

JCAA NEWSPAPER FEBRUARY 2010

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on January 19th, 2010)

Monthly Meeting Room Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday January 26th 2010

Starting at 7:30 PM

At Brick Plaza at 270 Chambers Bridge Rd

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, February 11th, 2010

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.

## 2009 OFFICERS

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

**Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page**

## IMPORTANT DATES

February 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> AC Boat Show

February 11<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Mtg

February 23<sup>rd</sup> JCAA General Mtg

February 27<sup>th</sup> Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series

March 11<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Mtg

March 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Saltwater Expo

March 30<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting

*NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife reminds saltwater anglers that the federal government's National Saltwater Angler Registry Program requires most New Jersey saltwater anglers to register prior to fishing in 2010.*

**You must register if you\***

\* Fish for or catch anadromous species (striped bass, shad, river herring) in state tidal waters

\* Fish in Federal waters (more than 3 miles from shore)

**You do not have to register if you\***

\* Are under 16 years of age

\* Only fish on federally licensed party or charter boats

\* Hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling Permit

\* Hold a Saltwater Fishing License in another State or signed up for the registry in another State

Online and telephone registration will begin January 1, 2010. Register online at [www.countmyfish.noaa.gov](http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov) or call toll free 888-674-7411.

**Registration is free in 2010.**

## HIGH ROLLER RAFFLE

It is now time for the JCAA High Rollers 2010 Raffle. We have put together a terrific selection of rods and reels and other prizes for a raffle that will be drawn on April 27, 2010. This is a major fundraiser for the JCAA. The eight prizes are listed below with a value of \$3,536. Tickets are two dollars each and Club Representatives can get books of tickets to sell by attending a JCAA General Membership meeting. JCAA will have a booth at the following venues where the raffle tickets will be available for sale and the prizes will be on display: the **Atlantic City International Power Boat Show** February 3rd -7th, the **Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar** February 27th, the **Saltwater Fishing Show** March 19th to 21<sup>st</sup>. Stop by and say hello. Raffle ticket books will also be mailed along with entries for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament. 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.

Here is the 2010 Prize List - drawing April 27, 2010 at Brick Civic Plaza at 7:30 p.m.

Total value - **\$3,536.00**

- 1) Shimano Tiagra TI-30WLRSA Reel with Shimano TLC X58 MHRSA Rod  
(donated by JCAA) value **\$688**
- 2) Igloo Great White 250 Quart Cooler  
(donated by West Marine) value **\$599**
- 3) Minn Kota Riptide Trolling motor model RT 55/SE/L&D  
(donated by Johnson Outdoors Inc) value **\$550**
- 4) Shimano Calcutta 400 BSV Reel with Shimano Calcutta CLC-X76H Rod  
(donated by JCAA) value **\$430**
- 5) Shimano Tyrnos 20 Reel with Profile G15630 MH Rod  
(donated by JCAA) value **\$389**
- 6) Shimano Stradic 5000 FI Reel with Shimano Teramar TMS-70MH Rod  
(donated by JCAA) value **\$380**
- 7) Shimano Calcutta 400 BSV Reel with Shimano Trevala TVC 66M Rod  
(donated by JCAA) value **\$350**

8) Penn 320 GT Reel with Ugly Stik BWC/A0 2201 Rod  
(donated by Bruce Freeman) value **\$150**

## President's Report

*By Mark Taylor*

As always, everyone must keep updated on the issues because there are news releases from ASMFC that they have been sending out. These releases are issues that are for public comment and review. It is very important that everybody participates in this process. You and your clubs need to attend and submit written comments on all issues whether it is for or against. If you don't, then we as a recreational community have no voice in the matters at hand. So get more involved so the recreational community has an even stronger voice. It is very important that each club keeps up to date with all the issues that are affecting us. There are so many issues that are happening right now so continue to check out our website. Club Presidents should make sure that their representatives attend every JCAA General Meeting to bring this information back to your individual clubs for discussion.

There is a Fishermen to March rally in Washington on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The rally is to demonstrate against the unintended negative impacts of the Magnuson Stevens Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and to get congressional support for Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.'s (D-NJ) *Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act* (The Flexibility Bill) amending the Magnuson Stevens Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The Magnuson Stevens Conservation and Management Act (MSA) was made law in January of 2007. There are buses available for the ride down to Washington. To find out more information about the buses, check out some of the organizers of the rally's web sites: Save the Summer Flounder [www.ssfff.net](http://www.ssfff.net), RFA, CCGF, United Boatmen of New York, United Boatmen of New Jersey, New York Sportfishing Federation, Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association and the Fishing Rights Alliance. Jersey Coast Anglers Association does support Congressman Pallone's Flexibility Bill.

A new federal law that is affecting all New Jersey saltwater recreational fishermen started January 1, 2010 - a National Saltwater Angler

Registry. The National Saltwater Angler Registry is free in 2010. To register, anglers can visit <http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov> and click on the Angler Registry link, or call the toll-free registration line at 1-888-MRIP411 (1-888-674-7411) from 4:00 am to 12 midnight EST daily. Anglers will need to provide their name, date of birth, address and telephone number, and will receive a registration number that will allow them to begin fishing immediately. Anglers will receive a registration card in the mail in about 30 days.

At our December 29<sup>th</sup> General Meeting we did not have a quorum so elections were not held. Election of JCAA officers will be held at the January 26<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. If you are interested in becoming a JCAA officer, you need to contact Don Marantz at 609-259-6368 or the JCAA office. We are looking for dedicated individuals to get more involved. Each member club should have their delegates present at the January Meeting to be involved in the process of electing the new officers for 2010.

The High Roller Raffle is in full swing. As usual, the items that are in the raffle are of great quality. Raffle tickets are being sold at each of the shows where JCAA has a booth. So come see us at one of the shows or call the office to get your tickets. With the show season now in progress, JCAA is still looking for volunteers to staff a booth. With Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's & Adventure Show (Raritan Show) Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> completed, I would like to thank those that volunteered their time. There are three shows and one seminar that we will be attending the rest of the show season. There is the Atlantic City International Power Boat Show Feb. 3rd-7th, Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar Feb. 27th, The Saltwater Fishing Show Mar. 19th-21st and The NJ Wild Outdoor Expo Sept. 25th-26th. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend. If anyone is interested right now in volunteering, please contact me at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com). This is where we interact with people who do not belong to any clubs and are misinformed on issues. It is a great experience to meet many different people who enjoy something you love to do.

For those of you who took advantage of giving a contribution to non-profit or charitable organizations that support fishing or anglers, I thank you. Your contribution will be utilized to support

and protect the rights of all anglers who fish in New Jersey.

