

# JCAA JANUARY 2006

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*  
(Published on December 21<sup>th</sup>, 2005)

**Remember New Monthly Meeting Room**  
**"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"**

## **JCAA REGULAR MEETING:**

**Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd**

**NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**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 (732) 506-6565 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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## **2005 OFFICERS**

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<b>Mem. Sec</b>	John Toth	732-446-6298

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **JCAA HIGH ROLLER RAFFLE**

It is now time for the JCAA High Rollers 2006 Raffle. We have put together a terrific selection of rods and reels for one raffle with eight prizes that will be drawn on April 25, 2006. This is a major fundraiser for the JCAA. The 8 prizes are listed below with a total value almost \$3,300. Tickets will be two dollars each and representatives can soon get books of tickets to sell at your club meetings by attending a JCAA meeting. JCAA will be staffing booths and selling tickets at upcoming shows. In January we will have a booth at the Sportsman Show in Raritan Center January 12<sup>th</sup> thru the 15<sup>th</sup>, the Saltwater Sportsman's National Seminar Show on January 21 at Monmouth University's Pollak Theatre, 400 Cedar Ave., West Long Branch, Atlantic City Boat Show February 1st - 5<sup>th</sup> and The Saltwater Fishing Expo at Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, March 17-19. If you would like to buy raffle tickets call the JCAA office. When your club representative brings them to your club, please help with your purchase. Without your continued support we cannot function as an organization in protecting the marine resource. Where acknowledgement is not made, the manufacturer donated these prizes. Shimano provided reels at a special price to JCAA

- 1 Shimano Tiagra 30A two speed reel with Hi Seas line & Quarrow OC56STRU 20-40 rod and a large spool of Power Pro Line Value \$850
- 2 Shimano Calcutta 700B reel with Sufix line & Rouge GPIS7MHC (JCAA embossed) 7' rod Value \$520
- 3 Fisherman's Headquarters Ship Bottom, NJ Fishermansheadquarters.com donates a \$500 shopping Spree
- 4 Shimano Calcutta 400B reel with Sufix line & Lamiglas BL6615C 6' 6" rod Value \$425
- 5 Shimano Baitrunner 4500B reel with Sufix line & G-Loomis PBR844C Pro Blue 7' rod Value \$400
- 6 Shimano TDL20 reel with Hi Seas line & Custom Power Stick CS6260R2 5' 9" Rod donated by Boaters World Value \$300
- 7 Tsunami TSSD 400L reel with Sufix line & Tsunami 661H rod and Power Pro Line Value \$150
- 8 Daiwa 5000 reel & Ande Tournament Surf ATS-1100A 11' rod & Power Pro line Value \$150

## Meetings And Other Dates

**December 27<sup>th</sup>:** JCAA General Meeting  
**January 11<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting  
**January 12<sup>TH</sup> -15<sup>TH</sup>:** Garden State Outdoor Show  
**January 21<sup>st</sup>:** Saltwater Sportsmen Seminar  
**January 31<sup>st</sup>** JCAA General meeting  
**February 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>** Atlantic City Boat show  
**February 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>** ASMFC Week in DC  
**February 9** JCAA Board Meeting  
**March 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>** The Saltwater Fishing Expo at Somerset, NJ

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*By Bruce Smith*

About one year ago I wrote that the JCAA would face some unique challenges in 2005 and that how these challenges were met would help shape the recreational fishing scene and define this quality of life issue for marine anglers and divers plus thousands of hardworking New Jerseyites who make their living by helping us to enjoy our sport. These persons include bait and tackle shop owners, tackle manufacturers, boat builders, engine, marine electronics and marine hardware manufacturers and sales outlets, marina operators, charter and party boat operators, their employees and literally dozens of other trades and supporting businesses

It is still true that less than two dozen dedicated directors and committee chairs continue to expend a lot of their personal time and effort for the benefit of thousands of anglers. This year there have been a few welcome additions to this dedicated corps. We are still in need of a few good fishermen.

JCAA represents member New Jersey Fishing and Diving Clubs. In order to have your club members' concerns, opinions and positions made known and to have their interests represented by JCAA, your club must be a member of JCAA. And, at the very minimum, your club should be represented at the monthly meetings. JCAA positions are the reflection of the majority of attending member club votes. I encourage all active member clubs to increase their support, and inactive clubs, uncommitted clubs and individuals to become active. Your participation is more important now than ever before!

Regardless of your particular area of interest, a committee exists, or could be formed, that would

benefit from your knowledge, experience and enthusiasm. There are committees that are species specific or are that are concerned with estuary, inshore, offshore, reefs, forage, etc. If you would like to get involved, contact the JCAA office and get on board. JCAA can become more proactive if more people are involved

I, or a director or chairperson, would be happy to visit your club to bring you up to date on what JCAA has and will be doing to protect your recreational fishing interests, the marine environment and all aquatic life. Likewise, we want and need your individual and collective input to insure that we stay on mission. The JCAA Website, the JCAA Monthly Newsletter and New Jersey Newspapers and Magazines are all good sources of information.

A year ago we were actively collecting signatures supporting Two Striped Bass at 28 Inches and the continuation of the Striped Bass Bonus Program. Finally, one year later, bills in support of this legislation have been passed out of the NJ Assembly and Senate committees. Hopefully, this will soon become the law and the confusion and the controversy will become a memory. JCAA thanks the many sponsors and supporters of this important legislation.

It is now more important than ever for anglers to stand up and be counted. Whatever species whets your interest, be it fluke, flounder, croaker, weakfish, sea bass, blackfish or striped bass, the regulations that are being proposed – based on the woefully inadequate MRFSS statistics and in blatant disregard to the abundant available empirical data - threaten to negatively impact anglers and the entire recreational fishing community significantly.

It is obvious that New Jersey anglers, in fact the entire angling community, are being beaten up by the NMFS and the ASMFC who seem to be more concerned about dogfish than any other species or anybody. Many anglers perceive that their actions are unreasoned, unjustified and often punitive. I am fearful that a cornerstone of successful fisheries management, the compliant nature of participating anglers, will be tested to the breaking point. Maybe this is their gamble.

It is the responsibility of individual anglers and all interested parties to pay attention to what is being proposed, attend the hearings and to voice your opinions directly to your state and national

representatives, to the appropriate agencies and, through your club representative, to JCAA.

JCAA's presence will be made at upcoming events beginning with the Sportsmen's Show in Edison, NJ. The show runs Thursday, Jan. 12 to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>. If you can help man our booth, contact Mark Taylor at 732-929-2591.

JCAA will be marking our 25<sup>th</sup> year advocating for anglers and the resource with some new shirt and hat graphics and the High Roller Raffle of some choice rods and reels.

