

JCAA NEWSPAPER JUNE 2013

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on May 21st, 2013)

Monthly Meeting at Jersey JCAA Office, 1201 Rte. 37E, Suite 9, Toms River

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, May 28th, 2013

Starting at 7:30 PM

At JCAA Office

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 13th, 2013

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753

Phone 732-506-6565 Fax 732-506-6975

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.

Anyone wishing to reproduce any part of this newsletter has the permission of the JCAA and the authors. Wherever possible, please credit the JCAA Newsletter as your information source.

~~~~~  
**JCAA General Membership Meetings are for club representatives and invited guests only. These meetings are not open to the general public. If you would like to attend as a guest, call the President at 908-913-0551 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
~~~~~

2013 OFFICERS

President	Joe Puntasecca	908-913-0551
1st V.P.	Mark Taylor	732-245-9445
2nd V.P.	Paul Haertel	908-913-0551
Treasurer	Doug Tegeder	732-341-5674
Rec. Sec.	Tom Siciliano	609-296-3774
Cors. Sec.	Paul Turi	609-660-2126
Mem. Sec.	John Toth	732-656-0139
Tournament Dir.	Paul Turi	609-660-2126

Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

May 28th JCAA General Meeting & JCAA Raffle Drawing

June 13th JCAA Board Meeting

June 25th JCAA General Meeting (last until September)

August 24th JCAA 19th Annual Fluke Tournament

September 6th JCAA Fluke Tournament Awards Ceremony at Golden Nugget AC

September 12th JCAA Board Meeting

September 24th JCAA General Meeting

October 6th Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

November 13th JCAA 2013 Sportsperson of the Year Dinner

JCAA 2013 High Rollers Raffle

Drawing Date: May 28th, 2013

8 Raffle Prizes & you do not have to be present to win and the drawing date is May 28th, 2013. Support JCAA. Only \$2.00 a Ticket.

1. Fin-Nor Santiago SA25 Reel & Fin-Nor Sportfisher rod & spool of 30lb Ultracast FluroBraid Spiderwire
Value \$680 *Donated by Zebco, Fin-Nor & JCAA*
2. Minn Kota Riptide Trolling Motor Model RT 55/SE/L&D
Value \$670 *Donated by Johnson Outdoors, Inc.*
3. \$500 Gift Certificate to Fishermen Headquarters
Value \$500 *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
4. Penn 965 Reel & Lamiglas XTC704 3 piece travel rod
Value \$500 *Donated by Penn & Lamiglas*
5. 2 Cans of Interlux Micron CSC Paint
Value \$400 *Donated by Interlux*
6. 2 Cans of Interlux Micron CSC Paint
Value \$400 *Donated by Interlux*
7. Canyon Reel HS-15 & Profile Rod GLC 7108
Value \$310 *Donated by Canyon Reels & JCAA*
8. Shakespeare Ugly Stik SP1166 1MH 6' 6" Rod with Penn Battle BTL 4000 Reel
Value \$160 *Donated by Penn & Shakespeare*

Total Value \$3,620

President's Report

By Joseph Puntasecca

At our April General Meeting the proposed changes to the JCAA bylaws were read again, a motion was made and the changes passed. See Paul Haertel's article for those changes.

We will be drawing the winning tickets for the High Roller Raffle promptly at 7:30 PM at the JCAA Office on May 28th.

We have much to discuss about the pending menhaden legislation and will also be asking the membership about holding a special meeting on the last Tuesday of the month in July as an open Fluke Tournament Committee meeting. This will allow us to get last minute information, entry forms and materials to the clubs prior to the Tournament since we normally don't meet in July and August.

A motion was made and vote was taken to support option 6 for Black Sea Bass at the upcoming NJMFC meeting. As anticipated the Council passed this option. The 2013 Black Sea Bass season will run from May 19th through August 8th, September 27th through October 14th and November 1st through December 31st, have a 20 fish bag limit and a minimum size of 12.5".

The membership also made a motion and took a position to support a possible eleven day extension to the 2013 summer flounder season. The NJMFC should vote on this at their July 2013 meeting.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 19th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament. The Tournament takes place in August this year on the 24th instead of in June.

NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program / NJ Volunteer Angler Survey

Don't forget to register or re-register with the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program for 2013. You can register or renew your registration for 2013 by going to: www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov. If you do go fishing, please consider filling out the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey to help the Bureau of Marine Fisheries better manage our resources by going to [this link](#).

You can also check regulations changes, get current advisories, check launch ramp and park locations, report violations, as well as fill out the NJ

Voluntary Angler Survey now on your smartphone or tablet with the new Official NJ Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife [application!](#)

REMINDER

FEMA is still operating out of the Brick Civic Plaza. Our May General Meeting will be held at our Office at 1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ.

JCAA 19th Annual Fluke Tournament

By Paul Turi, Tournament Director

The JCAA 19th Annual Fluke Tournament will be held this year on **August 24th, 2013**. If there is a hurricane we will have the tournament on August 31st, 2013. **Other than a hurricane we are having the tournament on August 24th rain or shine.** The awards presentations will be held on **September 6th, 2013** at the Golden Nugget Hotel/Casino in Atlantic City.

I am pleased to announce that the **Golden Nugget** is also sponsoring a port in Atlantic City this year and putting up the \$1,200 1st place prize money.

I am also pleased to announce that Yukon, makers of Igloo Coolers, is also coming on board this year as a **major sponsor** and is providing JCAA with coolers to give out as port prizes.

We are currently working on the port prizes for the second place through 10 place and those prizes will be announced shortly.

Our major sponsors this year are:

- **Berkeley Gulp**
- **Costa**
- **Golden Nugget**
- **Interlux Paint**
- **Minn Kota**
- **Nor'East Saltwater**
- **Penn**
- **Shakespeare**
- **Spiderwire**
- **West Marine**
- **Igloo/Yukon Coolers**

Right now we only have three port sponsors. **Fisherman's Headquarters** is sponsoring the LBI

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Thomas Fote

port and putting up the \$1,200 1st place prize money and **Canyon Reels** is sponsoring the Manasquan port and putting up the \$1,200 1st place prize money for that port. **The Golden Nugget Hotel/Casino** is sponsoring the Atlantic City port and putting up the \$1,200 1st place prize money for that port. As of right now **JCAA** is putting up the \$1,200 1st place prize money for the additional 7 ports. If you know of any individual, company or entity that is willing to put up \$1,200 and be a port sponsor, or even part of the \$1,200, let me know and I will follow up on it. JCAA is also putting up the Grand Prize drawing money of \$5,000. Again, if you know of any individual, company or entity that would be willing to put up the Grand Prize Drawing money, let me know.

