

JCAA NEWSPAPER MID-SUMMER 2014

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on August 26th, 2014)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, September 30th, 2014

Starting at 7:30 PM

AT JERSEY COAST SHARK ANGLERS

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 11th, 2014

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753

Phone 732-506-6565 Fax 732-506-6975

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.

Anyone wishing to reproduce any part of this newsletter has the permission of the JCAA and the authors. Wherever possible, please credit the JCAA Newsletter as your information source.

~~~~~  
**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.**

## **2014 OFFICERS**

|                            |               |              |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>           | Paul Haertel  | 973-943-8201 |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b> | Don Marantz   | 908-3471434  |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b> | Mark Taylor   | 732-245-9445 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Doug Tegeder  | 732-341-5674 |
| <b>Rec. Sec.</b>           | Tom Siciliano | 609-296-3774 |
| <b>Cors. Sec.</b>          | Paul Turi     | 609-660-2126 |
| <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**

**September 4<sup>th</sup>** Striped Bass Hearing Info Below  
**September 9<sup>th</sup>** Striped Bass Hearing Info Below  
**September 11<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting  
**September 15<sup>th</sup>** Striped Bass Hearing Info Below  
**September 30<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Gen Meeting  
**October 9<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting  
**October 14<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>** ASA Summit  
**October 26<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>** ASMFC Annual Meeting  
**October 27<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting  
**November 9<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Dinner

## **President's Report**

*By Paul Haertel*

There have been some very important developments during the past few weeks concerning fisheries issues. One is that the seismic blasting has been delayed until 2015 due to mechanical problems on the Marcus G. Langston, the ship that was scheduled to do the testing just 15 miles off Barnegat Inlet. We need to be thankful that our marine life, including whales, porpoises and various species of fish have been given this reprieve. However, we will need to work even harder and get more people, legislators and groups involved so that we can stop this from ever happening off our coast. Kudos to Clean Ocean Action for taking the lead in attempting to prevent the blasting and a special thanks to Cindy Zipf and Lauren Townsend of that group for all their efforts.

There has finally been some movement in regard to getting the commercial pots off the reefs. At a recent NJOA meeting, Hugh Carberry who is the Reef Coordinator and Principal Marine Biologist of the NJDEP reported that proposed regulations regarding the reefs are expected to be forwarded to the Governor's Office by 9/1. Once approved there would be a 60 day comment period after which the

NJMFC would consider enacting the proposed regulation into law. This proposal would only affect the Axel Carlson and Sandy Hook reefs which are the two artificial reefs within our state waters.

Under the proposed compromise, commercial potting would still be allowed on a small percentage of these two reefs. However, to make up for the area where potting will still be allowed, Mr. Carberry stated that a new reef could be built within state waters east of Manasquan Inlet pending a public comment period.

There are also plans to create a new reef in Delaware Bay. Strong opposition from commercial potters is expected so all of this is far from being a done deal. It will become even more contentious when we attempt to obtain SMZ status for the reefs off our coast in federal waters.

During the last few years, there has been a lot of discussion about reducing the mortality on striped bass. The ASMFC has finally released Striped Bass Draft Addendum IV for public comment. There are many options including status quo in the addendum. I urge all club representatives to thoroughly review this document and to explain it to their clubs. Once a JCAA member club has taken a position on this matter, their representative may make a motion for JCAA to adopt a similar position. If the motion passes, it will become the official position of the JCAA. There will certainly be various opinions on this matter so it may be difficult to reach a consensus. However, those clubs who may have a differing opinion than the option that prevails for JCAA are still encouraged to attend the public hearings or write letters giving your club's position by the 9/30 deadline. [Here is the link](#) for the addendum.

On the fluke front our tournament went well but we only had 285 boats. It is the second year in a row that we lost a lot of entrants who waited until the last minute and then did not join due to the bad Nor'easters. Still there were some really impressive fluke caught, particularly out of the Sandy Hook port. Other ports only had 7 or 8 fish weighed in. However, we did make a decent profit due to the generosity of our sponsors, the new cash category, cost cutting and the huge 50/50 we had at our awards ceremony. The ceremony at the Holiday Inn was attended by over 500 people and everyone had a great time.

I also recently attended a fluke advisors meeting hosted by the NJBMF. Strategies for next

year were discussed and we want our commissioners on the ASMFC to be prepared to fight for what is best for the anglers of our state. As you probably recall, we were forced into a regionalized program which resulted in less fluke for New Jersey and other states so that New York could have more. We discussed going back to state-by-state conservation equivalency and changing the regions so that they would more accurately reflect the distribution of fluke and fluke fishermen. As of now, though, we do not know which options the ASMFC will come up with nor do we know what the MRIP numbers will show. However, the preliminary wave 3 (May - June) data just came out and it shows that New Jersey harvested less fluke than during the same time period in recent years. New York and Connecticut have also harvested far less this year than last despite the fact the New York's size limit was reduced to 18 1/2". I don't take much stock in the numbers, though, as they are often drastically changed before they are finalized. Still at this point it is good news that we are on target to underfish rather than overfish our region's quota.

## **20<sup>th</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament**

*By Paul Turi, Tournament Director*

**The JCAA 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament** took place on August 2nd, 2014. There were 285 entries this year. Again, for the second year in a row, it was rough going for those who fished that day. I don't think a lot of boats fished due to the weather, but oddly enough on Friday, the day before the tournament, I had a rush of people wanting to get in at the last minute. The attitude seemed to be, hey, a lot of boats aren't going to go out in this weather, if I can grab a 1 or 2 hour window maybe I can catch a decent fish and win 1<sup>st</sup> place. But, in any event, in spite of the weather conditions everyone seemed to have a good time and a story to tell about that day. There were quite a few nice fish caught. The results are posted below of all the winners from each of the 9 ports.

On Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, we had our Awards Presentations to the winners at the Holiday Inn on Rte. 72 in Manahawkin. There were over 500 people in attendance. We gave out over 50 door prizes.

We also gave away in our Grand Prize drawing a 14' Starcraft boat, 20HP Yamaha engine

and a Sealion Trailer. The boat was donated by **RJ Marine Service in Cape May**. The engine was donated by **Yamaha** and the trailer was donated by **Sealion Trailers**. The winner was an extremely happy **Tim Naples** from Hamilton, NJ.

I can't thank our major sponsors and our port sponsors enough. JCAA encourages all our readers to support all of our sponsors. They support us so in return we should support them.

Here are our major sponsors for 2014:

- **RJ Marine Service**
- **Yamaha Motors**
- **Canyon Reels**
- **The Fisherman Magazine**
- **Costa Sunglasses**
- **West Marine**
- **Interlux**
- **Tow Boat US**

As a major sponsor these companies have donated to JCAA thousands of dollars worth of prizes to make this tournament a success. Without their generosity and support there would be no tournament and JCAA would not be able to do what it does on behalf of the recreational angler. I can't emphasize that enough. Therefore, again, I would encourage our readers and supporters to support these companies.

