

JCAA NEWSPAPER MARCH 2019

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on February 20th, 2019)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, February 26th, 2019

Starting at 7:30 PM

385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 14th, 2019

Starting at 7:30 PM at JCAA Office

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

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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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Cors. Sec.	Paul Turi	609-660-2126
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Tournament Dir.		

Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

February 26th JCAA General Meeting

February 27th-March 3th Atlantic City Boat Show

March 14th JCAA Board Meeting

March 15th-17th Saltwater Expo

March 26th JCAA General Meeting

June 15th JCAA 25th Annual Fluke Tournament

June 20th JCAA Tournament Awards Presentation

JCAA 25TH Anniversary Fluke Tournament June 15th

By Paul Turi, Tournament Director

As I reported in last month's article, this year will be the **25th anniversary** of the JCAA Fluke Tournament. When we started this tournament 25 years ago, we held the tournament in the middle of June every year. For our anniversary tournament this year we have decided to move the tournament back to June. The tournament will be held on **Saturday, June 15th** and the Awards Presentations will be held on Thursday, June 20th at the Clarion Hotel in Toms River, NJ.

The Fluke Tournament committee felt this is the right thing to do. It will level the playing field for the bay fishermen and especially for fishermen in south Jersey who get the fish early.

Also, when we started this tournament 25 years ago, this was a more family-oriented tournament. The 1st place prize has always been \$1200. In the last five years we have gravitated towards a more money-oriented tournament, but the biggest prize has always been the boat, motor and trailer door prize drawing.

The tournament is for everyone, the family-oriented fisherman who likes to fish with maybe his spouse or spouse and children and the big money fisherman who wants to win a lot of money. It attracts the novice to the "sharpie." It's \$150 to enter the tournament and you can have up to six fishermen with six lines in the water. Split six ways it's \$25 per man

to fish and have a shot at winning either the \$1200 1st place prize or one of the other nine prizes for each region. We estimate that the average boat has four fishermen on board which split four ways would be \$37.50 per man. And remember, you don't have to buy into the calcuttas. You have the option to opt out of that category or maybe you'd like to add one or more of the calcuttas; the choice is yours. But one thing I would do is enter the Big Fish \$50,000 prize category. That to me is a no-brainer. You never know when you're going to drop your line in the water and hit that big guy in the head. We've all been there and done that at one time or another; just dumb luck. Basically, it's \$25 for insurance. As we saw last year, a fisherman caught a fish over 12lbs. but was not entered in the Big Fish category.

As I also said in last month's column, last year we combined Great Bay, Ocean City, Atlantic City, Cape May and Fortescue into one region with one set of 10 prizes for that region. We could no longer continue to pay out all the prize money for those five ports individually. We do not have a 1st place prize sponsor for any of those five ports who is willing to donate the \$1,200 1st place prize. Last year we only had three sponsors who donated the \$1200 1st place prize for their regions/ports: Fisherman's Headquarters for the LBI region, Liberty Landing Marina for the Jersey City region and South Harbor Marina in Waretown for the Barnegat Bay region. JCAA has to payout the \$1200 1st place prize money for each of the other regions.

Again, there were a few people in the Southern Region who were not happy with combining those five ports into one region. Here are the entries by region for each port in the southern region so you understand why we had to do it.

Manasquan Region	43 entries
Sandy Hook Region	41 entries
Barnegat Bay Region	35 entries
Shark River Region	25 entries
Long Beach Island Region	18 entries
Jersey City Region	18 entries
Southern Region	43 entries

- Great Bay (16)
- Ocean City (15)
- Cape May (9)
- Atlantic City (3)
- Fortescue (0)

As you can see, not one of those five ports in the Southern Region brings in enough entries to justify paying out the \$1,200 for the 1st place prize money and also any money we have to spend on any of the 2nd thru 10th place prizes we have to purchase if we don't have a sponsor.