JCAA urges recreational anglers to support these **Major Sponsors** and **Port Sponsors** as they support you and the JCAA in support of the work that we do on behalf of recreational anglers.

For more information on the tournament this year see the 4-page Fluke Tournament insert in this newspaper. **Also, please note that last month's 4-page Fluke Tournament insert inadvertently included Jersey City as a port. That was a mistake on my part and should not have been listed as one of our ports for 2013. Jersey City is being replaced by the port in Atlantic City. I apologize for that mistake.**

Most of the first Fluke Tournament mailing went out. Included in the mailing was an entry form for the tournament along with a book of **High Roller Raffle** tickets. Unfortunately, we have no more ticket books to send out with the rest of the mailings that will be going out shortly. Drawing for the raffle is May 28th at the JCAA office so you have plenty of time to get your tickets in. As long as you get your tickets to the JCAA office by May 27th, they will be included in the drawing.

I also need a lot of door prizes for the Awards Presentations in Atlantic City. If you or your club can donate a nice door prize that would be greatly appreciated. I would like to give out door prizes in a value of between \$50.00 - \$100.00. If you have something of lesser value I can always combine one or more prizes together.

For more information or to donate a prize, contact Paul Turi, 609-660-2126 (H), 609-709-9215(C) or email pturi6@comcast.net.

Update on Sandy

I usually attend the monthly meetings for the Ocean County Mayor's Association. At the May meeting, there was a representative from the company that is cleaning Barnegat Bay. It was reported that the major debris found with the single side scan has been removed from Manasquan to the Route 72 Bridge. They are beginning work in Monmouth County. There is still the problem of removing the sand from Barnegat Bay and other areas. There are two Asbury Park articles below on this issue.

On a personal note, I have gotten out on the water in Raritan Bay for some fishing. As I ride out from Bahrs in the Highlands, I pass all the marinas north of the bridge. It is amazing to see how many boats are still in the marinas, not in the water, and to see how much of the repair work has even begun. I was actually in Great Kills Harbor and saw much of the same work to be done. One of the boats I usually charter remains on shore because, though the boat is ready, the marina can't get the boat in the water. The captain has lost at least 20 charters during the prime striped bass season. Unlike other businesses, there is no time to recoup this loss. That is just one example of many that have been reported to me. I visited one of the tackle stores that I have frequented since 1973, Betty & Nick's in Seaside Park. I talked to John Jr. and the store had just opened and he hopes the restaurant will be open soon. He is also not alone. As I have stated before, we need to remember the far-reaching problems created by Sandy and long-lasting impact on the entire recreational fishing industry in New Jersey. Last year's season ended two days before Sandy hit. This year's impact will be far greater and may well extend throughout the entire season.

Summer Flounder Add-On

As I reported, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission voted on a conference call to allow New Jersey to add days to the end of the summer flounder season. I voted for this because I thought it would help the heavily impacted

recreational fishing industry. I also realize that the way these days are added it does not affect our original quota except to add on to the quota. I read some interesting comments in the newspaper and I think some people have a difficult time grasping how this addition is implemented. The easiest way to understand is to look at this addition of days as though it is a commercial transfer of quota from one state to another. When we transfer commercial quota it is because one state has an underused quota and allows another state to harvest that quota. It is separate poundage of fish that is transferred and has no impact on the existing quota. If that commercial fishery goes over its existing quota, it is not because of the added days but because it exceeded both the original and the additional quota. In order to do the transfer of recreational quota, ASMFC and NJ had to tabulate how many pounds of fish would be needed for each of the added days. ASMFC and New Jersey calculated that we could add a specific number of days based on the poundage available in relation to the historical catch figures. That means that in order to exceed quota, we would have to exceed the original quota and the additional quota both. Remember, those quota and catch figures are based on a normal year. Given the impact of Sandy with boats destroyed or damaged and marinas not yet in operation, there seems little possibility that this will approach a "normal" year. I know this is a stretch, but recognize that common sense would suggest that this year we will have less participation, fewer boats in the water and fewer trips than in previous years. I need to add a qualified since we are dealing with the National Marine Fisheries Service and their fatally flawed data collection system. I still continue to give good odds that we will not exceed our summer flounder quota this year. I could be surprised but I can't believe even this system is sufficiently flawed to measure us at above quota or increasing trips. In my judgment, we should avail ourselves of the additional days.

The other reason I am supporting this addition of days is because it has the greatest impact on those who fish from the beach. When we raise the size limit, the beach anglers have very little access to legal size summer flounder except in September, October and November. We have lost October and November but adding a few days in September will give them an opportunity to catch a few summer flounder. For the boat fishermen, these additional days will give them something to fish for

until the black sea bass season opens. It is a win-win.

Beach Access Fund could be a Lost Opportunity

The money that is being used for beach replenishment and dune restoration is being paid for mainly by our Federal dollars, money that comes from our Federal taxes. If we are using Federal tax dollars, we should all reap the benefits. That means that we should have better and freer access to the beaches in New Jersey. I am not only talking about people from Trenton or North Jersey or Cumberland County. I am also talking about visitors from out of state. Visitors from Philadelphia and Ohio are helping to fund this restoration. In this country we reach out to one another across state lines whether it is a flood in the Mississippi, an earthquake in Alaska or a tornado in Missouri. We are a nation, not just a collection of states. But in using public funds comes a responsibility to provide public access. There are a number of bills before the New Jersey legislature dealing with funding, beach issues and expediting permits for beach replenishment. A number of groups including Jersey Coast see this as an opportunity to provide better public access including parking facilities for people to fish and enjoy the shore. So far those bills have not addressed the increase of public access. There are reasonable and responsible ways to find this access and we should make sure that every opportunity to include greater beach access is taken. Read the Asbury Park Press Editorial included below.

Agent Orange and Dioxin Contamination Back in the News

I was at the JCAA dinner on April 14th wearing the pin given to me by the New Jersey Agent Orange Veterans in the late 80's during the battle against ocean dumping of dioxin contaminated dredge material. A number of those vets have passed away because of illnesses that are now recognized as Agent Orange related. Some of them died before Veterans Affairs and the government recognized their responsibility to these veterans. I was sprayed with Agent Orange and have now been diagnosed with diseases that the Veterans Affairs now link directly to exposure to Agent Orange. In New Jersey, we won the battle to stop these chemicals from being dumped in the ocean. But over 25 years later, the contamination remains in the

Passaic River and other sites. It was interesting timing to find this article published on April 14th in the Star Ledger. Tom Moran covers some great points. The one thing not mentioned is the effects that Agent Orange and other endocrine disruptors are having on fish populations. JCAA has testified and gathered scientific studies from all over the world proving that these chemicals are having a dramatic impact on the sexual development of fish populations. This is one of the reasons that species that use bays and estuaries that have large sewer discharges or left over contaminants are producing more female than male fish. We are still not addressing this problem and this is never addressed in stock assessments. We have done the necessary management measures to manage those who fish for these inshore stocks. What we haven't done is manage the environmental problems that may well be causing the problem in the first place. We have stocks with the largest stock biomass ever and still see a poor recruitment. Please read the article below and write letters to our state and federal representatives demanding an immediate beginning to the clean-up of the Passaic River and other contaminated sites.

