

# JCAA NEWSPAPER JULY 2018

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on June 19th, 2018)

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

### JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

**Tuesday, June 26th, 2018**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick**

### NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, July 12th, 2018**

**Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office**

### **OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.**

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**JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote**

**JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi**

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

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

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

*\*\* No JCAA General Meetings in July & August \*\**

**July 12** JCAA Board Meeting

**August 4<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Fluke Tournament

**August 9<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Tournament Awards Ceremony

### **President's Report**

*By Mark Taylor*

Sorry I didn't have a column in the June Newsletter. I will try not to let this happen again. On May 29<sup>th</sup> we had the Annual High Roller Raffle which was drawn in the JCAA office. We had a few people there to witness it and thank you for taking the time to attend. I want to take the time to congratulate all the High Roller Raffle Winners and thank you for your continuing support.

It's that time of the year that tournaments are popping up all over the state. This is a reminder that the **JCAA 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament** is going to be held on **Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup>**. Let's increase the number of boats this year. Tell a friend and mention it at your marinas. This is one of our major fundraisers that help us help you in fighting for the recreational share of the resource, so make sure you [sign up](#) early.

I know I had this in my column in May but it is very important to participate in. The registry is an important tool that will help fishermen and policy makers work together to better account for the contributions and impacts of saltwater anglers on ocean ecosystems and coastal economies. It is part of a national overhaul of the way NOAA collects and reports recreational fishing data. The goal of the initiative - known as the Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP - is to provide the most accurate information possible that can be used to

# Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

*By Tom Fote*

determine the health of fish stocks. Reliable, universally trusted data will in turn aid anglers, fisheries managers and other stakeholders in their combined efforts to effectively and fairly set the rules that will ensure the long-term sustainability of recreational fishing. This Registry is not a license. New Jersey DOES NOT have a saltwater license. There are people that fish saltwater in New Jersey that need to have this and there are people that are exempt. You can get more information from the NJ Division Fish and Wildlife [website](#). I am asking you whether you are exempt or not to get this saltwater recreational registry certificate to show how many of us actually fish recreationally. Remember it is FREE and you can print it on your own printer. You can go directly to [this link](#) to register.

As always there is a lot going on with issues that concern the Recreational Community. JCAA has a means to send out timely emails to individuals. If you are one of those individuals that really cares and want to get this information in a form of an Alert then do something about it. Send an email to me at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com) with the words "Email Alerts" and I will make sure your email will be added to the list for just that.

Our Sportsman of the Year Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. Nominations are still open for your club to start thinking of who they would like to nominate for this important honor. The club should talk it over and email a short bio of 150 words explaining the accomplishments of the nominee to the JCAA Office and myself at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com). The vote will be taken by Club Representatives at the JCAA September meeting, so make sure yours is there.

I spoke at the Hudson River Fisherman Association's meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>. I would like to thank them for the opportunity to speak. I hope the words and information that I spoke about will help motivate their members in being more involved with their club plus JCAA. If you would like us to speak at your club, please send an email to [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com) and in the subject put "Speak at Club."

Remember, JCAA is always here for you but we need more people to get involved.

Everyone Have a Safe and Enjoyable Summer!

## Bluefish

As you can see in the press release below, there are two public hearings in New Jersey about bluefish. Last month's newspaper had the press release from the Commission meeting. In the January 2018 JCAA Newspaper, I wrote an article on this topic. I have reprinted that article below. JCAA will be voting on a position on the scoping document at the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will be sending out a JCAA email blast before the hearing on the 27<sup>th</sup>. It is really important for you to attend and make your feelings known.

### Public Hearings in Ocean City June 27 and Toms River June 28

Bluefish amendment to review and possibly revise the allocation between commercial and recreational fisheries, fishery management plan goals and objectives, commercial allocations among states, and commercial quota transfer process.

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission are initiating development of an amendment to the Bluefish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). You are encouraged to submit comments regarding the range of potential issues to be addressed in the amendment. Issues currently under consideration include potential revision of the allocation between the recreational and commercial sectors (currently 83% / 17%).

In addition, transfers from the recreational to commercial sector have occurred in every year since 2001, inclusive, and management questions under consideration include: Are the existing transfer processes appropriate for managing the bluefish fishery?

For complete details, please see the information available at [this link](#) or at [this link](#). Here is [link](#) to Bluefish Allocation Amendment Scoping and Public Information Document.

Two public hearings are scheduled in NJ:

**June 27, 2018**

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Ocean City Library, Room N111

1735 Simpson Avenue

**Ocean City, NJ 08226**

**June 28, 2018**

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Ocean County Administration Building, Room 119

101 Hooper Avenue

**Toms River, NJ 08753**

In addition, you may submit written comments by 11:59 pm on July 30, 2018. (the Public Information Document concerning all details is [available here](#)).

Written comments may be sent by any of the following methods:

1. Online at [this link](#)
2. E-mail to the following address:  
mseeley@mafmc.org
3. Mail or fax to:

Chris Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
North State Street, Suite 201  
Dover, DE 19901  
FAX: 302.674.5399

**NOTE:** Please include "Bluefish Allocation Amendment Scoping Comments" in the Subject line if using e-mail or fax, or on the outside of the envelope if submitting written comments.