JCAA will also be on hand at the Atlantic City Boat Show in February and at the new Saltwater Fishing Exposition in March at Somerset, NJ.

## **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

*BY THOMAS FOTE*

I am pleased that I was asked to serve on Governor elect Corzine's transition team for the environment. I look forward to representing the views of recreational anglers and environmentalists on this team. I also hope to share the concerns of JCAA and the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. It is a very positive sign that Governor elect Corzine is inviting representatives of all the user groups to help develop proposals as part of the transition.

### **THE ARROGANCE OF FISHERIES MANAGERS**

I have not been attending as many meetings this past month due to serious back problems. Bruce Smith, Tom Siciliano, Ed Cherry and other JCAA members have been attending meetings to represent JCAA. We all need to step up to the plate and get involved. Twenty-five years ago when I began attending meetings, I thought the stocks would be rebuilt and the problems resolved. I was naïve. Even though the stocks have been rebuilt, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission have found more ways to unfairly treat the anglers on the East coast. The more I interact with people from other regions of the country, the more I learn that NMFS is not doing any better anywhere else. The system is

not working and has turned into a disaster for recreational anglers.

The latest example is summer flounder. In the last three JCAA Newspapers, articles have included information about why the quota should remain the same. The JCAA comment to NMFS is included below. Despite the opposition voiced by many groups and individuals, NMFS and ASMFC went to the 23.9 million pound quota. Though I have always been reluctant to do so, I must finally voice the following criticism: the staff and directors at NMFS and ASMFC and even state directors do not have incomes that are directly affected by the decisions they make. They have no direct monetary stake in the decisions and it is always easier, it seems, to make decisions that impact others more directly than you. The level of arrogance displayed by some of the state directors and NMFS employees is unbearable. They basically treat recreational anglers more like children than like colleagues. New Jersey's delegation is a notable exception to this level of arrogance and both our council and commission members behave themselves in respectful and responsible ways. It was brought to my attention that one of the administrators commented if they (meaning recreational and commercial anglers) had bitten the bullet years ago, we wouldn't be having these problems. If this administrator was not a 'Johnny come lately' he might realize how insulting this statement is. For the past few years New Jersey has been more restrictive and this is the payoff we get. In 2004 as a commissioner I voted on the quota for summer flounder for 2005/2006 and instead of using 50% probability we actually used 75% probability, making the most conservative decision possible. And this is our reward!

JCAA will continue to discuss many issues with other groups. It is time for our Governor and the NJ Delegation in Washington, DC to demand that NMFS does the social and economic impact studies required by law before any drastic changes are made. NMFS is clearly in violation of the law and it should be up to our legislators and our governor to take action rather than waiting for recreational and commercial fishermen to take legal action.

Below is the JCAA position. I have also included two letters from Paul Hartel and Bobby Matthews. They clearly represent the thoughts of

many recreational anglers and the businesses that depend on recreational fishing.

### **JCAA Comment on the Proposed NMFS 2006 Summer Flounder Quota**

JCAA is disappointed at the proposed public rule published by the National Marine Fisheries Service for summer flounder. We think the National Marine Fisheries Service failed to consider several facts in making the decision to reduce the quota from the proposed 33 million pounds to 23.9 million pounds.

The quota of 23.9 million pounds is a 14% reduction from the 2005 quota and a 4% reduction from the 2004 quota. It is also a reduction of approximately 28% under the current approved quota (ASMFC and NMFS) for 2006. We have seen quirks in tables before. We have seen outlying years where we review the data the following year and decisions are made differently. This is one of those examples. In 2004, the National Marine Fisheries Service and ASMFC approved a 2 year quota setting scenario of 30 million pounds for 2005 and 33 million pounds for 2006. This was based on scientific data from many years. Because of the quirks in the current tables, NMFS is suggesting that we reduce the proposed 33 million pounds to 23.9. What is truly amazing is that the quota for 2002, 2003 and 2004 was 26 million pounds. With these quotas the stock continued to rebuild. The spawning stock biomass and total biomass is larger than it has been in over 25 years. Even with a 30 million pound quota for 2005 we are seeing an increase in the stocks. There has been no drastic decline in recruitment in the last four years. The recruitment has been at average or just below average for the last few years and the stocks have continued to rebuild. We know the stocks are not overfished but because NMFS has set the goal of 204 million pounds for spawning stock biomass for 2010, we are going to take a reduction.

The reasons given for the cutback in quota in the NMFS proposed rule are that either there are unreported landings or higher discards. If you keep raising the size limit on the recreational sector and make it harder to take a fish home to eat, there will be a higher hook and release mortality, especially shore based anglers. NMFS is placing the fishermen in a catch 22. This year there have been some anglers releasing 80:1 in order to keep one legal size flounder. This very high release rate is guaranteed to

increase the mortality in discards. The great majority of the release fish are mature, i.e. 14 inches. Some have spawned at least twice. JCAA member used a figure of 20 discards to each keeper and made a calculation of the number of summer flounder caught by the recreational sector. Assuming the recreational quota was caught and using 20 to 1 and an average of 2 pounds for fish kept and 1 pound for fish released the calculation shows that one hundred and twenty million pounds of summer flounder were caught and released by recreational anglers. This number turns out to be the entire estimated biomass of summer flounder in the ocean. We know that makes no sense. However it does prove that the NMFS is grossly underestimating the total biomass of summer flounder. We know these models work for early rebuilding efforts but this example and others prove the lack of reliability for rapidly rebuilding stocks. The models simply can't take that data into account. We also know that models make mistakes from year to year. There are multiple examples of this from other fisheries. NMFS is using the results of the summer flounder lawsuit to hide its unreliable data.

The Magnuson Act requires that the NMFS does a real economic impact on any proposed changes. In the proposed rules, NMFS says there will be minor economic impact on the recreational sector. This statement was made with no data to back it up. Every recreational angler knows this statement is ludicrous. All you have to do is look at the impact on New York anglers in the last two years when the size was dramatically increased and the bag limits were dramatically decreased. Party boats and charter boats are out of business and the profits in tackle stores are disappearing. Some of those tackle stores are closing and others are barely hanging on. There has never been a study on the impact on the inshore anglers when they are completely shut out of a fishery because of high size limits. Because the recreational community has not filed a lawsuit, there is not motivation for NMFS to do the job required. So they ignore the Magnuson Act and neglect any economic studies that would confirm the huge negative impact of these decreases.

