

JCAA NEWSPAPER MARCH 2016

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on February 16th, 2016)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, February 23rd, 2016

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Jersey Coast Shark Anglers

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 10th, 2016

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

**OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE
JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.**
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This publication is printed and mailed one week prior to each regular monthly meeting of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. One of the prime goals of JCAA is to get accurate information into public hands as soon as possible.

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

## 2016 OFFICERS

|                            |              |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>           | John Toth    | 732-656-0139 |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b> | Ken Warchal  | 908-715-0791 |
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| <b>Tournament Dir.</b>     | Paul Turi    | 609-660-2126 |

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**March 10<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**March 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>** Saltwater Fishing Expo in Somerset

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** Governors 25<sup>th</sup> Surf Fishing Tournament

**August 6<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Fluke Tournament

**November 13<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Sportsperson of the Year  
Dinner

## **2016 High Roller Raffle**

The JCAA High Roller Raffle for 2016 is now ready! Below is a list of this year's 8 prizes. We have special prices on the tickets this year. The price options for tickets are:

- \$2.00 Each
- 3 for \$5.00
- 7 for \$10.00

The tickets will be available at our booths at the following shows:

- Jan, 7th - 10th Garden State Outdoor Sports Show
- February 3rd-7th Atlantic City Boat Show
- March 18th - 20 Saltwater Expo

You can also call the office and we will mail you tickets. Drawing Date - **May 31st**, 2016 at 7:30 PM at the JCAA office located at 1594 Lakewood Rd., Ste. 13, Toms River, NJ 08755.

- **You do not have to be present to win**
- **8 chances to win a great package**

**Support JCAA - Only \$2.00 a Ticket**

1. 7'6" Century I-SS 905 spinning rod/Canyon DJR 3500 reel **\$590** *Donated by Century Rods and Canyon Reels*
2. \$500 Gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters **\$500** *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
3. Tony Maja Wire Line Rod/ Canyon Signature Series trolling reel **\$499** *Donated by Tony Maja and Canyon Reels*
4. 7' Seeker BCSW 708-7S spinning rod/Canyon Salt 5000 reel **\$394** *Donated by Grumpys Tackle and Canyon Reels*
5. Underwater Green Fishing Light **\$359** *Donated by Underwater Green Fishing Lights*
6. 12' Tica UEHA936502S surf rod/Tica Abyss & TL5000R spinning reel **\$310** *Donated by Tica*
7. 5'6" Profile Tuna Stopper TS 520L conventional rod & Shimano Triton TLD 25 **\$280** *Donated by Profile and Shimano*
8. 7' Tica WISA70H1 conventional rod/Tica Caiman GT200 reel **\$225** *Donated by Tica*

**Total Value: \$3157**

## President's Report

*By John Toth*

The JCAA had a booth at the Atlantic City Boat Show that opened on February 3rd and closed on Sunday, February 7th. Mark Taylor was in charge of this show for the JCAA to make all of its arrangements and staffing. This was a five day show that required a lot of us to be there to sell our High Roller raffle tickets, pass out our newsletters and to answer questions about the JCAA and various issues. I want to thank Mark for his superb job in setting up this show and to all of our volunteers who worked at it!

I do want to tell you about an episode at the show that really surprised me. I have worked at a lot of shows for the JCAA and others to sell tickets and I have sold a lot of them. At this AC show, a couple came to our JCAA booth. I said to the man who was eyeing up our prizes, **"She said that you could spend all of the money you want to buy those nice rods and reels!"** The man gave me a strange look and then pulled from his wallet a \$100-hundred-dollar bill and said, "I want a hundred dollars worth of tickets!" That floored me! I have sold so many tickets at so many shows, but nobody has ever dropped a hundred dollars on tickets. I also learned

that, incredibly, this same man came back another day at this show and bought another \$100 dollars worth of our raffle tickets! It goes to show that you never know how people will react to different selling techniques and this one was a winner for us!

The Saltwater Expo in Somerset (March 18th - 20th) is a show that really focuses on saltwater fishing with a lot of fishing gear and good buys to be had. Mark Taylor will be asking for volunteers to staff our JCAA booth. Volunteers do not pay an entrance fee. See Mark at our February 22nd meeting to sign up for this show.

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### *NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program / NJ Volunteer Angler Survey*

You need to be counted so we can prove how many Saltwater Anglers are in New Jersey so don't forget to register or re-register with the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program for 2016. It is important for the politicians and National Marine Fisheries Service to see the large number of recreational anglers in NJ and how important recreational fishing is to the economy of New Jersey. So if you are thinking of going fishing in 2016 register. ***It is Free!!*** You can register or renew your registration for 2016 by going to [this link](#). 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](#).

## Public Access - Update

*By John Toth*

As I mentioned to you in our February newsletter, the NJ DEP was sued by the Hackensack Riverkeeper and the NY/NJ Baykeeper over its authority to regulate access and waterways. An Appellate Court ruled that the DEP lacked this authority since there was no specific legislation giving it this authority. Alarmed over this void in controlling access, our legislators with our Governor's approval, quickly adopted legislation giving the DEP this authority.

