

JCAA NEWSPAPER JULY 2016

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on June 20th, 2016)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, June 28th, 2016

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Jersey Coast Shark Anglers

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, July 14th, 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>Rec. Sec.</b>           |              |              |
| <b>Cors. Sec.</b>          | Paul Turi    | 609-660-2126 |
| <b>Mem. Sec.</b>           | Kyren Dooley | 609-713-7712 |
| <b>Tournament Dir.</b>     | Paul Turi    | 609-660-2126 |

**Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**June 28<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting  
*(No JCAA General Meeting in July and August)*

**July 7<sup>th</sup>** Menhaden Public Hearing in NJ

**July 14<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**August 11<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**September 8<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**September 27** JCAA General Meeting

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

## **JCAA 22<sup>ND</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament**

*By Paul Turi, Tournament Director*

The JCAA 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament will take place on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> and the Awards Presentations will take place on Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at the Clarion Hotel on Rt. 37 in Toms River, NJ.

Entries have been coming in. I am now starting to process the early entries that have been coming in and affidavits are now starting to be mailed.

If you didn't sign up for the \$50,000 Doormat Fluke Category or any of the calcuttas, you can still do so. Just call the office and give me your credit card over the phone and I will add it to your entry and process a new affidavit. However, you will have to return your original affidavit before I can reissue a new affidavit.

In this edition of our newspaper there is a four-page insert advertising our fluke tournament. Contained within that insert is an application. You can fill that out and either mail or fax to our office.

Some work has now been done on our website. ***We have the entry forms now available on the site*** as well as the ***electronic entry form*** hosted by EventBrite. Here is [the link](#). Payment can be made with credit card or PayPal.

As I wrote last month, we have some exciting changes this year! There will be the normal 1<sup>st</sup> place prize of \$1200 cash and 9 merchandise prizes for each port. Last year we introduced four cash calcuttas, a \$50 & \$100 calcutta for each port and a \$50 & \$100 calcutta for the overall tournament. We will continue the calcuttas for this year as they were very popular last year with a lot of interest and participation.

Last year we also offered a **\$25,000** cash prize for the largest fish weighed in over 12lbs by 1/100 of a pound. **This year we are offering \$50,000 cash to one lucky angler who catches a fluke over 12lbs by 1/100 of a pound!**

#### Some facts from last year's tournament:

- We paid out **\$10,800** in 1<sup>ST</sup> place prize money
- Other port prizes paid out = **\$16,776**
- Total port prize money paid out **\$27,576**
- We paid out **\$19,643.75** in calcutta money
- Port prizes, calcuttas given away = **\$47,219.75**
- Plus Door prize value: Approx. **\$3,500**
- Total: **\$50,719.75**
- Plus Boat, Motor & trailer = Approx. **\$10,000**
- In total we paid out over **\$60,000** in cash and prizes!!! The overall tournament winner won **\$11,000** plus a free \$500 mount of his fish!

The **Grand Prize** Drawing at the Awards Presentations this year will again be a 14' G3 boat, 20hp Yamaha engine and a trailer.

The boat is being donated to JCAA by **G3 Boats** and three G3 dealers: **Spring Garden Marine, Mercer Marine Supply and Mayberry Sales and Service.** Yamaha is again donating the engine.

Our Major Sponsors this year are:

- **Yamaha Outboards**
- **G3 Boats**
- **Tica Fishing Tackle**
- **Canyon Reels**
- **The Fisherman**
- **Interlux Paints**
- **Costa Sunglasses**

We have three 1<sup>st</sup> Place Port Sponsors for this year. Please support our sponsors! They are:

- **Hoffman's Marina**
- **South Harbor Marine**
- **Fisherman's Headquarters**

For the first time this year, we will be having **FREE** food and drink at the Awards Presentations on August 11<sup>th</sup> at the Clarion Hotel. We will have sliders, hot dogs, soft drinks, etc. Yes, **FREE!** So bring the whole family and crew and have some fun and let's load up the banquet hall and make a nice impression for our tournament sponsors!

## President's Report

*By John Toth*

Before you know it, the JCAA Fluke Tournament will be here (August 6th), and in addition to the many prizes that will be available, there is a **\$50,000 prize** for the angler who catches the biggest fish over 12 lbs.! While 12 lbs. is certainly a big fish, it is certainly doable by skillful anglers or even by a first-time angler with dumb luck! How many times have we witnessed an angler putting the wrong bait on a hook and doing just about everything backward, yet winning the pool with the largest fish! Or how about my seeing a woman who slept almost the whole day in the party boat cabin but got up to bait a hook, drop it in and catch the biggest fish in only a few moments and win the pool! In addition to the \$50,000 prize, there are others including the Grand Prize of a 14' G3 Boat & 20 hp Yamaha Outboard Engine & Trailer. To win that prize and others, you don't even have to wet a line in the event you can't sail due to a problem with your boat or an unanticipated emergency. All you have to do is show up at our Awards Ceremony on August 11th with your tournament entry form. How easy is that! Up to 6 anglers can be on a boat in this contest and with the early entry fee (\$130 per boat) up to July 25th, the cost comes to only about \$22 per angler. Even after the July 25th date, the entry fee is \$160 and divided up by 6 anglers it comes to only about \$27 per angler. To enter the Doormat Fluke Category is only \$25 to win \$50,000! There are also other port prizes to be won and Calcuttas available to make things more interesting. **So, get in the Game!** You can't win it if you are not in it! Tournament entry information is in this newspaper.