The NMFS uses the 1998 lawsuit to justify their proposals. That lawsuit occurred at a time when there was only an annual specification not multi-year specification as now occurs. The management plan has changed and the conditions of the lawsuit do not exist today. NMFS should have

taken this fact to the judge and appealed for a new decision. Instead, they simply transfer the problem to the commercial and recreational fishing industry they are supposed to serve. NMFS should be the agency asking for a rehearing on the lawsuit instead of forcing the commercial and recreational fishing industry to either live with NMFS decisions or pursue a lawsuit on their own. This is not the way a federal agency should serve its constituents. And that is not what the Magnuson Act was designed for.

For the reasons listed above, JCAA believes we should stay at status quo for 2006 which would mean a 30 million pound quota (the quota for 2005). However, we know that will not happen. If ASMFC was handling this species on its own, status quo would be an option and we would wait for the data next year. This is exactly what ASMFC did in 2004 for striped bass and in 2005 for weakfish. We understand NMFS is required to do things differently. With that in mind, we could reluctantly support that NMFS go to a 26 million pound quota for 2006. We are hoping that ASMFC separates itself from NMFS and stays at status quo for 2006.

Tom Fote  
Legislative Chairman  
Jersey Coast Anglers Association  
<tfote@JCAA.org>  
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## **Paul Haertel Letter To NMFS On Summer Flounder 12/1/05**

My name is Paul Haertel. I have been an avid fisherman for over 45 years. Fishing is very important to me and I fish at least 100 days a year. I regularly fish for fluke on my boat during the summer. I am a hard-core striped bass fisherman and I will fish for weakfish occasionally. I have my finger on the pulse of what is going on with these three species. I am a member of the Berkeley Striper Club as well as the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. I am fairly well known amongst the angling fraternity and I myself know many fishermen. I have also been involved in law enforcement for the last 28 years. I have a good understanding of fish, fishermen, law and people in general. The point I am trying to make is that I am qualified to give you the following warning.

Recreational fishermen are fed up with your ridiculous quotas forced upon them via increased size limits, reduced bag limits and shortened season.

In the case of fluke, fishermen are absolutely outraged about further restrictions being proposed. If you have not already done so, you are about to cross the threshold of where fishermen are not going to care what quotas you implement or what new laws become enacted. Fishermen are simply going to keep whatever they feel is justified. The hardest thing for any conscientious law abiding citizen to do is to break the law the first time. After that it usually becomes much easier and if they get away with it, it becomes even easier. Such will be the case with our fisheries. The chances of being apprehended for a fishing violation are rather remote due to the lack of law enforcement officers available. I am not condoning this practice but it is what I am hearing from many of the fishermen I know. Compounding the problem further is that many of those who obey the law no longer care about what is going on around them. Whereas in the past they may have reported the violation or informed the individual of the law themselves, they now say nothing or say good for him. I can assure you that once this practice becomes more prevalent there will be no turning back.

In closing I would like to let you know that I strongly support the JCAA's position regarding the proposed quotas for fluke. It is bad enough that in the past you have blatantly favored the commercial fishermen, in part by giving them 60% of the quota compared to the recreational fishermen's share of 40%. Now you apparently have turned your back on both of them and are catering to some extreme environmental groups. I am appealing to you to stand up to these groups and protect the rights of all the fishermen you are supposed to be serving, even if this takes you back to the courts.

Sincerely,  
Paul M. Haertel

## **Limits Harm Small Business Letter to Editor**

We at Capt. Bill's Bait and Tackle in Neptune have survived some challenges, including the years in which the Route 35 bridge construction made us nearly inaccessible. Now, however, fishing regulations are finally forcing us to close our doors.

Winter flounder, summer flounder, blackfish, the list goes on. The bureaucratic state and federal fishery agencies have made it so difficult for anglers to take a fish home for dinner that the cost is just too high for many. When people stop fishing, they don't

buy bait and tackle and they don't rent charter boats. If these government regulations don't change, more fishing-related businesses will fall victim.

If you care about recreational fishing, please keep informed and support the groups that fight for your rights. We thank our loyal customers for their years of dedicated patronage. We'll miss you. Good luck and good fishing.

Bob Matthews

MANAGER  
CAPT. BILL'S  
NEPTUNE

**Hunters & Anglers  
The Forefront of the  
Environment/Conservation Movement**

*By Tom Fote*

I received an email from a member of the New Jersey Environmental Federation asking why I was not on the list to attend a meeting to discuss plans for New Jersey's Coastal Zone Management, especially fisheries management issues. In response I explained why I thought JCAA was not invited and sent my reply to all the attendees. The response I received from the meeting's organizer was interesting. He stated that the meeting was for environmental groups. Since I sit on the board of the NJ Environmental Federation and the Marine Fish Conservation Network, he assured me my interests would be represented. He failed to acknowledge the other four boards I sit on, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, American Sportfishing Association, NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the NJ Outdoor Congress. Jersey Coast Anglers Association, American Sportfishing Association, NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the NJ Outdoor Congress are also environmental/conservationists organizations. Historically, JCAA, NJSFSC and ASA have been fighting for environmental and conservation issues long before some of the groups in this coalition were in existence.

There are three questions we need to consider. First, who really started the environmental movement in the United States? Second, what is an environmental organization? And third, is there an exclusionary trend in the current environmental

movement that seeks to eliminate hunting and fishing?

Audubon and the Sierra Club were founded by sportsmen and sportswomen. So were many other environmental groups. The national park system grew out of the love of the outdoors of Teddy Roosevelt, an avid hunter and angler. The hunters and anglers were the first conservationists and environmentalists. They pushed for a national and state park system and promoted the purchasing of private lands for conservation and public use. Many of the public lands and wildlife refuges were purchased using the money raised from hunting and fishing licenses. These initial purchases encouraged New Jersey state government, counties and towns to expand their programs to purchase land for conservation and public use.

When the federal government and the states could not generate the money to manage these purchases and the resident wildlife, it was the hunters and anglers who stepped up to the plate. We went to congress and asked them to impose a federal excise tax on all fishing and hunting equipment and use the funds for natural resource management. These Wallop Breaux Funds and Pitman Robertson Funds along with state license fees on hunters and anglers provide almost all of the money required to manage these resources. In some states, like California, these sources provide the only funding. At one point, there was a proposal to tax other outdoor equipment (binoculars, canoes, etc) at the federal level to provide more funding to conserve natural resources. This proposal was defeated. Can it be that other resource users did not want to pay their "fair share"? It would be appropriate for the "new" environmental organizations to give the "old" groups (hunters and anglers) credit for our history and our willingness to put up the money to fund natural resources protection.

I define an environmental organization by the battles it chooses to fight, not by the paperwork generated or the grants received. JCAA, NJSFSC, ASA and the New Jersey Outdoor Congress are clearly environmental organizations because of the battles we choose to fight.

