

JCAA NEWSPAPER MAY 2017

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on April 17th, 2017)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, April 25th, 2017

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Jersey Coast Shark Anglers

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 11th, 2017

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.**  
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Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

April 25th JCAA General Meeting
May 8th-11th ASMFC Meeting Week
May 11th JCAA Board Meeting
May 21st Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament
May 30th High Rollers Raffle drawing at JCAA Office
May 30th JCAA General Meeting at JCSA Building
June 8th JCAA Board Meeting
August 5th JCAA Fluke Tournament
August 10th Fluke Tournament Awards Presentations

JCAA High Roller Raffle 2017

By Don Marantz

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association is a charitable non-profit 501(c)3 organization that was formed in 1981. The original objective of the JCAA, that continues today, was to combine a group of marine sportfishing clubs in order to form and promote a united consensus on issues relevant to saltwater anglers in New Jersey. JCAA works to protect the rights of New Jersey's recreational fishermen by seeking fair and equitable fisheries management. It fosters conservation and education while seeking to do what is best for our fisheries to ensure they will be sustainable for future generations. JCAA also strives to create increased angling opportunities and better public access. Further, it is involved with issues concerning our marine environment, such as fighting for better fisheries habitat, keeping our waters clean, and protecting our forage species while supporting an ecosystem-based management approach. JCAA works in concert with New Jersey's legislature, many major local, state and national organizations, congress and federal agencies to advance its objectives.

JCAA has evolved into one of the most powerful and unified organizations of its kind. JCAA's strength comes from its volunteer members

and donations. If you or your fishing club is interested in becoming a member or making a tax deductible donation, please call (732) 506-6565 or visit www.jcaa.org.

Another way you can help support us is to buy some of our raffle tickets is by calling the number above or email our office at jcaa@jcaa.org, provide your name and address and we will mail you a book. Tickets are just \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00 or 7 for \$10.00. You need to be due this and have the tickets back to us by the **May 30th drawing date**. Thank you for your anticipated support!

List of Prizes (with retail values)

1. Jersey Nutz Six Man Charter (6 hour striped bass weekday charter) **\$850**.

Donated by Capt. Robert Melton Jr.

2. \$500. Gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters **\$500**.

Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters

3. 6'6" Shimano Terez T2C-66H-EG Spinning rod /Saltist 5000H reel **\$500**.

Donated by Grumpys Tackle

4. Tony Maja Wire Line rod/Penn 113H2SP reel **\$370**.

Donated by Tony Maja and JCAA

5. 12' Tica UEHA936502S Surf rod/Tica Abyss TL5000R spinning reel **\$310**.

Donated by Tica

6. 7' Star Stellar Lite SG102FT70G Spinning rod/Canyon DJR3500 reel **\$240**.

Donated by Star Fishing Tackle and Canyon Reels

7. 7' Tica WISA70H1 Conventional rod/Tica Caiman GT200 reel **\$225**.

Donated by Tica

8. 6' 6" Tica WISA66H Conventional rod / Tica Caiman WC205 reel **\$200**.

Donated by Tica

President's Report

By John Toth

In my President's column, I refer to a number of ongoing issues that are of interest to you. More detailed accounts of them are in other sections of this newsletter. Please refer to them.

As I write this column, we are in a "holding pattern" with the 19-inch fluke situation. At the request of DEP Commissioner, Bob Martin, our representatives to the Atlantic States Marine

Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) filed an appeal of the ASMFC's decision to reduce our 2017 fluke quota. This quota reduction resulted in the 19-inch fluke for this upcoming fishing season. I have written a more detailed account of what is going on with this 19-inch fluke issue in another section of this newsletter.

On April 3rd, I and other members of the JCAA (Tom Fote, Paul Haertel), attended a meeting hosted by John Bullard, Regional Administrator of the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, to receive input from members of the recreational community of issues we are most concerned about. To say it bluntly, Mr. Bullard has been no friend of ours and he has voted numerous times against the recreational community. A number of those invited to this meeting refused to come to it because of his positions against us. I wrote a letter to him on a JCAA letterhead requesting him to respond to several major issues raised at this meeting primarily by Tom Fote, Ray Bogan and Adam Nowalsky. This letter is in another section and you will find this letter interesting to read!

Also, don't forget the Governor's Surf Tournament coming up on May 21st. Please see the detailed information for this tournament in this newsletter.

In order to continue our work on these issues and better represent you, we need your help in our fundraising efforts. We are currently embroiled in the debate over the 2017 fluke regulations. We have attended many meetings, participated in conference calls, written letters, made phone calls and met with various key individuals about this issue. We, along with other groups, have gained the support of our Governor, DEP Commissioner, various legislators, the NJ representatives on the ASMFC and members of the NJMFC. We are all working together to oppose the draconian regulations mandated upon us by the ASMFC. We are also seeking a larger quota increase for sea bass and we are fighting to stop the mining of our offshore lumps to prevent the destruction of vital marine habitat. We are seeking ways to provide much needed funding to the NJ Marine Fisheries Bureau. We are also pushing hard for improved science so that our fisheries can be better managed. We need your help in ensuring the success of these important issues. We are one of the very few recreational salt water advocacy groups that work exclusively for New Jersey anglers. As in past years, our fundraising efforts have a strong influence on our budget and what we can accomplish throughout the year. It costs money to send delegates to meetings, to meet with legislators, print newsletters,

pay office expenses and fund day-to-day operations. This is why we appreciate your continued support.

Please support us purchasing our High Roller raffle booklets that will be mailed to you along with our 50/50 tickets and they will also be available at our meetings. Also, please participate in JCAA's 23rd annual Fluke Tournament that will be held on August 5th. Thank you for your continued support!

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Tom Fote

Summer Flounder

Summer Flounder has consumed much of my time the past few months. In one week, I met with John Bullard and Sam Rauch acting director for NMFS. John Toth covered the John Bullard meeting in his column. I had a good 2 ½ hour conversation with Sam Rauch about summer flounder, black sea bass and the Marine Recreational Statistical Survey. Since he met with Commissioner Martin in the morning, he had already discussed New Jersey's most pressing problems. I am in the unique position of having worked with the summer flounder, black sea bass and scup management plan since its inception. On Good Friday, I received the ASMFC response to our appeal. In part, the email said, "Commission Leadership determined the appeal did not meet the qualifying guidelines under appeal criterion five and three but could be forwarded to the ISFMP Policy Board for consideration under criterion two." I will share more information after I have an opportunity to discuss this with New Jersey's other commissioners and Commissioner Martin. The good news is the Policy Board will hear our appeal. The Commission on Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass and Scup Meeting is May 10 and the Policy Board meets on May 11.

