

JCAA NEWSPAPER APRIL 2014

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on March 17th, 2014)

Monthly Meeting at Jersey Coast Shark Anglers, 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick
"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, March 25th, 2014

Starting at 7:30 PM

AT JERSEY COAST SHARK ANGLERS

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 10th, 2014

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 908-913-0551 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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Committee & Chairpersons listed on last page

High Roller Raffle

The JCAA High Roller Raffle for 2014 is now ready! Below is a list of this year's prizes. For 2014 we have added a 9th prize to the raffle donated by Oliso, Inc. Oliso, makers of vacuum food sealers, was kind enough to donate 4 machines to JCAA for use in our fluke tournament, our sportsperson of the year dinner, the Saltwater Sportsman Show raffle and our High Roller Raffle. The drawing will be held on **May 27th, 2014** at the JCAA offices located at 1201 Rt. 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River. JCAA will be selling tickets at our booth at the shows listed below or call the office and we will send you a book.

You do not have to be present to win

9 chances to win a great package

Support JCAA

Only \$2.00 a Ticket

1. Fin-Nor Sportfisher FSSU 5950RS Rod & Avet HX 2 Speed Reel, Value **\$580** *Donated by Fin-Nor & JCAA*
2. Lamiglas XTC 704 Travel Rod & Penn 975 International Reel, Value **\$560** *Donated by Penn & Lamiglas*
3. \$500 Gift Certificate to Fisherman's Headquarters, Value **\$500** *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
4. 2 Cans of Interlux Micron CF Pain, Value **\$440** *Donated by Interlux*
5. 2 Cans of Interlux Micron CF Paint, Value **\$440** *Donated by Interlux*
6. Yukon 50qt. Cold Locker Cooler, Value **\$330** *Donated by Igloo/Yukon*
7. Shakespeare Ugly Stik SP1166 1MH 6' 6" Rod & Penn Battle BTL 4000 Reel, Value **\$160** *Donated by Penn & Shakespeare*
8. Shakespeare Ugly Stik SP1166 1MH 6' 6" Rod & Penn Battle BTL 4000 Reel, Value **\$160** *Donated by Penn & Shakespeare*
9. Oliso, Inc. Vacuum Food Sealer, Value **\$150** *Donated by Oliso, Inc.*

Total Value \$3,320

IMPORTANT DATES

March 25th JCAA General Meeting
April 10th JCAA Board Meeting
April 29th JCAA General Meeting
May 8th JCAA Board Meeting
May 18th Governor's Surfing Tournament
May 27th JCAA General Meeting
August 23rd JCAA Fluke Tournament

23rd Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament *By Paul Smith*

Sunday May 18, 2014

The Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament (GSFT) will take place in Island Beach State Park (IBSP), NJ on May 18, 2014. This event is one of the most popular surf fishing contests for the individual angler on the East Coast. It is sponsored by Jersey Coast Anglers Association, New Jersey State Federation Of Sportsmen's Clubs, NJ Beach Buggy Association, NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, NJ Division of Parks and NJDEP.

This year's GSFT will be the first to be held in the spring. Declining numbers of good sized fish caught in the last few tournaments created the need to change from the traditional date in early October. The most important part in planning this tournament is always to provide the most enjoyable day of surf fishing possible for the participating anglers.

Mail-in Registration Fee

- Ages 18 & older - \$15
- Ages 13-17 - \$5.00
- Children 12 & under are **FREE!** Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult, and are still required to register

Day of Tournament Registration Fee - Registration opens at 5:00 am on Sunday at Pavilion #1.

- Ages 18 and older: \$20
- 13-17 - \$5.00
- Children 12 & under are **FREE!**

Schedule

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

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

We need your help, so please sign up to be a judge in the tournament. Each judge will receive a special issue Governor's Cup Surf Fishing Tournament judge's hat. In addition, a stipend is available to help offset the cost of fuel burned while judging on the beach. Also, the IBSP beach pass is not required for judge's 4x4 vehicles during the hours of the tournament. Please contact Mark Pantle at pantlesr@yahoo.com for more information.

Special tournament t-shirts and hats will be available for sale inside the pavilion area after 10:00 am on tournament day. Don't forget to get your t-shirt and hat with this year's new design!

There will be a raffle drawing for registered anglers in the tournament. Participants in the drawing must be present at the award ceremonies to qualify to win.

The Tournament Committee granted funds to help operate the beginner and advanced surf fishing instructional clinics at Island Beach State Park last year. These clinics are available to the general public for a small fee. This program has been very successful at introducing the sport of surf fishing to several hundred new anglers. New surf anglers spend a morning learning the basics of equipment, tackle, bait varieties, casting, fish identification, knots, and "reading the beach". After a break, all go to the beach for several hours of actual surf fishing with personal instruction by members of the park staff and volunteer experienced surf anglers.

In the fall of 2014 the first Advanced Surf Fishing Clinics were also held in IBSP. They were well attended by anglers who had taken part in the beginner's clinics and wished to learn more about surf fishing.