Sand Dredging is Next, Biggest Step for Bay Cleanup

by Kirk Moore, Asbury Park Press, 5/17/2013

STAFFORD — State workers and contractors cleaning up storm debris in Barnegat Bay are entering “what could be the biggest chunk of the project” as they move toward clearing new shoals and sandbars left by superstorm Sandy, a top state environmental official said Tuesday.

The goal now is to have most of that dredging done by June and completed by mid-August, said Jane Kozinski, an assistant commissioner with the state Department of Environmental Protection, who spoke to the Long Beach Island-Southern Ocean County Chamber of Commerce.

The DEP and Federal Emergency Management Agency are haggling over which dredging sites will be eligible for federal disaster aid to pick up the costs, Kozinski said.

FEMA guidelines define when debris pickups qualify for federal reimbursement — specifically, wreckage caused by Sandy that poses a continuing

risk to public safety or to property, or can impede the region's economic recovery from the storm, she said.

So DEP workers have to show that targeted areas were filled with sand propelled by the massive Oct. 29 storm surge. The state has some updated pre-storm charting thanks to the Barnegat Bay restoration project, which engaged a team from the U.S. Geological Survey to chart the bay last year.

But the history of other shoals along the coast may be harder to document.

“There are some areas that are obvious, like the big shoal behind Lavallette,” Kozinski said. “Some of the shoals in front of the mainland creeks are obvious, too.”

The DEP and the Marine Trades Association of New Jersey are energetically publicizing that “the bay is open” for boaters this summer. Keith Gunsten, a former state marine police officer who now teaches boating safety classes, said the DEP's Aids to Navigation group is moving buoys and markers in state channels to reflect shifts after the storm.

“Use your head. If you're going through an unfamiliar area, slow down,” Gunsten said. Boaters who spot debris should call the DEP at 1-877-WARN-DEP, provide the best location they can — Global Positioning System coordinates will lead contractors to the exact spot.

Waterfront property owners who still have damaged docks or other property in the water should “make sure it's tied down,” because contractors have been moving through lagoons and other areas on a tight schedule, and will remove anything that looks like unclaimed wreckage, Kozinski said.

Northern Barnegat Bay has had the biggest lode of debris, with some 17,000 cubic yards removed by contractor CrowderGulf so far — including about 30 boats, three cars and three houses near Mantoloking, Kozinski said.

From central Barnegat Bay into Delaware Bay, contractor AshBritt and its New Jersey partner Conti Construction have recovered between 8,000 and 9,000 cubic yards, and are working on four houses in Delaware Bay this week, she said.

Some dredging projects are being delayed by the spring arrival of endangered bird species, like the red knot and piping plover, that feed or nest on beaches, Kozinski said.

But the aim is to have all the storm sediment moved by mid-August, Kozinski said.

“Everyone should feel positive about this summer season,” she said. “It will be different. But we’ll be OK.”

The Attempted Murder of the Passaic River

by Tom Moran, The Star-Ledger, 4/14/2013

A half-century has passed since workers at Diamond Shamrock were ordered to dump dioxin into the Passaic River in Newark, and then to march out at low tide and knock down the toxic mud piles with rakes so that no one would know.

So began the long history of polluters evading responsibility for the murder of this river, an effort that continues to this day. Workers with rakes have been replaced by consultants and lawyers.

And as polluters clean up their messes in places like the Hudson River and the Great Lakes, the Passaic remains an industrial dead zone, where fishing and swimming are off limits, and even boats are a rarity.

With each tide, year after year, the dioxin sloshes up and down the river and into Newark Bay. It poisons the worms and crabs that crawl through the tainted muck, and then poisons the birds and fish that eat them.

“When I grew up here, we just never went near it, and I lived three blocks away,” says Ana Baptista of Newark’s Ironbound community. “It was far off limits, so dirty you wouldn’t even touch it. And there was no way to get down close to it. It was like the ugly stepsister of the Hudson.”

If that makes you furious, it should. Because this river is owned by the public, and it could be an ornament to this region of the state.

It could be lined with parks, with pleasure boats tied up at wooden docks. It could be a place where couples get dinner and go for a stroll, where kids fly kites and eat ice cream, where people would pay extra for the privilege of living in a small apartment nearby. That’s all happening in other cities.

“The people of New Jersey were deprived of a valuable resource,” says Alan Steinberg, the regional director of the Environmental Protection Agency under President George W. Bush. “The damage has been terrible, and it has to be remedied. What I’d hope is that (the polluters) get a sense of

reality and realize they can run but they can’t hide. Eventually they will be made to pay.”

So far, though, the polluters have agreed only to clean hot spots in two locations. And the Obama and Christie administrations say that simply will not do.

The Passaic, they say, needs to be dredged from one bank to the other, for the lower eight miles at least, and capped with two feet of coarse sand.

The cost could rise to a staggering \$3.5 billion. And that’s why the high-priced consultants and lawyers have spent years doing all they can to delay and shrink the cleanup.

So far, the polluters are winning and the river is losing. But another showdown looms later this year, when the EPA is expected to issue its definitive cleanup plan. Even then, dredging wouldn’t begin until 2018, after public comment, revisions and engineering work.



“The credibility of the EPA’s ability to handle these big river cleanups is at stake,” says Lisa Jackson, the recently departed head of the EPA. “It’s disappointing and really frustrating to know that this many years have gone by.”

Dirty Deeds

Diamond Shamrock and its corporate successors are the lead villains in this story. The Newark factory, which produced Agent Orange, is now a giant concrete bunker on the western bank of the river.

The company knew even in the 1950s that dumping dioxin was illegal, and set up an alarm system to warn employees when inspectors were sniffing around. If there is a hell, then it’s made for people like this.

But dioxin is not the only problem in the Passaic. The EPA has identified dozens of companies that contributed to the river’s woes, and several public sewer systems.

