

JCAA NEWSPAPER NOVEMBER 2018

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on October 25th, 2018)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, October 30th, 2018

Starting at 7:30 PM

385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, November 8th, 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.**

## **2018 OFFICERS**

|                            |              |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>           | Mark Taylor  | 732-245-9445 |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b> | John Toth    | 732-656-0139 |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b> | Bill Browne  | 732-929-9112 |
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| <b>Rec. Sec.</b>           |              |              |
| <b>Cors. Sec.</b>          | Paul Turi    | 609-660-2126 |
| <b>Mem. Sec.</b>           | Kyren Dooley | 609-713-7712 |
| <b>Tournament Dir.</b>     |              |              |

**Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**October 30<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

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

**November 11<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Dinner

**November 27<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**February 9<sup>th</sup>** Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series NJ

**February 27<sup>th</sup>-March 3<sup>rd</sup>** Atlantic City Boat Show

**March 15<sup>th</sup>-March 17<sup>th</sup>** Saltwater Expo

## **Sportsperson of the Year Dinner November 11th**

*By Paul Turi, Co-Chairman*

On **Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**, 2018 we will be having our Sportsperson of the Year Dinner. Again, the dinner will be held at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant from 4:00-8:00PM. Tickets this year are \$80.00 per person and \$650 for a table of 10. There will be a cocktail hour with a cash bar and a full course meal. To reserve your tickets, call Dan Miller at (609) 641-7821 or email Dan at [blueangray@comcast.net](mailto:blueangray@comcast.net).

This year's sportsperson-of-the-year is Arnie Ulrich, a member of the Hudson River Fisherman's Association.

Here is Arnie Ulrich's bio as presented to the JCAA membership and nominated by the HFRA:

"There is no other more deserving person than Arnie Ulrich for the JCAA Sportsperson-of-the-year award. This HFRA 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 which 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 Striper/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 also serves as NJOA membership secretary. The result is a more efficient system, current membership listings, timely renewal notices, and 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 always 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 1-1 1/2 hour 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. He is one of the original contributors to HOH and is still involved."

On a personal note, as Fluke Tournament Director for JCAA for the last five years, whenever I asked Arnie to be a weighmaster for Jersey City, he never wavered. This year he called me the night before the tournament to tell me he injured his back and could not be the weighmaster. He assured me not to worry, he would get someone to fill in. While on his back lying on the floor in pain he made phone calls to make sure the port was covered for our tournament.

And, as always, I am in need of door prizes and Chinese Auction and Silent Auction prizes. If you have something to donate, please contact me at (609) 709-9215 or email me at [pturi72@gmail.com](mailto:pturi72@gmail.com). It would help if each of our member clubs donated a prize or solicited bait and tackle shops that its members support. As it looks right now we are going to have to purchase a lot of prizes for the dinner.

**Remember, bring your significant other. I always have prizes for the ladies too!**

## President's Report

By Mark Taylor

In a recent newsletter I put out there that we as a community must get more involved to have a voice for something we all love doing. There are constant attacks on the recreational fishing community. You as a recreational user must stay alert and not rely on someone else doing all the work. The larger the numbers of people that are united on an issue and get involved with the issues, the more that policymakers will hear us.

JCAA has been trying to build an email alert system for things like this. If you want to get the most current issue alerts, send me your email address to [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com) and state that you would like to be added to the Alert System. Your email will be used only for this system and nothing else. We also have been putting things up on our Facebook page. If you didn't know about it, check it out and follow it.

As I mentioned in a past newsletter, there is a topic about Wind Mill Farms showing up off of our coast. Right now the only wind mill pilot project is off the eastern coast by Block Island. There are others that are being looked at every day. In order to try to protect prime and historic fishing grounds, we need to stay aware of the movement of these projects. I attended a very informative meeting on October 18th, which was put together by Anglers for Offshore Wind. The two speakers were Capt. Dave Monti, who is a Rhode Island charter captain, who fishes the Block Island Wind Mill Farm and Zach Cochrum, who is an avid angler and Director of Conservation Partnerships for the National Wildlife Federation. We will talk about this at our next JCAA Meeting on October 30th at 8:00pm, so send your club representative.

The open NJ Marine Fisheries Council position is important and was talked about at the JCAA September 25th meeting. As per the discussion of the clubs at that meeting, a letter was put together for a candidate and a copy will be handed out to club reps that attend, so make sure your representative shows up to bring the current information back to your club.

Remember, JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner is coming up fast. Talk to your club about getting a table at this great event which will be held

on November 11th at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. If the club purchases a table for 10 it is only \$650 which is a savings for the clubs who get a table. The individual ticket price is \$80 this year. Please contact Co-Chairman Dan Miller for your tickets at 609-641-7821 or [blueangray@comcast.net](mailto:blueangray@comcast.net). You need to contact him because time is running out to get a seat at this fabulous event honoring this year's award winners.

We also have our annual 50/50 Raffle starting. Chairman Don Marantz will be handling the tickets this year so come to the next meeting on October 30th and pick them up. You can also contact him at 908-347-1434 or the JCAA Office 732-506-6565 and leave a message.

It is not too early to think about helping JCAA at the upcoming shows. We will have a booth at upcoming shows and we will be looking for volunteers, so please contact me at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com) and in the subject area put "Show Volunteer." Our presence at the shows is important to inform the general public that is part of the recreational community that has no idea what is going on.

If you would like me 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."

Next JCAA General Meeting is October 30th at 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick NJ, 08724. Remember, JCAA is always here for you, but we need more people to get involved.

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*Below is a letter I sent to the Office of Sustainable Fisheries concerning proposed changes to the EEZ:*

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Division Chief Kelly Denit  
Office of Sustainable Fisheries  
1315 East-West Highway  
SSMC3  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Subject: "NOAA-NMFS-2018-0106"

Dear Chief Denit,

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the proposed rule that would open a portion of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), more specifically the Block Island Transit Zone (BITZ), to striped bass fishing. The JCAA represents approximately 75

fishing clubs throughout our state. Many of our clubs' individual members enjoy fishing for stripers. This includes all types of striper fishermen, ranging from those who like to keep all the fish they can legally take for consumption to those who prefer to release every striped bass they catch. Many of these anglers are very passionate about their sport. When it comes to regulations pertaining to striped bass, if you put ten striper fishermen in a room you might have ten different opinions as to how they should be managed. However, one thing they all agree on is that they want a healthy striped bass fishery with good representation from various year classes.