Jersey City only had 18 entries last year but Liberty Landing Marina donated the \$1,200 1st place prize. Long Beach Island only had 18 entries but Fisherman's Headquarters has been donating the \$1,200 1st place prize money for as long as I can remember and I've been with JCAA 21 years.

So, since we are celebrating our 25th Anniversary this year, we have decided to move the tournament back to June.

For our fluke tournament over the last five years we have been paying out over \$60,000 in money and merchandize prizes. Starcraft Boats, Yamaha Motors and Yacht Club Trailers have donated a boat, motor and trailer and you don't even have to catch a fish to win the prize. We give it away in a raffle drawing at our awards presentations.

We also offer \$50,000 for the largest fish over 12lbs. **Someone is going to win that \$50,000!**

So, if you want to help recreational fishing in NJ, help JCAA help you and the other 1,000,000 fishermen in NJ by getting involved and fishing in the tournament this year.

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

At the January 29th meeting the newly elected officers were voted in to lead this great Association for the next year. I was elected to be President and I will continue to do my best to lead with the newly elected officers. Congratulations to the other newly elected officers John Toth (1st VP), Bill Browne (2nd VP), Doug Tegeder (Treasurer), Paul Turi (Corresponding Secretary), Paul Haertel (Membership Secretary). No member volunteered to be Recording Secretary this year. If you are interested in that position please contact me.

As you should have read in past newsletters, we are holding a different kind of monthly meeting this February. JCAA is usually a closed meeting for member clubs to conduct business. On February 26th for the first time we will be holding an open meeting to invite any associate member or non-member club

that is interested in seeing how JCAA holds its meeting. I hope to see some new faces at that meeting.

It is time for the flea markets and outdoor shows. JCAA had a table at the 2019 Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series on February 9th. We would like to thank George Poveromo and the Salt Water Magazine for the opportunity to be present during the seminar to promote JCAA. We will also have a booth at the Atlantic City Boat Show (February 27th to March 3rd) which is coming fast and Salt Water Fishing Expo (March 15th to 17th). As always, we are looking for volunteers to work the booth on those dates. If you or a member of your club can volunteer some hours to promote JCAA, please contact me ASAP. I am putting a volunteer list together now. My contact information is mtsport64@aol (subject: Show Volunteer) and 732-245-9445.

Past President Paul Haertel and his wife Linda outdid themselves coordinating the 2nd Annual JCAA Beefsteak Dinner on February 16th. I would like to give a big thanks to the Forked River Tuna Club for the use of their facility. Everybody that attended enjoyed the presentation by Paul Haertel on JCAA. We also had another great presentation on trolling with wire and braid for Striped Bass by Anthony Maja of Tony Maja Products. Anthony, thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule to do your presentation. If you missed it this time don't miss next time.

JCAA is looking at ways to cut expenses. As you know, a dollar is not going as far as it used to. One of the areas that we are looking at is the newsletter. The cost of print has gone up and a lot of other organizations are going to an electronic Newsletter. We are looking to go more electronic on the newsletter and only print the necessary copies. If you are currently getting a hard copy and would like to help by getting an electronic copy, email us at jcaa@jcaa.org or calling the office at 732-506-6565.

The Fluke Tournament Committee is already working on this year's Annual Fluke Tournament. The fluke tournament this year will be held on June 15th and the awards presentations on June 20th.

I have been at some of the member clubs to speak. If you would like me or an officer to speak at your club, please send an email to mtsport64@aol.com and in the subject put "Speak at Club."

The next JCAA General Meeting is February 26th at 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick NJ, 08724. Mark your calendar for the meeting in March which is on the 26th. Remember, JCAA is always here for you, but we need more people to get involved to help protect the future of our fisheries.