Black Sea Bass

Paul Haertel included an update of the Council decisions in his column. I received a press release about the increase in the commercial quota on Good Friday. It will be interesting to see what happens in the May 10 meeting. I am looking forward to a proposed increase in the recreational quota as well. I made this an explicit request at both

of my meetings. What I stated to both John Bullard and Sam Rauch was that the issues with black sea bass are even more upsetting than the issues with summer flounder. How can you not propose an increase on a stock that is at 230% of where it should be? If we were 230% of where we should be with summer flounder, would they still be denying us an increase? The Summer Flounder Meeting is a joint meeting with the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council. I am hopeful both groups will come to their senses and vote for an increase. Right now, neither group has any credibility with the recreational community. Until then, we have to wait and see.

Concerns on Cuts to EPA

There are two articles below talking about the proposed cuts to EPA and the denial of climate change by the Executive Branch and the new EPA Director. The letter from New Jersey's politicians is by-partisan to fight these cuts. The impact on New Jersey's environment would be devastating, both for the health of all the citizens and our quality of life. The other release is from 17 Republican Congressmen, including New Jersey's Congressman Lobiondo. It deals with the long-term impact of climate change and suggests a path forward. This is designed as a Republican resolution and it would be good if our other Republican Congressmen would sign on and support it.

Endocrine Disruptors

This is another topic I have been bringing to your attention for what seems like forever. I first got involved when I realized that endocrine disruptors were having the same impact on the fish population as Agent Orange was having on the soldiers who served in Vietnam. I have continued to give you articles about the impact on fish populations and how endocrine disruptors affect their sexual reproduction, changing males to females and creating males who attempt to lay eggs. There is an article below talking about an ongoing study on the Hudson River. I had seen some preliminary studies on what could be impacts on humans but have not put any of those articles in the newspaper. When I read the article in the New York Times, I felt it was my obligation to share this information. The article includes a major study that shows that with the increase in endocrine disruptors in Hunan Province China, the number of males applying to donate sperm who were qualified went from 56% in 2001 to 18% in 2015. You need to read this article to see how that is just an example of

the problems endocrine disruptors are creating all over the world. I always believed that sooner or later we would find evidence of these problems in humans. I guess that time is now. Perhaps now that we are seeing human impacts, we will take this problem more seriously and develop a plan to get the endocrine disruptors out of our water.

State Budget

(Reprinted from last month's newspaper)

I cannot believe that I am singing the same song that I was in the early 80's. The Bureau of Marine Fisheries Budget is limited to New Jersey tax dollars except for a few fees on the commercial side. When JCAA was complaining about the budget in the 80's there were very few fisheries' plans or restrictions for either the commercial or recreational side. Except for some Federal quotas or size limits, there was nothing that needed to be monitored. In the late 80's the Mid Atlantic Council and ASMFC began working on joint management plans for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass and bluefish. The ASMFC was working on plans that were advisory with no enforcement except for striped bass. There was considerable money coming into New Jersey and ASMFC to fund the necessary stock assessment work and monitoring of striped bass to fulfill the requirements of the Atlantic Coast Conservation Act. When the Atlantic Coast Conservation Act was passed in the 90's the fishing world changed. The fisheries management plans required gathering much more information which cost money. There were stock assessments that needed to be done for every species. There was quota management that needed to be done for both commercial and recreational. If we were going to manage by quotas we needed more accurate data about commercial catch landings and bycatch and similar data for the recreational sector. As time passed, we realized how little we knew and how difficult it was to implement the plans based on good science and good data. We also realized how expensive this would be. I remember arguing at a 1994 joint meeting of ASMFC and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council that the data we had on scup and black sea bass was so poor as to be useless. I began calling for better data and was ignored.

We are not in 2017. New Jersey went from few management requirements for both commercial and recreation fisheries to a point where New Jersey

needs to gather more and more with less and less money and staff. I will be attending the Assembly and Senate Budget Hearings to plead, once again, for more money for the Marine Fisheries budget. The only thing that has changed is that I no longer go and ask for an increase on the 3.1 million dollar budget but begin by asking them to stop cutting the budget. All the old timers know where we were 25 years ago and how much more complex it is now. In 1981 the budget for Marine Fisheries was 3.1 million dollars. That was in 1981 dollars, supporting a staff 4 times what it is now. We are now trying to do 10 times the work with 25% of the personnel with a budget of only 1.9 million dollars. The hiring at the Bureau of Marine Fisheries was frequently been frozen as it has been for the last few years. This has resulted in a great reduction in staff. The other problem is the staff that began working under the larger budget is now reaching retirement. Instead because of frustration with the lack of ability to do a good job, they are retiring as early as possible.

I was the only recreational angler testifying before the Senate and Assembly committees public hearing asking for increase to the BMF budget I will also put online the new economic study that shares clear recreational data by Congressional district. If you need it more immediately, just email me.

The Senate and Assembly are all up for election this November. We have people running for governor and some of them are in positions where they could be helpful now. It is important for you to contact your state legislators, the Governor's office and the Lieutenant Governor's office to tell them that you are not asking for an outrageous increase in the budget for Marine Fisheries. What you are asking for is the same budget we had in 1981 at 3.1 million dollars as a starting point to rebuild the Bureau of Marine Fisheries.

Samples Taken to Find Out Extent of Pharmaceutical Pollution in Hudson

By Scott Fallon, Asbury Park Press, 4/12/2017

Scientists are taking samples of the Hudson River this month in an ambitious plan to measure how much pharmaceutical pollution gets washed into the waterway during heavy rains and to pinpoint its source.

Anti-depressants, blood pressure medicine, decongestants and other medicines already have been detected in the Hudson in preliminary samples.

The latest round of testing is a larger sweep of the river, including the portion that passes by New Jersey, at a time of the year when pollution overall is washing into the Hudson at a greater rate due to runoff and sewage overflows. Residue from medicine has made its way into rivers, streams and sources of drinking water for decades, but scientists have only begun identifying it recent years as testing has improved.