However, the two groups that brought this lawsuit **want** the DEP to be in charge of access, but they want the DEP to use **improved guidelines** for it to follow in administering access. Besides these two

groups, the American Littoral Society has been working with Senator Smith on bill (S-919) that would incorporate language to provide better and definitive rules for the DEP to implement access. Senator Smith indicated that he wanted the various groups that have been involved in drafting this legislation to give him a list of what they had consensus on, and a list of what they did not have consensus and provide this information to him in 90 days. Senator Smith appointed four individuals to be in charge of this effort and they include: Sara Bluhm (NJ Business and Industry Assoc.), Tim Dillingham (American Littoral Society), Mike Egenton (NJ Chamber of Commerce), and Debbie Mans (NY/NJ Baykeeper). To get this project moving along, the first of three stakeholder meetings was held on February 9th in Trenton at the NJ Business and Industry Association building. I attended it representing the JCAA and the NJ Outdoor Alliance. Members from the Beach Buggy Association, Council of Diving Clubs and the RFA were also there. It started at 10:15 a.m. and lasted until 2:00 p.m. There was a lot of discussion on various issues and I will give you a brief snapshot of this long meeting and the next steps.

There was about 40-50 people that attended it from various groups who want to see access improved, and those who most likely would want to see it disappear. After we all went around the room introducing ourselves, we were told by the individuals in charge of this effort that we need to focus our efforts on **three** main categories for access: **Policy**, such as the Public Trust Doctrine, **Threshold and Exceptions**, such as when developers want to build a high rise by a beach and the question of access comes into play, and **Access** like 24/7 access to beaches and public parks. Under these three categories, there were subsets of issues. We were given small stickers and were told to place these stickers by each of the subset issues that we felt should be addressed. Those subset issues that did **not** receive a sticker will not be included in this evaluation process. In essence, this effort was like a focus group on what we all thought was important for us to address and those issues we should dismiss. All of this information was placed on flip chart paper and stuck on the walls for us to walk around and attach our stickers.

At the conclusion of this meeting, we were asked to volunteer to work on the three main categories mentioned above to identify the problems

associated with them and offer recommendations for improvement. I volunteered to work on the **Policy** and **Access** committees. The date when these committees will meet has not been established as I write this article. There will be two more Stakeholder meetings on March 22nd and April 12th. At both of these meetings, the three committees will give a report on what they think should be incorporated in Senator Smith's bill to improve access. There is a very wide range of opinions and agendas within these committees and it will be interesting to see what they propose to improve access. I will keep you updated on the progress of this effort.

## JCAA 2015 Fluke Tournament Survey By Joshua McGilly

On August 1, 2015 the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) held their 21<sup>st</sup> annual fishing tournament with nine ports covering most of the state's coast. Ports were in Jersey City, Sandy Hook, Belmar, Point Pleasant, Waretown, Ship Bottom, Mystic Island, Ocean City, and Cape May. Anglers were allowed to fish in both state and federal waters off of New Jersey. Anglers could enter the tournament as an individual or as part of a team of up to 6 anglers fishing from shore or boat. The tournament started at 6am and all weigh ins ended at 5pm. At their designated ports teams were allowed to weigh in one summer flounder for the tournament. A length was also recorded in case there was a tie in weight. The tournament was designed so prizes were awarded to the 10 largest fish at each port. The objective of this project was to determine how and where anglers fished this tournament. There was not room to put the tables in the JCAA Newspaper but they will be posted in the article on the JCAA web page and if you want an email copy with the tables send me at mcgillyj@go.stockton.edu.

### Methods

The objective of this project was to determine how and where anglers fished this tournament. A questionnaire was developed with assistance from Dr. Eleanor Bochenek, JCAA members, and the New Jersey DEP Marine Fisheries Bureau, to collect data on fishing techniques, water depth, temperature, bottom characteristics, and by catches. For each team

the number of legal and undersized summer flounder caught were also recorded.

Prior to the tournament a copy of the questionnaire along with a letter explaining the research project was mailed to the 278 teams entered in the tournament. The anglers were asked to fill out the questionnaire while fishing and return it to their port's weigh master or at the awards ceremony. All teams that returned a filled-out questionnaire were entered into a raffle for a free entry into the 2016 summer flounder tournament.

Research assistants were placed at the Sandy Hook, Point Pleasant, Ship Bottom, and Cape May ports. They worked with the weigh masters and recorded weights of the summer flounder being brought in for the tournament. Along with weights they recorded data regarding length of the fish and number of anglers per team.

### **Results**

A total of 278 boats were entered in the JCAA summer flounder tournament and 90 boats completed a questionnaire (32% return). Along with the questionnaire 4 assistants at certain weigh-in stations collected data on 68 summer flounder.

#### **Tournament Characteristic**

Home states of Anglers: Anglers from, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania participated in the tournament. The predominate residential state was New Jersey (88%)

Fishing Platforms: Anglers fished from shore, private boat, charter and rental boats. One angler fished from shore while the remainder fished from a boat with the majority fishing from a privately owned boat.

Bottom Structure: Anglers were allowed to fish any New Jersey waterbody from tidal rivers to the Atlantic Ocean. Due to the wide area being fished a variety of bottom structure was fished from soft sandy bottoms to rocks and artificial reefs off the New Jersey coast. Most anglers targeted rough bottom structure to fish (44%). This kind of bottom structure is made up of solid pieces of debris sitting on the bottom; the pieces can vary from rocks, shells, to other sunken materials.

#### **Water temperature and Depth**

The temperature and depth fished varied. The temperature anglers fished ranged from 50 to 79 degrees Fahrenheit with the average temperature being 71 degrees. The depths ranged from 8 to 90

feet averaging 50 feet. The depth fished ranged greatly because some anglers fished the shallow bays and inlets while others ventured offshore to deep water.

