

JCAA NEWSPAPER SEPTEMBER 2020

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on August 25th, 2020)

Monthly Meeting Via Zoom Meeting Until Further Notice "WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

September 29th via Zoom Meeting

Starting at 7:30 PM

385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 10th, 2020

Via Zoom Meeting

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

1594 Lakewood Road (Rt. 9), Victoria Plaza Ste. 13

Toms River, NJ 08755

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

JCAA Newspaper Publisher Tom Fote

JCAA Newspaper Editor Paul Turi

This publication is printed and mailed one week prior to each regular monthly meeting of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. One of the prime goals of JCAA is to get accurate information into public hands as soon as possible.

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

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

### 2019 OFFICERS

|                            |                  |              |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>           | <b>John Toth</b> | 732-656-0139 |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b> | Mark Taylor      | 732-656-0139 |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b> | Bill Browne      | 732-504-9344 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Doug Tegeder     | 732-575-2661 |
| <b>Rec. Sec.</b>           |                  |              |
| <b>Cors. Sec.</b>          | Paul Turi        | 609-709-9215 |
| <b>Mem. Sec.</b>           | Paul Eidman      | 732-614-3373 |
| <b>Tournament Dir.</b>     | Paul Turi        | 609-709-9215 |

**Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page**

### IMPORTANT DATES

September 10<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting Online

September 29<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting Online

October 9<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting Online

October 27<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting Online

### Note from the Board of Directors

Jersey Coast Anglers Association hopes you and your family are all healthy during these concerning times. There have been a couple of calls the last few weeks about upcoming events that JCAA is running or involved with. There is a list at the end of this article listing the events that have been canceled. To keep informed, go to the JCAA web page or Facebook page for up to date information.

We are planning two more raffles to try and make up for the loss of revenue from our events. We need our member clubs to help in selling these tickets and increasing their sponsorship of JCAA to make up for loss of *revenue*.

Taking all the information and following the CDC protocols, JCAA had to make a very tough decision in cancelling most of our events. For these events we could not control certain CDC protocols and make sure that all the recreational community continues to stay healthy and safe.

Here is the list of events that have been **canceled**:

- The 2020 Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament
- The 2020 JCAA Sportsman of the Year
- The 26th Annual JCAA Fluke Tournament that was scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup>

As of this newspaper, the upcoming meetings of ASMFC, MAFMC & MAFAC NJMFC will all be online. You will be able to attend these meetings and ask questions without leaving your house. There could be important public hearings this fall, and I am fairly sure they will also be online this fall and winter. You

need to keep informed and the best way to do this is occasionally going to their web pages and asking to be added to their email list.

JCAA'S General meetings and Board meetings will also be done online. If you are the person designated to be the club's representative, please make sure you are on our JCAA email list as a club representative.

## President's Report

*By John Toth*

Let me first start my report by saying THANK YOU to Paul Haertel for running his 3-day Heavy Hitters Fluke Tournament during August 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> that had approximately 90 boats entering into it! Paul also had busy helpers to run this tournament that included Don Marantz, Paul Turi, Mark Taylor and a big Thank You also goes to them!

The JCAA, as well as other organizations are dependent on fund raisers such as this tournament for funding their operations. Given COVID – 19, many organizations cannot hold them due to social distancing issues. Because of this problem, the JCAA had to cancel its annual Fluke Tournament scheduled for September 12th along with its Sportsperson of the Year Dinner scheduled during November 15th. Both of these events are fundraisers needed by the JCAA to pay its office rent, utilities and other operational costs. In the many years of my association with the JCAA, we have never canceled them. But during this trying time, we had to do it for safety reasons. Consequently, your financial support of the JCAA during this difficult time is helpful to keep it going in its mission to represent the fishing rights of all anglers who fish in our state. Please send a contribution to the JCAA office located at 1594 Lakewood Road, Toms River, NJ 08755 to help the JCAA stay in action to represent you in all the fishing battles we continue to fight for you! Any amount, large or small, would be most appreciated!

