

JCAA NEWSPAPER JANUARY 2015

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on December 23rd, 2014)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, December 30th, 2014

Starting at 7:30 PM

AT JERSEY COAST SHARK ANGLERS

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 7th, 2015

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote

JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi

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

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

IMPORTANT DATES

December 30th JCAA General Meeting

January 7th JCAA Board Meeting

January 8th -11th Garden State Outdoor Sports Show

January 17th Salt Water Sportsman Seminar

January 27th JCAA General Meeting

February 4th -8th Atlantic City Boat Show

February 26th -March 1st Greater Philly Outdoor Sport Show

March 5th -8th Suffern Show

March 20th -22nd Saltwater Fishing Expo

Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series Comes To Linwood!

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

The Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series will bring its 2015 New Jersey presentation to the Linwood Country Club (500 Shore Road, Linwood) on Saturday, January 17. The host of the 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. presentation will be George Poveromo – Host of George Poveromo’s World of Saltwater Fishing on the NBC Sports Network, and Editor-At-Large for Salt Water Sportsman, with Nick Honachefsky – noted writer, TV personality and New Jersey fishing authority serving in the co-host position. The Tour is being presented by Bass Pro Shops.

Joining Poveromo and Honachefsky in Linwood will be: Captain Adam Crouthamel – Distinguished Cape May-area authority on catching trophy fluke and striped bass, along with blackfish, sea bass and cod with *Adam Bomb Sport Fishing*; Captain Dan Schafer – Premier back bay fishing guide with *Insomniac Guide Service*; Captain Sean Reilly – Noted trophy fluke, blackfish, wreck- and bottom-fishing specialist who also excels at catching

sharks and tuna; Captain Phil Leo – Deep water fluke, blackfish and tile-fishing pro, and authority on fishing the canyons with Duct Work Sportfishing; Captain Franz Hueber – Premier offshore and canyon fishing pro with his Libation Charters; Kaitryn Kelly – Inshore, back bay and land-fishing specialist for fluke, blackfish and striped bass; Captain Brett Taylor – Barnegat-based pro who specializes in fishing for fluke - inshore and offshore, and the Barnegat Bay system; and Captain Mark Finelli - Legendary trophy striped bass authority!

Courses for the January 17 presentation will focus on: Trophy stripers on ultra-light tackle; Live-lining for trophy stripers; Top trolling tactics for stripers; Chunking for bluefish; Bluefish on surface lures; Inshore wire-line techniques; Jetty tactics; How to catch more and bigger fluke; Targeting trophy fluke; Top southern tactics for jumbo fluke; Secrets of fishing the Cape May Rips; Trophy drum in Delaware Bay; Secrets of fishing Delaware Bay; Top tactics for big blackfish; Catching blackfish by the score; Jigging for blackfish; No-nonsense weakfish tactics; How and where to locate weakfish; Variety fishing in and around inlets; How to locate and fish productive bottom (blackfish, sea bass, spot and fluke); Back-bay stripers; Can't-miss tuna-trolling patterns; Chunking for tunas; Live-baiting for tunas; Advanced methods for bluefin and yellowfin tuna; Cutting edge lure-trolling tactics; Subsurface offshore trolling; Cutting edge spreader bar and dredge tactics; Secrets for catching more inshore tuna; Reading water temperature charts; Targeting trophy Makos; Basic and advanced sharking techniques; Offshore kite fishing for sharks and tuna; Specialized tactics that take more big-eye tuna; How to troll up more wahoo and white marlin!

The Seminar Series kicks off at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. Long considered the best bargain in sportfishing, a Seminar Series ticket is only \$ 55.00.

The ticket price covers five hours of instruction from the best pros in the business, a course textbook, a one-year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman, one Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, bottle of Star tron fuel treatment, bottle of Star brite Boat Guard, bottle of Corrosion Block, a \$ 10.00 Bass Pro Shops discount card (off any purchase of \$ 75.00 or more), and chances to win thousands of dollars worth of door prizes! The Grand Prize at the

conclusion of the Jersey seminar is a Florida Keys fishing trip! The Super Grand Prize, to be awarded two weeks after the conclusion of the 2015 series, is a new Mako Pro Skiff 17 cc!

HOW TO REGISTER - Get your tickets now, as the Atlantic City area seminar is always a popular venue. To pay with Visa, MasterCard and American Express, call (800) 448-7360, or register on-line, visit: www.nationalseminarseries.com

Garden State Outdoor Sports Show

New Jersey Convention and Expo Center
January 8-11, 2015

The 32nd Annual Garden State Outdoor Sports Show (GSOSS) will be held January 8-11, 2015, at the New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center in Raritan, New Jersey. The event is proud offer more hunting and fishing seminars than ever before, tons of new family-friendly attractions and more than 140,000 square feet of exhibit space filled with vendors and exhibitors suitable to the outdoor enthusiast.

The Garden State Outdoor Sports Show's goal is to deliver seminars, attractions and exhibits designed to speak to sports enthusiasts of all ages with a focus on activities that the entire family can enjoy.

Attendees will have an opportunity to shop amazing show deals on fishing tackle, boats, archery, outfitters, wildlife art, hunting supplies, charters, lodges, tourism, rafting, gun safes and knives, taxidermy plus much more!