#### **Hook Style and Size**

A wide variety of hook styles and combinations were used in this tournament. Single hooks were used and dragged along the bottom with a piece of natural or artificial bait attached to rigs with multiple lure and hook combinations. The predominant hook style fished was a single bucktail (28%). Along with just a single bucktail some anglers added an addition hook to the bucktail to increase the amount of bait in the water. A large number of anglers fished a bucktail in one variation or another (36%). The other 36 percent of anglers opted to not use a bucktail and fished a single or multiple hook set up with either natural or artificial bait. Anglers used many different hook sizes. Hook size from a smaller 1/0 hook to a 7/0 hook; the most popular size used was the 4/0 hook (17%).

#### **Non-Summer Flounder Species Caught**

Although the target species was summer flounder, the bottom habitat holds many other fish species. There was a total of 9 non summer flounder species caught consisting of, smooth dogfish (*Mustelus canis*), seabass (*Centropristis striata*), american eel (*Anguilla rostrate*), blackfish (*Tautoga oniti*), searobin (*Triglidae*), clear nose skate (*Raja eglanteria*), bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*), cownose ray (*Rhinoptera bonasus*), and weakfish (*Cynoscion regalis*). The most common bycatch species was the clear nose skate (68%).

#### **Characteristics of Short Summer Flounder Caught**

The 2015 New Jersey minimum size length was 18 inches and a 5 fish bag limit. Because of these regulations any fish shorter than 18 inches must be released even if brought to the boat dead. The day of the tournament there was a total of 354 summer flounder under 18 inches caught ranging from 5 to 17.75 inches. The average length of the short summer flounder was 15.17 inches, and for every angler that filled out the questionnaire there was an average of 1.9 short summer flounder caught per person.

Characteristics of keeper summer flounder caught: After reaching the bag limit for 2015 of 5 summer flounder, anglers must release any additional summer flounder caught. A total of 151 summer flounder over the length of 18 inches were caught ranging from 18 to 29 inches. The average length of a

keeper summer flounder was 20.83 inches and for every angler that filled out the questionnaire there was an average of 0.8 keepers caught per person.

### **Total Number of Keepers per Team**

The number of keeper summer flounder caught varied from team to team. Some teams caught no keeper summer flounder while others caught up to 15 keepers. An average of 2.65 keepers were caught per team.

**Sandy Hook:** The Sandy Hook port had some very large fish weighed in throughout the day; with the largest of the tournament being weighed there. The summer flounder weight ranged from 2.82 to 10.72 pounds and a total of 15 fish were weighed in and the average weighed in was 5.12 pounds.

**Point Pleasant:** The Point Pleasant port had the most summer flounder weighed in out of the 4 weigh-in stations. Summer flounder weighed between 2.12 to 6.26 pounds. There was a total of 26 summer flounder weighed with an average weight of 4.65 pounds.

**Long Beach Island:** The Long Beach Island port had a total of 18 summer flounder weighed in. This port had the smallest average sized fish out of the 4 ports; the summer flounder weighed between 2.36 to 6.82 pounds with an average of 4.52 pounds.

**Cape May:** The Cape May port had the least amount of summer flounder weighed in out of the 4 ports. A total of 9 Summer Flounder were brought to be weighed ranging between 2.48 to 7.9 pounds with an average of 4.89 pounds.

After collecting and interpreting the data from the JCAA tournament certain trends were noticed regarding angler fishing styles. The 2015 tournament was later in the summer flounder season so many anglers targeted summer flounder in deeper water outside of the small bays and estuaries. Summer flounder start to migrate out of the shallow bays to find cooler deeper water. Anglers may have used this knowledge to their advantage with the average depth fished being 50 feet. To target larger fish many anglers used a bucktail with its large profile imitating a large prey item. Most opted out of using a traditional summer flounder rig using a hook tipped with a piece of natural bait drifted behind the boat.

The coast of New Jersey has a wide variety of water to fish ranging from the deeper cooler water of the north to the shallow bays and sandy beach front of the south. It appears that different sized

summer flounder have areas they prefer to live in. Data shows that larger flounder usually reside in the northern deep water out of Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook. Going down the coast the average weight of the summer flounder decreases, except for Cape May. Cape May did not have many fish weighed in and one fish being considerably larger than the others brought the average weight up.

A study of the JCAA Summer flounder tournament was first completed in 2004 and the results are very different from this study. In 2004 the tournament was held on June 12 compared to being held on August 1st in 2015. Because the 2004 Tournament had close to 1,000 boats, the survey covered more topics like demographics and that survey was done with a very large budget. There was also a drastic difference in the amount of anglers reporting data from these 2 years. In 2004 493 teams filled out a questionnaire compared to 90 in 2015. The large difference in amount of people filling out the questionnaires and the different time in the season had effects on species caught and overall totals.

In 2004, there were a greater numbers of non-target species caught. Some of the fish caught in 2004 that were caught in 2015 were, oyster toadfish, Atlantic croaker, windowpane, Atlantic stargazer, winter flounder, and striped bass. Bluefish was a species that was caught in greater number in 2004. With 317 caught compared to 2015 with 4 caught. In 2004 there was an average of 0.64 bluefish caught per team compared to 0.04 caught per team in 2015. There was also a large difference in black seabass caught in 2004 and 2015. A total of 935 black seabass were caught with an average of 1.90 caught per team in 2004. While in 2015 there were 56 black seabass caught with an average of 0.62 caught per team.