Little is known about their health effects on humans, but pharmaceuticals have had a major impact on wildlife.

The Hudson study comes on the heels of a federal report that showed male fish in New Jersey's Wallkill River — a tributary of the Hudson — were developing female reproductive characteristics, mostly likely due to hormone-based drugs that made their way into the water.

“There is a big universe of chemicals that we just don't know what their impact is,” said Dan Shapley, water quality director of the Hudson Riverkeeper advocacy group. “It took years for us to understand that greenhouse gases change the Earth's temperature, that nutrients added to water devastate coral reefs. We're just starting to look at what pharmaceuticals can do.”

Most pharmaceutical pollution is believed to come from human waste, everyday medication that passes through a person unabsorbed. It also comes from people improperly disposing of their old medication in a toilet. Sewage plants are not capable of filtering pharmaceuticals before treated waste is released back into waterways. Other sources of pharmaceutical pollution include street or farm runoff containing animal waste.

The study — by Riverkeeper, Columbia University, Cornell University, CUNY and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — is a continuation of work that began in 2015 to target pharmaceuticals, industrial runoff and other pollution in more than 200 miles of the river from New York Harbor to the George Washington Bridge to Albany.

Water samples taken two years ago found 83 of 117 targeted chemicals in the Hudson, ranging from the anti-depressants to blood pressure medication to the insect repellent DEET.

Researchers hope the latest work will allow them to pinpoint the sources of pollution. And they expect to find much more with samples taken last week, since untreated sewage was entering the Hudson due to heavy rain. Plus the study has expanded to south of the Tappan Zee Bridge, where the Hudson hits New Jersey.

The problem is not limited to the Hudson. Scientists across the globe have found fish, birds, otters and other mammals with significant amounts of over-the-counter and prescription drugs absorbed into their organs. That was seen in North Jersey two years ago when a study by the U.S. Geological Survey found that male fish in two of North Jersey's most protected areas — the Wallkill River in Sussex County and the Great Swamp in Morris County — had developed female sexual characteristics. The findings alarmed clean-water advocates, who say the problem may be more widespread, considering that most fish in North Jersey swim in waters that are even more likely to be tainted.

More than 100,000 people in upstate New York get their drinking water from the Hudson, Shapley said. Since no New Jersey community gets water from the Hudson, the most likely human exposure to pharmaceuticals is from eating fish.

New Jersey officials advise against eating more than a minimal amount of fish caught from the Hudson because of decades of industrial and sewage contamination. But anglers, many of them new immigrants, can be found along the riverfront casting their lines from Bayonne to Alpine, especially in warmer months.

Unlike the voluminous data on the health effects of bacteria and other pathogens in the region's water, the science on pharmaceuticals is in its infancy.

“It's a human fingerprint that's more unique, because we haven't been studying it for decades as we have with other pollution,” said Gregory O'Mullan, an environmental microbiologist at Queens College in New York.

Researchers hope the study will also help pinpoint the origin of the pollution. By measuring pharmaceuticals, scientists will be able to differentiate whether the pollution came from animals, untreated human sewage or a sewage treatment plant.

Animal waste remains a huge problem for rivers and streams, whether it's from farms or, more likely in the case of New Jersey, from street runoff pushing animal feces into waterways.

“Having that information on the source is going to be very helpful when you speak to managers about how to fix the problem,” O’Mullan said.

His work is funded partially by \$15,000 from the New York Sea Grant, which is slated to be cut under President Donald Trump’s proposed budget.

Are Your Sperm in Trouble?

By Nicholas Kristof, N.Y. Times, 3/11/2017

Let’s begin with sex.

As a couple finishes its business, millions of sperm begin theirs: rushing toward an egg to fertilize it. But these days, scientists say, an increasing proportion of sperm — now about 90 percent in a typical young man — are misshapen, sometimes with two heads or two tails.

Even when properly shaped, today’s sperm are often pathetic swimmers, veering like drunks or paddling crazily in circles. Sperm counts also appear to have dropped sharply in the last 75 years, in ways that affect our ability to reproduce.

“There’s been a decrease not only in sperm numbers, but also in their quality and swimming capacity, their ability to deliver the goods,” said Shanna Swan, an epidemiologist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, who notes that researchers have also linked semen problems to shorter life expectancy.

Perhaps you were expecting another column about political missteps in Washington, and instead you’ve been walloped with talk of bad swimmers. Yet this isn’t just a puzzling curiosity, but is rather an urgent concern that affects reproduction, possibly even our species’ future.

Andrea Gore, a professor of pharmacology at the University of Texas at Austin and the editor of the journal *Endocrinology*, put it to me this way: “Semen quality and fertility in men have decreased. Not everyone who wants to reproduce will be able to. And the costs of male disorders to quality of life, and the economic burden to society, are inestimable.”

Human and animal studies suggest that a crucial culprit is a common class of chemical called endocrine disruptors, found in plastics, cosmetics, couches, pesticides and countless other products. Because of the environmental links, *The New Yorker* once elegantly referred to the crisis as “silent

sperm,” and innumerable studies over 25 years add to the concern that the world’s sperm are in trouble.

And so are men and boys. Apparently related to the problem of declining semen quality is an increase in testicular cancer in many countries; in undescended testicles; and in a congenital malformation of the penis called hypospadias (in which the urethra exits the side or base of the penis instead of the tip). These problems are often found together and are labeled testicular dysgenesis syndrome.

There is still disagreement about the scale of the problem, and the data aren’t always reliable. But some scientists are beginning to ask, at some point, will we face a crisis in human reproduction? Might we do to ourselves what we did to bald eagles in the 1950s and 1960s?

“I think we are at a turning point,” Niels Erik Skakkebaek, a Danish fertility scholar and pioneer in this field, told me. “It is a matter of whether we can sustain ourselves.”

One recent study found that of sperm donor applicants in Hunan Province, China, 56 percent qualified in 2001 because their sperm met standards of healthiness. By 2015, only 18 percent qualified.

“The semen quality among young Chinese men has declined over a period of 15 years,” concluded the study, which involved more than 30,000 men.

Perhaps even more alarming, Canadian scientists conducted a seven-year experiment on a lake in Ontario, adding endocrine disrupting chemicals and then observing the impact on fathead minnows. The chemicals had a devastating impact on males, often turning them into intersex fish, with characteristics of both sexes but incapable of reproducing.

