

# JCAA NEWSPAPER MARCH 2008

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on February 19th, 2008)

Remember New Monthly Meeting Room

**"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"**

## **JCAA REGULAR MEETING:**

**Tuesday, February 26th, 2008**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd**

**NEXT JCAA EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**Thursday, March 13th, 2008**

**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 732-446-6298 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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## **2008 OFFICERS**

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**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## **JCAA HIGH ROLLER RAFFLE**

It is now time for the JCAA High Rollers 2008 Raffle. We have put together a terrific selection of rods and reels and other prizes for a raffle that will be drawn on April 29, 2008. This is a major fundraiser for the JCAA. The 8 prizes are listed below with a value of almost \$3,500. Tickets will be two dollars each and Club Representatives can get books of tickets to sell by attending a JCAA meeting. JCAA will have a booth and selling tickets at Saltwater Fishing Expo at the Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, March 14-16. Stop by and say hello. 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 and angler's rights. Shimano provided reels at a special price to JCAA. His Seas is supplying it new 30 pound braid for each rod and reel combination.

1. Shimano Tiagra TI-30WL RSA reel with a Shimano LCX8MHRSA rod Value \$805
2. Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor model RT 55/SE/L&D Value \$550  
*Donated by Johnson Outdoors Inc*
3. Fisherman's Headquarters, Ship Bottom, NJ donates a \$500.00 Shopping Spree Value \$500
4. U S REEL 240 SX reel with Lamiglas EXS 722 rod Value \$450  
*Donated by Lamiglas and US REELS*
5. Shimano TLD 30 reel with Profile GL5630 stand up rod Value \$430  
*Donated by Profile Rods*
6. Penn 850SSm Spinfisher reel with a Offshore Angler OMCP11SS rod Value \$300  
*Donated by Bass Pro Shops*
7. Shimano Stradic - ST-5000FI Reel with Shimano Terramar TMS-70MH Rod Value \$280  
*Donated by Shimano*
8. Tsunami TSSD 3000 reel and TFSBC-601MH rod Value \$150  
*Donated by Bimini Bay Outfitters*

**Total Value \$3,465**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**February 26<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting  
**February 28<sup>th</sup>-March 2<sup>nd</sup>** Suffern Show  
**March 6<sup>th</sup>** NJ Marine fisheries Council Meeting  
**March 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>** Saltwater Fishing Expo. Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset,  
**March 13<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting  
**March 25<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting  
**April 5<sup>th</sup>** **NJEF's Conference Heat Is On**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*By John Toth*

The most important issue facing us now is what our fluke season will be for this year. In order to meet the reduced quota facing NJ's anglers, the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife has submitted a number of proposals to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission that it feels will meet the necessary cutback. These proposals are:

1. 17 ½ inches and 2 fish from June 28<sup>th</sup> thru September 8<sup>th</sup>
2. 17 ½ inches and 8 fish from July 4<sup>th</sup> thru September 2<sup>nd</sup>
3. 18 inches and 8 fish from May 24<sup>th</sup> thru September 8<sup>th</sup>
4. 18 ½ inches and 8 fish from May 17<sup>th</sup> thru October 17<sup>th</sup>

There are pros and cons to all of these proposals. None of them are great since they all hurt us no matter which one of these that we pick. However, we do have to pick one of them and we will vote on one of these proposals at our February 26<sup>th</sup> general meeting. There are certainly other options that can be considered. However, they would have to comply with the cutbacks on the fluke quota that we are required to follow. The above proposals submitted by NJ's Fish & Wildlife should place us where we need to be to meet the restrictions imposed upon us.

A decision on which proposal to follow will be made on March 6<sup>th</sup> by NJ's Fish & Wildlife and the JCAA will submit its fluke recommendation at this meeting. So, we will need your input at our February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to represent your club's view on this important issue. A vote will be taken and that vote will be voiced at the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. So in order to represent your club, come to our meeting and let your view be heard!

## **Pot Bill**

A strategy meeting attended by JCAA, RFA, NJ Diver Association to plan Reef Rescue's next step to advance this bill thru 2008 was held at the end of January. A number of initiatives were discussed including the hiring of a lobbyist to maneuver this bill thru Trenton's legislators. Nothing was definitively decided since the cost to hire a lobbyist still needs to be determined. As more info on the progress of this effort becomes available, I will share it with you.

However, we do have support from Senators Sean Kean and Jeff Van Drew respectively in addition to other legislators on the Pot Bill.

## **New Jersey Outdoor Alliance**

The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) was initially formed to fight for the rights of the sportsmen in New Jersey by lobbying and supporting candidates that advance our sportsperson goals. With the help of you all and our hunting colleagues, these legislators who pandered to this small but vocal group were ousted even though they outspent their opponents 6 to 1 with all types of TV and radio ads.

The NJOA is not a one-issue organization and after a much needed and well-deserved rest, it is back again to represent both anglers and hunters. Unlike many of our clubs, the NJOA is a political action committee and can openly provide financial support to legislators who support hunting and fishing issues.

At this point, the NJOA is prioritizing a list of what issues it wants to pursue and it is also considering hiring a full-time lobbyist to move its issues through Trenton. In addition to various hunting organizations, the JCAA, RFA and The Fisherman are on its Board to represent saltwater anglers. I will update you on the progress that the NJOA makes on the various issues it pursues. More info on the NJOA can be found on [www.njoutdooralliance.org](http://www.njoutdooralliance.org).

## **The U.S.S. Radford**

At our January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, I read a letter written by Bill Figley urging the JCAA to request our Governor and the NJDEP to acquire the Radford from our Navy. A vote was taken by our membership to support Bill Figley's request and it was agreed that I would write a letter to the

Governor and our DEP to petition the Navy for this ship. This 560- foot destroyer would be a great addition to our artificial reef program and would house all types of marine activity. However, other states want this ship for the same purpose as ours and hopefully we will get this ship for our artificial reef program. The following is the letter I wrote to Governor Corzine and DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson. Both of these letters went out on JCAA letterhead.

Commissioner Lisa Jackson  
January 31, 2008  
Department of Environmental Protection  
401 East State Street  
PO Box 402  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0402

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association strongly urges you to use the power of your office to secure the U.S.S. Radford to be used for our state's artificial reef program.