JCAA has been one of the organizations on the front lines for:

- Ending ocean dumping
- Reducing toxic emissions from power plants, foundries and other sources
- Reducing mercury in the environment

- Informing the public of fish advisories
- Reducing PCB contamination
- Estuarine and habitat protection
- Fundraising for non-game and endangered species
- Holding power plants accountable for any environmental impact
- The Highlands Bill
- C1 designation for streams
- Green Acres
- Stable source of funding for New Jersey's natural resources

New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs has worked for:

- Purchase of Green Acres lands
- Using hunters and anglers funds to purchase lands for public use
- Increasing license fees to pay for the management of all natural resources not just those of interest to NJSFSC members
- Stable source of funding for New Jersey's natural resources
- Reducing mercury in the environment
- Informing the public of fish advisories
- Reducing PCB contamination
- Estuarine and habitat protection
- Fundraising for non-game and endangered species
- Holding power plants accountable for any environmental impact
- The Highlands Bill
- C1 designation for streams

The American Sportfishing Association has used its clout as an association of manufacturers to support:

- The original passage of the Sport Fish Restoration Act and its subsequent reauthorizations taxing Sportfishing equipment
- The Fish America Foundation which does habitat restoration
- Future Fisherman Foundation to teach children to become stewards of the environment
- The elimination of dams that negatively impact fish populations
- Funding for the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Forest Service

- Agencies in all 50 states that manage natural resources
- Federal Clean Water Act

The New Jersey Outdoor Congress was recently formed by hunters and anglers to reach out to all users of natural resources and work together to develop a stable source of funding the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Division of Parks and other programs. This coalition includes commercial fishermen, recreational anglers, hunters, bird watchers, hikers, and other interested parties.

This brings us to question three, is there an exclusionary trend in the current environmental movement that seeks to eliminate hunting and fishing? What has become evident to me is that some environmental organizations that were originally supportive or at least neutral on hunting and fishing are being co-opted by people with a specific agenda. This agenda is less about environmental protection and more about eliminating hunting and fishing. At many meetings there are people who don't eat meat or fish. For many that decision is a personal choice which they have no intention of imposing on others. However, there are a vocal few who have an agenda that includes eliminating hunting and fishing. There are also people who eat beef, pork, chicken and fish but who are opposed to recreational hunting and fishing. People are certainly entitled to their opinions and to express those publicly. However, I have two concerns. First, they shouldn't allow their personal opinions to become the opinions of the environmental groups they represent. Second, they need to acknowledge that hunters and anglers are environmentalists/ environmental/conservationists. Just because we disagree about how to best use a renewable resource, we are not the enemy. As an example, the New Jersey Sierra Club frequently states they are not opposed to hunting. However, every time there is a hunting issue the New Jersey Sierra Club is opposed to any hunting. It does begin to make us suspicious when the public statements by their executive director, Jeff Tittle, don't match their stated support for hunters. Sometimes people forget that one of the driving forces in the environmental movement is to have food of all kinds that is safe to eat. Many laws have been passed to make fish and wildlife free from mercury and PCBs so they are safe to eat. Many lawsuits that we and other environmentalists/ environmental/conservationists have supported have centered on the damage

industries do to the environment creating an unsafe source of fish and game. Part of the damages usually awarded included the loss of recreational angling and the money required to remediate the situation.

It is my belief that on most issues we are in agreement. We need to be working together. For one environmental group to exclude another environmental group because its members believe in harvesting a renewable resource is counterproductive. It results in inaction rather than action. It breeds distrust and keeps us from presenting a united front on issues of crucial importance to all of us. Future generations need for us to work together. Without the hunters and anglers as members of the environmental coalition we would not have:

- Ended ocean dumping
- Passed the Highlands Bill
- Received C1 designation for streams providing drinking water
- Secured 1 billion dollars for Green Acres funding
- Too many other success battles to protect the environment to list!

### **Paper Presented by Bob Feldsott at ASA 2005 Summit**

Good Morning, Its goods to see familiar faces whom I have known for many years. For others whom I'm just meeting for the first time, it is a pleasure to have this opportunity to meet and work with you. I would also like to thank Ric Ice for the invitation; I have gained a new respect for the work you are trying to accomplish. Now the disclaimer, I have not spoken to a group of this size in 15 years. The last time was at my Wedding so I am out of practice and a little nervous so please bear with me.

I was asked here to speak about the opportunities and challenges facing segments of the sport fishing industry. I will preface that my comments will be directed at the fishing industry and not the sport fishing industry. I believe that we must realize first and foremost that the Fishing industry evolved not out of sport but out of subsistence that later turned to recreation. There are still many subsistence and recreational fisherman and if we ignore this segment of the market then we have limited our opportunities. Before I discuss the opportunities and challenges I would like to take a moment to give you a little background.

Folsom is the oldest company in the Fishing industry and might possibly be the oldest sporting goods company in the United States. The H & D Folsom Arms Company was founded in 1860 by Mr. Folsom and by the way that's not my Dad Lou although many here might think he's been around long enough to have founded the company. At that time the wholesale distributor played an important part in the growth of the sporting goods industry. Folsom had carried a very diverse set of products not just fishing and hunting but all sporting goods including baseball, outdoor apparel, even fur trapping equipment. Wholesalers were indispensable because it was impossible for manufacturers to reach out to all retailers. Remember it was very unusual for a retailer to have more than one store and our transportation system was primitive by today's standards. Wholesalers provided one stop shopping for retailers by carrying hundreds of manufacturers and thousands of SKU's. Salesmen were sent to remote parts of the country like Pennsylvania or Illinois. The Distributor salesman went where no man had gone before. This channel of distribution remained somewhat unchanged for almost 100 years. In 1954 Lou Feldsott then president of Universal Fishing Tackle acquired the Folsom Corp from Mr. Folsom, whose only son was about to enter The Yale Divinity School. The country was growing quickly and retailing was starting to change. Multi unit retailers were populating the landscape of this country from the likes of Woolworth's, S. Klein's, E.J. Korvetts, and S.S. Kresgee (later to be known as K-mart). Lou at that time had decided that the future and growth for the Distributor was in these chain stores. Distributors could easily sell many stores while working with a centralized buying office. Rapid expansion soon followed. The local retail shops came under pressure to compete with more powerful centralized buying offices. But the local shop owner still had his knowledge and personalized service to offer the customer. In addition almost all retailers were paying comparable prices as most were buying from Distributors.

I joined the Family business in 1981 after graduation from the Wharton Business School. I had been working a stint in mergers and acquisitions when my father had called on me. I thought that Lou was pretty sharp, as many of you know all too well. So I joined Folsom and learned the business from the bottom up. My first job was to open 6 months of defective returns. Next, I was assigned to the loading

dock. I had gone from the proverbial white Tower to the trenches. The responsibility of running a business, making tough decisions that either profit or loose were far more difficult than I had ever imagined.