Important information is that the Coast Guard will be terminating its transmission of LORAN-C. The Coast Guard published a Federal Register notice on Jan. 7, 2010 regarding its intention to terminate the transmission of the LORAN-C signal Feb. 8, 2010. A LORAN Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision stating that the environmentally preferred alternative is to decommission the LORAN-C Program and terminate the North American LORAN-C signal was published in the Federal Register on Jan. 7, 2010.

As I mentioned in past newsletters, the Newspaper Committee is looking for clubs to send in a 500-word description about your club including who you are and what you do. Send it in by e-mail to [jcaa@jcaa.org](mailto:jcaa@jcaa.org) with the stipulation that we will be using these highlights in the order that they are received and they will be published in the JCAA newsletter. So send in a description and promote your club and possibly get new members who live or fish in your area.

As a reminder, the JCAA has an Operations Manager, Sharon McKenna, in the office to answer your questions. Sharon will either give you an answer to your question or direct your call to the proper person. Give the office a call. She would like to hear from you.

## **Operations Manager Report** *By Sharon McKenna*

It has been another exciting month at the JCAA office. We have been receiving a lot of calls, but two topics stand out. The first is the saltwater registry, which is mandatory for those who fish for or catch anadromous species (striped bass, shad, river herring) in state tidal waters; or fish in federal waters (more than 3 miles from shore). You do not have to register if you are under 16 years of age; only fish on federally licensed party or charter boats; hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling Permit; or hold a Saltwater Fishing License in another state or signed up for the registry in another state. It is easy to register, either on line or by phone. Register online at [www.countmyfish.noaa.gov](http://www.countmyfish.noaa.gov) or call toll free 888-674-7411. I cannot register you for the saltwater registry and will direct you to the website

and/or phone number if needed. This was also a big issue at the Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show. Many people stopped by our booth and were unaware of the mandatory registry and had a lot of questions about it. There was great attendance while we handed out the newspaper, the new white paper on Striped Bass Migration written by Bruce Freeman, and briskly sold High Roller raffle tickets. As always, the prizes are great and for \$2 a ticket, it is an easy and painless way to donate to the JCAA's education programs.

The second topic is the Fluke Tournament! I am happy and amazed that already we have folks chomping at the bit for their entry forms. Please call the office as soon as you are ready to commit. We are very close to finalizing every detail and will be able to send out invitations, information, entry forms and even High Roller raffle books to our past participants. If you know someone who loves to fluke, spread the word. Remember, you only compete against the anglers who land their fluke at your same home port, and there are TEN port prizes at each port to vie for! The odds are great you will walk away with a prize. The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Fluke Tournament will be held on June 12, 2010, so mark your calendars, make your plans and be on the lookout for your entry form. The Awards Ceremony will again be held at the Trump Marina Hotel Casino on Friday, June 18. Also, one of our port sponsors, Costa Del Mar sunglasses, is featured in this newspaper. We at JCAA are pleased to welcome them on board. Thank you, Costa Del Mar, for supporting JCAA and its mission to protect our marine resources and the rights of saltwater anglers.

On another important subject for recreational fisheries, I want to thank the many members of JCAA member clubs and the JCAA Board for participating in the angler research survey being conducted by Steven Gray of Rutgers University. He will be sharing his findings with us as soon as his report is analyzed and synthesized.

At the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program (BBNEP) Education and Outreach Retreat on Friday, January 8, which I attended on behalf of JCAA, the focal point was brainstorming on how to reach under-served communities within the Barnegat Bay watershed. Survey results were shared showing which BBNEP partners were reaching out and offering services to which community. Recreational fishing was classified in a larger audience of "recreational users" which would include ocean

bathers, surfers, boaters, kayakers, etc. It was defined as an under-served community, to which we would say, well of course, but what does that mean? How can we better interact with the mission of the BBNEP to advance the JCAA mission of protecting fisheries and the rights of saltwater anglers? The BBNEP is funded by the federal government to administer its mission which is "In cooperation with our community, BBNEP is committed to action to restore, maintain, protect, and enhance the natural resources of the Barnegat Bay estuary and its contributing watershed through the 21st century." Enhancement of the marine environment is a core belief of JCAA. No clean water, no fish. Tom Fote has been advising the BBNEP for many years and many partnerships have been created through this relationship. There is clearly more to come.

Finally, thank you all for your support of JCAA. We are coming to grant crunch time, and soon we will start hearing about our successes. Thank you to those of you who have shared possible granting opportunities. Please call if you have any further fundraising suggestions. The office is open from 9 – 2 weekdays, so please do not be a stranger. 732-506-6565.

## **JCAA welcomes Costa Del Mar as a major sponsor for the 2010 JCAA Fluke Tournament**

### **The Costa Difference**

Aggressive technology meets comfortable "forget-they're-on" fit with Costa's Corbina sunglass style. It features the no-slip Hydrolite™ lining along the entire interior of the frame, giving the wearer the most comfortable sunglass fit ever.

Corbina is named after the hard fighting Pacific West Coast species of fish, and features sharper angles and wide temples for an updated stylish look.

The sunglasses are available in either tortoise, black or silver frames, and can be customized with the full array of the "Costa clear" lenses, including the high definition 580 gray, copper, blue, green or silver mirrors. Corbina is built to fit medium to large face shapes and have integral hinges for a flexible, comfortable fit. The style retails from between \$149 to \$249.

As the leading manufacturer of the world's clearest polarized performance sunglasses, Costa offers superior lens technology, unparalleled fit and durability, and a lifetime warranty against manufacturer's defects on all of its products. Still handcrafted today in Florida, Costa creates what has been referred to as the highest quality, best performing sunglasses on the planet for outdoor enthusiasts.

Honoring its heritage on the water, Costa supports and sponsors a number of marine conservation initiatives and educational programs, including Trout Unlimited, the Bonefish Tarpon Trust, the International Game Fish Association, the Coastal Conservation Association and partnering with Renewable Choice Energy to offset its carbon and power emissions.

For more information, contact 1-800-447-3700 or visit the company's Web site at [www.costadelmar.com](http://www.costadelmar.com), or join in the conversation on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/costadelmar.com](http://www.facebook.com/costadelmar.com) or Twitter @CostaSunglasses.

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report** *By Thomas Fote*

### **MAFMC Science and Statistical Committee and Monitoring Committee Joint Webcam Meeting**

The Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Monitoring Committee had a long webcam meeting to discuss Black Sea Bass and other issues. Below is the decision they reached. I have also enclosed the letter by the Chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's letter to Pat Kurkul, Northeast Regional Director, requesting an emergency action to implement the increase in the quota by 2.2 million pounds. Bruce Freeman completed an in-depth report which is in this newspaper. We will also post the full webcam report from the SSC Chairman, John Boreman, on our webpage. Please note how many JCAA members were in attendance including me, Bruce Freeman and Tom Siciliano.