### **Bluefish**

*(reprinted from the January 2018 JCAA newsletter)*

There is an old expression, "Don't poke the bear." I could not believe that the Council and the Commission were discussing the reallocation of bluefish to go to scoping meetings under an addendum to the plan. This proposed change to the bluefish management plan would reward the recreational community for their conservation by catch and release and their allowance for the transfer of the unused recreational quota to the commercial community by reallocating the recreational quota to the commercial fishermen. I could not believe that anyone would suggest this.

Many years ago, when the recreational fishing community realized that the bluefish management plan was having a negative effect on the commercial fishermen, the recreational community allowed some of the unused recreational quota to be moved to the commercial quota. What started as a small figure has become a constant yearly transfer of 4 – 5 million pounds to the commercial fishing community. In the past few years, the recreational anglers were nearing the allowable quota and this had an impact on the allowable commercial catch. This transfer of unused quota has never been reciprocated even when that could have happened. The commercial fishing community decided to propose an addendum that would give them a larger quota at the expense of the recreational quota, whether or not recreational anglers were meeting that quota themselves. As other recreational fisheries such as black sea bass, tautog or summer flounder have shorter seasons, the recreational community and industry has turned more and more to bluefish. When the recreational community was forced to put a 10-fish bag limit on bluefish, the party and charter boat community lost many customers from out of state. They came from the Amish communities in Pennsylvania and Ohio and other church groups looking to have fish fries stopped coming. They counted on big bag limits to make the trip worthwhile. People asked me why individuals needed such large catches. We discovered bluefish was smoked, pickled, frozen or used in fish fries. This supplemented a diet and made the price of a charter or party boat worthwhile. We could have had bigger bag limits with the unused quota. My suggestion to do this at a joint meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Council and ASFMC resulted in a lengthy argument about allowing larger quotas. The motion failed because NMFS was against it. Mike Nussman and I talked to the head of NMFS and in the mid-90's we were allowed to increase the bag limit to 15 fish.

The historical split was 83 recreational and 17 commercial dating back to the 50's. When Al Ristori first went on the Council in 1977, he started a bluefish management plan because he knew how crucial this was to the recreational community. There was a fear that this would become a purse seine fishery and much of the catch would be sent overseas. It is interesting that this is the first time in a long time that the New York and New Jersey delegations were in 100% agreement. The representative from Florida flew to Annapolis for just the 90-minute segment of this meeting to talk about bluefish. His comment was,

“Mark this date, December 14, 2017. Florida 100% agrees with the points made by Tom Fote.” The recreational representatives at the meeting all agreed this was not the time to do a scoping document on bluefish. We are waiting for the revised recreational numbers and we have no idea what they will be. We have postponed the benchmark stock assessment for summer flounder because we don’t know how much those numbers will change. Knowing how crazy the recreational statistics numbers can be, we might have NMFS saying that we have been overfishing bluefish for the last 10 years. A scoping meeting should not be scheduled until we get this data. Postponing the scoping meeting was also agreed to by many of the long-time Commission and Council members who have a sense of the history. I also pointed out that there are many people in the recreational community who have always been upset that their conservation effort has always rewarded the commercial community. Many of the new state and commercial Council members have no sense of the history and no understanding of how upset the recreational community would be and voted yes. The new directors saw this as a way to transfer quota from one state to another to use the entire quota. Again, “Don’t poke the bear.”

What should we do? We should be writing and calling the Mid-Atlantic Council and ASMFC members and Congress and explaining the outrageous move by the Council and the Commission. We need to stop this process now, not wait for it to go any further. A yes vote would be a major reallocation to the commercial community based on the historical fishery of the last 10 years. This could allow the commercial quota to go from 17% to over 40%.

### **Modern Fish Act of 2017**

I have great news. Both Senator Menendez and Senator Booker have signed as co-sponsors of the Modern Fish Act of 2017. All recreational anglers should thank them. Now it is time to begin working with the House of Representatives. Every seat in the House of Representatives will be voted on in November. JCAA will be writing a letter asking all of our current Congressmen and the candidates for those seats to promise to co-sponsor this legislation. We will be putting out further releases on this in the JCAA Newspaper. Go to the archives on our webpage and read more about the Modern Fish Act.

### **Striped Bass**

Al Ristori wrote in his new blog about comments I made in the JCAA Newspaper in 2002. When you read the article, check out what is in bold. I predicted what would be happening with striped bass in 2018. Sure enough, there have been a number of 50-pound striped bass caught. So far, I have not been able to catch one of those 50 pounders this year but some people have. But there is still hope. I am looking forward to fishing for the 50-pound fish again from the 2011 (fourth largest young of the year) and the 2015 (eighth largest young of the year) in 2036 and 2040. Walker or wheel chair, I will still be ready to go, God willing.

In the rest of this article, some things have changed but much has not. We are still fighting about menhaden and other forage species.