The JCAA Board has been very focused a lot on our upcoming fluke tournament, but we have not lost sight of other important issues like the health of forage fish and improving access for fish passage at the Island Farm Weir dam on the Raritan river. We don't want to see forage fish like sand ells fished to oblivion by being sent to China as feed for their tilapia in fish pens, or fish unable to spawn in the Island Farms Weir Dam because of a fish ladder that is not effective in helping salmon and other fish to reach their spawning grounds. Board member Paul Eidman has been on top of these issues and he has given us information that has helped to make our JCAA voices heard on both of them.

Please see the article written by Board member Ken Warchal that addresses the forage fish issue to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council in this newsletter. (I want to thank Ken for the fine job he did in writing it). In the article concerning the fish ladder issue, while it went out on my name, Paul Eidman wrote it with only a few edits done by me. Again, another fine job by Paul who has a deep concern, like all of us, for continually striving to improve the health of our fisheries. Thanks goes to both Ken and Paul for being involved and on top of these important issues for the JCAA and **for all of us!**

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Thomas Fote*

On Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, I attended part of the Barnegat Bay Partnership (BBP) State of the Bay Report presentation at the Ocean County College but was only there for the beginning and part of the last panel, since in between I ran out to listen to Vicki Blazer speak about endocrine disruption in largemouth and smallmouth bass. Below are my comments on both of those workshops.

### **Barnegat Bay State of the Bay**

Every five years the BBP conducts an assessment of the bay's condition based on a suite of indicators that have been measured through time. Taken together, these measurable characteristics provide a picture of the overall health of Barnegat Bay. As I stated, I was only there for part of the meeting but Bruce Freeman was there all day. This

day is sponsored by the Barnegat Bay Partnership. There needs to be more of the fishing public both commercial and recreational involved. For those of you who could not attend the workshop on June 15<sup>th</sup>, the State of the Bay Report 2016 is now available electronically for you to download and read at the Barnegat Bay Partnership's website (<http://bbp.ocean.edu/>). The State of the Bay Report 2016 evaluates the current environmental conditions of the bay and its watershed by using environmental indicators, and reports on the latest trends by comparing current conditions to those reported in previous State of the Bay Reports. For the first time a Spanish-language version of the report is also available on the Partnership's website. The 2011 report is also available at the web page.

The Barnegat Bay Partnership comprises federal, state, county, municipal, academic, business, and private stakeholders working together to help protect, restore, maintain, and enhance the water quality and natural resources of the Barnegat Bay estuary and its contributing watershed. One of 28 National Estuary Programs, the Barnegat Bay Partnership, is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and Ocean County College.

I have been involved with the Barnegat Bay process since the mid-80's. The program began as the Barnegat Bay Watershed Management Plan. It then morphed into the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program which was championed in Congress by Congressman Saxton. It is now called the Barnegat Bay Partnership. I began as a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee and then was on the Policy Committee for 18 years. I stepped down from the Policy Committee a few years ago but still serve on the Advisory Committee representing JCAA. After 30 years, I need for someone to take my place. The Advisory Committee only meets a couple times a year. I am not leaving the program but I miss some of the meetings due to my other commitments. I need someone else who is willing to represent JCAA and the anglers of New Jersey. Fishing Clubs that access Barnegat Bay can also apply for representation on the Advisory Committee. The commercial fishermen used to have a representative from the Shellfish Council or the Ocean County Agricultural Board but no longer.

I have included the Director's opening remarks from the State of the Bay Report. Besides the Report, other scientific documents are available on the webpage as well. I am frequently asked many

questions about the state of Barnegat Bay. This website is a great resource but even better, you can get personally involved.

## **Endocrine Disruptors in Large and Smallmouth Bass in the Northeast Region**

Dr. Ken Abel from Rutgers alerted me that Vicki Blazer from USGS was doing a presentation at the Pinelands Commission on one of my favorite subjects, endocrine disruptors. As any of you who are regulars readers know, I frequently write about sewage plants and the release of estrogen mimickers (endocrine disruptors). Even though I hated to miss much of the State of the Bay Report, I felt it was important that I attend this presentation. I was not disappointed because I gathered new information that has broadened my concerns. Many of the studies in the previous articles that I read focus on pharmaceuticals and other types of estrogen disruptors that cycle through the sewer system. This presentation expanded my areas of concern because I realized I must also look at farming practices, gardening practices and livestock raising. Because of the areas Vicki has studied through a partnership with US Fish and Wildlife Service, USGS and some of the states, she has been able to focus on areas other than the typical urban areas. Specifically, she has been able to access the Fish and Wildlife Refuges and other streams and bodies of water in more rural areas. What she has found is, the endocrine disruptors come from a variety of agricultural practices. She found that the expanded use of antibiotics and hormones in raising livestock means more of these chemicals are found in the water system. There is a movement to keep cattle out of the streams since there is no filter for their manure. I should have also understood that the use of herbicides on both farms and gardens is causing some similar problems to the problems we still see in Vietnam due to the spraying of Agent Orange. We certainly have good intentions in increasing the yield to feed more people, but the consequences are far reaching. Europe has a more stringent set of rules for new chemicals that are introduced. In Europe you must prove there are no negative consequences. In the US many chemicals are put to use without that stringent research, only to discover later that there are negative consequences. Asbestos is the perfect example. Asbestos use was outlawed in Britain and many other European countries in the 1920s. Here, the manufacturers fought any attempt to outlaw the

use of asbestos claiming there was no research to prove the connection to lung cancer.