This year we had 5 port sponsors. A port sponsor pledges the \$1,200 1<sup>st</sup> place prize money to the winner of the port they are sponsoring. JCAA sponsored 4 of the ports and paid out the 1<sup>st</sup> place prize money. Our 5 port sponsors were the following:

- **Hoffman's Marina for Manasquan port**
- **Fisherman's Headquarters for LBI port**
- **South Harbor Marina for Barnegat Bay port**
- **Liberty Landing Marina for Jersey City port**
- **RJ Marine Service for Cape May port**

Again, I would encourage our readers to support these port sponsors. I could go on and on about the generosity of our major sponsors and our port sponsors, but I think you get what I'm trying to say.

I would like to thank **Ron Zastocki and Tom Wingate and Yamaha** for all the Yamaha hats and t-shirts they handed out to those in attendance at the awards ceremony and for the Yamaha engine and

door prizes that were donated. Yamaha has been one of our biggest supporters over the years and recognizes the work that JCAA does on behalf of recreational anglers in our state. Yamaha recognizes that any over-regulation by fisheries managers also affects their business.

I would also like to thank **John DeBona from The Fisherman Magazine** for taking all the pictures at the Awards Ceremony and making those pictures available to the JCAA. Also, a special thank you to **The Fisherman Magazine** itself for all the port prizes and advertising it gave to the tournament. The Fisherman has been a long-time supporter of the JCAA and also recognizes the work JCAA does on behalf of recreational anglers in our state.

I would also like to thank **West Marine** for the 9 port prizes and many door prizes they donated this year; **Don Parr, owner of Canyon Reels**, for all the high quality reels he donated for each of the 9 ports; **Interlux Paint, Costa Sunglasses**, both long-time JCAA supporters, for the 9 port prizes they donated. I would also like to thank **Tow Boat US** and their affiliates for the 9 port prizes they also donated. And a special thank you goes out to **Jeff and Richard Czekaj owners of RJ Marine Service** for not only donating the 14' Starcraft boat but also putting up the \$1,200 1<sup>st</sup> place prize money for the Cape May port.

I would be remiss if I did not mention **Grumpy's Bait & Tackle in Seaside Park** and **Tica** for the many prizes they both donated this year to the tournament.

Below is a list of all the 2014 door prize sponsors:

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Alex's Bait & Tackle    | Angler Sport Group  |
| Anglers Book Supply     | Bimini Bay          |
| Grumpy's Bait & Tackle  | Cablz               |
| Castaways Bait & Tackle | Capt. Cal           |
| Creekside Outfitters    | Danielson Co.       |
| Fisherman's Supply      | Optimum Bait Co.    |
| Fishing Hot Spots       | Yamaha              |
| Guy Harvey              | Intermedia Outdoors |
| Jersey Hooker           | Julian's Bait Co.   |
| Kelly's Restaurant      | Kevin's Lures       |
| Miss Belmar             | Ocean Explorer      |
| The Fisherman Magazine  | Fishhook            |
| Tica USA, Inc.          | West Marine         |
| Blackmore Fishing Group |                     |

On behalf of JCAA I would also like to thank all of the participants in this year's tournament and I would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped out at the different weigh stations, volunteers helping me in the office, and all those who helped

out at the Awards Ceremony. It's a huge effort by a lot of people to put on a tournament of this size. Thank you one and all.

### HERE ARE THE WINNERS FOR 2014

\* Denotes optional cash category

#### 1. Jersey City

|      | Name               | Hometown            | Entry Number | Weight | Length |
|------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| 1st  | Steve Cherry *     | Summit, NJ          | 221          | 8.25   | 29.00  |
| 2nd  | Jack Gilligan      | Carlstadt, NJ       | 66           | 7.50   | 27.00  |
| 3rd  | Al Agostine Jr.    | Wallington, NJ      | 268          | 6.44   | 25.75  |
| 4th  | Aldeino Pires      | Harrison, NJ        | 38           | 6.13   | 25.25  |
| 5th  | Tony Gonzales      | Bayonne, NJ         | 253          | 5.56   | 24.00  |
| 6th  | Richard Barba      | Bayonne, NJ         | 272          | 5.38   | 25.00  |
| 7th  | Edward W. Shaefer  | Ridgefield, NJ      | 170          | 5.13   | 23.75  |
| 8th  | Michael Choynowski | North Arlington, NJ | 258          | 5.06   | 23.00  |
| 9th  | Daniel Cordano     | Bayonne, NJ         | 128          | 4.63   | 23.25  |
| 10th | Chuck Mitchell     | Wantage, NJ         | 72           | 4.56   | 22.75  |
|      |                    |                     |              | 58.64  | 248.75 |

#### 2. Sandy Hook

|      | Name               | Hometown               | Entry Number | Weight | Length |
|------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| 1st  | Mike Cororan *     | Keyport, NJ            | 274          | 11.00  | 30.50  |
| 2nd  | Robert Morrell Jr. | Port Monmouth, NJ      | 208          | 10.60  | 30.00  |
| 3rd  | Anthony Francisco  | Lebanon, NJ            | 232          | 9.80   | 29.00  |
| 4th  | Rick Woerner       | Brick, NJ              | 52           | 9.60   | 29.00  |
| 5th  | Charles Parker     | Oceanport, NJ          | 247          | 9.00   | 29.00  |
| 6th  | Vincent Fallrion   | Matawan, NJ            | 96           | 8.40   | 26.00  |
| 7th  | Cory Winant        | Spotwood, NJ           | 273          | 7.60   | 27.00  |
| 8th  | Robert Porter      | Sparta, NJ             | 77           | 5.80   | 24.50  |
| 9th  | James Hennessey    | Atlantic Highlands, NJ | 133          | 5.60   | 24.00  |
| 10th | Dennis Yerves      | Middletown, NJ         | 257          | 5.20   | 25.00  |
|      |                    |                        |              | 82.60  | 274.00 |

#### 3. Shark River Inlet

|      | Name             | Hometown          | Entry Number | Weight | Length |
|------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| 1st  | Tom Feher *      | Nutley, NJ        | 151          | 4.88   | 23.25  |
| 2nd  | Matt Sagen       | Farmingdale, NJ   | 271          | 4.44   | 22.00  |
| 3rd  | John Henry       | East Winsor, NJ   | 48           | 4.38   | 23.00  |
| 4th  | Jeff Fuentes     | Asbury Park, NJ   | 256          | 3.88   | 21.25  |
| 5th  | Lou Ottrando     | Wall, NJ          | 240          | 3.88   | 21.25  |
| 6th  | Jay Stich        | Penndel, PA       | 285          | 3.25   | 20.75  |
| 7th  | Andrew Duelivetz | South Hampton, NJ | 108          | 2.19   | 20.00  |
| 8th  | Billy Mayfield   | Manasquan, NJ     | 277          | 2.19   | 19.00  |
| 9th  | none             |                   |              |        |        |
| 10th | none             |                   |              |        |        |
|      |                  |                   |              | 29.09  | 170.50 |

#### 4. Manasquan River

|     | Name             | Hometown       | Entry Number | Weight | Length |
|-----|------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| 1st | Lou Derosa *     | Toms River, NJ | 254          | 7.05   | 25.00  |
| 2nd | Bob Murdza       | Wall, NJ       | 233          | 4.20   | 22.75  |
| 3rd | Steve R. Materia | Hamilton, NJ   | 220          | 3.40   | 20.50  |
| 4th | Jeff O'Hare      | Burlington, NJ | 61           | 3.00   | 21.00  |
| 5th | Jim Faugno       | Belmar, NJ     | 99           | 2.40   | 19.25  |
