

JCAA NEWSPAPER SEPTEMBER 2019

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on August 27th 2019)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, September 24th, 2019

Starting at 7:30 PM

385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 17th, 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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Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

Hearings on Striped Bass Addendum VI

September 3rd Roselle Park Borough Hall

September 4th Ocean City Public Library

September 12th Community Center, Manahawkin

September 17th JCAA Board Meeting

September 24th JCAA General Meeting

October 7th-10th Joint ASMFC & MAFMC Meeting

October 10th JCAA Board Meeting

October 27th ASMFC Annual Meeting

October 29th JCAA General Meeting

November 10th JCAA Sportsperson Dinner

Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner

By Paul Turi, Co-chairman

On Sunday, November 10th, 2019 we will be having our Sportsperson of the Year Dinner. This year the dinner will be held at the beautiful Martell's Water's Edge, 125 Bayview Ave., Bayville, NJ from 4-8 pm. Tickets again this year are \$80 per person and \$650 for a table of 10. To reserve your tickets, call Dan Miller at (609) 641-7821 or email Dan at blueangray@comcast.net.

As of this writing I am not sure if we are doing a buffet style dinner or a sit-down dinner, but, please, we MUST give a head count one month prior to the dinner, so please call or email Dan and let him know whether or not you or your club is attending and how many will be attending.

At this time we are not sure who the guest speaker is going to be. And, as usual, we will be having a Chinese auction, silent auction and plenty of door prizes.

We are now accepting nominations for this year's sportsperson of the year. If you want to nominate someone, please submit a bio of approximately 250 words. You can email your nomination to me at pturi72@gmail.com or you can

present your nomination at the September General Membership Meeting on September 24th. We will be voting for our sportsperson of the year at this meeting.

I am also in need of door prizes and Chinese Auction and Silent Auction prizes. If you have something to donate, please contact me at (609) 709-9215 or email me at pturi72@gmail.com. It would help if each of our member clubs donated a prize or solicited the bait and tackle shops that its members support.

And remember, bring your significant other. I always have prizes for the ladies too!

At the present time we have two nominations for sportsperson-of-the-year. Below are the two nominations.

*The Berkeley Striper Club nominates **John A. Tiedemann** for the JCAA Sportsperson-of-the-Year award.*

John is the Assistant Dean at Monmouth University's School of Science and Director of the Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy Program. Since 1978, John's career has been dedicated to protecting marine habitats and water quality. He has helped identify sources of marine pollution and developed best practices for the management of marine fisheries, watersheds and coastal zones. John also works with Stripers Forever to protect striped bass and to restore the species.

In addition to his work as a researcher, scientist and educator, John is an avid angler and waterman who has been recognized with appointments to the Fisheries Conservation Foundation Board of Directors, the Advisory Committee to the NJ Sea Grant Consortium, the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation Education Sub-committee and various other organizations.

You may see John on the beach fishing or with Monmouth University students collecting striped data and biological specimens and tagging released fish. John has introduced his students to fishing and helped them to catch their first striper.

In 2015, 1,000 striped bass posters were distributed to every bait and tackle shop and marina in NJ. John helped develop and distribute those posters along with 10,000 copies of the Striped Bass Catch and Release

length/weight cards available for free at shows, club meetings, and other events.

John presented at the American Fisheries Society 2018 Annual Meeting and 2019 Jersey Shore Surfcasters Surf Day.

John's work is built into his daily life and his continuous work to protect the marine environment makes him worthy of this award.

*The Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County nominates **Mr. Tim Dillingham** for JCAA's Sportsperson-of-the-Year Award.*

Tim Dillingham, Executive Director of the American Littoral Society, led a team of individuals representing the business community, recreational anglers and various environmental organizations to develop the language that would eventually be accepted by the legislature of New Jersey and recently signed on May 3, 2019 by Governor Murphy as the Public Beach Access law.

To address the ongoing problems of access to our beaches, Senator Bob Smith, head of the Senate's Environmental Committee, convened a task force in 2016 to develop provisions for a new Public Trust Doctrine that would codify and strengthen our state's obligation to provide access to its beaches and waterways. Tim led this task force, with its competing interest groups, to eventually arrive at language that would be acceptable for our legislators to approve and our governor to sign. It took approximately three years for Tim to accomplish this very difficult task.

Even with the passage of this bill, it will take time and effort to ensure that the provisions of this bill receive the follow-up and enforcement that are needed to achieve its goal of providing the access that we all are seeking. Tim is actively heading up this effort in conjunction with representatives from various fishing organizations and environmentalists.

Tim's tenacity in developing consensus with the various stakeholders to get the new Access Law passed in spite of frustrating delays and disappointments needs to be recognized by our recreational community through JCAA's prestigious Sportsperson of the Year Award.

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

As the summer is winding down, I hope everyone enjoyed a safe one. The start of a new school year for the young adults and kids is starting. As for the rest of us, our fishing seasons continue to move forward - and for some species, bag limits may increase or decrease. Make sure you get the correct information from reliable sources.

If you didn't participate in a New Format Fluke Tournament put together by JCAA Past President Paul Haertel, you missed a great tournament. This is a much smaller tournament than our annual statewide single-day Fluke Tournament but with a format altogether different. This tournament was a 3-day Tournament with a barbeque on Sunday after the weigh-in closed. There were 61 entries that participated and all had a great time with a lot of fluke being caught. Even though the ratio of small to keepers was large, there were a few skilled anglers that cashed in. Paul Haertel did an outstanding job coordinating this tournament basically on his own but we all know that his wife Linda was fully involved. I can't forget to mention that there were a small group of JCAA board members that helped where they could. Paul and Linda: congratulations on having a successful tournament. Paul has put things on our Facebook page and will give a summary later in this newsletter.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that there are a few issues to keep your eyes open for. There was an August ASMFC meeting in Washington, DC to discuss the management of American Eel, Horseshoe Crab, Atlantic Menhaden, Spiny Dogfish, Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, Tautog and Striped Bass to name a few. They talked about wind power also. There is too much information and discussion that went on to mention it all here, so I recommend you go to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission website. The meeting's final agenda, meeting materials and the meeting summary is there; you should read it. There will be some public meetings on species coming up shortly that you may want to attend and voice your opinion on.