That presented a golden opportunity for delay, because there is a valid argument about who should pay what share of the cleanup. So Diamond Shamrock's successors filed suit to drag in the other polluters.

This takes a page from the fabled Roman senators who murdered Julius Caesar. Because each senator plunged in the knife, the hope was that it would be impossible to know which wound killed the tyrant.

That won't work in the end, because no one disputes that dioxin is the key issue in the Passaic. It was Diamond Shamrock that killed this river. And if the companies don't agree to cost-sharing, the law allows the EPA to do the work itself and collect triple damages from the polluters. It's unlikely they will risk that.

For now, though, the polluters are split into two camps. Diamond Shamrock's successor corporations are in one, and are mostly defiant. The others have formed a coalition known as the Cooperating Parties Group and have been more forthcoming.

Still, the CPG is pushing aggressively to scale back the cleanup plan and reduce its costs. It has been meeting with community groups and local politicians, persuading some to write letters to the EPA urging the agency to back off.

In these same meetings, the CPG has offered to fund local projects as a sweetener. And this being Jersey, the money has been persuasive. One letter came from Hudson County, which got \$50,000 for open space. Another came from Sen. Paul Sarlo (D-Bergen), whose towns got \$175,000 in grants.

The CPG has hired experts to pitch a smaller cleanup focused on hot spots. They want the EPA to delay the release of its dredging plan until the CPG alternative is ready in 2015. And they are trying to sow regional divisions by claiming that the EPA's plan will worsen pollution in its upper reaches by stirring up pollutants.

That is all self-serving nonsense, according to federal and state regulators. The Obama and Christie administrations agree that bank-to-bank dredging is the only adequate answer. So did the administrations of Jon Corzine and George W. Bush.

"We are in lockstep agreement with the EPA on that," says Bob Martin, commissioner of the state Department of Environmental Protection. "Cleaning just hot spots is absolutely not adequate and not

acceptable. This is the most contaminated site with dioxins anywhere in the world."

Living Proof

Look to the Hudson for proof that dead rivers can indeed come back to life. You have to remove the industrial pollutants, treat the sewage and control the runoff.

But communities along the Hudson got their river back. Fish species that had disappeared are back in abundance. Kids are swimming again. Green parks line the river banks. Restaurants and apartments have sprung up everywhere.

Baptista works with the Ironbound Community Corporation, which pushed the city and county governments to save some parkland along the Passaic in Newark. It's a start. But she sees a day when the riverfront will be thriving, once the toxins are gone.

"My greatest wish is that we don't have another generation growing up not being able to appreciate the river," she says. "That's really from the heart."

Marine Recreational Fishing's Economic Impact Rivals Commercial Sector

Press Release: American Sportfishing Association
Mary Jane Williamson, 703-519-9691, x227

Recreational fishing is an economic powerhouse despite overall lower impact on fisheries

Alexandria, VA – May 6, 2013 - A report released today by the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) makes a powerful case that from an economic perspective, recreational fishing is just as important as commercial fishing, despite a much lower overall impact on the resource. According to the report, anglers landed just two percent of the total saltwater landings compared to ninety-eight percent caught by the commercial fishing industry.

This first-of-its-kind analysis - Comparing NOAA's Recreational and Commercial Fishing Economic Data, May 2013 - provides an apples-to-apples comparison of recreational and commercial marine fishing from an economic perspective using NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Services (NOAA Fisheries) 2011 economic data. The report was produced for ASA by Southwick Associates. The full report and executive summary are available on ASA's website.

“It’s something we’ve suspected for some time, but NOAA’s own data clearly shows that recreational saltwater fishing needs to be held in the same regard as commercial fishing,” said ASA President and CEO Mike Nussman. “The current federal saltwater fisheries management system has historically focused the vast majority of its resources on the commercial sector, when recreational fishing is found to have just as significant an economic impact on jobs and the nation’s economy.”

Among the findings are:

- Anglers landed just two percent of the total saltwater finfish landings compared to ninety-eight percent caught by the commercial fishing industry.
- Saltwater landings by anglers contributed three times more to the national gross domestic product (GDP, or value-added) than commercial landings.
- The recreational sector added \$152.24 in value-added, or GDP, for one pound of fish landed, compared to the commercial sector’s \$1.57 for a single pound of fish.
- Within the jobs market, the recreational sector made up fifty-four percent of all jobs, both recreational and commercial. This amounts to 455,000 recreational jobs compared to 381,000 on the commercial side.
- For every 100,000 pounds landed there were 210 recreational fishing jobs but only 4.5 jobs in the commercial fishing industry.
- Nussman further noted, “We’re not releasing this report in an effort to demean commercial fishing. Commercial fishing is very important to our nation’s economy! Our goal is to highlight the importance of recreational fishing to the nation. As our coastal populations continue to grow, along with saltwater recreational fishing, significant improvements must be made to shape the nation’s federal fisheries system in a way that recognizes and responds to the needs of the recreational fishing community.”

The Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), the primary law governing marine fisheries management in the U.S., was originally passed in 1976 and has been reauthorized several times since. While the MSA has made significant strides to eliminate non-domestic fishing in U.S. waters and end overfishing, many in the recreational fishing community have argued that the law is written primarily to manage

commercial fishing and does not adequately acknowledge or respond to the needs of recreational fishing.

“For decades federal management of recreational fishing has been like trying to fit a square peg into a round hole,” said Nussman. “Perhaps the MSA was written to focus on the commercial sector because that’s where 98 percent of the overall harvest is taken. But when you consider that the economic impacts of the two sectors are similar, it makes a strong case for revamping the MSA to better meet the needs of the recreational fishing community.”

The MSA expires at the end of fiscal year 2013 (September 30, 2013), though many expect that a full reauthorization will take a year or longer to develop. On March 13, 2013, the House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee held an oversight hearing focusing on the MSA reauthorization, and more hearings are expected this year and beyond.

Nussman concluded, “ASA and our partners in the recreational fishing community look forward to working with Congress to develop reasonable legislative solutions that will produce a federal fisheries management system that finally works for, not against, recreational fishing.”

Tie State Funding to Beach Access

Asbury Park Press Editorial, April 30, 2013

New Jersey lawmakers have their heads in the sand when it comes to providing adequate public access to the state’s beaches.

The state Senate’s Environment and Energy Committee last week refused to put better beach access guarantees into a bill governing funding for beach replenishment projects in the aftermath of superstorm Sandy.

The legislation, which would establish criteria, including the acquisition of hazard-prone property and the creation of dunes, that projects must meet to be considered a priority for state funding, should be defeated until beach access guarantees are inserted.