This ship, a 560- foot destroyer, would be an ideal addition to our state's artificial reef program. Its huge structure would attract a correspondingly huge abundance of marine life and greatly enhance New Jersey's artificial reef program which already is the envy of many coastal states. The abundant marine life attracted to this vessel would also enhance the marine environment for diving enthusiasts and anglers who would want to utilize this addition to our reef program. Residents and non-residents of our state using this vessel for diving and fishing would also benefit the local economy through their purchase of gas, meals, diving and fishing gear.

There is a deadline of February 13, 2008 for our state to apply for the acquisition of the U.S.S. Radford from our Navy. On behalf of our membership that unanimously passed the motion that our state should acquire the U.S.S. Radford at our January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, and since it would also benefit all of the 1.3 million saltwater anglers and divers in our state, we strongly urge you to acquire the U.S.S. Radford for our artificial reef program. For your information, I have attached a document that provides data on the specifications of the U.S.S. Radford

Respectfully yours,  
John J. Toth  
President, Jersey Coast Anglers Association

## **Thank You!**

A big **thank you** is in order for all of you who volunteered your time to staff the JCAA booth at the Boat Show last week. In addition to the JCAA staff, we had members of Reef Rescue in our booth to garner support for the Pot Bill by having the show's attendees signing a petition supporting the Pot Bill. In talking to those anglers who stopped by our booth, it was also amazing to learn how many anglers knew about the Pot Bill and its status. I also got info on anglers' opinions on the proposed new fluke regulations. So it was fun working the booth and interacting with anglers to hear what they had to say about many topics. A special thanks goes out to Phil Celmer and his crew in setting up the JCAA booth and to Mark Taylor in organizing the volunteers to work at the Boat Show.

## **Volunteers Needed for Saltwater Expo!**

The Saltwater Expo show is scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> thru the 16<sup>th</sup> at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Somerset, NJ. This is a great show and it really focuses on saltwater fishing with a huge variety of vendors that have the stuff we are looking for. Mark Taylor is in charge of this show and he can be reached at (732) 929-2591 to sign up for this show. Mark usually has enough volunteers on hand so that you can work at the JCAA booth, but you also get the opportunity to walk around to see what the show is all about. Sign up with Mark and have fun while working for a good cause!

## **Keeping Track of Bills in NJ Legislature** **By Tom Siciliano**

The Pots off the Reefs Bill and Hooked on Fishing Not On Drugs Bill that are in the NJ Legislature are just two of the bills that you can easily be tracked using the free subscription service that is available on the NJ State Website. Just go to [www.NJ.gov](http://www.NJ.gov) and go down to Legislature on the left side of the page. On that page look for the box that says: Subscribe Free e-mail notification of legislative activity for your preselected bills. For instance one bill, which is very important to recreational anglers, is S336 Prohibits the use of certain fishing gear on artificial reefs sponsored by Sean Kean and co-sponsored by Jeff Van Drew. All you need is the bill number and you are set to go. So with the bill number S336 you are set to subscribe. Some other bills you might want to track are:

SCR57 Proposes constitutional amendment to preserve right of people to hunt, fish and harvest game subject to certain restrictions as may be prescribed by the Legislature. S75 Establishes Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs and S802 Allows Hunting with Bow and Arrow on Sundays.

When you are setting up your subscription don't forget to check the box for the bill or bills you want to include. I didn't do that at first and it took me a while to get it right. Once you are set up you can look at your subscription by going to the Bills Subscription Service under Bills.

The following information is from the NJ Legislature subscribe page. The bill subscription service allows you to create and maintain a list of bills. This is a fast and easy way for you to track a group of bills throughout the legislative session. This free service is a time saver for users who track large numbers of bills. As a subscriber, you create a list of bills that enables you to retrieve the latest status and information for all of the bills on your list. You will be notified of any legislative action taken on the bill after a legislative session

#### Creating Your Bill Subscription Service Account

The bill subscription service is a group of web pages that are not available to non-subscribers. You can get to these pages from the system by selecting the Bills Subscription Service link from the Bills section of the home page. When you first click on the link you will get a log on box. Enter your e-mail address, then click the Submit button. When a message appears, "You do not have a subscription with this e-mail address," click on the Yes button to subscribe now. Your browser will then display the main bill subscription screen. You need to log on only once per session while you are using subscription list related pages.

## **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT & LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

*By Thomas Fote*

### **Summer Flounder**

Congressman Frank Pallone and NJ State Senator John Adler held a press conference on the boardwalk in Seaside Heights on February 11<sup>th</sup> to announce a bill that would allow flexibility in the Magnuson/Stevens Act. There are two articles

below that cover this press conference. Senator John Adler and Senator Sean Kean have introduced a resolution in the NJ Senate to support Congressman Pallone's bill. JCAA supports this bill because it is the only available option to remedy the summer flounder problems. We have been trying to get the National Marine Fisheries Service to do an outside peer review of the summer flounder stock assessment targets but they have refused.

On another front, Dr. Brian Rothschild, who was hired by PMAFS to monitor the stock assessment and benchmark assessment process, has been forced to resign due to the fact that he will be the new chairman of the MidAtlantic Marine Fisheries Council Scientific and Statistical Committee. Dr. Rothschild will be a loss to the summer flounder effort but he will be an asset to this council in reviewing the summer flounder and other plans. The SSC will replace the Monitoring Committee in making recommendations for total allowable catches.

Save The Summer Flounder Fishery Fund has hired Dr. Mark Maunder to both review the current Summer Flounder Assessment as well as attend the various meetings associated with the upcoming SAW in June (as well as attending the SAW itself of course). SSFFF has indicated Dr. Maunder will be working with PMAFS since we all have the same goal. Having another scientist on board with Dr. Maunder's modeling experience will be a plus.

### **Striped Bass**

I attended the striped bass meeting and advisor's meeting with former NJ Senator Louis Bassano and Captain Al Ristori. Lou and Al are the striped bass advisors for New Jersey. It was also good to see Bill Donovan from New Jersey Angler as a striped bass advisor for Pennsylvania. I was only able to attend parts of the advisor's meeting due to the busy meeting schedule but the discussion I was able to hear was the same discussion we have been having for the last 10 years. Some recreational anglers want more restrictions to see bigger fish. Some recreational anglers want to be able to catch smaller fish. And the commercial interests want an increase in their quota. The stock assessment information is included in the ASMFC winter report in this newspaper. As you will see in the report, striped bass stocks are in good shape and there are no recommendations for any changes. Lately, hearing "no change" is good news. The one part of

the discussion of particular interest was the support for the 24 – 28 and the 28 and larger slot limit. I was disappointed when we lost that option in New Jersey. I feel this would be an appropriate management plan. It would limit the take of big fish and small fish. I hope ASMFC considers this option coastwide. It would benefit both the shore-based anglers and anglers who fish in the producing areas of the Delaware and Hudson Rivers.

