

JCAA NEWSPAPER JUNE 2015

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on May 19th, 2015)

Monthly Meeting at JCAA Office, 1201 Rte. 37E, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, May 26th, 2015

Starting at 7:30 PM

AT THE JCAA OFFICE

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 11th, 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

May 26th JCAA General meeting and High Rollers raffle drawing

June 11th JCAA Board Meeting

June 30th JCAA General Meeting and vote on JCAA Sportsmen of the Year

August 1st JCAA Fluke Tournament

No JCAA General meetings in July and August

High Roller Raffle

The JCAA High Roller Raffle for 2015 drawing will be held on **May 26th**, 2015 at the JCAA offices located at 1201 Rt. 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River beginning at 7:30. All winners will be notified.

Support JCAA - Only \$2.00 a Ticket

1. Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor RT55/SE/L&D Value **\$670** *Donated by Minn Kota*
2. 11' Lamiglas Triflex TF11MHSsurf rod/Shimano Spheros SW10000 reel Value **\$520** *Donated by Lamiglas and Shimano*
3. \$500. Gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters Value **\$500** *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
4. 6'6" Shimano Trivala TVC-66MH jigging rod/Canyon HS-15 reel Value **\$462** *Donated by Shimano and Canyon*
5. 11' Tica UEHA93502S surf rod/Tica Samira Longcast SBAT10000 reel Value **\$325** *Donated by Tica*
6. 5'6" Profile Tuna Stopper TS 520L rod /Shimano Triton TLD 25 Value **\$280** *Donated by Profile and Shimano*
7. 7' Penn Allegiance 1220S70 rod/Canyon 3500 reel Value **\$200** *Donated by Penn and Canyon*
8. Standard Horizon VHF Marine Transceiver HX260 H Value **\$170** *Donated by Standard Horizon*
9. 7' Penn Slammer rod /GT320 reel Value **\$130** *Donated by Penn*

President's Report

By Paul Haertel

I had intended to fully explain the special fluke regulations at Island Beach State Park but after reading the actual law I have more questions that need to be answered first. Briefly, though, the fluke season for Island Beach State Park is the same as it is for the rest of the state, May 22nd through September 26th. Those fishing from shore there may keep two fluke 16" or greater provided they have a date and time stamped proof of entrance to the park. The entrance receipt is only good for the date it is stamped and is not valid the next day. You are not required to check your fish in this year. For those who choose to fish elsewhere after leaving IBSP, the one or two fish harvested at IBSP shall count toward the five fish bag limit that applies to the rest of our state.

We need nominations for our Sportsperson of the Year and Youth Education Awards. Please submit nominations in 250 words or less so that they can be printed in our newsletter. We will be voting on these awards at our June general membership meeting.

This is the last call for our high roller raffle. Please buy some tickets as well as some for our new super 50/50 raffles. Our high roller raffle has nine prizes having a total value of over \$3000. Tickets are just \$2.00 each and the drawing will be take place on 5/26/15 prior to our general membership meeting at 7:30 PM. You do not need to be present to win but the drawing is open to the public. This month's meeting will be held at the JCAA office located at 1201 Rt. 37 East in Toms River.

Our super 50/50 will have three cash prizes. Of the money paid out, the 1st place winner will receive 50% of the money, 2nd place 30% and 3rd place 20%. Tickets are \$10.00 each and the drawing will be held on 12/10/15. Tickets will be mailed along with our fluke tournament applications. However, if anyone else would like tickets for either raffle, just call the JCAA office at 732-506-6565.

Also, we have some exciting new features for our fluke tournament which will be held on 8/1/15. One is that there will be a 25K cash prize to the early entrant who catches the largest fluke in the tournament, provided it is over 12 lbs. We will also be having port and overall Calcuttas. All told, cash

and merchandise prizes could exceed 80K. Be sure to read the four-page insert for more details.

Lastly, just a reminder, most anglers are required to register or renew their NJ saltwater recreational registration for 2015.

To renew:

- Go to [this link](#). Then scroll down and click on "Access current year"
- Enter requested info.
- Click on your ID number
- Click on renew

For those who were not previously registered, initial registrations may be completed at this same link. The registry is free and there is an explanation as to who needs to register on the web site.

Sportsperson of the Year

By Paul Turi, Co-Chairman

We are now accepting nominations for our sportsperson of the year and will have a vote at our General Membership Meeting in June. The reason for this is because we don't meet in July & August and we vote at the October meeting, which is very close to our honoring dinner date and it does not give our honoree too much time to contact family and friends who may want to be present at the dinner presentation. A lot of family and friends may be out of town and it does not leave much time to make travel plans. In addition to that, it does not leave us much time to order our plaques for our Sportsperson-of-the-Year honoree and the Youth Education Award honoree. So all in all it seems to make sense to have the nomination and election process much earlier.

