

JCAA NEWSPAPER LATE SUMMER 2009

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*
(Published on August 26th, 2009)

Monthly Meeting Room Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd "WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, September 29th , 2009

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 10th, 2009

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) 929-2591 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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2009 OFFICERS

President	Mark Taylor	732-929-2591
1st V.P.	Captain Gene Nigro	732-291-5688
2nd V.P.	Bruce Freeman	732-793-7871
Treasurer	Doug Tegeder	732-341-5674
Rec. Sec.	Tom Siciliano	609-296-3774
Cors. Sec.	Paul Turi	609-660-2126
Mem. Sec.	Bruce Smith	732-695-3431

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

September 3rd NJ Marine Fisheries Council Meeting

September 10th JCAA Board meeting

September 29 JCAA General Meeting

October 4th Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

Note: We do not have the dates yet on the three ASMFC Hearings (Weakfish, Striped Bass and Shad/River Herring) that will take place before the last week in October. As soon as we have them they will be posted on the JCAA web page.

November 15th JCAA Dinner

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR DINNER BY PAUL TURI

Mark your calendar for November 15th, the night of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year Awards Dinner. Now is the time to buy your tickets. It is one of our major JCAA fundraisers. It takes place on Sunday, November 15, 2009 from 4:00-9:00 p.m. at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club, RT. 70 & River Rd, Point Pleasant, NJ. We will honor this year and past years' recipients of the JCAA "Sportsperson-of-the-Year" award. Past honorees include legislators, environmental leaders, outdoor writers and other worthy recipients.

As of this writing we do not yet have a keynote speaker. Last year, Governor Jon Corzine was our keynote speaker. In addition to giving a speech, the Governor graciously spent time at the cocktail hour talking to everyone and taking pictures. Everyone had a great time. As soon as we secure a speaker I will let everyone know in a future issue of our paper.

At our September general membership meeting we will be taking nominations for this year's sportsperson of the year and selling tickets.

Dan Miller will be co-chairing the event and tickets for the dinner can be obtained by calling Dan at (609) 641-7821.

So, if you or your club would like to nominate someone as this year's honoree, please present a short biography, no more than 100 words, as to why you or your club feels this person should receive this year's award.

Individual tickets are \$75 each and tables of 10 are \$600, which is a \$150 savings. This gala event will accommodate 300 supporters and friends for a semi-formal sit-down dinner with choice of entrees and cash bar. There will also be a cocktail hour prior to dinner. So get a group together from your club or organization and come to the dinner and have a great time. Don't forget your partner. That's right. Treat your mate (you know, the one who waits for you at home/on the dock all summer) to an evening to remember at the beautiful Crystal Point Yacht Club. Enjoy an excellent three-course meal, Door Prizes and a DJ. Share stories of fishing and bid on one of the many fantastic theme baskets on display.

This year due to economic conditions it is difficult obtaining donations from the different vendors who have helped us in the past. We are in **desperate need** of prizes for this year's dinner. We need prizes in value of at least \$25.00 or more. We need door prizes, Chinese auction and silent auction prizes.

Every club and their members patronize different bait and tackle shops up and down the coast. If each club solicited a donation from the shops that their members patronize on a regular basis, I am sure these shops will help us out as many of them have in the past. Jersey Coast doesn't have the manpower to solicit these shops ourselves. It would be greatly appreciated if your club could solicit these different shops for us and obtain a prize.

In addition to fishing & boating equipment, we do need prizes for the many women who are in attendance at the dinner. Many clubs have a women's auxiliary. It would help us out a lot if the women solicited prizes from stores they frequent on a regular basis also.

If you obtain a donation, please make arrangements with either myself or someone from Jersey Coast to have these prizes picked up. We need these prizes well in advance of the November 15th dinner.

I can be reached at (609) 660-2126. Thank you for your continued support.

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

I hope everyone had a safe summer with their families. As some of you might know, there is never any time off for fisheries issues. There are some issues that came up over the summer with very short time to gather all the information and make heads or tails of it. Your Highly Migratory Species Committee has been meeting on these issues and will be passing it along to our member clubs. One of the issues deals with Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Highly Migratory Species by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). There is a written comment period by August 31, 2009.

The second is Amendment 3 to the Consolidated Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan and its proposing rules for management of Atlantic Shark Fisheries. This would affect the recreational fishermen. There was a public meeting on August 20 and a written comment period of September 25, 2009. Any club that did go to the public meeting and have submitted written comments, please send a copy to jcaa@jcaa.org. Look for more information on these issues from our Highly Migratory Species Committee's co-chairs Bruce Freeman and John Koegler in the newsletter.

As you can see, there is a lot going on so have your club representative attend the next general meeting on September 29 at Brick Civic Plaza, 270 Chambers Bridge Road in Brick.

We are going to use our website more, so check it out from time to time between monthly meetings for any updates.

Our next fundraising event will be our Sportsperson of the year Dinner which will be held in November at Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant. We still have not received any nominations for Sportsperson of the Year. Individual clubs need to submit a name and reason why this person should be selected Sportsperson of the Year. It is not too early to start talking about getting a table for this great event at your club meetings. Look for more information in an article from our Dinner

Committee's co-chairs Paul Turi and Dan Miller in the newsletter.

The JCAA Saltwater Registry Committee tried to get a vote at our last general meeting but there was not a quorum to do so. The committee's co-chairs Tom Siliciliano and Bruce Smith will be looking for your club's representative to be present so they can get an accurate vote.

I would like to thank all of those that sent letters of support for Bruce Freeman for the New Jersey seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Unfortunately, he did not get that appointment, but I hope he will continue to put his name in for other appointments that may come up and fight for all recreational fishermen.

The Newspaper Committee is looking for clubs to send in a 500 word description about your club, who and what they do, then send it in by e-mail to jcaa@jcaa.org with the stipulation that we will be using these highlights in the order that they are received and will be published in the JCAA newsletter.

As a reminder, the JCAA has an Operations Manager in the office to answer your questions. Operations Manager Sharon McKenna will try to give you the correct answer to your question or direct your call to the proper person.

I am still trying to make our Individual Committees more effective in this coming year. As you can see, some of the committees are very active right now, so volunteer some of your time for something you love so much. By being part of one of these committees you can get more involved and see how the system works. If you are interested on serving on them contact the JCAA office or me.

**The next JCAA General Membership Meeting
will be
September 29, 2009**

Below is a letter I sent to President Obama concerning the candidacy of Bruce Freeman to the MAFMC.