The JCAA has always fought hard to protect the stocks of striped bass, especially when the stocks of this fishery were decimated during the 1970's and early 1980's. Back then, we were the driving force that pushed through legislation that prohibited striped bass from being commercially caught or sold in our state. This designation helped the coastal stocks of striped bass to recover significantly. We realized back then as we do now that having a viable recreational striped bass fishery is of extreme economic value to our state. In recent years, the spawning stock biomass (SSB) of striped bass has been declining. The quality of striped bass fishing along our coast, particularly for those fishing from shore, has declined significantly. Since many of the stripers that are caught in states to our north are the same ones that migrate through New Jersey, we certainly don't want to see regulations that would allow stripers to be harvested in any portion of the EEZ. In 2015, both commercial and recreational anglers were forced by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) to reduce their harvest by 25%. Therefore, it does not make sense that while the ASMFC is trying to keep the stocks of striped bass healthy, a portion of the EEZ would be opened to allow more striped bass to be harvested.

We fear that opening a portion of the EEZ to striper fishing could be the equivalent of opening Pandora's box. We understand that the current proposed rule would open the BITZ only to recreational fishermen. However, if that were to happen the next proposal might be to open it to commercial fishing as well. Further, we understand that this proposal is being considered because it is in a "unique area." Well, there are other "unique areas" along the east coast as well. We fear that other states might request "unique areas" near them be opened too. The next thing you know, there might be a

proposal to open the EEZ in its entirety to striped bass fishing. **We are adamantly opposed to that!**

Stripers often winter over and are concentrated in the EEZ particularly off the coast of North Carolina and Virginia. They are very vulnerable at that time and would be decimated if the fishing there was reopened. The EEZ is a sanctuary for striped bass to help ensure that the stocks attain and remain at healthy levels. Further, the BITZ already allows for the transportation of stripers through the EEZ. We are not enthralled with that rule either as we understand that this has led to quite a few poachers fishing in that area. We find it appalling to hear that one of the arguments for opening this area is that *people are fishing for stripers there anyway*. We would like to see more enforcement in the area if this is the case.

**Therefore, in conclusion, we strongly urge NOAA to nip this potential problem in the bud by denying any request to open any portion of the EEZ to fishing for striped bass!**

Sincerely,  
Mark Taylor, President  
Jersey Coast Anglers Association

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*Below is a letter I sent to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council concerning summer flounder commercial issues:*

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Chris Moore Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council  
800 North State Street  
Dover, DE 19901

Dear Dr. Moore:

On Monday, September 24 2018, several members of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) attended the public hearing in Toms River, NJ, on the Summer Flounder Commercial Issues Amendment prepared by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC or Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC or Commission). As per the instructions in the summary document provided the Council, we would like to submit these brief comments:

1. We completely support the position expressed by most of the commercial fisherman in attendance (as expressed by an informal show of hands) that

there be no changes made to the summer flounder commercial allocations as presented in the summary document i.e. we support that the Council and Commission maintain the status quo. We see no justification for introducing additional financial and economic hardships to the commercial fisherman of Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey in order to benefit the commercial fisheries of New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

2. We were surprised and confused by the inclusion New Jersey in the “Southern” block of states along with Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland and Delaware. Regardless of where the current center of mass of the summer flounder biomass currently sits, from the perspective of the commercial fishery, the community economics, and the history of the overall summer flounder fishery, this makes no sense at all. We request that the Council and Commission apply some common sense and reevaluate your model and put NJ in the northern region where it belongs.

Sincerely  
Mark Taylor  
President of JCAA

## Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

*By Tom Fote*

Again, there is talk about opening the EEZ for Striped bass fishing and JCAA has not changed its position in 28 years. **Keep It Closed!** I have a video of a press conference in 1990 with Congressman Jim Saxton, Jay Mann, Al McReynolds (striped bass world record holder 1982-2011) and myself on Long Beach Island explaining why the EEZ should remained closed. This prompted me to go back to look at the December 1995 JCAA newspaper. It made me realize JCAA had covered the reasons for not opening the EEZ back then, so I decided to run those articles from the 1995 newspaper. Below is an article from 1995 by Gary Caputi discussing the EEZ. There is also an article by me and my Congressional Testimony on this

issue in 1995. There is an article by George R. Scocca from 1995 explaining the new Alliance between ASA and NMMA. The newest letter from JCAA to the NMFS is in the President’s report.

Please read the fish advisory article also. As I am writing this I am preparing to go to the ASMFC Annual meeting in NYC to deal with the many issues. If you did not go on the webinar to listen to the meetings, you can go on line at the ASMFC and pull up the information given out in the meetings. I will be filling you in on what happens in the next JCAA Newspaper.

### ASMFC Recommends EEZ Closure Stay in Effect

By Gary Caputi

*(reprinted from December 1995)*

At the recent meeting of the Striped Bass Board in Braintree, Massachusetts, the effects of months of intense effort by the recreational fishing community bore fruit. The Board voted unanimously to reverse its original recommendation to the National Marine Fisheries Service to reopen the EEZ to the harvest of striped bass. Just three months ago, if we were asked to place odds on this happening, it would have been considered a “hundred-to-one-shot” at best. Even early reports from this meeting indicated mixed feelings about the reversal and several prominent state directors indicated they would not vote to change their recommendation to NMFS.

Alliance To Save Fisheries lead the battle and was joined in the effort by the JCAA, the American Sportfishing Association, the many chapters of the Coastal Conservation Association, the New York Sportfishing Association, the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association and a host of non-aliened fishing clubs and individuals. A public outcry was heard that, at times, became almost deafening. NMFS public hearings on the proposed rule to reopen the EEZ were attended by large numbers of recreational fishermen, the largest numbers to be seen at any fisheries hearings in decades! In New Jersey, the numbers that attended the three public hearings were staggering, easily over 2,000 people in total. While commercial fishermen were in attendance, their presence was overshadowed by the throngs of recreational fishermen who saw through the smoke to realize that there was nothing to be gained by this

move and far too much to be lost. They wanted fisheries managers to understand just how important the further recovery of the striped bass was to them and their desire to see this species protected from the ravages of commercial over harvest in the future.

Early reports back from the ASMFC meeting seemed to indicate strong support for maintaining the Board's original recommendation to reopen, but efforts to bring some sanity to the process by a small group of commissioners changed the minds of the remaining few holdouts. The vastness of the outcry to maintain the moratorium in the EEZ by recreational fishermen and the recreational fishing industry played a large role in their decisions. The final vote, to almost everyone's amazement, was unanimous. ASMFC has now recommended to NMFS, the continued closure in the EEZ until the Striped Bass Recovery Plan reaches F-max indicating that the fishery is fully restored and fishing at the maximum allowable harvest level will be permitted. This will occur no sooner than 1997, if the stocks continue to show strong recovery. There is great doubt about the advisability of ever going to Fmax, but we now have more time to ascertain the impact of the present increases in harvest quotas and to take action concerning future management decisions.