Striped Bass: Where Are We Headed

By Tom Fote

There will be some interesting decisions made on the management of striped bass in the near future. The reason the regulations will be up for discussion is the most recent benchmark stock assessment. Because of the recent government shutdown, the document we discussed at the winter meeting of ASMFC was not the final version. But the draft document stated that we were exceeding the reference points on where the spawning stocks should be. This is after all the states took a 25% reduction a few years ago. Basically, the stock assessment says that the current regulations are not rebuilding the striped bass stocks to the base year of 1995 and that we are overfished and overfishing is taking place. The striped bass management plan calls for us to take action. Before we make these decisions, there is important information everyone should have.

My History with Striped Bass

First, my history with striped bass dates to my childhood. I fished in Brooklyn on piers and occasionally on a party boat with my father. My real introduction to striped bass fishing was on the beaches of Coney Island. One day I saw an angler who had caught a striped bass on the jetty fishing overnight. That is when I became passionate about catching a striped bass. My fishing was interrupted when I went into the army in 1966 and didn't begin again until I was in the hospital at Fort Dix in 1970. While recovering, my therapy was fishing. The first thing I did when I came home from the hospital was a party boat trip with my father fishing for bluefish.

In 1970 my then girlfriend who is now my wife of 44 years took me to Island Beach State Park to surf fish. A family friend introduced me to the Berkeley Striper Club (BSC) and I became a member in 1972. Since I had free time due to my medical retirement from the service, I was asked to start attending

meetings on striped bass. I was lucky enough to meet people like Bob Pond who started Atom Lures. He was volunteering his time to go to clubs from Maine to North Carolina explaining that striped bass was in trouble. I was not a fluke fisherman, a tautog fisherman, a black sea bass fisherman. I fished for striped bass and bluefish. In this period of time, there was much discussion about the collapse of the Chesapeake striped bass stocks. In 1983 BSC asked me to represent them at JCAA. From 1983 to 1987 there was an ongoing discussion at JCAA about whether or not to work to make striped bass a no-sale fish in New Jersey alone or work on the coastwide no-sale.

When I became vice-president, after much discussion, JCAA voted to support NJ Senator Lou Bassano's bill to make striped bass a no-sale fish in New Jersey. It is important to know who was selling fish in NJ at that time. Many of the hard-core striped bass fishermen who belonged to clubs in that era were what we call "pin hookers". They were selling most of their catch to pay for their fishing passion. New Jersey's law was one of the strictest along the coast. We had one of the highest size limits and we were the only state that had a bag limit on the number of striped bass you could keep. There was no net fishery so it was all hook and line. At that time I was recreationally fishing almost 200 days a year and bicycling 6000 miles a year. When JCAA voted to support passage of the bill, I took on the responsibility for passage of the bill. I was naïve. I really did not know about state or federal politics. I knew how the management of striped bass and the agencies for their management worked since I started attending meetings for BSC and JCAA. As fishing had been my passion, now getting this bill passed was my passion. JCAA lost 5 of the original founding clubs of JCAA since their members sold fish and they would not support no-sale. I visited almost every club in NJ and began visiting coastwide clubs seeking their support. In the 70's I actually belonged to Save Our Stripers in NY which was also pursuing no-sale. This battle changed the course of my life. I started going to ASMFC meetings and learned I had no respect for how they were managing striped bass or how the board was controlled. Even as a Governor's or Legislative Appointee, you were not allowed to sit on a management board. The management board for striped bass had representatives from only 5 states, consisting mainly of the states with a large commercial fishery, NY,

Massachusetts, Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey. JCAA started sending me to ASMFC meetings to represent our interests. I built friendships with people at the meetings from other states who shared my passion for the protection of striped bass and, in some instances, for making striped bass a no-sale fish.

Three years of my life was spent on the NJ legislation, going to hearings, meeting with politicians and clubs. I'm a fast learner and I had some good teachers. The culmination was in 1991 at a JCAA meeting at the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers building when Governor Florio signed the striped bass no-sale bill with Senator Lou Bassano on one side and Assemblyman John Paul Doyle on the other; the bill that people said I could not get passed. When you are in my house you see a copy of the bill, a pen from the signing and a picture from that night prominently displayed. I felt that was my first accomplishment for JCAA and our member clubs. We went from 36 clubs to 100 clubs which included clubs from Maine to North Carolina, all wanting to work on coastwide no-sale. JCAA was so passionate about promoting catch and release that when we started the Governor's Surfing Tournament we had judges riding the beach so people could catch and release any fish they caught. We only measured the length and that is still how it works 25 years later.