Distributors flourished, having the support of most tackle manufacturers; virtually all factories had distributor programs. Due to a lack of technology the department and discount stores found it convenient to purchase from a distributor who could provide one point of service and manage their inventories for them. Independent and small multi unit retailers also flourished, as they easily match the Discounters prices and maintain their profit margins. Factories such as Penn, Berkley, Garcia, Johnson, Daiwa, Olympic and a small upstart Shimano all relied on distributors to put the product on the shelves of retailers throughout America, and it is with great pride and enthusiasm that Folsom took on that job

Consolidation, Technology and competition soon were part of the landscape.

The 80's through today have seen a consolidation in the number of retail chains caused by the competitive environment of multiple retailers sharing the same geographic territory. With pressure on both management and their sales force to grow their business and profits, factories soon started to sell many of the retailers direct. Factories felt they could control the shelf space for their products. Shakespeare, Normark and Berkley found that it was advantageous and more profitable to go direct. Others factories soon followed. Due to aggressive retail direct programs that large national chains and regional sports specialty chains received, there was erosion in profits for the smaller regional chains and the small mom and pop retailers who were still buying from distributors. In fact there is very little spread between the Big Box direct programs and the wholesale programs. This is why it has been difficult for distributors to keep their customers profitable. The wholesale fishing tackle distributor had been directly impacted causing the loss of all but a few of us. Those who remain have morphed into a hybrid, supplying national and regional brands as well as their own proprietary products that allow them to survive. The traditional fishing tackle wholesaler as we know has vanished. Now we are all suppliers to the same customers. The clear line that once differentiated a manufacturer and distributor are now

blurred. There is no going back to where we were 20 years ago.

Now to the challenges and opportunities.

As I had said earlier there are many challenges that lay in front of us. There are issues with profitability, the net loss of retail floor space and the loss of participants. All these issues are weighing heavily upon us. The Good news is that the industry has done a good job of protecting and improving the fisheries, which are an important part of making our industry healthy again.

Let's take a look at some losses to the fishing tackle customer base. At one time it included the likes of Macys, Dayton Hudson, J.C. Penny, Woolco, Gemco, Ames, Roses Stores, Venture Stores, Caldor, West-Gibson, Service Merchandise, Best Stores, Kroger, Brendles, HJ Wilson, Herman's, most recently Galyan's and hundreds if not thousands of independent dealers who were the backbone of our industry. In fact Abercrombie and Fitch, a single unit store in Manhattan was considered to be the benchmark of sporting goods retail. Their store in Manhattan actually had a shooting range to try out the guns they sold. Today my 9 and 12-year-old daughters look at me cross-eyed when I tell them that Abercrombie carried fishing and hunting gear. They only know it as the cool place to shop for their clothes. In many cases the stores mentioned no longer exist, or they have eliminated fishing as a category that they carry. Why? Profitability. There are just too many other options of profitable merchandise to sell.

The retailers who have survived in our industry such as, Wal-mart, Bass Pro, Cabelas, Dicks, Academy, Gart Sports, K-mart, Boaters World and the regional and local outlets have the same concerns and they need to be addressed. Profit! We are an industry that is fighting for survival. In order to survive we must stem the tide of loosing floor space. To do so we must put money in the retailer's pocket. When was the last time you were able to go to one of your customers, and were honestly able to tell them that you have an opportunity that will put money in their pockets? It's difficult at best to get a retailer excited about a category when the profit and inventory turns are in many cases less than their suppliers. Remember that we are competing for floor space with categories that offer better margins and turns than we can. What would you do in your customer's position? Folsom was keenly aware of this issue when Lou supported

both mine and Ed's decision to start Bimini Bay, a clothing manufacturer. Sales were originally to our existing retail customer base, which we have been expanded upon. Our customers have enjoyed a minimum of 40% gross profit on our products and because of this Bimini has had an average annual growth rate that exceeds 25% over the last 13 years.

Tackle Suppliers must develop a formula to make the retailers profitable or management will take our space and give it to Team Sports, Nike, Adidas, our friends from NASCAR or any other category that offers a better profit opportunity. Dealers will be forced to look at all options as well, if they are lucky enough to own their properties they may just rent it out, or if they lease the space, close shop as hundreds already have because they can't pay their bills. A profitable customer base will equate to a healthy tackle industry.

It is a sad commentary on our industry when my friends who are considered to be successful have told their children not to work in their businesses. In fact many of you, I am sure have told the very same thing to your own children. We need to change our industry so that we would all be proud to have our children follow in our footsteps!

The fishing industry is losing participants of all ages and there are numerous causes for this.

We are losing the future fisherman because many young children are simply not taught to fish. We need to give more children a positive fishing experience which to excuse the pun, get them hooked on fishing. The industry needs to connect with school systems, camps, National and local organizations. We need to sponsor fishing programs, clubs and teams. An example would be to go to the inner city school districts and sponsor fishing trips for their children; they can have fun and put food on the table (Catch and Cook not catch and release). Let's remember the days not too long ago when a day fishing meant bringing home fish for mom to cook for dinner. Let's also take a cue from the NRA and all the hunting groups, killing is a good thing. We can still manage the fisheries if we set responsible catch levels. In some parts of the United States regulations have become too restrictive on both the size and quantity of fish that can be taken.

To create tomorrow's customers and reinvigorate our current customer base, we must make fishing visible to the youth through the use of celebrities and role models, we must invite the subsistence and recreational fisherman back as well

because they will teach their children to fish as they have done for decades. We must go to the Federal, state and local governments to relax some of the restrictions on sport and subsistence fisherman so the economics of a day of fishing are justified.

We must make affordable product, which is necessary to allow easy access to everyone who wants to fish. Even the subsistence or recreational fisherman and their offspring are likely to purchase the more innovative and expensive products as their financial status improves.

A new and serious challenge is the cost of Fuel, petrochemicals and the energy component of our economy. They are a major component of both the cost of our goods and the cost of a day fishing. These cost increases will directly affect the fisherman's disposable income. While the cost of freshwater fishing has jumped substantially, for those who saltwater fish it has skyrocketed. The Angler must decide how he is going to spend his money, as it will now affect his lifestyle. Do they lower their home energy use, will they postpone that new rod or reel purchase so they fuel their boat. The cost to fill the tank just went up \$50 or \$100. The issues surrounding increased gas prices are here to stay and it will have a profound effect on our industry.

Separate from the above but not to be lost is the cost of producing and delivering our products to our customers is going up as well. I don't have to tell you that not one of our customers wants to hear anything about price increases.