| 6th | Ed Marut Jr.     | Toms River, NJ | 143          | 2.25   | 19.00  |
| 7th | Jeffrey Nuel     | Bordentown, NJ | 137          | 2.25   | 18.50  |

|      |           |             |     |       |        |
|------|-----------|-------------|-----|-------|--------|
| 8th  | Tom Mauro | Brielle, NJ | 282 | 2.15  | 18.25  |
| 9th  | none      |             |     |       |        |
| 10th | none      |             |     |       |        |
|      |           |             |     | 26.70 | 164.25 |

#### 5. Barnegat Bay

|      | Name            | Hometown          | Entry Number | Weight | Length |
|------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| 1st  | John Zingis     | Brick, NJ         | 209          | 9.20   | 28.50  |
| 2nd  | George Golta    | Waretown, NJ      | 189          | 5.00   | 23.50  |
| 3rd  | Ray Slodowski   | Toms River, NJ    | 43           | 4.90   | 22.50  |
| 4th  | Ray Pryce *     | Forked River, NJ  | 51           | 3.60   | 22.50  |
| 5th  | Patrick Mickles | Mapleshade, NJ    | 54           | 3.45   | 21.00  |
| 6th  | Richard Pasko   | Lanoka Harbor, NJ | 86           | 2.60   | 19.50  |
| 7th  | Joe Atrashewski | Brick, NJ         | 70           | 2.48   | 18.50  |
| 8th  | none            |                   |              |        |        |
| 9th  | none            |                   |              |        |        |
| 10th | none            |                   |              |        |        |
|      |                 |                   |              | 31.23  | 156.00 |

#### 6. Long Beach Island

|      | Name             | Hometown           | Entry Number | Weight | Length |
|------|------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| 1st  | William Hiros *  | Birmingham, NJ     | 248          | 9.68   | 30.00  |
| 2nd  | Dean Paoletta    | Surf City, NJ      | 100          | 6.36   | 25.00  |
| 3rd  | Mark Keple       | Manahawkin, NJ     | 192          | 5.26   | 23.00  |
| 4th  | Paul Schell      | Barnegat, NJ       | 204          | 5.18   | 24.00  |
| 5th  | Peter Sivo       | Middletown, NJ     | 45           | 3.42   | 21.00  |
| 6th  | John Racioppi    | Lanoka Harbor, NJ  | 104          | 2.62   | 20.00  |
| 7th  | Don Hillegass Jr | Bradley Beach, NJ  | 78           | 2.36   | 19.00  |
| 8th  | Brian Cognigni   | Burlington Twp, NJ | 150          | 2.34   | 19.00  |
| 9th  | Tom Trembula     | Cookstown, NJ      | 83           | 2.10   | 18.00  |
| 10th | none             |                    |              |        |        |
|      |                  |                    |              | 39.32  | 199.00 |

#### 7. Great Bay

|      | Name            | Hometown              | Entry Number | Weight | Length |
|------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| 1st  | Walt Russell    | Haines Port, NJ       | 211          | 7.09   | 26.00  |
| 2nd  | Rick Sullivan * | Browns Mills, NJ      | 275          | 5.59   | 24.00  |
| 3rd  | Robert Haines   | South Hampton, NJ     | 55           | 4.29   | 21.88  |
| 4th  | Tom Siciliano   | Little Egg Harbor, NJ | 212          | 3.67   | 22.00  |
| 5th  | Keith McCarty   | Tuckerton, NJ         | 264          | 3.47   | 20.50  |
| 6th  | Vincent Torio   | Colonia, NJ           | 215          | 3.46   | 20.50  |
| 7th  | Michael Klemm   | Marlton, NJ           | 113          | 2.97   | 19.75  |
| 8th  | Craig Nelson    | Chesterfield, NJ      | 252          | 2.55   | 20.00  |
| 9th  | Ed Pritsch      | Tuckerton, NJ         | 286          | 2.15   | 18.00  |
| 10th | none            |                       |              |        |        |
|      |                 |                       |              | 35.24  | 192.63 |

#### 8. Ocean City

|      | Name               | Hometown        | Entry Number | Weight | Length |
|------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| 1st  | Howard Hammerstedt | Milmay, NJ      | 154          | 7.28   | 27.50  |
| 2nd  | Chris Murray       | Northfield, NJ  | 227          | 5.35   | 24.50  |
| 3rd  | Joe Krajick *      | Marmora, NJ     | 183          | 4.90   | 24.25  |
| 4th  | William Roesberg   | Cherry Hill, NJ | 230          | 4.38   | 23.50  |
| 5th  | Brian Smith        | Sewell, NJ      | 85           | 3.45   | 21.75  |
| 6th  | Carmen Roberto     | Brigantine, NJ  | 229          | 2.98   | 20.00  |
| 7th  | Mark Sajtlava, Sr. | Monroeville, NJ | 105          | 2.89   | 20.00  |
| 8th  | Rick Folkeroth     | York, PA        | 30           | 2.66   | 20.00  |
| 9th  | Bob Whiteside      | Linwood, NJ     | 10           | 2.38   | 19.50  |
| 10th | Tim Fitzick        | Berlin, NJ      | 127          | 2.14   | 20.00  |
|      |                    |                 |              | 38.41  | 221.00 |

#### 9. Cape May

|                        | Name           | Hometown            | Entry Number | Weight | Length |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------|--------|--------|
| 1st                    | William Laxton | *Audubon, NJ        | 5            | 6.68   | 24.75  |
| 2nd                    | Dave Fisher    | Nantua, NJ          | 191          | 4.69   | 23.88  |
| 3rd                    | Gabe Davis     | Riverside, MO       | 47           | 3.89   |        |
| 4th                    | Kain Wentz     | East Greenville, PA | 157          | 3.70   |        |
| 5th                    | Len Fennimore  | Williamstown, NJ    | 202          | 2.95   |        |
| 6th                    | Tony Mosloski  | Essington, PA       | 283          | 2.64   |        |
| 7th                    | Bill Whildon   | Villas, NJ          | 165          | 2.58   |        |
| 8th                    | Paul Decker    | Mays Landing, NJ    | 181          | 2.54   |        |
| 9th                    | none           |                     |              |        |        |
| 10th                   | none           |                     |              |        |        |
|                        |                |                     |              | 29.67  | 48.63  |
| Total Weight/Length-Ft |                |                     |              | 370.90 | 140    |

## Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

*By Thomas Fote*

It has been an interesting summer. My back went out about June 13<sup>th</sup> and I have been confined to the house since then. I did make it to the ASMFC meeting and we approved the Striped Bass addendum for public hearings. I had another treatment on August 22 and I hope it takes. You will see information about the hearings below. Below is a reprint of an article from March's newspaper on Striped Bass. We are handling Striped Bass differently than we handle any other species. On all other species, including summer flounder, black sea bass, scup and winter flounder, we never did a reduction of the catch until the stock was going to be overfished on the following year or overfishing was taking place. Here we are looking at doing a big reduction in both the recreational and commercial Striped Bass catch on projections that overfishing might be taking place in 2017. In the 25 years I have been at the Striped Bass management board, this has happened a number of times. In the past two years, when we reviewed the data, the original action was not necessary because we overestimated the mortality. I base my decisions on science. The present science has not proved that we need this type of reduction. I will be listening to the comments at the public hearings before making a final decision.