Difficult economic times have eliminated state funding for many worthy programs that are of

interest to New Jersey's salt water anglers. These clinics are an example of the type of programs that are now only made possible as the result of the participation by so many anglers at each Governor's Tournament.

For more information about the Surf Clinic Series please contact the Island Beach Park office at (732) 793-0506.

In 2014 the Tournament Committee plans to support this year's Surf Fishing Clinic Series and also grant funds to purchase several new beach accessible wheel chairs to replace some of the well-worn units now in use at IBSP.

We hope you are planning to fish in the GSFT this year. If not, why not volunteer to help on the day of the tournament. Help is always needed at the registration desk, with sales of tournament hats and t-shirts, assisting anglers with special needs, and judging. Please contact Frank Dara at fdar9@aol.com.

President's Report

By Paul Haertel

This month my president's report will have to be very brief. There are so many issues that our board has been working on that I devoted all the free time I had to working on these other issues. More specifically, I have been working on issues concerning the fluke and sea bass situation. As most of you know, we were forced into a regional plan for fluke and we are now in a region with New York and Connecticut. While we may have lost the battle this year, we are already working on a plan of action for the future. We are seeking political support and have been writing letters to the Governor, Senators and Congressmen. The letters explain how we were unfairly treated by the ASMFC as well as by the administrator of the Greater Atlantic Region of NOAA fisheries.

I have also spent a lot of time frequently writing articles pertaining to the fluke and sea bass regulatory options. Other issues include the repair of the north jetty of Barnegat Inlet, the notching of jetties in the Sandy Hook to Deal area, dredging of Double Creek Channel, our fluke tournament, sport shows, etc.

I could go on and on but thankfully I have a good board that is helping with all of these issues. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes.

Anyway, that is all I have time for so please read the articles found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Just a reminder, you need register or renew your NJ saltwater recreational registration for 2014.

To renew go to [this link](#) then scroll down and click on "Access current year." Enter requested info. Click on your ID number. Click on renew

In case you were not previously registered you may also complete your initial registration at this same link.

The registry is free and there is an explanation as to who needs to register in the web site.

Fluke and Sea Bass Regulation Update - 3/13/14

On 3/13/13, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Council held a special conference call pertaining to fluke and sea bass. The purpose of this call was to discuss and approve management options for the various regions as well as proposed regulatory options for each state. Regarding fluke, New Jersey came out of this as well as could have been hoped for considering that we are now in a region with New York and Connecticut. Specifically, New Jersey's representatives, Tom Fote (ASMFC) and Tom Baum (NJBMF) argued successfully that we should have a 128 day season and a 5 fish bag limit. There were those who favored a shorter season and/or a 4 fish bag limit. The 18" size limit had previously been approved by all three states in our region. The motion that passed also included two additional provisions. One is that of the 128 day season, no more than 45 days may be during the wave 3 period (May-June). That means that New Jersey's season will begin no sooner than 5/17. We also could begin the season later than that date so that it could be extended further into September, but no later than 9/30. The majority of those in attendance at New Jersey's advisory meeting on 2/27 favored a later start so that the season could be extended further into September. In part that is due to the fact that the season for sea bass will be closed then and with the limit of only one blackfish during that same time, there will be little else for the inshore fishermen to fish for.

The second provision that was approved by the ASMFC is one that would allow a 16" size limit for fluke caught by shore-based anglers in specific areas. However, these areas would have to be properly monitored. Connecticut already has this special regulation in effect and it is now up to New

Jersey and New York to develop similar regulations if they wish to do so.

In regard to sea bass, the ASMFC approved options for each region along with various regulatory options for each state. Not much has changed since my last report except that the ASMFC based their decision on the mandated 7% cut set by NMFS. However, the ASMFC also will be writing a letter requesting that the reduction be less than 7%. The 7% cut was in part due to projected wave 6 data (November - December). However, the wave 6 data that recently came out showed that we harvested less fish than had been projected. Therefore, we might be able to cut back by as little as 3.2%. That would mean that our season could be lengthened by a couple of days.

At the advisors meeting on 2/27, a number of options regarding sea bass were considered and a couple new ones were suggested that the NJBMF developed and were since approved by the ASMFC. It is certain that we will have a season that begins on 5/19 with a 12 ½" size limit. We also know that the season will be closed from 9/18 or sooner through 10/17 or later. There is a strong possibility that the season could be closed by early to mid August if the bag limit remains high. The options that were on the table at the meeting included those with 12, 15 or 20 fish bag limits. I suggested that the bag limit be reduced to 3-5 fish in July so that the season could be further extended into August or even September. One of the additional options that was approved for consideration is a 15 fish bag limit from 5/19 - 6/30, a 5 fish bag limit from 7/1-8/27 and a 15 fish bag limit from 10/18-12/31. The season will be closed in federal waters from 9/18 - 10/17 so it makes little sense to develop any options that would allow us to fish in-state waters only during that time.