### **Looking at 2002 JCAA Newspapers**

While trying to find the article Al Ristori referenced from 2002 in his new blog, I came across other interesting articles that I could easily have written for this month’s newspaper. Rather than rewriting, I am including these articles from 2002. It is amazing how relevant they are today. People ask me how they can learn about what was happening in fisheries management in the past. If you want to know what was happening from 1995 to today from the JCAA perspective, go to our webpage and begin reading in the [archives](#). You will learn much of the history. You will also realize how far we’ve come and how much we still need to accomplish. There is no easy resource for the history of fisheries management, but our webpage is a great starting place.

There is also an article from 2002 talking about working with PIRG to protect NJ waterways. It was the only time that an NGO wrote us into the grant to help with a joint project. It would be nice if that happens again.

### **Fisheries Management is Not Working**

By Tom Fote, JCAA Newsletter  
*(reprinted from February 2002)*

In the 30 years I have been involved in fisheries management, I have never felt this disillusioned about the system. I have always promoted conservation because I felt it was the

responsible thing to do. I felt we could live with quotas and reductions if the long-term impact was positive. I have always felt that the parties who were most responsible for any problems should suffer the consequences of their actions by have the most stringent quotas. It is ludicrous to reward those who cause the problem. This was the JCAA philosophy and it had my complete support. In fact, this position has always had overwhelming support throughout the recreational community. As a representative of the JCAA position, I worked throughout the 80's and into the 90's to make us a productive part of the system. In the 90's I served in various positions as a member of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and felt being part of the system was the most positive approach we could take. Due to commercial overfishing of many species, we spent most of the 80's and 90's rebuilding stocks and as recreational anglers we did more than our fair share. We were not responsible for the overfishing but we were largely responsible for the conservation that resulted in rebuilding the stocks. The commercial and recreational industries all suffered a serious economic downturn during this rebuilding period.

That rebuilding period was successful for some species and we are at a point where we should be reaping the benefits that we are due. Instead, just the opposite is happening. I am thoroughly disenchanted with fisheries management as it exists today. The best word to describe the existing is chaos. We rebuild a stock and then penalize the recreational community for our success. The people who have enough money to file lawsuits have so intimidated the fisheries managers that a lawsuit is hardly necessary. You know the history of the commercial lawsuits and the environmental lawsuits. You know that we are the ones who are penalized every time they sue, or even threaten to sue. This is ridiculous. The fisheries managers are so handcuffed by the federal government that they are not allowed to manage. If you need an example of the hypocrisy of the system, you need only look at the management plans put in place by the National Marine Fisheries Service for summer flounder, scup and seabass. And if you need evidence of the ineptness at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission you need only look at the plan for tautog. Some days it's hard to tell who is the most out of touch with the needs of the recreational community. What disgusts me the most is the

management plans currently in place unfairly attack the poor and subsistence anglers who had no hand at all in collapsing any stock. Yet they are the most negatively impacted because of higher size limits, which effectively eliminate them from the fishery. This is not my resignation speech, it's my war chant. We really need to attack the system as it exists rather than continuing to fight on hopeless battle after another. It is time to insist that state governors join with the recreational community and sue the system to protect a vital part of every coastal state's economy. It is also time to hold our legislators at the state and federal level responsible. We must demand action and we must be unwavering in our unified approach to this problem. Perhaps it is time to resurrect my old refrain, "Fish don't vote but anglers do."

## **A New Direction in Fisheries Management: A Two-Year Review (February 1999)**

By Tom Fote, JCAA Newsletter

*(reprinted from March 2002)*

Here is an editorial I wrote for the JCAA Newspaper in February of 1999. I thought you might find what I said then very interesting reading after the article above. You should visit our web page and look in our archives for the December 1996 article "Time For a New Direction in Fisheries Management." I could also have reprinted my comments about swordfish that I made in 1988. They are still basically the same. Remember, that is when they were proposing to cut the entire east coast recreational catch of swordfish to 125 fish. I said that was ridiculous since we did not cause the problem and have almost no impact on the resource. Now they want to limit us to one swordfish per boat. Nothing changes for the better when it comes to fisheries management.

In the DECEMBER 1996 JCAA Newspaper, I wrote an article entitled "Time For a New Direction in Fisheries Management." This article is available at the JCAA website. The main idea of this article is that historically we were all subsistence or recreational fishermen. It is only in modern times, when some anglers could catch more than they would consume, that we began to have a commercial fishery. Yet recreational anglers and subsistence fishermen are often treated like the new guys in town, not the historical users. I suggested as a model for discussion the New Zealand Plan, a plan that puts recreational use first and then distributes any additional catch allowed

under a comprehensive fisheries management plan to the commercial side. A comprehensive management plan protects the resource, allows for a healthy and renewable stock and preserves the recreational and subsistence fishery.