This remarkable cooperative effort should be a beacon to everyone that came together to accomplish this task without worrying about who would take credit. The goal was the important thing and this should serve as a model for future efforts by the recreational fishing community and industry to gain fair and equitable representation in the fisheries management process and to restore fisheries and protect our public resources. If we can work together on all issues like we have on striped bass in recent months, the coalition of recreational groups and the creation of The Alliance To Save Fisheries can, conceivably turn the tide of poorly developed management plans and unfair allocation schemes in other fisheries. We are capable of having a strong influence on their outcome to the overall betterment of the fisheries in the long-run.

### **ASA/JCAA Host 2-Day Planning Session in Seaside Heights**

The next step in continuing and strengthening this coalition took place when the American Sportfishing Association and the JCAA hosted a remarkable two day meeting in Seaside Heights,

New Jersey on December 1 and 2. It brought together representatives from recreational fishing advocacy groups from Maine to North Carolina to exchange information and plan strategy. The meeting covered the operation of the ASMFC and how their management process works on the first day with a presentation by ASMFC staffers, John Fields and Richard Christenson.

The second day, the group held a planning session to establish some policy objectives for the future management of striped bass and bluefish. ASA's vice president, Mike Nussman, acted as moderator and his staff, including Andy Loftus, helped bring the industry perspective and support to the meeting. A short presentation was also heard from Dick Weber, Chairman of the national Alliance to Save Fisheries, about the continued development process that this new organization is going through. Things are, most definitely, on track.

Congressman James Saxton of New Jersey, the chairman of the House Fisheries Subcommittee addressed the group to discuss a bill he has submitted on our behalf, HR 2566, which addresses our concerns about the striped bass resource, its continued protection and the unwarranted reopening of the EEZ without any management plan or consideration for the legal and inter jurisdictional problems it can cause. The meeting was also attended by Jeanne Fox, the regional administrator for Region II of the Environmental Protection Agency to discuss Barnegat Bay's recent addition to the National Estuary Program.

The meeting was particularly productive and brought together many groups that, in the past, have not seen eye-to-eye. Most worked together in a spirit of cooperation because, in this reporter's mind, they have finally come to realize that our marine fisheries are in such a dramatic state of decline that they can no longer allow differences to keep them apart. We are at such a critical juncture that the entire recreational fishing community has to stand united or there might not be much to fish for in the very near future. Rest assured that commercial fishing forces are massing for an all-out assault on the fisheries management process, the political process and to mount legal challenges in an effort to continue to weaken any fisheries management plan or law that would conserve and protect any fishery they want for themselves, and that is just about all of them. They will fight to usurp as large a portion of the allowable harvest for each and every fishery and the recreational fishing community and the billion dollar industry it feeds can be damned.

They have taken a stance that is undeniable and feel recreational fishing groups are simply trying to put them out of business. They own the sea and its inhabitants, and the public can take a flying leap as far as they are concerned.

Bravo to everyone who attended this meeting to work with a renewed spirit of cooperation. Please accept our sincere wishes that this is only the beginning.

## **JCAA Testimony Before the Congressional Subcommittee on Resources**

By Thomas Fote, Legislative Chairman  
*(reprinted from December 1995)*

While attending the congressional hearings on HR 2655, with other members of the recreational and commercial fishing establishments, I was not surprised to hear a spokesman testifying on behalf of commercial fishermen of New Jersey request a 500 lb. per trip bycatch allowance of striped bass in EEZ waters. They assured the committee that this would only be a bycatch taken incidentally while fishing for other species. I believe we've heard that somewhere, before. Let's look at the history on the subject of bycatch allowances.

In 1939, when New Jersey passed its first law prohibiting the direct netting of striped bass in state waters, they left in a provision that allowed for a bycatch of striped bass in other legal fisheries. This provision was totally unenforceable and left the door open for a directed fishery. The most flagrant abuses took place in 1950 and 1951, when an unusually large body of striped bass wintered over in the Toms River in Ocean County. These fish became the target for gillnetters who brought their gear from the Hudson River under the guise of targeting shad and river herring in the Toms River, a river known to no significant run of either species. In those two years, tractor trailer loads of striped bass were shipped from the river to market, destroying this river fishery for more than 10 years. I asked one of the commercial fishermen who was heavily involved in the Toms River fishery several years after he retired, "How many shad and herring did you catch during those years?" He replied with a laugh, "Tom, I tried like hell, but in two years I didn't catch one shad or herring, but I caught a hell-of-a lot of bass!" He

made a hell of a lot of money circumventing the intent of the law because of the bycatch provision that was written into it to accommodate commercial fishermen.

This act so angered fishermen in this state that in 1952, they rallied to force the legislature to enact a law that prohibited any bycatch of striped bass to be retained and sold. Some of the activist fishermen who participated in the drive to enact this law are around today. Gentlemen like Joe Platoni, Bill Feinberg and Henry Schaefer, who have made it a point to remind us all that when there is a loophole in a fisheries law, and a bycatch provision is the biggest loophole of them all, there are plenty of people ready to take advantage of it at the expense of the resource for personal profit. I don't believe there should be loopholes on the commercial or recreational side of regulations and I support the law that prohibits recreational fishermen from retaining a bass if it is bleeding and injured. If you let anglers retain gut-hooked fish, there are people who will be sure that every fish they catch is gut-hooked and bleeding.

If we lived in a perfect world and everybody abided by the rules and regulations, we could probably write more lenient laws that would prevent any fish from being wasted. Many of us feel that for the small number of fish killed as bycatch in this fishery, we are saving a far greater number that would fall prey to commercial harvest if a bycatch provision were part of the law. It is simply too tempting for a commercial fishermen who has just worked the Mudhole for a catch of relatively low-value whiting to simply pass by a school of high value striped bass on his way back to the dock. The impulse will be to set a net on the school, cull out the most valuable fish and discard the rest dead overboard, because there's money in it. If he gets caught discarding striped bass, all he has to say is it was bycatch and I was actually pursuing something else. There's no way to enforce a bycatch provision and if legislators think this scenario won't take place, they have not learned from the mistakes of the past and are very naive.

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### **Congressional Testimony on H.R. 2655**

*The following is the testimony presented on behalf of  
JCAA at the committee hearing.*

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I would like to thank Chairman James Saxton for introducing H.R. 2655 and for the timely manner in which he convened this hearing. The issue addressed

in this bill is important not only to the people of New Jersey but to people in all the states throughout the migratory range of the striped bass. I would also like to thank Congressman Frank Pallone for cosponsoring the bill. While I have this opportunity, I would also like to thank Chairman Saxton and the full Committee, especially Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, for the excellent job they did on the re-authorization of the Magnuson Act.