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

The dinner again this year will be held at the Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant on Sunday, November 9th, 2015. Ticket prices are the same as last year, \$75 per head or \$600 for a table of 10.

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

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

Do any of us think that the MSA is doing a good job managing black sea bass and summer flounder for the recreational sector? Most of the recovery of summer flounder and black sea bass took place and was on the right track before the 2006 reauthorization was put in place. I have been involved with the red snapper issue for years through the ASA Government Affairs Committee and part of the problem is poor stock assessment. The Environmental Defense Fund has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in the last few years promoting the privatization of the public resource for the red snapper fishery through Individual Transferable Quotas and Individual Fisheries Quotas for the commercial fishery and charter boat captains that also have commercial permits. They have left the private boats with a very small quota. The reason the quota is also so small is because the science they are using is as bad as the science that they are using for black sea bass. I just received the article below from a scientist from Alabama. We have watched private boat recreational trips in the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management decline by over 8 million trips since 2007. In New Jersey we have lost over 2 million private recreational trips in the same period of time. This year's black sea bass management rules just prove how out of touch the system is. JCAA is member of ASA and below is the release sent out by ASA reporting on the House bill. We will be discussing this at the next JCAA meeting. Tom Siciliano is putting together the comments that he has received on the MSA articles he has written in the JCAA Newspaper.

Over the years representatives from JCAA have met with representatives from the NGO community that are supporting no changes in the Magnuson Stevens Act. Even though many people in the NGO community know that the legislation has flaws and frequently does not work as the NGOs originally intended, they have such a vested interest in Magnuson Stevens that they refuse to address

these shortcomings. They show no regard for the recreational anglers and the industry that depends on recreational fishing. There is no impact on their personal quality of life or their incomes since their money comes from foundations and donations. Let us not forget some of those foundations are funded by oil and natural gas interests.

ASMFC Tautog Board

When you read the release below you will see that ASMFC is preparing an addendum to the tautog management plan. Again, they are trying to place New Jersey in regions that make no sense when you consider the biology and the habitat. They want to put New Jersey in a region with Connecticut and New York that, because of the ice age, have a completely different geology. JCAA will be working to put together a committee to work on these issues. We learned our lesson with summer flounder when we were forced into a region that made no sense. We should not let this happen with tautog. What makes this even more grievous, tautog from New Jersey never migrate to Connecticut. I will provide more details as the public hearings are scheduled. Get involved if you love to fish for tautog.

Menhaden Reduction Boats Again get a Windfall

ASMFC passed a 10% increase on menhaden for the commercial fishery. But in truth, 85.6% of that increase goes to one firm. We need to reallocate the menhaden resource and an amendment to the plan to address reallocation will be moving forward next year. Hopefully the bait industry will work with the recreational anglers and other groups concerned with menhaden to make sure that a more just allocation is developed. This is a public resource and one company should not own 85%. Again, if you care, get involved with JCAA's menhaden committee.

NOAA Fisheries and the ASMFC Release River Herring Conservation Plan to Aid in Restoration Efforts

NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) announce the release of the River Herring Conservation Plan. The goals of the plan are to increase public awareness about river herring (alewife - *Alosa pseudoharengus*) and blueback herring - *A. aestivalis*), and to foster

cooperative research and conservation efforts to restore river herring along the Atlantic coast. The plan, which is available online and will be refined over time with public input, builds upon past and current river herring conservation projects and coordinates ongoing activities. The Plan was developed with input and information provided by the River Herring Technical Expert Working Group (TEWG), a group of scientists, industry representatives, conservation groups, tribal leaders, and government officials with expertise related to river herring. The Plan seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Increase coordination of river herring data collection, research and conservation
- Identify and undertake key research projects related to assessment and conservation
- Identify any further conservation actions to address threats
- Cultivate and engage research groups to address key topics in protecting or restoring herring populations
- Identify funding sources and secure funds for river herring research and conservation
- Improve information to be used in conservation efforts and incorporated into the next assessment
- Increase public outreach about river herring and the need for addressing impacts to these resources

“By focusing on areas where there is the greatest need, the plan is an ideal tool for anyone interested in restoring river herring populations coastwide,” said Kimberly Damon-Randall, Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Greater Atlantic Region, NOAA Fisheries. “It provides extensive background on each species’ life history, stock condition, and current management measures, and identifies areas where research and conservation efforts should be concentrated. Importantly, the plan and what it seeks to achieve represent the collective input and efforts of a broad constituency of individuals and agencies dedicated to the restoration of these important species. It is our hope that by following the roadmap

we have laid out in the plan, restoration can be achieved.”