I applaud the actions of the Monitoring Committee and the SSC. I listened for most of the call and gained some interesting insights into the debate. I was disturbed to find a double standard used by some of the members who worked for

NMFS. Their approach is to take immediate action when confronted with bad news, but study good news relentlessly without taking any action. I have heard for 30 years that we should be using the best available science. I hear this from the environmental community even when the science has no validity. I hear this from NMFS whenever they set quotas. I also hear this from state directors and fisheries managers. But the hidden agenda is to respond to the best available science when it restricts, but literally ignore the best available science with the excuse we need more data when the science would allow for larger quotas. I find that at the federal level. I do not find that at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. That is why there is a greater trust by the general public in the ASMFC process. What seems to get the ASMFC in difficulty is when they acquiesce to NMFS because of threatened closures in federal waters.

It was interesting how fast NMFS moved to shut down the recreational fishery for Black Sea Bass for 2009 and 2010 when the preliminary data was negative. It will be even more interesting to see how quickly they respond to the good news from the SSC. This problem could have been avoided if they had passed the motion I made at the October joint meeting and allowed this meeting to take place at an earlier date. This motion called for a joint discussion between the SSC and the Monitoring Committee, something that finally happened. NMFS cannot do fisheries management with double standards and without consistency. If recreational anglers and commercial fishermen must bite the bullet when the news is bad, they need to reap the benefits when the news is good. That's the only way anyone has any trust in the process. The scientists need to confine their experiments to the lab and stop making predictions with no valid data that costs people jobs.

In the past four to five years, JCAA has asked the other NGOs (the non-fishing NGOs) to come to our assistance in correcting grievous mistakes. As examples, quotas for summer flounder and black sea bass were blatant errors. We presented the facts, we showed where the mistakes were and they refused to go on the record supporting the recreational and commercial communities. After real scientific review, JCAA's position was proved correct. This was an opportunity for the non-fishing NGOs to step up to the plate and show that their rhetoric of cooperation was more than just talk. They would have demonstrated their understanding

of the economic impact and show that they were not intending to put fishermen or fishing industries out of business. This would have given them tremendous credibility and shown that we are truly coalitions and not one-sided relationships. Despite our best attempts to make the case, these NGOs failed miserably. They have lost whatever credibility they had with many of the recreational and commercial fishing communities. This is truly a shame since there are much bigger environmental and habitat issues that require us to work together. JCAA has always worked to build coalitions, particularly around environmental issues. Without clean healthy fish stocks that are free from pollutants, the recreational and commercial fishing industries will die a slow, agonizing death. Without a strong coalition we will never be able to stop the pollution of our bays and estuaries, the destructive offshore drilling, the bad land use measures that create nonpoint source pollution and the important water quality issues that we are only beginning to understand.

I am looking forward to attending the February ASMFC meeting to make or support a motion that will immediately increase the Black Sea Bass quota in state waters. I really hope NMFS does not lose what credibility they have left by ignoring an opportunity to increase the Black Sea Bass quota immediately in federal waters.

#### **SUMMARY OF THE SSC AND MONITORING COMMITTEE WEBCAM MEETING**

SSC reconsidered its acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendation and revised its consensus recommendation to increase the ABC for black sea bass for 2010 to 4.5 million pounds (2,041 mt).

The resulting modification to the ABC is 2.2 million pounds higher than the initial ABC recommendation, and the increased recommendation can be reasonably expected to alleviate significant, negative social and economic impacts relative to the initial ABC recommendation.

#### **DEP REQUIRES OYSTER CREEK TO IMPLEMENT COOLING TOWERS**

Finally, DEP issued a proposed a draft water-discharge permit that will go to public hearings requiring Oyster Creek to implement cooling towers. This release is below. This has been a long, hard battle and there are many groups who worked to encourage DEP to take this action. I am not going to

list everyone at this time since I do not have the list with me. This is not a done deal but we are on the right track. This is only the beginning. Salem Nuclear Power Plant is up for renewal and the same type of action must be required of them. DEP needs to extend this requirement for all pass-through operations that take waters from our bays, estuaries and rivers and discharge heated or contaminated water. We need to stop trying to rebuild fisheries stocks strictly on the backs of the recreational and commercial fishing industries. EPA at the federal level and DEP at the state level must finally enact the requirements of the Clean Water Act to make all water systems in the United States fish friendly. On the west coast this means allowing enough water to rebuild the stocks of salmon and other species. On the Gulf coast this means putting an end to the ever increasing dead zones in the Gulf of Mexico. And everywhere this means finding a remedy to the negative impact of nonpoint source pollution. Congress and the President are talking about ocean policies to build sustainable oceans. They need to begin to take the hard, expensive steps necessary to take this action. The fishermen have always focused on sustainable fisheries. It is time for everyone else to pay attention.

#### **WORKING TOGETHER IN 2010**

Last month this newspaper included two articles about NGOs working together. I discuss this again in the Black Sea Bass article. It is important to acknowledge that even within our own recreational fishing community, there are steps we need to take to work together more efficiently and in a more respectful manner. I have always tried to maintain a respectful, civil manner in any disagreements. Nasty email and negative public comments only undermine attempts to make progress. When we fight among ourselves, we dilute our power. We need to speak in a consistent voice and keep our disagreements in-house and respectful. Our enemies know that the energy we expend fighting among ourselves means less energy to focus on solving our problems. In 30 years, I realize I have spent way too much of my time trying to put out fires set in my own community. Every time there is an unwarranted attack, it gets harder to put the bad feelings aside and work together. This is not going to change overnight but I am making a personal commitment to an increase in civil discussion and avoiding the attack mode.

**GATEWAY NATIONAL PARK AREA HAS  
BEEN NOMINATED FOR MPA STATUS  
Permanent year round restrictions on both  
Commercial and Recreational fishing?**

Glenn Arthur of the New Jersey Dive Council contacted JCAA about the proposal to include Gateway National Park in the list of MPAs. The links to the documents are below. Public comment is open till February 22, 2010. JCAA will work with other groups to prepare a response before the end of the comment period. If you have difficulty accessing the documents, please email me. I will try to get some of this material posted on the JCAA webpage.