Was anyone paying attention? After looking at the newest round of decisions on the management plans for highly migratory species, billfish, bluefish and summer flounder, I have to believe the answer is no. And if we were to give an award to the agency that pays the least attention to the needs of the recreational angler, the unanimous winner would be the National Marine Fisheries Service. They have systematically manipulated the quotas in favor of the commercial interests by selectively choosing the years from which they take their data. While they claim to be scientific, they are choosing the base years when the commercial interests have the highest landings and ignoring the historical nature of the recreational fishery. What this does is continue to reward commercial interests for overfishing a species to collapse. And who can blame them, NMFS is always there to bail them out by restricting the recreational catch. In case there are any undecided votes, let's look at their recent decisions. As Al Ristori points out in his article, NMFS took a recreational fishery (sharks), decided it was underutilized, and promoted a commercial fishery for fins. Once this fishery collapsed, due to the pressure of the commercial catch, NMFS "solved" the problem by placing the most restrictions on the recreational angler.

This is typical NMFS behavior. For example, under the new shark management proposal recreational anglers are eliminated from the harvest. We, of course, can catch and release while commercial interests are allowed to harvest and sell their catch. Additionally, NMFS for years threatened a restrictive bag limit on bluefish claiming overfishing by recreational anglers. Finally they have recognized that the bluefish stocks, while down, are not endangered. In fact, they have admitted that we have fished under quota for the last three years and should have a larger quota. When an increase in bag limit was requested by a recreational group, NMFS turned them down. They were able, however, to transfer the unused recreational quota to the commercial sector to maintain a higher commercial quota. Although the quota is on the books as an 80/20 split, in reality it is closer to a 50/50 harvest. As another example, when the

summer flounder fishery collapsed because of overharvesting by the commercial sector, they were rewarded with a 60/40 split. Historically, the quota should be 70/30 with the recreational anglers allowed the 70% catch.

Unless we get to work, we will enter the new millennium with NMFS firmly in charge and continuing to create havoc for recreational anglers. It doesn't take any genius to predict what will happen in the next five years if we don't get our act together. We will have only hook and release for sharks. We will have a 3 fish bag limit at 20 inches for summer flounder. We will still be fighting about whether we can take home a safe striped bass to eat. And we will be at a 2 yellowfin limit per boat and 2 dolphin per man. NMFS will have succeeded in cutting recreational participation by 50% and destroying the entire industry. If this seems far-fetched, just remember that in 1990 we had a 13 inch no bag limit on fluke, no bag limit on bluefish, four small bluefins per man, and no recreational limit on sharks.

Right now, you must get involved and support the organizations that represent your interests. You must let your elected representatives know that your vote is based on their actions to preserve recreational fishing and the resource. You must put pressure on state and federal agencies and insist that they listen to the recreational sector. Attend meetings when you can, respond to our requests for letters, emails and faxes, and support the existing organizations with your time and money. What is recreational fishing worth to you? Think of all the money you spend on tackle, boats, etc. Take the time to list every expense associated with recreational fishing. Then write a check for 2% of the total. Send that check to JCAA. We cannot represent you without an increase in our budget.

## **Missing: Big & Old Striped Bass**

By Tom Fote, JCAA Newsletter

*(reprinted from April 2002)*

It seems at every meeting and in some articles I hear the same complaint, "Where are the older striped bass?" We are now discussing more restrictions on striped bass because the perception is that there are few large striped bass available. Were there more 50 pound striped bass in the early 70's? Most of us would say yes. But I think we need to review what has happened in the past 30 years in striped bass

management to see why there are not a lot of bass over 20 years old now.

In the late 70's we recognized that the striped bass stocks were not as robust as in previous years and there was fear of a stock collapse. In 1982 we saw a healthy year class. In order to protect this class new regulations were implemented in 1984. These regulations were designed to protect the 1982-year class until it spawned at least once. Beginning in 1984 we raised the size limit routinely to protect those fish as they matured. All the striped bass harvested after 1984 were fish that had spawned before 1981. Remember, the young of the year index for years before 1981 were the ones that were very low. But because of management decisions those were the fish that we were harvesting. Some states put moratoriums in for a period of time while other states remained open. For example, Massachusetts sent about 100,000 pounds of striped bass to market each year until 1991 when the fishery was reopened. In 1989 we had a good young of the year index. That was the reason the fishery was opened in 1991. We allowed for the harvest of 18 inch fish in the bay and 28 inch fish along the coast. States with the largest amount of coastal harvest decided not to go to 28 inches and remained at the higher size limit thereby limiting the catch to older fish. This means that a majority of the coastal stocks harvested prior to 1995 were older fish. I estimate most of these fish were pre1981. Right now in Massachusetts the largest coastal commercial catch is still targeting older fish, 34 inch or larger.

Let's take a look at the years when we had good spawning in the Chesapeake Bay. The years in question are 1982, 1989 and 1993. The oldest fish from the good years in 2001 are currently 20 years old. The class of '89 is 12 years old and the class of '93 is 8 years old. The classes before 1981, which were small class years, have been fished heavily every year. That is why I am not surprised that we are finding few fish over 20 years old. Since we reopened the fishery in 1991, our main source of striped bass for consumption along the coast has been the 1982 class. It is no wonder we are not seeing a lot of fish from that class year anymore.