On August 12, 2013, NOAA Fisheries announced that listing river herring under the Endangered Species Act as either threatened or endangered was not warranted based on the analysis of available information. As part of that decision, NOAA Fisheries committed to working collaboratively with the Commission, which manages U.S. East Coast river herring stocks, and other partners to implement a coordinated coastwide effort to proactively conserve river herring and help to fill data gaps. The Conservation Plan and the TEWG are products of that commitment and collaborative effort. Since initiation of these efforts, important progress has been made towards each of the plan’s goals, including:

- Increased coordination among partners by establishing the TEWG and developing the Conservation Plan.
- Provided funding to:
 - A collaborative project involving the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, the University of California-Santa Cruz, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, The Nature Conservancy, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and the U.S. Geological Survey’s Massachusetts Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit to advance our understanding of alewife and blueback herring bycatch in commercial Atlantic herring and mackerel fisheries and impacts of this fishing activity on river herring populations. The project will also gather information from six nursery systems between Maine and Connecticut to provide insights into what factors influence freshwater productivity of juvenile river herring. These efforts will then be combined to examine the importance of different life stages to river herring populations.
 - The Barnegat Bay Partnership and Rutgers University to conduct surveys and collect data to improve our understanding of historic and current distribution of alewife and blueback herring spawning habitats in Barnegat Bay and the Raritan River in New Jersey.

Federal Agency Deaf to Opposition to Ocean Blasting off NJ Coast

COA Press Release: May 15, 2015

Contact: Cindy Zipf, Executive Director
732-872-0111

- NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center to develop a river herring/ Atlantic herring oceanic habitat overlap forecast tool for use by the commercial Atlantic herring fishery to minimize incidental river herring catches.
- The Atlantic Salmon Federation to continue river herring counts at the Milltown Dam fishway in the St. Croix watershed.
- Conducted a coastwide social science survey to document fishermen's observations of river herring in commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries.
- Identified the Penobscot River in Maine and the Choptank River in Maryland as Habitat Focus Areas under NOAA's Habitat Blueprint, targeting financial resources and technical assistance to support habitat conservation and restoration efforts in these high-priority watersheds.
- Incorporated information provided by the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Pleasant Point, on the cultural importance of river herring to the Tribe into this conservation plan. NOAA Fisheries and the Commission are committed to strengthening river herring conservation. An important first step is to improve upon and ensure data collection consistency throughout the Atlantic coast, including the Canadian Provinces. The Commission's Shad and River Herring Technical Committee in conjunction with federal partners will convene later this year to develop recommendations to standardize data collection methods for future survey programs, as well as how best to standardize current survey data collected across the species range.

NOAA Fisheries and the Commission will be providing support for this meeting. While this conservation planning initiative is a committed long-term effort, your input is welcome on the River Herring Conservation Plan during its evolving early phase. Please send your comments on the structure and contents of the plan to [this email](#) by June 1, 2015. The Conservation Plan is available at [this link](#).

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has issued the Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) for a seismic study of the seafloor that would allow a Rutgers University expedition to harm and harass 18,457 animals of 32 different marine mammal species, including those that are endangered. The purpose of the study is to assess sea-level rise 60 million years ago. The issuing of this IHA brings ocean blasting one step closer to happening off the New Jersey coast, despite loud opposition from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, federal and state elected officials, fishermen, community members, and concerned citizens. In fact, this year, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) used its power under federal law to reject the study due to the negative impact on fisheries as well as marine mammals.

Following a failed attempt in 2014, Rutgers University, Columbia University's Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, the National Science Foundation, and University of Texas are again proposing to conduct a 3-D seismic vessel survey in the Atlantic Ocean 15.5 miles off the coast of Barnegat Inlet, New Jersey. The project includes the use of an array of 4 airguns. The airguns will blast the ocean at 246 decibels every 5-6 seconds, 24 hours a day for 30 days between June and August 2015.

Endangered species that can be harmed by this project include the North Atlantic right whale, humpback, sei, fin, blue and sperm whales. The authorization would allow marine mammals to have their migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding and sheltering disturbed. Studies have also shown harm seismic testing causes to marine life including shellfish. All in the name of science, apparently.

"It is unconscionable that Rutgers and its funder, the National Science Foundation, are going to such extreme lengths to ignore the harm that will be done to marine life—including infant bottlenose dolphins, and endangered species such as sea turtles. The 60 million year old rocks would still be there in January, when less marine life will be in the area, the

blatant lack of concern for marine life is appalling,” said Cindy Zipf, Executive Director for Clean Ocean Action.

Thousands have signed a petition and hundreds attended a public meeting last summer in Barnegat, NJ opposing this seismic study, which was canceled last summer due to mechanical issues with the research vessel.