The list of various options pertaining to both fluke and sea bass will be coming out soon. Those interested in commenting are encouraged to do so at a special NJMFC meeting where regulations for both species are expected to be adopted. This meeting will held at 4 PM on April 3rd at the Stafford Township Municipal building located at 260 East Bay Av., Manahawkin.

The following are two letters that were approved at the last JCAA General Meeting. Please read both letters with care since we are asking for different actions. The letter to the Governor deals with the issue of reallocation of fluke and the role of NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in this

decision. The letter to our Congressmen also deals with winter flounder and John Bullard's outrageous action in the distribution of fisheries disaster funds. When calling or writing the Governor or the Congressmen, please use the specific information included in the letters since the actions requested will be different. Please call me if there are questions.

Letter to the Governor

The Honorable Chris Christie
Governor State of New Jersey
PO Box 001
The State House, CN-001
Trenton NJ 08625-0001 3/15/14

Dear Governor Christie:

As you may be aware, New Jersey was unfairly treated by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission in the recent decision on summer flounder. The decision forced New Jersey to regionalize with New York and Connecticut on summer flounder. This will greatly decrease the number of summer flounder (estimated 41,000 fish or more and at least seven fishing days this year) that could have been caught by New Jersey anglers. The economic decrease for the recreational fishing industry of New Jersey could be in the millions of dollars.

This decision was made under the guise that regionalization would be fairer and more equitable to everyone but in reality this was a reallocation of quota from New Jersey to New York and Connecticut. This was unprecedented because the battle for reallocation was led by John Bullard who is the Administrator for the Greater Atlantic Region of NOAA Fisheries. Since he is relatively new to his role as Administrator, New Jersey's Governor's Appointee to ASMFC, Tom Fote, reminded him that the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had always refrained from lobbying or voting on allocation issues. It was never the role of the services to advocate for a particular state at ASMFC meetings. Not only did the Administrator ignore Mr. Fote's advice, he made a joke of it. He then proceeded to become an advocate for the state of New York in this allocation battle. In fact, on the motion by Mr. Fote to maintain the status quo for 2014, Mr. Bullard made a speech advocating

a “no” vote and both services voted “no”. The final vote was 7 no votes to 4 yes votes. Before Mr. Bullard’s speech, there would have been enough “yes” votes to carry the motion if the services had abstained. It should also be noted that the ASMFC accepted comments and held hearings in various states along the coast in regard to the proposed regionalization plan. An overwhelming majority of groups and individuals favored continuing state-by-state conservation equivalency and were clearly opposed to the regionalization plans. In fact those who attended the hearing in New Jersey were unanimously opposed to the plan. Despite that, Mr. Bullard spoke defiantly against the will of the public.

Dr. David Pierce, Chairman of the Summer Founder, Black Sea Bass and Scup Board, was so greatly concerned about this decision that he wrote a letter to all the members of the ASMFC Board. Dr. Pierce’s letter concluded that this regionalization may well cause the region to go over its quota because New York will be able to reduce its size limit. The New Jersey delegation has made the same prediction before the vote but it was ignored by Mr. Bullard. Even if the anglers in New Jersey do not exceed their target quota, we may need to take a significant cut in 2015. The economic impact could be disastrous. This could also have a negative impact on the summer flounder stock by going over quota.

New Jersey’s Commissioners to ASMFC have always felt that the services should be ex-officio members without the opportunity to vote. They should provide information and funding but should not be voting members. That is how the original compact was written. Given the recent behavior, it is time to renew this call and direct your Commissioners to make a motion at the Policy Committee for ASMFC to take away the voting rights of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to directing your Commissioners to take this action, we are requesting that you write a letter to Louis Daniels, Chairman of ASMFC, demanding this motion be placed on the agenda for the next Policy Board Meeting.

New Jersey’s bipartisan Congressional Delegation has written letters to the Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. NOAA is the agency that directs NMFS. Their letters express their outrage at the actions of Mr. Bullard and call for immediate action to remedy this

situation. The letters also ask the Director to require Mr. Bullard to act in a more nonpartisan manner.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Haertel, President

CC: DEP Commissioner Bob Martin

Letter to Congressmen or Senator

Dear Congress Representative or Senator,

The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention the recent actions of John Bullard, Administrator of the Greater Atlantic Region of NOAA Fisheries. These actions will have a negative impact on New Jersey, our recreational anglers, our recreational fishing industry and the resource.

As you may be aware, New Jersey was unfairly treated by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) in the recent decision on summer flounder. This decision forced New Jersey to regionalize with New York and Connecticut on summer flounder. This will greatly decrease the number of summer flounder (estimated 41,000 fish or more and at least seven fishing days this year) that could have been caught by New Jersey anglers. The economic decrease for the recreational fishing industry of New Jersey could be in the millions of dollars.