Just a reminder that we will be having our Sportsman-of-the-Year Dinner on November 10th. This year as mentioned in the last newsletter, it will be

at another venue so check out Paul Turi's article for details. The clubs will be voting on who will receive this honor at our September general meeting, so make sure your club representative is at the meeting.

The next JCAA General Meeting is September 24th at 385 Herbertsville Road, Brick NJ, 08724. Make sure you mark your calendar. Remember, JCAA is always here for you, but we need more people to get involved to help protect the future of our fisheries.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Tom Fote

Striped Bass & Draft Addendum VI Update

Draft Addendum VI is going to public hearings in the states that will be impacted. The dates and times in NJ are in another article in the newspaper. The addendum gives options from staying at status quo or doing another reduction of the striped bass catch. There are several options listed for the recreational fishery. There will also be options for the commercial side. The addendum does not go into detail about the impact of the last round of regulation changes put in place for the last few years. There has also been a drop in the number of recreational trips in the last few years. We have the numbers for 2018 which showed over a 25% reduction in fish harvested by the recreational sector. There was a further drop in recreational trips in 2018. In 2018 the drop in recreational trips did not result in a comparative drop in hook and release mortality.

Some states proposed doing nothing on the commercial side and they stated they didn't think the commercial fishery was causing the problem. What I found ironic is that at the Striped Bass Board meeting a so-called NY recreational advocate, who consistently calls for reductions on recreational catch of most species including striped bass while protecting the commercial catch, said we should ignore the commercial catch and just make the reduction on the recreational side. I think he is more interested in getting reappointed to the MAFMC and collecting his paycheck than looking out for the common recreational anglers. He forgot to mention the millions of pounds of striped bass that are poached and the many court cases that prove this is happening.

He never talks about the rampant poaching that occurs in New York.

One of the other so-called recreational advocates for Massachusetts, who has been pushing for reductions in the last two addendums, was railing against how we should not stop anglers from killing big fish since it would affect tournaments and the people who wanted to weigh in big bass. At the same time he was trying to protect tournament anglers to kill big striped bass, he did not mention anything that would help address the 52% of the striped bass hook and release mortality.

At the Striped Bass Board Meeting, I discussed using the proper size hooks for striped bass and other species. I pointed out that at the recent JCAA Fluke Tournament, my colleagues and I decided to use 7/0 hooks so we would not catch undersized fluke and have to throw them back. We didn't want to increase the hook and release mortality. At the Board Meeting I also suggested we need to do the same for striped bass by using larger circle hooks to reduce the number of under-sized and gut-hooked fish. To my disappointment the only comments I received was from some charter boat captain who would not switch to 7/0 hooks because "my customers might not catch any fish and would not return for another charter." This shows we really need an education process for all segments of the angling public.

I am still waiting for the Board to deal with recreational discards since that makes up 52% of recreational mortality on striped bass. The Board completely ignores this in this addendum. It is the catch and release anglers who are calling for reductions in the number of fish that people can take home to eat. There is great concern that any of these proposed measures will do nothing to cut down on catch & release discard. The exact opposite would happen since it will be harder to catch a fish to take home for dinner. The new addendum will have no impact on the catch and release anglers since they can continue to catch and release all the fish they want.

Catch and release fishing is a serious problem that many of these anglers simply ignore. The catch and release mortality is often higher than these statistics would suggest. Fishing in the summertime in bays and estuaries with low salinity, a higher water temperature and a higher air temperature can significantly increase the catch and release mortality up to 40 or 50%. Maryland has done studies on this and it is on their webpage. When you try to talk about

this issue, the anglers generally suggest they know how to release fish safely. They fail to recognize what happens in a short time period when the stress shuts down the striped bass's system. These are people who should know better.

When the Berkeley Striper Club first got tags in mid-August in the 80's, one of my friends who fishes the Delaware River used his fresh water tackle to land many striped bass. He tagged and released every one of them. The water was hot, the salinity was low, the air temperature was hot. We were surprised to get all 10 tags back in less than 2 weeks. The person returning the tags asked what killed all the fish. I talked to scientists to find out what happened and that is when I became aware of the issues of catch and release in the warm summer temperatures. I was also convinced to no longer use light tackle when I am catching and releasing. I learned bringing a fish in more quickly decreases the stress on the fish. Less handling is better. I have yet to find a way to have this conversation and really convince the catch and release anglers to change their ways.

I have been working in fisheries management for a long time. I became involved in the fight to protect striped bass for the recreational community. For me, the recreational community has many facets. My job is to try to represent all recreational anglers, not a smaller sub group that is very vocal. They can afford to take time off to attend meetings. Because I grew up fishing from docks and peers in Brooklyn, I have a particular understanding of the "take a fish home to eat" anglers. My job is to work for sustainable fisheries that can accommodate all groups of anglers. I try to see each issue through everyone's eyes. Managers should also rely on the science. I will not represent an opinion that is not based on science.