We must seek to address the tax issues surrounding our industry. While large corporations and many industries are getting tax relief and government assistance we are fighting with a tax code that is confusing, applied unevenly and sometimes unfairly. We must have the ability to grab the executive and legislative branch's ear. Like them or not the NRA does an excellent job of this.

I am astonished that there are just a handful of retailers and sales reps participating in these meetings. They have much at stake and their livelihoods depend on it. We need everyone's participation to bring the fishing industry back to health.

It would seem that we have many difficult challenges ahead, but it became evident yesterday that we have a core group of members that are willing to dedicate themselves to the tasks that lay ahead. Opportunities will be dependant on how we choose to deal with the challenges. It is only when

we accept the challenges that are before us, and deal with them in a united effort, clear in purpose, that we will create new opportunities. We must increase participation in fishing, make it profitable for our customers, and create a new vitality within the industry so the members and participants will work towards a common goal. We need to take advantage of every opportunity if we are to improve the health of our ailing industry.

## **NMFS (or, Not a Merry Fluke Story)**

*By Bruce Smith*

Instead of going to the market to purchase some filets (from 14 inch summer flounder) for dinner, a New Jersey angler goes fishing.

Because he is a law-abiding citizen and because he agrees with the principles of conservation, he releases fish that are twice as heavy as the fish available at the market because that is the law. The filets from many of the fish he releases would be twice as heavy as those available at the market. They would provide some really good tasting, nutritional meals for his family, but the law states that he cannot harvest them because they are, at 15-1/2 to 16-1/2 inches, too short to be taken by angling regardless of how thick they are. The fisheries management wizards have convinced him that it is good conservation of the resource to release these fish even if ten percent of them do not survive. They call this fishing mortality. If the angler catches eighty fish and releases all of them, the projected mortality is eight fish, a quantity equal to the limit allowed of fish greater than 16 1/2 inches.

However, if the angler can catch no legal fish and if he is compliant with the law, he goes home with no fresh fish for dinner in spite of having caught the equivalent of several nice dinners.

He could return to the market and purchase, legally, fish that he that he could not harvest legally. The thought of this is repugnant to him so he goes home.

On the way home he tries to come up with a story to explain to his family how he spent the dinner money on tackle, bait, fuel, ice, and lunch. He will tell them that he caught a lot of really nice fish but did not bring dinner home, that they have no money to go out, and that they are having cereal for dinner.

Under these circumstances, he finds it difficult, if not impossible, to explain to his hungry

family concepts of fisheries management, "the best science available" and conservation but assures them that he is saving the resource for them and their children because he is, after all, a true conservationist. He will do his best to convince them that NMFS stands for something other than "Not Many Fluke Suppers."

The angler tells his family to cheer up, things could be worse. So they, with mock cheer, eat their cereal.

The kids are smart enough to suspect that next year the wizards will probably declare the recreational quota exceeded, increase the legal length, recalculate the mortality probability, decrease the bag limit and /or season and will repeat the process yearly. Soon all of the factors; catch, length (probably 20 inches minimum), bag, season will be exempted by the projected mortality resulting in a one 20 inch fluke limit with a one day season.

However, they are comforted by the knowledge that, if the family wants fluke for dinner, they will still be able to go to the market to purchase some choice filets from 14 inch fluke.

Bruce Smith December, 2005 Bah Humbug!

How much cereal can you get your family to eat?

## **ASMFC Surprisingly Approves Lower Fluke**

**Quota**

**The Star Ledger**

**Thursday, December 08, 2005**

**By Al Ristori**

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission had a chance to stand up to the National Marine Fisheries Service at Tuesday evening's meeting in Trump Plaza in Atlantic City.

Instead, ASMFC voted to accept the sharply lower fluke quota of 23.59 million pounds that NMFS insisted on -- a 22 percent decrease for 2006 from this year's 30.3 million pounds, and a 28.5 percent decrease from the 33 million pound quota projected last year for 2006. Only 40 percent of the fluke quota is allocated to the public, and that could result in further recreational fishing restrictions.

The only good news is that preliminary Marine Recreational Fishing Statistics Survey (MRFSS) results indicate most states underfished their quotas this year. With the last late-season wave still not available, New Jersey was about 30 percent under quota. That will at least partially mitigate the

damage done by a lower quota and there shouldn't be any severe tightening of regulations next year.

It's a shame ASMFC didn't take this opportunity to stand up to NMFS. The agency based its case on retrospective analysis of the fishery that indicated overfishing is occurring relative to the 2010 stock size goal, though the stock is in good shape and continuing to grow.

As noted after last month's ASMFC meeting in Galloway Township, the Monitoring Committee had approved a constant harvest strategy of 26 million pounds for the next three years that would result in the stock size desired by 2010. The Mid-Atlantic Council also opted for that concept, but NMFS rejected it because it wouldn't provide at least a 50 percent chance of achieving the target in the first year.

When ASMFC concluded its last meeting, a motion to accept 26 million pounds for 2006 was tabled. The sponsor, from New York, amended his motion to the 23.59 million pounds dictated by NMFS. His state's reasoning is that while they'll take a big hit next year (New York is also about 10 percent over quota in the MRFSS), that will allow New York to seek higher quotas the following two years rather than being obligated to stay at the constant harvest figure.

Ray Bogan, counsel for the United Boatmen, called the socio-economic statement issued by NMFS in connection with the 23.59 million pound quota "irresponsible". Council member Tony Bogan also denounced the NMFS statement.

"While it is likely that proposed management measures could restrict the recreational fishery for 2006, and that these measures may cause some decrease in recreational satisfaction, there is no indication that any of these measures may lead to decline in the demand for party/charter boat trips," Tony Bogan said.

Further along, the NMFS statement noted, "It is likely that party/ charter anglers will target other species when faced with potential reductions in the amount of summer flounder, scup and black sea bass that they are allowed to catch."

That illustrates just how little NMFS understands recreational fisheries. Very few fluke fishermen will switch to a bluefish boat if fluking is slow or limits so restrictive that the fare can't be justified.

Bruce Freeman of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Game emphasized the importance of

consistency in regulations and urged that some common sense be injected into the process. That wasn't the case, since the 23.59 million pounds was accepted by a vote of 6 to 4.

Tony Bogan pushed for a drop in the sea bass size limit at yesterday's joint meeting of the Council with the ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board, but the end result was status quo (no change in regulations) for both porgies and sea bass.

Bogan said the discard rate for sea bass has been climbing ever since the 12-inch limit was put in place, and is up to 82 percent while the catch falls short of the quota. He noted if that were the case on the commercial side there would be changes made to ensure they could catch their quota.

**NY Times**

**December 4, 2005**

**Op-Ed Columnist**

**For Environmental Balance, Pick Up a Rifle**

**By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF**

Here's a quick quiz: Which large American mammal kills the most humans each year?