New Jersey’s State Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) sent a letter on March 6, 2015, to the National Science Foundation (NSF) opposing the study due to the harm to marine life and fisherman. Officially the NJDEP determined that the study is inconsistent with New Jersey’s Coastal Zone Management rules, and therefore it should not move forward. The letter including a range of alternative measures to lessen the impacts of the study, but so far, there does not appear to be any commitment from Rutgers or NSF to adopt any of these alternatives. Clean Ocean Action, Senator Menendez and Booker, Congressman Pallone, LoBiondo, and Smith sent a letter in April requesting an extension for the IHA comment period, which the National Marine Fisheries Service has failed to respond to, further ignoring the public’s involvement and concerns over this project.

"It's not a surprise that NOAA has taken a page from the Army Corp of Engineer's playbook. Rule number one is to protect marine mammals and fish when making decisions about recreational and commercial fishing,” said Tom Fote, Jersey Coast Anglers Association. “Rule number two is to ignore rule number one when the Army Corp of Engineers, NOAA or the Department of the Interior want to trample coastal zone management protections."

“We are extremely disappointed that the federal government and Universities feel that this unnecessary study should go forward,” said Jim Lovgren with Fishermen’s Dock Cooperative. “The project itself is going to cause indisputable economic harm to the fishing industry. Hopefully, the NJDEP will take the parties back to court on this study and they won't get off on a technicality.”

“The ocean is an integral part of my life and I am thankful to have shared it with my husband, children, grandchildren, family and friends. We were buffeted by hurricanes throughout my life in Florida and New Jersey. Each time we were fortunate to be able to “dig out”. Now new threats confront us - not those of nature, but of man. As a concerned citizen of Long Beach Island, I join others

in asking that the seismic blasting to be done off the coast of Long Beach Island not be done. Seismic blasting during peak summer months will be harmful to marine life, fisheries, and our treasured Jersey Shore,” said Mary Wilding, LBI resident.

Menhaden Management Board

ASMFC Press Release: May 5, 2015

ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Board Sets 2015 and 2016 TAC at 187,880 MT & Initiates Amendment to Establish Ecological Reference Points Alexandria, VA – The Commission’s Atlantic Menhaden Management Board approved a total allowable catch (TAC) for the 2015 and 2016 fishing seasons at 187,880 mt per year, a 10% increase from the 2014 TAC. The increase responds to the positive findings of the 2015 Atlantic menhaden benchmark assessment which indicates the resource is not overfished nor experiencing overfishing relative to the current biological reference points. The TAC will be made available to the states/jurisdictions based on the state-by-state allocation established by Amendment 2 (see accompanying table). The Board also committed to moving forward with the development of an amendment to establish ecological based reference points that reflect Atlantic menhaden’s role as a forage species. The amendment will also consider changes to the current state-by-state allocation scheme.

“The Board struck an important balance by increasing fishing opportunities to both the reduction and bait fisheries and committing to fully evaluating the ecological role of Atlantic menhaden through the amendment process,” stated Board Chair Robert Boyles from South Carolina.

The Board has established a working group to aid in the development of issues to be addressed in the Public Information Document (PID) and draft amendment. The Board will meet later this year to review the working group’s progress. The PID is the first step in the Commission’s amendment process. It will gather information concerning the Atlantic menhaden fishery and resource and provide an opportunity for the public to identify and comment on major issues relative to the management of this species. For more information, please contact Mike Waine, Senior Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at mwaine@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

ASMFC Tautog Board Initiates Amendment to Establish Regional Stock Areas & Associated Reference Points

Alexandria, VA – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Tautog Management Board has approved the development of an amendment to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The amendment will explore the establishment of new regional stock areas and associated reference points. The amendment will propose two options for regional stock boundaries, each with three regional stock units. The first option will include the following regions: Massachusetts to Rhode Island, Connecticut to New Jersey, and Delaware to North Carolina. The second option will include Massachusetts to Connecticut, New York to New Jersey, and Delaware to North Carolina.

The regional options are based on the findings and recommendations of the 2015 Tautog Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report. Unlike previous assessments, which assessed the stock on a coastwide basis, the 2015 assessment evaluated stock status regionally to reflect differences in life history characteristics and harvest patterns. The three-region approach balances a smaller geographical scale and data integrity, while also reducing the risk of overfishing.