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), a state wide organization representing 75 fishing clubs

in New Jersey, was shocked to be informed that Bruce Freeman's candidacy for the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) failed to gain support of your Administration. Mr. Freeman enjoyed the strong support of the New Jersey congressional delegation. Both Senator Lautenberg and Senator Menendez wrote letters of support for Bruce Freeman addressed to the Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator Jane Lubchenco and the National Marine Fisheries Service's acting Assistant Administrator Jim Balfiger. In addition, Congressmen Pallone and Adler both also wrote to support him. Governor Corzine recognized the outstanding qualities of Bruce Freeman and forwarded his nomination to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

With the appointment of Christopher Zeman, who does not understand or reflect the views of the recreational sector, New Jersey has missed a great opportunity to fill its obligatory seat on the MAFMC with someone who has a balanced perspective and long historic knowledge of fisheries management. Mr. Zeman also lacks the scientific credentials so crucial in this difficult management climate. Mr. Freeman recently retired from the New Jersey Department of Environment Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife, after more than 25 years of service. During most of that time, he represented the division's director to the MAFMC. He has done an outstanding job working to protect our state and national marine resources. His many years of service have provided him with a sound comprehension of the very complex procedures of the MAFMC. His familiarity with many of the council members is a distinguishing characteristic that would have surely added to his effectiveness while serving on the council. JCAA recommended Mr. Freeman primarily due to his strong scientific background and his ability to apply science in decision making. He is known as an independent thinker who is able to look at various perspectives and make the best decisions based on his knowledge of the complex science issues that are ever present in fisheries management.

Since retiring, Mr. Freeman has volunteered his time on the Executive Board of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association; as the Science Advisor to the Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science; and serves as Chairman of our Science and Research Committee where he continues his involvement in

marine fisheries, conservation and fishery management. His past experience on the MAFMC made him an exceptional candidate to once again represent New Jersey. Appointing someone lacking these important credentials shows a serious disregard for the 1.3 million recreational anglers who fish in New Jersey and contribute 1.3 billion dollars to our economy each year. Dr. Lubchenco's decision on an appointment to the Council from Virginia showed the same lack of understanding and disregard for the recreational fishing community. This is the first time since 1978 that Virginia and New Jersey will not have a recreational representative on the Council. The rest of the recreational fishing community throughout the United States, numbering 45 million and contributing billions of dollars annually to our economy, is expressing grave reservations about these recent appointments. We notice that Dr. Lubchenco did not change the composition of the New England Council and left all the commercial fishermen in place. What lessons are recreational anglers to draw from these events?

In the future, we are hopeful the Administration will be more sensitive to the important role that recreational anglers throughout the country must play in fisheries management. Historically, recreational anglers have been stewards of the ocean and have been front and center in dealing with environmental issues. We were the driving force for many of the laws (including the Magnuson Stevens Act) that helped manage fisheries. And we have supported every environmental cause that deals with the oceans, streams, bays and estuaries. It is an incorrect assumption that recreational anglers cannot or do not represent environmental concerns. We would argue that we were the first and remain the strongest voice for the environment. JCAA has many board members who also serve on the boards of many environmental organizations. We also hope you recognize, and we are sure your years in Hawaii will confirm, that fishing is a family sport. This is how we teach our young people to be stewards of the ocean and protectors of the ocean's resources.

We hope for a positive reply and look forward to working together. JCAA supports clean energy and your initiatives on climate change. But we need to see evidence that your administration is sensitive to the needs of the 65 million recreational anglers in the United States and their economic value. We will be far more vigilant in securing

support for credentialed appointees, such as Bruce Freeman, in the coming years.

Sincerely,
Mark Taylor
JCAA President

**Highly Migratory Species
By Mark Taylor, President**

To: Margo Schulze-Haugen
National Marine Fisheries Service
Silver Spring, MD 20910

From: Mark Taylor, President
Jersey Coast Anglers Association
Toms River, NJ 08753

Subject: Comments on Sections III and IV of
the Supplementary Section of ANPR, 50 CFR, Part
635 (0648-AX85)

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) is an association of more than 75 saltwater fishing clubs that represents the position of marine sport anglers, champions their causes and protects their rights in matters pertaining to fishing, fisheries, and environmental quality. In doing so, JCAA often works in concert with major environmental organizations and other influential associations of sports clubs.

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association is a non-profit, charitable organization formed in 1981. The original objective of the Association was to combine a loose fragmented group of marine sportfishing clubs in order to form and promote a united consensus on issues relevant to saltwater anglers in New Jersey. The mission of the Association has remained unchanged, but is now expanding with the goal of joining force with organizations having similar objectives in states along the east coast. While the Association is a relatively young organization, it has emerged as the most effective organization of its kind on the east coast.

The following are the Jersey Coast Anglers Association public comments concerning Sections III and IV to the advance notice of proposed rulemaking as published in the Federal Register, Vol. 74, No. 103, June 1 2009, pgs 26174-26183.

Modification of PLL BFT Incidental Catch Requirements

As indicated in the NMFS Stock Status Section of ANPR (pg. 26175) that the most recent assessment for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna indicates that overfishing is occurring as well as the stock being overfished. Fishing mortality is estimated to be between 1.27 and 2.18 or an annual mortality of between 72 and 85 percent. Such a high rate of fishing mortality cannot be sustained. ICCAT plans to end overfishing by 2010 and rebuild the stock by 2019. As such, we do not support any increased fishing mortality for this stock. An increase in catch or fishing effort for any nation in order to fill its quota cannot be justified at this time. At the very least the incidental catch ratios for bluefins should remain at the current levels, certainly not increased.

In addition, we oppose increasing the ratio for the incidental retention limits. We also oppose any incidental catch of bluefin tuna in the Gulf of Mexico, especially from January to April, the time of spawning. Spawning concentrations could be especially vulnerable to any fishing effort.

JCAA also does not support lowering the size limit for the General Category and instead proposes increasing the recreational small fish category to fix an injustice that was allowed to happen in the early nineties.

Catch share program – a system that would allocate fishing privileges to a select group of permit holders.

The JCAA opposes the Limited Access Privilege Programs (LAPPs), other Individual Transferrable Quotas (ITQs), Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQs) or similar systems whereby the government management agency takes the public's natural resource and allocates it to a restricted and select group of individuals. While such a system is allowed, there are many other management systems allowed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act which continue to allow the public access to a natural resource.

A LAPP or similar system provides a select few individuals a windfall of an immediate financial profit while providing the public with no just compensation. We agree that such a system usually reduces the management cost to the agency and provides the select few remaining in the fishery with more flexibility in operations and increased profits

because of reduced competition from the rest of the fleet. But a limited access system with private ownership does not necessarily eliminate the incentive to over-harvest and may very well lead to high-grading of fish.

