

JCAA NEWSPAPER OCTOBER 2014

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on September 23rd, 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, October 9th, 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.**

## **2014 OFFICERS**

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

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**September 30<sup>th</sup> JCAA General 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*

Ok, by now many of you have read the new striper addendum and formulated your own opinions on it. I have read an awful lot of comments on the internet, yet relatively few people came to the hearings we had in New Jersey. Worse yet the vast majority of people just sat there and listened but did not voice their opinions. Hopefully, all concerned parties will at least write letters or send emails prior to the 9/30 public comment deadline.

I have also read a number of comments where people have bashed Tom Fote because he favors status quo and does not believe stricter regulations are needed at this time. Tom is one of our state's three representatives on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council. Other states from North Carolina to Maine are represented on this council as well. Each state has only one vote so our three representatives will have to reach a consensus prior to voting. The ASMFC is expected to vote on the addendum at their October meeting.

As a commissioner, Tom represents all the fishermen of our state, both commercial and recreational. He does not represent the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, the Berkeley Striper Club, the Fish Hawks or any of the other clubs he belongs to at the ASMFC meetings. He does his best to be impartial and fair to all of our fishermen while he

does what he feels is best for our various fishery resources.

Tom has been taking a lot of heat for his stance on opposing reducing the mortality on stripers but be advised that Tom has been an avid striped fisherman for many years and has been involved in fisheries management since the 1970's. He has some very valid reasons such as the fact that the stock has not been over fished and over fishing is not occurring. Please remember that without Tom Fote, we would not have achieved game fish or no-sale status for striped bass in our state. We owe a lot of thanks to Tom for all he has done for us.

That having been said, I am the president of the JCAA and I disagree with him on this issue. I too have been an avid striped fisherman for over 40 years and in my prime fished close to 100 nights a year for them on the jetties. I fished for them when there were very few stripers around during the moratorium years as well as the more recent years of peak abundance. For the record, I favor option B to the addendum which would result in a 25% reduction in mortality within one year and, more specifically, I favor 1 fish at 32" because it will best protect the 2011 year class, allowing them to spawn a couple times before they are harvested. I have a number of other valid reasons for supporting this option as well.

As far as JCAA is concerned, neither one of us represent the JCAA position on this matter. JCAA is composed of approximately 75 member clubs that each have one vote. Each club may send a representative or two to our monthly general membership meetings and may make a motion asking that JCAA adopt a stance on a particular subject such as the striped addendum. Often, club reps then inform their respective clubs of the motion and they formulate their own position on it. The rep then votes as directed by his club at the next JCAA meeting. If the motion passes it becomes the official position of the JCAA.

Since JCAA had no summer meeting, I scheduled a special meeting on 9/3. I urged all clubs to attend with hope that we could reach a consensus on the striped addendum. Unfortunately, many of our clubs had not yet formulated their positions and those that did were pretty much evenly divided between the various options. Therefore, JCAA has no official position on the addendum except for one area. Our member clubs unanimously support option A of section 3.1 which is status quo - no transfer of

commercial quota. Option B would allow a state such as North Carolina where there have been no stripers in recent years to transfer its quota to a state such as Maryland or Virginia. This would allow the bass to be harvested rather than conserved. In an addendum that is virtually all about status quo or a decrease in mortality, it is appalling that the ASMFC would include something like this that would allow more stripers to be killed by commercial fishermen. Regarding the rest of the addendum, JCAA is recommending that all interested clubs and individuals give their opinions via email or mail by the 5:00 PM deadline on 9/30. Those wishing to submit written comments may mail them to Mike Waine, Fishery Management Plan coordinator, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, 1050 North Highland St., Suite 200 A-N, Arlington, Va. 220201 or email them to him at mwaine@asmfc.org.

I attended all three of the public hearings in New Jersey. Each had about 50-55 people. The first one was in Galloway where the clear majority of people favored option B, a 25 % reduction in one year. Most there also favored one fish at 28".

At that meeting I explained why JCAA had not taken a position on the addendum other than that we opposed the transfer of quotas by commercial fishermen. At the meeting in Ridgefield Park I testified on behalf of the Berkeley Striper Club that supports option B and one fish at 32". Surprisingly, though, the clear majority of people wanted status quo, no change in the regulations. At the Toms River meeting I gave my personal opinion which is for option B and a one fish limit at 32". Almost everyone there also spoke in favor of option B and most favored 1 fish at 32". I was impressed with the fact that the three party boat captains who spoke also favored option B, though they seemed to support one of the options that would allow the taking of one fish from 28"-34" and a second fish over 36". However, a diving group representative pointed out how that 2" gap from 34"-36" would be problematic for spear fishermen.