### Striped Bass

*(Reprint from March JCAA Newspaper)*

Below is a letter by Desmond M. Kahn, Ph.D. sent to the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board in response to Draft Addendum IV on Striped

Bass. Dr. Kahn addresses a point made in the recent peer-reviewed striped bass stock assessment. Dr. Khan has been involved with the striped bass technical and stock assessment committees for as long as I can remember representing the state of Delaware. He is now retired.

The information in italics below was done by a New Jersey's Bureau of Marine Fisheries staff person after a discussion we had on the status of the stocks. It will help you understand Dr. Khan's comments. I can also email the stock assessment pages he references. Those pages will be posted on our web page and our facebook page.

*Tom,*

*I was able to find the information related to Des Kahn's 28 January 2014 letter to the Management Board. I looked over his letter and I think he draws attention to an important part of the assessment report - I got the sense that you & the other Board members did too. As I mentioned when we met this morning, the retrospective bias issue was raised in the benchmark report, but the specific language that I was thinking of is in the 2013 update assessment report (with data through 2012 - final 2012 data; the benchmark assessment language is sparse and more general). I have attached the relevant pages (and underlined the most relevant parts) of the update report (see Figure 9, 2nd panel down on the right, for the basis of Des Kahn's comment) which notes, starting on page 9:*

*"...because of error associated with these [point estimates of F and SSB] estimates, there is a probability of 0.46 that the 2012 female SSB estimate is below or equal to the SSB threshold... If the estimates are adjusted for the average retrospective bias in the last five years (fishing mortality = 12% overestimate; SSB = 14% underestimate), the*

*probability of the 2012 female SSB estimates being below or equal to the SSB threshold declines to 0.12..."*

*"...because of error associated with these [point estimates of F and SSB] estimates, there is a probability of 0.46 that the 2012 female SSB estimate is below or equal to the SSB threshold... If the estimates are adjusted for the average retrospective bias in the last five years (fishing mortality = 12% overestimate; SSB = 14% underestimate), the probability of the 2012 female SSB estimates being below or equal to the SSB threshold declines to 0.12..."*

*Which is to say that if we adjust upwards the 2012 SSB estimate to account for an average retrospective bias, 88% of the Monte Carlo run point estimates of SSB are at or above the SSB threshold.*

*The other issue in the assessment regarding management uncertainty is in the projections - i.e., if we implement management action X, what is the probability of SSB being at or above/below the threshold. The benchmark report notes that: "By delaying action [reducing F] until 2014, the probability of SSB being below the SSB reference is 0.59 in 2014 and 0.63 in 2015." The retrospective bias issue would lower those probabilities, but the trend would likely be the same - increasing probability of SSB being at or below the threshold until ~2015 at which point the probability starts to decline. If recruitment in 2013 were substantively above or below average the story could change (the projections are roughly based on an average recruitment).*

**Letter to ASMFC on Striped Bass by Desmond M. Kahn, Ph.D.**

Board letter Jan 2014  
January 28, 2014  
916 Rahway Drive  
Newark DE 19711  
Striped Bass Management Board  
ASMFC

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to draw your attention to a point made in the recent peer-reviewed striped bass stock assessment. The retrospective analysis in that document examined how stable and reliable the estimates of spawning stock biomass and fishing

mortality from the Statistical Catch at Age model were as additional years of data were added. The estimates for 2005 were examined as an example. These estimates were based on data through 2005.

What this retrospective analysis showed was that, as additional years of data were added, the estimates of these management parameters were unstable and unreliable in the Statistical Catch at Age model. The estimate of biomass increased as each additional year of data was added, until by the time the 2012 data was added, the estimate of biomass had increased by 37%.

This result is of serious concern. It indicates that the terminal year's estimate of spawning biomass, which is the one that managers such as yourself normally base decisions on, are biased low and are not reliable estimates of spawning biomass. These estimates for 2012, for example, will increase as additional years of data are added.

By the same token, the retrospective analysis in the assessment showed that the estimate of fishing mortality is overestimated, since the estimate of F for 2005 decreased as more years of data were added.

Consequently, the retrospective analysis indicates that the model estimates of spawning biomass and fishing mortality for the most recent years have become unreliable and unstable.

My final point is that a dominant year class was produced in the Chesapeake Bay in 2011, which has already caused some increase in total coastal recreational catch-per-unit effort, although these fish were only two years old in 2013. This year, they will begin to move out onto the coast and abundance experienced by the recreational fishery will increase. To increase female spawning stock biomass, they will have to grow up and mature, however.

Yours Truly,

Desmond M. Kahn, Ph.D.

Former member, ASMFC Striped Bass Stock Assessment Subcommittee

Former Chair, ASMFC Striped Bass Tag Subcommittee

Former Chair, ASMFC Striped Bass Technical Committee

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400

Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Phone (617) 626-1520

Fax (617) 626-1509

## **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

### **ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Board Approves Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment**

Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board approved Draft Addendum IV for Public Comment to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Draft Addendum proposes new fishing mortality (F) reference points, as recommended by the 2013 benchmark stock assessment, and associated management measures to reduce F to a level at or below the proposed target within one or three years.

The Draft Addendum responds to results of the 2013 Atlantic striped bass benchmark assessment indicating F in 2012 was above the proposed F target, and female spawning stock biomass (SSB) has been steadily declining below the target since 2006. This means even though the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, SSB is approaching its overfished threshold and stock projections show SSB will likely fall below the threshold in the coming years. In addition, a similar decline has been observed in total harvest. In response to these factors, the Draft Addendum proposes management options to reduce fishing mortality to the target level.

The Draft Addendum includes a suite of management options to reduce recreational and commercial harvest along the coast and in the Chesapeake Bay under three reduction timeframes. The timeframes include (1) reducing F to its target in one year with a 25% reduction in 2013 harvest in 2015 (2) reducing F to its target within three years with a 17% reduction in 2013 harvest in 2015, and (3) reducing F to its target within three years with a 7% sequential reduction in harvest for three consecutive years starting in 2015. Specific options to be considered include bag, size, slot and trophy size limits for the recreational fishery and quota reductions for the commercial fishery.

Given the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River (A/R) stock of striped bass contributes minimally to the coastwide complex when compared to the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware, and Hudson stocks, Draft Addendum IV proposes it be managed by the State of North Carolina using stock-specific biological reference points. These stock-specific reference points, which have been approved by the

Board, would result in a separate quota that is set to maintain F for the A/R stock at its target level. The Board tasked the Technical Committee with the continued development of Chesapeake Bay-specific reference points for future use.