President's Report

By Paul Haertel

I have heard some criticism directed at the JCAA because of its stance supporting a bag limit of two stripers even though the proposed regulation will meet the 25% mandated reduction in striper mortality. I realize that many striper fishermen are very passionate about their sport and many are very vocal about their position regarding the pending change in our striper regulations. Therefore, I believe this is an opportune time to explain how the JCAA reaches decisions on matters like this. It is not up to me as President to decide what position JCAA will

take, nor is it up to our legislative chairman Tom Fote or for that matter our entire board; rather it is up to our member clubs. Representatives from each club are invited to attend the JCAA monthly general membership meetings. At these meetings any representative may make a motion for JCAA to take a stance on a particular topic. The other reps then vote on the motion and if it passes, it becomes the official position of the JCAA. Sometimes it is not as simple as that though. For instance, if the topic is controversial such as the pending striper regulations, the vote might be postponed until the next meeting so that the reps will have an opportunity to explain the situation to their clubs so that they can each formulate their own positions before voting for the JCAA position. Even though the majority rules, there is no animosity towards the dissenting clubs and they are encouraged to have their voices heard by the appropriate authorities.

Recently the New Jersey Bureau of Marine Fisheries submitted two proposals to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission regarding striped bass. These proposals were formulated due to our state and others being allowed to do so under what is known as conservation equivalency. More specifically, the two proposals our state is seeking approval on is one bass at 29-36" with a second bass over 36" and one bass at 28"-42" with a second bass over 42". The bonus bass program will probably remain the same but will be more tightly monitored. The quota for this program will be less and with an expected increase in demand for bonus cards, the season will have to be shut down if the quota is reached. The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council is expected to accept public comments on these options as well as those previously approved by the addendum at their meeting on January 8, 2015. The meeting will begin at 4 PM and will be held at the Galloway Twp. Branch of the Atlantic Co. Library, 306 East Jimmie Leeds Rd., Galloway, NJ 08205.

Another important aspect of this situation is that while the NJMFC has the authority to set regulations for most species, it does not have the authority to do so for striped bass. Regulations for stripers must be set through legislation. JCAA intends to work with other influential groups with hope that we can reach a consensus and push a bill through that we all can live with. We would like to avoid what happened a number of years ago when there were several competing bills. That was a real problem and it was not until the ASMFC found New

Jersey out of compliance that one of the bills was finally passed. The consequence of being out of compliance is that our striped bass fishery would be shut down. The addendum requires that all states have their new regulations in effect by 3/1/15 so we will have to urge our legislators to act quickly once we decide which option to support.

In regard to fluke, a new addendum will be released shortly for public comment. Various options that would revise the regionalization plan as well as a possible plan to go back to state-by-state measures are expected to be included in the addendum. There is a possibility that if we stick to the regionalization program that the southern portion of our state may be put in the region with states to our south or there may be a separate region for Delaware Bay. Part of the reason New Jersey was forced into a region with New York was because the ASMFC felt it was unfair for NJ anglers to have a smaller size limit than NY anglers fishing in similar waters. However, all the ASMFC did was transfer the problem to the Delaware Bay area. In 2014 New Jersey had an 18" size limit while Delaware had a 16" size limit. This caused a loss of revenue to various fishing-related businesses in the southern part of our state. JCAA pointed this out earlier this year and is seeking a fairer resolution for 2015. However, when all is said and done my guess is that most if not all of our state will end up with similar regulations as we had in 2014. This is due to the fact that the coast wide quota as well as the quota for our region was pretty much on target.

The situation regarding sea bass is much worse though. I have not had time to review the recent MRIP numbers but from what I have been told the quota was significantly over fished. This may result in more stringent regulations for 2015.

Elections for all JCAA officers will take place at our meeting on 12/30. Some nominations have been made but additional ones may be made at the meeting prior to the vote.

Also, remember, JCAA is a 501 C-3 organization, and if you want to make an end-of-year donation to JCAA it would be tax deductible.

Good Tides To All – Paul

**Support JCAA Make a
Tax Deductible Donation**

NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program / NJ Volunteer Angler Survey

Don't forget to register or re-register with the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program for 2015. You can start re-registering now for 2015. You can register or renew your registration for 2015 by going [here](#). If you do go fishing please consider filling out the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey to help the Bureau of Marine Fisheries better manage our resources by going to [this link](#).

You can also check regulations changes, get current advisories, check launch ramp and park locations, report violations, as well as fill out the NJ Voluntary Angler Survey now on your smartphone or tablet with the new Official NJ Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife [application](#)!

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

I am reprinting last month's article about striped bass since this edition goes to the shows and will reach a broader audience.

The Perfect Storm

As you will see in the article I wrote last month that we have reprinted below, I believe that environmental issues in the nursery areas and a lack of forage species are the chief contributors to poor recruitment in a number of stocks.

1. Weakfish: When the ASMFC put in place regulations to rebuild the weakfish stock, we were initially encouraged. The weakfish began to expand their range and they were caught as far north as Rhode Island and Massachusetts. I remember the day Jim White called me to tell me he caught an eleven pound weakfish in Narragansett Bay. We believed the weakfish stock was rebuilding. We were seeing very good recruitment with small fish in the bays and estuaries. We were not, however, seeing the fourteen and fifteen inch fish. The Board initially continued to believe there was nothing wrong with the stocks. However, suddenly we were not seeing the small fish or the big fish. As

fisheries managers and scientists we could not explain this change. So we reduced the catch to a very minimal level and announced the decrease was caused by some unexplained natural mortality. Even with the strong restrictions, we have not seen a turn-around on the weakfish stocks. We are limited to a 100 pound bycatch and one fish per angler.