My name is Tom Fote and I am the one of the three Commissioners representing the state of New Jersey on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). I am also the Legislative Chairman of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), which represents 80 fishing clubs in New Jersey and surrounding states. This is one time I can testify wearing both hats because both New Jersey's delegation to the ASMFC and the membership of JCAA are in total agreement. New Jersey's three Commissioners, Senator Louis Bassano, Division of Fish & Game director, Robert McDowell and I voted unanimously in opposition of the reopening the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) when this was proposed at an ASMFC Striped Bass Board Meeting. The Division of Fish & Game submitted written comments to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) advising them that they would not support the reopening of the EEZ to resumed striped bass harvesting. The Division concerns were that they would not be able to enforce their laws and loop holes would be created.

Senator Louis Bassano is sorry he could not be here in person due to his legislative duties in New Jersey, but asked me to convey his appreciation to Chairman Saxton and the subcommittee for the fine job they are doing.

The comments submitted during public hearings held by NMFS in the states of Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Virginia and Connecticut demonstrated overwhelming opposition to the reopening of the EEZ at this time. The fishermen of Maine and Pennsylvania, when made aware of the proposal to reopen the EEZ, requested public hearings in their states to voice opposition to this change in management. They were denied the opportunity to participate. There was plenty of Pennsylvania representation at the New Jersey public hearings, with all present speaking in opposition. The ASMFC Striped Bass Board voted on December 7 the EEZ should not be open until we can fish at

full fishery and until NMFS can assured that all the legal problems are addressed.

In this testimony, I will limit my comments to only three reasons that clearly detail why it is premature to reopen the EEZ at this stage of the recovery of the striped bass fishery.

### **1 - Lack of federal enforcement of striped bass regulations**

ASMFC member states proved that they could work together to rebuild depleted striped bass stocks under the cooperative process established by the Striped Bass Conservation Act. They developed and instituted regulations that they could monitor and enforce within state boundaries. Member states have expended considerable time and money on law enforcement in recent years, to ensure that these regulations are followed. In November of this year, I actually had the opportunity to fish for striped bass seven times on the beach near my home and my vehicle was inspected on one of those days by a conservation officer to insure that I was in compliance with the laws regulating the fishery. When I asked the C.O. if he had written any summons that day, he remarked that he had cited three fishermen that morning and had intercepted approximately 500 that day looking specifically for striped bass violations.

Enforcement in state waters has been strong and sustained, in stark contrast to the total lack of enforcement in the waters of the EEZ. There has been a moratorium on the harvest of striped bass in the EEZ for more than five years and during that period, the NMFS has written only one summons for illegal possession of striped bass in federal waters. I have not heard of a single instance of a boat being intercepted in the EEZ off New Jersey for the possession of striped bass, yet we know it occurs every year. I have seen the names of individuals that caught fish on offshore lumps in the EEZ in the fishing reports section of local newspapers. After reading these reports, I would call the outdoor writers responsible for the columns, remind them of the moratorium and ask them to inform their readers again. When asked if they had been contacted by any one from NMFS to remind them of the closure, the answer was always "no."

Bruce Freeman, then representing New Jersey at the ASMFC, and I always felt there was no law enforcement effort by federal authorities in the EEZ concerning striped bass regulations. We would ask the NMFS representative at Striped Bass Board Meetings



about enforcement efforts and if the service had written any summons for striped bass violations that year. The answer would always be the same *NO!* One year, NMFS reported that they had finally written a summons and some of Board members laughed, since lack of enforcement of the regulations had become a standing joke. However lack of enforcement just isn't funny!

Please understand that I am not pointing a finger at NMFS or the Coast Guard for the low priority on the enforcement of striped bass regulations in federal waters. They have an enormous enforcement responsibility for species ranging from summer flounder to the pelagics, and striped bass is the lowest priority on their list. The Coast Guard must also deal with search and rescue and other missions. In an ideal world, we should put more money into enforcement of fisheries laws, but with reduced funding, enforcement efforts will continue to decline in the coming years. I was made aware of a recent Coast Guard notice that indicated there would be even less enforcement effort in 1997 and beyond for fisheries laws.

## **2 - Protection of Historical Fisheries**

Striped bass has always been an inshore fishery, with the overwhelming majority of the catch, both commercial and recreational, coming from within state waters. Historically, the harvest was 90% recreational and 10% commercial outside of Chesapeake Bay. The traditional recreational fishery was accomplished from the beach or in estuary waters, where the average user was a blue collar or low income family member who could participate in the fishery with a small expenditure in money and manage to put a high protein food source on the table as a result of their fishing efforts.

The commercial fishery was comprised of small, independent watermen working with small boats and utilizing gill nets, pound nets and hook and line. This was never a big boat, offshore fishery. By reopening the EEZ with the restrictions presently in place on almost every other commercially viable species, and with striped bass stocks continuing to rebound, the pressure to expand this into an offshore fishery using non-traditional gear will be extreme, with even great problems as a result. Keep in mind that the least damaging methods of commercially harvesting striped bass are tended gill nets, pound nets and hook and line. Once the fishery is open offshore, other gear types that generate large

volumes of bycatch and discards will move into the fishery. This will open the door to vastly increased non-harvest mortality, which will have an extremely negative impact on the spawning stock biomass and on the traditional user groups.

## **3 - Insuring the public of striped bass that are safe to consume**

As a commissioner on the ASMFC, my first concern is the protection and sustainability of our public resource marine fisheries. But there is the added consideration of being sure the public is not consuming fish that are contaminated with dangerous pollutants. I take this part of my job very seriously. We all should. When we discuss striped bass harvest and consumption, we must temper our discussion with the knowledge that not all striped bass are considered safe to eat in large quantities and fish from certain waters are considered unsafe to consume at all. It is our responsibility to insure the public the safest possible fish for consumption and to not back away from the unpleasant task of making this an important part of any management plan.

The recreational striped bass fisherman is, without a doubt, consuming the greatest volume of striped bass. Therefore, it is the recreational fishermen who should be given the greatest opportunity to retain fish that are safe to eat. Unfortunately, under the present management regime, just the opposite is taking place. The recovery plan for striped bass forces sport fishermen to only harvest larger fish, the very fish that can be carrying the highest volume of dangerous pollutants, while special considerations are given to commercial harvesters to assure the fish they send to market are safe for consumption. One of my goals in the recovery of this fishery was to continue to reduce recreational size limits as the fishery recovers, so sport fishermen, the very people who consume the greatest amount of these fish, can eat the least contaminated members of the population.

The necessity to accommodate a new offshore fishery, a fishery that will be based on striped bass exclusively over 28 inches, will make it impossible to continue to reduce size limits for the historic user groups. The states that presently have PCB advisories in place for striped bass have instituted special commercial size limits to make sure they can control the fish going to market and assure the public that they fall within federally mandated PCB levels. The traditional subsistence recreational fishermen will continue to be forced to consume striped bass that are

questionable with regard to PCB content, because present size limits mandated do not allow him to retain smaller, safer fish.