**Endocrine Disruptors**

Senator Bob Smith held a NJ Senate Environment Committee hearing for testimony from NJ DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson about the agencies priorities for 2008. Senator Smith opened the hearing to input from other groups who attended. I spoke for JCAA and NJ State Federation requesting this committee again support S75 (Hooked on Fishing and Not on Drugs) and S336 (Pots Off Reefs) and move these bills to the full Senate for a vote. I also testified about endocrine disruptors and my concern about the impact they are having on everything that consumes water. The Senators expressed their interest and their willingness to take action on this issue. I was told to meet with both the Democratic and Republican staffers to develop a plan. I had a productive meeting with John Hutchinson and Kevil Duvall and we will be meeting again. I also had meetings in Washington, DC with staffers for Senators Lautenberg and Menendez, Congressmen Pallone and Saxton to discuss this and other issues. The response was very positive and we are working together to develop long term solution and interim measures. The timing was interesting since the following day there was an article on this subject in the Washington Post describing human activities and the impact on small mouth bass in the Potomac River. Once again, they reported male fish behaving like females. Below is the article.

There is a notice included about the upcoming conference (“The Heat Is On”) sponsored by the NJ Environmental Federation on April 5<sup>th</sup>. I was asked to moderate a panel on this topic. The panel discussion is titled “Drugs Down the Drain.” I hope you will attend.

It looks like we will have a Congressional hearing and also action by the New Jersey Legislature on this topic. Although we support quick action, we need to develop a thoughtful long-term plan. I think this is the most crucial issue JCAA is dealing with these days. This type of pollution has a tremendous negative impact on everything that lives

in or on the water, or depends on that water. I think this is one of the reasons we are not seeing an increase in stocks of summer flounder, winter flounder and other estuarine dependent species. We need to pay attention now for our children and grandchildren.

**Pots Off Reef & Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs bills**

As we are going to print with the JCAA Newspaper, the Senate Environment Committee has scheduled a session on February 21 to vote on bill S336 (prohibiting use of certain fishing gear on artificial reefs) and S75 (Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs). We want to thank Senator Bob Smith and the members of this committee for their quick action on these bills. Hopefully, there will be a positive outcome. We want S75 sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for their action and S336 sent to the full Senate for passage. Senator Barbara Buono is the chair of the Appropriations Committee. Please let her know your support for S75 and want it posted and moved as quickly as possible. S75 uses existing money and does not require a new appropriation. We need for Assemblyman Fisher, chair of the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, to provide leadership and quick action in the Assembly. Here is the contact information

**Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

(Group D)	District	Telephone	Fax
<u>Fisher, Douglas H.</u> (D) Chair	3	856-455-1011	856-455-2853
<u>Albano, Nelson T.</u> (D)	1	609-465-0700	609-465-4578
<u>Amodeo, John F.</u> (R)	2	609-292-5339	609-633-9806
<u>Conaway, Herb</u> (D)	7	856-461-3997	856-461-3823
Karrow, Marcia (R)	23	908-782-5127	908-788-2625

Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

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 E-mail: SenBuono@njleg.org  
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 Edison, NJ 08820  
 Phone: (732) 205-1372 Fax: (732) 819-8204

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## **ASMFC2008 Winter Meeting Summary**

### **ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS MANAGEMENT BOARD (February 4, 2008)**

Press Release

Striped Bass Stock Assessment Indicates Healthy Stock

Female Spawning Stock Biomass Remains High  
Scientific advice presented to the Commission's Atlantic  
Striped Bass Management Board indicates that striped

bass management under Amendment 6 to the Interstate Plan continues to be a success. The benchmark stock assessment, recently endorsed by an independent panel of fishery scientists, concluded that striped bass are not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The assessment estimates that the resource remains at a high level with spawning stock biomass (SSB) at 55 million pounds, well above the SSB target and threshold levels of 38.6 and 30.9 million pounds, respectively. Estimates of juvenile abundance showed several years of strong recruitment, with the 2003 cohort being the strongest in the time series. The statistical catch at age (SCA) model used by the Striped Bass Technical Committee estimated the 2006 fishing mortality rate on age 8-11 fish to be  $F=0.31$ , which is below the Amendment 6 fishing mortality threshold of 0.41. Retrospective analysis of the SCA model, as well as tag-based estimates of fishing mortality presented in the assessment, indicate that the 2006 fishing mortality is also below the Amendment 6 target of 0.30.

Timeline of Management Actions: Amendments 1 & 2 (1984); Amendment 3 (1985); Amendment 4 (1990); Amendment 5 (1995); Amendment 6 (2003)

Total striped bass harvest (commercial and recreational) in 2006 was estimated at 3.82 million fish, a 46 percent increase from 2002 (prior to the implementation of Amendment 6). Commercial harvest (1.05 million fish) was dominated by Maryland's commercial fisheries, which made up 62 percent of the total commercial landings by number in 2006. Commercial discards in 2006 were estimated at 216,753 fish. Recreational harvest (2.77 million fish) and discard losses (2.07 million fish) accounted for 79 percent of total fishery removals in 2006. Maryland recreational fisheries harvested 24 percent of total recreational landings in number, followed by Virginia (22 percent), New Jersey (18 percent), Massachusetts (12 percent), and New York (11 percent).

The Peer Review Panel endorsed the use of the SCA model for producing SSB and fishing mortality estimates that can be judged against the current biological reference points. The new model is a significant departure from the virtual population analysis that has been used to assess striped bass stock status since 1997. It is an aged-based model that projects the population numbers-at-age forward through time, rather than backwards, given model estimates of recruitment and age-specific total mortality.

Additional tag-based results from the catch-equation method support the SCA model's results that striped bass are not overfished.

Based on advice of the Technical Committee, the Board maintained the states' management programs at status

quo. The Technical Committee will continue to monitor the status of the stock and refine stock assessment methodology as necessary. The next stock assessment update will be conducted in 2009.

Copies of the stock assessment will be available on the Commission website ([www.asmf.org](http://www.asmf.org) under Breaking News) by mid-February. For more information, please contact Nichola Meserve, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400 or [<nmeserve@asmfc.org>](mailto:nmeserve@asmfc.org).