2. Summer Flounder: We began seeing an increase in the spawning stock biomass to the highest level. However, we did not have good recruitment. The scientists attempted to explain this by saying that there is no correlation between the spawning biomass numbers and recruitment. Of course they didn't determine that it was okay to have a smaller spawning stock biomass and allow a greater harvest. It is amazing to many of us that the old belief is that larger fish lay more eggs leading to a larger recruitment. Quite the opposite seems to be happening in summer flounder. We have a large number of fish in many year classes but this has not led to a large recruitment.

3. Winter Flounder: Another stock that depends on the bays and estuaries as a nursery is winter flounder. ASMFC has reduced the catch to almost zero. And yet we have not seen any increase in the stock size. The problem was exacerbated last year when NMFS allowed 5,000 trip limits on winter flounder with not scientific justification.

4. Bluefish: We had huge numbers of bluefish in the 60's, 70's and 80's with no size limit, bag limit or season limit recreationally or any commercial restriction. In the early 90's we put in a 10 fish bag limit and restricted the commercial fishery. We are not seeing the increase in the number of bluefish that we should see due to the restrictions on fishing.

5. Striped bass: We know that in order for striped bass to reproduce, we need specific water conditions. We also know that even in good years, there needs to be enough food for them to eat. Again, we know the recruitment doesn't directly depend on the spawning stock biomass. If you look at the tables below, you will see that we have high enough levels of spawning stock biomass to produce the highest year class possible. What we don't know is how many of

the striped bass in the spawning stock biomass are Hudson River and Delaware River stocks. Without that information we may be making decisions with incorrect figures. We need to know the contribution of the coastal migratory stock to figure this out. We need to know how big the Hudson and Delaware River stocks are. This is important because the Chesapeake Bay stock has different patterns of migration. That could explain why the numbers vary greatly by area. Although ASMFC, over New Jersey's objections, deleted consideration of the Hudson and Delaware River stocks, there is no way to gather accurate information with the current management plan. We also don't know how the survival rates for the young of the year may vary in the Chesapeake Bay or the Hudson or Delaware Rivers. The states, in conjunction with ASMFC, need to commit money and personnel to do the research necessary to answer some of these questions.

I could list more and more species that heavily depend on the bays and estuaries for their nursery area. Since we don't have management plans for most forage species and do not know the health of these stocks that is an area that requires attention. The species that have management plans are shad, river herring, Atlantic herring and menhaden and three of those are way below their previous levels. How healthy are the bay anchovy stocks, the killifish (Mummichog) stocks, silver sides stocks and many other species that provide forage in the nursery areas? We all remember when the price of killifish rose dramatically due to decreasing stocks. The question I have been asking for the last 20 years is, "What is the carrying capacity of the bays and estuaries at their present levels of degradation?" When we do fisheries management plans, we are always shooting for the highest spawning stock biomass that is possible. For example, the proposed number for summer flounder was to build to a spawning stock biomass of 300 million pounds. That is an outrageous number and has since been reduced by 2/3. The point is that we continue to do single species management without taking a look at the bigger picture and the impact our actions have across species. The health of the bays and estuaries has improved regarding some pollution. However, there are greater threats now on the health of the bays and estuaries. We have taken

care of some of the pollutants that were in the bays and estuaries but we have not solved the problem. Our continued increase in the use of water has dramatically cut back on the water going into the bays and estuaries. For example, on the Jersey Coast, when the sewer plants began coming on line from the late 70's until the present, their discharges went directly into the oceans, not into the bays and estuaries. This solved the problem of putting huge amounts of chlorine, endocrine disruptors and other pollutants into the bay. But by decreasing water that flows into the bay by hundreds of billions of gallons, there is less water available to flush out the bays and estuaries. Barnegat Bay is an excellent example. There is a very slow turnover of water. In other parts of New Jersey and other states where the sewage discharge goes directly into the bays, rivers and estuaries, we are seeing the effects of endocrine disruptors on the sexuality of fish. I have testified before Congress on this issue and that testimony is still available on the webpage. Let me know if you want a copy. The increase in our dependence on power plants that impact on the bays and estuaries has been negative. The power plants heat the water changing the typical environment for most species. The power plants also add chemicals that pass through their systems to prevent an algae bloom in their pipes. We know there is one power plant in Delaware Bay that DEP has determined kills enough embryos and eggs for striped bass to produce 50,000 mature striped bass. We can't make them commit to a 25% reduction in the number they kill. While the actual number may vary, this is true of all power plants and all industrial users of the water. While we can't force industrial users to create better practices and limit the killing of striped bass and other species, all we can do under this present regime is cut the recreational and commercial harvest. Tell me how that makes any sense!

I remember attending a workshop on the health of bays and estuaries and hearing about the problem of the Black Sea in Europe. The Black Sea was fished for thousands of years and provided ample supplies of fish for both commercial and recreational anglers. What they began to see was a drop in the oxygen levels and the dramatic increase in jelly fish. Jelly fish became one of the largest organic biomasses in the Black Sea. We are now seeing a dramatic increase of jelly fish in our own bays and estuaries. They are the canary in the mine, showing us that we have low oxygen levels in the

water. You have a choice. You can get involved in the environmental issues that have a negative impact on the waters in which you fish or learn how to fish for jelly fish. When you decide to get involved let me know and I will give you some suggestions.