It is anticipated the majority of Atlantic coastal states will conduct public hearings on the Draft Addendum; a subsequent press release will announce the details of those hearings once they become finalized. Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment. The Draft Addendum will be available on the Commission website ([www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)) under Public Input the week of August 11th. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on September 30, 2014 and should be forwarded to Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Draft Addendum IV). For more information, please contact Mike Waine, at [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

### **Striped Bass Management Hearings Scheduled In September**

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife (Division) has scheduled three hearings to gather public comment on Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Draft Addendum IV to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Division strongly encourages the public to attend these meetings in order to assist managers in the management of this precious resource. In addition, the Division urges striped bass anglers who fish the Delaware River, and are unable to make any of the New Jersey hearings, to attend the hearing hosted by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The information for the New Jersey and Pennsylvania hearings is listed below.

The Draft Addendum proposes new fishing mortality (F) reference points, as recommended by the 2013 benchmark stock assessment, and associated management measures to reduce F to a level at or below the proposed target within one or three years. It responds to results of the 2013 Atlantic striped bass benchmark assessment indicating F in 2012 was above the proposed F target, and female spawning stock biomass (SSB) has been steadily declining below the target since

2006. This means even though the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, SSB is approaching its overfished threshold and stock projections show SSB will likely fall below the threshold in the coming years. In addition, a similar decline has been observed in total harvest. In response to these factors, the Draft Addendum proposes management options to reduce fishing mortality to the target level.

The Draft Addendum includes a suite of management options to reduce recreational and commercial harvest along the coast and in the Chesapeake Bay under three reduction timeframes. The timeframes include (1) reducing F to its target in one year with a 25% reduction in 2013 harvest in 2015 (2) reducing F to its target within three years with a 17% reduction in 2013 harvest in 2015, and (3) reducing F to its target within three years with a 7% sequential reduction in harvest for three consecutive years starting in 2015. Specific options to be considered include bag, size, slot and trophy size limits for the recreational fishery and quota reductions for the commercial fishery.

Given the Albemarle Sound/Roanoke River (A/R) stock of striped bass contributes minimally to the coastwide complex when compared to the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware, and Hudson stocks, Draft Addendum IV proposes it be managed by the State of North Carolina using stock-specific biological reference points. These stock-specific reference points, which have been approved by the Board, would result in a separate quota that is set to maintain F for the A/R stock at its target level. The Board tasked the Technical Committee with the continued development of Chesapeake Bay-specific reference points for future use.

The Draft Addendum is available in PDF format on the ASMFC website at [www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/StripedBassDraftAddendumIV\\_PublicComment.pdf](http://www.asmfc.org/files/PublicInput/StripedBassDraftAddendumIV_PublicComment.pdf) and can also be found on the ASMFC homepage ([www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org)) under Public Input. Anglers and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on the Draft Addendum either by attending state public hearings or providing written comment.

Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. (EST) on September 30, 2014 and should be forwarded to Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703-842-0741 (FAX) or at [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org) (Subject line: Draft Addendum

IV). For more information, please contact Mike Waine, at [mwaine@asmfc.org](mailto:mwaine@asmfc.org) or 703-842-0740.

#### **Locations, Dates, Times of SB Hearings**

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife

September 4, 2014 7-9 p.m.

Galloway Twp. Branch of the Atlantic Co. Library

306 East Jimmie Leeds Road

Galloway, New Jersey

Contact: Russ Allen at 609-748-2020

Will immediately follow the NJ Marine Fisheries Council meeting

September 9, 2014 7-9 p.m.

Ridgefield Park Elks Lodge #1506

Corner of Spruce Avenue and Cedar Street

Ridgefield Park, New Jersey

Contact: Russ Allen at 609-748-2020

September 15, 2014 7-9 p.m.

Toms River Town Hall

L. M. Hirshblond Room

33 Washington Street

Toms River, New Jersey

Contact: Russ Allen at 609-748-2020

Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

September 17, 2014 6 p.m.

Silver Lake Nature Center

([www.silverlakenaturecenter.org](http://www.silverlakenaturecenter.org))

1306 Bath Road Bristol, Pennsylvania

Contact: Eric Levis at 717-705-7806

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

### **Summary**

*August 6, 2014*

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board met to review the Draft Public Information Document (PID) on Amendment 21 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass FMP; review and consider changes to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panels (APs); and consider extending the black sea bass recreational season for the states of Delaware to North Carolina (north of Cape Hatteras).

The Board reviewed the PID and will consider approval for public comment at its joint meeting with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) next week when the Council considers a similar scoping document. To increase participation and engagement in its advisory panel process, and better coordinate its advisors with those

of the Mid-Atlantic Council, the Board will be consolidating its three APs into one and will review and update membership.

Lastly, the Board extended the black sea bass recreational season by three days in September for Delaware through North Carolina (north of Cape Hatteras) as the federal regulations were extended due to updated 2013 harvest estimates. The Board also tasked the Technical Committee with developing management options for Massachusetts through New Jersey that would achieve a 5% reduction in harvest relative to the 2013 coastwide harvest for the remainder of the 2014 black sea bass recreational fishery season. This 5% reduction is also reflected in the aforementioned changes in the southern states (the initial reduction was 7% but changed with updated harvest estimates).

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 Management Board Delays Action on Draft Addendum IV until October**

Alexandria, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s American Eel Management Board met to consider final approval of Draft Addendum IV to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for American Eel. 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, and a seasonal closure and license cap for the silver eel fishery in the Delaware River in New York. The Draft Addendum also includes glass eel harvest allowances for aquaculture purposes and as credit for habitat restoration programs.

The Board reviewed public comment from state public hearings conducted along the coast and written comment submitted to the Commission. After lengthy deliberations of the extensive proposed management options and in recognition of the states’ varying interests and needs, the Board decided to postpone final action on the Draft Addendum IV. In the interim, Board will convene a subcommittee of its members to identify preferred management measures to be considered by the Board for final

action at the Commission’s Annual Meeting in Mystic, Connecticut the week of October 27, 2014.

The Draft Addendum is the second phase of management action in response to the 2012 American Eel Benchmark Stock Assessment indicating the American eel population in U.S. waters is depleted. Causes of decline are likely due to a combination of historical overfishing, habitat loss, food web alterations, predation, turbine mortality, environmental changes, toxins and contaminants, and disease. The stock has declined in recent decades and is currently under consideration by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. For more information, please contact Kate Taylor, at [ktaylor@asmfc.org](mailto:ktaylor@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

### **ASMFC & MAFMC Maintain Specifications for 2015 Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Fisheries & Approve 2015 Bluefish Specifications**

*MAFMC Suspends Research Set Aside Program*

Washington, DC – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) reviewed and maintained previously established commercial quotas and recreational harvest limits for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass for the 2015 fishing season. The Council decided to forgo setting Research Set Asides (RSA) for all the four species in 2015 due to concern regarding the misuse and illegal harvest of RSA by many participants. Earlier this summer the federal government issued 70 grand jury subpoenas throughout New York as part of two-year investigation into illegal harvest under the guise of RSA fishing. The Council did allow for the possibility of resuming the program in 2016 pursuant to improvements in quota monitoring and program oversight. The Council will conduct a thorough examination of the program in the coming months and develop options for moving forward.

The table below summarizes revised quotas and limits based on the Council's action on RSA (2014 values are provided for comparison purposes).