I fought hard against the current reference points for black sea bass and summer flounder when I find the science is faulty and unfairly impacts the anglers. But I will not ignore the valid science on striped bass. What we are proposing under this addendum will hurt the industry without dealing with the underlying problems that are detrimental to the striped bass population. This addendum is supposed to protect a larger spawning stock biomass so there will be more fish to reproduce. It totally ignored that the current spawning stock biomass is higher than the spawning stock biomass was when it produced the highest young of the year. The issue is not recruitment since 2011 had the fourth highest young of the year index, 2015 had the eighth highest young

of the year index and we had good recruitment in 2016.

Everything I suggested in this article is based on what we can actually do at ASMFC. We continue to ignore all of the environmental issues that have a huge impact on the striped bass and other species. For now we continue to do what we can often punishing the recreational anglers. But our future must include serious discussions about the underlying issues.

I believe that we must work together to create a striped bass fishery that makes room for every type of striped bass angler. This will never happen unless we support all types of recreational fishing, not just our own.

I have also reprinted the March 2019 article on Striped Bass in the current issue of the JCAA Newspaper.

Striped Bass: Where Are We Headed

By Tom Fote

Reprinted from March 2019 Newsletter

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 Mid-Atlantic 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.

Fisheries Commission, 1050 North Highland Street Suite 200A-N, Arlington, VA 22201. Phone: (703) 842-0740, Fax: (703) 842-0741.

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will host the following hearings in New Jersey:

- **September 3**, 2019 from 6 to 8:30 PM Roselle Park Borough Hall, 110 East Westfield Avenue, Roselle Park, NJ
- **September 4**, 2019 from 6 to 8:30 PM Ocean City Public Library, 1725 Simpson Avenue, Ocean City, NJ
- **September 12**, 2019 from 6 to 8:30 PM Bay Avenue Community Center 775 East Bay Avenue, Manahawkin, NJ

For more information regarding the NJ hearings, contact Heather Corbett at (609) 748-2020. Addendum VI may be viewed at [this link](#).

Striped Bass Addendum VI New Regs Looming for 2020

By Paul Haertel

In May 2019, the Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board initiated the development of an addendum to Amendment 6 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass to consider changes to coastwide commercial and recreational regulations to address overfishing. This Draft Addendum presents background on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's management of striped bass; the addendum process and timeline; and a statement of the problem. This document also provides management options for public consideration and comment. The public is encouraged to submit comments regarding this document at any time during the public comment period. The final date comments will be accepted is October 7, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Comments may be submitted at state public hearings or by mail, email, or fax. If you have any questions or would like to submit comment, please use the contact information below. Organizations planning to release an action alert in response to this Draft Addendum should contact Max Appelman at 703.842.0740. Email: Max Appelman, FMP Coordinator, at comments@asmfc.org (Subject: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI) or mail Atlantic States Marine

JCAA member clubs as well as individuals are urged to review the addendum and comment on it. JCAA will take a formal position on this addendum at our next general membership meeting on September 24th. However, back in April and prior to the ASMFC's Striped Bass Board making a decision to initiate an addendum, JCAA unanimously voted in favor of writing to them requesting that they take action to improve our striped bass stocks and to determine factors impacting their availability in state waters.

Briefly, there are a few things in the addendum that I'd like to clarify. There are three options in the addendum. Option 1 is Status Quo. However, it is unlikely that this option will be chosen based on the board's apparent desire to initiate this addendum to rebuild the stocks. Option 2 calls for an 18% reduction for the recreational sector and an 18% reduction by the commercial sector. Option 3 would require a 20% reduction for the recreational sector and only a 1.8% reduction for the commercial sector. It should be noted that JCAA vehemently opposes this option and has been advocating for gamefish or no-sale status for striped bass along the entire east coast for many years. It would be wrong for recreational fishermen to be forced to take more of a cut so that the commercial sector could benefit especially considering all the stocks that they have devastated over the years.

Under Options 2 and 3 there are various sub-options. These include options with a minimum size

as well as several in which only slot sized fish could be harvested. While it is fine to comment on any of them, it is likely that the ASMFC will approve all or most of them. What this means is that these options would be pre-approved if any state chose to enact one of them. However, the addendum allows for conservation equivalency which means that each state will be allowed to develop its own regulation provided it results in the mandated reduction. For instance, a state might choose to have a 28" minimum but meet the required reduction by reducing the length of their seasons. Something like that might work as the season could be closed while the fish are spawning or during the summer when the water temperatures are elevated causing the catch and release mortality to increase. However, any such proposed regulations would first have to be submitted to the ASMFC's technical committee. Once reviewed and approved the state could then enact it.

As mentioned previously, comments on the addendum will be accepted until October 7th. Then at their next meeting later that month the board will choose one of the options and finalize the addendum. States will then be able to choose one of the pre-approved sub-options or develop some of their own. The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council will then decide on the regulations for 2020 in one of their upcoming meetings. This could be as early as November but my guess is that it will be in January. JCAA will keep you posted on the options once they come out along with the times and dates of the meetings. Watch for our email alerts or follow us on Facebook for updates.

Omega Protein is Reduction Fishing off New Jersey Again

Capt. Paul Eidman, Board member, Habitat & Forage Fish Committee Chairman

Last year right around this time, September 6th to be exact, Omega Protein Inc. out of Reedville, Virginia, (parent company Cooke Seafood) sent FOUR 200-foot-long reduction ships up to the New York Bight for 2 days. Each one has the holding capacity of 1.5 and 2 million fish each, equally to a total removal of EIGHT MILLION bunker from key waters in the fall, right before our striped bass migration arrives.

After a failed attempt to get some other guys to take the day off on short notice and go out and protest with me, I quickly trailered up to Atlantic highlands, launched and ran my 20-foot center console out 7 miles, (roughly to the end of the Ambrose channel) to take pictures and video to document exactly what was happening.