It is important for me to explain my philosophy for supporting making striped bass a no-sale fish. Striped bass along the coast was mainly a recreational caught fish. Outside of the Chesapeake Bay the commercial market was largely made up of a hook and line fishery. In NJ and Massachusetts, the commercial catch of striped bass was totally a hook and line fishery, mainly made up of recreational anglers selling their catch. People supported striped bass no-sale for different reasons. Some want all fish to be catch and release. Some wanted an abundant fishery for everyone to have the opportunity to land one of the biggest fish from the surf. My feeling was it was the only game fish we could protect that so everyone could harvest, rich or poor. Some of the best striped bass fishermen I know fish with gear that is not expensive. They repaint their plugs and reuse everything and they are some of the best striped bass anglers. Because I grew up fishing on party and charter boats, I realized anglers took home fish to feed their families. I felt that if we eliminated the commercial sale of striped bass there would be enough fish to provide the all recreational anglers with a quality fishery. Recreationally, I have always

understood both the catch and release community and the catch-for-dinner community. The overriding factor is that this needs to be a sustainable fishery with large enough numbers that it can be a quality fishery for all sectors. Striped bass has gotten me involved in ocean dumping, water protection, renewable energy, endocrine disruptors and many other areas. It has changed my life as it has for many other anglers.

1995 Regulations

To understand today's discussion, you need to understand the regulations that were put in place in 1995. I have been at the striped bass board meetings since 1986. At that time the public was not allowed to ask questions and neither were ASMFC Commissioners who were not state directors. In 1989 the discussions began about how to re-open the fishery since many of the states along the east coast had a total moratorium on fishing for striped bass but the stocks had begun rebuilding. The 1989 year class was one of the best in striped bass history and pushed the 3-year average high enough to allow for the resumption of the fishery. During the discussions at the striped bass board meeting and with the advice of the technical committee, the board debated all day long about whether or not to open the fishery with 2 fish at 24 inches in the Chesapeake Bay and 2 fish at 34 inches along the coast recreationally and with the same size limit commercially with quotas. Before the board broke at 9:30 PM the audience was asked for comment. I was pushed to speak for the audience and asked the board for an opportunity to speak before the vote the following day. The board agreed and we went to sleep. The next day they opened the meeting at 8:30, made a motion to open the fishery at 18 inches in Chesapeake Bay and 28 inches along the coast. That motion was passed in 45 minutes without public comment. At 1:00 they asked for our comments and I was again the spokesperson. I said, "You don't give a damn what we have to say but you will in the future."

Because of that board meeting the community was excited to be more involved and began attending more striped bass meetings. There were no longer 5 or 6 of us in the audience but more often 30 or 40. The ASMFC commissioners began hearing from the recreational anglers and the process began to open. By the time the 1995 amendment was being drafted, the recreational sector along the

coast had developed a stronger voice. There were not only ASMFC commissioners from the states who were speaking at board meetings. The 1995 amendment was an example of our participation. It was designed to have a quality fishery and the base year was the year that we declared the fishery recovered, the highest point we had seen since we started the striped bass emergency act in the early 80's. The referent points, unlike other fisheries, were made more precautionary. I was one of the three NJ ASMFC Commissioners making those striped bass management decisions.