The most disturbing aspect of a privilege access program is the allocation of a public resource to a very select and limited group at no cost and with no reimbursement to the public. We find that no other natural resource is dealt with in such a manner. Our government allows the use of public lands for the grazing of animals, but for a fee; it allows the harvest of trees on public land, but for a fee; it allows the drilling of oil and gas on public lands, but for a fee. Our marine fish is the only natural resources where the federal government simply allocates a renewable and sustainable resource in perpetuity at no cost to those receiving the allocation and no reimbursement to the public. We find the LAPP and other similar systems to be poorly justified and contrary to benefit of the public.

It was mentioned in the NMFS public presentation summary information (pg. 16) that the Atlantic tuna purse seine fishery is an example of a LAPP. However, the basis for this limited entry program in the tuna purse seine fishery is very different from those being proposed by the NMFS today.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the Atlantic tuna purse seine fishery was mostly for school bluefin tuna between six to 45 pounds (ages 1-3) from July to September. The catch was mostly bluefin with smaller numbers of skipjack tuna and very small numbers of yellowfin. The purse seine catch was then trans-shipped to Puerto Rico and later to Cambridge, Maryland for canning. The catch varied yearly but amounted to between 100,000 to 300,000 juvenile bluefins.

It was during the mid to late 1960s that the NMFS documented a rapid decline in the recreational school tuna fishery in the mid-Atlantic area. Also, the high catch rates being made by four small-sized east coast purse seine vessels (85 feet) was attracting the attention of the Pacific fleet of large purse seine vessels (+165 feet) who were experiencing poor catches for several years in the Pacific Ocean. There was fear by the NMFS that a rapid shift by ten or more Pacific purse seine vessels from the U.S. Pacific fleet to the Atlantic, which had occurred in the early 1960s, could result in a two to four-fold increase in the mortality of juvenile

Atlantic bluefin tuna. This was at a time when the agency believed there were separate eastern and western Atlantic stocks and it was very concerned over increasing mortality of bluefin tuna along the east coast (western Atlantic stock). It was also at this time that the distant water longline fleet (mostly Japanese) was shifting much of its fishing effort from the Mediterranean Sea to the Mid-Atlantic and northeast coast of the United States.

In an effort to stem the rise in mortality of juvenile bluefin along the east coast and hopefully increase the numbers of giant bluefin tuna (+500 lbs) in subsequent years, the NMFS devised a plan whereby the five east coast seiners would give up the Mid-Atlantic school bluefin tuna fishery, especially for a low value canned product, and in its place would be provided a catch share (quota) in the high value, fresh fish fishery for giant bluefin occurring in the Gulf of Maine.

In summary, the limited entry catch share program for east coast tuna purse seine vessels was put in place to prevent the mortality of 300,000 or more of juvenile bluefin tuna in return for a specific allocation to five purse seine vessels of a few thousand mature giant bluefins.

While we agree that with a catch share system there are certainly benefits to the selected few who are fortunate enough to end up in the fishery, certainly from a profit-making standpoint, as well as a reduction in management cost for the agency responsible for managing the resource, we see little or no benefit to the public, who, by law, has ownership of the resource. Further, in most catch share systems that have been implemented, the numbers of crew members in the fishery have been reduced substantially, which can have a substantial impact on local fishing communities, yet there is no mention of this in the request for comments.

Rather than the agency asking the public for comments regarding the LAPPs implementation (FR Vol. 74, No. 103, pg. 26182) concerning harvest efficiency and increased profitability, it should be asking how, if such a system were to be implemented, would the public be compensated for the exclusive use by a select group? What time limit should the agency place on the use of the resource: two years, five years or ten years? Should the users of the resource be required to pay for the management and some of the needed research costs associated with the resource and if so, how much?

Another concern that is not addressed under LAPP is the ever-changing geographic distribution of migratory fish, especially highly migratory species, since they are independent of the sea floor and commonly range great distances in the surface layers of the ocean. Migrant fishes tend to gather in areas where water temperature and food supply are favorable to their particular needs and to remain there as long as these conditions persist. However, water masses and food supply can change rapidly or shift gradually in location, in turn affecting the distribution and concentration of these fishes. Also, as the population of fish species fluctuates, the abundance of specific age classes of fish greatly affects its abundance in different geographic areas. A good example of this can be seen with bluefin tuna.

From at least the 1930s to the early 1960s, large numbers of school (6-45 lbs) and medium size (45-150 lbs.) bluefin tuna occurred off the Mid-Atlantic coast each summer and fall. This occurrence was so reliable that important recreational fisheries developed in New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island. However, starting about the mid 1960s, the abundance of school and medium bluefin began to decline and continued to do so through the 1970s. During the early and mid 1980s, a concentration of sand lance, an important forage food for tuna, occurred in great abundance on several sandy banks off New Jersey. Then, for several years, these areas had large concentrations of school and medium bluefin and yellowfin tuna. After several years of great abundance, the numbers of sand lance declined and so did the abundance of tunas.

From at least the 1950s to the mid to late 1990s only an occasional medium bluefin occurred off the North Carolina coast during the winter months. However, during the past ten or so years they have become common there. What is the reason for this change in distribution and will it persist?

It is indicated in your Federal Register notice (Vol 74, No. 103) that the bluefin tuna stock is both overfished and overfishing is occurring. The annual mortality of this species is between 72 to 85 percent. It is estimated by ICCAT that we now have only between 14 and 57 percent of the biomass required to support maximum sustainable yield. Also the agency indicates that the member nations to ICCAT will strive to end overfishing next year (2010) and

Operations Manager

By Sharon McKenna

rebuild the bluefin stock over the next nine years (2019). If this happens, there will be a dramatic change in the various size classes of bluefin, and as one of the consequences we, once again, should see large numbers of school fish along the Mid-Atlantic coast. With just these two examples in mind, how would NMFS propose to allocate bluefin tuna? Would it allocate based on today's distribution of bluefin at extremely low biomass or allocate based upon an historical level when the biomass was, and soon again should be, at maximum sustainable levels? Does the NMFS propose to modify the share program (LAPP) over time as the distribution and concentration of bluefin changes, especially as the stock expands? We see no mention to these circumstances in the proposed rulemaking, yet those are very important issues that need addressing.

Squid trawl vessel exemption from multi-permit requirement to retain swordfish

There seems to be some confusion in the gear definition under this section. Presently squid trawls in the Mid-Atlantic region consist of a high rise trawl net whose chainline fishes very close to or occasionally along the sea floor while the head rope may be 30 to 35 feet above the sea floor. This net is not a mid water trawl and does not have the fishing characteristics of a true mid water trawl.