## **TAUTOG MANAGEMENT BOARD (February 5, 2008)**

### Motions

I move that the Tautog Management Board recommend to the ISFMP Policy Board that the State of New Jersey be found out of compliance for not fully and effectively implementing and enforcing

Addendum IV and Addendum V to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Tautog. The State of New Jersey has not implemented management measures to achieve the required 25.6 percent reduction in exploitation. This reduction in exploitation is necessary to initiate rebuilding of the overfished tautog stock. In order to come back into compliance the State of New Jersey must implement management measures that achieve the required reduction in exploitation as required by Addenda IV and V.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, second Mr. Gilmore. Motion passes (7 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 null votes & abstentions).

## **SHAD & RIVER HERRING MANAGEMENT BOARD (February 5, 2008)**

### Meeting Summary

The Shad and River Herring Management Board was presented input from the Technical Committee, Advisory Panel, and the public on the Public Information Document (PID) for Amendment 2 (River Herring) to the Shad and River Herring FMP. The Management Board voted to develop Draft Amendment 2 that would contain the management options from the PID in addition to options recommended by the Advisory Panel (AP) and Technical Committee (TC). The management option proposed by the AP would require effort reductions in directed commercial fisheries and regulation of river herring bycatch. For commercial fisheries, the TC option includes:

1. Elimination of directed fisheries unless a state can demonstrate that a stock can support a fishery
2. Mandatory reporting from all directed fisheries
3. Mandatory reporting of bycatch and discards from all fisheries
4. Mandatory reporting of bycatch, discards, and landings of river herring from at-sea fisheries. Observer coverage should be increased to levels that would allow for reliable estimates of bycatch for the entire fishery(ies).
5. Fisheries can be reinstated if states can demonstrate that a stock can support a fishery.

For recreational fisheries, the TC option is an elimination of river herring harvest unless a state can demonstrate that a stock can support a fishery, quantification of recreational harvest when allowed, and the reestablishment of fisheries if a state can demonstrate that a stock can support a fishery. The Management Board voted to include critical habitat areas for and threats to river herring in the Draft Amendment along with a characterization of the critical information needed in order to monitor river herring populations.

The Board reviewed the current status of the Shad and River Herring Advisory (AP) membership and elected to update the AP membership to include a shad representative and river herring representative from each state. This would expand the size of the Shad and River Herring AP.

Other items addressed by the Board include the election of Malcolm Rhodes as Vice-Chair and the approval of the appointment of the River Herring Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SASC). The following individuals were appointed to the SASC: Mike Brown, Gary Nelson, Andrew Kahnle, Russ Allen, Bob Sadzinski, Laura Lee, Christine Burgess, and Reid Hyle. For more information, please contact Erika Robbins, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or [erobbins@asmfc.org](mailto:erobbins@asmfc.org).

### Motions

Move to develop Amendment 2 with all of the options that were in the PID, plus development of an option as recommended by the Technical Committee, plus development of an option as recommended by the AP, and including development of a strategy to acquire appropriate bycatch monitoring data. Also, identify critical habitat areas and threats and characterize critical empirical information that we need in order to monitor populations.

Motion made by Mr. Smith, second by Mr. Damon. Motion passes.

## WEAKFISH MANAGEMENT BOARD (February 5, 2008)

### Meeting Summary

The Weakfish Management Board met with two main objectives: (1) reviewing the 2007 Fishery Management Plan (FMP) Review and state compliance with the management program in 2006; and (2) receiving an update on the Stock Assessment Subcommittee's preparation for the 2009 weakfish stock assessment.

The Board approved the annual FMP Review, which provided an update on the status of management measures, the stock, the fisheries, research and monitoring activities, research needs, and state compliance with the management program. The document reported that three states had failed to collect the number of weakfish ages and/or lengths in 2006 required by Addendum I to Amendment 4 due to funding issues, personnel shortages, and the inherent difficulty in sampling from a fishery with low landings. The Board found all states to be compliant with the management plan, but also tasked the Technical Committee with considering other sources of biological sampling for those states experiencing difficulty achieving their requirements.

In their 2007 state compliance reports, five states requested de minimis status, a designation indicating that a state's total landings are an insignificant portion of the coastwide total landings (less than 1 percent) and exempting that state from certain elements of the management program. The Board approved the requests from all five states: Massachusetts, Connecticut, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The FMP Review also reported that two states activated the second management trigger of Addendum II to Amendment 4 (that the Board consider reevaluating the management plan when a state's total landings exceed its five-year mean by more than 25 percent). Because both states meeting the trigger are de minimis, the Plan Review Team considered their change in landings to be insignificant. The Board determined that no change to the management plan was required at the time.

The Weakfish Stock Assessment Subcommittee met in January, and Subcommittee Chair Jeff Brust provided a report to the Board on that meeting. As part of this meeting, the Subcommittee developed a set of preliminary terms of reference for the next weakfish assessment, due to be peer reviewed through a Northeast Regional Stock Assessment Workshop in the first half of 2009. The Board approved the terms of reference.

For more information, please contact Nichola Meserve, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400 or nmeserve@asmfc.org.

## SUMMER FLOUNDER, SCUP, AND BLACK SEA BASS BOARD (February 7, 2008)

### Press Release

#### ASMFC Summer Flounder Board Approves State Recreational Management Measures

Alexandria, VA – The Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board approved state management proposals for the 2008 recreational fishery for summer flounder. In developing measures to stay within the coastwide recreational harvest target of 2.05 million fish, states used state-specific performance factors developed by the Summer Flounder Technical Committee. The performance factors account for states' past performance in achieving their quota target, as well as increased effort, increased stock size, and percent standard error considerations in state-specific estimates generated by the Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey. States that fail to implement the approved management measures (or measures developed through the approved methodology) will be required to implement a precautionary default measure of a two fish possession limit at a 20-inch minimum size with an open season from July 4 to September 1, 2008.

The state-approved management measures fall under the Commission's summer flounder management program, which allows for the use of conservation equivalency. Conservation equivalency provides states the option of crafting state-specific management measures that best meet the needs of their fishermen while also meeting the conservation requirements of the resource program. All conservationally-equivalent management measures must be reviewed and approved by the Summer Flounder Technical Committee and the Management Board before they can be implemented. Since conservation equivalency was initiated in the summer flounder management program in 2001, the states have had mixed success in limiting coastwide recreational harvest to within the specified harvest target. The inclusion of the performance factor in developing state-specific measures this year is intended to help the states constrain their recreational harvest to meet both the overall recreational harvest target as well as state-specific harvest targets.