This decision was made under the guise of regionalization but in actuality this was a reallocation of quota from New Jersey to New York and Connecticut. This was unprecedented because the battle for the reallocation was led by John Bullard. Since he is relatively new to his role as Administrator, New Jersey’s Governor’s Appointee to the ASMFC, Tom Fote, reminded him that the services (National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) had always refrained from lobbying or voting on allocation issues. It was never the role of the services to advocate for a particular state at ASMFC meetings. Not only did the administrator ignore Mr. Fote’s advice, he made a joke of it. He then proceeded to become an advocate for the state of New York in this allocation battle. In fact, on the motion by Mr. Fote to maintain the status quo for 2014, Mr. Bullard made a speech advocating a “no” vote and both services voted “no”. The final vote was 7 no votes to 4 yes votes. Before Mr. Bullard’s speech, there would

have been enough “yes” votes to carry the motion if the services had abstained. It should also be noted that the ASMFC accepted comments and held hearings in various states along the coast in regard to the proposed regionalization plan. An overwhelming majority of groups and individuals favored continuing state-by-state conservation equivalency and were decidedly opposed to the regionalization plans. In fact, at the hearing in New Jersey, the regionalization plan was unanimously opposed. Despite that, Mr. Bullard spoke defiantly against the will of the public.

Dr. David Pierce, Chairman of the Summer Founder, Black Sea Bass and Scup Board, was so greatly concerned about this decision that he wrote a letter to all the members of the ASMFC Board. Dr. Pierce’s letter concluded that this regionalization may well cause the region to go over its quota because New York will be able to reduce its size limit. The New Jersey delegation had made the same prediction before the vote but it was ignored by Mr. Bullard. Even if the anglers in New Jersey do not exceed their target quota, they may be forced to take a significant cut in 2015. The economic impact could be disastrous. This could also have a negative impact on the summer flounder stock by going over quota.

In another decision, John Bullard allowed fishing for winter flounder in the EEZ. The ASMFC had restricted winter flounder catch in state waters to a near moratorium level. Some states do have a moratorium. There was a moratorium put in place in the EEZ which is Federal waters by the former regional director. The reason was that the stocks are at dangerously low levels. The 2014 stock assessment report shows no recovery at all. This did not stop Mr. Bullard from opening the EEZ to 5,000 pound trip limits on a stock that is fully depressed. There is no scientific justification for this action. He did this to support the ground fish fishery located in New Bedford and surrounding areas. He did this without consulting the ASMFC which has the management responsibility for winter flounder in state waters. With this decision, a commercial fisherman can land 50,000 pounds in 10 trips in Federal waters. New Jersey’s recreational anglers landed only 40 pounds of winter flounder in total in 2012. With these figures, it would take New Jersey’s recreational anglers 1,250 years to catch the same amount of winter flounder as the commercial fishermen will catch in 10 trips. All the commercial

fyke net fishermen in New Jersey’s state waters collectively landed about 7,000 pounds of winter flounder in 2012. It would take them more than 7 years to equal one commercial fisherman’s 10 trips in federal waters. There is no evidence that he considered the rebuilding of the winter flounder stocks in this decision. He ignored conservation.

In addition, with regard to the allocation of fisheries disaster money, Mr. Bullard was able to determine how that money would be allocated for the Greater Atlantic Region. He ignored the damage done by Sandy to both New York and New Jersey and allocated the 33 million dollars to the ground fish fishery in New Bedford, Massachusetts and surrounding states and allocated only 3 million dollars in total for New York and New Jersey. Mr. Bullard is the former mayor of New Bedford. This is clearly a partisan decision. Mr. Bullard is apparently ignoring the 107 million dollars of damage that the recreational fishing industry in New Jersey lost as a result of Sandy. Remember, the ground fish fishery had no reported damage as a result of Sandy.

New Jersey’s Commissioners to the ASMFC have always felt that the services should be ex-officio members without the opportunity to vote. They should provide information and funding but should not be voting members. That is how the original compact was written. Given the recent bias behavior of Mr. Bullard, the NMFS and the USFWS, it is time to renew this call and write a letter to Dr. Louis Daniels, Chairman of ASMFC, demanding a motion be placed on the agenda for the next Policy Board Meeting that would respect the compact and deny a vote to NMFS and USFWS.

We are also asking New Jersey’s bipartisan Congressional Delegation to write letters to the newly confirmed Director of NOAA and the new Director of NMFS. (NOAA is the agency that directs NMFS.) The letters should express outrage at the actions of Mr. Bullard and ask the Directors to require him to act in a more nonpartisan manner. He should be told to represent all the states in the Greater Atlantic Region and not just do what is best for New Bedford. The NMFS should be told to focus on conservation and not get involved in allocation issues between states or favoring one state over another.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Haertel, President
Jersey Coast Anglers Association

Time to STOP Feeding Your Dog/Cat Bunker-Based Pet Food

*By Capt. Paul Eidman, Forage Fish
Chairman*

Fishermen have a unique connection with each other that is rarely talked about. We are animal people!