What further complicates the whole issue is what has happened in Virginia since 1997. At a recent ASMFC Striped Bass Board Meeting, we learned that Virginia was circumventing the process. Their quota is divided into two parts. The first, which is on pre-migratory fish, is part of the

Chesapeake Bay total quota. A model that is designed to show how many pre-migratory Virginia, Maryland and Potomac River can harvest in any given year determines this quota. It is based on the mortality of these fish in Chesapeake Bay. The other quota is for the ocean. This quota has been at 95,000 pounds. This quota is on migratory fish, older fish and bigger fish. Virginia changed their tagging system for reporting commercial fish and allowed for the transfer of these tags. They did not discriminate between coastal stocks and the Chesapeake Bay. This has resulted in a commercial catch that has greatly overfished their quota in the ocean. Instead of 95,000 pounds, they may have caught up to 890,000 pounds along the coast. This catch is primarily 20 - 30 pound fish that are wintering over and are mixed stocks. That is larger than any commercial catch in any other state along the coast. One of the Virginia representatives was amazed that we were upset over the catch of approximately 50,000 fish over 20 pounds and from mixed stocks. This affects the coastal stocks. It also allows for a larger quota for the Chesapeake Bay harvest since the switch to a larger coast catch has an impact on the mortality figures in the bay. We have always had concerns about the models for the Chesapeake Bay. Now we need to be concerned not only about the models but also about the integrity of the information the models are based on.

I cannot imagine how many large striped bass were killed in the spiny dog fishery. This fishery used the right size mesh and were located where the big bass were. If you are wondering what has happened to the big fish, these are some of the reasons. It is not surprising that we find fewer big fish. Given these circumstances, it is surprising there are any big fish at all left from before 1981.

***We will not see any 25-year old from the 1982-year class until 2007. We will not see any 25-year old fish from the 1989-year class until 2014. And I am really looking forward to catching and releasing those 25-year old fish from the 1993 class year in 2018. God willing!***

Management decisions can help produce larger, older year classes. But that takes time. When you are looking at the decisions we need to make, please consider all of this information. Rhetoric and emotion are not always productive when these kinds of decisions need to be made.

## From 2002 JCAA Newspaper:

### America the Beautiful From Sea to Shining Sea



### The Defend New Jersey's Waterways Campaign

By Tom Fote, JCAA Newsletter  
*(reprinted from March 2002)*

Coming soon is an offer that no club should refuse. What do fish and the people of New Jersey have in common?

They both need good clean water. The fish need clean water to live and the people need it to drink. New Jersey's waterways are too polluted. New Jersey's watersheds are the most unhealthy and most threatened watersheds in the nation. The JCAA has combined with New Jersey PIRG on a campaign to improve the water quality in the state.

What can your club do about it? Learning about how serious the water pollution problem is in New Jersey is the first step. Learning where the sources of water pollution are coming from is key to understanding the topic. Consider that the people of New Jersey generate 1.1 billion gallons of treated sewage each day. Then consider the amount of run-off from rain (when we have it) which goes into our waterways. The amount of pollutants is tremendous and it comes from many sources. Learn what you as an individual can do and what your club can do by getting involved in something as simple as writing a club letter.

A short 20 – 30 minute presentation on the issue and what your club can do about it has been prepared. Frank Richetti, Phil Celmer and Tom Siciliano have volunteered to travel around the state to give this presentation to your club. Just call or

email the JCAA office if your club is interested and let us know what date you would like one of the volunteers to be there.

The ultimate goals are to clean up the state's most polluted waterways and ensure healthy water levels and an adequate water supply. Sign up now!

## JCAA 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament

*By Paul Turi, Office Manager*

The JCAA 24th Annual Fluke Tournament will take place on **Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>** and the Awards Presentations will take place on **Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup>** at the Clarion Hotel on Rt. 37 east in Toms River, NJ.

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 it to our office.

Our Eventbrite online registration is now on our website. I would strongly recommend using the Eventbrite site to sign up for the tournament. You will automatically receive a confirmation email and you will have a paid receipt for your records. Soon registrants will be able to download and print their own affidavit/weigh-in slip. Our IT person is now in the process of making that happen. Once it is operational, a registrant will receive a confirming email with a link to a site to download the affidavit/weigh-in slip. If you sign up by mailing in a registration form, an affidavit/weigh-in slip will either be mailed to you or you will receive an email with a link to download and print it. Again, it is highly recommended that registrants sign up using our Eventbrite online registration method. This not only serves as a receipt, but it saves JCAA manpower in having to manually enter everything into our computer system, print & mail an affidavit/weigh-in slip.

You will also notice on our application form this year instead of having 9 ports we are having 7 regions with 11 weigh stations. This year we have combined the ports Great Bay, Ocean City, Atlantic City, Cape May and Fortescue into the southern region. Each region will have 10 prizes. There will be a \$1200 1<sup>st</sup> place prize for each region and 9 2<sup>nd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> place merchandise prizes for each region. Therefore, for the southern region there will be one set of prizes for those five combined ports within that southern region.



There will be a \$50 & \$100 calcutta for each region and a \$50 & \$100 calcutta for the overall tournament. We will continue the calcuttas for this year as they have been very popular with a lot of interest and participation.

There will again be a \$50,000 cash prize for the largest fish weighed in over 12lbs by 1/100 of a pound.