Know that as long as they remain in federal waters, (outside the 3-mile line) it's all legal, stamped and approved by the ASMFC which continues the archaic practice of managing these fish just like all the others, for "maximum sustainable yield."

Legality aside, the key issue here is that two major factors are "overlooked" and actions terminally delayed by wealthy Omega corporate interests. These factors are **localized depletion** and the **menhadens role in the ecosystem to provide nutrition up the marine food web.**

It would be a different story if the boats were smaller, family owned like they used to be. Private commercial fishing boat owners would head out for the day, take 50,000 or so bunkers and head back to the dock, offload and have a beer. Things have changed, not just for this, but for fish all over the world. The little guys are out and massive industrial scale vessels now rule the sea. When these big blue ships pull into an area and set up shop, there is nothing left when they leave except for the mile-long nasty scum slick and the stench of death that drifts out of the vessels. The seagulls pick at the scraps and as can be expected, the predators, whether they are humpback whales, striped bass or cobia, all leave the area and seek food elsewhere. Fishermen come to fish and find it barren of all signs of life and gamefish are nowhere to be found.

Go ahead and look on Youtube for Menhaden Defenders and you can watch what I witnessed. Complete with purse boats running down the schools, plane overhead directing them over the schools and watching the crews vacuum the fish on board the massive factory ship. I filmed and watched as they filled the ships to the gunwales and then steamed back home 275 miles to Virginia to grind them up into fish meal and fish oil. The big question is, if the bunker stocks are as healthy as the ASMFC and Omega say they are, then why do they have to travel all the way to Jersey to catch bunker? Something is very wrong. The system has been clearly rigged by the good olé boys network

for years and our fishing and waters are suffering because of it.

Yes, the east coast's favorite little forage fish is ground up, pelletized and shipped overseas to feed fish farms for foreign profit as America's coastal ecology and economies struggle to survive. Let that sink in.

Fishermen in New Jersey should be aware that the carnage has already begun right off our shores in August of 2019. Omega has been harvesting massive bunker schools off of Atlantic City and Cape May, New Jersey over the past couple of weeks. Each Sunday, my team of volunteers at Menhaden Defenders track these planes and can see the flight paths. A spotter plane leaves Virginia and flies north along the Jersey shore. By late Sunday evening, they pack up the crew and head out to sea. By Monday morning, they have been directed to the best schools and we can see where the fleet is headed, and it can number 6-8 ships at times. You can track the vessels just like we do, online using maritime ship traffic websites and following the Automated Identification System (AIS) movements of all commercial vessels.

The table is set for disaster, right where we live and fish. At a time when our striped bass and other gamefish need food the most, millions of bunker will be ground up and reduced into salmon food. I have been fishing out in the Bight all summer, watching 40-foot-long Humpback whales breaching out of the sea, mouths wide open and hundreds of bunker spilling out. The bunker schools grow by the day, it's just fantastic to see miles and miles of adult bunker in our area after decades of working to restore the populations to a healthy level.

Tomorrow, Sunday, I will get a report from my plane spotters that will tell me if this week we will see the big blue ships steam north to Jersey again, vacuum all the bunker up and ship the pellets off to Canadian salmon farms that Cooke seafood owns.

This is madness on multiple levels and so few anglers get involved and stand up and fight.

The struggle is real, guys, join the fight today, the future of our sport and waters depends on it.

Public Access

*By George Browne
JCAA Access Chairman*

On Tuesday, July 30th, there was a meeting at the NJDEP offices in Trenton. The meeting was with stakeholders who are public access users and their views on the creation of new regulations required under the new public access law. There was another meeting on August 12th with stakeholders such as towns, marina owners, and others who are responsible for the lands where the public access locations are or will be.

The DEP has 18 months to develop and implement the regulations and is planning to follow this schedule:

- Meet with stakeholders summer 2019 (completed).
- Hold a third meeting in the fall of 2019 to go over the comments received from all the stakeholders.
- Develop proposed rules by early 2020 and receive comments.
- Implement the new rules in 2020.

On behalf of the JCAA, I spoke about 6 river and bay locations that are examples of where access is currently restricted or denied and how some of the restrictions favored residents over non-residents. Each of these locations was chosen because they represented what is wrong with public access in NJ, regardless of location, and the information could be verified.

I also discussed a project that is in the planning stages in Monmouth County. It was important to point out that the plan did not appear to provide adequate public access because it did not show parking or more than a single access point. A proposed public walkway was shown on the bay side of a planned stone revetment and the public walkway could be exposed to flooding and erosion that would further reduce or eliminate public access.

My final discussion, representing JCAA, included pointing out that the denial of public access is pervasive on many tidal bodies of water (rivers, bays, and the ocean) and includes both overt and covert methods (limiting parking, limiting the time

you can park, requiring beach badges at all hours, and more). It was also pointed out, that as a result of the new legislation, we expected the DEP to provide the following:

- Leadership in the fight to improve public access under the public trust doctrine,
- Model ordinances for towns to adopt that provide public access without unreasonable restrictions,
- An updated inventory of existing access points,
- Education to the public and elected officials as to what public access means,
- Enforcement of the laws that cover public access.

The group of stakeholders at this meeting did offer to assist the DEP in realizing some of those expectations, but it did not seem to be something the DEP was interested in. Our expectations for DEP will only be met if we are actively engaged in fighting for their implementation. We need to make sure that DEP takes the lead in the fight for public access. If not, then we must go back to the sponsors of the law, the Governor and the DEP Commissioner to tell them that they need to make sure any new regulations meet those expectations.

