Line for Veterans" at the Jersey Coast Anglers Association and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 outdoor learning booth. Youngsters took turns casting and reeled in a plastic fish target to win small patriotic prizes. Greg Kucharewski and Don Davison, Member of Chapter 12 and Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Chair had plenty of information for veterans about local fishing clubs, NJ DEP/Parks, Veteran Outreach/Services and upcoming events to connect veterans with the outdoors. 1st. Vice President Jerry Natale, stopped by our booth to bring flyers for the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance and the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.