Last year in total we paid out over \$60,000 in cash and prizes!!! The overall tournament winner, 10-year-old Dylan Cole, won \$12,881!

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

The boat is again being donated to JCAA by **Starcraft Boats** and **Yamaha** again is donating the engine.

Again, we will be having **FREE** food and drink at the Awards Presentations on August 9<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!

## **HRFA Nominates Arnie Ulrich for the JCAA Sportsman of the Year Award**

There is no other more deserving person than Arnie Ulrich for the JCAA Sportsman of the year award. This HRFA member has been a super-active participant from the year he joined in 1979! Arnie has held every office except treasurer including the maximum three years as our leader and president. Probably most importantly, he has served as our membership secretary for many years and has literally enrolled thousands of members over the years not to mention keeping accurate tabs on those late with dues and getting timely renewal notices out every year.

Arnie also is a major organizer of fishing trips for both association members and their friends. He is responsible for annual trips to fish for cod, pollack, and haddock in Maine and has yearly local trips usually run out of Belmar for fluke, blackfish and flounder in their appropriate seasons. The man is an expert angler for all of these species with stripers

and bluefish also in his bag of tricks. Arnie has frequently been a guest speaker for our group and others where he gives great advice to new anglers seeking to up their scores. His selfless and generous donation of time to the HRFA and NJ fishing in general probably exceeds any other person qualified for this superb honor.

Arnie Ulrich has represented the HRFA at the regular and special meetings of the JCAA. He has attended countless meetings all over the state that are in the best interests of salt water anglers from both New York and New Jersey. His love for the Hudson River is doubtless as sincere as his commitment to the HRFA and all the other fishing groups he supports. He has received HOFNOD training and is always helping kids such as our Hooked on the Hudson spring function where he cuts bait and helps the kids rig up.

Arnie is the most likeable man in the HRFA. He always has a smile and easy-going attitude that makes him a go-to guy whenever a project or campaign needs leadership. He has been in charge of our awards dinners on many occasions and also has been a key computer expert for our annual December HRFA auction. He's served on nominating committees, bylaws committees, and many groups and functions.

If there is a contest or function run by the club or JCAA, you can count on Arnie to participate. He just served as the Jersey City port weigh master for the 2017 fluke tournament where one of our members caught the biggest fluke of all. If his help or participation was needed for our Hudson River Stripper/bluefish derby, Lake Ontario catfish chaos contest, or ASAC tournaments, Arnie will be involved every time!

His value to the club has always been recognized as proven by our most cherished internal award, the Pete Barrett plaque, which was earned soon after the award originated. If the HRFA had a Hall of Fame like pro baseball, Arnie would be one of the original six inducted for at least six admirable traits that make him so deserving; loyalty, dedication, angling skills, longevity, organization, and pure hard work.

Arnie serves as NJOA membership secretary. The result is a more efficient system, current membership listings, timely renewal notices, timely responses to new members. (Same as he has done for the HRFA)

Arnie has consistently volunteered at NJOA events such as the Wild-game dinner and sportsman's shows.

He has and continues to work in the background providing the support needed to successfully complete projects such as "Pots off the Reefs," HODNOD and the Sparta Mountain issue.

Regarding the JCAA Fluke Tournament in Jersey City, Arnie volunteers, however, he is also the driver that makes it happen. Again he is working in the background.

With respect to being the JCAA rep. for the HRFA; few people appreciate the effort involved. For the JCAA, Arnie drives 2 to 3 hours for a 90 minute meeting.

Meeting attendance is important. Not only does it keep the HRFA involved in current issues, it also supports the JCAA so that it can continue to fight for NJ Anglers. Recently, Arnie volunteered to be the HRFA representative to the NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. HRFA is one of the original contributors to HOH (Hooked on the Hudson) and still involved.

The HRFA proudly nominates Arnie Ulrich for this prestigious award.

## Florida May Soon be Known as the Salmon State

*By John Toth*

Most of us know about the harmful effects of aquaculture of farm-raised fish in pens off coastal waters. However, there is a new aquaculture for salmon that is **land-based!** I read an article about it in the Asbury Park Press (April 13, 2018) that I would like to share with you. This is not some theoretical idea of land-based aquaculture, but one that is already in operation in Denmark and will be operating in the near future in Florida. It is a new way of farming fish and may change Florida's title of Sunshine State to the Salmon State!

Farm-raised salmon is a big business and it provides our country with a valuable food source. However, there are drawbacks to farm-raised salmon contained in pens in ocean waters and they include: sea lice, parasites and bacteria due to fish crowding, and harmful chemicals added to the water to kill these parasites. Disease outbreaks in salmon farms in

Chile, China and Canada have wreaked havoc on this fishery. Also, fish escape from these pens and interbreed with stripers in the wild that result in negative changes to their genetic makeup.

There is a new form of aquaculture that raises fish **ON LAND** and not in pens in the ocean. Consequently, the problem with farm-raised salmon escaping from their pens into the ocean is eliminated. Also, salmon raised on land are not exposed to parasites/bacteria naturally found in ocean waters. This new technology is revolutionary and the people behind it are very serious in seeing it being developed in Florida and producing a large amount of salmon for America's market.