This is going to be a long fight, but one we must be part of. Right now, it is important that we go back to the stakeholder coalition and meet again to develop a plan that will deliver the most influence we can have on the new regulations. If we sit by the sidelines and do nothing, we will have only ourselves to blame.

“If you have time to whine and complain about something then you have the time to do something about it.” -Anthony J. D’Angelo

Regarding the proposed Natural Gas Pipeline under Raritan Bay

Capt. Paul Eidman, Board member & Forage Fish Committee Chairman

I sent this letter, personally, to the Governor and entire team at the DEP.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I own and run a small charter fishing business in the exact area that this pipeline is proposed to run

through. We fish and enjoy the waters from Old Bridge all the way to the Rockaways.

My daughter and I both live and breathe the air here in central New Jersey. We have supported your efforts to green the state and I currently advocate for the addition of offshore wind power along Jersey's coastline instead of continuing to buy fossil fuel sourced electric power for our home.

I am perplexed by the consideration of this NESE project by your administration. How is it possible to push to build fossil fuel infrastructure at the same time you are pushing for a 100% green NJ by 2050??

For the past 3 years, in addition to our fishing trips for Striped Bass, Bluefish, Summer Flounder and more in Raritan Bay, we have added Humpback Whale, Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbor Seal watching trips. After years of advocating for better Atlantic Menhaden (Bunker) fish conservation, we are finally beginning to see the fruits of our labor. Raritan Bay is teaming with life with the resurgence of these forage fish in the bay, and we now have over 115 named individual Humpback whales actively feeding in the bay, along with dozens of pods (families) of dolphins and seals.

All this is happening precisely above the entire length of the proposed pipeline route at different times of the season, make no mistake about it, you are proposing to run this pipeline directly through and under these magnificent creatures that now call the Raritan Bay and the NYNJ Bight home.

Natural gas fracking practices currently happening in the mountains, (next to the streams) of Pennsylvania to capture the gas utilize federally permitted fracking fluids which are known to contain toxins and carcinogens. Yes, this proposed NESE pipeline may transport the gas, but the process to acquire it contains evil nastiness that flows into the streams, aquifers then into the rivers and into the ocean polluting our waters, fish & wildlife. We all live downstream!

This proposed pipeline is an unavailing and harmful expense that will have devastating impacts on water quality, habitat, and wildlife in New Jersey. Both shore and offshore areas along the pipeline route are used vastly by the public as recreational areas that contribute to our quality of life. You should be working towards lessening our dependence on fossil fuels and moving towards a more sustainable, greener future.

My charter business, family and friends all stand firmly against this pipeline and we ask that Governor Murphy and the NJDEP to do the same. We implore the Murphy administration to please choose GREEN over BLACK. It's the right thing to do.

Call to Action: Angler Engagement with Offshore Wind Developers

*By Capt. Paul Eidman, Board member &
Forage Fish Committee Chairman*

Below is letter sent to the editor at the Asbury Park Press, which is running a cover story called, "An ill wind Blows" in which one-sided opinions of the commercial fishing sector are spoon fed to the public while those of the recreational fishing community are disregarded.

Dear Editor,

This weekend's feature article, "An Ill Wind Blows," missed a critical part of the offshore wind power conversation, and that is the engagement of recreational anglers. America's first five offshore wind turbines have been operating off of Block Island, Rhode Island since 2016. I've fished the turbines twice, catching fluke, black sea bass, and porgies. The underwater turbine structures are acting as artificial reefs, attracting fish of all kinds from the bottom up, and Block Island-based charter captains are saying the fishing is getting better every day and has increased business.

To support offshore wind power, recreational anglers must be able to pull right up to the foundations and cast – something the Coast Guard has assured the public will be true. There is still much to learn about how large-scale development will impact fisheries, which is why developers must monitor fisheries before, during and after construction. Anglers must also be at the table to provide input on turbine siting and other issues.

While environmentalists and anglers have different definitions of responsible offshore wind development, climate change is a massive threat that is causing fish distributions to change and threatening marine

mammals and other wildlife. That is why we need to work with developers and state and federal agencies so offshore wind power works for us. Offshore wind development will create clean energy where it is needed, boost the local economy, and, if done right, make recreational fishing better – all three things we can all get behind.

Capt. Paul is on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#). Please find, follow and share posts. Also look for: [Menhaden Defenders](#), [River Herring Rescue](#), [Reel Therapy Fishing Charters](#), [Anglers Conservation Network](#), and [Anglers for Offshore Wind Power](#). Email him at directly at paulyfish@reeltherapy.com.

JCAA New Format Fluke Tournament Results

By Paul Haertel

This year, JCAA held a second fluke tournament from Aug-16 through Aug-18 with an entirely new format. More specifically, it was a three-fish tournament with 1st to 5th places being determined by the total weight of each boat's heaviest three fluke. However, we did have one prize for the heaviest fluke caught in the tournament as well as four different fluke Calcuttas and one for sea bass. While anyone can get lucky and catch one large fluke, this tournament involved more skill as the entrants needed to try to catch three large fluke. Therefore, to keep the playing field level, we limited it to a maximum of 4 people per boat. The way I look at it is that having 6 fishermen on one boat fishing against 3 or 4 on another boat would be similar to 6 against 3 or 4 in basketball or hockey. Though I did receive a few complaints from those who wanted to have 5 or 6 fishermen on their boat, most people seemed to like that it was limited to 4 people.

Another big change for this tournament was that entrants could only fish one day but they were allowed to choose their day to fish. All entrants had to text me by 9PM the night before if they intended to fish the next day. Everyone I spoke with really liked that as they could choose a day that they felt would be the best weather-wise or a day that fitted best into their schedule. Some said they would like to be able to fish all three days, as I would, but a lot of people can

only fish one day. Again, I wanted to keep the playing field level so it was limited to 1 day.