We love our dogs, cats, horses, etc. Personally, I have two dogs, two cats and this takes me pet food shopping very often.

Anglers buy A LOT of pet food and this gives us power as consumers to change the game. For those of you that have read my past blogs, you know that I am really into the conservation of forage fish (Think: Gamefish food) because I realize that our sport depends on this vital part of the food chain to exist.

All over the world, smaller fish like menhaden, herring, anchovy, etc are being ground up and turned into fish meal and fish oil. The demand for high quality, inexpensive protein, omega -3 fatty acids and minerals is skyrocketing and forage fish are being rapidly and carelessly vacuumed up and depleted.

The vast majority of these prey species have fallen through the cracks and regulations have yet to catch up. Commercial fish harvesters are exploiting and profiting BIG by focusing on our national love of dogs and cats.

Walking down the pet food aisle in your local pet store is a mind-blowing experience in itself. This is America, and we do things big. Colorful bags from floor to ceiling, ads on the floor, free sample bags at and coupons at the door. They know that once we buy a brand and our pets like it, we will stick with it. There are hundreds of brands and special mixes to choose from. Don't kid yourself, this is a 15 billion dollar a year business in the U.S.

Actually selecting a pet food without Menhaden in it requires a lot of work and patience, something we are all short on. Oftentimes, Menhaden is disguised with another name. My favorites are "Ocean Fish" and "Fish meal." What exactly is an Ocean Fish? What type of fish is that? Where does it come from? What the heck am I feeding my dog?

It's a daunting task. And as if this wasn't hard enough, the prices are really crazy. In this economy we are all cutting where we can but we still want the best for our critters. You wind up just grabbing a bag that fits your taste and budget and hope for the best.

There is a very good chance that the dog or cat food that you are currently buying contains menhaden-based fish meal/fish oil that comes from the very fish that our gamefish and everything else in the ecosystem relies on for survival. These forage fish are literally being taken right out of the mouths of the fish we catch.

In the past, I have used Hills brand, Science Diet "veterinarian recommended" Adult maintenance dog food for many years. I had a black Labrador retriever that lived for 19 1/2 years on the stuff! The label on the bag stated that it contains, among other things, powdered cellulose, chicken by-products, etc. My dogs like it, and its priced affordably and available locally. It didn't have any fish meal or fish-related products in it, so I was good to go.

After entering my particular "light Formula" Science Diet food into the many consumer dog food rating sites online, it came out very low on the ratings scale. My dogs really deserve better food so my research continued. I decided to change foods, keeping in mind that it would be very hypocritical for me as "Joe Forage Fish" to use a non-sustainable fish-containing product so I wanted to be sure that the food I was selecting was, for lack of a better term, "green."

I buy my dog food 40 pounds at a time, so I figured Costco was the best place to hit. There were four different types of Kirkland, which is Costco's house brand of dog food. All the bags, including the cat food, had "Fish Meal" in the ingredients. I wasn't happy about this at all because the price was very good and the rest of the ingredients were much better as well.

I wrote an email to Costco and they had no idea what kind of fish was used, but they said they would find out for me and write back. This is where I learned about something called co-branding, the art of one giant manufacturer that creates a product and then puts a dozen or more different labels on it, leaving the consumer in the dark about the actual source of the dog food. There are hundreds of different brands out there, but only a dozen or so actual manufacturers.

Diamond is Kirkland's manufacturer and they proudly reported back to Costco customer service that they only use the finest Atlantic Menhaden in all their foods. That was all I had to hear. There was no way I was feeding this to my pets.

FYI - Here is the Diamond Pet food website definition of fish meal they use:

“Whole Menhaden fish, cooked and ground to a meal. Naturally preserved. Good source of protein, omega-3 (linolenic) fatty acids, and minerals.”

How could Costco, a company that boasted recently of revamping their seafood product line to only include sustainable fish, be putting their name on a bag of dog food that comes from fish that are being unsustainably fished?

The prices at the local Petsmart were much higher than the local feed-type store so I checked the brands there. I even met with the store manager and started asking questions about which foods she had on the shelf contained Menhaden. The store manager had never even heard of the lowly Menhaden, nor was she familiar with the fact that these fish are being unsustainably taken by the commercial fleets along the Mid-Atlantic and in the Gulf of Mexico. How can you sell pet food for a living and not be aware of one of the key ingredients added to increase the protein and Omega 3 levels?

My final decision came down to two and I now use Merrick brand, Menhaden free type of Dog Food and Natural balance Menhaden Free type of cat food, and I made sure I told the store manager why I selected this. Pretty obvious that if they eliminated the menhaden containing dog and cat foods, they would have to close down. Yes, the situation is that bad. In the USA, the last Menhaden fish meal and oil manufacturing company - Omega Protein, Inc. - depends on sales to the companion pet food industry for approx 12% of its annual revenue! Yes, Science Diet, Purina, Iamms, Blue Buffalo, etc. are all great clients of Omega and have been for years. Note that not all of the types of foods that these brands offer contain fish meal, so you need to really read up and ask questions and even call customer service.