While the JCAA does not have any vested interest in the squid trawl fishery, we find that because the bycatch of swordfish is infrequent in this gear, a complicated requirement for three limited access permits to land swordfish is not justified. The current regulations specifying that three limited access permits be required for squid trawls are unnecessary. In its absence we would support the reporting of each swordfish that was taken by the bottom tending squid trawls.

It should be clear that these comments in no way imply our support in any manner for mid-water trawls or pair trawls which have very different fishing characteristics than the squid trawls. We strongly oppose the use of mid-water and pair trawls in the squid fishery or any other fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic.

Sincerely,
Mark Taylor
President of Jersey Coast Anglers Association

July was a productive month for the JCAA. The International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades, (ICAST), was held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla., July 15 – 17, 2009. It is a showcase for the industry and Tom Fote and I traveled there to talk to the exhibitors about our 16th Annual Fluke Tournament which will be held on June 12, 2010.

We are happy to have gotten a commitment from Costa del Mar sunglasses as our exclusive sunglass port sponsor for 2010. You will be reading more about Costa del Mar sunglasses in this newspaper over the coming months.

We made many contacts with potential rod and reel port sponsors, as well motor and electronic sponsors. We even made contact with several possible shoe sponsors! You'll be hearing more about this over the coming months.

In early August, JCAA co-hosted a forum on recreational fishing with The Tuckerton Seaport. While not wildly well-attended, those who were there had a roundtable discussion with Tom McCloy, the deputy director of the Department of Environmental Protection's Fish and Game division. The topic? The impending saltwater fishing registry. All aspects of the registry were thoroughly discussed, and because it was a smaller crowd, everyone had ample opportunity to ask questions and get comprehensive answers.

New to the Seaport is the recreational fishing exhibit at the Marshelder building which currently showcases two fishing clubs that are JCAA member clubs – The Newark Bait and Flycasting Club <http://www.newarkbaitandflycastingclub.org/> and the Forked River Tuna Club <http://www.forkedriversclub.org/>. Both loaned out some incredible items that are now encased in glass cubes at the seaport. The plan is to create a permanent recreational fishing exhibit with all of our clubs cycling in and out of the exhibit to highlight and showcase our clubs. Thank you to Don Marantz and Joe McLaughlin for their enthusiastic participation in this inaugural exhibit. Be sure to visit the Tuckerton Seaport to see the exhibit and please contact me if your club would like to participate!

Grants, grants, grants! As a charitable organization, we are eligible for foundation grants. If you are aware of a grant opportunity, please let me know. The most important aspect of grants is to ensure that the grantor and our JCAA mission mesh well. We have the strength of having many clubs with differing missions, so this is an avenue for possible funding for JCAA and individual member clubs. We have a possible grant opportunity with Ocean County to furnish one of our clubs with rods and reels to bring troubled youths fishing as a healthy recreational pursuit. Please let me know if your club is interested in mentoring these children.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

Summertime should be vacation time. But this summer has been crowded with meetings. When I began this work almost 30 years ago, I think I believed that I would see stocks rebuilt and the recreational and commercial communities would be enjoying those rebuilt stocks. Nothing could be further from the truth. Everyone is talking about the great increase in the summer flounder quota, yet all I see is that we are at almost the same quota that was in place 15 years ago. Even though the spawning stock biomass is 5 times what it was 15 years ago, the recreational anglers are allowed to take only about 25% of the fish they were allocated then. We are getting larger fish but that means we meet or exceed our quota with fewer fish. That means the success rate per angler has gone down by 75%.

This summer we also have new shark and tuna proposals going to public hearing. Again, 20 years ago I thought those stocks would be rebuilt but just the opposite is true. When I started going bluefin tuna fishing, the bag limit was 4 bluefin per angler and one giant per day. NMFS Highly Migratory Species Committee has done such a great job rebuilding the stocks, we are lucky to get 2 fish per boat for a shortened season. One of my first testimonies as the president of JCAA in the late 80's was to request for recreational anglers a 2 fish maximum on mako shark with a minimum size of 6 foot and a real quota that would apply equally to the commercial sector. This was proposed by Jersey Coast Shark Anglers and the Greater Point Pleasant

Charter Boat Association. The clubs of JCAA supported this position. After 20 years, all I have seen is a recreational size limit imposed, a one fish bag limit and still no action on the commercial side. Another failure by NMFS.

Thirty years ago the National Marine Fisheries Service would not take action to prevent overharvesting. No where was this more evident than in New England. Now I see just the opposite happening. The stated goal of ASMFC and NMFS is to preserve the nation's marine resources and promote sustainable fisheries. In some respects the pendulum has swung the other way. They stopped regulating through intelligent management and began basing management systems using poor data and poor modeling. They have met their goals on the backs of the recreational and commercial communities. Because they have no control over agencies that oversee water issues, power plants, sewer plants, and environmental problems, they regulate the only people they have control over, the recreational and commercial fishing communities. Instead of reaching out to the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, Army Corp of Engineers, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Defense and working together to solve the natural problems, NMFS and ASMFC continue to just reduce recreational and commercial quotas.

Weakfish is a perfect example. The ASMFC has greatly reduced both the recreational and commercial catch in the last 16 years. They have eliminated gear, raised size limits and reduced bag limits. Never once have they addressed the underlying issue – a high natural mortality for weakfish. The recreational and commercial communities have been complaining about this for more than 7 years because of the reduced availability of weakfish. We have greatly restricted the catch and are looking at the possibility of a moratorium. I can't promise you that any of these actions will have any impact on the rebuilding process. All we have to look at is the amount of reduction we have already taken and see what transpired. With a huge reduction in bycatch, an increase in the size limit to insure that all weakfish spawn at least once before harvest and the great reduction in harvest by both the recreational and commercial sectors, we saw the stocks rise for a couple of years and then crash for no apparent reason.

Unless we deal with the factors causing natural mortality, this will happen with many other species. To call the problem natural mortality ignores the fact that this is the unnatural result of human behavior.

JOINT ASMFC AND MAMFC MEETING

I attended the joint meeting on August 4 and 5 in Alexandria, VA. As an ASMFC commissioner, I'm not sure why I went. In theory, there are species that are jointly managed by ASMFC and MAMFC. In reality quotas are set by the Scientific and Statistical Committee of MAMFC. You cannot question them or even ask for a review. Why hold a meeting for setting specifications since all the decisions are made before you get there?