Here is the announcement and details:

[http://mpa.gov/pdf/national-system/f...ice\\_jan710.pdf](http://mpa.gov/pdf/national-system/f...ice_jan710.pdf)

Here is the document listing sites and more details:

[http://mpa.gov/pdf/national-system/n...s\\_jan\\_2010.pdf](http://mpa.gov/pdf/national-system/n...s_jan_2010.pdf)

go to page 11 for Sandy Hook details

**2010 A NEW YEAR**

I have been out of state on vacation for an extended period. I went to Hawaii where the motto is "hang loose." After NMFS response on black sea bass last year, I was really disillusioned and disappointed. But the vacation and the latest move by the SSC and the Monitoring Committee has given me a renewed energy. The message is don't give up the battles, continue to broaden our coalitions and find the time and energy to protect the environment, the marine resource and the fishing industries that depend on it. Most important, we need to continually focus on the legacy we leave for future generations. Take a kid fishing and show him or her how to be a good steward for the environment.

**MAFMC Letter**

The following is a letter by the Chairman of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's letter to Pat Kurkul, Northeast Regional Director, requesting an emergency action to implement the increase in the quota by 2.2 million pounds.

January 15, 2010

Patricia Kurkul  
NOAA Fisheries, Northeast Region

55 Great Republic Dr.  
Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

Dear Pat,

As you are aware, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) passed the following motion at its December 2009 meeting in Wilmington, Delaware:

"Move that as outlined by the Executive Committee at the October Council meeting, convene a joint meeting of the SSC [Science and Statistical Committee] and Monitoring Committee to share available data and relevant information as it pertains to the 2010 BSB [black sea bass] recommendations for purposes of allowing the RA [Regional Administrator] to consider whether it would be appropriate to move forward with an emergency action based on final SSC review."

A joint meeting of the SSC and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committee was subsequently convened via Webinar on January 8, 2010 in response to the Council's request. Following its consultation with the Monitoring Committee, the SSC reconsidered its acceptable biological catch (ABC) recommendation and revised its consensus recommendation to increase the ABC for black sea bass for 2010 to 4.5 million pounds (2,041 mt). Attached please find a report from Dr. John Boreman, Chairman of the MAFMC SSC summarizing the findings and recommendations of the SSC relative to reconsideration of the 2010 ABC for black sea bass.

I believe it is reasonable to infer that the Council's motion on this issue from its December meeting would result in a request for consideration of emergency action if the SSC substantially modified its ABC recommendation. The resulting modification to the ABC is 2.2 million pounds higher than the initial ABC recommendation, and the increased recommendation can be reasonably expected to alleviate significant, negative social and economic impacts relative to the initial ABC recommendation. Consequently, and inasmuch as the SSC's revision of their ABC recommendation was unforeseen and based on unforeseen findings documented in the SSC report<sup>1</sup>, please consider the

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<sup>1</sup> See also 50CFR Chapter VI [Docket No. 970728184-7184-01; I.D. 060997C] "Policy Guidelines for the Use of Emergency Rules", which defines an emergency as a situation resulting from "recent, unforeseen events or recently discovered circumstances."

Council's above motion together with the attached SSC report documenting the amended ABC recommendation for possible emergency rulemaking to increase the 2010 total allowable catch (TAC) for black sea bass to 4.5 million pounds as provided for under § 305(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The attached SSC report indicates that the TAC and total allowable landings (TAL) levels associated with their revised ABC recommendation would be 4.5 million pounds and 3.7 million pounds (1,680 mt), respectively. The report also calls specific attention to the issue of management uncertainty related to the recreational catch overages experienced in 2009. I have added the SSC's amended ABC recommendation to the agenda for the Council's February meeting to provide the Council with an opportunity to develop comments on its preferences for possible modifications to the recreational measures for the 2010 season so that the Council can provide your office with final recommendations on this issue.

When the Council set specifications for the black sea bass fishery at its August 2009 meeting, it applied 3 percent to the TAL to establish the Research Set-Aside (RSA) quota. Consequently, if the Secretary initiates emergency rulemaking to amend the 2010 specifications and recreational harvest measures for black sea bass, I would also ask you to consider applying the same percentage to the revised TAL value to update the Research Set-Aside (RSA) quota for 2010.

I am aware that the use of emergency rule making procedures is intended only in extraordinary circumstances. As you are aware, and in response to concerns associated with the process by which the initial black sea bass ABC recommendation was developed, the Council has recently taken several important steps to improve the process by which it receives and integrates scientific information into the decision-making process. Specifically, the Council has worked with the leadership of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to develop a new sequence in the specification-setting process that will include a pre-decisional consultation between the SSC and the appropriate Monitoring Committee; adopted a remand policy to establish criteria for reconsiderations of SSC decisions; and proposed to develop a standardized set of terms of reference for ABC recommendations as well as a Council risk

policy that would be applied by the SSC when establishing ABCs.

As you consider the attached SSC report and the Council's motion in the context of possible emergency rulemaking, I would like to thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of these matters that are of significant importance to the region's black sea bass commercial and recreational fisheries. I appreciate your forbearance and support as the Council continues to work closely and diligently with the SSC, NMFS, the ASMFC and our management partners to improve the specification-setting process and bring the Council's fishery management plans into compliance with the new requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Act.

Sincerely,  
Richard B. Robins, Jr.  
Chairman

Enclosure: SSC report  
cc: Robert Boyles, Chairman, ASMF

### **ASMFC Winter Meeting**

February 1- 4, 2009  
Crowne Plaza Hotel Old Town  
901 North Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, Virginia (703) 683-6000

#### **Preliminary Schedule:**

The preliminary agenda is subject to change. The agenda may also be viewed at <http://www.asmfc.org/winter2010Mtg.htm>.

February 1, 2010  
Noon - 2:30 PM American Lobster Management Board  
2:45 PM - 5:45 PM Atlantic Herring Section

February 2, 2010  
8:00 AM - 10:30 AM Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board  
10:45 AM - 12:45 PM Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Weakfish Management Board  
3:15 PM - 6:15 PM Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks Management Board

February 3, 2010  
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM Horseshoe Crab Management Board  
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM South Atlantic State/Federal Fisheries Management Board  
2:15 PM - 5:15 PM Interstate Fisheries Management Program (ISFMP) Policy Board

February 4, 2010

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Bluefish Management Board  
9:45 AM - 12:45 PM Shad and River Herring Management Board  
1:15 PM - 2:00 PM ISFMP Policy Board (continued)  
3:00 PM - 3:45 PM Business Session

## **Black Sea Bass-SSC Meeting 1/8/2010**

*By Bruce Freeman*

The Science and Statistical Committee [SSC] of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council met in a daylong meeting January 8 to discuss and review their July recommendation to the Council for the 2010 sea bass quota. The need for this meeting arose because the SSC met to make the 2010 quota recommendation prior to hearing the Monitoring Committee report which provides the most recent and inclusive report of both catch data and biological survey information. The Monitor Report contained very encouraging information pertaining to sea bass. Several state surveys showed record or near record indexes. For example, the Maryland young-of-year index was the highest of any year on record, the Rhode Island index of all size sea bass, the second highest on record, and the Massachusetts survey, the third highest index since 1978. Also, several states indicated that they had to restrict their commercial catch to only three days per week together with strict poundage limits as well to remain within their quota limits. Commercial fishermen from Virginia to Massachusetts also reported a large increase in the abundance of all size sea bass during 2009. In addition, a three-fold increase in the recreational fishery during 2009 pointed as well to a sharp increase in the abundance of sea bass.