The crisis for male reproductive health seems to begin in utero. Male and female fetuses start pretty much the same, and then hormones drive differentiation of males from females. The problem seems to be that endocrine disrupting chemicals mimic hormones and confuse this process, interfering with the biological process of becoming male.

How should we protect ourselves? Swan said she avoids plastics as much as possible, including food or drinks that have touched plastic or been heated in plastic. She recommends eating organic to avoid pesticide residues, and avoiding Tylenol and other painkillers during pregnancy. Receipts from thermal printers, like at gas pumps and A.T.M.s, are also

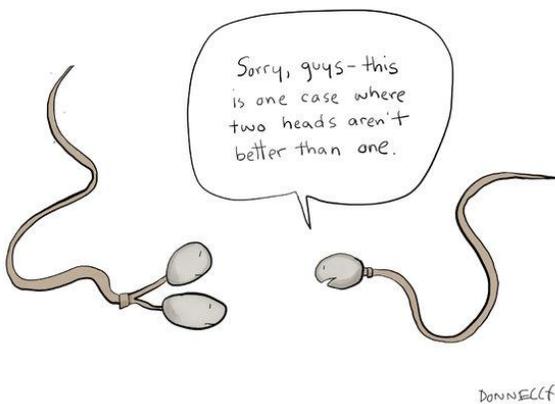
suspect. When in doubt, she consults guides at ewg.org/consumer-guides.

Yet this isn't just a matter of individual action, but is also a public policy issue that affects tens of millions of people, their capacity to reproduce and their health and life expectancy.

What's needed above all is more aggressive regulation of endocrine disrupting chemicals. America has been much slower than Europe to regulate toxic chemicals, and most chemicals sold in the U.S. have never been tested for safety.

The larger question is why we allow the chemical industry — by spending \$100,000 on lobbying per member of Congress — to buy its way out of effective regulation of endocrine disruptors. The industry's deceit marks a replay of Big Tobacco's battle against regulation of smoking.

If you doubt the stakes, look at the image with this column of a hapless sperm swimming in circles, and remember this: Our human future will only be as healthy as our sperm.



Former N.J. Governor's Unite to Push Environmental Initiatives in Washington

By Alyana Alfaro, Observer, 4/4/2017

A bi-partisan group of former New Jersey elected officials on Tuesday announced that, despite differences in politics, they were joining together to push environmental advocacy issues in Washington, D.C. The group — which includes former Governors Tom Kean (R), Christie Whitman (R), Jim Florio (D) and Brendan Byrne (D), as well as former Democratic Congressman Rush Holt and former NJ Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden (R) — wants New

Jersey's current congressional delegation to fight to protect public land, water, air and wildlife.

The former elected officials on Tuesday released the "Principles to Protect our Public Lands, Water, Air and Wildlife." Those principles claim that environmental protections are "fundamental to the economic success and vitality" of both the state and the nation, that the environment is fundamental to health/well-being, and that "environmental protection must remain a bipartisan matter." In their letter the officials also call for support of environmental laws, including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and Wilderness Act and Antiquities Act. Additionally, they push for protection of public land, promoting renewable energy, an acknowledgement of climate change and demand that "all federal agencies, policies and laws be grounded in sound science."

According to a joint statement, the call for environmental protections is due to the current political climate at a "time when the nation's environmental laws and regulations are facing unprecedented efforts to rescind and weaken them in Washington." Last month, President Donald Trump signed a sweeping executive order to change U.S. regulations to carbon emissions, boost coal production and reduce considerations of climate change in other federal rules. During the 2016 presidential election, Whitman was one of the most notable Republicans in New Jersey to vocally oppose Trump during his campaign. She is also the former head of the Environmental Protection Agency under President George W. Bush

During a Tuesday press call announcing the principles, Whitman said that New Jersey elected officials cannot allow for national policies to effect the health of state residents. As a former EPA official, Whitman criticized Trump's recent call for steep cuts to the agency.

"Thirty-one percent cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency... is basically doing away with the agency," Whitman said. "It is doing away with enforcement, it is doing away with environmental research that tells us what is acceptable for human health, what can we tolerate without doing away with the future. This is extremely important. While I know it is easy for people to say they hate regulation because it forces them to do something or spend money on a problem I don't think is real, I don't think they have fully thought through the consequences of what happens when we stop protecting our environment."

Principles to Protect our Public Lands, Water, Air and Wildlife

We, the undersigned former Governors and elected officials, and leaders of New Jersey Conservation Foundation, embrace our responsibility as environmental protectors. We affirm that land and natural resources must be protected and conserved for the health and enjoyment of current and future generations. We call upon every Member of New Jersey's Congressional Delegation to honor New Jersey's legacy of environmental protection and progress and join us in advocating for these **Principles to Protect our Public Lands, Water, Air and Wildlife**. We acknowledge that clean water, clean air, parks, forests, and farms are fundamental to the economic success and vitality of the State of New Jersey and the United States of America. Moreover, the quality of our environment is fundamental to our health, wellbeing and quality of life. We acknowledge that environmental protection must remain a bipartisan matter. Therefore; We will support and defend environmental laws, including the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Wilderness Act and Antiquities Act, which provide the basic underpinnings for the protection of our environment and the public good. We will protect and defend public lands and continued public funding for land preservation to celebrate our natural heritage, safeguard our drinking water and secure quality of life for future generations. We will promote renewable energy and energy conservation, knowing that such action will create millions of jobs without generating pollution or relying on fossil fuels. Renewable energy and energy conservation provide vast health and economic benefits while securing our energy independence. We will demand that all federal agencies, policies and laws be grounded in sound science. We will work to address the critical and impending threat of manmade climate change that faces our Nation and our world.