Sixty-one boats competed in this tournament which I was quite pleased with since it was our first year of trying this and it was run on short notice. The awards ceremony at the Brick PAL went well with really good food provided by Blue Collar Catering and we had great classic rock music performed by the band *Ken and the Escorts*.

I hope to expand the tournament and include more weigh-in stations in both northern and southern New Jersey next year. However, I would like to thank the four tackle stores that handled the weigh-ins for us this year; **Fishermen's Den** in Belmar, **Capt. Bill's Landing Marina** in Point Pleasant, **Creekside Outfitters** in Waretown and **Fisherman's Headquarters** in Ship Bottom. I'd also like to thank those who helped publicize our tournament including various Facebook groups, websites, Al Ristori's blog and publications such as the Asbury Park Press and the Fisherman Magazine. Finally, I'd like to thank all of our many sponsors, JCAA staff members who helped out as well as all of our participants.

Fluke fishing picked up during the week of our tournament and we had really nice weather on all three days that resulted in some really good catches. However, it was the boat Flounder Wet Spot with **Capt. Tony Pacitti** and his crew that won the tournament with three fluke having a total weight of 20.64 lbs. They also won the prize for the largest fluke in the tournament with a 10.86 pound one that was caught by Tony's dad, Dave. Their crew also swept all the fluke Calcuttas **and took home a total of \$9,906!!!** The boat Fatties and Flatties with Capt. Kevin Cole won the lone sea bass Calcutta with a 3.31 lb. fish and took home \$1532. The complete list of winners is below.

Three Fluke Total

1 st - Flounder Wet Spot/Capt. Tony Pacitti	20.64 lbs.
2 nd - No Name/Capt. Tom Devaney	20.03 lbs
3 rd - Defiance/Capt. Chad Chudzinski	16.05 lbs
4 th - G-Force/Capt. Maurice Verchnot	16.05 lbs
5 th - Seen/Capt. Sean Seraphin	16.00 lbs

Largest Single Fluke

1st - Flounder Wet Spot/Capt. Tony Pacitti – 10.86 lbs.
(caught by Dave Pacitti)

Congratulations to all!

Tough Times for Recreational Anglers in New Jersey

By John Toth

As I write this column (August 9, 2019) recreational anglers, tackle shops, party and charter boats are having a very tough time on the fishing scene. To put this in a better perspective, here is an update on what we can fish for:

Fluke – we can catch 3 fluke with a minimum size of 18 inches until September 21. Since the season for fluke opened on May 24th, these fish seem to have “lockjaw”. Party and even charter boats have been having a rough time to manage a keeper on their trips. On July 16th, a charter boat with approximately 30 anglers did not even land one keeper fluke! Fishing friends who I know that are “sharpies” are having a tough time finding fluke and even catching their limit.

Why is this happening? Nobody seems to know for sure! A possible reason from what I have heard is that the water temperature on the surface is warm to 80 degrees while the temperature on the bottom is much cooler taking the fluke off their bite. Anglers are coming up with ling, which is a cold water fish, instead of fluke. Whatever the reason, the fluke season so far has been bad and anglers are not going on fishing trips as they usually do and the tackle shops and party/charter boats are taking a financial hit because of this.

Bluefish – Like last year they come in with the big bruisers up to 20 lbs. and then seem to disappear. I receive emails from party boats that target bluefish and they advertise the sea bass fishing is great, but fail to also say that you can keep only 2 of them! To financially survive, they are also advertising whale watching, or a combo afternoon fishing trip ending with a fireworks display. Can you blame them for trying to stay in business? Why the bluefish are not around as they used to be is another question that nobody seems to know the answer.

Striped Bass – Like bluefish, they come in with a bang and then seem to move off to locations unknown. They used to stay in one location for a while and provide good fishing. Why the shift from their usual fishing grounds is another unanswered

question. However, the reality is that their numbers seem to be in decline and we are facing possible severe restrictions on them for 2020.

Blackfish – Season closed from May 1 to July 31. Only 1 fish (15 inches minimum) can be caught from August 1st to November 15th; then 5 fish from November 16th to December 31st.

Winter Flounder – 2 fish at 12 inch minimum from 3/1 to 12/ 31.

Black Sea Bass – I save the best for last! From July 1st to August 31st – **2 fish** at 12 ½ inches. Season closed through September and opens October 8th to October 31st at 13 inches with a 10 fish limit. Then from November 1st to December 31st at 13 inches with a 15 bag limit.

In addition to the confusing seasons that sea bass are either closed or open, sea bass stocks are **NOT** in trouble and their stocks are even up by **230%** according to fishing management. Yet these fishing regulators take a cautionary approach to sea bass since they are unsure of the status of this stock and continue to cut back on the quota of sea bass we can fish for. If we were able to utilize this fishery as it should be (say up to 10 sea bass or more during this summer season), it would give anglers something to fish and bring them back to the party/charter boats and help to save this industry from closing down as many have already done. If the fluke or bluefish are off their bite, captains could go after 10 sea bass or more to at least have anglers go home with something in their coolers and save the day.

This same sea bass issue was brought up at a Regional Roundtable meeting with John Bullard, Regional Director of NOAA, at an April 3, 2017 meeting with about 30 representatives from the recreational community (my summary of this meeting was in the January 2019 JCAA newsletter). Mr. Bullard was not a friend of the recreational community and he did not follow up on any issues that were raised at this meeting. Mike Pentony, who replaced Bullard, was at a JCAA function during November 2018. After hearing his positive presentation on recreational fishing at the JCAA dinner, I decided to write a letter to him on JCAA letterhead that was sent on December 3, 2018. This letter requested another Roundtable meeting so that we could discuss this sea bass issue and others that are important to us. **As of this August 9th date, I have**

not received any response from him or his office! Over six months have passed and not even a short response saying that we are in receipt of your letter and will get back to you! This lack of any response does not give the recreational fishing industry a vote of confidence in his addressing the problems that I have indicated above.