While the SSC was encouraged by this report, they indicated that this information would have to be presented and analyzed through the formal benchmark status of stock review process which would be done in 2011 or 2012.

The SSC discussed the large gaps in our knowledge of the life history of sea bass. The rate of natural mortality, while extremely important as a variable in modeling the sea bass population, remains largely unknown. In addition, the fact that sea bass begin life processing both female and male reproductive organs-hermaphroditism-has important, but unknown consequences on the catch of different size fish. For example, during their first year of life,

sea bass mature as females and remain so for one to four years. But usually when three to five years old, they become males and by age six, most all sea bass are males and remain so the rest of their lives. Setting a maximum size limit can have a profound yet unknown impact on the sea bass sex ratio. Also, the coast-wide survey conducted by the NMFS catches mostly ages 0-2 year old sea bass. Fish older than those are nearly always associated with bottom structure, and as they increase in age, this association with structure becomes stronger. Survey vessels, due to the possible destruction of their nets, are forced to restrict their tows to open unobstructed bottom. On the other hand, both the recreational and commercial catches are concentrated on or around bottom structure.

With all these unknowns, the SSC agreed there is a great amount of uncertainty in the use of existing models to determine the stock size, the maximum sustainable yield amount, and an appropriate level of fishing mortality. The existing quota has been set low as a precaution to overfishing because of the many unknown biological factors. Also, because of the many uncertainties, it was agreed that a constant catch [quota] should be maintained rather than a constant fishing mortality rate as is done with many other fishes, such as fluke and striped bass. However, the SSC was undecided whether to simply base the quota on a single year's catch or use a three or five year average as is done with other species.

After much discussion the SSC indicated that at their July meeting, while agreeing on the need for a constant catch and therefore keeping the 2010 quota the same as 2009, they realized that setting the 2008 quota, the basis for the 2009 and 2010 quota was needlessly too conservative. Based upon considerable catch information over a long period of years, it was seen that the sea bass catch when more than 6 million pounds resulted in a decrease of the sea bass stock. And when the coast-wide catch was less than 6 million pounds the stock increased. The SSC agreed that a quota of 2.3 million pounds for 2010 was overly conservative. The committee recommended a revision be made to the total catch and be between 4-4.5 million pounds. It was agreed that such a level continues to be conservative and would still result in an increase of the sea bass stock.

This recommendation will be made at the next Mid-Atlantic Council meeting to the regional administrator of NMFS. Hopefully, she will take

appropriate action to comply with what is now the best scientific advice.

**Scientists Begin Testing Mussels for  
Pollutants**  
**Asbury Park Press, December 29, 2009**  
**By Jason Dearen - Associated Press**  
**Writer**

California scientists hope studying 180 black mussels pried from algae-covered rocks in San Francisco Bay will provide clues into how many drugs and chemicals are polluting waters across the nation.

Mussels filter water and store contaminants in their tissue, providing a record of pollution in the environment. The creatures are being culled from 80 sites in California as part of a pilot study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to see how pervasive the substances have become.

"We haven't measured mussels for these compounds, so there's not a lot of data," Dominic Gregorio, a senior environmental scientist with the State Water Resources Control Board, said. "So this is really a first step to be proactive and get ahead of the curve on this."

Regulators are concerned about an array of chemicals and pharmaceuticals — synthetic estrogen used in birth control pills, anti-bacterial agents in hand sanitizers and a flame retardant used on computers, furniture and cars — that can accumulate in the tissue of animals and people. Recent studies found levels of PBDEs, or polybrominated diphenyl ethers, a flame retardant used in the manufacture of a wide range of consumer products, in waters off of every U.S. coast.

The chemicals are being detected more often in surface water, state water quality officials said, but little data exists about how these substances negatively effect the health of humans and animals.

After conducting tests on the mussels, the data will help guide the study of emerging contaminants in other states, said Gunnar Lauenstein, program manager for NOAA's Mussel Watch, which has tested mussels since 1986.

Traces of PBDEs have also been found in human breast milk, aquatic birds and fish in North America, Europe and Asia, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Until now NOAA's Mussel Watch has tested the bivalves for pollutants like the pesticide DDT.

This pilot study could help guide regulators in determining what new pollutants in mussels should be regularly monitored.

"What we're trying to do now is focus on a newer generation of consumer products," Lauenstein said. The California mussels will also be tested for bisphenol A, or BPA, a chemical used to harden plastics and line the cans of baby formula and other foods.

Scientists are concerned that BPA exposure may harm reproductive systems and promote prostate and breast cancers, though the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention says human health effects of BPA exposure are still unknown.

Gregorio said the data collected from around the state will include mussels from a wide range of areas including cities, agricultural regions and open spaces.

**DEP Permit Calls for Oyster Creek  
Nuclear Plant to Build Cooling Towers**  
**January 7, 2010**

Contact: Elaine Makatura (609) 292-2994  
Lawrence Hajna (609) 984-1795

TRENTON - The Department of Environmental Protection has proposed a draft water-discharge permit that calls for Exelon Generation Company, owner of the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant in Lacey Township, to build a closed-cycle cooling system to protect aquatic life in the Barnegat Bay ecosystem, Acting Commissioner Mark N. Mauriello announced today.

"The use of cooling towers would result in a much healthier bay," Commissioner Mauriello said. "A healthier bay means a better quality of life for the region's residents as well as improved recreational experiences for those who visit to swim, fish, crab, watch wildlife \* or to simply soak up the bay's beauty."

The DEP has determined that a closed-cycle cooling system consisting of cooling towers is the best available technology consistent with the federal Clean Water Act. The DEP is proposing the system be built as a condition for renewal of the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit the nuclear plant needs to operate.

The DEP recognizes the proposal involves complex issues and will result in extensive public interest. The DEP will carefully weigh all viewpoints

as it begins a comprehensive public comment process.