Signed,

Hon. Rush D. Holt
Hon. Brendan T. Byrne
Hon. James J. Florio Hon.
Thomas H. Kean Hon.
Christine Todd Whitman
Hon. Maureen Ogden

ASMFC Spring Meeting May 8-11, 2017

The Westin Alexandria - Alexandria, Virginia

Look for comprehensive agenda with meeting details and webinar information at ASMFC web page

Preliminary Agenda

Monday May 8

8:00am – Noon Climate Change Work Group
1:00 - 2:30pm Atlantic Herring Section
2:45 - 5:15pm American Lobster Management Board

Tuesday May 9

8:00 - 10:15am American Lobster Management Board (continued)
8:30am - 5:00pm Law Enforcement Committee
10:30am - 12:30pm Tautog Management Board
1:00 - 3:15pm Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board
3:30 - 5:45pm Atlantic Menhaden Management Board
6:30 - 8:00pm Annual Awards of Excellence Reception

Wednesday May 10

8:00 - 9:30am Executive Committee
9:45 - 10:45am Coastal Sharks Management Board
11:00am - Noon Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Coordinating Council
1:00 - 5:30pm Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

- Review and Consider Scup Draft Addendum XXIX for Final Approval
- Update on Summer Flounder Comprehensive Amendment Work and Analysis
- Review Implementation of 2017 Summer Flounder and Black Sea Bass Recreational Measures

Thursday May 11

8:00 - 10:30am Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board
10:30 - 11:00am Business Session (if necessary)
11:15am - 3:00pm South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board

Win Big in the Fisherman Magazine's 2017 Dream Boat Challenge

By Jim Hutchinson, Jr.

By subscribing to The Fisherman Magazine, you are automatically eligible to enter our annual Dream Boat Challenge; there is no additional entry fee to shell out, no extra hoops to jump through, nothing. Aside from catching some fish but odds are that you were going to be doing that anyway!

The Dream Boat Challenge has become quite the tradition for rabid fresh and saltwater anglers from Maine to the Mid-Atlantic each year. It draws upon a pool of everyday, non-professional anglers just like you from the Northeast coast with one individual ultimately crowned the champion.

The premise is simple: accumulate the most total points by catching the heaviest fish across a field of eight eligible species (weakfish, porgy, fluke, yellowfin tuna, mahi, bluefish, black sea bass and tautog) and win yourself the incredible Steiger Craft 21 DV Boat powered by a Yamaha 200HP outboard motor, and many other great prizes. Contestants may submit as many entries in excess of the minimum weight as they wish.

However, only the heaviest one entry per species category will be entered and tallied for points this season. This means that you can enter a heavier fish in a given species and move up the leader board, but you cannot hold multiple spots within any single species.

Points are awarded to each of the top 10 entries with the heaviest fish in each species: 10 points goes to the heaviest fish in each of eight categories, nine for second, all the way to a single point for the 10th heaviest fish in that division. The key to winning the Grand Prize in 2017 is not only to land the heaviest fish, but to do so across as many of the eligible species as possible. It is going to take a well-rounded and talented angler to take home the Grand Prize in 2017!

Whether you accumulate the most points, catch the largest of species or win the fish of the month, we have a slew of outstanding prizes to be won in 2017. This year's Grand Prize for the angler who accumulates the most points is a new Steiger Craft 21 DV Miami boat with Yamaha 200 HP

Outboard Motor; a Furuno GPS Plotter/Sounder Model GP1670F, an Engel EN80 Cooler; and a fish mount from Global Fish Mounts of one the fish entered.

The angler with the second-most total points wins a three-night stay for the winner and one guest at the Zancudo Lodge in beautiful Costa Rica. The prize consists of one standard double-occupancy accommodation, standard meals and fishing. Air transportation, fishing license, fees, taxes, phone calls, and any other incidental expenses are not included and are the winner's responsibility.

The third prize winner will receive one Okuma M-400 Metaloid machined aluminum reel and a matching St. Croix Mojo MIC70MHF casting rod. Rounding out the top spots, the fourth prize winner will receive one pair of Costa Del Mar sunglasses.

Once again we are also awarding prizes for the heaviest fish entered in each of the eight eligible species. This year's "Largest of Species" winners will each receive an Okuma M-400 Metaloid machined aluminum reel paired up with a St. Croix Mojo MIC70MHF casting rod; a fish mount from Global Fish Mounts of the fish entered; and a 1-year membership to Fishtrack.com and Bouyweather.com.

Each of the 80 finalists on the leader board at the conclusion of the challenge in November will also be rewarded a special prize package provided by our sponsors including Rapala, Owner, Williamson and Storm. Finalists receive two items depending on which species category they're in.

And last but most certainly not least, we also have the king salmon prize. At the conclusion of this year's contest, the subscriber who enters the heaviest king salmon will win a Sea Eagle® 385fta Angler Deluxe Solo Package. Remember that king salmon entries yield no points toward the Dream Boat. The minimum weight requirement for entry is 20 pounds, fish must be caught on Lake Ontario and weighed at an official weigh station (weigh station locations around Lake Ontario are limited.)

First and foremost, you must be a subscriber to The Fisherman Magazine to be eligible for the Dream Boat Challenge. From there, after you catch an eligible fish, there are several simple steps that must be adhered to or else your entry will be disqualified. You must follow all of the requirements and include all applicable information for your submission to be rendered valid.

Enter the fish at an official weigh station (a complete list is available at www.TheFisherman.com) and do so as soon as possible. Entries must be received

within 10 days of weigh-in the catch and the submission is 100% complete and accurate.

Take a photo of your catch—preferably as soon as it is landed and fresh out of the water—and be sure to include the photo with your submission. A photo of the catch at the dock or tackle shop is also sufficient, but keep in mind that we may use your photo in print either in the reports section or on the cover of the magazine, as well as in our weekly fishing forecast videos, so submitting a high resolution quality photo is strongly encouraged.

All images are also posted at www.TheFisherman.com as part of the current standings. Entries may be submitted via email at dreamboat@thefisherman.com or mail to: Dream Boat Fishing Challenge, 14 Ramsey Rd, Shirley, NY 11967.

For a look at the complete rules, prizes, eligibility requirements and more for the 2017 Dream Boat Challenge, visit The Fisherman [website](#) or pick up the May edition in your favorite tackle shop or newsstand!

Catch 'em up New Jersey!

NJ Files Formal Appeal for Fluke Quota Reductions

By John Toth

There has been so much news about the 19-inch fluke situation that recreational anglers are facing for their 2017 fishing season. While there has been little news about it lately, things have been happening behind the scenes!

On March 28th, New Jersey's representatives to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) have filed an appeal requesting this commission to reconsider its vote to significantly reduce NJ's recreational-fishing quota for summer flounder for this year. This reduction in our fluke quota is the reason for our 19-inch fluke problem.