In 1995 the participation in the striped bass fishery was different than it is now along the coast. But so was every other fishery. It is important to understand what was happening in 1995. We were still benefitting from the large number of big striped bass that were protected during the moratorium that was in place from the 80's through the early 90's. Many of the states had not opened the fishery to 2 fish at 28 inches along the coast and put in seasons that were more conservative than required. There was also a smaller group of anglers. Most striped bass fishermen were like me, we didn't talk about catching fluke, black sea bass or tautog. Our 24/7 talk was about striped bass fishing. The seasons were open all year for black sea bass, fluke, scup and tautog. Summer flounder had a 10 fish bag at 14 inch size limit and no closed season. Most of the people I fished with or knew didn't like striped bass for dinner and fished for other species for food. There were not as many striper fishermen in general, even fewer who were taking striped bass home to eat. That was part of the big increase in the number of private, party and charter boats targeting striped bass. The 1995 amendment was good based on the era for which it was written. It allowed for a fantastic fishery on big fish throughout the 90's and into the early 2000's.

The New Fisheries in the 2000's

Because of the concerns of the MidAtlantic Fisheries Management Council and ASMFC, there was a dramatic change in the way we manage fisheries jointly. We kept raising size limits and shortening seasons and cutting bag limits. Anglers who fished for their tables had fewer opportunities to bring fish home. There were periods of time that striped bass and bluefish were the only fisheries without closed seasons. Anglers discovered they were spending a great deal of time, effort and money with little to show for it if their target was fluke, black sea bass or tautog. So it was the natural move for many private, party and

charter boats moving into the striped fishery, especially since it was open year-round. The abundance allowed for novices to meet with success. All you had to do was snag a bunker and you were a striped bass fisherman. The pressure on the striped bass population resulted in fewer trophy fish being caught. In the 90's the hook and release mortality rate was greater than the number of fish we were taking home to eat. By the 2000's we began putting more pressure on the stocks. Because people were taking more fish home to eat and the hook and release mortality increased because more fish were being hooked and released, the stocks actually began to change and there were fewer big fish available. This is the natural progression for a recovered fishery. The question is whether or not this is sustainable.

Hook and release mortality has always played a big role in the striped bass stocks. In 2017 and 2018 the hook and release mortality exceeded the number of fish anglers were taking home to eat. The catch and release fishermen generally turn a deaf ear when we talk about catch and release mortality, denying they contribute to the problem with the stocks. In the late 90's a friend of mine from NY, one of the leading striped bass conservationists, and I were having a discussion about striped bass management. We were discussing the two fish bag limit allowed to charter boats in NY. Since he had become a catch and release fisherman after many years of fishing, he thought they should only be allowed a one fish bag limit even though at that time there was no problem with the stock. I suggested he consider the angler who took two fish home. This angler may make 5 trips a year on a charter boat. If the angler is lucky enough, he/she kills 10 fish to take home to eat. The angler probably caught and released a few other fish on those 5 trips. We agreed the angler releases 30 fish on those trips. With 8% mortality, the angler has killed 2.4 fish in his releases for an estimated total of 13 striped bass he/she killed that year. The catch and release angler who was fishing almost every day, lands hundreds of fish in a season. I suggested that once this angler catches 160 fish, he/she should stop because the catch and release mortality is 12.8 fish. Since a dead fish is a dead fish no matter if it is a catch and release or kept fish. The angler on the charter boat is more likely to be using heavier tackle, fishing in the spring and fall when the water is cold and in saltwater. These factors lower the catch and

release mortality. The higher the water temperature, the greater the catch and release mortality. The lower the salinity of the water, the greater the hook and release mortality. A study by Maryland showed the higher the air temperature, the greater the hook and release mortality. So the year-round angler probably has a higher hook and release mortality due to the climate issues since he is fishing a lot more. For example, if you are fishing in a river where the water is fresh or brackish, the water temperature is high, the air temperature is high and you are using light tackle so the fight is longer, the catch and release mortality is extremely high. The studies again prove this is true. Catch and release anglers need to consider these factors before they blame other anglers who take a few fish a year for the table for problems with the stocks. We each need to put ourselves in other's shoes before we condemn them and put our own homes in order.