Getting JCAA Alerts

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

Striped Bass

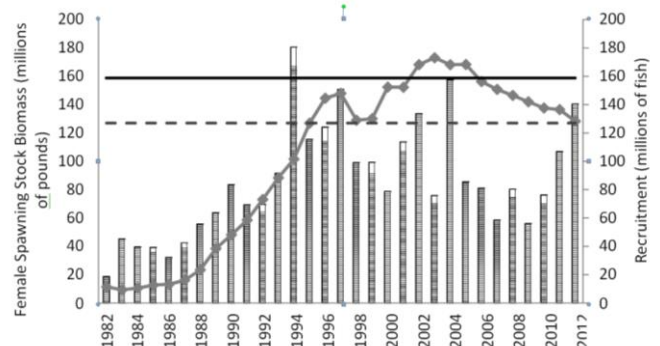
The Striped Bass Board voted for a 25% reduction on the coastal fishery and a 20.5% reduction on the Chesapeake Bay. I have been around long enough to know that the proposed reductions would not be equitable. As usual, I was proven right. I have included some tables so you have a better understanding. These tables were included in the draft management plans. But they might have been overlooked.

1. People were pushing for this reduction because they felt the spawning stock was collapsing and a bigger spawning stock was necessary to produce a high recruitment. If you look at the table below that shows recruitment and young of the year in Chesapeake Bay, you will see that the highest young of the year index was in 1994. The spawning stock biomass in 1994 was just under 100,000,000 pounds. In 2013, the spawning stock biomass was almost

140,000,000 pounds. We have an increase of 40,000,000 pounds to produce the young of the year. That means there is no shortage of females to produce a record year class. The question that should have been asked was why with these high figures we have been seeing poor recruitment. Could it be the environmental issues in Chesapeake Bay?

2. Let's look at what is happening in the commercial fishery. The commercial catch will have a 25% reduction and will be based on the 1996 quotas. The reduction will come from those quotas. The 1996 quotas have not been reached by most states in many years. I have included a table below that will show the actual reductions from the 2013 catch. What this table shows is that if every state catches the quota they are now assigned, the total coastwise commercial catch will show an increase of 13.5%. I have done the math for many of the states so you can see the actual reductions or increases.

- MA will actually take a 13.2% reduction from its 2013 catch.
- RI will actually take a 20% reduction from its 2013 catch.
- NY will actually take a 3.39% reduction from its 2013 catch.
- DE will actually take a 24.2% reduction from its 2013 catch.
- ML will actually have a 5.4% increase from its 2013 catch.
- VA will actually have a 68.1% increase from its 2013 catch.
- NC had no catch in 2013 but will be allowed 360,350 pound harvest.



Coastal Commercial Fishery

Option B16: Takes a 25% reduction from the Amendment 6 quota. This option does not achieve the proposed 25% reduction from 2013 harvest if all states harvest all of their allowable quota.

	For Reference	Option B16	For Reference
State	Am6 Quota (lbs)	25% reduction from Am6 Quota (lbs)	2013 Harvest (lbs)
ME	250*	188	0
NH	5,750*	4,313	0
MA	1,159,750	869,813	1,002,519
RI	243,625†	182,719	231,280
CT	23,750**	17,813	1,479
NY	1,061,060†	795,795	823,801
NJ	321,750**	241,313	6,096
DE	193,447	145,085	191,424
ML	131,560†	98,670	93,532
VA	184,853	138,640	82,427
NC	480,480	360,360	0
Coastal Total	3,806,275	2,854,706	2,532,558
% Diff from 2013 harvest	+50	+13	0

Figure 2: Atlantic striped bass female spawning stock biomass and recruitment (age-1) from 1982 to 2012.

3. Let's look at what happened in the Chesapeake Bay. According to the release, the Chesapeake Bay will take a 20.5% reduction. I thought this would come from the 2013 figure. In 2013 Chesapeake Bay, since they manage under the harvest control model, was required to create a 14% reduction. But because the Board felt generous, they allowed the Chesapeake to take their 20.5% reduction from the 2012 quota. That means they are only going to reduce their 2015 fishery by 6.5% when compared to their 2013 and 2014 catch.

As you can see, the only anglers who are going to suffer a full 25% reduction are the coastal anglers. Does that mean we will have more recruitment? If you listened to the Board on the webinar, it was clearly stated that this reduction will probably not have any impact on recruitment since the level is high enough to produce the highest young of the year on record. What it shows is there are other reasons that we are having problems with recruitment, not only on striped bass but on bluefish, weakfish, winter flounder, summer flounder and menhaden. These are all species that depend on the bays and estuaries as a nursery. They are the same areas that produce the forage species that are the food source for these stocks. Many of these stocks were at all time high levels for spawning stock biomass and still had poor recruitment and dwindling stocks. Weakfish is the perfect example. If you really care about striped bass and other species, you need to care about the environment in the bays and estuaries where they live. I have been trying to find anglers to participate in the protection of the bays. This has been a huge challenge. They would need to get off their computers and into their communities to protect the watersheds and estuaries. There is much work to be done. If you want to see the table for the commercial fishery, just email me. The five column chart was just too much for the newspaper. It will be on our webpage when the newspaper is posted. Again, if you would like to get involved in protecting the bays and estuaries, give me a call or send me an email. If you are from another state, contact your local environmental group or estuary program.