NJ's DEP Commissioner, Bob Martin, announced that "We are appealing the ASMFC decision because of the numerous process, data, policy, and regulatory issues that will significantly impact New Jersey's having to throw more dead fish back into the water than they can keep to eat, and the fish that they can keep overwhelmingly will be productive females. This is not sound fishery management." Commissioner Martin not only

testified before the ASMFC that our summer flounder quota should not be reduced, but he also recently sent a letter to U.S. Commerce Secretary, Wilbur Ross, requesting that the 2016's fluke quotas remain in effect (5 fish, 18 inches, 125 days) until a new bench mark assessment of fluke is taken to better understand the status of fluke stocks. (This new Commerce Secretary in the Trump administration is pro-business and he is expected to not look favorably on the damage a 19-inch fluke would have on NJ's fishing business. He has the authority to stop the 19-inch fluke from being implemented).

We all know about the economic damage that the 19-inch fluke would have on NJ's fishing businesses. The ASMFC is really not that concerned about this issue! Its main focus is on the status of fluke stocks and the best argument to stop this 19-inch fish is that we would be **reducing the stocks** of this fish with ASMFC's new regulations since 19-inch fluke are almost all females. **So why try to save this fish by killing more of them!** It does not make sense and I also made testimony to this effect to an ASMFC meeting in Galloway Twp., NJ in January of this year and in Baltimore when ASMFC first introduced the new fluke regulations in December of last year.

So now the ball is in the ASMFC court and it is not expected to make a decision on NJ's appeal until sometime in May. What if the ASMFC denies NJ's appeal? If it does, NJ will be **officially** ruled out of compliance and ultimately the decision to decide if NJ will have a 19-inch fish or the 2016 fluke regulations will be made by U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. He may prove to be our best ace up our sleeve!

Fluke and Sea Bass Seasons Slated to Open

By Paul Haertel

The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council met on 4/13 and set the sea bass regulations for this year. The season will open on 5/26 and extend through 6/18 with a ten-fish bag limit at 12 ½". The season will then be closed through 6/30. It will reopen on 7/1 and extend through 8/31 but with a two-fish limit at 12 ½". It will then be closed through 10/21. The season will then reopen on 10/22 and end on 12/31 with a 15-fish bag limit and a 12 ½" size limit. Last year during the fall season we had a 13" size limit but by shortening the season by just a few days we were allowed to

reduce the size limit to 12 ½". Though the regulations have been set, they are subject to change for better or worse depending on what is decided at the ASMFC/MAFMC joint meeting on 5/10.

The NJMFC took no further action on the fluke regulations as they await the ruling on our State's appeal to the ASMFC. Therefore, as of now our regulations will remain exactly the same as they were in 2016. The season will begin on 5/21 and end on 9/25 with a 5-fish bag limit at 18". This regulation is subject to change depending on the ruling of our appeal.

NOAA Fisheries proposes revised commercial black sea bass quotas for the 2017 fishing year and projected specifications for 2018. Based on updated information on the status of the stock, we are proposing a 53 percent increase in the 2017 commercial quota established in 2015.

NOAA also proposes to remove the accountability measure in the commercial sector that was initially implemented at the start of the fishing year to account for perceived 2015 overages. Updated scientific information regarding the black sea bass stock indicates that higher catch limits should be implemented to obtain optimum yield, and that the accountability measure is no longer necessary or appropriate.

NOAA works in partnership with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and use the best available scientific information to develop management measures that prevent overfishing while obtaining optimum yield from black sea bass stocks.

Read the [proposed rule](#) as published today in the Federal Register. [Supporting documents](#) for this rule are available on our website. Comments on this rule must be received by 5 pm on May 1, 2017. Refer to the [JCAA Facebook page](#) for up to the minute changes on any of the regulations.

Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary Proposal

By Ken Warchal

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met at the Icona Golden Inn, Avalon, N.J. for three days this past week. A proposal to designate a large area of the ocean surrounding

Hudson Canyon was heard on Wednesday. The proposal was made by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The WCS is a huge, worldwide conservation group with assets of over \$1 billion based at the Bronx Zoo. Its mission statement reads, "WCS saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature".

Their proposal states that they want to protect the unique diversity of marine life in the Hudson from "incompatible human activity, specifically oil and gas exploration". They profess that fishing be allowed in the sanctuary and that it be regulated by the existing regulatory authorities. They state that broad interest has been received by all stakeholders and it will open the wonders of the Hudson Canyon to the general populous.

While this all sounds admirable, there are some serious inconsistencies that are troublesome. While the language in the proposal focuses on the Hudson Canyon, the sanctuary itself encompasses an area far beyond it. The Hudson Canyon is only about 60 square miles in size; the proposed sanctuary is 2900 square miles!!! The proposal claims widespread support from stakeholders. Apparently, the WCS doesn't consider the residents of New Jersey or states other than New York stakeholders. To my knowledge, members of the NJ fishing community were not consulted. The proposal "recommends" that fishing be allowed; however, there is no guarantee that once the sanctuary is in place that fishing couldn't be restricted at a later date.

Commercial fishermen have good reason to be concerned. They agreed to accept designation of the Frank R. Lautenberg Deep-Sea Protection Area which precludes bottom tending fishing gear along the 100 fathom line and to the east with the understanding that sanctuaries such as this one would not be pursued. Further, the proposal also states that trawling can be particularly damaging to the marine habitat and its occupants. It's clear that conservation groups such as the WCS don't favor commercial fishing and may move for restrictions once the sanctuary is approved. Recreational anglers are concerned that if commercial fishing is restricted, restrictions on recreational fishing may be next.

The Council voted 15 to 2 to not accept the proposal. Several members of the council favored further research on the proposal but that motion was denied. The Council's action is good news and significant; however, the proposal is not defeated. It

was accepted by NOAA and is included in the NOAA Marine Sanctuary inventory. JCAA will continue to monitor the progress of the proposal and report on any movement.

LoBiondo, Colleagues Introduce Republican Climate Change Resolution

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Congressman Frank LoBiondo (NJ-02) joined with Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (NY-21), Congressman Carlos Curbelo (FL-26), Congressman Ryan Costello (PA-06) and a group of House Republican colleagues in introducing a resolution that calls for using American innovation to improve environmental stewardship. LoBiondo co-sponsored the same resolution last Congress introduced by former Congressman Chris Gibson of New York.