As an example, the black sea bass quota was set by the SSC before the Monitoring Committee of the MAMFC and ASMFC met. The SSC decided to go with status quo even though the stocks were no longer being overfished according to the latest approved stock assessment. The Monitoring Committee met after the SSC and realized that the quota they set for 2009 was based on the condition that black sea bass was overfished and overfishing was taking place. With this new information, the Monitoring Committee recommended an increase in the quota. At the joint meeting, we questioned the SSC about whether or not they had considered the same new information discussed by the Monitoring Committee when they set the quota at status quo. The response was that they had not. I made a motion asking the Monitoring Committee and SSC to hold a conference call to discuss this issue and see if there was a possibility of increasing the quota based on the available information. After a long discussion, the MAMFC voted a 10/10 tie so the motion did not move forward. The excuse given by the Council Chairman and Vice Chairman was that this would set a bad precedent. What it showed me was the callousness of these individuals relative to the needs of the recreational and commercial fishing industries. This is a new process and mistakes will be made. Until we resolve the procedural matters, there should be no problem revisiting decisions in the best interest of all concerned. For 10 council members, it wasn't important to make sure all information and recommendations were considered before final decisions were made. We no longer have Council members who care about anything but the process and how they appear on paper. There was another

motion made to let ASMFC review this decision and again MAMFC members voted no. How is this a joint meeting if MAMFC makes all the decisions and only "allows" ASMFC commissioners to vote when given permission? This is not a democracy. This is a dictatorship!

Black sea bass quota remains the same as 2009.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AUGUST 11,
2009
PRESS CONTACT, TINA BERGER, 202/289-
6400**

Abbreviated

ASMFC & Mid-Atlantic Council Approve 2010 TALs for Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, and Bluefish

"The Commission and Council approved an increase in the 2010 summer flounder TAL by 3.68 million pounds when compared to the 2009 quota level. This results in a commercial quota of 13.28 million pounds and a recreational harvest limit of 8.85 million pounds for the 2010 fishing year. This action was consistent with the recommendations of the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and monitoring committee regarding acceptable biological catch (ABC).

For the 2010 scup fishery, both the Commission and Council set a TAL of 13.5 million pounds, an increase of 2.32 million pounds compared to 2009. Based on the recommendations of the SSC and monitoring committee regarding ABC, the Commission took a precautionary approach in setting the scup TAL in light of the scientific uncertainty surrounding the new scup assessment model, which is a significant departure from previous scup assessment approaches. Specifically, the sensitivity and reliability of the new model is not fully understood, there is uncertainty about the dynamics of older fish in the stock (current surveys do not do a good job of capturing fish older than age 2), and poorly estimated discards, which are a significant component of fishing mortality.

Following the SSC's ABC recommendation, both the Commission and Council maintained a 2.3 million pound TAL for 2010 black sea bass fishery. As with scup, the Commission took a precautionary approach in setting the black sea bass TAL due to concerns regarding scientific uncertainty in the new assessment model. These include the sensitivity and reliability of the new model, the uncertainty inherent in assessing a species with an unusual life history (some females change sex to become males), the presence of

a retrospective pattern which tends to overestimate stock size, and the adequacy of fishery-independent surveys in sampling this species.

The Commission and Council adopted a bluefish TAL of 29.26 million pounds for 2010, which is a small decrease from the 2009 TAL of 29.36 million pounds. The 2009 stock assessment update indicates that projected stock biomass for 2008 is at approximately 111 percent of its rebuilding target and, therefore, is considered rebuilt. The original stock rebuilding deadline was 2010. Under the current fishery management plan, the commercial fishery will be allocated 4.97 million pounds and the recreational sector will be allocated 24.29 million pounds. Later this year when recreational landings are available, the commercial sector could receive a transfer of up to 5.39 million pounds in quota. In recent years recreational landings have increased, but the overall TAL for the fishery has not been exceeded. This action was consistent with the recommendations of the SSC and monitoring committee regarding ABC”.

SUMMER ASMFC MEETING

Again, I was back in Alexandria from August 17 – 20. The meeting summary is posted at the ASMF webpage and will also be on the JCAA webpage. Below I have included 4 of the releases on upcoming hearings to be held between now and the November ASMFC meeting. Those public hearings will be on shad and river herring draft FMP, weakfish fast track addendum, black sea bass and scup commercial transfers and striped bass addendum. The two that are most crucial are the fast track addendum for weakfish and the shad and river herring draft FMP. If you have any questions about the meeting summary, please contact ASMFC.

During the summer flounder, black sea bass and scup board meeting, we received the numbers for the first three waves of the Marine Recreational Statistical Survey on scup and black sea bass landings. These numbers showed that we reached the almost 70% of the black sea bass quota by the end of June. By the policy board meeting, the staff had worked with the numbers and projected that we would greatly overfish the recreational quota on black sea bass if we didn't close the fishery immediately. There will be a conference call by the summer flounder board some time soon to decide whether there should be an emergency action to close the fishery as soon as possible. Because of the actions of the MAMFC and the SSC, there will be no increase in black sea bass quota for next year leaving us with no buffer to absorb these overages.

I hope to see you at the public hearings. Those dates will be posted on the JCAA webpage as soon as they are available. If you would like to receive these notices by email, please email me, tfote@jcaa.org.

ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board to Meet in September to Discuss Recreational Overages

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board directed the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board (Board) to consider potential overages for all three species and take action prior to September 1. This directive was taken in response information presented to the Policy Board regarding available black sea bass preliminary recreational harvest estimates and projections indicating that harvest will likely result in significant quota overages. Board action could include emergency measures to prevent further overages in recreational fisheries for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. A press release will be issued following finalization of meeting arrangements.

For more information, please contact Robert Beal, ISFMP Director, at (202)289-6400 or rbeal@asmfc.org.

Weakfish Biomass at All-Time Low ASMFC Weakfish Board Initiates Addendum to Address Stock Decline

In its report to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Weakfish Management Board, an independent panel of scientists endorsed the 2009 weakfish stock assessment for management use. The Review Panel confirmed that stocks are at an all time low and current fishery removals are unsustainable under existing stock conditions. It agreed with the stock assessment's conclusions that weakfish abundance has declined markedly, total mortality is high, non-fishing mortality has recently increased, and the stock is currently in a depleted state. Given these findings, the Board initiated the development of Draft Addendum IV which will propose a range of options to reduce fishing mortality, including complete harvest moratoria and limited bycatch only fisheries.