Next up is the advisors meeting for the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council on 9/23. The NJMFC does not have the authority at this time to set regulations on striped bass. However, they do want to make a recommendation to the ASMFC. The NJMFC decided to wait until after the public hearings to formulate their position so this is what the advisors meeting will be about. I believe that

they will support either option B or C. I am confident they will not favor option A or D.

The ASMFC is expected to make a decision on the addendum at their October meeting. More specifically, they have dedicated most of 10/29 to discuss the striper addendum. I am confident that our NJ representatives will favor option B or C. The states to our south will probably favor status quo while the states to our north will probably favor option B. It is going to be a long interesting battle and the outcome is far from certain but my best guess is that they will choose either B or C.

Provided that the ASMFC does vote in favor of some sort or reduction in mortality, all states will be forced to cut back by the percentage that was chosen. However, states will have the option of utilizing conservation equivalency meaning that they can come up with their own options provided that they can prove that it will result in the mandated reduction. For instance, the coast wide standard might be one fish at 28" but New Jersey as well as other states might be able to have something different approved. Once that is done, a Senator and an Assemblyman will have to introduce and pass bills that will establish the striped bass regulations for our state. I expect JCAA to be at the forefront in assisting legislators to introduce bills that will best suit the majority of our anglers. Again, though this is all speculation at this point as the ASMFC could still vote in favor of status quo and choose not to reduce striper mortality at all.

Lastly, many people have asked how this would affect our bonus tag program. That is a separate issue but the quota for the program is derived from what was our commercial quota. A certain number of pounds is allocated as our quota and it will be reduced by the same percentage that the ASMFC reduces the commercial quota for other states. It is important that we continue this program as our quota could be given to other states if we do not utilize it. I do not believe that we ever came close to filling this quota so we have actually been conserving striped bass since they surely would have been harvested if our quota had been given to other states that allow commercial fishing. However, our bonus tags will be in much higher demand if we are reduced to a one fish limit. Therefore, there is already talk of the program being revamped and it will have to be more tightly monitored. Hopefully, our state will revise it so that it remains fair to everyone.

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

### **Recreational Fishing Industry in Trouble**

I started looking into the decreases in boat registrations, NJ Saltwater Registry, the number of recreational fishing trips and in particular the number of summer flounder trips because of Hurricane Sandy. What I discovered were some troubling facts. The effects on summer flounder fishing were dramatic and the numbers are below. All the numbers were down except the number of fish we caught. I know that makes no sense but when has NMFS estimates of the recreational catch ever made any sense. I could probably do a better job on a Ouija Board. When I looked at the decrease in registered boats it was 13,000 for 2013 but what shocked me was the decrease in 2012 and the other years before Sandy.

What I discovered was that NJ lost a total of 88,000 boat registrations total in the last six years and I imagine other states are having the same problem. We went from over 232,000 boats to under 148,000 boats. This is a reduction of 62%. I do not have numbers on the decrease in charter and party boat registrations except for the decrease between 2012 and 2013 (down 34%). Then I started looking at trips and was just as shocked. The number of recreational fishing trips for the Mid-Atlantic since 2000 has shown a dramatic drop of 36%. Since 2007 it has been a downward trend losing over 8 million trips. The Mid-Atlantic went from 22,185, 810 in 2007 to 14,036,761 in 2013 coming mostly from the private boat sector. I do not have the state-by-state numbers on trips. I will be looking into getting the other states' numbers on boat registrations and breaking the Mid-Atlantic trip numbers state-by-state.

The boating industry in NJ has been quoted over the years as being worth over two billion dollars each year. The recreational fishing industry is worth about one billion dollars each year depending on the number of anglers. I am not an economist so I cannot calculate the numbers of dollars lost. Since NJ usually has the highest number of trips and anglers of the states in the Mid-Atlantic region, we have probably taken the biggest hit. To get an idea

of the economic impact of losing 8 million trips, consider that is about 2 years worth of recreational fishing in New Jersey. Think what that would mean to the entire economic well-being of New Jersey and the quality of life. When John Bullard gave 34 million dollars to the ground fish industry because of their “disaster,” the money would have been better spent on the recreational fishing industry. In awarding this money to the ground fish industry, NMFS decided to ignore the far greater disaster in the recreational fishing industry. Why does this always happen? Why is the monetary value of recreational fishing constantly ignored by the federal and state governments? When a casino closes in New Jersey, it is big news because of the loss of jobs. When we look at the economic impact of the losses in recreational fishing, we never consider the jobs lost there. The fact that the jobs are spread throughout the recreational industry, rather than being concentrated in one shop or one area makes it much easier to ignore the impact.