What is particularly distasteful to me and, if I can speak on the behalf of Paul Turi, (who does a great job managing our office), is that we also had to cancel the Awards Ceremony of our fluke tournament at the Resorts Casino! As a weigh master for many years during our fluke tournaments, I have heard so many of our tournament participants comment, "when are you going to hold the Awards Ceremony in

Atlantic City?" When we did have it in AC, it was always a nice event with nice prizes given away and our tournament participants having a good time gambling, seeing shows and eating at the specialty restaurants.

To duplicate this experience, we had a rough time in lining up a casino to hold our Awards Ceremony and finally, thanks to Rich Pasko, he set up the meeting at the Resorts Casino for us to meet with its staff to have this event at their casino. After some back and forth conversations with Paul Turi and Resorts staff, we had approval for a spacious room for our Awards Ceremony, a special rate for tournament participants to stay over and discount tickets for their restaurants! With all our efforts to having our ceremony at Resorts, we had to cancel it because of this virus! However, on a positive note, Resorts staff indicated that for 2021 we can still have our Awards Ceremony at their casino!

The JCAA does not hold meetings in July and August because of vacations and mostly because its members are fishing! I hope you had a successful summer of fishing and we will be going back to JCAA business during our September 29th meeting.

## Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

*By Tom Fote*

Needless to say, it has been an interesting couple of months. I went to many meetings all while staying at home. We are all learning how to utilize the internet for fisheries meetings. There are both good and bad points. The bad point is there is no opportunity for members to socialize and discuss beyond the meeting itself. The good point is that any of you can go on your computer and attend. You don't have to drive hundreds of miles. I was hoping to see many of you at the joint ASMFC/MAFMC and the ASMFC summer meeting. There were only a few names I recognized from the recreational sector. There was more attention to making sure the public could participate than there was at an in-person meeting. In four days, I only heard two recreational anglers ask questions or make comments. There was a great deal of commercial participation. ***You need to get involved.*** If the Commissioners and Council

members are not hearing from you, they think they are making the right decisions.

Below are the excerpts from the press release about the Striped Bass Board Meeting, and the entire press release from the joint ASMFC/MAFMC Bluefish Board Meeting.

Paul Eidman covered the Menhaden Board in his article. You can actually listen to the meetings, look at the presentations and all the materials that were distributed by going to the sites listed below.

Press releases, meeting summaries and motions from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's 2020 Summer Meeting Webinar are now available at [this link](#). The document can also be obtained on the Commission website on the Meeting Archives page [here](#). The audio files from the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's 2020 Summer Meeting Webinar are now available at [this link](#). Go to the relevant board/committee header and click on either Presentations or Audio. Please note the Atlantic Striped Bass and Atlantic Menhaden Boards have two audio links each.

The Striped Bass Board will review the first draft of the PID at the ASMFC Annual Meeting in October. At that meeting, the Board will determine if the PID is ready to be sent out for public comment or if further modifications to the document are needed. Given current, and possibly future, meeting restrictions due to COVID-19, public hearings may be conducted via webinar.

Here are the excerpts from the ASMFC press release on Atlantic Striped Bass and the Bluefish Management Board meeting summary respectively.

#### **ASMFC Press Release (August 6, 2020)**

##### *ASMFC Atlantic Striped Bass Board Initiates Amendment 7 to Address Longstanding Fishery Management Issues*

Arlington, VA – The Commission's Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board initiated the development of an Amendment to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan. As the first step in the development of a new FMP or amendment, the Public Information Document (PID) will focus on the following management topics: (1) fishery goals and objectives; (2) stock rebuilding/timeframe; (3) management triggers; (4) biological reference points; (5) regional management (recreational measures, coastal and producer areas,

regional reference points); (6) recreational discard mortality; (7) conservation equivalency; (8) recreational accountability; and (9) coastal commercial quota allocation. The purpose of the PID is to solicit stakeholder input on prioritizing the importance of each topic for continued development and inclusion in the Draft Amendment.

#### **ASMFC Bluefish Management Board & MAFMC**

(August 6, 2020)

##### ***Meeting Summary***

The Bluefish Management Board (Board) met jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) to discuss draft alternatives for the Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment and to consider the fishery management plan review and state compliance for the 2019 fishing year.