Now, post Sandy, there will never be a better time to require that towns do more to increase access for summer Shore residents and visitors.

As recovery funding becomes available, this seems like a no-brainer. The beaches belong to all of us, and our tax dollars pay for beach replenishment.

The state can take advantage of the millions in federal dollars being pumped into Shore areas damaged by Sandy to create more access points to beaches and better amenities.

While existing law requires federally funded projects to offer public access, that requirement is a hollow vessel unless more parking and public restrooms near the beach are provided.

The Senate committee said it may consider amending the bill in the future to add more public access requirements. That seems doubtful. It must be done now.

New Jersey gave its Shore towns the right to charge for beach access in 1955. The fees were supposed to pay for maintaining and operating beaches, but some towns have used the charges to keep day trippers away by making beaches overly costly, or by limiting parking and restrooms near the beach.

State Sen. Jennifer Beck, R-Monmouth, said she wasn't sure that additional access requirements are a good idea. "At the end of the day we have to restore what we've lost," Beck said. "I think we need to be cautious about putting impediments to doing that." Caution is one thing. Ignoring the needs of beach visitors and the right to unfettered access to the beaches — which belong to everyone — is not caution but obstructionism.

The longer legislators wait, the less likely expanded access requirements will make it into a final bill. Without them, the bill becomes one more lost opportunity.

Until improved beach access is part of the Sandy aid legislation, and until lawmakers start looking forward and not back, the bill should not advance.

Highly Migratory Species Report

Below is memorandum sent to the ASMFC for the possible listing of Dusky Sharks as Threatened or Endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

The listing will be discussed at the May 21 ASMFC Spiny Dogfish & Coastal Sharks

Management Board. There will be also an update on the listing of the Great Hammerhead.

MEMORANDUM

M13-41

Healthy, self-sustaining populations for all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015

May 17, 2013

To: Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Sharks Management Board

From: Marin Hawk, FMP Coordinator

RE: National Marine Fisheries Service's 90-Day Finding for Dusky Shark

This memorandum is to inform states that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has published the following 90-Day Finding, Request for Information and Initiation of Status Review for dusky sharks. Landing dusky sharks is illegal as they are currently in the prohibited species grouping. Dusky sharks will also be impacted by Draft Amendment 5b to the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan which addresses National Marine Fisheries Service's finding that the species is overfished and is experiencing overfishing.

The NMFS is soliciting scientific and commercial information pertaining to this species from any interested party. A HMS staff member will be present to answer questions at the Shark Board meeting in May. The comment period is open until July 16, 2013. To submit comments, please see the enclosed federal register notice.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at mhawk@asmfc.org or (703)842-0740.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 223 and 224

[Docket No. 130214141-3141-01]

RIN 0648-XC515

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife;

90-Day Finding on Petitions to List the Dusky Shark as Threatened or Endangered Under the Endangered Species Act

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: 90-day petition finding, request for information, and initiation of status review.

SUMMARY: We, NMFS, announce a 90-day finding on petitions to list the dusky shark (*Carcharhinus obscurus*) range-wide or, in the alternative, the Northwest Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico population of the dusky shark as a threatened or endangered distinct population segment (DPS) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and to designate critical habitat concurrently with the listing. We find that the petitions present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for the Northwest Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico population of dusky shark; we find that the petitions fail to present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for the dusky shark range-wide. Therefore, we will conduct a status review of the Northwest Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico population of dusky shark to determine if the petitioned action is warranted. To ensure that the status review is comprehensive, we are soliciting scientific and commercial information pertaining to this petitioned species from any interested party.

DATES: Information and comments on the subject action must be received by July 16, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, information, or data on this document, identified by the code NOAA–NMFS–2013–0045, by any of the following methods:

- Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to [this link](#), click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- Mail: Submit written comments to Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.
- Fax: 301–713–4060, Attn: Maggie Miller.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information

(e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous), although submitting comments anonymously will prevent NMFS from contacting you if NMFS has difficulty retrieving your submission. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Maggie Miller, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, (301) 427–8403

NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

By John Toth

Representing the JCAA, I attended an April 22nd meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA), and the following is a brief summary of this meeting:

Assistant NJ DEP Commissioner Richard Boornazion was the invited guest speaker for this meeting, and his comments on various topics dominated much of this meeting.

Hurricane Sandy – The Commissioner indicated that so much of his time is consumed by working on this disaster. There is still so much debris in our waters, but slowly and surely, progress is being made to clean it up. He also commented that when he toured the destruction on Island Beach State Park, he saw destruction in those areas that did not receive protection by dunes. Where there were dunes, the destruction was far less. While driving, he saw this pattern repeated up and down the shore. Consequently, he indicated that this administration is going to be very aggressive in getting shore communities to obtain dune protection even if the state has to use eminent domain for this purpose since some homeowners do not want their view of the ocean blocked by dunes. He also thanked the NJ Beach Buggy Association for their work on clearing up the debris on Island Beach State Park and their work on placing Christmas trees on the beach to create dunes. The Commissioner also indicated that at this point, New Jersey has not received any funding from the federal government for Sandy

relief. However, he is actively pursuing this funding and that New Jersey is also in competition with New York for this same funding.

Artificial Reefs – The Commissioner indicated that he comes from a private business background and he is unfamiliar with the length of time it takes to get things done in government. This seems to be the case with the artificial reefs issue. It may take up to two to three years for the reef program to be in place given the review and agreement of the enforcement issues and the public comment period that will take place before any final agreement is reached on the reefs. The Commissioner was also informed by NJOA members that the federal permits for our reefs will expire in October of 2015 and that these permits must be renewed by our state. If they are allowed to lapse, then these permits will have to be reauthorized resulting in a very time consuming process and the wasting of staff time in the DEP.

Kim Beidler of the Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed gave a presentation on how various groups like hers and the NJOA could work together in protecting and restoring the Delaware River and its tributaries for future generations. Coalitions may have different goals, but they can help each other if some of their goals intersect.

Gun Control – The NJOA has been trying to advise legislators on a variety of bills being advanced on gun control. However, some legislators are writing bills in a knee-jerk reaction to please the public and not their efficacy. For example, a bill is being advanced that would have the drivers license also show a firearms endorsement. The problem with this is that this information can be used to identify the homes where firearms are owned, making them targets for the criminal element that would want to steal them. In the event of a traffic stop by police, a car could be unnecessarily searched to find guns at the owner's inconvenience.