As the first step in the amendment process, staff will begin to draft a Public Information Document for Board consideration at the Commission’s Summer Meeting in August. The PID will gather information concerning the tautog fishery and resource and provide an opportunity for the public to identify and comment on major issues relative to the management of this species. The PID will also seek input on the public’s preferred regional breakdown. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director, at tkerns@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

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WWW.JCAA.ORG**

Legislation Advances to Benefit Saltwater Recreational Fishing

House Natural Resources Committee
Approves Magnuson-Stevens Act
Reauthorization Bill

For Immediate Release
Mary Jane Williamson, Communications Director
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Washington, D.C. – May 1, 2015 – Leaders in the recreational fishing and boating community yesterday highlighted the progress in elevating the importance of saltwater recreational fishing in the nation’s primary law governing marine fisheries management. The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources yesterday approved a bill sponsored by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), H.R. 1335, to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), which addresses top priorities of the recreational fishing community.

These priorities were identified by the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management, also known as the Morris-Deal Commission after co-chairs Johnny Morris, founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, and Scott Deal, president of Maverick Boats. In 2014, the Morris-Deal Commission released “A Vision for Managing America’s Saltwater Recreational Fisheries,” which includes six key policy changes to produce the full range of saltwater recreational fishing’s social, economic and conservation benefits to the nation.

“The recreational fishing community owes a debt of gratitude to Chairman Rob Bishop and Congressman Don Young for incorporating meaningful changes to recreational fisheries management into the reauthorization of the nation’s marine fisheries law,” said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Coastal Conservation. “The Morris-Deal Report set forth a vision for the future of saltwater recreational fishing, and this bill would help to achieve that vision.”

“The nation’s 11 million saltwater recreational anglers have a \$70 billion economic impact annually and support 450,000 jobs,” said Mike Nussman, president and CEO of the American Sportfishing

Association. "However, federal marine fisheries management has never sufficiently acknowledged the importance of recreational fishing to the nation. H.R. 1335 would enact many of the necessary changes to elevate saltwater recreational fishing to the level it deserves."

The recommendations of the Morris-Deal Commission include:

1. Establishing a national policy for recreational fishing
2. Adopting a revised approach to saltwater recreational fisheries management
3. Allocating marine fisheries for the greatest benefit to the nation
4. Creating reasonable latitude in stock rebuilding timelines
5. Codifying a process for cooperative management
6. Managing for the forage base

"Management that emphasizes conservation and abundance, and allows for consistent access to public resources for saltwater anglers, was at the heart of the recommendations made by the Morris-Deal Commission," said Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. "Including those recommendations into legislation aimed at improving our nation's fisheries management means Congress is recognizing the importance of angling to American culture and our economy."

"The broad coalition of leading recreational fishing and boating organizations that has come together to support our community's priorities should be pleased with this bill," said Jim Donofrio, executive director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance. "RFA is proud to have participated as part of this coalition."

One of the recommendations of the Morris-Deal Commission was addressed by an amendment offered by Congressman Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.) that would prompt a review of quota allocations in fisheries in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico with both a commercial and recreational component. Despite the tremendous importance that allocation decisions have in maximizing the benefits that our fisheries provide to the nation, federal fisheries managers have not revisited allocations – most of which were determined decades ago – primarily because of a lack of clear guidance on how decisions

should be made and because these decisions are inherently difficult.

"Congressman Duncan's amendment is a significant achievement for ensuring that the benefits of our nation's fisheries are maximized," said Jeff Crane, president of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. "For far too long, allocations have been rusted shut, and we applaud Congressman Duncan for his leadership on this critically important issue."

A separate amendment offered by Congressman Garret Graves (R-La.) that would transfer management Gulf of Mexico red snapper to the five Gulf states failed to be included. However, there was widespread agreement expressed by committee members that Gulf red snapper management is broken and in need of significant changes.

"Rep. Graves is a great leader for sportsmen and women in the Gulf Coast," said Angers. "He understands the challenges of sound resource management and is working to get anglers back on the water."

"We hope that as MSA moves forward there will be additional opportunities to enact the Gulf states' plan," said Patrick Murray, president of the Coastal Conservation Association. "MSA's reauthorization surely has a long road ahead, but H.R. 1335 provides the recreational fishing community with a very solid first step."

JCAA 21st Annual Fluke Tournament

By Paul Turi, Tournament Director

It's getting close again to that time of year for our annual fluke tournament. The JCAA 21st Annual fluke Tournament this year will be held on Saturday, August 1st and our awards presentations will be held on the evening of Wednesday, August 12th again at the Holiday Inn in Manahawkin (Stafford Township), NJ.

What's new this year? This year we are going to have **Optional Cash Categories or calcuttas of \$50.00 and \$100.00 for each port.** In addition, we are also going to have **Optional Cash Categories (calcuttas) of \$50.00 and \$100.00 for the overall tournament.** 7/8ths of all the money collected for each category will be paid out to the winner of each port who joins that particular cash category or calcutta and 7/8ths will be paid out to the

overall winner of each category for the overall tournament. 1/8th of the money will be retained by JCAA to help JCAA continue its work on behalf of recreational anglers.