Pacific Bluefin Tuna, American Eel Listed as Endangered Species

The Japan Times
November 17, 2014

The International Union for Conservation of Nature has added Pacific bluefin tuna and American eel to its new list of species at risk of extinction.

The Switzerland-based organization, known as the IUCN, said Monday those species are at risk mainly because of overfishing for the Japanese market. Japan is the world's biggest consumer of tuna, which is a popular ingredient in sushi, and eel is also popular among Japanese consumers.

“Each update of the IUCN red list makes us realize that our planet is constantly losing its incredible diversity of life, largely due to our destructive actions to satisfy our growing appetite for resources,” IUCN Director-General Julia Marton-Lefevre said. “But we have scientific evidence that protected areas can play a central role in reversing this trend,” she added. Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, known as the Washington Convention, are scheduled to hold a conference in South Africa in 2016.

The IUCN’s Red List of Threatened Species, while in itself is not legally binding, serves as a key reference for parties to the Washington Convention when designating threatened species for international trade restrictions.

The IUCN, which had earlier said it was not concerned about the Pacific bluefin tuna going extinct, now says the species is “vulnerable” — the lowest of the three stages for species at risk of extinction. The organization says the species’ population is estimated to have declined by between 19 percent and 33 percent over the past 22 years to meet demand for sushi and sashimi, primarily in Asia.

The international body designated American eel as “endangered,” the second worst of the three stages. The decrease in Japanese eel has created greater demand for American eel, leading to reports of poaching of the American eel in the U.S., it said.

NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

By John Toth

The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) held a December 18, 2014 caucus with New Jersey’s legislators at the State Capitol Annex Building starting at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to update legislators on fishing and hunting issues so that they can better understand them, especially when legislation comes up that affects them. Three main topics were on the agenda and they included: the proliferation of white tail deer, upcoming changes in striped bass regulations and how municipalities and residents can better co-exist with the expanding black bear population.

After opening remarks by NJOA Chairman, Anthony Mauro, and the explanation of the agenda

by Thomas Connors, Legislative Liaison, the meeting was turned over to Senate President, Steve Sweeney, who expressed his gratitude for hunters and anglers taking time off to visit with our legislators. Senator Sweeney also indicated that he and his legislators turn to the NJOA and its member clubs to receive input and direction on how to vote on upcoming legislation. After his remarks and welcoming comments from other legislators, the meeting moved to its agenda:

White-tailed Deer - Who hasn't had some type of near miss of hitting a deer with a car or hitting one with resulting car damage? Carol Stanko from NJ Fish & Wildlife gave a presentation on white-tailed deer and indicated that they are both a liability and an asset. They are a liability because they cause car damage, 26,860 cars estimated by State Farm in 2013. They also carry ticks with Lyme disease and cause serious crop damage. While there are deer seasons to cull the herds, one of the big problems in reducing the herds further is that 82 % of NJ’s land base is in private ownership and access to control the deer is up to the landowner. Hunters cannot hunt where they are restricted. They are also an asset since deer hunting generates sales of guns, ammo, permits and related industries resulting in \$74 million into our state's treasury.

Striped Bass - Russ Allen, Chief, Bureau of NJ’s Marine Fisheries, briefed our legislators on how striped bass are regulated and that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has approved a 25% harvest reduction from 2013 based on information contained in the latest stock assessment completed in 2013. Our legislators have to approve upcoming striped bass regulations and it is important that this legislation moves quickly or anglers may not be able to fish for bass with the start of the striped bass season by being out of compliance. Russ informed our legislators that these proposed measures are up for review by the ASMFC. There are two proposals indicated in each category below, but **only one of them** will receive expected approval by the ASMFC.

- **One striped bass at 28 inches to 42 inches, and one at 42 inches and above (2 fish)**
- **One striped bass at 29 inches to 36 inches, and one striped bass at 36 inches and above (2 fish)**

Striped Bass Bonus Program

- **One striped bass at 28 inches and above or one striped bass 24 inches to 28 or 29 inches**

In the above scenarios, anglers will be able to catch 2 striped bass, and also be eligible to catch an additional striped bass under the Bonus Tag Program - 3 fish in total.

Timelines for Implementation

ASMFC Technical Committee reviews NJ's plan on January 8, 2015 and the ASMFC Board will take action on February 5, 2015.

The NJ Marine Fisheries Council will discuss these options and take additional public comment on **January 8, 2015**.

New Jersey's fishing season for striped bass opens on March 1, 2015 so the Division would like to have legislation in place at that time.

What is important here is that this NJOA caucus gave a "heads up" to our legislators so that they know what is coming up on striped bass and that they have to move quickly to have legislation in place so that we can legally fish for striped bass in March 2015.

Black Bear Issue - Kelsey Burgess, Principal Biologist, NJ DEP, Division of Fish & Wildlife, gave a presentation on the problems posed by black bears, especially in light of the recent killing of a young man by a bear. Kelsey indicated to legislators that if they remembered only one thing about his presentation, he requested legislators to look at a graph that showed most of the bear population living in the northwestern section of our state several years ago. Then he showed another graph and this most recent graph showed the bear population expanding much over our entire state, even down to the Cape May region where they have not been before! Unquestionably, our bear population is exploding and we have to find a better way to control it!