Vicki's PowerPoint presentation is not on the Pinelands Commission webpage yet but should be posted soon. When it is available, I will let you know.

My take away from this presentation is that there is much more to do than just work on the outflow of the sewer plants. We need to make sure the chemicals and antibiotics used in agriculture and our own gardening are not contributing to the increase of endocrine disruptors in the environment. Unlike the sewer plants where one solution, even though expensive, is a possibility, agriculture and gardening problems will be much more challenging. It will require more emphasis on testing the chemicals and drugs we use that end up in the environment. I always said the drug industry needs to find a better delivery system so the drugs we take are not wasted. For a 500 mg pill we take, perhaps only a small percentage is actually absorbed by our bodies and the rest enter the environment through our own waste.

## **Weakfish**

*This column was in last months' JCAA Newspaper but we could not run the stock assessment because of lack of space. I am putting it in my report and the ASMFC release on the Weakfish Board meeting.*

Sometimes being Commissioner to ASMFC is frequently depressing. Weakfish is a prime example. I have not come home with good news about weakfish in over 10 years. Because of concerns about weakfish, Congressman Carper put in a bill titled the Weakfish Emergency Bill. Instead we convinced him to introduce a more generic bill which ultimately became the Atlantic Coast Conservation Act. That legislation enabled ASMFC to produce fisheries management plans to rebuild stocks with the force of law. Weakfish was one of the first species ASMFC began managing. The plan included fish excluding devices in the shrimp fishery to avoid the bycatch. We also changed the size limits so every weakfish harvested would have an opportunity to spawn at least once. We raised the size limit in some states from 6 inches to 12 inches and some states decided to raise the size limit to 16 inches. We began seeing positive results. My friends from New England began to catch 11 to 12-pound weakfish again. We saw a great increase in catch in Barnegat Bay and along the Jersey coast. According to the recreational statistics program in place in 2003, even with its flaws, we harvested 1.3 million pounds in New Jersey recreationally. For no

apparent reason, the fishery began to decline. The decline continued despite figures that suggested great recruitment. But we were not seeing fish from the 9 – 12 inch size limit. The fishery has collapsed and we do not know why. For the last few years we have had a one fish recreational limit and a 100-pound bycatch limit on the commercial fishery. Despite these draconian management measures, there has been no improvement. The SAW review on weakfish has blamed a natural mortality, not fishing pressure, but they are unable to define the causes of the natural mortality.

I actually fished last November and December on Island Beach State Park. One day I was enjoying catching 2-pound bluefish. I saw purple schools of bait and assumed it was rainfish. However, every bluefish I caught had a head or tail from their dinner. What I finally realized was the bluefish were feeding on 9-inch weakfish. No longer are weakfish the predator but have become the prey of many species. With the increase in dogfish, striped bass, bluefish and other species, we may have identified the reason the weakfish are in decline. We are harvesting a lot more of the historical prey species for our meals or for bait. Perhaps the predator species need to find another meal and that may be weakfish or even eating their own young. Maybe this is just a cycle with weakfish. But we also need to remember that perhaps we can't manage everything. So there is, once again, no good news on the weakfish. As an optimist, I continue to hope.

### **The Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) is Hosting Public Meetings on the Draft Plan in July**

- Tue. July 12 in Virginia Beach, VA - 6-8pm at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center
- Thu. July 14 in West Long Branch, NJ - 6-8pm at Monmouth University in Pozycki Hall
- (tentative) Tues. July 19 in Maryland - Details TBA
- Wed. July 20 in Lewes, DE - 6-8pm at the Virden Retreat Center, University of Delaware
- Wed. July 27 in Selden, NY - 6-8pm at the Babylon Student Center

*Here is a link to the MARCO [web page](#) on ocean planning. Below is information from that page.*

### **Supporting the Long-term Economic and Ecological Health of the Mid-Atlantic**

MARCO is supporting the Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (state, federal, tribal, and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council partners) in leading a regional ocean planning initiative for the Mid-Atlantic, with the close involvement of local communities, businesses, and other stakeholders, as an important goal.

The purpose of the Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning initiative is to facilitate sustainable, safe, productive, and appropriate economic development activities and to support the protection and restoration of the marine ecosystem so that it continues to provide the many goods and services that the people of the Mid-Atlantic want and need into the future.

### **Improving Understanding, Establishing a Vision**

The overarching goals of the Mid-Atlantic regional ocean planning effort are (a) to improve understanding of how ocean resources and places are being used, managed, and conserved, and (b) to establish a broad vision that will guide actions to address shared regional priorities.

Information obtained through regional ocean planning is intended to guide management decisions. The regional ocean planning process does not change existing authorities or create new mandates. Rather, it improves the way those authorities and mandates are implemented.

Planning is grounded in stakeholder input and the best available information. Previous collaborations of the Mid-Atlantic states — with one another, federal agencies, partners, and stakeholders — have laid a strong foundation for regional ocean planning.

### **Key Elements of Regional Ocean Planning**

- Identify shared regional objectives to focus decision-making.
- Develop a suite of products, including a regional ocean assessment of ocean-related human uses, natural resources, and economic and cultural factors to provide a comprehensive context for decision-making.