“From the devastation of Superstorm Sandy to being surrounded by rising sea waters on three sides, South Jersey is keenly aware of the precarious environment for which we live. While at times at odds with some of my colleagues, I have long worked to protect the natural treasures of our region and nation for future generations,” said Congressman LoBiondo. “It is far past time we moved beyond the debate from if our climate is changing – it is - to identifying and promoting solutions to mitigate potentially catastrophic effects.”

The resolution introduced calls on the House of Representatives to commit to working on economically viable solutions that address the risks of climate change, calling on “American ingenuity, innovation, and exceptionalism,” and citing the “conservative principle to protect, conserve, and be good stewards of our environment.”

“I am pleased to introduce this resolution with so many of my Republican colleagues and I thank them for their support on this effort,” said Congresswoman Stefanik (NY-21). “Clean energy innovation is key to addressing the serious issue of climate change. This resolution brings together the priority of addressing the risks of climate change with the importance of protecting and creating American jobs. Innovation and clean energy are key to solving both. New York’s 21st district is the proud home of the Adirondacks and we understand that

protecting our environment plays an important role in promoting economic growth and opportunity.”

The lawmakers were joined by: Reps. Mark Amodei (NV-02), Don Bacon (NE-02), Barbara Comstock (VA-10), John Faso (NY-19), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-08), John Katko (NY-24), Mia Love (UT-04), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-27), Brian Mast (FL-18), Pat Meehan (PA-07), Tom Reed (NY-23), David Reichert (WA-08), and Mark Sanford (SC-01).

The resolution calls for better environmental stewardship through “economically viable, and broadly supported private and public solutions to study and address the causes and effects of measured changes to our global and regional climates.”

The full text of the resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION

Expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to conservative environmental stewardship.

Whereas it is a conservative principle to protect, conserve, and be good stewards of our environment, responsibly plan for all market factors, and base our policy decisions in science and quantifiable facts on the ground;

Whereas prudent, fact-based stewardship of our economy and our environment is a critical responsibility for all Americans in order to ensure that we preserve our great Nation for future generations;

Whereas there has been a marked increase in extreme weather events across the United States, including more frequent heat waves, extreme precipitation, wildfires, and water scarcity;

Whereas this has had noticeable, negative impacts that are expected to worsen in every region of the United States and its territories, including, among other significant weather events and environmental disruptions, longer and hotter heat waves, more severe storms, worsening flood and drought cycles, growing invasive species and insect problems, threatened native plant and wildlife populations, rising sea levels, and, when combined with a lack of proper forest management, increased wildfire risk;

Whereas increased pollutants and other factors contribute to local, regional, and national environmental and human health impacts, including increased mercury in the fish we eat, elevated asthma attacks in our children, acid rain, smog, degraded water quality, urban heat islands, and rapid storm water runoff that leads to costly infrastructure projects;

Whereas the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review states that the effects of a changing climate are “threat multipliers that will aggravate stressors abroad such as poverty, environmental degradation, political instability, and social tensions”;

Whereas, if left unaddressed, the consequences of a changing climate have the potential to adversely impact all Americans, hitting vulnerable populations hardest, harming productivity in key economic sectors such as construction, agriculture, and tourism, saddling future generations with costly economic and environmental burdens, and imposing additional costs on State and Federal budgets that will further add to the long-term fiscal challenges that we face as a Nation;

Whereas any efforts to mitigate the risks of, prepare for, or otherwise address our changing climate and its effects should not constrain the United States economy, especially in regards to global competitiveness; and

Whereas there is increasing recognition that we can and must take meaningful and responsible action now to address this issue:

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives commits to working constructively, using our tradition of American ingenuity, innovation, and exceptionalism, to create and support economically viable, and broadly supported private and public solutions to study and address the causes and effects of measured changes to our global and regional climates, including mitigation efforts and efforts to balance human activities that have been found to have an impact.

Report on Meeting with John Bullard

By John Toth

John Bullard, Administrator, U.S. Department of Commerce, holds an important position in the decision-making process concerning fishing management issues. He has on many occasions took positions that went against the best interests of recreational anglers.

On April 3rd, he hosted a meeting at the Manasquan Reservoir Visitor's Center with representatives from the recreational community to hear our concerns about a number of issues, and we most certainly have enough of them! This meeting

was not recorded. When I go to important meetings like this, I want to know what are the next steps, who is doing them and what are the timelines! When this meeting broke up, I had the distinct feeling that while good comments by us were being made, nothing would come from them! I did not want to see this happen and I wrote the following letter to Mr. Bullard on **JCAA letterhead** that requests him to comment on some of the major issues raised at this meeting.

Mr. Bullard,

I want to thank you and your staff for meeting with representatives from fishing organizations and related industries on April 3rd at the Manasquan Reservoir Visitor's Center as part of NOAA's Round Table Discussion to listen to the concerns of anglers. A number of major issues were raised at this meeting and I would like to have your comments on just a few of them.

1. We have been experiencing cutbacks on our fishing quotas for just about every fishery with the resulting loss of related fishing industries such as tackle shops, charter/party boats and even the loss of anglers buying new boats since they have diminished fishing opportunities. The 19-inch fluke New Jersey's anglers are currently contesting comes to mind. When we protest these continual cutbacks, the reply we always receive is that these quota reductions are based ‘ON the Best Science Available.’ At this meeting, it was pointed out to you your own statistics show that black sea bass stocks have increased 230 %, yet we have not received a commensurate increase in the quota. An increased quota would allow us to target sea bass for a longer season thereby reducing pressure on other species such as fluke. It seems to us that this is a ‘Tails you lose and heads you lose’ no matter how the coin is tossed! If your own statistics tell you that the quota for sea bass can be easily raised, then why has this not been done? I understand that the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is going to consider raising this quota in the near future. As one person indicated at this meeting, NOAA has a "Loud Voice" when it comes to fishing managers making these types of decisions. We all would appreciate your using NOAA's voice to significantly increase the black sea bass quota for our fishing industry.
2. The data used to justify cutbacks in our fisheries is seriously flawed and this was pointed out to you.

As an example, the data showed that New Jersey's anglers caught a lot of fish after Hurricane Sandy, even though a large number of our boats were destroyed and many marinas closed. Other examples like this abound such as days with high winds that keep boats in the marinas, yet high catches of fish are recorded. This bad data goes into the models used for quota development and bad data in the models produces bad data out. This is a continuing and major problem that needs serious attention by your staff.