The above three staff members from the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife (Carol Stanko, Russ Allen and Kelsey Burgess) gave their presentations in a very professional manner to our legislators and demonstrated that they really know their field of expertise. **Kudos goes to all of them!**

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Press Release

December 17, 2014

Contact: Mary Clark, 302-526-5261

Mid-Atlantic Council Initiates Action to Protect Unmanaged Forage Species

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council voted at its meeting last week to initiate an action that would protect unmanaged species of forage fish in the Mid-Atlantic. This action would place restrictions on the development or expansion of directed fisheries on these fish.

Forage fish are small, low trophic level fish that play a central role in the marine food chain. These species facilitate the transfer of energy to higher trophic levels by consuming very small prey, such as zooplankton, and then being eaten by larger predator fish and other marine animals. Forage fish also serve a broader role in sustaining the productivity and structure of marine ecosystems.

Given the importance of forage fisheries to the productivity of many commercially and recreationally valuable species, the Council has become increasingly interested in management options to protect unmanaged forage species. "The Northeast region has previously experienced rapid expansions, and subsequent collapses, of fisheries that were not managed or assessed," said the Council's Chairman, Rick Robins. "In some cases this resulted in a suite of economic, social, and ecological consequences."

As part of the Council's ongoing development of a Guidance Document to support Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries Management (EAFM) the Council is preparing a series of policy white papers on a range of issues. The Council has identified forage species and their management as a key area of focus, and during last week's meeting the Council received a presentation on forage species and recommendations on management approaches that the Council could consider.

After extensive discussion, the Council voted unanimously to initiate a regulatory action to prohibit the development of new, or expansion of existing, directed fisheries on unmanaged forage species until adequate scientific information is available to promote ecosystem sustainability.

“This initiative recognizes that forage species play a uniquely important role in marine ecosystems,” said Chairman Robins. “We recognize that the potential development of fisheries for forage species will require a proactive and orderly management approach to ensure the sustainability of these ecologically important species.”

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

NJ HOFNOD ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Help is needed for the Cumberland County NJ HOFNOD 4H program. Joe Haase needs two NJ HOFNOD Certified Volunteers to co-lead the program with him. He has about 50 or more youth interested in participating, an indoor meeting location on the water, and supplemental resources. His program is weekly and will begin April 2015. Please visit www.hofnodcc.org for more information and how you can assist with this program. If you can assist please phone 732-785-9278.

JCAA PROMOTING & SUPPORTING NJ HOFNOD DURING 2014

Looking back on some of the accomplishments our member clubs and the JCAA Youth Education Committee made to support and promote NJ HOFNOD. Members of the JCAA Youth Education Committee also stated that our NJ HOFNOD Coordinator Liz Jackson is doing a great job of training our volunteers and getting NJ HOFNOD in schools and community based organizations. I apologize if we missed a member club program. Please understand that space is limited due to the student fishing club article.

- Fly Tying - NJ HOFNOD Support November 2014, November 14-15-16, 2014 located at Lighthouse Camp, Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education in Waretown, NJ.
- November 11, 2014 assisted the Brick High School Fishing Club at Brick Beach 1 with learning the basics of surf fishing. Students learned how to cast, bait hooks, use artificial lures, and beach safety. During the three hour

lesson, students practiced different casting techniques with lures to catch fish.

- Conservation and Aquatic Education Support for NJ HOFNOD - October 4, 2014. Assisted with 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.”
- Cape May Youth Fishing Camp Knot Tying, Fly Tying and Fly Casting Support - NJ HOFNOD Promotion August 2014.
- 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 and promoting NJ HOFNOD. 28 Students
- Kids Learn Fly Casting Skills – August 2014 NJ HOFNOD Promotion, 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. 12-15 Students
- Branch Brook Park July 2014, Newark, NJ Knot Tying/Casting/Angling NJ HOFNOD Support RU Ready for Work Office of University-Community Partnerships Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- Ocean County Promoting NJ HOFNOD – July 2014 NJ HOFNOD Promotion. On August 12th 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 Prosecutors Office, assisted with the presentation and 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. 22 Students