- Engage stakeholders and scientific/technical experts to ensure managers have the best available information for decision making about ocean uses and conservation.
- Produce, coordinate, and analyze data across jurisdictions and agencies to provide better understanding of the potential effects of decisions.
- Develop and implement coordinated management actions across jurisdictions using existing ocean management efforts and authorities.
- Help federal and state agencies and tribes address inconsistencies across policies and other potential areas of conflict.

### **Main Participants in Planning Process**

- Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body (MidA RPB)
- Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal Team
- Mid-Atlantic stakeholders: businesses, academic institutions, nongovernmental entities

### **Selected Initiatives in the Region**

#### **Mapping Atlantic Coast Recreational Uses -**

Recreational use mapping workshops have been held in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, and the data is now available as one continuous layer on the Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal. Using a participatory GIS process, each of the states captured data for approximately 22 distinct recreational uses occurring from the shoreline to the 200-mile U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundary. The Virginia maps are also available at [coastalgems.org](http://coastalgems.org) by clicking “Atlantic Coast Recreational Use” in the left column.

#### **2013 Mid-Atlantic Recreational Boater Survey -**

Recreational boating is a vital activity in the Mid-Atlantic coastal region for both economic and recreational reasons. The MARCO Data Portal Team launched a boating-only survey during the 2013 boating season to garner a better understanding of how and where recreational boaters use the ocean

to allow for efficient ocean planning. This complements a recreational boating survey previously completed for the Northeast, which included New York’s offshore Atlantic areas.

*For further information, recreational fishers are also encouraged to reach out to their fellow anglers on MARCO’s Stakeholder Liaison Committee for Mid-Atlantic ocean planning.*

Mr. Jeff Deem: [deemjeff@erols.com](mailto:deemjeff@erols.com), (703) 550-9055  
 Captain John McMurray: [johnmcmurray@optonline.net](mailto:johnmcmurray@optonline.net), (718) 791-2094

## **Weakfish Stock Assessment Indicates Stock is Depleted and Overfishing not Occurring**

ASMFC Press Release: May 5, 2016  
 Contact: Tina Berger, 703.842.0740

Alexandria, VA – The 2016 Weakfish Benchmark Stock Assessment and Peer Review Report indicate weakfish is depleted and has been for the past 13 years. Under the new reference points, the stock is considered depleted when the stock is below a spawning stock biomass (SSB) threshold of 30% (15.17 million pounds). In 2014, SSB was 5.62 million pounds. While the assessment indicates some positive signs in the weakfish stock in the most recent years, with a slight increase in SSB and total abundance, the stock is still well below the SSB threshold.

The assessment indicates natural mortality (e.g., the rate at which fish die because of natural causes such as predation, disease, starvation) has been increasing since the mid-1990s, from approximately 0.16 in the early 1980s to an average of 0.93 from 2007-2014. Therefore, even though fishing mortality has been at low levels in recent years, the weakfish population has been experiencing very high levels of total mortality (which includes fishing mortality and natural mortality), preventing the stock from recovering.

To better address the issues impacting the weakfish resource, the Technical Committee recommends the use of total mortality (Z) benchmarks to prevent an increase in fishing pressure when natural mortality is high. The assessment proposes a total mortality target of 0.93 and threshold of 1.36. Total mortality in 2014 was 1.11, which is above the threshold but below the target, indicating that total

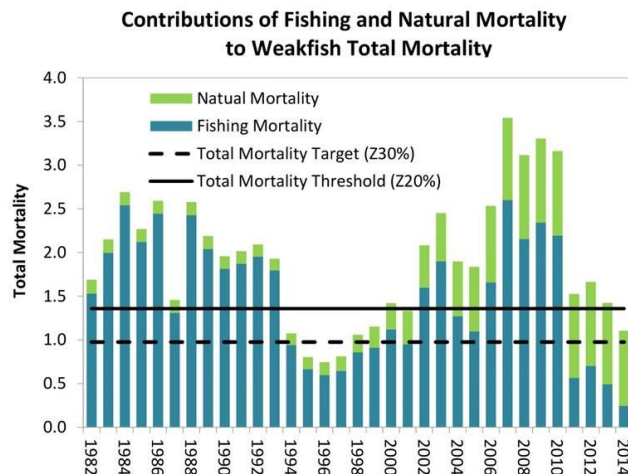
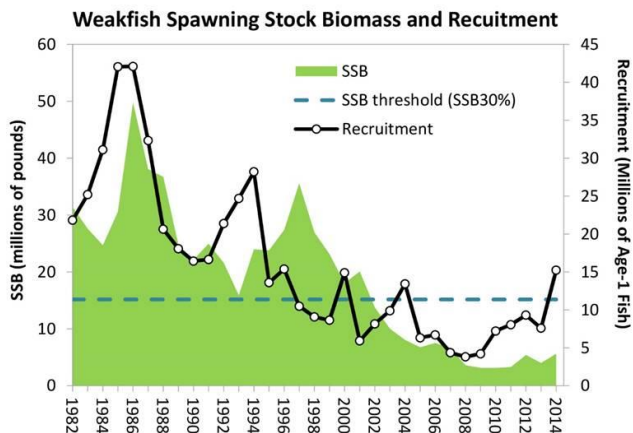
mortality is still high but within acceptable limits. This is the first time in 13 years that Z has been below the threshold, and additional years of data are needed to determine whether estimates in Z in the most recent years will remain below the threshold.