The number of summer flounder caught was greater in 2004 compared to 2015. There was a total of 8676 summer flounder caught in 2004 and a total of 505 summer flounder caught in 2015. The average catch of all summer flounder was 17.60 in 2004 and 5.61 summer flounder caught in 2015. There were a total of 2673 keepers caught in 2004 and only 151 caught in 2015. The average keeper caught per team in 2004 was 5.75 and in 2015 1.68. The vast difference in keepers per team may be due to the higher minimum size limit in 2015. In 2004 the legal length for summer flounder was 16.5. The legal bag limit of summer flounder was different between 2004 and 2015. In 2004 anglers were allowed to keep up to 8 summer flounder while in 2015 anglers could only keep 5. This

may explain why the average for keepers in 2004 is over the legal limit in 2015.

During the 2015 JCAA summer flounder tournament, there were a large number of summer flounder and other by-catch species caught by anglers fishing a variety of ways and in different areas. This shows that summer flounder live in a very diverse ecosystem sharing habitat with many other species that feed in a similar way as summer flounder. It appears that larger fish live in the deep water coming out of the Hudson River into the Atlantic Ocean and further north.

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank Eleanor Bochenek, Adam Aguiar, Tom Siciliano, Paul Haertel, and the Jersey Coast Anglers Association for help with the setup of the project and the ability to use this tournament to do research. I also acknowledge Nicholas Winship, David Achinstein, Christopher Laferty, and Christy Pellegrino for their help with distribution and collection of the questionnaire and at the different weigh stations.

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

### **Continuing the Ban of Offshore Drilling**

I was asked to attend a press conference on the boardwalk in Asbury Park in January. The gods must have been in support of our cause because it was one of the loveliest days in January, not even jacket weather. There was more warmth than just from the sun. Being with “old soldiers” fighting the same battles for more than 30 years certainly warms my heart. But it also makes me sad that we constantly revisit the same issues. In the audience were Jimmy Lovgren and Don Marantz, long time fighters to protect the ocean. That they represented both commercial and recreational anglers was never an issue since they were working for a common cause. Towering over me at the podium was Congressman Frank Pallone who began attending JCAA meetings many years ago as a NJ state senator. He introduced many of the early legislation to protect the ocean and he continues to fight that battle at the national level. Cindy Zipf, the strongest

voice for the ocean, was the moderator. We can now count Senator Menendez as a strong ally and adding Senator Booker as another voice only makes us stronger.

The purpose of the press conference was to convince President Obama to maintain the moratorium on drilling off the beaches in the Northeast. The BP oil spill was a lesson we should not forget. Unlike the Gulf, the population along the immediate shore on the East coast numbers in the hundreds of millions. New Jersey cannot afford another disaster along the shoreline. An oil spill could create an even longer term crisis for our beaches. You need to reach out to your Congressmen and women and urge them to support this crucial issue.

### **ASMFC Winter Meeting Week**

Last month I pointed out how you can listen and see what happens during the ASMFC meeting week. All the board meetings are archived and you can listen and see the presentations on your time schedule. I meet a lot of anglers in my travels and many of them know I am a commissioner. They start giving me their opinions on how fish should be managed. The first question I always ask them is, “Have you looked at the science?” The second question is, “Did you attend the public hearings and make comments?” And third, “Have you listened to the discussion from the board meeting?” Your comments carry greater weight and have more credibility even if you and I disagree when you can answer yes to these three questions since you’ve done your homework. Some of the most outspoken and chronic complainers can’t answer yes to even one and have never really taken the time to do it. Remember the saying “Just because it is on the internet does not make it true.” Also you need to know the real agenda and history of the person posting his/her comments.

### **Striped Bass**

As you can see in the release below, there will be no changes in the management of striped bass until 2017. There was some great news, the 2011 year class is the fourth largest and the 2015 is the eighth largest in the long history of the young of the year in Maryland. The 2011 class is already old enough to reproduce. People should remember that the targets in the striped bass management plan are more conservative than any other species we deal with at ASMFC. That was done purposely since striped bass is so important to recreational anglers. Look forward

to 2017 when we will have an opportunity discuss the future of striped bass.

## **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

Meeting Summary, February 4, 2016

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board met to (1) consider tabled motions from its November 2015 meeting, (2) consider Conservation Equivalent Management Proposals submitted by Maryland and the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC), (3) receive an update on the 2016 Cooperative Winter Tagging Program, and (4) elect a Vice-Chair.

Maryland spoke in regards to the tabled motions from the November 2015 Board meeting; “Move to initiate an Addendum to reconsider management options in the Chesapeake Bay from Addendum IV for 2016 based on the stock assessment update in 2015 and retrospective projections. Motion by Mr. Luisi, second by Mr. O’Reilly.” And “Move to amend to remove the words “in the Chesapeake Bay”. Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Mr. Augustine.” Maryland acknowledged that the main motion was made in support of concerns raised by its Chesapeake Bay stakeholders, and as a result of the 2015 stock assessment update which indicated a slightly more favorable stock status compared to the 2013 benchmark (the 2013 benchmark was the basis for the development and implementation of Addendum IV and the coastwide harvest reductions). However, considering the ISFMP Policy Board’s decision to include a striped bass stock assessment update in 2016, Maryland proposed, and the Board approved, a motion to “to postpone indefinitely the two motions on the board, one from Mr. Luisi (Maryland), one from Mr. Clark (Delaware),” with the intent that concept of these motions may be raised following review of 2016 stock assessment update in November.