- National Fishing and Boating Week – NJ HOFNOD Promotion June 2014. This year we worked with disadvantaged students in Monmouth County. Member clubs that wish to conduct a National Fishing Week program in 2015 can phone 732-785-9278 and we will guide your organization through the process. 11 Students
- Gloucester Township NJ HOFNOD Support – June 2014. 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. 25 Students
- IGFA-NJ Sponsored a Teach Kids Fishing – NJ HOFNOD Promotion was conducted by NJBBA August 2014
- On August 2nd a youth fishing clinic was held at the Reel Seat followed by an August 6th boat trip on the Voyager.
- NJ HOFNOD Support - Brick High School Fishing Club June/July 2014. Students at Brick High School were busy during National Fishing and Boating Week. Club members fished twice and have a third fishing trip scheduled for July 9th on a party boat.
- JCAA Youth Education Station - NJ HOFNOD Promotion May 2014. The JCAA Youth Education station at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and Armed Forces Day Open House was a great success.
- Kid's Cast a Line of Caring for Veterans - NJ HOFNOD Promotion May 2014. Children attending the Monmouth County Armed Forces Day Open House on Saturday, May 17th at 3000 Kozloski Rd. were part of a program called "Cast a Line for Veterans" at the Jersey Coast Anglers Association and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 outdoor learning booth.
- Brick High School Fishing Club – March/April/May 2014. Members of the Brick High School the past few months learned about knot tying, angler ethics, lures, bait and terminal tackle, local fishing opportunities, fish biology, and species identification. 56 Students
- NJ HOFNOD Support April 2014. On April 2, 2012 we visited Urban Promise High School Environmental Learning Community, Pennsauken, NJ to conduct a HOFNOD fly tying session for 33 - 10, 11, and 12th grade students. This would not be possible without the help of Brad Buzzi, President Atlantic Saltwater Flyrodders and Paul Novello, Vice President NJ Beach Buggy Association.
- NB&FCC Kids' Derby Registration - NJ HOFNOD Promotion April 2014. The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club's annual Kids Fishing Derby at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside, NJ is off to a great start. NB&FCC runs the derby for three weeks starting from April 12 and going through May 3, 2014.
- Kids' Fishing Fun Night a Great Success - NJ HOFNOD Promotion March 2014. Over 35 children attended the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club's Annual Youth Fishing Fun Night. Youngsters learned the Japanese Art of Fish Printing (Gyotaku) and species identification. Children also had a chance to ask questions about how to create printed art images of fish and other creatures.
- 29th Annual Hooked on the Hudson - NJ HOFNOD Promotion May 2014. May 3, 2014, the Hudson River Fishermen's Association will host the 29th Annual Hooked on the Hudson, at Ross Dock, Palisades Interstate Park, Hudson Riverfront located immediately north of the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee, New Jersey.
- Trout Contest for Kids- NJ HOFNOD Promotion April 2014. The Trout Contest for Kids is sponsored by the Shark River Surf Anglers on Saturday, April 5, 2014, 8 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. at Spring Lake, NJ.

To receive more information about becoming a NJ HOFNOD volunteer/facilitator, please contact Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Program Coordinator, at 908-637-4125 x122 or by e-mail at liz.jackson@dep.nj.gov.

HOW TO START AN AFTER SCHOOL FISHING CLUB (PART 2)

The following is a sample of how to start a Marine Conservation and Saltwater/Freshwater Fishing Club. This format can also be used to start an environmental club. Use the following template to create your new club's official policy of operation. Be sure to share it with your school faculty fishing club advisor for feedback. Remember, your policy of operation outlines the rules for your High School Marine Conservation and Saltwater/Freshwater Fishing Club. For help with your club's policy of operation, contact the JCAA Youth Education Committee 732-785-9278.

Article I - Organization

Section I: Name

This Marine Conservation and High School Saltwater Fishing/ Club shall be known as (High School Club Name)_____ of (High School Name and Address, and Web Site.)_____.

Section II: Purpose

The purposes and objectives of this organization are:

1. To follow guidelines from the Future Fishermen's Foundation (F 3) "Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs" and NJ HOFNOD program.
2. To follow our Mission Statement. Collaborate with High School Faculty Advisors/NJ HOFNOD Facilitators to develop a mission statement.
3. To promote aquatic education, conservation, and recreational fishing.
4. To provide outdoor activities that will promote drug awareness and healthy lifestyles for students.

Article II – Membership

Section I: Qualifications

1. Membership in the (Name of High School and Club Name) shall be open to all (Name of High School) students.
2. Club members must be currently enrolled students at (Name of High School), and only those members may vote, hold office, and represent (Name of High School and Club Name.)
3. The minimum membership requirement is to be determined by members.

4. In ordinance with non-discrimination policy, membership and participation shall be available to all students.
5. If needed, outline member attendance policies.

Section II: Types of Membership.

1. Voting membership shall be open to all students currently enrolled in (Name of High School.) Students must maintain passing grades to participate in competitive saltwater/freshwater fishing competitions and off campus fishing learning activities.
2. Non-student memberships may be held by faculty, high school staff members, Certified NJ HOFNOD Instructors, and approved community mentors.
3. Indicate if students who do not meet full membership requirements may join or participate in limited capacities.

Section III: Financial Obligation

1. A statement must exist about the financial obligations of members. If there are no membership dues, then simply state as such.

Article III - Officers

Section I: List of Officers and Qualifications

1. Qualifications for all officers
 - a. Be currently enrolled students at (Name of High School.)
 - b. List any qualifications that apply to all officers
2. President
 - a. List additional qualifications for the President
3. Vice President
 - a. List additional qualifications for the Vice President
4. Secretary
 - a. List additional qualifications for the Secretary
5. Treasurer
 - a. List additional qualifications for the Treasurer

Section II: Duties and Powers

1. President
 - a. The president shall serve as the official spokesperson of (Name of Club) _____. She/he shall perform all official and social functions pertaining to this office.
 - b. The president is responsible for preparing an agenda for each meeting.
 - c. The President shall preside over all club meetings.

d. The president will not have a vote on any matter, except in the case of a tie, on items being voted on by the club.

e. The president may appoint any committees he/she deems necessary to the functioning of the club, and will serve as a member of those committees, with no voting rights.