While we are severely restricted on how many sea bass we can keep, the overabundance of sea bass is gobbling up young fluke and baby lobsters that are decimating these stocks and others. The protection of spiny dogfish that has led to their population explosion and is another area of concern since these sharks are voracious in eating the same species as sea bass and more. Fishing management focuses on one species at a time when they should be focusing on all species of fish since they are connected together and interact with each other. When one fishing season closes, there should be another one that is open so that we have something to fish. These issues would have been raised if we had the Roundtable that I was seeking to have with Mr. Pentony.

Hopefully, things will change and we can have an improvement in the way our fisheries are managed. But until that change happens, our fishing industry is dying a slow death by mismanagement by our fishing managers, especially at the federal level.

Your Sunscreen May Kill Coral Reefs. What Should You Do?

By Julia S. Wilburn

Coral reefs are the most diverse marine ecosystems in the world. They have existed for over 400 million years and give shelter to thousands of animal species.

Today, coral reefs are dying at an alarming rate. Ongoing climate change is responsible for the death of approximately 50 percent of the world coral in the last 30 years.

According to scientists, it's not only the climate change to cause coral death. Regular sunscreen can induce the same [bleaching response in corals](#).

The extinction of corals can have devastating global-scale effects, but we can all contribute to preserving our reefs by swapping regular sunscreen with a reef-safe sunblock.

How Does Regular Sunscreen Affect Coral Reefs?

Regular sunscreens utilize two key ingredients to protect you from sunburns and potentially from skin cancer, oxybenzone, and octinoxate.

These synthetic molecules are present in almost all chemical sunscreens, and they are highly toxic for corals and marine species. According to research, when corals absorb these compounds, they expel their life-giving algae, a phenomenon known as coral bleaching.

Oxybenzone, above all, is so toxic that a single drop of it in over 600,000 gallons of water is enough to endanger these marine organisms.

With an estimated 14,000 tons of sunscreen being washed into the ocean each year, the large-scale consequences can be disastrous if we don't decide to use reef-safe products.

What Is Reef-Safe Sunscreen?

[Reef-safe sunscreen](#), also known as mineral sunblock, is a type of sunscreen that utilizes particles of zinc oxide or titanium dioxide that act as a barrier between your skin and the harmful rays.

However, not all mineral sunscreens are reef-safe. Studies have shown that corals can ingest nano-size particles of these compounds, which could also lead to coral bleaching.

Reef-safe sunscreens are those mineral sunscreens that contain non-nanoparticles (particles with a size over 100 nanometers) of zinc oxide or titanium dioxide.

How Can You Help Protect Coral Reefs?

It is a fact that regular sunscreen is harming coral reefs. Small changes in your choices and behavior can contribute to preserving these fragile ecosystems, though. Here are a few things you can do.

1 - Use Reef-Safe Sunscreen

Your first reef-savvy decision – especially when vacationing in reef areas – should be to use a mineral sunscreen containing non-nanoparticles of zinc oxide or titanium dioxide. Some popular beach destinations have even banned the use of chemical sunscreens, so a reef-safe choice might be your only choice anyway.

2 - Avoid Aerosol Sunscreens

Even if labeled as mineral, most aerosol sunscreens contain nano-sized particles, which are harmful to corals and other marine species.

3 - Use Less Sunscreen Overall

Beachwear with embedded UV protection factors, such as shirts, shorts, and sunhats can limit the use of sunscreen with up to 90 percent. UV-proof beach tents and umbrellas can also help you limit the use of sunscreen.

Coral reefs are threatened with extinction, and along with them, the entire marine biodiversity. Regular sunscreen is one of the factors that lead to coral bleaching and potentially coral death. A small change in behavior and more environmentally-savvy decisions when choosing your sunblock is the least you can do to limit this potentially catastrophic phenomenon and preserve the beauty of our oceans.

To read the whole article, go to [this link](#).

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

BRICK HIGH SCHOOL'S NJ HOFNOD

Brick High School Mustangs and Dragons grades 11–12 will begin the second year of classes with NJ HOFNOD in the curriculum. Tim Brennan, Health & Physical Education Teacher and NJ HOFNOD certified instructor, will work with other teachers and introduce students to NJ HOFNOD, safe boating, CPR, science, environmental stewardship and fishing skills.

The JCAA Youth Education Committee will support the high school groups by supplying books, presentations, terminal tackle, and materials from the JCAA lending library.

2019 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

The JCAA Youth Education Committee is accepting nominations for the 2019 Youth Education Award. There are many NJ HOFNOD volunteers doing great work 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.

Youth Education Award Criteria: Promoting “Hooked On Fishing Not On Drugs (HOFNOD),” Certified HOFNOD instructors, number of fishing or aquatic education events, JCAA lending library usage, and creativity for promoting youth fishing events. Submit your nominations in writing and email to gkucharews@jcaa.org or bring your nomination to the next JCAA general membership meeting.

USS BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY

I spoke to Thomas Polino, Sergeant Major US Army Retired and who is also a member of NJBBA that informed me the Central Jersey Code Official Association along with the International Code Council will host an event on September 12, 2019.