"While the Board has been aware of the decline in weakfish landings over the past ten years, conflicting signals in the stock assessment models employed in the past confounded decision making. This peer review panel found the methodology acceptable and agreed that the stock is in dire condition," stated Board Chair Roy Miller. "Given the condition of the stock, the Board has decided to accelerate its management process and prepare a draft addendum for public

comment in early fall. Upon considering public comment and final action on the addendum, the Board will have the option to implement the addendum's measures through emergency action this November."

The weakfish stock is depleted at an all-time low of 2.9 million pounds (1,333 metric tons), far below the proposed biomass threshold of 22.4 million pounds (10,179 metric tons). At this stock size, recent fishery removals (landings and dead discards combined), estimated at 1.9 and 1.8 million pounds in 2007 and 2008, respectively, represent a significant proportion of the remaining biomass. While the decline in the stock primarily results from a change in the natural mortality of weakfish in recent years, it is further exacerbated by continued removals by the commercial and recreational fisheries.

Natural mortality has risen substantially since 1995, with factors such as predation, competition, and changes in the environment having a stronger influence on recent weakfish stock dynamics than fishing mortality. Given current high natural mortality levels, stock projections indicate that the stock is unlikely to recover rapidly, even under a harvest moratorium. In order to rebuild the stock, total mortality will need to be reduced, although this is unlikely to occur until natural mortality decreases to previous levels. On a positive note, juvenile abundance surveys indicate that young-of-the-year weakfish continued to be present in numbers similar to previous years, suggesting that recruitment at this point has not been severely limited in spite of low stock size.

The Board has placed the Draft Addendum on a faster timeline than standard addenda. Staff and the Plan Development Team will prepare a draft for Board review and consideration in mid-September. If approved, the draft will then be made available for public review and comment. It is anticipated that the majority of states will be conducting public hearings of Draft Addendum IV in October; a press release will be issued on those hearings once the information is available. The Board will meet again in November to consider public comment and take final action on the Draft Addendum. Under Commission procedures, the Board may opt to implement the Addendum under emergency action, with approved measures taking effect immediately upon Board action.

ASMFC Striped Bass Board Approves Draft Addendum II for Public Comment

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board has approved for public comment Draft Addendum II to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass. The Draft

Addendum proposes to allow unused coastal commercial quota of striped bass to be rolled over from one year to the next. Options include state eligibility and the amount of unused quota that may be carried over. The Draft Addendum also outlines procedures for implementing and monitoring quota roll over. Under the Draft Addendum, roll over would be prohibited if the fishing mortality rate exceeds the Plan's target or if the spawning stock biomass is below the Plan's target.

The existing management program addresses coastal commercial quota overages, requiring payback of an overage in the subsequent year, yet it is silent on coastal commercial quota underages. Since the implementation of Amendment 6, coastal commercial quota underages have been more common than overages. While avoiding a quota overage signifies managerial success, a quota underage represents lost opportunity to commercial harvesters. Quota underages may result from changes in fish abundance or distribution, environmental factors, fishing effort, and regulatory measures.

The Draft Addendum presents a hypothetical situation to analyze the potential effect of allowing roll over. Had all unused coastal commercial quota in 2003 through 2007 been rolled over and then harvested in 2004 through 2008, the average increase in the total coastal commercial quota would have been less than 15 percent and the average increase in the total coastwide harvest less than two percent. An analysis by the Technical Committee indicated that a 15 percent increase in the coastal commercial quotas would have a limited effect on the fishing mortality rate, and that large fluctuations in recreational harvest, which is not regulated by quota, present a greater level of risk of exceeding the fishing mortality target or threshold. However, the Technical Committee also noted that the potential effect of roll over on the stock increases if quota underages occur due to population decline. Other concerns included the two to three year lag in reporting the fishing mortality rate estimate for any given year and that allowing roll over could provide an incentive to under report harvest.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum II, either through attending public hearings or providing written comments (a subsequent press release on scheduled public hearings will be released once the hearings have been finalized). Copies of Draft Addendum II will be available by August 28 and can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400 or via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM (EST) on

October 8, 2009 and should be forwarded to Nichola Meserve, FMP Coordinator, 1444 'Eye' Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Draft Addendum II).

**ASMFC Shad & River Herring Board
Approves Draft Amendment 3 for Public
Comment**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, AUGUST 20,
2009**

**PRESS CONTACT, TINA BERGER, 202/289-
6400**

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Shad and River Herring Management Board has approved for public comment Draft Amendment 3 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Shad and River Herring. The Draft Amendment proposes a suite of monitoring and management measures to protect, enhance, and restore American shad stocks to sustainable levels.

The Draft Amendment was developed in response to the findings of the 2007 benchmark stock assessment for American shad, which indicates that American shad stocks are currently at all-time lows and do not appear to be recovering. It identified the primary causes for the continued stock declines as a combination of excessive total mortality, habitat loss and degradation, and migration and habitat access impediments. Although improvement has been seen in a few stocks, many remain severely depressed compared to historic levels.

The Draft Amendment proposes modification to current coastwide commercial and recreational management measures. Commercial management options include reducing harvest, closing fisheries with exceptions for systems with a sustainable fishery, closing fisheries on mixed stocks, and a coastwide moratorium. Recreational fisheries management options include reducing harvest, implementing a licensing or permitting program, closing fisheries with exceptions for fisheries with a sustainable system, allowing a catch and release fishery only, and a coastwide moratorium.

To improve data collection, the Draft Amendment proposes increased fisheries-independent and dependent monitoring. This includes monitoring of juvenile and adult American shad stocks; hatchery production; and commercial, recreational, and bycatch fisheries. Additionally, the Draft Amendment proposes increased coordination of monitoring activities for river systems under

shared jurisdiction, as well as between freshwater and marine agencies.

Fishermen and other interested groups are encouraged to provide input on Draft Amendment 3, either through attending public hearings or providing written comments (a subsequent press release on scheduled public hearings will be released once the hearings have been finalized). Copies of Draft Amendment will be available by August 28 and can be obtained by contacting the Commission at (202) 289-6400 or via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org under Breaking News. Public comment will be accepted until 5:00 PM on October 16, 2009 and should be forwarded to Kate Taylor, FMP Coordinator, 1444 'Eye' Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Draft Amendment 3).

**JCAA Member Clubs
RE: Salt Water Registry
By Bruce Smith & Tom Siciliano**

The question of a JCAA position on the Federal Registry and a possible State Salt Water Fishing License remains undecided. We did not have a quorum at the June General Meeting so a vote could not be taken. The next general meeting of the JCAA is September 29. We would like to have a position before then so are conducting a paper ballot vote.