Remember, this tournament is a major fundraiser for JCAA and keeps us going year after year to do what we do on behalf of you, the recreational angler. A lot of volunteers put in a lot of time and a lot of their own money to do what we do not only on behalf of the recreational angler, but also the environment, youth education, access, etc.

Also new for this year will be vendor booths at our awards presentations for our major sponsors.

The Big News this year is that we will also pay out \$25,000 cash to one angler only who weighs in a fluke exceeding 12 lbs. by at least 1/100oz! Only entries received by July 20th will qualify for this prize.

Again, this year we will be offering in a **Grand Prize Drawing a boat, motor & trailer package**. Remember, you do not have to weigh in a fish to be eligible to win the Grand Prize. You just have to be registered in the tournament and be present the night of the awards presentations on the evening of Wednesday, August 12th. And as always there will be thousands of dollars in door prizes given out also. There will also be a 50/50 drawing. Last year was the first time we had a 50/50 and the winner walked off with over \$2,000 in cash!

The boat this year will be a 14' G3 boat. The boat is being donated to JCAA by **G3 Boats** and four G3 dealers: **Salem Boat Exchange, Spring Garden Marine, Mercer Marine Supply and Mayberry Sales and Service**. Yamaha is again donating the engine.

Our T-shirt design is now complete. Very shortly we will have it up on our website along with all the other pertinent information for this year's tournament.

Major sponsors so far this year are: Interlux, Yamaha, G3, the four G3 dealers mentioned above, Salem Boat Exchange, Spring Garden Marine, Mercer Marine Supply and Mayberry Sales and Service, Costa Sunglasses, Underwater Green Fishing Lights & Canyon Reels & Tica Fishing Tackle.

Port sponsors so far this year are Fisherman's Headquarters for the LBI port; RJ Marine Service for the Cape May port, South Harbor Marine for the Barnegat Bay port.

Our first mailing for the tournament has gone out with an entry form along with ticket books for our High Roller Raffle and a T-shirt ordering form.

Entry forms are coming in but please be advised that affidavits are not being mailed out just yet. Also be advised that our hats & T-shirts have not come in yet. As soon as they come in they will be mailed out. So if you sent in an entry form or an order for hats and T-shirts they will be mailed out shortly.

This year's tournament promises to pay out a lot of money and prizes, so mark your calendar for August 1st and August 12th and let's hope we have a nice day to fish this year! The last two years it has rained on our tournament day. I'm starting to get a complex! This is the third year I will be running this tournament and if it rains again I think I will be fired as Tournament Director!

It was interesting, though, that the day before the tournament when the weather reports came out calling for a nasty weather the next day, I got a rash of entries personally in the office. Guys were coming into the office to sign up like crazy. Their attitude was, hey, a lot of boats are not going to go out, maybe I can steal a prize with a small fish. Not a bad strategy! We had a few ports where 10 fish were not weighed in. A legal fish would have won a prize in those ports. Having said that, though, if you don't feel comfortable fishing in bad weather, DO NOT go out. Your safety and the safety of your crew is first and foremost. So let's keep our fingers crossed for a good day to fish this year.

NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

By John Toth

On behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), I attended an April 27th meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA), and I also chaired this meeting in the capacity of Acting NJOA CF President. The following issues were discussed.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - that provides a better structure of getting artificial reefs built with the state. Material providers and contractors was discussed. This MOU was three years in the making and the details of it were presented to various stakeholders at an April 15th meeting chaired by DEP. By June, the final

regulations of this MOU are expected to be finalized and presented to the public.

Marine Funding - Senator Kean at an earlier NJOA meeting indicated that he was looking into seeing how the Division of Fish & Wildlife could be relieved of paying benefits for its employees that would free up more money for it. Ed Markowski reported that he talked to Senator Kean and that he is still pursuing this effort.

Island Beach State Walkway issue - NJBBA's President Tim Burden reported that the NJBBA supports a \$3 fee for boaters to use this walkway to access the beach to help pay for lifeguards.

Families Afield Legislation - Ed Markowski reported that NJOA is trying to get this legislation passed to get more people to take up hunting. A hunter with a license can have another person accompany him/her to introduce that person to hunting. This person would not have to have a license while in this introduction to hunting phase.

DEP Commissioner Bob Martin arrived along with Assistant Commissioner Rich Boornazian and Deputy Commissioner David Glass to witness Bob Martin to receive his award. NJOA Executive Director Anthony Mauro and I presented this award to Bob Martin who was **very pleased** to receive it! The Commissioner also indicated that he often turns to the NJOA for its advise on hunting/fishing issues since the NJOA gives its opinions that are science-based and thoroughly researched.