What needs to be done? Truth is, these numbers crept up on us and if it wasn't for Sandy, we probably wouldn't have looked so closely. A good beginning then would be sending this information to our legislators and governors throughout the mid-Atlantic region. JCAA does a good job of sharing these numbers with our Congressional delegation and our New Jersey legislators. They are always receptive to this information. We need other organizations to share this information in their states. As a second step, we need for the federal government and the states to work together in a task force to look at this coast wide issue. Their mandate would be to compare the figures state to state, identify the causes of this problem and develop a coast wide plan to address the issues. The Congress is in the process of reauthorizing the Magnusson/Stevens Act. This is a perfect time for the Senate and the House of Representatives to hold hearings on these issues and determine if there are solutions that can be addressed within the Magnusson/Stevens Act. For example, Magnusson/Stevens contains language that requires consideration of the economic impact of regulations. This has never been implemented and is honestly just window dressing. Some anglers dismiss the economic impact as long as the regulations don't deter them from fishing. What they fail to recognize is that any requests we make of our elected officials always raises the question of the economic value of

any decision. While I have focused on the economic impact of the decreases in participation, I cannot ignore the quality of life issues these numbers raise. If the parents stop fishing, their children never develop that passion. If that happens, in 20 years the recreational fishing industry will be like the dinosaurs. Beyond the passion for fishing, recreational anglers also have a passion for the environment. Who will replace their voices if recreational anglers are gone?

**Recreational Statistics for 2012/2013**

- New Jersey boat registrations  
2012 = 156,289  
2013 = 147,716
- New Jersey fishing trips dropped to 3,509,512 in 2013 from 5,020,042 in 2012
- New Jersey's Saltwater Registry was down by 42%.
- The party and charter boat registrations were also down by 34%.

**The numbers of boats that were damaged and were registered but not put in the water were not able to get a number.**

**We do not know what damage was done for the important bays and estuaries and the effects on the fish that were still using those areas as a nursery area at the time of the storm.**

Total # of Trips X % of trips targeting fluke = # of fluke trips

| year | #trips    | %fluke trips | #fluke trips |
|------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| 2010 | 5,862,904 | 36.4         | 2,134,097    |
| 2011 | 5,163,270 | 35.0         | 1,807,145    |
| 2012 | 5,020,042 | 39.3         | 1,982,917    |
| 2013 | 3,509,512 | *36.9        | 1,295,010    |

\* estimated from averaging 3 prior years.

# of fluke harvested divided by # of trips = # of fluke per trip

| year | #fluke    | #trips    | flukes/trip |
|------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 2010 | 552,000   | 2,134,097 | .26         |
| 2011 | 737,000   | 1,807,145 | .41         |
| 2012 | 1,130,000 | 1,982,917 | .57         |
| 2013 | 1,197,457 | 1,295,010 | .92         |

These numbers seem absurd, only .26 fluke harvested per trip or 1 fluke harvested for every four trips in 2010. Then it goes up to .92 fluke harvested per trip in 2013. That would mean the fishing was almost 4 times better in 2013 than in 2010.

## **Striped Bass Hearings in NJ Completed**

The three New Jersey Striped Bass hearings have been completed. As I expected, there was no consensus among the anglers in attendance. There were approximately 50 people in attendance at each hearing. A better turnout might have resulted in a wider range of opinions. I can remember when a striped bass hearing was attended by hundreds of anglers. At the hearing in North Jersey the speakers were overwhelmingly for status quo. In Toms River, the speakers were overwhelmingly in support of a 25% reduction. In Galloway Township, the majority supported 25% but there was also support for 17% and status quo. There was an even broader range of views as we talked about bag and size limits. A decision will be made at the October 28<sup>th</sup> ASMFC Striped Bass meeting in Mystic, Connecticut. At that time we will know if the regulations are for status quo, a 25% or 17% reduction. If there is a reduction, the next task is to consider how New Jersey meets that mandate. Conservation equivalency will probably be the method used which means the tables included in the document will change somewhat. To change the Striped Bass size or bag limit we need legislation. This means we need a consensus on the best way to develop new rules for all the anglers of New Jersey. Not an easy task. As legislative chairman for JCAA I have been through this process a number of times. There are always competing ideas as everyone has their interests at heart. I am asking all of the recreational anglers to be flexible enough to consider the needs of our fellow anglers. Some of you fish every day, some once or twice a year. Some fish from the beach and others from boats. Some don't want to take any fish, some want an occasional meal. We need to put ourselves in someone else's waders.