The Board reviewed Addendum IV Conservation Equivalent Management Proposals submitted by Maryland and PRFC for their 2016 recreational fisheries. For Maryland, only two of the options that met the criteria for conservation equivalency (CE) had not yet been approved by the Board for use in Maryland jurisdictional waters; one would create regulatory consistency between

Delaware and Maryland along the coast, and one for Maryland’s spring trophy fishery in the Chesapeake Bay. PRFC proposed to implement the same regulations as Maryland to create regulatory consistency between their jurisdictions for 2016. The Technical Committee (TC) and the Law Enforcement Committee (LEC) reviewed the proposals and provided comment for Board consideration, per the requirements of Addendum IV. The Board approved the proposed options from Maryland and PRFC that met the required reduction in Addendum IV as recommended by the TC.

The Board received an update on the 2016 Winter Tagging Program from Dr. Wilson Laney (USFWS). With four hook-and-line trips remaining, 780 striped bass have been tagged to date. A complete analysis of the 2016 Program can be expected following completion of the hook-and-line component. Lastly, the Board elected Mr. Russ Allen (NJ) as Board Vice-Chair. For more information, please contact Max Appelman, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [mappelman@asmfc.org](mailto:mappelman@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

## **Summer Flounder**

Below is the press release on the approval of Addendum XXVII. Paul Haertel covers JCAA’s stand on summer flounder and black sea bass. The summer flounder part of the addendum happened because of the hard work of the three NJ ASMFC Commissioners and the many groups involved. The NJ Bureau of Marine Fisheries made this happen because of careful negotiations with the state of Delaware. The Delaware Commissioners also wanted to rectify this bad situation in Delaware Bay. This was a concerted effort and shows what we can do when we work together.

Even though New Jersey voted against it, the black sea bass reduction passed the Commission. I keep hammering the SSC over the black sea bass problem but really it is the MidAtlantic Marine Fisheries Council that is creating the problem. Through their direction to the SSC, they have allowed the SSC to be extremely precautionary. Since the NMFS has done nothing to improve the stock assessment for black sea bass since 1990, the SSC uses a highly precautionary approach. The SSC does not follow the recommendations of the stock assessment. It is up to the Council to redo their rules and stop penalizing both recreational and commercial anglers because of the failure of the NMFS to do their job in gathering better data for black sea bass. If you are in a

MidAtlantic region and like to catch black sea bass, you need to make your displeasure known to the Council members and Governor who appoints them. In a bad economic climate, we don't need to further penalize both commercial and recreational anglers.

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

Press Release, February 2, 2016

ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Board Approves Regional Management for 2016 Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Recreational Fisheries' Alexandria, VA –The Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved Addendum XXVII to the Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. The Addendum continues the use of regional management for the 2016 summer flounder and black sea bass recreational fisheries, with a modification to the summer flounder regions. The modified summer flounder regions are intended to provide more equity in recreational harvest opportunities along the coast, especially between New Jersey and Delaware in the Delaware Bay. The approved summer flounder regions are Massachusetts; Rhode Island; Connecticut through New York; New Jersey; Delaware through Virginia; and North Carolina. For black sea bass, the Board approved the continuation of management measures by northern (Massachusetts – New Jersey) and southern regions (Delaware – North Carolina).

Addendum XXVII was initiated to address the discrepancy in management measures between New Jersey and Delaware in the Delaware Bay. In recent years, the difference in size limit, which has been as great as 2-inches, has been cited as having an economic impact on southern New Jersey anglers. The approval of the New Jersey Delaware Bay region will allow New Jersey to pursue, through its regulatory process, the following management measures for New Jersey waters west of the COLREGS line in the Delaware Bay: a 17-inch minimum size, 4 fish possession limit, and a 128 day season. For New Jersey anglers east of the COLREGS line and north along the New Jersey coast, the state will seek to maintain 2015 management measures in 2016, namely, a 18-inch minimum size, 5 fish possession limit, and a 128 day season. The latter measures are consistent with those

of New York and Connecticut. Management measures for the remaining states remain unchanged from 2015. The adaptive regional management approach for summer flounder has been approved for the 2016 fishing year only.

For black sea bass, the Board approved the continuation of ad hoc regional management measures for the northern (Massachusetts – New Jersey) and southern regions (Delaware – North Carolina). This approach has been used since 2011 and offers some advantages over coastwide regulations, which can disproportionately impact states within the management unit. States in the northern region, which are responsible for approximately 97% of the total recreational harvest, will reduce their harvest by 23% to achieve the 2016 recreational harvest limit. Based on the recommendations of the Technical Committee, the Board approved management proposals and methodologies submitted by the northern states. The northern states will finalize their black sea bass management measures by the spring of 2016. States in the southern region will implement measures consistent with federal regulations (current recommended federal measures are a 12.5 inch TL minimum fish size, 15 fish possession limit, and open season from May 15 – September 21 and October 22 – December 31). Combined, the regulations of the two regions are expected to achieve the required coastwide harvest reduction in order to not exceed the 2016 recreational harvest limit. The Board approved the ad hoc regional measures approach for the 2016 fishing year with the option of extending it through 2017 by Board action.