After he received it, I requested all of the NJOA council members to identify themselves and the organizations they represent. I wanted this Commissioner to see what a room full of anglers and hunters looks like! Sitting next to him, I could see that he was very impressed with our numbers and the various organizations we represent! The Commissioner (arrived around 7:45 p.m.) and he told us that he had a grueling day with all types of issues that he had to address. In spite of this late hour for him, he wanted to stay and take a few questions:

- **Can we get more staff for Fish & Wildlife?** (asked by Frank Virgilio) - He indicated that money in Trenton is "very tight" right now. The DEP is looking at a better way of backfilling jobs when people retire. Instead of waiting to look for a replacement when an employee is about to retire and the time it takes to fill the job, the DEP wants a replacement on hand and

ready to go when the person retires. This way the gap to fill the job is significantly reduced.

- **Can we get a front pay loader for Island Beach State Park?** (asked by Tim Burden) - Assistant Commissioner Rich Boornazian took this question and said that the DEP is very close to buying one. He also indicated that the purchasing system of our state is archaic.
- **Sand Mining Issue and what can be done about it?** (Ken Warchal) - He is aware of this issue and is looking into with the Army Corps of Engineers
- **What is Status of NJ's reefs in federal waters?** (Ron Nachman) - He answered that the DEP is waiting to piggy back on Delaware's movement to have them free of traps. He wants to take one step at a time on this, take care of our two reefs first, then the ones in federal waters. He is also working on a new one built for recreational angler use only.
- **When will our Governor sign the new striped bass regulations?** (Paul Haertel) - It is on his desk and it is expected to be signed shortly. (The Governor signed it on May 5th).
- **Seismic Testing Status?** (Glenn Arthur) - the Commissioner said that the National Marine Fisheries won't even sit down with him or his staff and he can't deal with them. He is taking them to court over it since this testing violates our state's coastal laws.
- **Beach access and a lifesaving truck for Island Beach State Park?** (Tim Burden) - The Commissioner indicated that Tim needs to talk to Ray Cantor (Legal Department) to work on better access. He will also check on Tim's request for this truck.

Commissioner Martin thanked us for giving him the award and told us that he really enjoyed meeting with us. This meeting was adjourned shortly after his departure.

Membership Report

By John Toth

With the beginning of the new year, club memberships are due for payment and invoices have been mailed to member clubs. Club dues still remain

at \$50, and sponsorships of \$50, \$100, \$250 and \$500 are available for publication in this newsletter and would be very much appreciated. Please completely fill out not only the Dues and Sponsorship form, but also the Club Survey form so that we can update information about your club and our mailing list.

Please send in your payments to our address: JCAA, 1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753.

The JCAA has recently received club dues from: Shore Aquatic Club (\$50), Schuyler Tuna Fishing Club (\$100), Association of Surf Angling Clubs (\$100), Sandy Hook Bay Anglers (\$100), Seaside Heights Fishing Club (\$50), Fortesque Anglers (\$50), Bayshore Saltwater Flyrodders (\$100), West Orange Anglers (\$100), Long Beach Island fishing Club (\$150).

Thank you all for sending in your 2015 dues and sponsorships in such a timely manner! A number of membership clubs do not meet until the fishing season starts in full swing. Please remit you club's dues ASAP.

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

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

Schuyler Tuna Fishing Club

By Kevin Brooks, President

In response to your request about fishing clubs, I would like to tell you about ours. My name is Kevin M. Brooks and I am the second president of the Schuyler Tuna Fishing Club of Kearny, NJ. The first president was Paul Pacenka, founder. The club was started in 1948 by several members who worked at various locations in the Harrison-Kearney area. They incorporated in 1954. So as you can see we have been around for a very long time. At that time the dues were only 50 cents a week with a \$3.00 initiation fee. They met the 1st Sunday of every month which we still do. We do not meet in July or August. Just recently we had a celebration for one of our members, Joe Finan, who has 50 years with the club. Joe travels from Phillipsburg, Pa. to attend

our meetings once a month. The club presently has 48 members in good standing. We fish 8-9 times a year, mostly on the Mimi VI of Pt. Pleasant Captained by Ken Namorvitz. We support all activities of the JCAA as all your representatives know. We will be attending your Sports-person-of-the-Year dinner as usual and are looking forward to it. We will have a full table this year.