States will now have to go through their own individual regulatory processes to finalize their summer flounder recreational measures. For more information on those measures, contact your state marine fishery agency.

The Board also approved scup recreational management measures for the northern region (Massachusetts through New York). The private and shore-based fishery will have a 10.5 inch minimum size, 10 fish bag limit, and an open season of May 24 through September 25. The for-hire fishery (party and charterboat) will have an 11-inch minimum size and a 10 fish bag limit for 81 consecutive days (each state will determine their own season, to fall anytime between May 15 and October 15). The for-hire fishery will also have a bonus season for 45 consecutive days (also selected by the states) with a 45 fish bag limit. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Senior Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator for Management, at (202) 289-6400 or tkerns@asmfc.org.

#### Meeting Summary

The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board met to review a number of issues. The Board adjusted the 2008 summer scup commercial quota to account for the overage of the 2007 summer scup commercial quota in federal waters. The overage will be spread out over two years (50% in both 2008 and 2009). If the entire summer quota is not landed in 2008, whatever quota remains will be used to reduce the 2009 portion of the overage. This action was taken to minimize inequity between state-permitted and federally permitted vessels could occur in 2008.

NOAA Fisheries accounts for landings on the date of purchase, not the date landed. This has caused concern regarding scup commercial landings at the end of the winter I period. Because landings are not always landed and sold on the same day, scup landed under the large winter I trip limit have been applied to the summer period state quota. In states with relatively small summer period quotas this can cause considerable overages. The Board adjusted the end date for the winter I scup commercial fishery from April 30 to April 28 to ensure that any scup that are landed in winter I, but sold in the summer period, are applied to the winter I quota, regardless of date sold (the closure allows a few days to pass for sales to be completed). No scup can be landed/possessed on commercial vessels in state waters from April 28-April 30. For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, Senior Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator for Management, at (202) 289-6400 or tkerns@asmfc.org.

#### Motions

Move to amend the summer flounder, scup, black sea bass FMP to incorporate mandatory regional management as a tool and remove the optional language for the summer flounder recreational fishery.

Motion made by Mr. Gilmore, second by Mr. Smith. Motion fails.

## **Pallone unveils plan to rebuild state's fisheries** **Star Ledger Tuesday, February 12, 2008** **By Al Ristori**

Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) braved yesterday's bitter cold at the Seaside Heights boardwalk to announce he will be introducing legislation today to bring much-needed flexibility to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2007, which set rigid 10-year deadlines to rebuild fishing stocks.

Both recreational and commercial fishermen spoke at the rally. State Senator John Adler (D-Cherry Hill) also announced the introduction, with co-sponsorship by State Senator Sean Kean (R-Monmouth), of a state resolution to support Pallone's The Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act of 2008.

"When deciding how best to rebuild fish stocks in complex environments we must use sound biology and science, not arbitrary deadlines set by Congress," Pallone said. "The legislation I'm introducing in Congress is about rational rebuilding, and it is the best way to rebuild our fisheries without bankrupting tackle shops, party boats and commercial fishermen."

Though it's sure to be opposed by some environmental groups, this legislation actually restores the original intent of the Magnuson Act, which established the 200-mile fisheries limit and set up a system of managing fisheries through regional councils with membership, including those involved in the fisheries to be managed.

The reauthorization's deadlines effectively tied the council's hands, and left them with little to do but rubber stamp whatever the National Marine Fisheries Service wants. If the councils aren't allowed to manage, they're a waste of the taxpayer's funds and might as well be eliminated.

Pallone's bill sets forth conditions that would permit flexibility if the stocks are on a positive rebuilding trend, and adds additional criteria to the biomass stock assessment, mandated in the Act, to include commercial, residential and industrial development as well as agricultural activity in coastal areas and its impact on the marine environment. Most importantly, predator-prey relationships and other environmental and ecological changes would be factored into the stock assessment.

## **Congressman Pallone proposes revisions to federal fisheries law**

**KIRK MOORE**

**Asbury Park Press February 12**

How much progress is good enough when rebuilding America's ocean fish stocks?

Legislation being introduced today in Congress is aimed at easing restrictions on the size of the summer flounder catch, and resisting demands for more harvest cutbacks in other fisheries.

Federal regulators could waive a 10-year deadline for rebuilding fish stocks, once a population has exceeded its 25-year high point and shows signs of continuing growth, under amendments to the 2006 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act proposed by Rep. Frank J. Pallone Jr., D-N.J.

"Under the Magnuson Act we have this rigid 10-year deadline to rebuild stocks to an unprecedented level," Pallone said in a boardwalk press conference, at which he was accompanied by state Sen. John Adler, D-Camden, and more than a dozen representatives of recreational fishing and the seafood industry.

A few years ago, the once-depleted summer flounder population looked to be growing so fast that the East Coast fishing community anticipated a 30 million-pound annual catch. Today, the 2008 limit has been set to little more than half that, because science advisers say that could enable the flounder stock to nearly double in numbers.

"It's about the science and getting it right," said David Arbeitman, owner of The Reel Seat tackle shop in Brielle and an organizer of the Save the Summer Flounder Fishery Fund. "Now the stock's four times what it was, and we're fishing less."

"We've got to make sure the fish stocks aren't given artificial targets," said Adler, who is running to succeed retiring Rep. Jim Saxton, R-N.J., in Congress and is endorsed by the Recreational Fishing Alliance.

The 34-year-old Magnuson law was barely reauthorized in 2006, because Congress felt the pressure of complaints from Mid-Atlantic fishermen about looming flounder cutbacks.

The move to reopen that debate alarms some environmental groups. "Right now we're seeing a depletion of fishing stocks worldwide," said Jeff Tittel of the state Sierra Club chapter. "Once they

open up that door (to amend the law), who knows what else will be thrown into that bill?"

Under the Pallone bill, coastal development and pollution would be considered as factors when making scientific assessments of ocean fish populations. That reflects a belief among fishermen — that loss of habitat "is the limiting factor of recruitment (growth of young fish) into the fisheries," rather than fishermen's catches, said Greg DiDomenico of the Garden State Seafood Alliance.