At the same time, it will make it harder to control commercially harvested striped bass going to market. Be advised that areas with the highest level of contamination, areas like western Long Island, Hudson River, Raritan Bay and Delaware Bay, are presently closed completely to the commercial harvest of striped bass or are regulated by fish size to prevent these fish from being sold to unsuspecting consumers at fish markets and in restaurants. If the EEZ is reopened, there is no control to assure these fish are not going to market, since they all swim through federal waters during the course of their seasonal migrations, making them fair game for commercial harvest. Is NMFS and the FDA willing to post PCB advisories in every fish market and restaurant to warn the public of the possible health risks of consuming striped bass? Remember that pregnant women and young children are advised to NOT consume any amount of striped bass whatsoever from specific waters!

If federal waters are to be reopened, the federal government must mount a comprehensive study of PCB contamination in federal waters, just as the federal government required of the states. The federal government cannot exempt itself from the very regulations it imposes on the states for protecting the public's health.

In conclusion, it has been said many times by many people, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it!" At present, there is no problem filling any state's allowable quota of striped bass from within state waters. There is absolutely no justifiable reason to reopen the EEZ to striped bass harvest with the resulting problems to the fishery and with the public health risks it will generate. HR 2655 and its five year extension of the moratorium in federal waters will provide the time necessary to explore the problems and find suitable solutions for them.

## **A Hope for the Future**

By George R. Scocca

*(The following appeared in the December 6, 1995 issue of Nor'East Saltwater in the Publisher's Angle column)*

On December 1 and 2 I attended a meeting called by the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) with the purpose of getting coastwide input

from the recreational fishing community as to how to approach the future management of striped bass and bluefish. I have gone to many similar meetings over the years, but I have to say that I left this one with the feeling that we are finally going to get somewhere.

The ASA is a combination of tackle manufactures and recreational anglers that is taking a leading role in seeing to it that our wants and needs are recognized among the various fisheries management agencies which currently decide the fate of many of our marine resources. Many have tried to accomplish this before, but the list of players that they have involved leads me to believe that this group will succeed where others have not.

I was most impressed with the representative of the National Marine Manufacturers Association, representing boat builders from Viking Yachts to Grady White. He gave his assurance that they were indeed on the side of the recreational angler. When you have these folks behind you, people are going to listen. And we were given a few instances where they are already to begin taking notice.

I was also impressed with the organization of many of the east coast states. Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maryland and Virginia were represented by various chapters of the Coastal Conservation Association. (A chapter is currently being organized in New York.) Thanks to the work of the ASA and Tom Fote of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, all of these states seemed to be on the same page, something I have never seen before.

Everyone present was aware of the facts and problems surrounding the future management of our gamefish stocks and all recognized the need to stay united and present a unified attack. Our strength is in numbers and numbers we have. When you combine this with the organizational skills and motivation being provided by ASA, we begin to see a ray of hope for the future.

Thanks ASA. Thanks Tom Fote and thanks to all who are doing such a great job!

## **Windmills are Coming to New Jersey in a Big Way**

By John Toth

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, I attended a meeting in the Municipal Building at Belmar hosted by the NJ DEP and the Bureau of Energy Management (BOEM), a

federal agency that is involved in determining windmill placements. Both of these agencies explained that Governor Phil Murphy issued an Executive Order mandating that he wants to see **3,500 Megawatts** of energy produced by windmills off New Jersey's coast by **2030**. These windmills would be placed in federal waters approximately 17 miles off New Jersey's coast. NJ's Bureau of Public Energy (BPU) would interface with potential developers in the leasing process, and the NJ DEP would focus on environmental issues involved in setting up these windmills.

For recreational anglers, there are two major concerns with these windmills and they are: we do not want them to be placed on prime fishing locations, and we want to be able to fish by them when they become operational. The concern is that these windmills can be like Earle Pier and we would get chased away by security guards if we get to close to them. We were told that we would be able to fish by them, but do we really know for sure? In Europe that has extensive windmill development and with the exception of England, all other European countries ban fishing by their windmills. In regard to prime fishing grounds, we will have to further review their recommended locations to determine if windmills should be placed on them.

BOEM showed four locations under consideration for these windmills: Fairways North, Fairways South, Hudson North and Hudson South. These locations were strongly criticized by commercial fishermen in the audience since they are in the areas they fish, especially for scallops and clams. They said that they would eventually be put out of business. In response to that, a BOEM representative indicated that a fund could be established to compensate commercial anglers for loss of their fishing business! I don't think any of us would like to be told that a new project will put us out of business! A number of commercial fishermen and their families have been in the fishing business for generations and now they hear that they will be the casualties of these new windmills.

The commercial fishermen requested that there should be at least two nautical miles between the windmills to facilitate their dragging operations. BOEM did not respond positively to this request. The commercial fishermen were livid that BOEM would not at least do this for them and they loudly expressed their frustration over this issue.

I asked BOEM how many windmills they envision being built and the answer I got is that they don't know. I also indicated that a couple of years ago Clean Ocean Action (COA) made a big fuss about seismic testing by one boat and the blasts it produced, harming whales and other species in their migratory patterns. Drilling the ocean bottom to establish pylons for windmill foundations will most certainly make a lot of noise to vastly exceed anything done by one boat doing seismic testing. The BOEM representative conceded that this is a major concern since it would especially affect whales. However, they are looking at way to reduce this harmful effect.

A question was raised from the commercial anglers about the projected lifespan of these new windmills. The BOEM representative indicated that these windmills will have a lifespan of **25 years**. This answer caused quite a stir among the crowd with someone yelling, "They won't last that long with corrosive salt water. Don't you people know that these windmills will be in the ocean"! Another person asked, "Who is going to monitor the operation of these windmills so that potential problems with them can be easily rectified such as broken wind blades?" The BOEM response was that they will resolve that issue in the near future.

This is an ongoing process and at this time this major project is in a public comment period. There is certainly more to come on this windmill program and I will keep you informed as it moves forward.

## **New Jersey Releases Fish Advisories for PFAS**

By Kyle Bagenstose, The Intelligencer, 7/24/2018

The New Jersey DEP has released consumption limits for fish in chemical-laden waterways, including Burlington County's Mirror and Little Pine Lakes. Pennsylvania counterparts have not put forth such recommendations, despite emails showing them discussing the concern in 2016.

When most people think of chemicals in fish, they think of metals such as mercury and lead. But New Jersey regulators are concerned about a different chemical family in the state's rivers and lakes: perfluorinated compounds.

Last week, the state's Department of Environmental Protection released draft fish consumption limits based on the chemicals in about a dozen recreational water bodies throughout the state.

The recommendations are part of a growing effort by New Jersey to prevent human exposure to perfluorinated compounds, which are unregulated chemicals popping up in the water supplies of millions of Americans.