## **Summer Flounder**

The release below is for a scoping meeting that will take place on September 29 & 30 in New Jersey. The locations and times included. The scoping documents will be used to prepare a major addendum to the summer flounder plan. If you want to voice your opinions on mandatory regionalization, the recreational/commercial quota split, the identified problems in the recreational statistics and any other issues concerning management of summer flounder, this is your opportunity. I will be at the meeting in Belmar and Tom Baum will be at Somers

Point. I am looking forward to your input. I am hoping for a better turnout than we had at the individual striped bass hearings.

## **MAFMC and ASMFC to Hold Summer Flounder Scoping Hearings**

For Immediate Release: September 5, 2014

Monday September 29 6:30PM  
Sommers Point City Hall  
Building T3 Room, Brooklyn NY 11235

Tuesday September 30 6:00PM  
Belmar Municipal Court  
Belmar NJ 07719

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) have scheduled a series of scoping hearings to gather public input on the range of issues and information to be considered in the Comprehensive Summer Flounder Amendment. Hearings will be held September 29 - October 22 in coastal states from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

The amendment will involve a comprehensive review of all aspects of the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP) related to summer flounder. Specifically, the Council and Commission will consider whether modifications to the FMP's goals, objectives, and management strategies for summer flounder are needed.

Scoping is the first and best opportunity for members of the public to raise concerns related to the scope of issues that will be considered. The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding the range of potential issues to be addressed in the amendment. The Council and Commission are particularly interested in comments on the following topics:

- Fishery management plan goals and objectives
- Quota allocation between the commercial and recreational fisheries
- Commercial management measures and strategies
- Recreational management measures and strategies

- Discards in the commercial and recreational fisheries
- Ecosystem, habitat, by-catch, and protected species issues
- Data collection requirements and protocols

## Learn More

The Scoping Document contains background information on summer flounder management and on issues that may be addressed in the amendment, as well as a description of the amendment process and timeline. Additional information and updates will be posted at [www.mafmc.org/actions/summer-flounder-amendment](http://www.mafmc.org/actions/summer-flounder-amendment).

## Contacts

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[Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org](mailto:Krootes-murdy@asmfc.org), 703.842.0740

Kiley Dancy, FMP Coordinator, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
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## **\$190M Settlement in Pollution Suit would End Decade-Long Legal Fight over Passaic River**

by Scott Fallon, The Record, 9/16/2014

One of the nation's biggest chemical companies will pay \$190 million to New Jersey to settle a lawsuit over the cancer-causing pollution in the Passaic River, state officials announced Monday.

If approved by a judge, the settlement with Occidental Chemical Corp. will end almost a decade of litigation between the state and several companies that inherited the legal responsibility of a major polluter of the Passaic River.

Much of the money will likely go to balance the state's budget rather than to restore the river, a move Governor Christie made last year with two previous settlements in the case.

In fact, only \$50 million is being slated for restoration efforts, which environmental groups said is a paltry amount for such an ailing waterway.

Still, state environmental officials hailed the outcome. "The parties responsible for the pollution should be accountable for the expense of the remediation, and not the taxpayers of our state," said

Bob Martin, commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Protection.

The legal battle stemmed from pollution from the former Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Co. plant in Newark, which dumped dioxin into the Passaic River in the 1950s and 1960s. The dioxin was a byproduct of the manufacture of the Vietnam-era defoliant Agent Orange.

Dioxin, along with industrial pollution from dozens of other sources, has made the Passaic River a federal Superfund site and one of the most contaminated waterways in the nation. Since the Passaic is tidal, the pollution spread along the river's lower 17 miles from Newark Bay to the Dundee Dam in Garfield. One of the highest concentrations of dioxin outside of Newark was found 10 miles north along the riverbank in Lyndhurst, where a \$20 million cleanup project was completed this year.

The pollution is so widespread that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is finalizing a \$1.7 billion plan to dredge and cap the river's lower eight miles — one of the most expensive cleanups in the agency's history.

Occidental, based in Dallas, bought Diamond Shamrock from its parent company, Maxus Energy Corp., in 1986, 17 years after the plant closed.

The DEP sued several companies connected to the former plant in 2005, claiming they were not moving fast enough to clean up the Passaic.

The meandering case included a countersuit in 2008 by Maxus and its affiliate Tierra Solutions Inc., which drew almost 300 other parties into the legal battle. The companies argued that other entities, including 70 municipalities, bore some of the responsibility for polluting the waterway.

It took an additional five years before the state reached a settlement with the parent company of Maxus for \$130 million. And 261 third-party defendants settled for \$35 million.