Your choices are as follows:

1. Do nothing. This will result in a Federal registry with no fee in 2010, but which will have a fee of between \$25 and \$35 starting in 2011. Those fees will go to the general Federal treasury and be of no value to NJ anglers.
2. A free state registry. Nothing is really free. The State Division of Fish and Wildlife does not have the funding to implement this program. Where does the money come from?
3. A state registry with a minimal fee (\$2 - \$4) to cover administrative costs.
4. A New Jersey Salt Water Fishing License. (\$15 - \$25)

A separate issue is ongoing funding for the Bureau of Marine Fisheries, Division of Fish and Wildlife. This could be achieved by an increase in state funding or the funds generated by a Salt Water

License. A budget of \$10,000,000 would greatly improve the ability of the Bureau to fight for New Jersey's recreational anglers.

If your club has paid its 2009 dues simply indicate your position on club letterhead, have a club officer sign it and either mail your vote to JCAA, 1201 Rt., 37E, Toms River, NJ 08753 or fax to the JCAA office at 732-506-6975.

If you have not already sent in your survey form send it in with your vote. If your club has not yet paid your 2009 dues, send your vote in with your dues renewal to the above address.

When we receive a majority of the paid up club responses we will have a JCAA position and will let you and the media know. We would like your response as soon as possible but no later than the end of August.

New Jersey Outdoor Alliance Update on the Registry/License

By John Toth

The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA) formed a salt water registry committee to study the new registry, develop a plan and share it with the angling community so that we can speak with a unified voice with state legislators. Getting such a diverse group of club members and organizations to agree on anything is no easy task, but Executive Director Anthony Mauro and Captain Pete Gimbilas did it and the NJOA has agreed to the following:

We will pay a minimum fee to comply with the registry such as \$2. This fee will essentially cover the administrative cost for our state's Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) to register anglers. It will help to keep the underfunded Division from having to deploy assets from fisheries management. This administrative fee is not an undue financial burden on anglers.

We do not agree to the imposition of a saltwater license at this time to cover the cost of registry. A license is **not** mandated as part of the registry program.

We will intensely lobby our legislators to increase funding for the DFW since it lacks the funds to administer our state's saltwater fisheries.

On this last point, I want to provide some background. Tom McCloy and others from the DFW have been visiting various fishing clubs to explain what the registry is all about and the cost to administer this program. Tom rightly points out that the DFW is severely underfunded in comparison to other states. He also proposes that a saltwater license would be the way to

go to not only absorb the DFW's cost to administer the registry, but the fees generated by the license would better help the DFW in administering and managing our state's saltwater fisheries.

While the committee strongly agrees that the DFW needs more funding since it only receives \$1.8 million from Trenton, roughly one-tenth the funding of other coastal states, the committee also believes that Trenton and not anglers through a saltwater fishing license should provide the necessary funding the DFW needs. For example, saltwater anglers generate \$100 million in revenues to our state through the purchase of tackle, gear, etc., and all of this money goes into our state's General Fund. The committee is recommending that \$8.9 million from this \$100 million (roughly ten percent) should be appropriated to the DFW. This is not new money that we are asking for, **but it is money that we have already paid for** through angler-generated taxes. The committee is in the process of developing a position paper on this issue that will be distributed to the media and our legislature. We will need your support to pressure the legislators for the funding DFW needs to better manage our fisheries.

I represent the JCAA at the NJOA meetings and I will keep you updated on this issue as it moves forward.

DATA! DATA! DATA!

By Tom Siciliano

I have been preaching for years that the more information we as anglers can provide to the scientists who conduct the Stock Assessments and Recreational Catch Analysis the better we as recreational anglers will be. This was proven last year when the five scientists from the Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Science, Bruce Freeman, Eleanor Bochanek, Eric Powell, Ken Able, and Emerson Hasbrook joined with Mark Maunder who was hired by the Save the Summer Flounder Fishery Fund went to the stock assessment meeting. They asked the tough questions, offered new information and a new method for determining the stock of summer flounder. We all know what happened when more and new information was used. A new number for the target quota was determined.

The job is not over but we have proven that when recreational anglers put their mind to it they can affect the outcome. The scientists from the Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Science and the Save the Flounder Fishery Fund will continue to provide needed information.

They can't do the job by themselves. Each recreational angler can help by providing additional information. Simply count and measure your fish when you are out fishing, then report that information on the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife Website. They have a

survey form at www.njfishandwildlife.com/marinesurvey08.htm. It only takes a few minutes and will add to the data that the state will have to fight for your fishing rights.

Those of you who participated in the JCAA Fluke Survey have already helped and we thank you. In addition to the JCAA survey which has been conducted for the past seven years, I have conducted a survey with the help of the state biologists. I used their format and for the past three years I have had participants in the Sunshine Foundation Tournament fill out the form. I provided a summary of that information to Jeff Brust, the state biologist in charge of the Division's program.

It is interesting to note that about 1/3 of the boats did not catch a keeper during the tournament. On my boat all five of the keepers we had were caught by one angler and it wasn't me!

At this year's Sunshine Foundation Tournament the students and professors from Rutgers came to the weigh-in with a sonogram. That's right, they actually did a sonogram on 50 fish. They found that of the 50 fish ranging in length from 18" to 27" 49 were female and only one was a male. They measured the fish, then confirmed the results of the sonogram by making a small incision and doing an internal exam. Once this test method is perfected and accepted they will be able to go to any fish market or commercial boat and conduct as many as 500 tests in a few hours. This information again will help the scientists to determine for the first time the sex ratio in both the recreational and commercial fisheries. From this the scientists will have a much more accurate determination of natural mortality for fluke.

including the Governor of New Jersey, as part of ceremonies following the Tournament.

The angler catching the longest eligible fish of the day is awarded the prestigious Governor's Cup. The Cup has each year's winner engraved upon it and is on view in the lobby of the Island Beach State Park administration building. There is a real possibility that any one of the competing anglers may be fortunate enough to capture the Governor's Cup. There have been men, women and one youth win the Cup over the years, but never a repeat winner. This shows that it really is possible for anyone to win! You may enter this year's Tournament by picking up an official entry form at your favorite bait and tackle store or by visiting the New Jersey Fish & Wildlife website: www.njfishandwildlife.com

Registration Fees: Ages 18 & over - \$10 for early entry if postmarked by Sept. 14 (\$15.00 fee on Tournament Day)

\$5.00 – Ages 13-17 Children 12 & under are FREE!

Same day registration will begin at 5:00 am at Pavilion #1.