New Jersey is just the fifth state to put forth draft or finalized fish consumption limits for the chemicals, joining Alabama, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

“Before going fishing, anglers should take a few minutes to review advisories in place for their favorite fishing spots so they can make good decisions about eating the fish they catch,” said DEP commissioner Catherine McCabe in a prepared statement.

Both New Jersey and Pennsylvania are dealing with significant contamination with perfluorinated compounds, also known as PFAS. The chemicals have historically been found in variety of products, including nonstick cookware, waterproof fabrics, food packaging, and firefighting foams used by the military and the aviation industry. They have been linked to illnesses including cancer, ulcerative colitis and reproductive issues.

In 2016, this news organization reported on widespread use of firefighting foams at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, noting that a preliminary report performed by a military contractor in 2015 had identified numerous waterways leaving the base that could contain the chemicals. The report specifically stated that people living near the joint base could potentially be exposed to the chemicals when they swim or eat fish caught in water bodies fed by runoff from 34 suspected sites of contamination on the base.

However, the military’s investigation has not led to sampling of many off-base waterways. In May 2017, a base spokesperson said there were no plans to test the Rancocas Creek for the chemicals, even though a stream flowing into the river from the base contained the chemicals at 1,127 parts per trillion (ppt), 16 times higher than the Environmental Protection Agency’s 70 ppt limit for the chemicals in drinking water.

For its report last week, the New Jersey DEP did what the military has not, sampling several water bodies near the joint base. After doing so, the DEP found that the chemical levels are higher in water and fish in nearby lakes than anywhere else in the state.

In Mirror Lake, a popular recreational lake in Pemberton Township, PFAS were found at 180.9 ppt in water, the second highest in the state. The chemicals were also found in high levels in fish, resulting in proposed consumption limits on eels, bluegill sunfish and largemouth bass to one meal every three months.

Levels were even higher in Little Pine Lake, a smaller water body to the north of Mirror Lake in Pemberton Township. That lake receives water from Jack’s Run, a stream running from the base that was previously identified as potentially contaminated in the 2015 report. Water samples there showed 279.5 ppt of the chemicals, the highest in the state. That resulted in recommended limits of eating only one meal of largemouth bass or yellow perch in an entire year. Consumption of pumpkinseed sunfish is also limited to once every three months.

In Ocean County, Pike Lake and Horicon Lake were sampled due to their receiving runoff from the joint base. From Pike Lake, consumption of eels, largemouth bass, and pumpkinseed sunfish is limited to once a year. In Horicon Lake, consumption of yellow bullheads is limited to once weekly and chain pickerel to once monthly.

Other waterways sampled across the state were the Cohansey River, Cumberland County; Fenwick Creek, Salem County; Woodbury Creek, Gloucester County; the Metedeconk River, Ocean County; the Raritan River, Middlesex County; the Echo Lake Reservoir, Passaic County; and the Passaic River, running through both Passaic and Bergen Counties.

The report notes that the advisories are only for the general population. Stricter advisories for “high risk” populations, such as children and pregnant woman, are expected in future versions, the report stated. Based on figures provided however, the recommendation for high risk populations would be not to eat any of the identified fish from Mirror or Little Pine lakes.

Several environmental groups applauded the release of the consumption limits.

“These fish advisories serve the important purpose of telling people they should limit their intake of fish,” said Tracy Carluccio, deputy director of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, in a prepared statement. “These are important advances in the public’s protection.”

“It’s a warning bell that New Jersey is finding PFAS in our waterways and fish,” added Jeff Tittel, president of the New Jersey Sierra Club. “They are

becoming more prevalent in our environment and bioaccumulating in our fish populations.”

Both Carluccio and Tittel also called on the NJDEP to move forward on proposals for PFAS limits in drinking water. The state has proposed limits of 13 ppt for PFOS and 14 ppt for PFOA, both a fraction of the EPA’s 70 ppt advisory. But it has yet to advance the limits to become formal standards.

This news organization sent several questions to joint base personnel Monday afternoon, inquiring about the status of the base’s investigation and whether it recognizes chemicals emanating from the base present a public health risk through fish consumption. A response was not received by deadline Tuesday afternoon.

### **Emails show Pennsylvania officials discussing fish consumption in 2016**

The fish advisories also have implications in Pennsylvania, where emails obtained by this news organization show state officials discussing potential hazards from fish consumption in 2016. To date, neither the state nor military officials for area bases have offered any public plan or advisories addressing fish consumption.

That’s despite testing showing high levels of PFAS chemicals in area waterways, including Park Creek in Horsham and Warrington and the Little Neshaminy Creek. In 2016, testing by the military showed as much as 1,730 ppt of the chemicals in Park Creek near the Horsham Air Guard Station, and 210 ppt in the Little Neshaminy in Warrington. Military officials have since taken efforts to curb the amount of chemicals reaching the waterways.

According to emails obtained through open records requests, Lora Werner, regional director of the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, emailed state officials about the concern in October 2016. That agency is a division of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a primary federal agency tasked with assessing health impacts from toxic exposures.

Following public meetings in Horsham, an area of extensive PFAS contamination from a pair of nearby military bases, Werner noted, “There is a question about consuming fish from local creeks in the Warminster/Willow Grove area.”

“This is a question that is not going away, and ATSDR sees this as a current public health data gap that needs to be addressed,” Werner added.

The emails were sent to Sharon Watkins, director of the Bureau of Epidemiology with the Pennsylvania Department of Health; Ragesh Patel, a program manager for Environmental Cleanup with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; and several other state employees.

In response, Farhad Ahmed, epidemiology supervisor with the DOH, told Werner that Pennsylvania “currently does not sample” for the chemicals in fish.

Watkins responded by asking if the DOH “had discussions with DEP that fish sampling for this site may be necessary from a public health point of view?”

“Could that be something we try to engage our partners in, not sure if that is DEP or (The Fish and Boat Commission)?” Watkins suggested.

Werner also copied employees of the EPA on her emails. On a separate email to only state employees, Werner added she had “been bringing this up to EPA and DOD for a while now, and there has been low interest so far.”

In another 2016 email, Pennsylvania DOH officials shared conclusions from an ATSDR report that recommended the Navy work to identify non-drinking water routes of exposure, including fish consumption.

To date, none of the entities mentioned in the emails have publicly discussed potential hazards from fish consumption in Pennsylvania.

Nate Wardle, a spokesperson for the DOH, wrote Wednesday that “An interagency workgroup (DEP, DOH, Department of Agriculture, and Fish and Boat Commission) has been discussing this issue. The group will be meeting in the near future and the NJ report is one of the agenda items.” Wardle offered the response on behalf of both the DOH and DEP.

“Both departments are reviewing the findings from the New Jersey study, along with working with additional state and federal partners, to make appropriate recommendations,” Wardle added.