The Board also approved the maintenance of 2015 scup recreational measures for the 2016 fishing season. Addendum XXVII will be available on the Commission website by the end of February 2016. For more information, please contact Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [krootesmurdy@asmfc.org](mailto:krootesmurdy@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

## **Tautog**

The board heard a number of presentations on the work being done on the Draft Amendment 1. Below are the meeting summary and the time line. We need to be diligent in watching the actions proposed. If regions are proposed, they need to be based on fishing on the same stock, not simple geography.



## **Tautog Management Board**

Meeting Summary, February 3, 2016

The Tautog Management Board met to receive an update on Draft Amendment 1 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. A summary of ongoing efforts was presented by the Plan Development Team (PDT) and the Law Enforcement Subcommittee, two groups that are working on the amendment.

The PDT presented draft language for overfishing/overfished definitions, stock rebuilding schedule, fishing mortality (F) reduction schedule, and probability of achieving F target (if overfishing) for the Board to review and provide feedback on. The Board advised the PDT to further evaluate the probability of achieving the F target if the stock is experiencing overfishing.

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee, which is tasked with investigating the illegal harvest of tautog, presented draft objectives for a commercial harvest tagging program. The Board made no changes to the draft objectives and requested the Subcommittee continue to evaluate tagging alternatives for a live commercial fish market. The Subcommittee is requesting feedback from stakeholders (commercial fishermen, researchers, dealers, etc.) to gain additional knowledge on market dynamics and tag type/placement.

The Board received an update on the status of the Long Island Sound (LIS) stock assessment and the New York/New Jersey stock assessment (excluding the LIS). The Board expects to receive the peer-reviewed stock assessments at its August 2016 Meeting. The Board discussed the potential for a 2016 stock assessment update so Draft Amendment 1 management measures will be based on data through 2015. The Board expects to make a decision in May. In the interim, the Technical Committee will meet to discuss the availability of age data through 2015.

For more information, please contact Ashton Harp, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [aharp@asmfc.org](mailto:aharp@asmfc.org) 703.842.0740.

### **Time Line for Tautog Amendment**

Stock Assessment Update (using data through 2015 for all management regions):

- Jan/Feb 2016: UConn Long Island Sound stock assessment (SA)
- Feb/March 2016: NY/NJ assessment, excluding LIS
- March-Oct 2016: Board tasks the TC to work on a SA update
- Aug 2016: Board reviews peer-reviewed LIS and NY/NJ assessments; Board chooses one management region alternative (either 3 region or 4 region)
- Nov 2016: Board reviews the stock assessment update, in the update the TC could present the catch reduction analysis
- Nov-Jan 2017: PDT further develops options
- Feb 2017: Draft Amendment 1 is presented for public comment approval
- Spring 2017: Public comment/hearings
- May 2017: Board reviews public comments and considers final approval of Draft Amendment 1

## **Can Catalysts Protect Fish from Birth Control?**

By Jocelyn Duffy, Carnegie Mellon,  
June 23, 2015

Catalysts effectively and safely remove a potent and dangerous endocrine disruptor from wastewater.

In Scientific Reports, the research team of Carnegie Mellon University chemist Terrence J. Collins and their collaborators report that the catalysts could be a viable option for large-scale water treatment.

As pharmaceutical use has skyrocketed, especially in first-world countries, the amount of drugs released into the water system through wastewater has dramatically increased.

Medications designed to disrupt the endocrine system, such as birth control pills and some breast and prostate cancer drugs, can be found in close to 25 percent of the world's streams, rivers, and lakes. Studies have shown that these compounds have an adverse effect on the health of wildlife.

### **Feminized Fish**

In many cases, researchers are finding that male fish in these polluted water sources undergo a process called feminization, which is an indicator that estrogenic contaminants are present in the water. Prolonged exposure to these female hormones can

cause males to develop eggs in their testes and leads to the decline of fish populations.

“Unfortunately, some synthetic chemicals, including some everyday chemicals, are powerful endocrine disruptors and they often turn up as contaminants in water. These chemicals, called micropollutants, can be bioactive at low environmentally relevant concentrations and are typically tough to break down,” says Collins, professor of green chemistry.

“We need to get these micropollutants out of our water systems. Fish are indicators of what can happen when hormone control systems get hijacked by synthetic chemicals. We humans are also animals with endocrine systems, after all.”

When a person takes a drug, that drug travels through their body and what isn’t absorbed or broken down is excreted as waste. Conventional wastewater treatment systems are unable to fully remove many of the harmful chemicals found in today’s pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and other products.

Advanced processes installed at the end of wastewater treatment plants, especially those that use ozone or activated carbon, have been shown to be effective options for reducing micropollutants, but the high financial and energy costs of incorporating these have limited their adoption.

### **Testing the Catalysts**

When combined with hydrogen peroxide, TAML activators very effectively break down harmful chemicals in water.

Collins has developed a group of catalysts called TAML activators that offer an alternative treatment option. TAMLs are small molecules that mimic oxidizing enzymes. When combined with hydrogen peroxide, TAML activators very effectively break down harmful chemicals in water.

To test the effectiveness and safety of these catalysts, Collins teamed up with researchers at Brunel University who are experts in aquatic toxicity and wastewater treatment.

In the current paper, the group demonstrates the efficacy and safety of TAML activators via a series of experiments. First, they showed that TAMLs were able to degrade, in pure water, 17alpha-ethinylestradiol (EE2), a synthetic estrogen found in oral contraceptives and a major cause of fish feminization. They then isolated the early intermediate compounds created as TAMLs degrade EE2, and found that several of these were estrogenic

and harmful, too. But, using chemical analysis, the researchers showed that the TAML process was able to effectively degrade these intermediate compounds.