**AUGUST 24TH 2013
THE 19TH ANNUAL JCAA
FLUKE TOURNAMENT**

Proposed Bylaw Changes

By Paul Haertel

Our bylaw committee reviewed our bylaws and the following bylaw changes were approved. These were discussed at our last membership meeting. For them to be adopted they had to be posted in our newsletter and then passed by at least a 2/3 majority at our general meeting which was done at 7:30PM on 4/30/13.

ARTICLE #3 - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Membership in the Association is open to fishing clubs and associations and to any organization whose purpose is to enhance the sport of angling for all persons who follow the sport. To accomplish this objective, the Association will initiate, pursue, support, or condone any activity or policy that preserves, protects and advances angling for fishing enthusiasts.

Section 2 - Associate membership is also open to individuals and organizations whose role is to support the policies and objectives of the Association. Associate members receive copies of the Association newsletter but may not participate in any Association meetings or vote upon Association business.

Section 3 - Application for membership must include a Membership Application Form, first year's dues payment and a list of the members of the applying club. Applications will be reviewed by the Executive Board, published in the Association newsletter and voted on at the first meeting after publication in the Association newsletter.

Proposed - Application for membership must include a Membership Application Form, first year's dues payment and include the name and contact information of the President, Treasurer, and representative for the applying club.

ARTICLE #5 - EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1 - The Executive Board shall consist of the elected Officers, the Past Presidents and each Standing Committee Chairman.

ARTICLE #6 - COMMITTEES

Section 1 - The Standing Committees of the Association are:

1. Budget and Finance Committee
2. Articles and Bylaws Committee
3. Grants Review Committee
4. Legislative Committee
5. Membership Committee
6. Newsletter Committee
7. Nominating Committee
8. Ways and Means Committee

Proposed - Add Youth Education Committee, Fluke Tournament Committee Chairman and Dinner Committee Chairman

Section 4 - Special and Ad-Hoc Committees will be appointed by the President and the duties of such Association Special and Ad-Hoc Committees will be established by the President upon the creation thereof.

Proposed - Add that the President may also appoint certain individuals who do not belong to a member club or organization to chair an ad-hoc committee but only with approval of the executive board. Ad-Hoc Committee chairmen who do not belong to a member club or organization may be invited to attend board and general meetings but shall have no voting privileges.

ARTICLE #8 - QUORUM

Section 1 - A quorum shall consist of not less than fifteen (15) member clubs, who are in good standing, who are present at regular meetings; provide, however, if there are less than fifteen (15) member clubs, then a quorum shall consist of not less than two thirds (2/3) of such member clubs.

Proposed - A quorum shall consist of the lesser of fifteen (15) member clubs or one half (1/2) of our member clubs who are in good standing and are present at regular meetings.

ARTICLE #11 - DUES

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

Proposed - Annual dues shall be established by the Executive Board and any changes must be approved by two-thirds of the membership present at a meeting. Dues are payable starting in January of each year.

Section 2 - Any organization that has not paid annual dues shall be considered delinquent following the April meeting and shall be considered inactive and not in good standing and will be removed from the Roster of Active Members and from any Office or Committee to which elected or appointed.

Proposed - Any organization that has not paid annual dues shall be considered delinquent as of June 30th and shall be considered inactive and not in good standing and will be removed from the Roster of Active Members and from any Office or Committee to which elected or appointed except as exempted in Article VI Section 4. (SEE ARTICLE VI SECTION 4 FOR CLARIFICATION)

Membership Report

By John Toth

Invoices for **2013** club membership dues were sent out to all clubs on April 24th. When you receive your club invoice, please take care to fill out all of the information detailed on two enclosed forms. The first one (**2013 Dues and Sponsorship**) requests general information about your club and club dues payment of \$50. Additionally, this form requests if your club would also like to be a club sponsor in the categories of \$50, \$100, \$250 or \$500 amounts. Sponsorships of \$250 and \$500 receive ad space in the JCAA newsletter (see detailed information on sponsorship).

The second form (**2013 Annual Club Survey**) requests detailed information about your club, its officers, their addresses, club representative to the JCAA meetings and other information that the JCAA will need to stay in contact with your club. One of the reasons we ask for this information is that club officers frequently change with new club administrations and we need at least one contact person that we can communicate with concerning JCAA business and to keep our files updated. So it is important that this form be **completely** filled out. It is also important to provide the name and

telephone number of your club treasurer in case we have an issue with your payment.

You can mail your payment to the JCAA's office or give me your club's check at our May 28th General meeting. In the event that I am not there, please give it to our President, Joe Puntasecca.

Club dues for 2013 should be paid by June 1, 2013. If you think your club has not paid its **2012 dues**, please check with your club's treasurer to see if the check for the dues has been sent to us.

If there are problems with the JCAA sending newsletters to the wrong addresses or to the wrong club members, please let me know so that corrections can be made. I can be reached at (732) 656-0139 or at tothjohn@verizon.net.

As always, **Thank You** for your continued support of the JCAA!

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife Bureau of Law Enforcement Monthly Highlights

Marine Region Highlights
March 21 to April 20, 2013

Marine Region (609) 748-2050

Dominick Fresco, Captain

Clint Dravis, Lieutenant (District 7)

Jason Snellbaker, Lieutenant (District 8)

Vacant, Lieutenant Investigator

Trish Mahoney, Sr. Communications Operator

On April 8th CO Soell set up surveillance of the parking lot in Barnegat Light State Park to conduct inspections of fishermen returning to their vehicles. At approximately 12:30 p.m., CO Soell observed a man return to a minivan carrying a bucket which appeared heavy. The individual looked around and then placed the bucket in the backseat of the minivan. He then headed back out toward the jetty. A half hour later the individual returned to the minivan with another heavy bucket which he again placed in the backseat of the minivan, and then returned to the jetty. At 1:30 p.m., he returned to the minivan once again with a bucket, a plastic shopping bag and his fishing equipment. CO Soell conducted an inspection and located mussels in the bag and bucket. The individual stated he had no other fisheries items in his possession. CO Soell gained access to the vehicle and located both buckets

which were filled with mussels. CO Soell recognized the man as someone he had issued tickets to the previous spring for not having a shellfish license. During some more questioning, the individual stated this was his first time at that location. CO Soell conducted a lookup and discovered he had issued him a summons on May 20, 2012 for not possessing a shellfish license (he had 150 pounds of mussels at that time). During this inspection he possessed about 100 pounds of mussels and 3 oysters. CO Soell issued him summonses for failing to possess a shellfish license and possession of over the daily recreational limit of shellfish. He faces penalties of \$300.00 to \$3000.00.