The Pallone bill also provides that the Department of Commerce — the parent agency of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its fisheries service — can extend the 10-year rebuilding deadline "if the cause of the fishery decline is outside the jurisdiction (of regional fishery councils) or the rebuilding program cannot be effective only by limiting fishing activities."

The NOAA-led federal regulatory system has cast the summer flounder issue as a disappointment when it's really a successful recovery story, said Thomas P. Fote of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. Fote compared it to the successful campaign by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Service to restore striped bass.

Pallone acknowledged many members of Congress will wonder why they should revisit the fisheries law so soon. "We're going to need a lot of building to do this," he said. "It's not going to be easy."

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## **Fuel costs hurt fishing, hunting**

**The Times of Trenton**

**Friday, February 08, 2008**

**BY J.B. KASPER**

**OUTDOORS**

Just recently I got a press release from Winnebago saying the Iowa-based company will lay off 40 percent of its workforce due to high fuel prices and consumer worries over the economy.

"Wholesale and retail markets for motor homes industry-wide have been depressed because of the economic factors going on right now," spokeswoman Sheila Davis said. "Two major economic factors are interest rates and consumer confidence and both of them have been negative for us for awhile." The company employs about 3,300 workers at facilities in Iowa's Forest City, Charles City and Hampton.

Likewise, I have gotten similar reports from boat manufacturers and in general retail sales of other big-ticket items involving the outdoor industry also are down. Not only is the price of fuel to run recreational vehicles, boats, four-wheel drives and other vehicles in the outdoors having a direct impact, the price of oil-based products used in the outdoors and the cost of transporting them from the factory to the store also is having an effect.

This past year, \$3 a gallon of gasoline was often found in our area, and pumps at marinas down the shore were spinning at better than \$4 a gallon in many places. Last year, it was refinery problems being blamed for the increases at the pump. Seems like every year the oil companies have a different reason for jacking up the prices, and already the companies are blaming the production of an additive used in gas for an increase that may take gas prices to the \$3.50 per gallon mark this summer. Let's face it, the summer is when Americans use more gas than any other time of the year and have no choice but to pay the inflated prices at the pump; that's

why oil companies continue to see record incomes each year.

In that light, another recent press release said Exxon saw a record profit of \$40 billion -- that's with a B -- this past year. This proves that all the excuses oil companies have been offering are just that, excuses, and while they are getting richer, other industries such as the outdoor industry are paying the price.

When it comes to the average American, he has no choice but to pay the price at the pump. Sure, if you are well off, the price of gas might not affect you, but the average citizen has to find the money somewhere. That somewhere for many people is in their outdoor recreation.

Here is a small glimpse at what the inflated gas prices are doing to the industry:

First let's take a look at some of the gas prices at marinas around the country. A recent survey conducted by a public relations firm sampled marina gas prices prior to the 2007 Memorial Day holiday (the most recent survey available) in Long Island, Hawaii, Maryland, Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Florida, Minnesota, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Arizona, Indiana, Connecticut and Virginia.

Among those reporting, the highest price per gallon at marinas was \$4.32 in coastal Alabama, with ethanol fuel costing about 10 cents less. Next highest were Long Island at \$4.20 and southwest Florida at \$4.25. The lowest reporting cost was Virginia at \$2.93. With the exception of Virginia, all those reporting put the price in the \$3 range with a minority over \$4. The average price per gallon among those who reported was \$3.75 at marinas. A check at several marinas along the Jersey shore showed gas prices ranging from \$3.75 to \$4.25 per gallon, with diesel an average of 50 cents per gallon more. This increase in diesel fuel is a result of regulations mandating the use of low sulphur diesel fuel. Those prices were up some 20 percent during the summer and fall.

This year, gas prices will impact fishing and hunting participation. According to a poll of 2,481 sportsmen and women conducted by AnglerSurvey.com and HunterSurvey.com in June, over half of all anglers and 40 percent of hunters indicated rising gas prices will cause them to reduce their outdoor activities or reduce their travel distance and boat use. The rest indicated that rising fuel prices would not hinder their outdoor activity, or were not sure of the impacts.

The specific results were: 35.5 percent said higher prices will not affect their fishing/hunting activities while 41.6 percent said it will. Another 22.4 percent said higher prices will cause them to fish/hunt less this year, while 15.8 percent said it won't.

Thirty percent said they will probably fish/hunt the same amount this year, but not travel as far or use a boat as much, while 25 percent said they will more than likely hunt and fish the same as last year.

Twelve percent said they were not sure how gasoline prices will affect their fishing/hunting this year.

Many anglers and hunters I know have told me they are fishing with friends and sharing the cost of beach buggy fees, launch fees and fuel as a means of dealing with the increased price of fuel. Several people I spoke with that annually have boats down at the Jersey shore said that if the price of gas hits \$4 and more at the marinas, they won't be putting their boat in the water this summer. Many said they also will be fishing on party and charters boats to deal with their fishing addiction, but harsh regulations on fluke and other fish will impact on those venues.

## **Human Activity' Blamed for Fish Ills**

**By David A. Fahrenthold**

**Washington Post Staff Writer**

**Friday, February 8, 2008; B03**

Federal scientists seeking to learn why male fish in the Potomac River are growing eggs said yesterday that they've made an important determination: New research shows that the fish symptoms are worse in streams near towns or near heavily farmed areas.

That finding, announced today, does not pinpoint the pollutant that is causing the "intersex" condition. It also does not answer questions about whether the abnormal fish indicate a threat to human health, as the Potomac is a major source of drinking water for the area.

But it does seem to confirm what scientists have suspected since the fish were first found in 2003. The cause, they said, is probably some pollutant created by humans -- perhaps a farm chemical, or treated sewage, which can contain human hormones or residue from birth-control pills.

Any of these might have fooled the fishes' natural hormone systems, causing male fish to take on female characteristics.

"I feel comfortable saying human activity" is the cause, said Vicki S. Blazer, a scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey and the primary author of the study. "The question is, which human activity? And is it something we can do anything about?"

Scientists first found the abnormal fish in the South Branch of the Potomac, a shallow tributary in West Virginia. Since then, they have found gender-bending properties in several fish species and in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and the District. The District site was near the outfall of the Blue

Plains sewage plant, close to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

Even after these discoveries, Blazer said, scientists were nagged by one question: Was it possible that this condition was somehow natural, and not caused by pollution? If so, the condition would show up everywhere, not just in streams heavily affected by runoff from towns or farms.