### **Safer Wastewater**

The research group also applied TAML activators to samples of water processed by municipal wastewater plants from the UK. They found that the TAMLs were able to break down EE2 and other estrogenic compounds and micropollutants in the water.

The researchers were then able to demonstrate in the lab that water treated with TAMLs was not harmful to fish. They exposed male fathead minnows, a common freshwater fish found in many inland waterways, to water containing EE2. The exposure to EE2 caused a well-known effect—the fish began to feminize.

After they used TAMLs to remove EE2 from the water, the amount of vitellogenin, a female egg yolk protein, found in the minnows significantly decreased, signaling a dramatic reduction in feminization. Additionally, the fish did not have any detectable adverse effects from being exposed to the tiny traces of TAMLs in the water.

The researchers plan to test TAMLs against ozone and activated carbon treatment systems. They have shown that TAMLs will be at least as effective, and anticipate that the TAML process will come at a much lower cost. Collins estimates that a kilogram of catalyst could treat tens of thousands of tons of wastewater.

The Heinz Endowments, Swiss National Science Foundation, Carnegie Mellon’s Steinbrenner Institute for Environmental Education and Research, the National Science Foundation, and UK Water Industry Research funded the work.

## **ASMFC Approves NJ**

### **Fluke Option**

By Paul Haertel

At their meeting on 2/2/16, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board unanimously approved the fluke option that most New Jersey fishermen supported. This option will allow NJ to be its own region. NJ will still be required to have the same size (18"), same bag limit (5) and same season length (128 days) as the region to our north (New York

and Connecticut). However, we will be allowed to have special regulations for Delaware Bay. In 2015, people in southern NJ were treated unfairly in that fishermen from New Jersey and Delaware were fishing essentially the same waters in Delaware Bay but had different size limits. Delaware had a 16" size limit while fishermen from NJ had an 18" size limit. This option will allow for a 17" size limit, 4 fish bag limit and 128 day season for NJ fishermen fishing in Delaware Bay. It will close the gap with those fishing from Delaware to just one inch. NJ will also be allowed to continue its shore based enhanced fishing opportunity to keep two fluke, 16" or greater at Island Beach State Park and possibly expand this program to other areas as well. The approved option will only be valid for one year.

The news for sea bass was not as good. It is expected that we will have to create regulations to reduce last year's harvest by 23% or more. However, we will not know exactly what the percentage is until the final MRIP numbers come out in mid-February. The more stringent regulations will have to be created though a higher size limit, reduced bag limit, a shortened season or a combination thereof. The New Jersey Bureau of Marine Fisheries will be working on these options.

The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council will have to give their approval to any new regulations pertaining to fluke and sea bass before they become law. The council is expected to approve the 5 fish limit, 18" size limit and 128 day season for fluke. However, they will accept public comment regarding the starting and ending dates for the fluke season at their next meeting on March 3rd.

The Council may or may not decide on new sea bass regulations as well at this meeting. There will be a lot of discussion on this as groups such as JCAA will urge the NJMFC to rebel and refuse to set any regulations that are any more stringent than they were in 2015. JCAA believes that there are plenty of sea bass and that the quota is far too low. JCAA also has proof showing how unfairly NJ fishermen have been treated, regarding sea bass, by the ASMFC. For more detailed information on his issue please read Paul Haertel's article in the February edition of the JCAA newsletter.

## Membership Report

*By Kyren Dooley*

Club membership dues are due on January 1, 2016 and invoices were mailed to your club. Please complete all the information on the forms provided to you so that we can have accurate information about your club.

Please note that our JCAA address has changed! The JCAA has moved to a new location and this new address follows:

**Jersey Coast Anglers Association  
Unit 13  
1594 Lakewood Road  
Toms River, NJ 08755**

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 (609) 713-7712 or at dools702@comcast.net.

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

Club membership renewals (\$50.00) as of Feb. 13, 2016:

- Hook 'Em & Cook 'Em Fishing Club
- Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County
- Long Beach Island Fishing Club
- Seaside Heights Fishing Club
- Fish Hawks, additionally Supporting Sponsor \$250.00
- Bayshore Anglers Association, additionally \$50.00 Club Sponsor
- Asbury Park Fishing Club
- Hi Mar Fishing Club, additionally \$450.00 Supporting Sponsor
- Hudson River Fishermans Association, NJ Chapter, additionally Supporting Sponsor \$50.00
- Manasquan Fishing Club, Supporting Sponsor \$250.00
- Belmar Fishing Club

## Show Time 2016

*By Mark Taylor*

Jersey Coast Anglers Association will be at the **Saltwater Fishing Expo** in Somerset on March 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>.

We are in the show season of 2016. It's time to start thinking of things we need to do before the start of the 2016 season. Some of us may be winterizing the boat, going through all the rods, reels and tackle boxes by inspecting everything and making a list to see what needs to be replaced or repaired. Once you have that list together then you should start thinking about going to the Saltwater Fishing Expo for best bargains on things you need and also looking at the many boats on display. By going to this show you have the best chances of getting what you need and seeing the latest product innovations from the best saltwater manufactures and vendors that attend this show. So mark the date in your calendar March 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> so you don't miss this show. While you are at the show stop by and say hello to the volunteers at the JCAA Booth. Don't forget to pick up your High Roller Raffle tickets for a chance on some very nice prizes. If your club is a member of JCAA or you just want to get involved with JCAA here is how. To become a volunteer at one of the shows with JCAA, please contact me at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com). I will answer every email that is sent to me. I am looking forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the show.