| Species         | Year | Commercial Quota (millions of pounds) | Commercial Minimum Fish Size (TL) | Commercial Mesh Size | Recreational Harvest Limit (millions of pounds) |
|-----------------|------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Summer Flounder | 2014 | 10.51                                 | 14"                               | 5.5"                 | 7.01                                            |
|                 | 2015 | 11.07                                 | 14"                               | 5.5"                 | 7.38                                            |
| Scup            | 2014 | 23.53                                 | 9"                                | 5"                   | 7.55                                            |
|                 | 2015 | 21.23                                 | 9"                                | 5"                   | 6.80                                            |
| Black Sea Bass  | 2014 | 2.17                                  | 11"                               | 4.5"                 | 2.26                                            |
|                 | 2015 | 2.24                                  | 11"                               | 4.5"                 | 2.33                                            |
| Bluefish        | 2014 | 7.49                                  | ---                               | ---                  | 13.59                                           |
|                 | 2015 | 5.12                                  | ---                               | ---                  | 13.07                                           |

The 2015 summer flounder commercial quota is 11.07 million pounds and the recreational harvest limit is 7.38 million pounds, an increase from 2014 levels. The increase responds to the findings of the 2013 benchmark stock assessment and peer review which projected increases in the spawning stock biomass (SSB) levels for 2015 and 2016. The Commission and Council also moved forward on the continued development of a Scoping Document for the Comprehensive Summer Flounder Amendment, which will be released for public comment over the next few weeks. The Amendment will consider changes to summer flounder management in both state and federal waters.

The commercial quota for the 2015 scup fishery is 21.23 million pounds, with a recreational harvest limit of 6.8 million pounds. This represents a decrease of 2.3 and 0.75 million pounds, respectively, compared to 2014 levels due to a slight decrease in the projected SSB. Based on previous action taken by NOAA Fisheries under the provisions of the FMP, the possession limit for the 2014 Winter II commercial season (November 1 – December 31) is 18,000 pounds due to a rollover of unused quota from Winter I to Winter II. The next scup benchmark assessment will be conducted in 2015.

The 2015 black sea bass commercial quota is 2.24 million pound and a recreational harvest limit of 2.33 million pounds. This is an increase from 2014 levels since none of the landings were allocated to the Research Set Aside program (RSA).

For 2015 the bluefish commercial quota is 5.12 million pounds, with a recreational harvest limit of 13.07 million pounds for 2015. These levels represent a decrease from 2014 to account for

scientific uncertainty regarding the estimated biomass. The Commission also approved the Fishery Management Plan Review for the 2013 fishing year and the terms or reference for the 2015 bluefish benchmark stock assessment.

For all four species, the approved and recommended actions are consistent with the recommendations of the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee regarding acceptable biological catch, which is the level of total removals that cannot be exceeded based on the best available scientific information.

For more information about the Commission's actions, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, FMP Coordinator, at [krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:krootes-murdy@asmfc.org).

## Sportsperson-of-the-Year Award Dinner

*By Paul Turi, Co-chairman*

It is getting near that time of year again when JCAA hosts its second largest fundraiser of the year, our annual Sportsperson-of-the-year dinner. As you know, every year JCAA honors an individual or organization that has done outstanding work to enhance sport fishing or the environment. The dinner this year will be Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, again being held at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. Ticket prices will be the same as last year. Individual tickets are \$75 each and tables of 10 are \$600, which is a \$150 savings. This gala event will accommodate 250 supporters and friends for a semi-formal sit-down dinner with choice of entrees and cash bar. There will also be a cocktail hour prior to dinner.

At our June General Membership Meeting, Fred Bogue was elected this year's sportsperson of the year and will be honored at this year's dinner on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

non-fishing related gift. Remember, I also need gifts for the ladies too.

If anyone has any questions or would like to donate something, I can be reached via email at [pturi6@comcast.net](mailto:pturi6@comcast.net) or at (609) 660-2126. If you would like to reserve your tickets for the affair, contact Dan Miller at (609) 641-7821.

## MAFMC Meeting Update

By Chris Zeman

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) met in Washington, DC on August 11-14. All of the Council meeting materials can be found on the Council website at [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

### Research Set-Aside Program is Suspended for 2015

In June, I reported the positive news that, starting in 2015, the Research Set-Aside Program (RSA) would no longer be used to fund NEAMAP and can be used for its originally intended purpose – to fund species and fishery-specific cooperative research projects. During its August meeting, the Council voted to suspend the RSA Program for 2015 to allow for a review of the program after two recent investigations in New York by NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement revealed that significant quantities of summer flounder were being taken illegally under the cover of quota acquired through the RSA program. As a result, the 3% set-aside will return to both the commercial and recreational fisheries and allow for an increase in the annual catch. As a member of the Council's RSA Committee, I welcome suggestions on how to improve the RSA program and/or whether to re-initiate this program in 2016.

### Black Sea Bass Wave 1 Fishery Remains Closed in 2015

The Council voted to keep Wave 1 closed in 2015. This decision was mainly due to the fact that NOAA required the Council for the first time to account for Wave 1 catch by reducing the Wave 5 fishery by 10-15 days. The Wave 1 recreational fishery has been ongoing for years, but the catch was never counted because MRIP did not operate during Wave 1. As a result, this recreational catch was never incorporated into the stock assessment, catch allocations and estimates of fishing effort. By

requiring this accounting, the recreational fishery lost over a decade of catch history of fishing black sea bass in Wave 1. This is another example of how the deficiencies in MRIP can hurt recreational fishermen.

### Comprehensive Summer Flounder Amendment

The Council and ASMFC initiated a Comprehensive Summer Flounder Amendment that will involve a review and update of the way summer flounder is managed, both recreationally and commercially. This amendment will consider significant changes to existing management, including regional management and a review of state allocations. The amendment also will consider measures to improve data collection and measures to reduce discarding of summer flounder. It is a rare event for the Council to undergo such a comprehensive review, so it is important for recreational fishermen to weigh in early in the process to ensure the amendment includes measures to address the issues and concerns of recreational fishermen.

## Another Omega Public Relations Smokescreen

By Capt. Paul Eidman

*In a [recent article](#) in The National Fisherman, (a commercial fishing magazine) Omega Protein Corporation public relations officer bemoans recently implemented regulations aimed at restoring and rebuilding stocks of the most important fish in the sea.*

One would think that a company that claims to be such a caring, responsible steward of the waters would embrace conservation measures with open arms. The measures not only provide an assurance of an abundant catch in the future as well as added job security for their employees, but also a bonus of being able to fish closer to home, cutting fuel costs and adding even more profit to the bottom line. Business is booming for Omega right now, so it's hard to believe they would bother focusing on the negative instead of the bounty before them. By making some very clever company acquisitions, market diversification and cost cutting measures, Omegas stock (OME) has gone from \$4 per share to over \$14 per share over the past 5 years!

Instead, once again, Ben Landry, Omega's suited up PR director climbs down from his perch above the commoners of Reedville to poke at a [blog post](#) by Peter Baker of Pew Charitable trust which heralds the successful implementation of the first ever catch limits in 2013 ([link here](#)).