Requests for comment from Naval officials in Pennsylvania were not returned by press time. The Navy acknowledged the request but stated it would need more time to respond.

After being told of the emails, state Rep. Todd Stephens, R-151, of Horsham, said he sent emails to the secretaries of the Pennsylvania DOH and DEP to ask what the departments know about concerns from fish consumption, when they learned it, and what is being done about it.

“I will continue fighting to ensure we are given all the information necessary to protect ourselves and our families and will hold those who fail to do so accountable for their actions,” Stephens added via email.

[Here is](#) where you can get the advisory.

## Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series in New Atlantic City Venue!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact 1-800-448-7360

The Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series 2019 tour will again land in New Jersey, but at a new venue. The February 9 presentation will be held inside the Crown Ballroom of the Sheraton Atlantic City Convention Center Hotel (Two Convention Boulevard, Atlantic City). The host of the 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. presentation will be **George Poveromo** – of *George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing* on the NBC Sports Network, and Contributing Editor for *Salt Water Sportsman*. **Nick Honachefsky**, a noted writer, author, TV personality and New Jersey fishing authority, will serve as co-host. The Tour is being presented by Bass Pro Shops.

Joining **Poveromo** and **Honachefsky** in Linwood will be:

- **Captain Alan Lee** – Veteran canyon- and bottom fishing pro with over 40 years of experience at catching game fish off the Jersey coast, with *Mushin Sportfishing*!
- **Melissa Toro** – Authority on fishing South Jersey's back bays and a specialist at catching fluke and blackfish in and around the waters of Atlantic City!
- **Captain Dan Ponzio** – Atlantic City-based specialist at catching trophy striped bass and canyon fishing for tunas with *War Dance Charter Fishing*!
- **Captain Nick Stanczyk** – Noted Islamorada, Florida Keys-based offshore pro and a pioneer of catching day time swordfish aboard his charter boat “*Broad Minded*”!

- **Jason Szabo** – Distinguished specialist at fishing New Jersey's back bays/ivers, inshore and mid-range waters as well as deep-dropping and tuna fishing at the canyons!
- **Captain Tyler Fruits** – Noted offshore pro and a renowned authority on fishing South Jersey's back bays and oceanside waters for fluke, blackfish and striped bass!
- **Captain Rick Lamb** – Noted Barnegat Bay-based authority on catching trophy striped bass!
- **Captain Mike Goodwine** – Renowned Florida-based guide who specializes in catching trophy flounder and black drum with *Blackneck Adventures Fishing Charters*!
- **Captain David Wicker** – Noted authority on using marine electronics to locate and catch more fish!
- **Captain Alan Wenzel** – South Florida-based authority on offshore live-baiting and trolling as well as conventional- and deep-drop bottom-fishing!

Courses for the February 9th presentation will focus on: Trophy stripers on ultra-light tackle; Live-lining for trophy stripers; Top trolling tactics for stripers; Chunking for bluefish; Bluefish on surface lures; Inshore wire-line techniques; Jetty tactics; How to catch more and bigger fluke; Targeting trophy fluke; Top southern tactics for jumbo fluke; Secrets of fishing the Cape May Rips; Trophy drum in Delaware Bay; Secrets of fishing Delaware Bay; Top tactics for big blackfish; Catching blackfish by the score; Jigging for blackfish; No-nonsense weakfish tactics; How and where to locate weakfish; Variety fishing in and around inlets; How to locate and fish productive bottom (blackfish, sea bass, spot and fluke); Back-bay stripers; Can't-miss tuna-trolling patterns; Chunking for tunas; Live-baiting for tunas; Advanced methods for bluefin and yellowfin tuna; Cutting edge lure-trolling tactics; Subsurface offshore trolling; Cutting edge spreader bar and dredge tactics; Secrets for catching more inshore tuna; Reading water temperature charts; Targeting trophy Makos; Basic and advanced sharking techniques; Offshore kite fishing for sharks and tuna; Specialized tactics that take more big-eye tuna; Day swordfishing!

**SUCH A DEAL!** - The Seminar Series kicks off at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude by 3:00 p.m. Long considered the best bargain in sportfishing, a Seminar Series ticket is only \$55.00.

The ticket price covers five hours of instruction from the best pros in the business, a course textbook, one-year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman, one Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, bottle of Star tron fuel treatment, bottle of Star brite Xtreme Clean, bottle of Corrosion Block, a \$ 10.00 Bass Pro Shops discount card (off any purchase of \$ 75.00 or more), and chances to win thousands of dollars worth of door prizes! The Grand Prize at the conclusion of the Jersey seminar is a Florida Keys fishing trip! The Super Grand Prize, to be awarded two weeks after the conclusion of the 2019 series, is a new Mako Pro Skiff 17 cc!

**A ROCKING GOOD TIME!** - As an added bonus, attendees of the New Jersey seminar are entitled to attend the After Seminar Party at the Bass Pro Shops in Atlantic City. A special area will be set aside for the 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. party. Seminar attendees must show their Seminar Series name badge to gain entry, and are entitled to bring one additional guest regardless if they attended the seminar. Complimentary food, refreshments and live music will be provided. George Poveromo and several other faculty members will be present at the party.

**HOW TO REGISTER** – *Get your tickets now, as the New Jersey seminar has sold out in advance the previous five years. To pay with Visa, MasterCard or American Express, call 800-448-7360, or to register on-line visit: [www.nationalseminarseries.com](http://www.nationalseminarseries.com).*

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### 2018 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

Mike and Debbie Bennett of Boating Education and Rescue (B.E.A.R.), was selected by the JCAA Youth Education Committee to receive the 2018 Youth Education Award. B.E.A.R. was nominated by the oldest fishing club in New Jersey, the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club. Mike and Debbie Bennett, the husband and wife team, are passionate about teaching children about protecting the environment while teaching youngsters a variety of boating and fishing outdoor skills. Both are environmental boating and safety educators, NJ State

Certified Instructors, Certified Master Naturalist and NJ HOFNOD Certified Instructors.

Over the years they partnered with the JCAA Youth Education Committee on NJ HOFNOD youth fishing and veteran “Play HOOK-e” Take a Veteran Fishing workshops/events. The JCAA Youth Education Committee has worked with and supported Boating Education and Rescue and the Bennett’s are very generous in helping with New Jersey “Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs” youth programs. They also take time to help our veteran men and women reconnect to the outdoors and work with veterans that train to become NJ HOFNOD instructors. Mike and Debbie are members of the NJ HOFNOD Leader Team. They communicate often with NJ DEP, Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Coordinator to assist other NJ HOFNOD groups that are just starting their own program. You can also find them lending a helping hand to just about any environmental organization that needs assistance.