Schedule

6:30 a.m.-1:00p.m	Fishing
1:30 p.m.-2:00p.m	Raffle Drawing
2:00 p.m.	Awards Ceremony

Special arrangements are made for handicapped anglers. Balloon tire equipped beach wheelchairs are available for anglers with disabilities. Volunteers will be needed to assist anglers with special needs who fish on tournament day. To volunteer, or to make arrangements for a handicapped angler, please contact Greg Kucharewski at 732-840-9197.

Tournament hats and t-shirts will be on sale in Pavilion #1 on Tournament day! There will be a limited number of these t-shirts and hats with a special Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament design. Don't forget to stop at the Pavilion, after fishing, to purchase your hat and shirt! Various sporting organizations, state agencies and Tournament supporters will have exhibits at the Pavilion throughout the tournament day. There are also fishing and environmental exhibits and demonstrations presented at the Pavilion on Tournament day

The goals of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament are to:

- Improve access to public fishing areas
- Enhance public recreational facilities that provide fishing opportunities.
- Support the protection of marine and shore area ecosystems.

**18th Annual October 4th 2009
NJ GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING
TOURNAMENT
By: Paul Smith, Tournament Committee**

The Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament (GSFT) is held at Island Beach State Park, NJ on October 4th 2009. Approximately 1,000 anglers of all ages annually enter this tournament. This event is one of the most popular surf fishing contests for the individual angler on the East Coast. It is sponsored by Jersey Coast Anglers Association, New Jersey State Federation Of Sportsmen's Clubs, NJ Beach Buggy Association, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, NJ Division of Parks and NJDEP.

For the last seventeen years anglers from New Jersey, and several neighboring states, have started the fall fishing season by competing in the Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. Winners in many categories are presented prizes by various dignitaries,

- Support activities, special events and programs that will further public appreciation and understanding of marine angling and shore area ecosystems.
- Promote public educational, interpretive and research opportunities concerning marine and shore area ecosystems.

Funds generated from past events have been used to purchase specialized wheelchairs that provide the disabled and elderly with beach access and toward the construction of an 800-foot long access ramp for saltwater anglers. Fishing equipment has been provided for the Outdoor Woman program, Surf fishing Clinic series in IBSP, as well as for various youth educational projects. Educational displays of various types in the park's Interpretive Center, on several self-guided trails, and equipment for the Barnegat Bay Kayak Tour and Environmental Education Enhancement Program were partially funded with Tournament proceeds. Island Beach State Park also received funds from the GSFT to purchase the first mobile automatic heart defibrillator used in the New Jersey Park system.

The Governor's Cup Surf Fishing Tournament committee is looking for judges. We need your help so please sign-up to be a judge in the tournament. Each judge will receive a special issue Governor's Cup Surf Fishing Tournament ball cap with judge embroidered across the back. In addition, this year a stipend is available to help offset the cost of fuel burned while on the beach judging. Also, the IBSP beach pass is not required for judges during the tournament. Anyone interested please contact me at RBthePirate@verizon.net or 609-685-6403. Thanks in advance, Eric Paulson President New Jersey Beach Buggy Association

JCAA Youth Education Report
By Greg Kucharewski

HELPING BOY SCOUTS

The JCAA Youth Education Committee continued to provide surf fishing instruction for Boy Scouts at Fort Monmouth. The surf fishing clinics were held at Fort Monmouth during July and August. The Boy Scouts learned water safety, casting, rig tying, and surf fishing locations in Monmouth County that offer public access.

GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice anglers at the Governor's 17th Annual Surf Fishing Tournament, Sunday, October 4, 2009. This will require extra volunteer hours from member clubs in JCAA. If members in your fishing club would like to help others learn the joy of surf fishing, please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail gkucharews@aol.com and place IBSP in the subject line. Help is needed to provide assistance for disabled anglers, youth anglers, and novice anglers. This is a fun day. Come out and share your surf fishing expertise and help cast a line of caring.

OHIO NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association's Youth Education Chairman traveled to the University of Toledo to support their National Youth Sports Program, NYSP, and Youth Fishing Program. Over 120 children participated in the University of Toledo's National Youth Sports Program and celebrated another successful summer recreation program. The Ohio Division of Fish and Game supported the program and supplied loaner fishing equipment for the NYSP "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" portion of the program. The JCAA Youth Education Committee helped organize the land skills theory classes on campus and suggested campers form local fishing groups in their neighborhood. The Merickel-Farley Trout Club donated funds to purchase prizes for campers and their club members volunteered at Olander Park for the hands-on fishing program. Many campers caught their first fish and now have the fishing bug. A special program for twenty-five single mothers was taught at UT to instruct parents how to take children fishing and purchase equipment.

YOUTH EDUCATION SUPPORT

During the months of June, July, and August the JCAA supplied fishing equipment, aquatic information, and HOFNOD materials to the Monmouth County Association of Retarded Citizens, New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, and the Fish Hawks.

If you would like to help with our youth education efforts and offer some of your time to teach children the joy of fishing, please phone 732-785-9278 or e-mail Gkucharews@aol.com.

This month JCAA would like to feature a member club:

The Jersey Coast Shark Anglers

The club, Jersey Coast Shark Anglers started when a group of avid fishermen got together and started fishing for sharks. This was back in 1977. Shark fishing had become very popular among the recreational fishermen on the Jersey shore and our group of anglers decided to form a club in 1978. We were among the first on the Jersey shore to have organized shark tournaments and with the box office smash of the movie "Jaws", shark fishing was here to stay.

The shark anglers were meeting at another local club, the Riviera Beach Boat Club. The boat club was founded in 1959 by a group of local sportsmen, who built a beautiful clubhouse where their members enjoyed many events and good fellowship. In 1982 the shark club was established with many tournaments and a full membership in its brief history.

Still meeting at the boat club, the officer and trustees of both clubs decided to merge and become one. The Jersey Coast Shark Anglers / Riviera Beach Boat Club have a clubhouse with a full bar, a beautiful rental hall for members only, many club events and still have the best shark tournaments on the Jersey shore. Being a private club we also maintain involvement with many local, state and national marine related organizations. Our 200 members participate in club activities; maintain the building, serve as officers and committee members to operate our clubhouse and most of all have fun together. With the addition of our Ladies Auxiliary in 1996 our club has become more family oriented with many more family events, a children's fishing tournament and a children's Christmas party to mention a few. The love of fishing and good sportsmanship is the common bond that maintains the camaraderie with our club membership. For more information call:

President, Steve Frittz - 732-295-3960

Membership Chair, Gary Dennis - 732-840 0489

Correspondence Sec.,
Dennis West - 609-971-7502

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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 # _____

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