Where Are We Now

We have a striped bass fishery that has expanded. Unlike the 90's striped bass is important to the party and charter boats. It has also grown increasingly important to all the private owners who cannot fish for fluke, tautog or black sea bass in closed seasons or with the increasing size limits. The science tells us that the present spawning stock biomass is more than high enough to produce the highest young of the year in Chesapeake Bay. In spite of the skepticism I received when I said the spawning stock biomass was high enough to produce the highest young of the year when we were discussing the last addendum, the facts proved I was correct. The 2011 year class was the 4th highest in history of the young of the year. The 2015 year class was the 8th highest in the young of the year index in the over 70 year history. The hook and release mortality was going down but has increased in the last few years. It is also a fact that we are never returning to the way the recreational fishery operated in 1995 or the 2000's. This is the first benchmark stock assessment in which we are using the adjusted recreational catch numbers which show an increase in both catch and participation from the methods we historically used.

There are also things that are affecting fish populations that have nothing to do with fishing pressure. The water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and the warming of the waters inside the bay and elsewhere are just two of them. Then there is added pressure on the harvest of the forage species that striped bass count on. NJ beach replenishment has

impacted many species. I can list many more but these are things that we cannot control through fisheries management.

Management Choices

The ASMFC will be focusing its attention on what we do in either a new addendum or amendment. What we decide will have a huge impact on the recreational fishing industry, the anglers and the states. These decisions should be made thoughtfully and deliberately. They need to include all stakeholders and look at the long-term consequences on what we do. All options should be on the table and be discussed with the general public. In the mission statement of ASMFC it states that we are managing fisheries to be sustainable. That means different things to different people. Below I am listing some of the options that are available to us. I have not taken a position on any option at this time since I need more information and a discussion about the long-term impact of each of the options on the fishing community. There are more that may come up for discussion.

1. Season closures – We could close the fishery when the highest hook and release mortality takes place.
2. Size limits – We could raise the size limits though that might raise the hook and release mortality as anglers continue to fish until a legal fish is caught.
3. Education – We could work with anglers to lower the hook and release mortality.
4. Research on poaching – We need a better handle on the amount of poaching and better law enforcement especially in areas like Raritan Bay and the EEZ.
5. Changed reference points – This could allow us to continue fishing as we do now since we would identify the stock as sustainable at a lower number.
6. A combination of options or others now mentioned here

The Impossible Dream

It might be easier to get 10 striped bass together to agree on management issues than to get 10 striped bass fishermen to agree. I am always an optimist and realize that compromise is essential to

deal with the needs of many. All of us are going to have to give a little to make this work. No one will be totally satisfied. I haven't dedicated 40 years of my life to striped bass management to give up now. But I am also not going to manage this fishery for just one sector of the recreational community. I have not been paid by anyone or any group in all the years I been doing these many jobs. Since I am a 100% disabled veteran and retired military officer, I did not need to get paid. I always have seen this as continuing my service.

Fluke, Sea Bass and Striped Bass Regulatory Update

By Paul Haertel

Fluke - We are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to liberalize our regulations slightly. New Jersey under fished its quota for 2018 and the overall coast wide quota was previously set to rise slightly for 2019. However, there will be a joint meeting of the ASMFC and MAFMC on 3/6 and 3/7 when new specifications are expected to be set after the latest stock assessment is reviewed. Hopefully, the new specifications will allow us to liberalize. I may be getting ahead of myself but I am hoping that if we are allowed to liberalize, that this will be accomplished by adding days to the end of the season to further close the gap between when fluke season ends and sea bass season begins. Perhaps a couple days could be added to the beginning of the season as well to placate the back-bay fishermen, particularly those in southern NJ. I doubt that we will be able to liberalize enough to reduce the size limit or increase the bag limit because that would likely result in a much shorter season. For those who may be interested in a slot limit, it is simply not going to happen this year because it would drastically reduce the season length.

Sea Bass - At the ASMFC meeting on 2/5, the Scup, Summer Flounder, and Sea Bass Management Board approved status quo measures for sea bass this year. All states or regions will be allowed to have the same regulations as in 2018. States or regions do have the right to propose something different as long as it is conservationally equivalent but I doubt if NJ will change anything.