This will tie in with the NJ “Hooked on Fishing not on Drugs” program to bring awareness about the Opioids Epidemic in this country. Camden County is co-hosting the event and they are asking for donations such as fishing rods/reels, life vests, tackle and two Kayaks for the program. The event will take place on the USS Battleship New Jersey in Camden, New Jersey and children attending will be allowed to fish off the battleship that night.

They are also asking for monetary donations to help support the USS Battleship New Jersey stay afloat. Any Monetary donations can be sent to CJCOA, PO Box 892, West Windsor, NJ 08550. Any other items may be sent to, Thomas Polino, 405 Greenwood Ave, Riverside NJ, 08075. Please Contact: Thomas at thomas.polino@yahoo.com or mobile# 856-906-7167. Any type of donations would be appreciated. John White, US Navy Veteran and promoter stated, “Let’s keep our kids off the streets and involved in programs like this one.”

NJBBA ANNUAL YOUTH SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

Hey kids, it’s time to get ready for the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association’s Twenty-sixth Annual Surf Youth Fishing Tournament. It will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2019. NJBBA members do a great job of making children and their families have a fun day fishing the surf at Island Beach State Park. There is always lots of prizes, goodie bags, learning stations, and plenty of how-to information booths about surf fishing and water safety. The tournament is FREE to youngsters under 16 years old. For Information about the event contact

Chairman Ken Hollins at turkey.trot2@optimum.net or visit the [NJBBA website](#).

NEWARK BAIT AND FLY CASTING CLUB PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club will host its People with Disabilities Outing on Saturday, September 21, 2019; rain date Sunday, September 22, 2019.

Volunteers are needed to help set up at 7:00 A.M. and to be available throughout the day to help with fishing, serving lunch, etc. and breaking down at the end of the day. The event starts at 10:00 A.M. but some participants start arriving about 9:00 A.M. and extra hands are always needed to help.

Participants need to register at online at [this link](#) or call: Manuel Ramirez at 908-527-4781.

2019 KIDS WISH’N TO GO FISH’N

The 3rd Annual “Kids Wish’n to go Fish’n” For Special Needs Children will be held at Ponderosa Estates Farms Lake Julianna, Millstone Township, NJ. We already have our “Play HOOK-e” veterans and member clubs of JCAA registered to come out again and help the special needs youngster’s fish.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 10:00 am till 2:00 pm. Special needs children ages 6 to 16 years old are invited to catch and release fish at Lake Julianna. Mr. Cardinale and his team are providing plenty of fun surprises for special needs children. The event will include a hot dog and hamburger barbeque/pizza lunch for children and their guests, complements of Cardinale Enterprises, LLC, friends and family.

Local merchants and contributors are providing prizes, goodie bags and tee shirts for girls and boys fishing Lake Julianna’s “Kids Wish’n to go Fish’n.” All children go home winners. If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile event for special needs children, please contact Don Marantz, JCAA Youth Education Committee at 908-347-1434.

BUNKER CHALLENGE SUCCESS

Children and their families had a great time at the Bunker Challenge Crabbing Contest during July at the Mantoloking Bridge, Ocean County Park, Brick,

NJ. There were plenty of crabbing prizes for everyone to win. Aiden Luciw traveled from PA to win his prize for catching a crab over 6 inches. I spent most of the morning with our Play HOOK-e friends Mike and Debbie Bennett, B.E.A.R., assisting novice crabbers.

CRABBING AT THE JERSEY SHORE AND MILITIA MUSEUM TOUR

Twenty-four Veterans and family members attended a Museum tour and crabbing workshop hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 12), JCAA, and Sea Girt Army National Guard Training Center Militia Museum. The goal is to connect veterans to the outdoors and help veteran men and women take time to heal by utilizing healthy outdoor activities, such as fishing, boating and crabbing. Topics included: Museum Tour, New Style Crab Traps, Access Locations, Crabbing, and NJ Rules and Regulations.

The program began with a presentation of Two Quilts of Valor that Ann Carreiro of Rebecas's Reel Quilters presented to Donald Davison, and John Bello, both retired US Army Veterans. They each received a Quilt of Valor in honor of their military service.

During our Crabbing at the Jersey Shore Workshop we explained NJ Marine Rules and Regulations, size limits and the anatomy of a Blue Claw Crab. A variety of crab traps were on display that included new crab traps on the market such as Henry's Cast a Crab and CrabHawk. Both are spring operated and they open on impact.

We demonstrated how to cast a crab line without tangles and how to make night crabbing rigs using glow sticks in clear plastic bottles. Crab bait and proper disposal was recommended to keep our waterways clean. Youngsters and veterans received a crab hand-line for the crabbing session afterwards. We also had many door prizes thanks to VVA 12's "Play HOOK-e" magnet campaign that local tackle dealers support. Catherine K shared three of her delicious recipes for crab dinners. Our door prize winners won fishing trips on the Norma K III and items that were purchased at Gabriel's Tackle Co., The Reel Seat, Brielle Bait and Tackle, Gates Bait and Tackle, Castaways Bait & Tackle, Jersey Hooker Outfitters, and Pell's Fish & Sport. We also thank Chief Guy Remig, Director, National Guard Militia Museum and Sgt. Andrew Walker, Curator for providing a venue for our program. For information about Veteran Oral Histories, please contact Carol Fowler, Assistant Curator, 732-974-5966.

NJ WILD OUTDOOR EXPO

The NJDEP's 10th annual NJ WILD Outdoor Expo will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 7-8, at the Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area in Jackson Township, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day rain or shine. Admission and parking are free. For more information, visit [this link](#). This fun-filled family event is designed for visitors to try new ways to appreciate and enjoy New Jersey's great outdoors. Participants have an opportunity to try a broad spectrum of outdoor activities.