With the Occidental settlement, New Jersey has recovered \$355.4 million in the Passaic River litigation. But only \$67.4 million has been dedicated to natural resource restoration projects in New Jersey, state officials said Monday. The majority of the settlement funds have been diverted by Christie to balance the state budget, a move that has drawn criticism from several environmental groups.

Last year Christie took \$147.5 million of the \$165 million settlement for the budget's general fund. At the time, administration officials said moving the money to the general fund amounted to

paying the state back for \$120 million it had already spent on Passaic River restoration over the past few decades.

About \$50 million from the Occidental settlement is slated for natural resource restoration projects around Newark Bay, state officials said. That's because the current state budget calls for the first \$50 million in this type of settlement to be used for cleanups and legal fees. The rest can be used for any purpose.

"We are concerned that the settlement is more about fixing the budget than helping the people along the river who have been impacted by the pollution," said Jeff Tittel, executive director of the New Jersey Sierra Club.

Debbie Mans, director of the NY/NJ Baykeeper, who has long fought to clean up the Passaic, agreed.

"Settlements to compensate the public for years of damage to the environment should not be used to plug gaps in the general fund," she said.

Even though he opposed the lawsuit because he felt it would stall other cleanup efforts, U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr., D-Paterson, said Monday all of the money should be used to restore the river.

Occidental also agreed under the settlement "to pay costs associated" with the EPA's proposed \$1.7 billion cleanup plan. Details have not yet been made public, and it is unclear what that means.

A spokesman for Occidental said the company will seek reimbursement from Maxus Energy Corp. Occidental, also known as OxyChem, operates chemical manufacturing plants in 12 states, as well as facilities in Canada and Latin America.

DEP officials expect the settlement to be presented before a judge in Essex County for approval in December.

Link: [northjersey.com](http://northjersey.com)

Email: [fallon@northjersey.com](mailto:fallon@northjersey.com)

## The ASMFC's 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting October 26-30, 2014 at the Hilton Mystic, Connecticut

Preliminary Agenda

**Sunday, October 26, 2014**

2:00-5:30 p.m. **Registration**

**Monday, October 27, 2014**

7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. **Registration**

8:00-9:30 a.m. **Atlantic Herring Section**

- Review and Consider Approval of Draft Amendment 3 for Public Comment
- Set 2015 Specifications

8:00-5:00 p.m. **Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) Steering Committee**

- Review and Rank FY2015 Habitat Restoration Proposals
- Initiate Review of ACFHP 5-year Conservation Strategic Plan
- Presentation on Atlantic Coast Diadromous Fish Habitat Assessment
- Presentation on Climate Change Impacts to Coastal Fish Habitats

8:00-5:00 p.m. **Management and Science Committee**

- Overview of FishSmart/Barotrauma Program and Tools
- Overview of Research Set Aside Program
- NMFS Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis
- Review New ASMFC Webpage for Commercial/Recreational Regulations by State/Species
- Science Center for Marine Fisheries (SCMFIS) Presentation
- Review Stock Assessment Schedule
- Program Updates

9:45-10:45 a.m. **Winter Flounder Management Board**

- Review Northeast Fisheries Science Center Stock Assessment Update for Gulf of Maine Winter Flounder
- Review Update of Abundance and Biomass Indices for Southern New England/Mid-Atlantic Winter Flounder
- Set 2015 Specifications

11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. **American Eel Management Board**

- Review and Consider Final Approval of Addendum IV

3:00-6:00 p.m. **Registration**

6:30-8:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception at the Mystic Aquarium**

**Tuesday, October 28, 2014**

7:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. **Registration**

8:00-10:00 a.m. **American Lobster Management Board**

- Public Comment Summary of the Cancer Crab Public Information Document
- Board Guidance on Development of Management Options for Draft FMP for Cancer Crab
- Review Lobster Gear and Trap Transfer Inconsistencies in State/Federal Waters
- Review LCMT Reports and Proposals on Southern New England Reductions

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **Habitat Committee**

- Overview of Action Plan 2015 and Work Plan
- Review Publications in Progress: Habitat Hotline Atlantic (climate change impacts on fish habitats), Habitat Management Series (living shorelines, aquaculture), Sciaenid Habitat Management Document
- Habitat Bottlenecks

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **Law Enforcement Committee**

- Review of LEC Guidelines for Enforceability
- State and Federal Agency Reports
- Species Board Updates

10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. **Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board**

- Review Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Wave 4 Harvest Estimates for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass (if available)
- Discuss Available Management Approaches for the 2015 Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Recreational Fisheries

10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. **Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP)**