It's not the bear, which kills about two people a year in North America. Nor is it the wolf, which in modern times hasn't killed anyone in this country. It's not the cougar, which kills one person every year or two.

Rather, it's the deer. Unchecked by predators, deer populations are exploding in a way that is profoundly unnatural and that is destroying the ecosystem in many parts of the country. In a wilderness, there might be 10 deer per square mile; in parts of New Jersey, there are up to 200 per square mile.

One result is ticks and Lyme disease, but deer also kill people more directly. A study for the insurance industry estimated that deer kill about 150 people a year in car crashes nationwide and cause \$1 billion in damage. Granted, deer aren't stalking us, and they come out worse in these collisions - but it's still true that in a typical year, an American is less likely to be killed by Osama bin Laden than by Bambi.

If the symbol of the environment's being out of whack in the 1960's was the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland catching fire, one such symbol today is

deer congregating around what they think of as salad bars and what we think of as suburbs.

So what do we do? Let's bring back hunting.

Now, you've probably just spilled your coffee. These days, among the university-educated crowd in the cities, hunting is viewed as barbaric.

The upshot is that towns in New York and New Jersey are talking about using birth control to keep deer populations down. (Liberals presumably support free condoms, while conservatives back abstinence education.) Deer contraception hasn't been very successful, though.

Meanwhile, the same population bomb has spread to bears. A bear hunt has been scheduled for this week in New Jersey - prompting outrage from some animal rights groups (there's also talk of bear contraception: make love, not cubs).

As for deer, partly because hunting is perceived as brutal and vaguely psychopathic, towns are taking out contracts on deer through discreet private companies. Greenwich, Conn., budgeted \$47,000 this year to pay a company to shoot 80 deer from raised platforms over four nights - as well as \$8,000 for deer birth control.

Look, this is ridiculous.

We have an environmental imbalance caused in part by the decline of hunting. Humans first wiped out certain predators - like wolves and cougars - but then expanded their own role as predators to sustain a rough ecological balance. These days, though, hunters are on the decline.

According to "Families Afield: An Initiative for the Future of Hunting," a report by an alliance of shooting organizations, for every 100 hunters who die or stop hunting, only 69 hunters take their place.

I was raised on "Bambi" - but also, as an Oregon farm boy, on venison and elk meat. But deer are not pets, and dead deer are as natural as live deer. To wring one's hands over them, perhaps after polishing off a hamburger, is soggy sentimentality.

What's the alternative to hunting? Is it preferable that deer die of disease and hunger? Or, as the editor of Adirondack Explorer magazine suggested, do we introduce wolves into the burbs?

To their credit, many environmentalists agree that hunting can be green. The New Jersey Audubon Society this year advocated deer hunting as an ecological necessity.

There's another reason to encourage hunting: it connects people with the outdoors and creates a broader constituency for wilderness preservation. At

a time when America's wilderness is being gobbled away for logging, mining or oil drilling, that's a huge boon.

Granted, hunting isn't advisable in suburban backyards, and I don't expect many soccer moms to install gun racks in their minivans. But it's an abdication of environmental responsibility to eliminate other predators and then refuse to assume the job ourselves. In that case, the collisions with humans will simply get worse.

In October, for example, Wayne Goldsberry was sitting in a home in northwestern Arkansas when he heard glass breaking in the next room. It was a home invasion - by a buck.

Mr. Goldsberry, who is six feet one inch and weighs 200 pounds, wrestled with the intruder for 40 minutes. Blood spattered the walls before he managed to break the buck's neck.

So it's time to reestablish a balance in the natural world - by accepting the idea that hunting is as natural as bird-watching.

## **Striper Rules Bill Going to Committee**

**Sunday, December 04, 2005**

**BY AL RISTORI**

**Star-Ledger Staff**

A bill that would change New Jersey striped bass regulations to conform with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) coastal standard of two at a 28-inch minimum per day will be considered by the Senate Environmental Committee at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow. Bill S2450 is a bipartisan effort by Monmouth County Senators Joe Palaia (R) and Ellen Karcher (D), with co-sponsorship by Gerald Cardinale (R).

The comparable Assembly bill is A3790 by Sean Kean (R) with co-sponsorships by Republicans Steve Corodemus, David Wolfe, Bill Baroni, Joe Azzolina and James Holzapfel plus Democrats Louis Manzo, Patrick Degnan, Michael Panter and Robert Morgan.

The Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee meets Thursday at 2 p.m. Tom Fote of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) reports its chairman, Robert Smith II, has filed notice of a bill he will introduce relative to striped bass. Smith is the author of the present regulations, but Fote suspects his bill will only allow filleting of stripers by party and large group charter

boats as is the case now with other regulated species -- and won't interfere with the move to two at 28.

**SALT WATER SPORTSMAN  
NATIONALSEMINAR SERIES COMES  
TO WEST LONG BRANCH!**

Mark your calendar for Saturday, January 21. That's when the Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series will come to West Long Branch! The eight-hour seminar, which is presented by West Marine, will be held inside Monmouth University's Pollak Theatre, 400 Cedar Avenue, West Long Branch.

Headlining the seminar will be George Poveromo - Host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on ESPN2 and a Senior Editor for Salt Water Sportsman. Poveromo will be joined by Gary Caputi, David DiBenedetto, John A. Luchka, Dr. Mitchell Roffer, and captains Steve Bent, Lou Grazioso, Bob Henn, Jimmy Price, Greg Bogdan and Ray Burke.

Tickets are \$ 55.00 and include the 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. seminar, a \$ 40.00 discount coupon to West Marine, West Marine Tote Bag with water bottle and fish towel, textbook, One-Year Subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman, One Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, One year membership to the International Game Fish Association, 8-Ounce OrPine Wash & Wax, and One log of Double Strike Chum.

Order early, as this seminar usually sells out well in advance. Call 1-800-448-7360, or visit [www.nationalseminarseries.com](http://www.nationalseminarseries.com)

**The Saltwater Fishing Expo**

An all-new, three-day event for the saltwater angler will make its debut at The Saltwater Fishing Expo at Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, NJ March 17-19, 2006.

A sure cure for cabin fever.

For information or to order booth space contact:

E mail: [paul@sportshows.com](mailto:paul@sportshows.com) Tel: 603-431-4315

Web: [www.sportshows.com](http://www.sportshows.com) Fax: 603-431-1971

**SUPPORT THE  
ARTIFICIAL REEF  
PROGRAM**

**MEMBERSHIP**

*By John Toth*

This year is rapidly coming to its end and some of our clubs have not paid their annual JCAA dues. A notice was sent out to delinquent clubs to pay their dues. So please, if you have not already done so, send in your \$50 check to: JCAA, 1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753. If you have any inquiries on payment call (732) 506-6565.