The plant currently discharges water heated during electricity generation into a canal that is connected to Barnegat Bay. The new cooling system will significantly reduce the amount of water the plant needs to draw from the canal, thereby reducing impacts to aquatic life. It will also reduce the temperature of water discharged into the canal.

Studies have determined that the trapping of aquatic organisms against intake screens at existing cooling water intakes and the actual intake of organisms into the system impacts a wide array of species, including bay anchovy, winter flounder, weakfish, Atlantic menhaden, shrimp, blue crab, eel grass and hard clams. Plant discharges have resulted in fish kills associated with cold shock. This occurs when plant shutdowns cut off the flow of hot water into the canal.

The DEP will hold public hearings on Wednesday, Feb. 24, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Lacey Township Municipal Building, 818 West Lacey Road, Forked River; and on Wednesday, March 3, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the DEP Public Hearing Room, 401 East State Street, Trenton.

The DEP will accept written public comments until March 15. Comments may be sent to Pilar Patterson, Chief of the Bureau of Surface Water Permitting, P.O. Box 029; Trenton, NJ 08625.

## **Feds Mull Regulating Drugs in Water**

**By Jeff Donn (AP)**

Federal regulators under President Barack Obama have sharply shifted course on long-standing policy toward pharmaceutical residues in the nation's drinking water, taking a critical first step toward regulating some of the contaminants while acknowledging they could threaten human health.

A burst of significant announcements in recent weeks reflects an expanded government effort to deal with pharmaceuticals as environmental pollutants:

For the first time, the Environmental Protection Agency has listed some pharmaceuticals as candidates for regulation in drinking water. The agency also has launched a survey to check for scores of drugs at water treatment plants across the nation.

The Food and Drug Administration has updated its list of waste drugs that should be flushed down the toilet, but the agency has also declared a goal of working toward the return of all unused medicines.

The National Toxicology Program is conducting research to clarify how human health may be harmed by drugs at low environmental levels.

The Associated Press reported last year that the drinking water of at least 51 million Americans contains minute concentrations of a multitude of drugs. Water utilities, replying to an AP questionnaire, acknowledged the presence of antibiotics, sedatives, sex hormones and dozens of other drugs in their supplies.

The news reports stirred congressional hearings and legislation, more water testing and more disclosure of test results. For example, an Illinois law goes into effect Jan. 1 banning health care institutions from flushing unused medicine into wastewater systems.

The EPA's new study will look for 200 chemical and microbial contaminants at 50 plants that treat drinking water. The list includes 125 pharmaceuticals or related chemicals. This research will help federal water officials decide if regulations are needed. In the first move toward possible drinking-water standards, the EPA has put 13 pharmaceuticals on what it calls the Contaminant Candidate List. They are mostly sex hormones, but include the antibiotic erythromycin and three chemicals used as drugs but better known for other uses.

They join a list of 104 chemical and 12 microbial contaminants that the EPA is considering as candidates for regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. No pharmaceutical has ever reached the list in its 12-year history, but medicines now make up 13 percent of the target chemicals on the latest list "based on their potential adverse health effects and potential for occurrence in public water systems," the EPA said.

They take a place beside such better-known contaminants as the metal cobalt, formaldehyde, the rocket fuel ingredient perchlorate, and the disease germ E. coli.

"I think this does signal a change in the regulatory and research approaches," said Conrad Volz, a University of Pittsburgh scientist whose research raises questions about the risk of eating fish from waters contaminated with sex hormones. "What's happening is pretty amazing."

Several scientists within and outside government tied the stronger focus on human health to the Obama administration and the president's appointment of Lisa Jackson, a highly regarded former head of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, to run the EPA.

"I think we are trying to be as aggressive as we can. We understand it's a major national issue. We

understand it's a major public concern," said Peter Silva, the new water administrator at the EPA.

However, making the candidate list provides no assurance that a chemical will reach full-blown regulation. In fact, no chemical on the list has ever been made subject to a national water quality standard, EPA officials acknowledge. They intend to make preliminary decisions on some of the latest contaminants by mid-2012.

"They've made a lot of good first steps, so now were waiting to see those carried through," said Nneka Leiba, a researcher at the Environmental Working Group in Washington.

Water utilities and drug makers are wary of the federal moves. Difficult scientific questions remain over the possible threat posed to humans by minuscule concentrations in drinking water, where drugs are typically found in parts per billion or trillion. That's way below medical doses.

However, some researchers fear that very small daily amounts of unwanted drugs in water could do cumulative harm to people over decades, possibly in combination with other drugs or in sensitive populations like children or pregnant women.

Alan Goldhammer, a vice president of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, said such trace amounts "really do not pose a human health issue."

"We do get concerned if we think that somebody is going to require that the consumers spend money and not get any health benefit," added Tom Curtis, a lobbyist for the Denver-based American Water Works Association.

The U.S. Geological Survey first began taking notice of pharmaceutical contamination several years ago. But until now the federal government has focused on the presence of pharmaceuticals in rivers and streams.

A recently released EPA study found more than 40 pharmaceuticals — everything from antibiotics to heart medicine to antidepressants — at nine publicly owned wastewater treatment plants. The drugs appeared in concentrations measured in parts per billion and trillion. Many passed right through the plants.

Linda Birnbaum, who is director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and also oversees the National Toxicology Program, said some program research is focusing on how much environmental pharmaceuticals can reach animal blood and tissues and how that might compare with humans.

Waste pharmaceuticals reach the environment when people take medicine and excrete the

unmetabolized portion. Millions of pounds of waste drugs also escape into waterways from hospitals, drug plants and other factories, farms and the drains of American homes, the AP has reported.

On its new list, the FDA, which regulates medicines, says only 10 active ingredients in controlled-substance drugs need to be flushed to keep them away from children, abusers and pets.

At the same time, the agency announced it is working with partners to develop programs to return unused drugs instead of flushing them down the drain. The agency wants "to encourage their development and future use for all drugs," declared Dr. Douglas Throckmorton, deputy director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. Returned drugs are usually incinerated, which destroys most active ingredients. Community drug takeback programs have increased considerably since the AP's PharmaWater reports.

The recent announcements have been striking in their speed and breadth. Just last year, Ben Grumbles, Silva's predecessor at the EPA Office of Water under President George W. Bush, said only one pharmaceutical was under consideration for the list of candidates for water standards. And it was the heart medicine nitroglycerin, better known as an explosive.

Yet some environmentalists say the government should take even bolder action. "Identifying the nature and scope of the problem is not the same thing as addressing the causes of the problem," said George Mannina, an environmental lawyer in Washington.

He said the EPA should do more to keep drugs out of the nation's water supplies and not rely on expensive filtering systems at water treatment plants.