There are millions of anglers and we have the power to dictate and change corporate habits. Fisherman need to speak up and demand that our favorite companion pet food companies STOP using

Menhaden or other forage fish and switch to more sustainable protein sources instead of the very baitfish that our gamefish need to survive.

No Bunker = No Bass!

Sportsperson of the Year

By Paul Turi

At our General Membership Meeting in January the membership voted to start accepting nominations for our sportsperson of the year in March and to have a vote at our General Membership Meeting in June. The reason for this is because we don't meet in July & August and we vote at the October meeting, which is very close to our honoring dinner date, it does not give our honoree too much time to contact family and friends who may want to be present at the dinner presentation. A lot of family and friends may be out of town and it does not leave much time to make travel plans. In addition to that, it does not leave us much time to order our plaques for our Sportsperson-of-the-Year honoree and the Youth Education Award honoree. This year it cost us double the amount of money to order our plaques because we had to pay an expedited fee. So all in all it seems to make sense to have the nomination and election process much earlier.

If you wish to nominate someone, please submit a bio of at least 250 words. Don't worry about typing and spelling, etc. When we have elected a nominee, if I need more or less words to make the bio fit in our brochure, I will work with the nominating club to accomplish this.

The dinner again this year will be held at the Crystal Pt. Yacht Club in Pt. Pleasant on Sunday, November 9th, 2014. Ticket prices are the same as last year, \$75 per head or \$600 for a table of 10.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the JCAA office or by email at pturi6@comcast.net.

Double Your Fun Take a Child Fishing

NJ Outdoor Alliance Report

By John Toth

On behalf of the JCAA, I attended the February 24th meeting of the New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, and the following agenda items were discussed:

Tanyo Sulkowski – a full-time teacher and a Trout in the Classroom instructor at Barack Obama School in Plainfield gave a PowerPoint presentation about the 207 students in the 9th to 10th grades that she introduces into nature through fishing. The NJOA made a monetary contribution to promote her efforts to interest these kids who come from troubled communities and are not used to the outdoors and nature since they do not have many opportunities to be involved with it. At first these kids were not into fishing and her enthusiasm about nature and handling fish and bugs, but they really became involved and enthusiastic about fishing and what nature has to offer. She also told a humorous story about a tough kid (gang member) who was afraid to put a worm on a hook to go fishing, but he finally worked up the nerve to do it!

Regionalization of fluke was the next topic and Tom Fote led the discussion on it. There was a lot of talk about it and its negative effect on NJ. Tom indicated that the NMFS and the US Fish & Wildlife Services should not have a vote at the ASMFC, since they represent the federal government and the ASMFC is a compact of states to determine the management of their fisheries. The votes of NMFS and the US Wildlife voted for regionalization and these two agencies tipped the scales in favor of regionalization, and if they were not allowed to vote, we would most likely not have regionalization! We also need to have our senators support us, especially the new senator Cory Booker and our congressional representatives. The fact that Delaware under this plan will be able to catch 16 inch fluke will keep anglers away from NJ and that will not help our fishing and tackle industry. Anthony Mauro indicated that there needs to be a plan by fishing groups to come together in a united and focused front to tackle this issue and asked for NJOA members to set up a committee of volunteers to develop it.

Bob Longcor – from our DEP discussed the DEP's plan to build a huge archery (90 meters long) facility in Union Township as a result of increasing interest from the public to participate in archery. A lot of it is from the archery classes available in schools and the Hunger Games and the Hobbit movies. It will cost approximately 16 million and open in 2017. It is currently in the design phase. Bob asked the NJOA members to write letters to Commissioner Martin to support this facility's construction.

Traps off the reefs – a stakeholder's meeting was held with commercial and recreational anglers and Pete Grimbilas reported that it was generally a constructive meeting with the commercial anglers allowing to have designated areas of the reefs to place their gear (about 15%) on the two inshore reefs (Axel Carlson and Sandy Hook). Also, commercial anglers have a number of penalties if they do not comply with the provisions that govern their use of the reefs. This agreement still has to be reviewed by our state for legal reasons and there will be public hearings on it scheduled when this legal process is completed.

Trout – at the Pequest Hatchery have been exposed to a furunculosis disease borne by osprey and blue heron that drop their feces into the hatchery waters that cause boils in fish. 25,000 of these diseased fish have been destroyed. The other 370,000 trout have been treated with antibiotics and have not shown an outbreak of this disease. The DEP plans to stock them in non-trout streams so that this disease is not transmitted to other trout. This problem is not unique to NJ since other states and even worldwide have the same issue with this disease. The antibiotic treated fish do not show any symptoms of this disease and these fish are safe to eat. The DEP is taking public comment on this problem. The NJOA's position after much discussion on it is to rely on the experience of the professionals of the Division of Fish & Wildlife to determine if these fish should be released in the near future.

The NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs will hold its convention in AC at the Tropicana during June 6 - 8th.

Paul Haertel asked the NJOA if it could send a representative to an advisory meeting to discuss fluke and sea bass issues at Nacote Creek on

Thursday (February 27th) at 7:00 p.m. Paul indicated that more recreational representation needs to be at it to have our voices heard since a number of commercial representatives are there. Bill Figley offered to attend it at the request of Pete Grimбилas.

Thoughts to Consider on Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization

By Tom Siciliano

The Magnuson Stevens Act was first passed in 1976 and it has made possible many improvements to protecting our nation's marine resources. It is now time for it to be reauthorized again and this is your opportunity to incorporate improvements into the act.

The JCAA is forming a committee to review the act and develop a position which we will submit to all the Congressmen and Senators from New Jersey. If you are interested in being a part of this committee just send me an email at toms6363@comcast.net and I will set up a conference call to get everyone's thoughts. Here are a few of mine which I feel will improve the functioning of the system and management of recreational fishing.

1. The National Marine Fisheries Service is part of the Department of Commerce so it is clear that the emphasis has been on commercial fishing. The words "recreational and commercial" should be used in the new bill to make it clear that recreational fishing is to be given the same protections as commercial fisheries.
2. Data collection continues to be suspect even with the improvements made by the new MRIP program which has only begun to be used even though the NMFS was mandated to improve it in 2006. The driving factor in making improvements to the system is to collect much more data than is currently being collected. Data from many sources are available and should be an integral part of the MRIP program. Data such as Party and Charter Boat logs and data from fisheries survey's such as conducted by the Jersey Coast Anglers Association on catch vs. effort must be integrated into the system.
3. The economic impact of recreational fisheries must be considered before any new regulation is put into place. Just as the Army Corp of Engineers is required to conduct an environmental impact study before a project can be authorized. The NMFS should conduct an economic impact study on each change in regulations that are considered.
4. It is understood that some fisheries are managed by limiting the "Days at Sea". This is an antiquated method of controlling fisheries. The technology has advanced exponentially in the last 20 years such that boats can target fish and have become very efficient in catching fish. The only way to control fishing catch is to set quotas for all commercial fisheries.
5. Quota systems for recreational fishing are arcane. Think about it if there are a lot of fish recreational anglers will catch more fish. As a stock declines recreational anglers catch less fish and then fewer anglers target that species.
6. A bycatch is allowed in the commercial fishing sector, yet if a recreational angler happens to catch a unusual fish that is out of season they must throw it back. The retention of one unusual fish that is out of season should be allowed for recreational anglers.
7. Allocations between recreational and commercial fisheries should be revisited to insure that they truly reflect the long term historical split between the two user groups. In many cases dates were chosen that were more beneficial to one sector or the other. Allocations should also recognize the growing economic value and participation of the recreational sector. The allocations should be fair and equitable to all fishermen and should promote conservation. The reexamination of the allocation should be done on a regular interval not to exceed five years.
8. Fisheries Management by States. The individual states have proven that they can successfully manage recreational fisheries at healthy levels with strong stakeholder buy-in. The MSA should include language that facilitates, where appropriate, the willing transfer of management of individual stocks to states or interstate fisheries management commission.

9. Rebuilding Timelines. All fish are not equal. They grow and mature at different rates. For instance it makes no sense to regulate Mahi-Mahi which grows to maturity in a year in the same manner that one regulates longer growing species. Therefore the Councils should have the latitude to rebuild stocks in a timely and reasonable manner rather than on a specific timeline.

River Herring Volunteers Needed Statewide

By Paul Eidman

We are looking for people to check on fish ladders around the state this springtime (late march thru May) and make sure that they are not blocked by debris. You do not have to clear them, but you do need to advise us and we will get it done. Note that at this point in time it is imperative that River herring make it upstream to spawn. Stocks are severely depleted and every single fish counts. Please email pauylfish@reeltherapy.com with your location to help out.

Membership Report

By John Toth

Invoices for 2014 club membership dues have been sent out. Please make every effort to send in your club dues in a timely manner. Also, please take the time to completely fill out the Dues and Sponsorship form and the Club Survey form that we need to update our mailing list.

Thank you Thousand Fathom Club of South Jersey, Friends of Island Beach State Park, Riviera Beach Boat Club, Schuyler Tuna Fishing Club, Silverton Fishing Club, Beach Haven Charter Fishing Club, Hi-Mar Striper Club, Manasquan River Tuna Club, and Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County for sending in your 2014 club dues! **Much appreciated!**

Also, any clubs, companies or individuals who have ads in our JCAA newsletter, please send in your payments to our address: JCAA, 1201 Route 37 East, Suite 9, Toms River, NJ 08753.

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!