**Executive Committee** (A portion of this meeting will be a closed session for Committee members only)

- Review Progress of the Independent Program Review (IPR) Recommendations

12:15-1:30 p.m. **Legislators and Governors' Appointees Luncheon**

1:30-2:45 p.m. **Business Session**

- Commission Chair and Vice-Chair Election
- 2014 Action Plan Update

- 2015 Action Planning

2:00-4:30 p.m. **Registration**

3:00-4:15 p.m. **ISFMP Policy Board & ACCSP Coordinating Council**

- Review and Consider Recommendations on the State Conduct of the Marine Recreational Information Program-Access Point Angler Intercept Survey

4:15-5:15 p.m. **ACCSP Coordinating Council**

- Consider and Approve Proposals for FY2015 Funding
- Program Updates
- Committee Updates
- Update from Executive Committee on IPR Recommendations Progress

5:15-6:00 p.m. **Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office Strategic Planning Workshop**

6:30-9:30 p.m. **Annual Dinner at the Mystic Seaport**

**Wednesday, October 29, 2014**

8:00-10:00 a.m. **Executive Committee**

- Review Commission Two-thirds Voting Policy
- Review Executive Director's Priorities for 2015
- Advisory Panel Involvement in FMP Development
- Approve FY 2014 Audit
- Discuss Future Annual Meetings

10:15 a.m.-6:30 p.m. **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

- Review and Consider Final Approval of Addendum IV

12:00-1:30 p.m. **Captain David H. Hart Award Luncheon**

**Thursday, October 30, 2014**

8:00-9:30 a.m. **Horseshoe Crab Management Board**

- Review Updates on Horseshoe Crab and Shorebird Abundance
- Set 2015 Specifications
- Review and Consider Approval of the 2014 FMP Review and State Compliance Report



9:45-11:15 a.m. **Commissioner Workshop on Fisheries Socioeconomics Using Atlantic Menhaden as a Case-Study**

- Overview of Social Science Evaluation
- Overview of Economic Analyses
- Management Scenario Interactive Workgroup Activity

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Coastal Sharks Management Board**

- Review NOAA Fisheries Highly Migratory Species Division Smoothhound Proposed Rule and Consider Development of Board Comments
- Set 2015 Coastal Sharks Specifications

12:45-1:45 p.m. **Spiny Dogfish Management Board**

- Review and Consider Final Approval of Addendum V

2:00-4:00 p.m. **ISFMP Policy Board**

- Committee Reports: Fish Passage Work Group, Habitat Committee, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, Management and Science Committee
- Consider Approval of Revisions to the ASMFC Committee Guidance and Assessment Process Document

4:00 –4:15 p.m. **Business Session** (if necessary)

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 dinner, contact Dan Miller at (609) 641-7821.

## Raritan River Dams

### Come Down!

*By Capt. Paul Eidman*

*Forage Fish Committee Chairman*

## 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 200 supporters and friends for a semi-formal sit-down dinner with choice of entrees

Talk about perfect timing! Using millions of Natural Resource Damage Settlement Dollars (Polluters Pay) to pay the bill, the collective and creative minds of NOAA, NJDEP and MWH Americas got together and demolished three (one more coming down soon) useless century old dams opening up a total of 28 miles of historic fish migration waters. Calco dam in 2011, Roberts street dam in 2012, Nevius street dam in 2013 and Headgates dam next year. Projects like this take an obnoxiously long time to engineer, obtain permits, etc, but relatively little heavy equipment time to undo what man has done to the river in a not too far away past. These "low head dams" served a variety of purposes in the past, but collectively all did one thing very well, they completely blocked off all kinds of fish from getting to the most ideal stretches of the upper river for spawning.

At a time when so many of our fisheries are in trouble, this is great news! Even if you don't fish the Raritan you should be happy. If you are a Raritan Bay fisherman in New Jersey or New York area,

there is no doubt that you will benefit from an unimpeded Raritan River. All around the NY/NJ bight, anglers should be doing a jig in the street, because know it or not, the opening up of these prime spawning grounds upstream expands the nursery and will provide vital new habitat for spawning and, subsequently, the juveniles of forage and gamefish species. It doesn't take much for a few breeders to make the journey out of Raritan Bay and up the Raritan and this in turn will give you more bass fighting hard at the end of your line!

Given the right upstream conditions, the upper stretches of the Raritan provide ideal spawning habitat for stripers, alewife and blue-back herring and American shad. Yes there are big shad in the river, right now, and if the present moratorium is lifted, there exists a distinct possibility that a viable fishery for these high jumping hard fighting gamefish will exist in the future as a result of this hard work.