Mr. Landry tactfully draws the readers focus to a couple of states (NY & MD) that did not reduce their landings in 2013, one through a "bycatch" loophole for pound nets and the other through a "quota swap." While I agree that all states MUST comply with the new measures and provide accurate data to the ASMFC, I find it peculiar that Mr. Landry is even concerned about an amount of bunker that would be a mere fish stain on the deck of a 190 foot long Omega factory ship.

It's more important now than ever before to remember that on that fateful December day back in 2012, Omega was in fact, granted the lion share of all the bunker on the east coast, a full 85+% of the total harvest went to Virginia, leaving other states bait harvesters along the coast to fight over the scrappy percentage left behind. For the life of me, I can't believe that the Reedville watermen themselves, would screw over fellow baymen, especially in these hard times. These fishermen literally share the same waters, yet the corporation acts in complete disregard of baymen gathering fresh bait out of pound nets right across the bay. Would it have been so hard to give up just a few more tons to help out the little guys in MD or NY?

This is just the tip of the iceberg for selfish Omega, as they will do just about anything to build profits and keep stock prices soaring and in turn, shareholders happy. What gets very little notice in the media is that when these giant ships move into an area and proceed to fill up the hull, they leave a void behind. With all the bait fish removed, the gamefish move off, and the local fisherman that depend upon a healthy stock of gamefish to provide a day's catch are screwed. All of us on the water know "localized depletion" well, and Omega could care less.

Whether operating in the mid Atlantic or in the Gulf of Mexico (where there are still no catch limits) anglers and the eco system are always left with the short end of the stick. The industrial scale and rate of removal of these talented ship captains and spotter plane pilots is second to none. Make no mistake about it, this is the largest commercial fishery, in numbers of fish, in the USA and this type

of fishing, day after day, leaves nothing but slimy smelly foam in its wake.

Mr. Landry continues to distract from the facts of doing business as usual. Distracting investors away from the fact that in 2012, execs got \$900,000 worth of bonuses while the average Reedville boatman was paid \$35,000 for the whole season. Omega execs are lining their pockets with this overflow due in part to more than 50% of the American baitfish that they scoop up are ground up and shipped to China's booming aquaculture industry. This end of the business, while less profitable than the human nutrition end of things, is projected grow at the rate of more that 8-10% a year right on thru until cheap Chinese labor runs out.

The bottom line is that Omega Protein Execs continue to reap profits from a free American resource, while *exploiting* the bottom rung of the food chain, and, in turn, fellow Americans that depend on healthy waters to make a living. The time has come to put an end to the antiquated practice of harvesting vast quantities of forage fish, reducing them to oil and meal, and taking meals away from the very fish that we rely upon for food and sport. (Virginia is the only East Coast State which still allows reduction fishing).

Leaving an imbalanced ecosystem and too little food for predator fish or marine life in the water is about as selfish a corporate act as I can imagine. It's clearly time for Omega to diversify and re invest in sustainable, organic protein/Omega-3 sources, from algae, flax seed, soy, camelina, etc. and to finally become the good corporate citizen that they say they are.

Please share, follow and contact Paul on social media and the web:

Email:

[paulyfish@reeltherapy.com](mailto:paulyfish@reeltherapy.com)

Twitter Feeds:

@paulyfish

@Menhaden\_Defend

@AnglersConNet

Facebook links:

[www.facebook.com/AnglersConservationNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/AnglersConservationNetwork)

[www.facebook.com/menhadendefenders](http://www.facebook.com/menhadendefenders)

# NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

*By John Toth*

On behalf of the JCAA, I attended the June 23rd meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) and the following is a brief summary of the issues that were discussed:

Mr. Ray Cantor, Chief Advisor, Office of permit Coordination & Environmental Review for our state's DEP was the invited guest speaker for this meeting and a number of issues were raised with him for comment:

**Green Acres Issue in Millville, NJ** - This issue dominated much of the meeting's agenda and it is rather a complicated one that would take many pages of this report to explain it in detail. The heart of this issue is that the town of Millville has an 80 acre land area that was supposed to be developed by an aluminum company in that town. After a lengthy discussion process with the town and the aluminum company, negotiations ran into a roadblock. Our state's Green Acres program became involved in this issue by purchasing this property. Consequently, the aluminum company decided to move its plant to Tennessee. Millville is suing the DEP over this purchase since it claims the Green Acres purchase caused it to lose a viable company that could have expanded its plant to employ 400 workers from the 50 it already had in Millville. It now appears that the DEP is now in negotiations to give this Green Acres property back to Millville for commercial development! The issue here is why did the DEP take this property in the first place for Green Acres! This can **possibly set a precedent and open the door to other communities who may want to take Green Acres land for commercial purposes!** If it can be done in Millville, why not at other locations! Mr. Cantor said that it will take some time to sort this all out and that what happened in Millville will not occur at other municipalities.

## **Excessive Time to Implement Fishing Regulations**

- NJOA Board member Rob Winkel pointed out to Mr. Cantor that it takes almost **two years** to implement simple changes governing hunting/fishing regulations! Rob pointed out that when there are only a few changes needed in the manual that has these regulations, the **entire manual** comes for

review by a number of agencies instead of the few sentences or paragraphs that need to be changed. The focus should be on these specific changes and not on the entire manual! Mr. Cantor agreed with Rob and that he too is not happy with the time it takes to get things done. He indicated that he wants to follow Rob's recommendation and will discuss it with his legal staff.

**Artificial Reefs** - The regulations concerning the use of the reefs by both recreational and commercial anglers have been under review by Mr. Cantor's legal staff for a very lengthy period (almost two years) and he was made aware of our frustration over it. He did say that Sandy created other legal issues that required his staff to direct their attention to them. However, he indicated that he will try to speed up this review process so that the artificial reef regulations can be released for public comment.

**Beach Access** - Paul Harris and others raised their concerns to Mr. Cantor about access to the beaches and the coastal towns are continuing to place all types of restrictions so that anglers cannot use them, like restricted or no parking allowed. The coastal towns are receiving aid to rebuild and beach replenishment from state/federal funding, but still go back to their "this beach belongs to me only" attitude. Mr. Cantor said that he wants to change this attitude and that he will better focus on this ongoing problem. He told us that he wants the NJOA to invite him back to its meeting in a year so that he can report on how much progress he has made in resolving this issue that continues to defy resolution.

**Jetty Notching** - Paul Haertel reported that three (3) out of the six (6) jetties considered for jetty notching will not be notched as a compromise at a recent meeting that he attended with Army Corps of Engineer staff. It was proposed to the Army Corps of Engineers that a bridge should be built over the notched area so that anglers could still use the jetty and the Corps could do its notching. The Corps thought that it would be too expensive to build these types of bridges and the liability that may result because of injuries.

**Delaware Artificial Reefs** - Delaware is going ahead with its artificial reef program. Delaware feels that it does not need any special buffer zones along its reefs. Perhaps it made this decision to blunt commercial opposition to these reefs. With

Delaware going ahead with its artificial reef program, it will help NJ in getting its own reef program in place.