Hope all is well. Keep up the good work. Always appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kevin M. Brooks,
President Schuyler Tuna Fishing Club

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

2015 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

The JCAA Youth Education Committee is accepting nominations for the 2015 Youth Education Award. It takes the support of many volunteers to bring successes to the fishing community but sometimes individuals and sport-fishing organizations go above and beyond to make the future of fishing better for our youngsters. Criteria: Promoting "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs (HOFNOD)," Certified HOFNOD instructors, number of fishing or aquatic education events, JCAA lending library usage, and creativity for promoting youth fishing events. Submit your nominations in writing at the next general membership meeting.

NATIONAL FISHING & BOATING WEEK

JUNE 6 – 14, 2015

NF&BW Free Fishing Days in New Jersey have changed to June 13 and October 17, 2015. . The first FREE day will be held on June 13, 2015 during the summer as is traditional. This day is part of the National Fishing and Boating Week which highlights the importance of recreational boating and fishing to enhance peoples' quality of life and to preserve our country's natural beauty.

The second Free Fishing Day will occur after fall trout stocking on October 17, 2015 to bring attention to this great fishing opportunity. On these two days, residents and non-residents may fish New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or trout

stamp. All other regulations, including size and daily catch limits, remain in effect.

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

NEW 2015 SUMMER FISHING EVENT FOR BRICK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Since 1989, the Jersey Coast Anglers Association Youth Education Committee has worked with state agencies and law enforcement officials to introduce youngsters to fishing and boating as an alternative to gangs, bullying, drugs, alcohol, and violence. Various federal, state and non-governmental agencies have developed educational materials to promote aquatic conservation and youth sport fishing such as the F3 "Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs" program. The Brick Township High School Fishing Club (BTHSFC) is close to completing a second year of NJ HOFNOD classroom instruction and fishing workshops. BTHSFC Faculty advisors feel it is time to expand fishing opportunities throughout the summer months and encourage students to participate.

With the assistance from the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee and Certified HOFNOD Instructors, we will provide the structure to conduct a HOFNOD successful Summer-Long Fishing Event for Brick Township High School students. The summer fishing event is

designed to keep youngsters busy fishing over the summer months and build self-esteem. By promoting a Summer-Long Fishing Event, we can foster an understanding of the natural environment and instill a conservation ethic at a young age by demonstrating the joys of recreational fishing rather than using drugs and alcohol. Similar programs currently exist which have proven to be an effective tool to deter youth from the dangers of substance abuse. Project Volunteers: BTHSFC Faculty Advisors Joanna Freedley and Jamie Wight, Greg Kucharewski, President Shore Surf Club, Tim Burden, President NJ Beach Buggy Association, and members of the JCAA Youth Education Committee. After the project is approved by BTHS administration we expect a July 1, 2015 start date. If you would like to be a sponsor or weigh-in Center, please email Greg at gkucharews@jcaa.org.

JUNIOR MATE TRAINING PROGRAM

The Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association, Inc., in conjunction with Berkley Fishing, sponsors the BHCFA Junior Mate Training Program.

This is a great way for teenagers to learn the skills necessary to becoming a Certified Charter Boat Mate. Registration for the 2015 Junior Mate Training Program will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2015 at the New Jersey Maritime Museum, Dock Rd at West Avenue in Beach Haven. Check the BHCFA website at www.BHCFA.com for more details or Call Capt. John Lewis at 609-670-5980 or Capt. Jimmy Zavacky at 609-915-2498.

BEGINNER SURF FISHING CLINICS

Register now for the beginner surf fishing clinics at Island Beach State Park. Visitors will learn how to read the water, 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. 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:

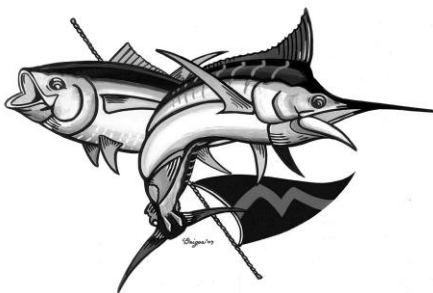
\$10 per person. The program begins at 10:00 am sharp at the Interpretive Center. For a list of dates go to [this link](#). For more information call 732-793-0506.

GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

New Jersey HOFNOD was out in force for the 24th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament along with disabled veterans and others that fished the tournament. Liz Jackson and her team of NJ HOFNOD certified instructors did a great job of displaying the HOFNOD trailers that hold a variety of fishing equipment from fly rods to surf rods. Over 30 youngsters from NJ HOFNOD attended to fish the event.

Gloucester Township youngsters also helped veterans fishing next to them. Kudos to Mr. Robert Johnson, Director Gloucester Township, NJ HOFNOD for teaching his group excellent fishing ethics and how to help others.

2015 Offshore Open



\$175,000 in prize money*

August 28 to September 6

***Manasquan River
Marlin & Tuna Club***

Visit www.mrmtc.com for details