On March 24th, COs Scott and Woerner patrolled along the Toms River in the area of Island Heights in search of winter flounder fishermen. Several fishermen were actively fishing for winter flounder off a dock when the officers noticed a boat returning to a nearby slip. An inspection of the vessel resulted in a summons being issued for one undersized winter flounder and a written warning for two winter flounder over limit. The captain of the vessel told the COs that a lot of people were fishing in Oyster Creek, so the officers stopped there next. Just prior to dark, the officers inspected a small group of fishermen that had hid an undersized winter flounder in the weeds along with several beer cans and other trash. A summons was issued for one undersized winter flounder and a written warning was issued for littering while fishing.

An individual purchased a resident commercial shellfish license using the automated licensing system and entered a New York driver's license number on the application. The individual, who also applied for a Depuration Harvester Permit No. 9 was questioned regarding the NY driver's license by an employee of the Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring. He claimed that he was temporarily displaced by Hurricane Sandy and was living in NY with his mother. He stated that he legally had to transfer his driver's license to New York. COs Scott and Woerner began an investigation and interviewed the subject who was persistent that he was a New Jersey resident. The investigation that followed over the course of the next few days proved otherwise. The officers went to the alleged New Jersey residence as stated on the shellfish license and found that that the residence was not at all impacted by the storm. It was also determined that the individual was issued the NY

driver's license was issued several months prior to Hurricane Sandy. A summons was issued for obtaining a resident commercial shellfish license wrongfully and another summons for interference with the duties of a Conservation Officer.

The afternoon of April 9th leading into the early morning hours of April 10th was very busy for COs Scott and Woerner. The afternoon started out with an inspection of two men along the Oceanic Bridge who were in possession of hard clams. After further investigation, one of the men admitted that he had harvested the clams without a valid shellfish license. When the other man tried to step in and show the officers his shellfish license, it was quickly brought to the man's attention that his license was expired. One summons was issued for harvesting clams without a valid shellfish license and a written warning was issued for harvesting clams from condemned waters of the Navesink River (mouth of Clay Pit Creek). Later that same evening, the COs were watching several individuals fishing in Laurence Harbor when CO Woerner noticed one of them drop a striped bass on the walkway about forty feet from where he had his gear set up. After about an hour the individual walked back to the fish and walked it to his cooler, where he hid it under food and drinks. Upon inspection the striped bass was undersized, despite the man explaining that it had been over 28 inches when he caught it. A summons was issued for one undersized striped bass. Just after midnight, COs Scott and Woerner responded to a complaint from one of CO Scott's informants, that four men were keeping undersized striped bass in Laurence Harbor. The COs were able to apprehend the individuals with the continued assistance of CO Scott's informant. When the inspections were completed, three summonses were issued for undersized and over limit striped bass.

On April 5, 2013 Lt. Snellbaker received a complaint about a crab dredge vessel dredging for conchs in the Delaware Bay at night. While it is legal to take conchs with a crab dredge, it is illegal to dredge one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise. On April 8, CO Hausamann received information that the suspect vessel left its dock on the Maurice River to go fishing at 12:00 p.m. CO Hausamann drove to the Maurice River at 8:30 p.m. and observed that the suspect vessel had not yet returned to its dock. Just prior to midnight, with the assistance of a United States Coast Guard helicopter and thermal imaging technology (FLIR), Lt.

Snellbaker was able to locate the suspect vessel in the Delaware Bay and observed the vessel actively utilizing its crab dredge at approximately 12:30 a.m. Just prior to sunrise the following morning the vessel returned to its Maurice River dock where Lt. Snellbaker, CO Hausamann, CO Harp, and Special Agent Jason Couse (NMFS) boarded the vessel and seized 2183 lbs. of conchs. A summons was issued for taking conchs at night with a crab dredge in the Delaware Bay.

Marine Fisheries Administration Monthly Report

March 16 to April 15, 2013

Thomas McCloy, Administrator
Jeffrey Brust, Research Scientist
Peter Himchak, Supervising Biologist
Linda Barry, Assistant Biologist
Michael Celestino, Research Scientist

Staff attended a meeting in Trenton to discuss development and regular updating of environmental trends chapters on key fish and wildlife species. BMF staff agreed to develop and update on a regular basis a chapter on forage fish from the Delaware Bay trawl survey and Delaware River seine survey.

Staff attended the ASMFC Tautog Data Workshop in Providence, RI. The data workshop is the first step in the development of a stock assessment. Members of the Tautog Technical Committee and Stock Assessment Subcommittee reviewed and evaluated available data sources, including the New Jersey Ocean Trawl Survey and three surveys conducted by Rutgers University, for potential use in the stock assessment. Recommendations were made, and tasks were assigned, for further analysis of "accepted" surveys, and workshop participants discussed possible assessment models and regional structure of the model. A stock assessment workshop is planned for Fall 2013 to continue development of the assessment, which is scheduled for completion and peer review in Summer 2014. Results of the assessment and peer review will be used by the ASMFC Tautog Management Board to develop appropriate management strategies for the resource.

The ASMFC Assessment Science Committee held a one day workshop to discuss sources of uncertainty in stock assessments and make

recommendations for standardizing how uncertainty is characterized and presented to management bodies.

The ASMFC Menhaden Technical Committee met to review available fixed-gear data sources and methods for developing indices of adult abundance from them to inform stock assessment models. This task was a result of implementation of Amendment 2 to the ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Fishery Management Plan. States were tasked with developing appropriate indices of adult abundance from their respective data sources using the recommendations of the TC for evaluation at the data workshop planned for Fall 2013. Accepted indices will be incorporated in the benchmark stock assessment scheduled for completion in 2014.

Staff attended the NMFS Southern Demersal Workgroup meeting to review and evaluate available data sources for the upcoming black sea bass stock assessment. Recommendations were made, and tasks were assigned, for further analysis of “accepted” surveys, and workshop participants discussed possible assessment models and regional structure of the model. A stock assessment workshop is planned for later this to continue development of the assessment.

Blue crab commercial harvest for 2012 totaled 7.3 million pounds, the 2nd highest in the 19-year time series, just under the 7.4 million pounds landed in 1995.

Blue crab compliance for February 2013 report submissions netted four warnings and two suspensions.

Letters were sent to five participants of the 1994 commercial crab pot lottery list on March 18, 2013 offering them the opportunity to purchase new commercial crab pot licenses. They have until April 26, 2013 to respond.

Staff participated at an ASMFC Tautog Technical Committee Data Workshop on March 25 – March 29 in Providence, RI in preparation for a benchmark stock assessment due in 2014.