Weakfish commercial landings have dramatically declined since the early 1980s, dropping from over 19 million pounds landed in 1982 to roughly 200,000 pounds in 2014. The majority of landings occur in North Carolina and Virginia and, since the early 1990s, the primary gear used has been gillnets. Discarding of weakfish by commercial fishermen is known to occur, especially in the mixed species trawl fishery, and the discard mortality is assumed to be 100%. Discards peaked in the 1990s but have since declined as the result of management measures and a decline in stock abundance.

Like the commercial sector, catch in the recreational fishery has declined from over 11 million pounds in 1983 to roughly 77,000 pounds in 2014. Recreational harvest has been dominated by New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. Recreational discard mortality, which is assumed to be 10%, has decreased with recreational catch.

The Board accepted the stock assessment and peer review report for management use, including its proposed new reference points for both SSB and Z. Given the weakfish management program is already highly restrictive with a one fish recreational creel limit, 100 pound commercial trip limit, and 100 pound commercial bycatch limit, and the assessment showed a slight increase in SSB, the Board took no management action at this time. It directed the Technical Committee to prepare for an assessment update in two years, at which time the Board will review the results and consider possible management action.

A more detailed description of the stock assessment results is available on the Commission's website at [this link](#). The final assessment and peer review report will be posted to the Commission website, [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org), by mid-May on the weakfish webpage. For more information on the stock assessment, please contact Katie Drew, Senior Stock Assessment Scientist, at [kdrew@asmfc.org](mailto:kdrew@asmfc.org); and for more information on weakfish management, please contact Megan Ware, FMP Coordinator, at [mware@asmfc.org](mailto:mware@asmfc.org).



## State of the Bay Report: Director's Comments

By Stan Hales, Director of BBP

The Barnegat Bay ecosystem and its inhabitants weathered a historic cataclysm since the publication of our 2011 State of the Bay Report (SOTB); nonetheless, our work to assess, protect and restore the bay has continued to move forward. As has been chronicled in many places and summarized in a special section of this 2016 SOTB, Superstorm Sandy was almost unprecedented in its impacts to the bay and the human population along the Jersey Shore. We have cleaned up Sandy's wreckage as best we can and are working to rebuild our communities and waterfront neighborhoods drowned by the storm. While busy with Sandy and its aftermath, one could also argue that we have learned more about the Barnegat Bay in the past five years than in any period in the bay's history.

Perhaps most importantly, we now have a better understanding of the bay's major problem. The biggest concern in 2011 – eutrophication due to high

nutrient loading – remains the bay’s most serious challenge today. While eutrophication continues as the bay’s biggest problem, our understanding of its causal factors has improved substantially. As a result of new science from the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), United States Geological Survey (USGS), and Rutgers University, specifically an assessment of the bay’s hydrology and nutrient sources and/or loadings not included in previous studies, we know that the bay’s total nutrient loadings are significantly higher than heretofore recognized. These previously unassessed loadings entering the bay from offshore waters have undoubtedly long been stimulating the bay’s eutrophication, manifest mostly as high phytoplankton and benthic algal production in different parts of the bay. In addition to this newly recognized source, we also have the proverbial “smoking gun” about the bay’s anthropogenic loadings in the form of a USGS/Rutgers study, which clearly shows that the delivery of nutrients from lawn runoff, recognized as a source but never previously quantified, is a significant and increasing source of the bay’s total nutrient load. This study gives us reason to believe that the statewide fertilizer law and additional steps to reduce runoff from residential and other turf landscapes (e.g., parks, athletic fields) can help improve the bay’s condition.

Our 2011 SOTB also identified a disturbing number of critical information gaps. Back then, we did not have enough information to identify trends in more than one-quarter of the indicators of the bay’s health. We now have quality data sufficient to assess trends in three indicators (i.e., algal blooms, dissolved oxygen, turbidity) where trends previously could not be determined and thus were considered “unknown.” Perhaps most important, not only do we have good data for all of these indicators, but trends in the overwhelming majority of these condition indicators are not declining. Trends in dissolved oxygen even showed some improvement, and also give us hope for the future. Unfortunately, data were also unavailable for two indicators in the 2011 SOTB (i.e., Watershed Integrity in the Pinelands National Reserve and Shallow Groundwater Quality), so we must continue to invest in the bay’s monitoring.

Though not directly provided in condition measures herein, other research projects during the past five years have answered some important long-standing questions about the bay. Thanks to

cooperation between our federal and state partners, we now have a map of the soils that lie at the bottom of the bay to guide future eelgrass and shellfish restoration efforts. Not only have we documented the current composition of the plankton in the bay, we have a record of changes in the diatom communities since before the Industrial Revolution that gives us a glimpse at how nutrients have changed in the bay since European settlement. The list of “new science” in the bay is far longer than what I’ve presented here; each study helps advance us toward our goals of a healthy bay.