3. Also, pointed out at this meeting, it is the continuing loss of marinas, decline in boat registrations, etc., that shows our fishing industry is in a downward spiral over the years. NOAA has to take a serious look at this decline in fishing - related businesses and examine its role in contributing to this decline by its management that continually pursues decisions that damage the recreational and commercial fishing industries. What can NOAA do to reverse this downward trend? As also mentioned at this meeting, we are looking to be a Partner with you and we are looking for a Roadmap from you to follow so that we can both work together on resolving these outstanding issues.

John Toth
President, Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA)
President, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA)
President, Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County
CC: Mr. Wilbur Ross, U.S. Commerce Secretary

NJ's Governor's Surf Tournament

By John Toth

The Governor's Surf Tournament will be held on **May 21st** at Island Beach State Park. It is sponsored by the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, the Federation of Sportsmen's Club, NJ Beach Buggy Association, NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife, the NJ Division of Parks and the NJ DEP. The cost to pre-register is \$20 for anglers 18 years and older, and \$5 for ages 13-17. Ages 12 and under are free!

Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno is a regular at this tournament and she brings her kids along since they love to fish. Tom Fote usually joins them and gives them tips on catching fish.

What I enjoy about this tournament is the giving out of prizes on behalf of the JCAA for the winners in the various categories. It is so much fun to see kids come up to receive a fishing rod, reel and other prizes. Their eyes are so big and when they hold their prizes, it looks like they are holding a million dollars - **and nobody is going to take their prizes away from them!** Even teenagers look like little kids holding rods and reels like they just received Christmas gifts! But what is common among the winners and the anglers standing around to see the prizes being given out is that they enjoy fishing and most likely will fish throughout their lifetime. This tournament is exciting and it gives anglers of all ages and families to have a fun day of fishing! That's what fishing is all about!

For more information, call (609) 748-4347 or go visit [this link](#).

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

NATIONAL FISHING & BOATING WEEK

JUNE 4 – 12, 2017

NF&BW Free Fishing Days in New Jersey are June and October, 2017. The first FREE day in NJ is on June 10, 2017. This day is part of the National Fishing and Boating Week which highlights the importance of recreational boating and fishing to enhance peoples' quality of life and to preserve our country's natural beauty. The second Free Fishing Day will occur after fall trout stocking, October 21, 2017 and it brings attention to this great fishing opportunity.

During the two Free fishing days, residents and non-residents may fish New Jersey's public fresh waters without a license or trout stamp. All other regulations, including size and daily catch limits, remain in effect.

Residents and non-residents may fish the public waters of New Jersey without a license or trout Stamp. All other regulations apply. For those anglers just starting out, the Division of Fish and Wildlife offers many programs and classes to advance from beginner to expert. The Pequest State Trout Hatchery in Oxford, Warren County offers free fishing programs. Pequest offers a Natural Resource Education Center with a variety of exhibits and displays on wildlife, a butterfly garden, picnic areas

and hiking trails. There is also a handicapped-accessible fishing site along the Pequest River. Last year the JCAA Youth Education Committee coordinated fishing and aquatic education programs for the week-long celebration of National Fishing Week. Please contact the JCAA Youth Education Committee and let us know how many National Fishing Week participants supported your program and we will add it to our JCAA report.

COME AND CELEBRATE THE 26TH GSFT 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 26th Anniversary of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be on Sunday, May 21, 2017. 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. This year's sponsors of the tournament are adding a surf fishing opportunity for youngsters attending NJ high schools and other angling youth groups. The new High School Team Competition will add new excitement for high school students fishing the tournament. The GSFT committee members feel the expanded opportunity for youth angling groups to fish the GSFT will create more excitement and recognition for young anglers on tournament day.

Remember, admission to the park is FREE for the tournament. We would like to remind our physically challenged anglers that there is an area at OBA 1 with beach wheelchairs available. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice and physically challenged anglers at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. This year the World Jeep – Chrysler – Dodge - Ram, Shrewsbury, NJ will assist physically challenged anglers with a NEW 4x4 VIP vehicle to transport anglers that will be fishing the reserved area in front of OBA 1. Team World Jeep Chrysler will also be available to answer questions about 4x4 beach maintenance and fluids.

Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 12) and volunteer anglers from various fishing clubs will also assist physically challenged anglers. If you know a disabled veteran or angler that would like to fish the tournament, please phone Greg K at 732-785-9278 or email gkucharews@jcaa.org.

2016 NJ HOFNOD YOUTH FISHING CHALLENGE

The Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs Program's Youth Fishing Challenge is a statewide event to promote fishing among youths and their families. The Youth Fishing Challenge will be held on the first of the state's two Free Fishing Days, Saturday, June 10, when no license is required to fish regardless of age.

Registered youth participants will be eligible to receive prizes for the fish they catch during the event. Youths must be present at the conclusion of the event to be awarded prizes. Those who are lucky enough to catch a trout tagged as part of the "Hook-A-Winner" Program will receive a special prize following the event.

If you are working with a NJ HOFNOD youth fishing group get ready for Saturday, June 10th NJ Youth Fishing Challenge. The object is to get youngsters fishing, so please consider how you might like to get kids hooked on fishing. If you would like to volunteer time with a NJ HOFNOD group to support the NJ Youth Fishing Challenge Day, Contact Liz Jackson for details. NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07683, 908-637-4125 x122, [website](#).

WEST MARINE BLUEFUTURE GRANT

The JCAA Youth Education Committee is applying for the West Marine BlueFuture Fall Grant. If you are a Non-profit organization, please consider applying for the West Marine BlueFuture grant. All nonprofit 501C3 organizations are encouraged to apply, community-based organizations that teach sailing, powerboating, fishing or boatbuilding skills; foster aquatic sustainability and conservation practices; and encourage learning in the marine sciences. West Marine began accepting [grant applications](#) during the Spring and Fall of 2017.

PLAY HOOK-e FROM PTSD

Veterans interested in learning about fishing and relaxing in the outdoors can attend free monthly Play HOOK-e from PTSD fishing workshops. For more information about the schedule, please contact Greg Kucharewski at 732-785-9278 or send an email to gkucharews@jcaa.org.