Jon Holder, a vice president at Vestara, a seller of equipment to manage waste drugs, said the EPA should be more aggressive about enforcing hazardous waste laws that already apply to some drugs used by hospitals.

"We applaud the light that's being shined on it, but we also recognize that the simple enforcement of existing law would go a long way," he said.

On the Net:

EPA Contaminant Candidate List:

<http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw000/ccl/cc13.html>

FDA flush list:

<http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/BuyingUsingMedicineSafely/EnsuringSafeUseofMedicine/SafeDisposalofMedicines/ucm186187.htm>

**SALT WATER SPORTSMAN  
NATIONAL SEMINAR SERIES  
RETURNS TO THE JERSEY SHORE!  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE contact  
1-800-448-7360**

Circle Saturday, February 27 on your calendar! That's when the Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series returns to the Jersey Shore with an entertaining and information-packed day on how to catch more and bigger saltwater fish off New Jersey - inshore and offshore. The 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. event, presented by Sperry Top-Sider, will be held inside the Performing Arts Theater at Monmouth Regional High School (1 Norman J. Field Way, Tinton Falls, NJ). Headlining the event will be **George Poveromo** – Host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on ESPN2, and a Senior Editor for Salt Water Sportsman, and **Gary Caputi** – Offshore Editor for Salt Water Sportsman.

Entering into its 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year of touring in 2010, the Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series has earned the distinction of being the nation's most popular and longest-running educational seminar on recreational marine angling.

Joining **Poveromo** and **Caputi** at the Jersey Shore will be **CAPTAIN TREY RHYNE** – Nationally-recognized big game captain and noted Northeast canyon-fishing specialist. Rhyme heads up Over-Under Charters; **CAPTAIN ADAM NOWALSKY** - Premier trophy fluke, bottom, and nearshore tuna fishing specialist aboard his Karen Ann II. **CAPTAIN STEW HITCHNER**– Noted tuna, shark and canyon fishing authority and skipper of the Pez Machine; **CAPTAIN RALPH LEYRER** – Legendary captain with over 30-years experience fishing the inshore and offshore waters of New Jersey aboard his charter boat, The Last Lady. **CAPTAIN JIMMY PRICE** – An innovative expert at catching trophy flounder, Price is regarded as North Carolina's number 1 flounder fishing authority; **CAPTAIN JIM FREDA** – Premier light tackle authority with over 25 years experience fishing New Jersey's coastal waters, and a noted writer and author; and **CAPTAIN TERRY SULLIVAN** - Noted light tackle, trophy striped bass authority. Sullivan also excels at catching Jersey weakfish and bluefish.

Courses for the February 27 presentation will focus on - Trophy stripers on ultra-light tackle; Live-lining for trophy stripers; Top trolling tactics for stripers; Secrets of fishing Raritan, Sandy Hook, Silver and Barnegat Bays; Sure-fire weakfish tactics; How to target and catch trophy weakfish; Chunking for bluefish; Bluefish on surface lures; Inshore wire-line techniques; Jetty tactics; How to catch more and bigger fluke; Targeting trophy fluke; Cutting-edge fluke tactics; North Carolina trophy flounder fishing tactics that will yield more and larger New Jersey fluke; Top tactics for big blackfish; Catching blackfish by the score; Variety fishing in and around inlets; How to locate and fish productive bottom (blackfish, sea bass, spot and fluke); Back-bay stripers; Can't-miss tuna-trolling patterns; Cutting-edge tuna chunking tactics; Live-baiting for tunas; Canyon fishing secrets; Advanced methods for bluefin and yellowfin tuna; Zeroing in on big eye tuna; How to choose, rig and fish the best lures and natural baits for tuna; Tournament winning offshore trolling tactics; Subsurface offshore trolling tactics; Cutting edge spreader bar and dredge tactics; Secrets for catching more inshore tuna; Reading water temperature charts; Targeting trophy makos; Basic and advanced sharking techniques; Offshore kite fishing for sharks and tuna; Florida tactics for daytime swordfish off New Jersey.

A ticket to the Seminar Series costs \$ 55.00, and includes a One-Year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman Magazine, a comprehensive course textbook, a Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis (offshore tuna, dolphin, marlin and major kingfish tournaments only), a bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, a spool of Sufix Fishing line, and a \$ 20.00 discount card at Capt. Harry's Fishing Supply (based on a \$ 150.00 purchase). In addition, thousands of dollars worth of door prizes will be awarded at the Jersey Shore seminar!

The names of all attendees from the Jersey Shore seminar will be entered into the Grand Prize drawing to win an incredible bonefishing excursion to the Bimini Sands Resort and Marina. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the seminar that day, and one lucky person will win the trip for two! In addition, the names of all attendees from the 2010 Seminar Series Tour will be entered into the drawing for the Super Grand Prize - a brand new Mako 18 LTS (Light Tackle Skiff)! The drawing for the boat will take place one week after the completion of the

final seminar on the tour, and one lucky winner will take home the boat!

**To order tickets by phone with a major credit card, call 1-800-448-7360. To order tickets online – and for more information – visit:**

**[www.nationalseminarseries.com](http://www.nationalseminarseries.com)**

**Remember to order your tickets early, as this seminar sells out quickly!**

## **Highly Migratory Species**

*By John Koegler*

### **Captain's License Changes**

After January 1, 2010 the USCG has changed their physical report needed to renew your captain's license from a previous two-page report to a new very detailed 9-page report, CG-719 K.

The USCG new physical report is very detailed and amounts to a total list of all conditions that require a prescription or doctor's visit going back many years. The report also requires a listing of all over-the-counter products including vitamin and mineral supplements. Anything reported requires an additional explanation. Instructions to your doctor for making the new report are a mere 75 pages long.

You must submit your paperwork at least 3 months or earlier before it is due. The USCG is being very exacting on all paperwork submitted to your regional center. If anything is wrong, your entire package will be returned by mail with a note. USCG licenses are no longer being issued by the regional center but only by the West Virginia office that alone issues your new certificate in a passbook-type booklet.

Another new requirement is a copy of your Transportation Workers Identification Card (TWIC) card, front and back.

In addition, there are extra lines on most previous forms that require additional paperwork or documentation. One example is: if you certify your own sea time, you must send in a copy of your boat's registration or if a leased boat, a copy of the lease.

Another example is: If you are part of a random drug testing group, new certificates are now mandated that are printed on copy-proof paper.

Those applying for a captain's license for the first time must pass a New Evaluation of Fitness required for Entry Level Ratings CG-719 K/E. This

is much tougher than the renewal physical requirements. It specifies several tough actual physical activities that must be preformed and passed that were never required before. Now a Body Mass Index (BMI) evaluation may be required if the USCG believes you are overweight.