**Humane Society Pays Big Fines** - The Humane Society continually tries its best to limit or end fishing and hunting opportunities in our state by any means, including filing all types of lawsuits against us. Well, the Humane Society sued Feld Entertainment that operates the Ringling Brothers Circus for abusing its elephants on the testimony of one of its circus staff. It turns out that this circus person **was being paid \$200,000 by the Humane Society** and the courts ruled against the Humane Society since it paid and planted one of its own to make trumped up charges against the circus. Feld Entertainment of Ringling Brothers Circus recovered **\$15.75 million** in attorney fees from the Humane Society and **\$9 million** from other animal rights groups. As a result of these rulings against them, the Charity Navigator, a site that advises the public about what charities are worthwhile, has placed a **"Donor Advisory"** against the Humane Society! Maybe the Humane Society can now care for animals like they should be doing and not making up false lawsuits and harassing innocent people and those of us who like fishing and hunting!

## Membership Report

*By John Toth*

Approximately six clubs have not paid their 2014 dues and reminder notices have been sent to them. Please make every effort to send in your club dues so that your club membership does not expire. 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.

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](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net).

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

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

The 2014 JCAA Youth Education Award will be presented to Mr. Don Marantz of the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club at the JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner in November.

Don has worked tirelessly to promote youth fishing and the protection of our aquatic resources for recreational fishing families. Through his volunteer efforts he has worked to make sure that children and their families are introduced to fishing and community environmental activities.

His volunteer activity has inspired others to get involved. Don and the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club have given countless volunteer hours so children will have opportunities to enjoy fishing and teach others about conservation. His list of accomplishments is extensive but we will only mention the following: The annual indoor educational seminar for children involving boy scouts and girl scouts - Spring fishing derby for children - Fall fishing derby for people with disabilities - He represents the club at outdoor shows and the Pequest trout hatchery open house giving advice to young anglers.

As past president of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association and current board of directors member, Don donates countless hours to support the betterment of a stable angling future for youngsters to enjoy. Don has also established a solid relationship with legislators and state officials to promote more HOFNOD programs in New Jersey. When Don sees something he feels will be a good fit for both young anglers and the fishing community, he takes hold of the idea, runs with it and puts it into action. This was the case when Don testified with others at the State House in Trenton before the NJ Senate Environmental Committee in favor of HOFNOD Bill 638. The bill appropriates \$200,000 from the Drug Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund to the Department of Environmental Protection to fund the cost of implementing the expanded NJ HOFNOD program.

Throughout his volunteer years, Don has over-extended himself to raise funds for the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club and the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. This allows these two

organizations to contribute towards the purchase of HOFNOD materials and fishing opportunities for children in urban areas.

### **NJBBA & IGFA-NJ TEACH KIDS FISHING**

On August 2<sup>nd</sup> a youth fishing clinic was held at the Reel Seat followed by an August 6<sup>th</sup> boat trip on the Voyager. Tim Burden and Paul Harris representing the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, joined with the American Littoral Society and Clean Ocean Action where they all participated in the International Game Fishing Association's First Kids Fishing Clinic which was geared to teach youngsters in the Ocean County Big Brothers and Big Sisters organization. The dual event was organized by IGFA-NJ Representatives Capt. Gene Nigro, Dave Matagiese, and Rich Keller.

Twenty-five youngsters experienced a fun fishing day on the boat and 21 fish were tagged.

### **GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP NJ HOFNOD**

During our visit to Gloucester Township in July we assisted with a NJ HOFNOD fly tying session and met with Robert Johnson, Director Gloucester Township NJ HOFNOD. Robert and his team of volunteers provide twenty-eight weeks of NJ HOFNOD instruction and fishing at a local pond. Before each session youngsters have an opportunity to learn about fish biology, freshwater fishing techniques, ecological knowledge, environmental stewardship, and life skills.

This is a great effort by Robert and his team of volunteers and the Township of Gloucester to provide NJ HOFNOD weekly fishing and learning sessions. During the fly tying session, students as young as six years old learned to tie flies and utilize fly tying tools and materials to create their own fly. Fly tying vises, tools and materials were provided by NJ DEP Fish & Wildlife program and the JCAA Youth Education Committee.

### **OCEAN COUNTY PROMOTING NJ HOFNOD**

On August 12<sup>th</sup> students attending the Private Industry Council program at T.H.E. Technologies located in Toms River, New Jersey learned how volunteering to keep our environment clean would help them find a fun summer job that could lead to full-time employment or possibly a career in the marine industry.

Michael Colwell, Agent from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office and I began our presentation "Fun Jersey Shore Jobs" linked with a

video clip from HOFNOD entitled An Urban Youth Perspective that reinforced our message about setting goals and utilizing healthy and constructive outdoor activities such as fishing and networking with local merchants to make job connections. High school students were encouraged to use fishing/boating and other related water sports as an alternative to drugs, alcohol, gangs, and violence. They also learned how to start a high school fishing club and how fishing/boating can be a great way to relax with family and friends. Students received Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs materials and books to learn about surf fishing. The students were from Toms River North, Central, and South High Schools and asked a lot of questions about different types of jobs and saltwater fishing.

Throughout the year, agents from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office visit public schools to distribute drug awareness and speak to students about staying healthy. They also distribute flyers about HOFNOD at back to school nights. For more information about promoting the Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs program at your school or organization, please contact Liz Jackson, DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife, NJ HOFNOD Coordinator [liz.Jackson@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:liz.Jackson@dep.state.nj.us) phone 908-637-4125.

### **KIDS LEARN FLY CASTING SKILLS**

A small group of children in Wall Township learned to catch fish on freshwater flies. Children gathered at picnic tables and used their fly tying skills to design their very own Woolly Worm and Marabou Streamer. After a quick snack they learned the basics of fly casting and knot tying. Then they used their new skills to catch their first fish on a fly rod.

Five fish were caught and released, 2 Crappies and 3 Blue Gills. Two youngsters caught their first fish on a fly rod using the flies they tied. Way to go Max and Isabella!!!

The youth fishing program lasted four hours and it was a fun time for all. Special thanks to Mr. Lee for providing refreshments, seminar area, and a great fishing location.

### **CAPE MAY YOUTH FISHING CAMP**

During August the JCAA Youth Education Committee assisted 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.

The week-long fishing camp allows children to learn the following: fish identification, NJ rules and regulations, how to tie knots, fly tying, fish cleaning, preparing your catch for a meal, bait and presentation, rod and reel maintenance, fish biology, and how to reel in fish.

We received a nice thank you note for assisting with the week-long fishing camp from Gretchen Whitman, Center Director, New Jersey Audubon, Nature Center of Cape May.

### **YOUTH ACTIVITIES NJ OUTDOOR EXPO**

The NJDEP's fifth annual NJ WILD Outdoor Expo will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 13-14, at the Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area in Jackson Township, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, rain or shine. Admission and parking are free. Most activities are free (a few require a modest fee). For more information, visit this [link](#). This fun-filled family event is designed for visitors to discover new ways to appreciate and enjoy New Jersey's great outdoors. Participants have an opportunity to try a broad spectrum of outdoor activities such as fishing, kayaking, hiking, shooting sports, rock climbing, camping skills, geocaching and wildlife watching. Demonstrations of sporting and tracking dogs, historical re-enactments, SCUBA dives, turkey calling, nature photography and much more await.