As a local fisherman, I couldn't be happier about this. This river is a light tackle anglers fishing dream come true! I have been fishing the Raritan River for Striped bass since my early teens and I have watched them grow from little fingerlings to longer than my arm. We saw it really start to light up with big numbers of bass entering the river during the mid 90's. This seemed to happen simultaneously as the waters cleaned up and the coastal striper population was starting to regain its foothold after being overfished since the 70's. Now, in late summer there are schools of tiny striped bass feeding on minnows in the upper sections of the river. After seeing this success over the past few decades, it's hard to comprehend that at one point during America's Industrial Revolution, the Raritan was treated as an open sewer for both human and industrial waste. Unfortunately, even today many residents think that the Raritan River is totally polluted and nasty.

While big dam removals for depleted Salmon populations normally make today's headlines, this project will have the same impact on our ecosystem and all of its inhabitants. It's not just a Jersey thing, there have been thousands of these built since the 1700's from Maine to Florida, and they need to be recognized and removed. No matter what the dam's size is, they are impediments to fish migration and were clearly built for business only with zero consideration for nature. The ecosystem implications of dam removal on the Raritan are tenfold and it's

clear to see that just about every facet of this project is a positive one. Sure, fish passage is important but clean drinking water, energy and recreation cannot be ignored. So many of these goals of providing fish can be compatible with other goals and needs.

From a forage fish perspective, Raritan River dam removal is critical to success of the species in our area. Using River Herring as a prime example, (Alewife and Blue backs), they are very picky about spawning conditions and each one requires a different type of spawning habitat. Either way, if there is a dam blocking them, the River Herring simply don't spawn. If the spawn doesn't happen, there's no new juvenile herring coming into the system to replenish the population and numbers diminish. Fewer enter the marine food web and then Striped Bass, Osprey, etc have nothing to feed upon and the ecosystem collapses. Lots more work needs to be done here, and it's going to take grant funding to do it. At first, angler involvement is going to be key and we could all provide catch records and even do our own young of year seining and data collection. There is zero funding at the state level to accomplish this and we all need to speak up and find a way to get funding for this, because the potential for this river to become a great fishery is in our hands.

Fishing on the Raritan in certain parts can make you feel like you are on an "Urban Safari." Shorelines cluttered with massive old power plants, pipes and pilings, smokestacks, landfills, and since this is New Jersey, a sizable collection of superfund sites. For me, this just makes it so much more interesting and amazing, especially when you are banging a nice bass in the shallows along a reedy shoreline!

I can't help but cringe when I see how every spring the clam bait fleet sets up in the middle of Raritan Bay, right during pre-spawn time and hundreds of breeder size striped bass are killed off. Now more than ever before, we need to let these breeders go, especially during late April and May so they can make it to spawn.

While many of these bass feed here prior to venturing up the Hudson, more and more bass are choosing the upper waters of the Raritan instead. It's up to us as anglers to respect these fish and let them build the future of the Raritan River/Bay fishery. It's almost as if the bass know that without the dams, the young of year stand more of a chance to make it to maturity.

## Membership Report

*By John Toth*

Approximately five 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*

### UPCOMING NJ HOFNOD WORKSHOP

The next NJ HOFNOD workshop is scheduled for November 14-15-16, 2014 located at Lighthouse Camp, Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education in Waretown, NJ.

Participants of this training will be responsible for delivering the program to youth from beginning to end. Organizations that participate in the program are eligible to receive additional professional development in conservation education and angling skills, financial and in-kind support for program materials and supplies including subsidized educational field trips. Supplemental training can be requested for content like fly tying, fly fishing and discover diving. To register and receive more information, please contact Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Program Coordinator, at 908-637-4125 x122 or by e-mail at [liz.jackson@dep.nj.gov](mailto:liz.jackson@dep.nj.gov).

### JCAA DINNER NOVEMBER 9TH

Come join us and celebrate Sunday, November 9, 2014 at the JCAA Sportsman of the

year Dinner. The dinner will be held at the Crystal Point Yacht Club in Point Pleasant, NJ. The 2014 JCAA Youth Education Award will be presented to Mr. Don Marantz of the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club at the JCAA Sportsman of the Year Dinner. Please see more information about the dinner in this issue of the JCAA October Newspaper.

### NJBBA KIDS FISHING SUCCESS

NJBBA members completed another successful Youth Surf Fishing Tournament at Island Beach State Park. Tom Coopy, Tournament Chair and the many NJBBA volunteers did a great job of hosting a successful tournament with 115 youth participants. Youngsters signed in early and then proceeded to the following five learning stations: Knot Tying, Casting, Fish Identification, Lures/Bait and Terminal Tackle. All the children received a youth tournament tee shirt, grab bags filled with fishing items donated by the local area bait and tackle stores. When the fishing ended at 1:00 they all returned for a free lunch that included hot dogs and drinks served by NJBBA women of the Hospitality committee. After lunch all the children received prizes and parents received gift certificates from local businesses. We had 1st, 2nd, & 3rd winners in all three age categories, with the tournament's largest fish being a 34 3/4" dogfish. All the winners received trophies along with a surf rod and reel.