Atlantic Sapphire, a Norwegian company that pioneered technology to **farm salmon entirely on land**, is building a salmon farm about an hour's drive from Miami. CEO Johan Andreassen scouted 13 states for 2 ½ years before he spotted a YouTube video outlining Florida's underground water system. The naturally occurring water system features the separate layers of fresh and salt water needed to raise salmon.

Atlantic Sapphire's new technology represents the latest step toward farm-raised fish, a practice mired in controversy but growing worldwide. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, fish farming, known as "aquaculture," has grown so rapidly that it now **provides half the fish consumed by humans each year!**

What makes Atlantic Sapphire's technique unique is that the salmon go through their entire life cycle from egg to ready-to-eat adult in a contained **above-ground water system**. This is because South Florida has a unique geology that enables large scale salmon production on land. Underground, it has a layer of fresh water and another layer of salt water that is separated by a layer of soil. At the bottom of this is a Boulder zone, a porous cavernous region where municipalities pump their wastewater. Both freshwater and saltwater are pumped into tanks that are utilized for salmon production, and the treated wastewater is disposed into the Boulder zone region.

Atlantic Sapphire's farm will stand on a 20-acre site. This company is building a series of water tanks connected by **67 miles of pipes**, starting with smaller tanks for salmon eggs and increasing in size to 36 tanks that will hold **450,000 gallons** of water each. The water will be cooled to 59 degrees and slowly transition from freshwater to saltwater to mimic the salmon's life cycle. The entire site will be covered by

a 400,000 square foot of roof designed to keep out the sun and withstand hurricane winds.

If all goes to plan, Atlantic Sapphire will crank out 10,000 metric tons of salmon by 2020. It has purchased 20 neighboring acres to expand further and has an option to buy 40 more acres. That would allow the company to produce 90,000 metric tons of salmon a year, about **10% of the U.S. market.**

The company is already producing salmon on its first land-based farm in Denmark.

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### HOFNOD TEAM LEADER TRAINING

On July 28-29, 2018, the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife will host a 2-day Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs (HOFNOD) training for adult staff and volunteers of youth-centered community and/or faith-based organizations looking to offer an ongoing or year-round youth fishing, conservation, and aquatic education program. The training location is at Pequest Trout Hatchery & Natural Resource Education Center 605 Pequest Rd. Oxford, NJ.

HOFNOD is a great way to introduce youth to fishing, learning about their local waters and other natural resources while supporting positive outdoor recreation activities and life skills. The program is flexible enough to be tailored to fit most organizations.

Participants in the training will be responsible for delivering the program to youth from beginning to end over the course of 22 or more sessions. Organizations that participate in the program are eligible to receive additional professional development in conservation education and angling skills and in-kind support for program materials and supplies including subsidized educational field trips. Supplemental training can be requested for content like fly tying and kayaking.

For more information about the training, contact Liz Jackson for details. 908-637-4125 x122 or visit the [NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife web page](#).

### 2018 HRFA CATFISH CHAOS DERBY

The Hudson River Fishermen's Association is sponsoring this fun catfish event for youngsters and adults. Only catfish caught in the Hudson River will qualify for a prize. Catfish Chaos Derby to be held on August 18, 2018 from 12:01am until 3:00pm. The weigh stations listed on the registration page are where fish will be checked in according to length. There will be prizes awarded at each weigh station for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for adult and youth division. Overall tournament winners for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for adult and youth division. You can fish from a boat, pier and shore. The event is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> and you can register online at [this link](#).

### TOMS RIVER SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL FISHING INDIANS

Everyone had a great time at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and there was plenty of action on the beach for the Toms River South High School Fishing Indians that took first place for the high school division. The school team was sponsored by NJBBA. Paul Harris and other NJBBA members along with their teachers taught students about fishing and conservation over the course of the school year. The winning fish was 35 1/2 inch Bluefish caught by Dan Damato. Dan also caught 2 other keepers. Eli Mc Ewan put a 20 1/4" blue on the books. A short bass was also caught by Mason Augustino. The Governor's Surf Fishing tournament is a fun family and it keeps getting better every year.

Visit the [NJBBA website](#) to see more photos of students fishing at the tournament.



2018 Governor's Cup winners of the high school team competition  
Toms River South High, sponsored by NJBBA

*Photo by Maureen Bailey*

## **FAMILY FUN DAY AND FISHING TOURNAMENT**

The Sunshine Foundation will hold its Fluke and Bluefish Family Fun Day and Fishing Tournament on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at American Legion Post 493 from 3pm to 7pm. Captain's Meeting is July 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. American Legion Post 493 is located at 420 Radio Road, Little Egg Harbor, NJ. For more information call Tom at 732-267-6451 email: [toms6363@comcast.net](mailto:toms6363@comcast.net).

## **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

Summer programs for adults and children at Sedge Island are offered by the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, and a partner with the NJ DEP in many management, research and educational programs. Programs range from fishing to kayaking to professional development workshops for teachers.

To learn more, visit the CWF's [Sedge Island page](#).