Striped Bass - The ASMFC Striped Bass Board met on 2/6 but the new stock assessment was not yet

available due to the recent government shutdown. However, the preliminary results are poor. The spawning stock biomass is approaching the threshold and the stock is over fished and over fishing is occurring. The board will review the new assessment at their May meeting. At that time there will most likely be a debate as to whether to adjust the reference points so that further restrictions will not have to be mandated or to take corrective action to increase the spawning stock biomass. The board did approve tasking the technical committee with creating at least one example of what the coastwide regulations might look like in order to bring the spawning stock biomass back up towards its target. The possibility of a new addendum will be discussed at this meeting as well and, if approved, it would be ready for public comment in October. Should that be the route the board chooses to take, we may be forced to have more stringent regulations through an increase in size limit or by establishing seasons. Under this scenario we could have new regulations in 2020 or the board could decide to create an entire new amendment which might take even longer. Regardless, though, there will be no mandated regulatory changes this year.

Lastly, the Board voted to draft a letter to NOAA opposing the opening of striper fishing in the Block Island Transit Zone (BITZ) but they will not send it until after they review the new stock assessment in May. The BITZ is an area of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) where boats are allowed to pass through to get back to the mainland while in possession of striped bass they caught near Block Island. The possession of striped bass is prohibited in any other area of the EEZ and even targeting them anywhere in the EEZ is prohibited. JCAA strongly supports this conservation measure and applauds the board for drafting their letter.

about how JCAA operates. The meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on **February 26** at the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers Club located at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ. Annual dues for club membership are \$50 while associate memberships cost \$25. Light refreshments will be served beginning at 7 PM. Seating is limited and we also want to order the appropriate amount of food, so please contact our membership secretary, Paul Haertel at 973-943-8201 or anglerpmh@aol.com if you plan on attending.

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association is a charitable non-profit 501(c)3 organization that was formed in 1981. The original objective of the JCAA, that continues today, was to combine a group of marine sportfishing clubs in order to form and promote a united consensus on issues relevant to saltwater anglers in New Jersey. Amongst the topics likely to be discussed at this meeting are the recently signed Modern Fishing Act, the proposed windmills off our coast, sand mining, the new striped bass stock assessment, forage species, youth education activities, and what our regulations might look like this year for fluke, sea bass, stripers and perhaps other species.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

NJ HOFNOD NEWS

Members of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association Committee encourage member clubs to attend 2019 New Jersey HOFNOD, facilitator training hosted by the DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife at Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education in Waretown, NJ. The training date is May 17-19, 2019 and it is well worth the time to learn creative aquatic activities to teach youngsters the importance becoming environmental stewards. During the training session you will learn the following activities: Conservation & Experiential Education Concept Mapping - Ecological Awareness & Wildlife Interdependence - First Impressions, exploring our “perception” about wildlife and ourselves, Rods and Reels - Know your Lures & bait, Exploring the water (hydrologic) cycle, and Fly Tying. HOFNOD is a great way to introduce youth to fishing, their local waters and other natural resources while supporting positive outdoor recreation and life skills. This workshop is for adult staff and volunteers of youth-centered organizations looking to

JCAA Seeks New Members – Open House 2/26/19

By Paul Haertel

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association is seeking new member clubs as well as associate (individual) members. For the first time ever, JCAA is opening its general membership meeting to those who may be interested in joining or learning more

offer a youth fishing program. The program is flexible enough to be tailored to fit most organizations. If you are interested in attending a NJ HOFNOD workshop, please phone or email Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Coordinator at 908-637-4125 x122 or via email at liz.jackson@dep.state.nj.us. Registration is required and due by May 1, 2019.

The Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program's Youth Fishing Challenge is a statewide event to promote fishing among youths and their families. It is being held on the first of the state's two Free Fishing Days, Saturday, June 8, when no license is required to fish regardless of age. "[Hook-A-Winner" Program](#) will receive a special prize following the event. For more information and to register your group location visit: [Youth Fishing Challenge](#). Deadline to register as a host site is March 15, 2019.