### VETERANS LEARN FLY TYING SKILLS

A small group of veterans and their children in Central Jersey learned to catch fish on saltwater flies. Children and their parents learned how to use their fly tying skills to design their very own saltwater deer tail teaser. They also learned to tie a dropper loop leader. During the two hour lesson they learned the basics of fly tying and casting. Hopefully, they will use their new skills to catch a Striped Bass from the surf.

### YOUTH ACTIVITIES

#### BRICK HIGH SCHOOL FISHING CLUB

Students and faculty from Brick High School are now working on lesson plans for the Brick High School Fishing Club. Joanna Scutro, Math Educator stated, "students are excited about learning to fish and already meeting to discuss fishing club news."

The JCAA Youth Education Committee will work with Brick High School and support their High School Fishing Club. The JCAA Youth Education

Committee will support the school fishing club by providing tackle, fishing videos, books, and educational items from the JCAA lending library.

### **INTERMEDIATE SURF FISHING CLINICS**

Register now for the fall intermediate surf fishing clinics at Island Beach State Park. Visitors will learn how to read the water, advanced knot tying, bait and lure presentations, and what to do when a fish strikes.

All fishing equipment and bait/lures provided. A registered adult must accompany minors, which can be no younger than 10 years of age. Students from prior surf fishing clinics will be introduced to new techniques for catching that fish of a lifetime. You will learn: how to read the water, advanced knot tying, the use of different bait presentations, surface plugs and how to reel in that fish of a lifetime. If you would like to participate you must have some basic understanding of casting, coastal safety and be prepared for any weather conditions.

A registered adult must accompany minors, which can be no younger than 10 years of age. Cost: \$25 per person. Mark the following dates on your calendar: (10:00 am to 2:00 pm): October 9, 12, 23, 26 November 6, 9, 20, 23, December 4. The program begins at 10:00 am sharp at the Interpretive Center. See more at [this link](#).

### **Studying the Delaware River 2013 Report**

by Jennifer Pyle, Assistant Biologist  
Species Fact Sheets by Heather Konell,  
Fisheries Technician

September 19, 2014

Here is the [link to the study](#). Once there you can click on the studies and get all the information.

#### **Introduction – History of Fisheries Surveys**

The Delaware estuary, New Jersey's largest estuary system, is a semi-enclosed body of water where freshwater from the Delaware River mixes with salt water from the Delaware Bay. The estuary is a migratory route for many recreational and commercial fish and provides critical spawning and feeding grounds and nursery areas for many species.

The success of a species is contingent upon the survival of their young. The Delaware estuary

provides a suitable nursery environment for young fish to grow. Monitoring populations of these juvenile fish is essential for fishery managers to estimate abundance and evaluate the success of the population. These assessments provide a means to predict population trends and future harvest potential of monitored species.

Bureau of Marine Fisheries biologists within the New Jersey DEP's Division of Fish & Wildlife conduct several surveys each year to study the status of species populations within the estuary. One of these surveys is the Delaware River Seine Survey.

The seine survey is a Fishery Independent Monitoring Project required by the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Striped Bass. It is currently the Bureau of Marine Fisheries' longest running fishery-independent survey. It began in 1980 when striped bass stocks were severely depleted and is primarily a juvenile striped bass abundance survey. Data collected provides an annual abundance index for this species, reported as the number of young-of-year per seine haul. Results have been corroborated by other independent surveys, such as the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife's striped bass spawning stock survey.

A unique aspect of this survey is its longevity - it has been conducted for 34 consecutive years. Data from such a large period of time is highly beneficial to species population studies. Not only does this survey tell us how many fish there are from year to year, but the data also contributes to the development of fisheries management plans and projections of sustainable harvest levels.

For more information about the value of this survey, see the article from the 2006 Marine Digest: [Striped Bass Survey Well Worth the Cost](#).

Past Surveys:

- [Data Summary of 2013 Delaware River Survey](#)
- [Data Summary of 2012 Delaware River Survey](#)
- [Data Summary of 2011 Delaware River Survey](#)
- [Data Summary of 2010 Delaware River Survey](#)
- [Data Summary of 2009 Delaware River Survey](#)

Click on the links below for more Delaware River Seine Survey information:

- [Survey Locations](#)
- [Equipment/Methodology](#)
- [Catch History](#)
- [Water Quality](#)
- [The Future of Delaware River Fisheries](#)