Various Requests for Ocean Trawl Data were Fulfilled

The New Jersey Bureau of Shellfisheries has annually conducted an inshore survey of its surf clam resource since 1988. In 2012, the funding that paid for the survey was terminated. Without sufficient funds to conduct a full survey every year, New Jersey is faced with the prospects of

discontinuing the survey or modifying the sampling plan to accommodate the current financial situation. Given this reality, Administration staff sought to evaluate a minimum survey sample size (fractional reduction of full survey) to adequately assess the total stock through simulation studies and explore whether development of an index of abundance is possible. All years examined via simulations performed similarly when fractional reductions in sampling effort were applied. Namely, sampling effort could be reduced by up to 50% while keeping an 80% CI within the envelope of uncertainty provided by a full-survey 95% CI. Additionally most strata south of Great Egg Harbor Inlet could be removed (or sampled with less frequency than strata north of GEH Inlet) from the survey with minimal effect on the stock estimate or, at the expense of approximately 2.5-5% of the stock (based on recent stock sizes), all strata south of GEH Inlet could be removed from the survey. Index development seems very possible also, though further exploration and refinement are needed. This needed additional work notwithstanding, preliminary results suggest that surfclam abundance in stratum 7 alone explains 97% of the variation in total stock size between 2003 and 2012, inclusive. Finally, exploration of the data also suggested that future stock estimates might be developed using geometric means rather than arithmetic means or, alternately, log-transforming the data prior to analyses then back-transforming the results to the original scale.

In 2010, in response to concerns raised by the bluefish Technical Committee (TC) about the adequacy of the age length key (ALK) used in the bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*) coast wide stock assessment, New Jersey voluntarily initiated a biological collection program aimed at augmenting the ALK. In 2012, this program became mandatory. Our initial efforts focused on collecting fish racks (the fish with fillets removed), but concern that lengths recorded from racks might differ from whole fish prompted us to measure fish for both whole and rack lengths. Administration staff rigorously examined the results of 3-years (2010-2012) of those measurements. Our results indicate that seasonal and annual differences ($p < 0.05$) exist between rack lengths and whole fish lengths. The adjustments to rack lengths after conversions were applied were always within +/- 1 cm; by year, 9-51% of our rack lengths changed once converted to whole fish lengths. The magnitude of observation/measurement

error has not been quantified, but our results suggest that other factors also play a role (e.g., spinal slumping, spinal stretching, depending on fish size). Depending on resources availability (time, money, personnel), a number of options are available including: continuation of this supplemental program to make seasonal adjustments to rack lengths; discontinuation of the program, but apply the corrections to future rack lengths using average corrections from our 2010-2012 supplemental sampling program; discontinuation of the program and do not apply the any corrections in the future. The bluefish TC is tentatively planning on holding a conference call in May to review the results of these analyses and recommendations.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK

National Fishing and Boating Week, June 1 - 9, 2013: Free Fishing Days in New Jersey are Saturday & Sunday, June 15 & 16, 2013. Residents and non-residents may fish the public waters of New Jersey without a license or trout Stamp. All other regulations apply.

For those anglers just starting out, the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife offers many programs and classes to advance from beginner to expert. The Pequest State Trout Hatchery in Oxford, Warren County offers free fishing programs. Pequest offers a Natural Resource Education Center with a variety of exhibits and displays on wildlife, a butterfly garden, picnic areas and hiking trails. There is also a handicapped-accessible fishing site along the Pequest River. Last year, the JCAA Youth Education Committee coordinated fishing and aquatic education programs for the week-long celebration of National Fishing Week.

This year we will teach students about saltwater fishing at Ocean & Monmouth County public schools. Member clubs that wish to conduct a National Fishing Week program can phone 732/785-9278 and we will guide your organization through the process. Phone if you have questions and please record your event. Let the JCAA Youth Education Committee know how many National Fishing Week participants supported your program. For more

information about National Fishing Week in New Jersey check out [this link](#).

IGFA JUNIOR ANGLER

JCAA Youth Education Committee members Tim Burden and I had the pleasure of meeting Jeff Mackin, Education Director for the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) at the New Jersey IGFA Annual Banquet and Auction that supports the IGFA's Junior Angler and Conservation program. This August IGFA will be partnering with Captain Gene Nigro and some of the New Jersey fishing groups to prepare for the kids fishing derby in August.

Recently, the IGFA held a kids fishing event at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum, Daina, Florida that included twenty members of the Miami Dolphins to teach kids about fishing. They also promote a Special Anglers Tournament (for kids with disabilities). For more information about the IGFA Junior Angler program check out [this link](#). Their web pages are loaded with many smiles of kids that have caught a variety of sizeable catches.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

We are getting close to our last few HOFNOD learning sessions for the Brick Cub Scouts Pack # 47 and soon it will be time for them to test their new fishing skills during National Fishing and Boating Week. During the month of May the Cub Scouts will learn about how to hook and reel in a fish, freshwater/saltwater baits, lures, and outdoor casting techniques.

OCEAN FUN DAYS

Ocean Fun Days, Tenth Anniversary Saturday, June 8th and Sunday, June 9th, 2013. Visit and enjoy nature exhibits, classes, nature tours, and children's activities all about our coastal environment. It's fun for the whole family and you will have a great time learning about the science of our shorelines and how to care for them for years to come. Free parking and free admission is available at Island Beach State Park and New Jersey Consortium, Sandy Hook, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information contact: rhiggins@njseagrant.org or phone 732-872-1300.

WATER SAFETY REMINDER

Bill Browne and Joe Punk, Pt. Pleasant Fishing Club asked to include this important message in the JCAA Youth Education Report.

Remember to follow New Jersey State Police Marine Service Bureau rules while on the water. Children 12 years of age or under must wear a properly fitted Personal Flotation Device (life jacket) whenever a vessel is underway. The fine is \$250.00 for children under 13 not wearing a life jacket.

Children must be at least 12 years old to take the boater education course. Make sure you know the rules before leaving the dock and keep our waterways safe. For more information please visit the New Jersey State Police Marine Service Bureau [web page](#).

If you have a fishing or safety tip please send it to gkucharews@aol.com. Many thanks to Bill and Joe for taking the time to let everyone know how important it is to be safe while out on the water.

2013 MARINE DIGEST RULES & REGULATIONS

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife has announced that the 2013 Marine Digest is available online in interactive and PDF formats. The PDF version can be downloaded in its entirety and in smaller segments from the Division's website. The print versions are in coastal bait and tackle shops, marinas, sporting goods stores, and marine supply stores. To view (and print) the Digest or to access the Flash version, visit [this page](#) on the division's website.

AUGUST 24TH 2013 THE 19TH ANNUAL JCAA FLUKE TOURNAMENT