But there is still much work to be done. While we have a better understanding of the nutrient loads to the bay, we do not know the threshold level at which nutrients become detrimental. Passage of New Jersey’s Statewide Soil Health Law, which would reduce the amount of nutrients flowing off of newly disturbed land, has not yet been implemented, despite being passed with bipartisan support from the State Legislature and the Governor more than five years ago. Because we now have proof (i.e., recent USGS/Rutgers studies<sup>1</sup>) of the significant contributions of lawn fertilizer to the bay’s nutrient loading, our collective failure to develop and implement a soil restoration standard to reduce new loadings from the developed landscape is inexcusable. The most current New Jersey Statewide Water Supply Plan, which guides the management, conservation, and development of water resources in the watershed, is more than 20 years old and clearly outdated. The NJDEP has made some notable progress in assessing the state’s aquifers<sup>2</sup>; however, this report and the continued population growth along the Jersey Shore emphasize the importance of releasing the new State Water Supply Master Plan, so that water purveyors, water managers, municipalities, resource managers and others can work together to safeguard the economies of coastal communities and the ecology of the state’s watersheds. The time to work on this critical issue is now, before the next drought.

And lastly, as we’ve glimpsed these past few years, climate change and sea level rise have the potential to alter ecosystem processes and our living in coastal communities in ways that we are just beginning to recognize and have yet to truly address. To face these challenges, the Barnegat Bay Partnership will continue to use the best science available to work towards restoring and protecting this unique ecosystem that we all treasure. We hope that you will join us in this endeavor. Together we can build upon the



successes of the past five years. To find out how you can help, please visit our website at [bbp.ocean.edu](http://bbp.ocean.edu).

## Letter to Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

By Ken Warchal

June 7, 2016

Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 North State Street  
Suite 201  
Dover, Delaware 19901

Re: Unmanaged Forage Public Hearing Comments

Dear Dr. Moore,

JCAA strongly agrees that the Council should take measures to protect all species of forage fish listed in the Amendment throughout the entire region over which the Council has jurisdiction. Forage fish are extremely important to the entire marine ecosystem. Healthy stocks of predator species pursued by the recreational and commercial fisheries could not be sustainable without them. We are also pleased the false albacore is included as an ecosystem component as they are a very popular gamefish worthy of inclusion.

We agree that no new or expanded directed commercial fisheries should be allowed until such time as the Council can assess accurate scientific data to evaluate future impacts. As we all know, decisions made will not only affect the species themselves, but will have significant socioeconomic ramifications as well.

We applaud the Council for being proactive in trying to conserve our fisheries. The JCAA thanks you on behalf of the thousands of saltwater anglers we represent in New Jersey.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth F. Warchal  
1st Vice President

## Letter to NOAA Re: Raritan River Project By John Toth, President

Dear Mr. Alderson,

I am writing to you on behalf of the 70 member organizations of The Jersey Coast Anglers Association. Thousands of our members fish the Raritan river and Raritan bay for Striped Bass, Summer Flounder, Bluefish and Weakfish. Improving the quality of this specific inland habitat will certainly have a positive impact in the immediate areas of the project, but we are also very excited about the potential positive downstream impacts of all phases of this project.

Decontaminating upstream waters could ensure that migrating forage species like Alewife & Blueback Herring, American eel and others that our gamefish rely upon would have less bio accumulation of toxins and heavy metals inside them. Making sure that the gamefish and crabs that New Jersey and New York anglers ultimately eat downstream are not carcinogenic is our utmost concern.

The proposed removal of the Weston Mill Dam on the Millstone River would open up nearly 5 miles of critical habitat and increase vital upstream spawning areas for the many anadromous species in our waters. This in turn, would build fish stocks and make sure that our waters are abundant with gamefish and migrating forage species.

Now that three other dams have been removed on the main stem of the Raritan River (two upstream and one downstream of this site), the Island Farms Weir remains as the sole impediment to fish migration in lower 30 miles of the Raritan River. Yes, there is currently a marginally effective fish ladder that a ton of money was spent on, yes, you could leave it there but please add better access as it desperately needs to be improved so that more fish can make it more efficiently beyond this obstacle.

Improving fish passage at the Island Farm Weir on the Raritan River is imperative and it does not need to be an expensive fix. By merely lowering a section in the center of the current weir and replacing it with a "rock ramp" thousands more stripers, shad, river herring and eels could make it up an over and continue

upstream to spawning areas that they prefer. We fully support this proposed effort and hope that you are able to complete all the restoration work/dam removal project/Dam studies as specified.

Thank you for your consideration,

John Toth  
President

## NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

*By John Toth*

On behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), I attended the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) meeting that was held on May 23rd. I also chaired this meeting as its president. The following issues were discussed:

JCAA's Tom Fote and I requested Dr. Eric Powell, Director, Science Center for Marine Fisheries, to attend this meeting and give a presentation on the background and goals of this science center to the NJOA.

As a quick background, Dr. Powell explained that the National Science Foundation gives grants to 75 research centers throughout our country that are involved in various economic initiatives that can benefit our nation. The Science Center for Marine Fisheries (SCeMFiS.org) is the only one of its kind in our country dedicated to providing research for technical issues that affect recreational and commercial fisheries stocks. It has a number of universities across our country at its disposal to conduct its research including the Virginia Institute of Science, University of Southern Mississippi and Rutgers. It is directly involved in two species that are of much interest to us:

**Summer Flounder** - The Science Center has Dr. Pat Sullivan from Cornell and Dr. Eleanor Bochenek from Rutgers involved in doing research to develop a **new** model that can give us a much better picture of the stocks of this fish. This new model will include the sex of both male and females, length of fish and discard information. All of this information is critical to giving us a better picture of fluke stocks that we currently don't have. It can be very useful in making a case that the severe reductions we have had in our quotas for fluke in the past are not necessary. Perhaps with the data from this new model, the

current fluke regulations can be relaxed leading to a larger quota or a smaller size limit for fluke. The bottom line here is that it is not enough to say that there should be a bigger bag limit or a smaller size for fluke, you first need to have a model to **prove** to fishery managers that these types of changes can be made. This new model is expected to be completed during 2017. Both the Save Our Summer Flounder (SSFFF) and the JCAA have made monetary contributions to fund the development of this new model.