**The Saltwater Fishing Expo:** in Somerset on March 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.sportshows.com](http://www.sportshows.com) to see much more about this show. Over the past eleven years this show has grown to become the fishing destination that kicks off the New Jersey and Tri-State coastline's saltwater fishing season. It's where avid anglers congregate to plot out their season and buy the gear they've been dreaming about all winter. With many of the major tackle manufacturers here to answer all your questions and local tackle retailers available to fill your orders, this is truly one stop shopping. Meet face to face with guides and charters, compare and buy saltwater fishing boats and kayaks, and learn the latest techniques from local experts. Whether your saltwater fishing passion is surf casting, inshore or offshore all are well represented through large and small manufacturers based up and

down the east coast. Mark your calendars now and don't miss the 11th Annual Saltwater Fishing Expo in Somerset, NJ.

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### TWO FUN EVENTS FOR YOUNGSTERS (NBFCC)

Members of the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club hosts this annual event at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located in Union, NJ. The seminar is scheduled for 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at the Kenilworth VFW and it's always a lot of fun for the youngsters.

Children and their families are welcome to come and enjoy a night of fun-fishing activities and refreshments. We always enjoy working with the membership of this club because they are devoted to teaching the joys of fishing to our young people. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will provide prizes for this worthwhile event.

NB&FCC annual Kids Fishing Derby is held each year at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside, N. J. and is free for children 16 years of age and younger on Saturday, April 16, 2016 through Saturday, May 7, 2016. The registration booth is located at the gazebo on the lower lake and registrations will be accepted from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on the first Saturday of the derby only. The Derby runs for three weeks.

Children that register will receive a gift bag at the derby location up until 2:00 P.M. on the first Saturday of the derby. Prizes for the derby will be awarded at the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club's meeting on June 7, 2016 at 8:00 P.M. For additional information email: [info@nbfcc.org](mailto:info@nbfcc.org)

### 2016 NJ HOFNOD YOUTH FISHING CHALLENGE

If you are working with a NJ HOFNOD youth fishing group get ready for June 11's Youth Fishing Challenge. The object is to get youngsters fishing so please consider how you might like to get kids hooked on fishing. For more information, please contact Liz Jackson for details. NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, Hooked on Fishing- Not on Drugs, 605

### **ANNUAL TROUT CONTEST FOR KIDS**

The Shark River Surf Anglers are proud to announce the 2016 edition of the annual Trout Contest for Kids at Spring Lake, NJ. This year's contest is scheduled for Saturday, April 9th from 8 AM to 1:30 PM and it is offered FREE of charge to all children ages 15 and under. Great prizes will be a huge part of the day, as we award a sensational Grand Prize to an overall winner, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes to individual winners in each of four different age categories. Don't miss this contest. Every contestant will go home a winner, as the Shark River Anglers present ALL participants with a "thank you" prize package that contains about \$40 worth of goods and gear! Thanks to donations from sponsors the SRSA also offer free hot chocolate, donuts, bagels, hot dogs, chips, juice, ice cream and soda to participants throughout the day.

Hundreds of young anglers are expected to circle around Spring Lake waiting for the start of the contest. Don't forget to get there early, otherwise you must park along the side streets of Spring Lake and walk a great distance to find a spot to fish. Every year, the Shark River Surf Anglers spend a lot of time and energy to make this event a success. Come out and enjoy some fishing fun, catch big fish, and win prizes. For more information, phone: 732-492-6936 or visit [www.sharkriversurfanglers.com](http://www.sharkriversurfanglers.com)

### **STUDENT LEARNING OPPORTUNITY**

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife and its partners is offering teens some exciting summer programs based at the Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center, located off Island Beach State Park in Barnegat Bay. These unique, educational and fun programs include fishing, research and field experiences in a beautiful location. Sedge Island Fishing Experience June 23-26 and August 25-28, 2016.

The NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, is offering two sessions of this 4-day 3-night program open to students going into grades 8 and 9 in the fall of 2016. Students will spend the first three days fishing the area while learning about the surrounding ecosystem. On the final night a parent or guardian will join the group and spend the last night learning from the students, and the following day fishing with them. Cost is \$475.00 and includes

all meals, lodging, instruction and equipment. The deadline for registration is March 31, 2016.

### **COME AND CELEBRATE THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Get ready to enter the largest surf-fishing tournament along the Jersey Shore. This year it will be bigger and better than ever. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be on Sunday, May 18, 2016. Don't miss a day of family fun! Pick up a brochure about the tournament at Island Beach State Park or at your favorite tackle dealer. The contest is reasonably priced. Register early and save.

The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice and physically challenged anglers at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. This will require extra volunteer hours from member clubs in JCAA, so please think about helping out for a few hours. Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 12) and volunteer anglers from various fishing clubs will assist physically challenged veterans at the tournament. Balloon tire equipped beach wheelchairs will be available to transport anglers in need to a reserved fishing area. Admission to the park is FREE for the tournament. Volunteers will be needed to assist anglers with special needs who fish the tournament. To volunteer or make arrangements for a disabled angler, please contact Greg K, at: 732-785-9278 or email [gkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:gkucharews@jcaa.org).

# **JCAA 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament August 6, 2016**