Each month, Mike and Debbie host youth fishing, water safety, environmental conservation, and junior boater’s workshops at Ocean County Park, Lakewood, NJ. They are dedicated instructors who teach school-age children and their families about protecting our environment and how to be safe on the water. Mike and Debbie visit local schools and fishing clubs to present programs such as, “Reel Fun Fishing” that is linked to NJ HOFNOD, “Pollution/Solutions”, “Outdoor Adventures” that includes crabbing, archery, nature walks, and “Inky the Whale” a story about a baby pygmy sperm whale.

Mike and Debbie Bennett are associate members of JCAA and go the extra mile to help the JCAA Youth Education Committee. This year they will assist Tim Brennan, Health and Physical Education with Brick High Schools, NJ HOFNOD programs that are in the curriculum at both Brick high schools.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL KIDS WISH’N TO GO FISH’N VETERANS & KIDS MAKING SMILES

The weather was perfect for the 64 special needs youngsters and their families fishing the Second Annual “Kids Wish’n to go Fish’n” (KWTGF) Fun Day located at Lake Julianna on the Ponderosa Estate Farm, Millstone Township, New Jersey.

As children arrived at Lake Julianna and registered they received fishing instructions, tee shirts, patriotic dog tags, goodie bags, fishing caps, prizes,

along with rod and reels. Mike and Debbie Bennett, Bear Education and Rescue, made sure children had plenty of bait and provided loaner rods and reels from their New Jersey “Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs” equipment trailer.

During the fishing segment of the outdoor fun day the focus was not on catching the biggest fish because it was catch and release only. Volunteer anglers from various organizations assisted children and their families with baiting hooks, releasing hooked fish, and setting up tackle. Bob Hopkins who volunteered with other club members from Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12, stated: “The smiles from the children, parents and caregivers was amazing. Everyone was having fun.” Every child was able to catch a fish and some youngsters had the experience of catching their first fish and received a “First Fish Award” certificate.



After fishing, everyone gathered around the BBQ picnic area for delicious pizza and food that was prepared by Mr. Cardinale and his team. Children enjoyed hayrides, fly casting, Millstone Fire Truck and Firemen and playing with therapy animals from Golden Gate Farms.

The event could not be possible without the support of Mr. Cardinale and his team of caring volunteers. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Jersey Shore Chapter, Newark Bait Fly Casters, New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, Hudson River Fisherman's Association, Jersey Shore Surfcasters,

Trout Unlimited, BEAR Environmental Educators, and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 members all provided volunteer assistance for the event. We also thank the following sponsors and businesses: A special thank you to all of the sponsors: Magnakron, Tom Zapcic Photography, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12, Boating Education and Rescue. Merchants – Dairy Queen, Dan Black Welding, East Gate Nursery, Bill Jim Construction, Laurita Winery, Teddy Bears By the Seashore, Golden Gate Farm, Manasquan River Marlin and Tuna Club Capt. Butch Cross, Phinas Farms, Dan The Tin Man, Jersey Shore Surfcasters, The Fisherman Magazine, Dunkin Donuts, Reel Seat B&T, Gabriele's Bait Co., Spring Lake Freezer, Bagel Bistro, Jersey Hooker Outfitters, Frogbridge Day Camp, Black Bear Day Camp, Bimbo Bakery, and local contributors.



We also thank our amazing angling volunteers that assisted with set up and making sure everyone was safe by the water. Since 2016, Veterans, many of them disabled, have been invited guests by Mr. Vito Cardinale owner of Ponderosa Estates Farm to enjoy the peace and serenity of Lake Julianna. Mr. Vito Cardinale, President Cardinale Enterprises LLC., Don Marantz, Jersey Coast Anglers Association's, Youth Education Committee KWTGF Chairman are planning a Volunteer Appreciation Day for all the volunteers that made the event a success.

## **NJ HOFNOD HAPPENINGS**

NJ HOFNOD updated photos on their [webpage](#). There are plenty of pictures of youngsters catching fish and lots kids participating in fishing events throughout the state.



During October and November the JCAA Youth Education Committee is supporting Brick High Schools fishing program and supplying learning materials from the JCAA lending library. 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. For more information about the training, contact Liz Jackson for details. 908-637-4125 x122

## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES OUTING

The People with Disabilities September Outing was very successful and all the participants had a great time. Many participants caught fish and every contestant went home with a prize. Volunteers and participants enjoyed the hotdogs and condiments. Vern Mancini from the Musky Trout Hatchery stocked approximately 500 sunfish.

Rutgers students volunteered to help and the event ran smoothly thanks to their help.



## NEW TICA RODS AND REELS

After several years of use the surf fishing cart at IBSP will be updated again with new Tica rods and reels. The rods and reels had more hands on them than a deck of cards in Atlantic City.

NJBBA, JCAA and NJSFSC approved updating the surf fishing cart. The Tica rods and reels held up for a number of years and was maintained by several user groups. This is a good sign because the surf fishing cart is doing exactly what it was designed to do; teach a variety of novice anglers how to surf fish.

Over the years, several surf anglers volunteered or were paid to teach surf fishing to school-age children, becoming an outdoors woman, disabled children/veterans and novice senior anglers. It is very rewarding to witness a first-time angler

learning to cast their bait into the surf and reel in their first catch off the beach. Kudos to all the veteran anglers that volunteered at IBSP and taught so many new anglers the joy of surf casting.

Fifteen beach wheelchairs complement the surf fishing program and get disabled anglers closer to the water. This is all provided through the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and contributions by Tica Fishing Tackle, GSFT sponsors, and generous groups/individuals. The surf fishing cart and beach wheelchairs were introduced after the first GSFT twenty-five years ago. It's a rewarding program. If you would like to volunteer time to teach surf fishing, please phone IBSP Nature Center and ask to speak to Kelly 732-793-1315.

During October, we used Tica Fishing Tackle from the IBSP surf cart to teach disabled veterans surf casting at the National Guard Training Center, Militia Museum, Sea Girt, NJ. Paul Smith taught us how to surf cast with minimal effort and showed 21 Play HOOK-e veterans the proper spinning equipment and techniques to cast lures/weights from the beach. We also toured the Militia Museum and saw a mini submarine from the 1860's. The sub held a crew of 17 and the propeller was powered by a hand-crank.

Jack Cusick won the Tica surf rod and reel door prize. Veterans received Tica caps, tee shirts, and goodie bags. We appreciate all Tica Fishing Tackle is doing to help our disabled veterans.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 12 purchased the grand door prize from Grumpy's Bait and Tackle. Thanks, Ray, for a great deal. Please support local tackle dealers.



If you are a veteran and would like to subscribe to the Play HOOK-e Newsletter, please click on [this link](#) to register. Unsubscribe anytime or update your information. Look for upcoming Free Play HOOK-e Take a Veteran Fishing programs in The Fisherman Magazine online [Events Calendar](#).