2. Vice President

a. The vice president shall assume the office of president, should it become vacant during the term.

b. The vice president shall carry out all duties assigned to the president in the president's absence.

c. The vice president shall be responsible for recording meeting minutes in the absence of the secretary.

3. Secretary

a. The secretary shall take attendance and record minutes at all club meetings, keeping proper record of each meeting. Copies of minutes are to be distributed to members, officers and advisors at the next scheduled meeting.

b. The secretary shall be responsible for distributing the meeting agenda, once received from the president.

c. The secretary shall maintain up-to-date records on members, including all data reports for NJ HOFNOD.

4. Treasurer

a. The treasurer shall maintain all financial records of the High School Fishing Club. If needed, he/she shall work with club faculty advisors preparing the annual budget.

b. The treasurer and a faculty advisor shall be responsible for preparing requisitions and purchasing items at a reasonable price.

c. The treasurer shall insure that all club funds are deposited at the high school Business Office.

d. For club expenditures, the treasurer shall:

i. Require a requisition to be prepared for all expenditure of funds prior to purchase.

ii. Ensure all required signatures are included on requisitions.

iii. Submit the requisition, meeting minutes, and all receipts to a faculty advisor for approval and processing.

e. The treasurer shall submit a written financial report to the club prior to the end of the school year.

f. Describe specific duties of the treasurer.

Section III: Nominations

1. In the event that no member announces intent to run for a particular office, nominations will be taken from the floor. The nomination of officers shall be initiated by the active members of (Name of Club) _____.

2. Nominations must be made by 15 September in order for elections to be held during November of each school year.

3. Faculty Advisors will post a list of nominated candidates prior to the election.

Section IV: Election Process

1. The executive officers shall be elected from the membership of (Name of Club) _____.

2. In order to be elected into office, such person must meet the following minimum requirements:

3. Elections will be held annually

a. state time of year election is to be held

b. how votes will be determined (i.e. anonymous ballot)

c. who will be allowed to vote in officers

4. State when newly elected officers are to take their posts

5. State the length of term the officers will serve (school year)

6. State how vacancies will be filled if no one is elected to a particular position (i.e. Lead Faculty Advisor will appoint, etc.)

Section V: Vacancies

1. If for any reason the acting President is unable to complete his or her term, the Vice President shall succeed to the position of President. If the Vice President is unable to fill the position, the Secretary, then the Treasurer would succeed, in that order.

2. Resignation

a. The resignation of any officer or member of the club/ organization must be in writing, and signed by club officers and lead faculty advisor. Once signed and recognized, the resignation will become effective immediately.

3. Impeachment

a. An executive officer, associate or advisor may be considered for removal from (Name of Club) _____ for just cause.

b. Reasons for impeachment include, but are not limited to: failure to show up for meetings & club activities; failure to carry out duties, and responsibilities; or for any action that is detrimental to the welfare of the student body.

- c. Notice of any pending removal will be distributed to officers and faculty advisors at least 5 days prior to action being taken.
- d. Any member considered for impeachment has the right to appear before the club/ membership in their own defense.
- e. To remove any member, there must be 2/3 majority vote of all members present.

Article IV – Meeting Procedures

Section I: Frequency

- 1. This organization shall hold at least (number) regular meetings per (time period).

Section II: Attendance

- 1. Meetings shall be open to (state who is welcome to attend meetings).

Section III: Quorum

- 1. “Quorum” shall be defined as the members in attendance at a particular meeting. The quorum will consist of at least (number) officer and a minimum of (number) voting members.

Section IV: How meetings are conducted

- 1. The president shall prepare and distribute meeting agendas for each scheduled meeting with guidance from the Lead Faculty Advisor.
- 2. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with (Robert’s Rules of Order, majority, consensus, etc.)
- 3. Meeting Minutes shall be kept of each meeting held. Minutes from the prior meeting shall be distributed at the next scheduled meeting to all members.

Section V: Additional Meetings

- 1. The president reserves the right to call additional meetings as deemed necessary for the enhancement of the organization.

Article V – Advisor

Section I: Faculty Advisor

- 1. (Name of Club) _____ club shall have a minimum of one (1) salaried member of the faculty or staff to serve in an advisory capacity.
- 2. Faculty Advisors will serve a one (1) year term, unless they are re-elected, resign or are removed by high school administration. Faculty Advisors may serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms.
- 3. Faculty Advisors shall not have a vote on any matter brought before the club.

- 4. Faculty Advisors serve as a liaison between school administration and the student body.
- 5. Faculty Advisors will assist the treasurer in preparing the annual budget for the club.
- 6. Faculty Advisors will insure continuity between outgoing officers and newly elected officers.
- 7. Faculty Advisors will attend all club meetings or designate a substitute faculty mentor.
- 8. Faculty Advisors shall assist the treasurer in maintaining accurate financial records for the club.
- 9. Faculty Advisors shall sign all requisitions for the club and insure all paperwork is completed properly, prior to submission to the high school office for processing.

Article VI – Amendments

Section I: Amendments

- 1. This policy can be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the (Name of Club) _____ club’s executive officers and members present, by resolution and/ or proposal.
- 2. The amendment will become effective at the next meeting, following acceptance. The new constitution shall supersede all previous constitutions

For help with your club’s policy of operation and learn how you can benefit by using NJ HOFNOD; contact the JCAA Youth Education Committee at gkucharews@jcaa.org.