They then examined a control group of smallmouth bass, caught in relatively pristine rivers outside the Potomac watershed in West Virginia. Blazer said they did find some intersex characteristics in these fish -- 22 percent of the male fish at the headwaters of the Greenbrier River, for instance, seemed to be growing eggs.

But Blazer said that conditions were much worse in the Shenandoah River, which runs through an area of Virginia thick with poultry farms and steadily gaining in population. In two of the three Shenandoah sites, she said, every fish they dissected had eggs. She said this data seemed to confirm the theory that the more humans live or farm nearby, the more likely fish are to be abnormal.

Blazer said that the next step is to try to determine whether intersex fish are in worse overall health than others. She said that, even if the eggs do not harm the fish, the pollutants that cause them might also degrade the fishes' immune systems or their organs.

## **HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES**

*By John Koegler*

### **New ASMFC Shark Plan**

As you know, all fish species NJ anglers desire or want are soon going to be included in one Fishery Management Plan (FMP) or another. The latest recreational attack comes from a new ASMFC shark plan that intends to regulate 39 coastal shark species. The plan will impose rules on all these Shark species with new landing limits, new permits, etc. The result will be a tough level of new rules for the 39 shark species listed in the plan. It will take some book work to be able to identify 39 coastal shark species. Many of these sharks are southern species which we never catch, but, regardless, it will take time to be able to identify 39 coastal sharks.

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will host a meeting on Tuesday March 4, 2008 at 7:00 PM.

Ocean County Administration Building  
101 Hooper Ave, Room 119  
Toms River, NJ  
NJ contact person is Peter Himchak  
Phone # 1-609-748-2020

### **NEW Bluefin Tuna Limit**

The NMFS has estimated that anglers went 150% over their 2007 quota for large school and small medium bluefin tuna. NMFS estimated anglers landed 362 MT of large school/small medium bluefin tuna in 2007. Their 2007 quota was 144 MT for this size category. NMFS reacted by changing their 2008 rules for recreational catches to ONE large school/small medium per trip, down from the original 2 per trip.

NMFS did this despite the fact that they were unable to get ICCAT approval for any new quota limits on their Mediterranean bluefin tuna landings. These Mediterranean landings are more than 50,000 MT per year. ICCAT scientists state the MSY for this fishery is 25,000 MT per year. In 1976 NMFS first imposed US bluefin tuna rules. It must be noted that ONLY recreational bluefin landings were regulated in the first year.

NMFS continued unilateral conservation of an ocean crossing fish has been an international farce and a domestic economic disaster. Why should US recreational fishermen be eliminated when the US is way under their ICCAT quota? ICCAT rules have NEVER been imposed by the European and African nations on their fishermen. Why should US fishermen suffer when for 32 years European nations have yet to observe ICCAT rules?

### **Commercial US Swordfish Landings at a New Low**

NMFS reports US Atlantic coast 6 month swordfish landings were 2,574,000 million pounds DW. The US yearly quota was 7,940,000 million pounds Dressed Weight. They were 5,366,000 million pounds Dressed Weight under their US ICCAT quota.

These low US landings have nothing to do with swordfish abundance. Asian fishermen have flooded the US market with inexpensive frozen swordfish with a wholesale price of less than \$3.00 per pound. Directed swordfish trips along the US East Coast cannot make an operating profit with such low dockside prices. Despite this fact NMFS is still approving a limited number of longline vessels to fish and negatively impact a huge mixed species

fishery that has slowly rebuilt from 30 years of longline fishing.

Sail fishing in the Palm Beach area was so good in December that anglers released record numbers of sailfish for the month. Several captains reported releasing so many sailfish that this fishing reminded them of catching bluefish in New Jersey. This was the first time in recent memory that most could remember sailfish being this abundant.

NMFS has opened Florida's East Coast closed areas to a New EXPERIMENTAL longline fishing. NMFS will allow longline vessels to fish and thereby determine if Swordfish had recovered in the closed area. NMFS approves this despite the known economic fact that the primary reason more US swordfish are not being landed is not swordfish abundance, but very low dockside prices.

### **NEW USCG Boarding Ladders Rules**

All USCG inspected head boats that are licensed for more than six people fishing must be aware and comment on their proposed new rule. In their proposed regulation, the USCG has redefined FREEBOARD. Their proposed new definition is: "Freeboard is the working distance between the top rail of the gunwale of the vessel to the water's surface." If your vessel freeboard exceeds four feet, you are required to have a USCG specified boarding ladder!

### **Unwarranted Closures**

Recreational anglers are being clobbered from all directions. NMFS latest rule which affects inshore groupers is a typical reaction to states refusal to go along with tough new GOM regulations. The inshore groupers have rebuilt at a good rate. But this species will not meet their 2010 goal for a rebuilt fishery. Tough new rules were passed by the Gulf of Mexico fishery management council. Florida and Texas would not impose these devastating rules on their anglers. NMFS responded by specifying that any federally permitted vessel with a "Reef Fish Permit" will not be allowed to land these groupers in either State or Federal waters. The GOM charter boat fleet would be the only group affected. So much for expecting common sense regulations from NFMS.

## **SUPPORT THE ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM**

## **SAFMC—Look Out for Allocations and Limited Access**

The South Atlantic Fishery management council is creating new regulations which will ALLOCATE MANY important South Atlantic fisheries. These new rules include a proposed Comprehensive Allocation Amendment which outlines how fisheries resources will be distributed between fishing sectors. They will extend these regulations through the Mid-Atlantic council's area of jurisdiction.

Amendment 18 will establish a Limited Access Privilege Program for the commercial snapper grouper fishery and allocation of the commercial king mackerel quota in the South Atlantic.

### **Where Do We Go From Here?**

Long time journalist Dusty Rhodes who has been involved in fishery management for over 20 year's wrote in his column in the December issue of The New Jersey Angler: "At this juncture, I'm not as concerned about how many fish we can land as I am about being able to fish at all."

Given what has occurred in recent NMFS regulations, where NMFS choices seems to be driven by an eco-conservation agenda, how many anglers who read his comments "Believe he is wrong"?