**Black Sea Bass** - Since this is the worst managed fishery (I think we all can agree on that), I asked Dr. Powell what the Science Center is doing about this issue. Dr. Powell indicated that just about every fishery manager freely admits that the current model we are using now to develop quotas for black sea bass is **flawed**, but despite previous efforts to change this model it could not be improved. Consequently, the draconian quotas we have all experienced for sea bass have been the norm for quite some time. However, the Science Center is involved in developing a new model based on a more accurate assessment of sea bass stocks that should be completed by this fall. Hopefully, we will see a better quota for black sea bass in the spring of next year.

**What does it cost to be a member of the Science Center?** To be a **voting** member in the Science Center for Marine Fisheries costs \$25,000. Tom Fote indicated that it would be an asset for all recreational anglers to have a seat in the Science Center so that we can have a vote on the direction of its research projects. The \$25,000 looks like a lot of money, but this cost would be minimized if a number of fishing clubs and associations would chip in to come up with this sum. (One of the NJOA delegates at our NJOA meetings has a saying that hits home on this issue and it goes like this: "**If you are not at the table, you are on the table.**") The commercial industry has a voting seat in the Science Center.

**Liberty State Park** - Hudson River Fisherman's member, Arnie Ulrich, reported that our state has big plans to bring a hotel, amusement park and other commercial enterprises to this park that would totally change its relaxing place for visitors and anglers. His fishing club and other organizations have continually fought this renewal effort advanced by our state. (Most recently, our state has announced that it has abandoned its renewal plans). Many organizations have taken up

this fight over the years, including the JCAA, and they all deserve our thanks for this victory!

**Bonus Tag** - There was a discussion about the Bonus Tag and it was reported that the Bonus Tag for striped bass will be in effect from September 1st to December 31st. **This tag is free!** Only one tag will be issued to an angler. To receive it and get more information about this program, download the application [here](#).

## SUPER 50-50 RAFFLE

*By Don Marantz*

Our Super 50-50 tickets are on sale. Tickets are \$10.00 each. This will be an all cash prize. There will be three winners. Tickets can be obtained by calling the office and tickets will be mailed to you or see your club rep. We will also be doing a mailing in September with tickets.

## Sportsperson of the Year Dinner

*By Paul Turi, Co-Chairman*

On Sunday, **November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016** we will be having our Sportsperson of the Year Dinner. Again, the dinner will be held at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant from 4:00-8:00PM. We are now accepting nominations for this year's sportsperson of the year. We will vote at our September general membership meeting. If you want to nominate someone, please submit a bio of approximately 250 words. The nomination can be presented at any general membership meeting or can be emailed to the JCAA office or directly to me at [pturi72@gmail.com](mailto:pturi72@gmail.com). We will take nominations right up until the September General Membership Meeting.

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### CRABBING AT THE JERSEY SHORE AND MILITIA MUSEUM TOUR

Twenty-two Veterans and family members attended a Museum tour and crabbing workshop hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 12), JCAA, and Sea Girt Army National Guard Training Center Militia Museum. The goal is to connect veterans to the outdoors and help veteran men and women take time to heal by utilizing healthy outdoor activities, such as fishing, boating and crabbing. Topics included: Museum Tour, New Style Crab Traps – Access Locations – Night Crabbing – and NJ Rules and Regulations.

The program began with a tour of the Museum by Joe Bilby, New Jersey Historian and Writer. Mr. Bilby explained in detail about the uniforms New Jersey Soldier's wore during different periods and gave a mini history lesson about each wartime event to current times. Joe also explained about historic weapons that were issued to New Jersey soldiers. Another highlight at the museum was a Civil War era submarine that was stored in the rear of the museum. The museum is open daily and it's a great place to take the family. For information please phone Carol Fowler, Assistant Curator, Veteran Oral Histories 732-974-5966.

The JCAA Youth Education Chair and VVA Chapter 12 member began the Crabbing at the Jersey Shore workshop. We explained the NJ Marine Rules and Regulations size limits and the anatomy of a Blue Claw Crab. Protecting the environment and water quality was discussed along with an explanation about DIOXIN contaminated crabs from the lower Passaic River and Newark Bay. We all know the Vietnam era