Also, invoices for club dues for 2006 will be sent out shortly. It would be most appreciated if your club dues were paid in a timely fashion to reduce follow-up mailings seeking payment.

If you know of any fishing clubs that are not members of the JCAA, please talk to them about joining us for 2006. You can tell them what the JCAA does for recreational anglers, or you can hand them a copy of our newsletter. This publication always has interesting articles about what the JCAA is all about. The JCAA's primary interest is the recreational anglers of New Jersey and the JCAA will always monitor and respond to any major issue that affects the fishing rights of its anglers.

If you want me to talk to any potential club members, I can be reached at (732) 446-6298. or at [tothjohn@juno.com](mailto:tothjohn@juno.com).

Remember, there is always more strength in numbers!

Thank You!

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

*BY DON MARANTZ*

**Nominations for JCAA Officers for 2006 are:**

**President Bruce Smith**

**1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President – John Toth**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Dan Miller**

**Treasurer – Doug Tegeder**

**Corresponding Secretary – Tom Siciliano**

**Recording Secretary – Paul Turi**

**Membership Secretary - Available**

**Elections are to be held at the General Meeting**

**December 27, 2005**

**Procedure Change required in the By  
Laws Article 11 Section 1  
By Ed Cherry, Chairman By-Laws  
Committee**

Because there is a difficulty in billing the clubs for annual dues in January, when many clubs are not meeting during the winter months, and the notices tend to get lost, it was decided by the Board and By-Laws Committee to move the billing date for dues to June when the member clubs are fully functioning. It will be necessary for the club reps to vote on this procedure change at the February general meeting. The January date has been found to be impractical and involves time-consuming rebilling of the clubs. Also, the elected officers and reps of the clubs that may have changed early in the year would by June presumably have been updated in the JCAA database.

Article 11 Section 1 currently reads:

**ARTICLE #11 - DUES**

Section 1 - Annual dues shall be established by the Executive Board and approved by two-thirds of the membership present at a meeting. Dues are payable in January of each year or upon presentation of a dues notice by the Membership Secretary.

We need to change the wording to read:

**ARTICLE #11 - DUES**

Section 1 - Annual dues shall be established by the Executive Board and approved by two-thirds of the membership present at a meeting. Dues are payable in June of each year or upon presentation of a dues notice by the Membership Secretary.

This will be voted upon at the January 2006 general meeting.

**YOUTH EDUCATION  
BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI**

**HOFNOD CERTIFICATION**

The JCAA Youth Education Committee would like to schedule a sign-up "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" certification training session during the month of January and February 2006. We will provide a sign-up sheet for JCAA member representatives at the JCAA general membership

meetings. Club representatives can bring the HOFNOD sign-up certification sheets back to their clubs and return the information to the JCAA Youth Education Committee. Members of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will present the HOFNOD certification program. Wayne Tonneson, NJ Conservation Officer and NJ State Coordinator for the Future Fisherman Foundation's "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" program, will assist the JCAA Youth Education Committee with choosing a training/certification schedule that will be suitable for our needs. If you would like more information about the upcoming HOFNOD certification program and youth fishing programs, please e-mail Greg Kucharewski at [gkucharews@aol.com](mailto:gkucharews@aol.com) and place HOFNOD in the subject line.

**YOUTH FISHING GUIDE**

Dr. Eleanor Bochenek, Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, Rutgers University, has completed her Young People's Guide to Fishing, Crabbing, and Clamming in Barnegat Bay. The book is currently being printed and will be available in early 2006. The JCAA Youth Education Committee plans to use the book in their 2006 programs. The book is written for junior high students and contains information on ethical angling, how to fish, crab, and clam, the life history of key recreational fish, blue crabs, and hard clams, safe boating; wetlands, sea grasses, pollution, marine debris, exotic species, and endangered and threatened animals and plants with an emphasis on Barnegat Bay. This publication is a result of work partially funded by the Trust for Public Land, Barnegat Bay Environmental Grant Fund, and the Jersey Coast Anglers Association in cooperation with the Marine Trades Association of New Jersey, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Ocean County, and the Jersey Coast Anglers Association.

**OUTDOOR SPORTSMEN SHOWS**

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's, Youth Education Committee, will be featuring special youth education seminars at upcoming sportsmen shows. Participating merchants at the hunting and fishing expositions will offer special promotions at their booths for children attending the Jersey Coast Anglers Association's, Youth Fishing Seminars. Parents are also welcome to attend.

## We need the support of your club and its members!

Your club should be a member of JCAA and make a difference for only \$50 a year. Your club will have a voice in all JCAA positions that affect your fishing future. Your club will receive up-to-date info on vital issues each month.

### Club Membership Application

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

President's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pres. Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Ph. # \_\_\_\_\_

Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check \$50 payable to JCAA

## **JCAA SPONSORSHIP**

The JCAA has four levels of sponsorship, \$50, \$100, \$250 & \$500.

The sponsors are recognized in our newspaper. For more information call JCAA at 732-506-6565. Become a JCAA sponsor and help our cause. As you can see by our newspaper many our member clubs are also JCAA sponsors, if your club is not contact us today to become one. With all the new battles we are engaged in we need to raise more funds in order to be effective. Become a sponsor now and help us to continue the fight.

## Join JCAA as an Associate Member

Only \$25 per year! Support the Goals of JCAA and receive a subscription to JCAA NEWS that gives you the Most Up-To-Date News about Fisheries Management and Environmental Issues

### JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATE MEMBER APPLICATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you would rather receive newspaper by email instead of by regular mail. Yes \_\_\_

Ph. # \_\_\_\_\_

Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

Legislative	Tom Fote	732-270-9102
Office Manager	Phil Celmer	609-693-3414
Fluke Tournament	Rich Pasko	609-971-6120
Access: (North)	Ray Marione	201-843-1711
Access: (South)	Robert DeLeonard	732-793-8080
Blackfish	Pat Donnelly	732-295-1755
Blue claw Crab	Jack Miktus	732-477-5184
Blue Fish	Al Marantz	732-280-2643
Habitat	Pat Donnelly	732-206-1407
Large Pelagic	John Koegler	610-687-2208
Menhaden	Len Fantasia	732-872-1862
Striped Bass	Ed Cherry	edwardwc@comcast.net
Sponsorship	Frank Richetti	732-477-3120
Webmaster	Dave Franceschina	732 364-3168
Youth Education	Greg Kucharewski	732-840-9197

If you would like to receive JCAA Email alerts email your Name, Club, if you belong to one, and your interest to <[tfote@jcaa.org](mailto:tfote@jcaa.org)> or just go to the JCAA Web and subscribe from there.