## **Jersey Coast Anglers Association Youth Education Report By Greg Kucharewski**

### **PASSPORT TO FISHING AND BOATING**

The Passport Program features six different "hands-on" stations with activities focused on fishing, boating and aquatic stewardship. The six stations are Fish Habitat and Handling, Knots and Rigging, Boat Smart - Boat Safe, Ready Set Boat, Casting, and Local Information. The stations are fun and easy to teach. All scripts and materials are available at [http://www.rbff.org/uploads/Passport\\_Images/Passport\\_Order\\_Form\\_new.pdf](http://www.rbff.org/uploads/Passport_Images/Passport_Order_Form_new.pdf)

### **NEWARK BAIT AND FLYCASTING CLUB**

The JCAA Youth Education Committee will visit the Newark Bait and Flycasting Club at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, 2008 and present a "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" event for youngsters attending their Kids' Fishing Night. The Newark Bait and Flycasting Club will host the event at the

Knights of Columbus Hall, located in Union, NJ. Children and their families are welcome to come and enjoy a night of fun fishing activities and refreshments. The Newark Bait and Flycasting Club is committed to teaching the joys of fishing to our young people. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Committee will support this worthwhile event by conducting a seminar about how to start a youth fishing club and providing "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" packets/prizes for all the youngsters.

### **TROUT CONTEST FOR KIDS**

Sponsored by the Shark River Surf Anglers Saturday, April 5, 2008 8 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. at Spring Lake, NJ. On opening day of trout season, members of the Shark River Surf Anglers will host another trout contest for children. Hundreds of anglers are expected to circle around Spring Lake waiting for the start of opening day. Don't forget to get there early. Otherwise you must park along the side streets of Spring Lake and walk a great distance to find a spot to fish. Every year, the membership of the Shark River Surf Anglers spend a lot of time and energy to make this event a success. Come out and enjoy some fishing fun and refreshments at the awards tent.

### **BECOME PART OF THE ANGLER'S LEGACY**

This is something every angler should do to keep the joy of fishing alive. You likely remember your very first fishing trip and who took you. And odds are pretty good that it was that experience that's directly responsible for why you're still fishing today. That's what Anglers' Legacy is all about – simply giving back what you've been given, and making your promise to introduce somebody new to the activity that you love. Join thousands of your peers and make a real difference. So, take someone fishing – a family member, co-worker, neighbor, acquaintance at church or, perhaps, the mechanic who works on your car. Become part of Angler's Legacy today, the group of folks from all across the country who, like you, are giving back. There's no membership fee and no obligation. You're just making a promise to do your part to share your knowledge and expertise with someone new. Visit the Angler's Legacy web site and take the pledge. [www.anglerslegacy.org](http://www.anglerslegacy.org)

**SHARE YOUR FUN  
TEACH & TAKE  
SOMEONE FISHING**

**PROFISHCO**  
***Innovative Fishing Tackle for Serious***  
***Anglers***

The newest sponsor of the Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament is New Jersey based PROFISHCO, owned and operated by Roger Lehmann, a successful businessman, inventor and avid angler. He has drawn upon his extensive fishing experience gained on the East Coast and at sportfishing hotspots around the world to assemble a line of innovative and effective lures, terminal tackle and accessories that can improve your fishing experience and success. His expertise in source manufacturing allows him to bring products to your local tackle stores that meet his exacting quality standards while offering a value in today's world of overpriced gear.

Lures and terminal components make up the bulk of the PROFISHCO product line and include some of the most famous names in fishing. The original Doornobs® trolling lures and a host of more recently introduced variants, LipLatch™ hook systems and Magnum and Pro Magnum rigging components highlight the company's extensive line of bluewater tackle.

Jigging has resurfaced in a big way in recent years and PROFISHCO offers the most complete line of specialty metal jigs in their Power Jig™ and Power Jig Extreme line ups with Assist hooks. New for 2008 and the hottest jig introduced to date is the Power Jig Hammered, which combines the Northeast's most popular hammered chrome finish with specially developed transparent colors. Available in sizes from 3-1/2 to 8-3/4 ounces to cover everything from stripers to tuna, look for them at tackle shops this spring.

Fluke fishermen rave about the Fishskin™ Jig and with good reason. This beautifully finished bucktail is deadly for flatfish, sea bass and stripers. It combines a unique head shape, Glo eyes, two types of Fishskin material for added flash and premium bucktail, so it swims and looks more natural. The competition uses hooks that frequently miss short-striking fish—not the Fishskin Jig. Each size incorporates a super-sharp Mustad long-shank, narrow gap, stainless hook. The longer shank positions the point further back in the hair and the narrower gap gives you an edge when using even heavier jigs for fish with smaller mouth structures like fluke and sea bass. Compare and see for yourself! Add a PROFISHCO Assist Hook and a

strip bait to this deadly doodlebug and it becomes the most effective fluke and sea bass lure you can fish. They come in sizes from 1/8 to 7 ounces in nine fish-catching colors.

Surf and inshore anglers asked us to build a better teaser and here's our answer, the hot new Fishskin™ Bucktail Teaser! Tied on super sharp stainless steel hooks and comprised of premium bucktail, feathers, Fishskin Holographic and Glo Strips with an epoxy coated head; they are a deadly addition to any presentation. Available tied on 3/0 and 5/0 hooks in 3 or 3-3/4 inch lengths and in assortment packs with three colors they are sure to find a place in your fishing arsenal.

Be sure to check out PROFISH pliers, scales, crimping tools and knives, too. You can see the complete product line at [www.PROFISHCO.com](http://www.PROFISHCO.com) and purchase many of their products at local tackle stores or on line. Please welcome PROFISHCO aboard and remember to support the sponsors of the Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament when making your next tackle purchases.

**NJ Environmental Federation's  
Conference! The Heat is On!**

**Register** for NJ Environmental Federation's 22nd Annual conference! The Heat is On! Saturday, April 5, 2008 from 8 am - 6 pm. The day will feature grassroots environmental awards, workshops, keynote speaker, mayor's panel, breakfast, lunch and reception. Governor Corzine invited keynote speaker.

**Mayor's Plenary** on Public Health, Global Warming, and Environmental Justice

**Workshops** will feature Children's Health, Clean Water, Global Warming, Healthy Towns & Schools, Environmental Justice, Green Jobs/Green Economy, Keeping Drugs out of Drinking Water

**Breakfast, lunch, and reception with key political leaders provided**

**Cost:** \$30 per person, \$25 for registering before March 15, \$25 for groups of 5 or more (per person), \$15 for students

Register and find more info <http://www.cleanwateraction.org/njef/conference08.html>

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

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