## 2016 High Roller Raffle Winners

1. **Michael Chevalier** - 7'6" Century I-SS 905 spinning rod/Canyon DJR 3500 reel
2. **Carly Londrigan** - \$500 Gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters
3. **Richard Hawton** - Tony Maja Wire Line Rod/ Canyon Signature Series trolling reel
4. **Chris Hoyer** - 7' Seeker BCSW 708-7S spinning rod/Canyon Salt 5000 reel
5. **Les Katona** - Underwater Green Fishing Light
6. **Nick Catalano** - 12' Tica UEHA936502S surf rod/Tica Abyss & TL5000R spinning reel
7. **John Ehrlich** - 5'6" Profile Tuna Stopper TS 520L rod & Shimano Triton TLD 25
8. **Butch Pawson** - 7' Tica WISA70H1 conventional rod/Tica Caiman GT200 reel

veterans don't need more dioxin in their system. A variety of crab traps were on display that included new crab traps on the market such as Henry's Cast a Crab and CrabHawk both are spring operated and they open on impact. Night crabbing with glow sticks were demonstrated and how to cast a crab line without tangles. Crab bait and proper disposal was recommended to keep our waterways clean. Everyone received a crab hand-line attached to a water bottle and a "Let's Do It" five gallon bucket from Home Depot. We also had many door prizes thanks to John Aitken who works closely with HD and veteran projects. Catherine K. supplied three recipes for crab dinners and helped assemble the crab lines for everyone. Don Davison led the pledge of allegiance on Flag Day. Don always volunteers his time at all our monthly fishing workshops for veterans. we couldn't run the program without him. Our door prize winners won a fishing trip on the Miss Belmar and a day on the water from the Kayak Store.

We thank Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 and JCAA Youth Education Committee for supplying sandwiches and soft drinks.

### **SUCCESSFUL NJ HOFNOD YOUTH FISHING CHALLENGE**

The Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs Program's first Youth Fishing Challenge was a great success with several hundred children fishing statewide. Children and their families took advantage of the FREE fishing day in New Jersey during National Fishing and Boating Week. Registered participants received prizes for the fish they caught during the event.

The NJ HOFNOD Fishing Challenge event was held on Saturday, June 11, 2016 on the first of the state's two Free Fishing Days when no license is required to fish regardless of age. The next Free fishing day will be October 15, 2016.

Many of the Youth Fishing Challenge contestants are gearing up to fish next year and it looks like this will be an annual event. Site location organizers are also ready to host this fun event for children and families.

Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Coordinator will host instructor training sessions in August and September 2016. If you would like to volunteer time with a NJ HOFNOD program near you and become a certified NJ HOFNOD instructor, please contact Liz Jackson, NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife,

Hooked on Fishing- Not on Drugs, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07683, 908-637-4125 x122.

### **2016 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD**

The JCAA Youth Education Committee is accepting nominations for the 2016 Youth Education Award. It takes the support of many volunteers to bring success 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 (250-500 words) and email the JCAA Youth Education Committee, [gkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:gkucharews@jcaa.org).

### **UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO HOFNOD**

This is the seventeenth year the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Chairman is invited to visit the University of Toledo and assist with their National Youth Sports Program (NYSP), Youth Fishing Program.

NYSP is a program that helps children build the skills and the confidence they need to tackle future challenges. The University of Toledo's National Youth Sports Program provides summer recreational, sports, and educational enrichment programming for approximately 200 youths aged 9 to 16. Our JCAA Youth Education Chairman will team up with the Whitehouse, Ohio Mericle Farley Trout Club to provide instruction about the Future Fisherman Foundation's Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs program and demonstrate a variety of angling techniques. Marine aquatic education will be discussed for children visiting coastal states during the remainder of their summer vacation.

### **PROJECT HEALING WATERS**

The Jersey Shore Chapter of Project Healing Waters is reaching out to veterans that would like to learn about fly casting. They will meet the first Sunday of every month – 10:00 – 12:00 Noon at Lake Como, NJ. Everyone is asked to meet at the Gazebo on the Lake. For more information visit their [website](#).

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

The NJDEP's sixth annual NJ WILD Outdoor Expo will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 10-11, at the Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area in Jackson Township from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, rain or shine. Admission and parking are free. All activities are free, with the exception of a \$3 fee to use the climbing wall. For more information, visit the [website](#). This fun-filled family event is designed for visitors to discover new ways to appreciate and enjoy New Jersey's great outdoors. Participants have an opportunity to try a broad spectrum of outdoor activities such as fishing, kayaking, hiking, shooting sports, rock climbing, camping skills, geocaching and wildlife watching. Demonstrations of sporting and tracking dogs, historical re-enactments, SCUBA dives, turkey calling, nature photography and much more await.



Some of the veterans attending this year's GSFT

## **NJBBA ANNUAL YOUTH SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT**

Hey kids it's time to get ready for the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association's Twenty-second Annual Surf Youth Fishing Tournament. It will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2016. NJBBA members do a great job of making children and their families have a fun day fishing the surf at Island Beach State Park. There are always lots of prizes, goodie bags, learning stations, and plenty of how-to information booths about surf fishing and water safety. The tournament is free to youngsters under 16 years old. For Information about the event contact Chairman: Chris LeLong, [cblelong@gmail.com](mailto:cblelong@gmail.com) or visit the NJBBA [website](#).

## **GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT**

Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 12) "Playing Hooky from PTSD" program was well attended at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament, May 15, 2016. The fish were not cooperating in front of Ocean Bathing Area 1 at Island Beach State Park for the veterans but they had the opportunity to try out new surf equipment and learn surf casting. A few of the veterans and their service paw pals fishing the tournament stopped fishing to speak.

**SAVE THESE DATES**

**JCAA FLUKE  
TOURNAMENT**

**AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

**&**

**AWARDS  
PRESENTATIONS**

**THURSDAY,  
AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