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

NJ HOFNOD TRAINING

The NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife will be hosting a 2-day Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs (HOFNOD) training on Thursday and Friday, April 3 & 4, at the North Hudson Park Environmental Academy in North Bergen. The training is for adult staff and volunteers of youth-centered community and/or faith-based organizations looking to offer an ongoing or year-round youth fishing, conservation and aquatic education program. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association will provide training funds for two members from each member club of JCAA that would like to participate in the HOFNOD training. To receive an application from JCAA email: gkucharews@jcaa.org.

KIDS' FISHING FUN NIGHT A GREAT SUCCESS

Over 35 children attended the Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club's Annual Youth Fishing Fun Night. Youngsters learned the Japanese Art of Fish Printing (Gyotaku) and species identification. Children also had a chance to ask questions about how to create printed art images of fish and other creatures. All fish printing molds and materials were supplied by the JCAA lending library. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association Youth Education Committee has supported this event for a number of years by providing a learning fishing activity for children, and supplying "Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs" decals, pledge cards, and prizes.

2013 SKILLFUL ANGLER AWARDS PROGRAM

Don't forget about the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife's 2014 Skillful Angler Awards Program. Each year anglers have a chance to submit freshwater and saltwater fish that are close or over

New Jersey state records and are recognized through the Skillful Angler Awards Program. Participation is open to all ages and skill levels. In 1983, the program began with 31 applicants. During 2013, 133 applications representing 24 different species were officially processed. Since the program's modest beginning, the Division has granted skillful angler status to 3,552 anglers. For more information about New Jersey's Skillful Angler program, including minimum size requirements for entry, visit [this link](#).

2014 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

It takes the support of many volunteers to bring successes to the fishing community but sometimes individuals and sport-fishing organizations go above and beyond to make the future of fishing better for our youngsters. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is accepting nominations for the 2014 Youth Education Award. Please submit your nominations by October 15, 2014. Submit your nominations in writing at the JCAA monthly meeting or email the JCAA Youth Education Committee, gkucharews@jcaa.org.

CAPE MAY NJ AUDUBON

Members of the JCAA Youth Education Committee will meet at the New Jersey Audubon Nature Center of Cape May. The purpose is to discuss partnership opportunities with the Nature Center of Cape May and their youth and family fishing initiatives. Last August, we assisted Dr. Eleanor Bochenek, Director, Fisheries Cooperative Center, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University with providing fishing seminars for children attending the Nature Center fishing camp.

FLY TIER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the following two events: Fly tying program at Chews Landing, for NJ HOFNOD. Fly tying date is Thursday, June 19, 2014, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. We will need about five volunteers to help 15 – 20 youngsters tie flies.

Urban Promise High School Environmental Learning Community, Pennsauken, NJ, Wednesday, April 2, 2014, Thirty-three 10, 11, and 12th grade students. Program starts at 8:15 am and ends at 10:15 am. Students will be split into two groups, group 1 will learn Macroinvertebrate training while group 2 is receiving fly tying the first hour and then flip for the second hour.

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@jcaa.org.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club's (NB&FCC) annual Kids Fishing Derby is held each year at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside, N. J. and is free for children 16 years of age and younger. Adults are welcome to enter for a nominal charge.

The Derby runs for three weeks starting from April 12 and going through May 3, 2014. NB&FCC members wearing club jackets will be at the registration booth located at the gazebo on the lower lake and registrations will be accepted from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on the first Saturday of the derby only. Children that have registered will receive a gift bag at the derby location up until 2:00 P.M. on the first Saturday of the derby. Prizes for the derby will be awarded at the Newark Bait And Fly Casting Club's meeting on June 3, 2014 at 8:00 P.M.

29TH ANNUAL HOOKED ON THE HUDSON

May 3, 2014, the Hudson River Fishermen's Association will host the 29th Annual Hooked on the Hudson, at Ross Dock, Palisades Interstate Park, Hudson Riverfront located immediately north of the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee, New Jersey. For detailed directions check njpalisades.org or go to the Hudson River Fishermen's Association's Web site www.hrfan.org.

NATIONAL FISHING & BOATING WEEK

NF&BW Free Fishing Days in New Jersey are Saturday & Sunday June 14 & 15, 2014. 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 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 J.C.A.A. Youth Education Committee coordinated fishing and aquatic education programs for the week-long celebration of National Fishing

Week. This year we will be working with disadvantaged students in Monmouth County. 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.

WINTER FLOUNDER FISHING

During early spring, there are a number of places to try your luck fishing for winter flounder. The following locations are easy to access from shore: Point Pleasant Canal - Bay Avenue - Pinebluff Ave., and by the bridges. Manasquan Inlet - both sides are productive and the Mantoloking bridge area. Shark River Inlet and Barnegat Inlet - you might also hook into Striped Bass if you are using worms, but fresh clams work well for both species. Cut the clams into small strips and use a small hook. Winter flounder have a mouth about the size of a Cheerio. Remember to check the New Jersey Marine Digest for rules and regulations.

JCAA 20th Annual

Fluke

Tournament

August 23, 2014