These forms are available from the internet at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Insert USCG-2009-0937 in the "Keyword" box and then click "Search."

### **Bluefin Tuna**

NMFS issued their 2010 bluefin quota. It was the same as their 2009, without accounting for 2009 carryovers. Also missing was their estimated angler bluefin tuna landings for school and large school small medium bluefin. There was a request made to NMFS from an environmental group to impose a cities listing on US bluefin tuna. I have not seen an answer from NMFS.

### **Commercial Swordfish Landings**

For the fourth consecutive year, US commercial swordfish landings have failed to equal the US ICCAT quota by a major amount. As of October 31, it was one million pounds (DW) short of the US quota. The US domestic quota was always filled before a flood of imported frozen swordfish lowered the dockside price to a point where commercial fishermen cannot afford to swordfish when anything but a good catch was assured. This substantially reduced the US fishing effort. But what government agency cares that NAFTA and GATT have destroyed many domestic businesses, because the domestic business could not compete with foreign workers who are paid only 50 cents per hour.

### **Commercial Shark Landings**

Most Large Coastal Shark quotas were filled. Small coastal shark quotas were 51.9% filled. Pelagic Sharks other than Porbeagle or Blue shark were 17.7% of assigned quota. NMFS assigned Pelagic shark quota of 488 mt. DW has never been filled.

Could it just be the commercials are over fishing this shark complex? Is NMFS' estimated quota wildly optimistic? NMFS reports they have no documentation for defining overfishing in this complex because of the poor data! But NMFS is currently considering listing Mako shark as overfished even though anglers limit is a single shark per single boat trip. In addition, Mako is the only large shark targeted by anglers!

Surely, NMFS does not desire to address the shark biology issue! Many fishery scientists have

often and clearly stated that due to large shark biology it is totally impossible to ever have a sustainable large shark directed commercial fishery! No directed commercial large shark fishery has ever been sustainable world wide. Is this just another violation of the Magnuson Act by NMFS? But who wants to count!

## **YOUTH EDUCATION**

*BY GREG KUCHAREWSKI*

### **TACKLE BOX SPAGHETTI**

February is the perfect time to get your tackle boxes in order for the 2010 fishing season. There is nothing worse than traveling to your favorite fishing spot, opening up your tackle box and finding a ball of monofilament spaghetti from last year. We've all been there! I call it the "Monster Monofilament Spaghetti Ball." The monster monofilament spaghetti ball entangles treble hook lures, snap swivels, high-low rigs and leaders with dropper loops. It takes hours to untangle and you don't want to begin this task on your first fishing trip of the season. Over the years I have learned to bring my tackle boxes up from the basement and begin the task of unangling my fishing treasures. After everything is back in order I inspect everything and toss out what might not hold up to a good size fish. I sharpen or replace hooks on lures and rigs. It's a good idea to polish metal lures to give them extra shine. If a metal lure doesn't look good to you it may not look good enough to a hungry fish. Remember to check monofilament leaders for nicks and wire leaders for kinks that will cause the leader to break. WD-40 works great for cleaning rust spots on lures and it prevents corrosion on split rings. Next month we will talk about getting rods and reels ready for action.

### **RODS AND REELS FOR KIDS**

Bill Browne and members of the Silverton Fishing Club are assisting the JCAA Youth Education Committee with providing "Rods and Reels for Kids." It's a new program that we are introducing to children at risk for the 2010 fishing season. Members of the Silverton Club offered to repair recycled rods and reels for children who would like to start a fishing club and learn about fishing in a public school environment. The "Rods and Reels for Kids" program will begin at the start of the new year and continue through National Fishing Week at schools in Monmouth and Ocean County. The program will include learning materials from the Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs program and there is also a \$5,000.00 grant for schools to submit. The program is designed to teach students about healthy outdoor activities as an alternative to drugs, alcohol, gangs and violence. Students will learn about aquatic conservation, biology of a fish, water safety, how to maintain and repair fishing equipment and

New Jersey rules and regulations. If you would like to donate used rods and reels that the Silverton Fishing Club can recycle, please phone Bill Browne 732-929-9112. If Mr. Browne is not available, please leave a message and he will return your call. Rod and reels can also be delivered to Mr. Browne's home address: 907 Nevel Street, Toms River, NJ 08753 or the JCAA office. We already received donations from the Shore Surf Club and Peg Gleman, NCMS/ISAC Committee Member. The JCAA Youth Education Committee will instruct educators and students about utilizing HOFNOD printed materials and assist with the development of organizing a school fishing club. If you would like to help with this worthwhile project, please send me an e-mail with HOFNOD in the subject line at [vkucharews@aol.com](mailto:vkucharews@aol.com).

### **NEW PATCH PROGRAM**

The Passport Patch is the coolest new patch around for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. The Passport to Fishing & Boating is a fun adventure education program designed to teach the skills needed to dive into the wonderful world of fishing and boating. It's fun and easy to do with the help of a pack leader or parent. Once your pack has these basics under their belts, you'll be ready to get out on the water and start fishing. There is also a patch for Mentors. Troop leaders can get started by visiting <http://www.takemefishing.org/community/scouting/passport-program-patch>

Let's hope this will be available soon for Girl Scouts and Brownies. They like to fish too.

### **NJ FISH & WILDLIFE PRESS RELEASE**

The NJ DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife is informing the public that the annual Pequest Open House will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 27 & 28. The dates within the 2010 Freshwater Fishing Digest are NOT CORRECT. We apologize for any confusion. The Open House is a free event usually held the weekend before the opening of the spring trout season (April 10 in 2010); this year it will be a week earlier to avoid conflicts with Easter weekend activities. The event features exhibits, displays and demonstration as well as the popular Fishing Flea Market. Youngsters have the opportunity to fish in the Fishing Education Pond or Kiddie Fishing Tank depending on their age. More information on the Open House will be available on the division's website: <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/peqoh.htm>.

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](mailto:Gkucharews@aol.com).

**MARK THE DATE FOR JCAA 16<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL  
FLUKE TOURNAMENT  
JUNE 12, 2010**

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

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

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| Access: (South)    | Joe Chrzanowski  | 609- 693-8042                                                            |
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| Blue claw Crab     | Jack Miktus      | 732-477-5184                                                             |
| Blue Fish          | Al Marantz       | 732-280-2643                                                             |
| Habitat            | Pat Donnelly     | 732-528-8181                                                             |
| Large Pelagic      | John Koegler     | 610-687-2208                                                             |
| Menhaden           | Len Fantasia     | 732-872-1862                                                             |
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