## **IGFA STUDENT FISHING CLINIC**

Gene Nigro is the International Game Fish Association, State Representatives for New Jersey and promotes youth fishing and education clinics. The clinics were started to encourage kids to fish and keep our sport alive for the future. It's more than just fishing.

This year, Gene is working with Jeff Johnson, Keansburg schools and Father Time organizer. The education clinic is run over two (2) days in August. Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> - a classroom based Fishing Clinic hosted by local environmentalists and charter captains. The clinic will focus on Marine Science topics such as tag and release, ethical angling; estuaries, keeping the ocean clean, and advanced fishing skills. The presenters are all local environmental and angling experts. The program is limited to 25 students fifth through grade twelve.

Wednesday, August 8th those students who completed the clinic on August 4th are invited to go on a free Charter boat trip aboard the Bingo out of Atlantic Highlands and use skills and knowledge acquired at the clinic. The trip will be supervised by the crew of the Bingo, IGFA volunteers, and Father Time members. All associated costs are picked up by the IGFA as well as sponsors such as Dicks Sporting Goods and Ande Line.

## **FREE CRABBING CONTEST**

The Bunker Challenge Crabbing Contest is scheduled for Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. Bunker bait ONLY. (*No Chicken*) Bunker will be provided courtesy of Jenkinson's Aquarium.

There are two categories children 12 years old and under and 13 up to adult. No entry fee. The contest will be held at the Mantoloking Bridge County Park in Brick, New Jersey. For more information call 732-506-5122.

## **VETERAN AND FAMILY FISHING PROGRAMS**

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Jersey Shore Chapter offers all Veterans with disabilities an opportunity to participate in and learn all facets of fly fishing. On Sunday, July 1, 2018 10:00 am until noon program leaders will meet at Turkey Swamp Park, Freehold Township, NJ. They will teach fly casting methods to catch Largemouth Bass, Panfish, and Crappie.

For information about the Jersey Shore Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing contact: Raoul Cordeaux at [jerseyshorephwff@gmail.com](mailto:jerseyshorephwff@gmail.com).

If you would like to donate your time the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association will assist veterans fishing on July 14<sup>th</sup> at a pier located at 81st Street (bay side), Stone Harbor, NJ. Veterans attending will travel from the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home. NJBBA provides all the food and goodies for the veterans.

Throughout the summer free fishing programs are offered to our veterans and their families. To learn more about Play HOOK-e Take a Veteran Fishing, we started something new called MailChimp. MailChimp is an automation email platform to manage our Play HOOK-e Take a Veteran Fishing Program. It allows us to provide a bi-monthly email newsletter that lets us alert veterans about FREE programs they can read about and register to attend. We also list programs from other veteran organizations that can help veterans and their families get outside and enjoy the outdoors by utilizing Eco-therapy and other activities to limit PTSD symptoms.

If you would like to subscribe to the Play HOOK-e Newsletter, please click on [this link](#) to register. You can unsubscribe anytime or update your information.

## 2018 KIDS WISH'N TO GO FISH'N

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Kids Wish’n to go Fish’n” For Special Needs Children will be held at Ponderosa Estates Farms Lake Julianna, Millstone Township, NJ. We already have our “Play HOOK-e” veterans and member clubs of JCAA registered to come out again and help the special needs youngster’s fish.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 29, 2018 from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm special needs children ages 6 to 16 years old are invited to catch and release fish at Lake Julianna. Mr. Cardinale is providing plenty of fun surprises for all special needs children and the event will include a hot dog and hamburger barbeque lunch for children and their guests, complements of Cardinale Enterprises, LLC.

Local merchants and contributors are providing prizes, goodie bags and tee shirts for girls and boys fishing Lake Julianna’s “Kids Wish’n to go Fish’n.” All children go home winners and the fish win too. If you would like to volunteer at this worthwhile event for special needs children, please contact Don Marantz, JCAA Youth Education Committee at 908-347-1434.

## High Roller Raffle Winners

*By Paul Turi, Office Manager*

At our May General Membership Meeting on May 29<sup>th</sup>, the following winning tickets for our 2018 High Roller Raffle were drawn:

**1<sup>st</sup>** – Jessie James 6-Man Striped Bass Charter – Kristen Breeze from Manville, NJ.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – 6’ Star handcrafted rod and a Canyon Conventional reel – Louis Salvagno from Mt. Kisco, NY

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – \$500 Gift Certificate from Fisherman’s Headquarters in Ship Bottom, NJ – Joe Bonicky.

**4<sup>th</sup>** – 7’ Shimano Teramar Rod and a Tortium Conventional reel – Rich Lechner.

**5<sup>th</sup>** – Tony Maja Wire Line rod & Penn reel – James Price from Sewell, NJ.

**6<sup>th</sup>** – 12’ Tica surf rod & Tica Taurus spinning reel – Herman Schuch, Paulsboro, NJ.

**7<sup>th</sup>** – 7’ Tica spinning rod & Caiman GT2 reel – Dan Britton, Forked River, NJ.

Congratulations to all our winners!

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## Save the Date

# JCAA 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament

## Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup> 2018

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