BRICK HIGH SCHOOL NJ HOFNOD

Brick High School NJ HOFNOD completed a number of activities along with fishing trips. We will feature their accomplishment in the JCAA April 2019 newspaper.

HIGH SCHOOL FISHING TEAM COMPETITION

New Jersey high school fishing teams are working on strategies for the 2019 Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. Sign your team up now. The deadline to apply is May 1, 2019. Send in your application early, visit the following link to download the [registration form](#).

I know Toms River South HS Fishing Indians are guided by Paul Harris, NJBBA and their team is gearing up for the tournament. This year, we expect a lot more school participation to compete for the High School Team trophy. If your school would like to register for the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament, please visit [High School Team Rules](#).

UPCOMING 2019 EVENTS

- The International Game Fish Association's New Jersey Representatives announce their 22nd Annual Fund Raising Banquet and Auction will be held on Friday, April 5, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Doolan's Shore Club located on Route 71 in Spring Lake Heights, New Jersey. Hosted by New Jersey representatives Rich Keller, Dave

Matagiese, Jeff Merrill and Gene Nigro, proceeds from the evening will benefit IGFA's Junior Angler and Conservation Programs. For further information contact Jeff Merrill at 908-451-1110 or via e-mail at jeffmerrill2@verizon.net.

- Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club, Kids Fishing Night - March 5, 2019 7-9 pm and their annual Kids Fishing Derby, April 13, 2019 through May 4, 2019. For more information, contact Bob Jones at bjonesjrj@hotmail.com or by phone at 908-272-3545.
- The Shark River Surf Anglers are proud to announce the 2019 edition of the annual Trout Contest for Kids at Spring Lake, NJ. Read more on their [website](#).
- Hooked on the Hudson - The Palisades Interstate Park New Jersey and the Hudson River Fishermen's Association will host the 33rd Annual Hooked on the Hudson. This is a great time for kids at Ross. Dock read more on their [website](#).

TAKE A VETERAN FISHING

On Saturday, May 4, 2019, 9am until 2pm, Mr. Vito Cardinale, President Cardinale Enterprises LLC, will host the 2019 Third Annual Take A Veteran Fishing Day at Lake Julianna, Ponderosa Estates Farm, Millstone Township, NJ 08535.

"Play HOOK-e From PTSD" is the theme for disabled veterans that will attend the third annual FREE Play HOOK-e Take A Veteran Fishing Day. The goal of the fishing day at Lake Julianna is to provide a chance to go fishing for disabled veterans and to relax while enjoying the peaceful surroundings of Lake Julianna with other veterans.

Disabled veterans are invited to fish at this private lake to catch and release big fish and then join Mr. Vito Cardinale and his staff of volunteers that will provide soft drinks, pizza, hamburgers & hotdogs and other goodies for the free BBQ. As in the past, Mr. Cardinale and his team are proud to serve our veterans that have given so much for our country.

Veterans with mobility challenges will have the use of 4x4 transportation around the lake, along with fishing assistance if needed. Freshwater fishing license is not need because this is a private lake. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Jersey Shore

Chapter will assist with fly fishing instruction and their members are also welcome to join in and catch some big fish on a fly rod. Boating Education and Rescue will assist with their mobile education booth and equipment.

We have door prizes, loaner rods and reels, terminal tackle, bait, and other fishing equipment available to insure you have an enjoyable time.

The event is sponsored by Cardinale Enterprises LCC and supported by Vietnam Veterans

of America Shore Area Chapter 12, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Boating Education and Rescue and the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. Register and receive directions for this free event at [Take a Vet Fishing](#).

Mr. Cardinale is doing great things to help our veterans and youngsters along with providing a new sports complex called Adventure Crossing for all to enjoy. Check it out at this link: [Adventure Crossing USA](#).