The Board and Council reviewed progress on the amendment and recommendations from the Plan Development Team/Fishery Management Action Team (PDT/FMAT). Consistent with the PDT/FMAT recommendation, the Board and Council removed trigger based sector allocation alternatives and the refereed transfer approach. The Board and Council also decided to remove recreational sector separation from the amendment. Board and Council members agreed that recreational sector separation could be considered more comprehensively in a multi-species action. The ongoing Recreational Reform Initiative will provide an opportunity for thorough consideration (see the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Meeting Summary for more details). Approaches retained for further consideration include fishery management plan goals and objectives, recreational/commercial allocations, commercial allocations to the states, commercial allocations to the states with minimum default allocations, regional commercial quotas, rebuilding plan, recreational/commercial sector transfers, sector specific management uncertainty, and *de minimis* provision to relieve states from having to adopt fishery regulations.

The Board and Council expect to approve a final range of alternatives during their December joint meeting, with a Draft Amendment expected to be considered for release for public comment by February 2021. Additional information regarding the amendment process and timeline can be found at the [bluefish amendment action page](#).

## Public Access

By George Browne

I remember seeing a sign years ago on a bulletin board that said, “*We have met the enemy and he is us!*” That message came back to me, recently, as I was speaking with an attorney for a Raritan Bayshore community about public access and fishing in that town. The lawyer was telling me that fishing access was restricted because of all the things fishermen did at the public beach and why the town felt it necessary to prohibit fishing. It seems that some of our fellow anglers were drinking, loud late at night, obnoxious to the locals, trashing the area, and urinating and defecating in the parking lot and on the beach. The nearby property owners complained and felt the solution was to prohibit fishing. The town agreed. This is a common theme I hear when I approach town officials to improve fishing access. It is an inaccurate picture of us, but one many local residents believe. As anglers we are visible when and where we fish, and others know we are fishing. After we leave, we get blamed for the trash and other problems in the “fishing” area. I went on to explain to the town attorney, that as anglers we respect the environment, most clean up after ourselves, and many take other people’s trash out with them, but we get the blame for the problems because we are easy to identify.

Now, we also know that there are some anglers among us that do cause all kinds of problems, but let’s talk about how we need to respond to the residents’ criticisms and keep fishing access open.

First, if you find access restricted, call or email the business administrator or mayor to ask about the issue. You might just get a conversation started that takes care of the problem. Once told about the access issue, I have seen the towns take the lead and get the issue resolved. You can also contact me and give me accurate information including photos and any other information you have. I am willing to talk to business administrators and mayors. It has been fairly effective so far.

Second, if the problem is littering, I always ask the town three questions. Are there trash cans on site? Does the town empty the trash cans on a regular basis? Are more trash cans needed in the area? We are not the only people generating trash. Others use the

area including beach goers, surfers, people eating by the water, and dog walkers. They all produce trash. So, improving trash collection can solve that problem.

Third, are there public restrooms in the area? Other beach users need restrooms too, including small children.

Fourth, the town already has ordinances for littering, public drinking, public urination and defecation, noise, and most of the other problems the residents are complaining about. What is the town doing to enforce the existing ordinances? Go after the troublemakers causing the problem instead of those of us who are simply trying to fish and maybe put food on the table. What is interesting about the public urination problem is that in many oceanfront towns there are probably more summonses issued near the local bars and night clubs (that have restrooms) than at the fishing areas. Unless the problem near the bar is totally out of control, I do not see anyone trying to prohibit drinking in the bars and clubs. Why are we treated differently?

Fifth, when an area is closed to fishing, it has an impact locally. If you are a local, you need to make sure that the elected officials know they are shutting you out. If you belong to a local fishing club, make sure the politicians know about your club. Numbers matter and not all of us are from out of town. There are also local businesses that are affected by prohibiting fishing. It is not just the local bait and tackle store who depends on us for business. There are also hotels, house rentals, restaurants, bars and more that benefit from anglers visiting the area both in-season and off-season. Ban fishing access and that revenue goes away.

Sixth, if all else fails, be prepared to file a complaint with NJDEP. You can call 877-WARNDEP (877-927-6337). Make sure you get a case number. JCAA can also contact DEP with the complaint or to follow up on your complaint if we have the case number. You can email us at [publicaccess@jcaa.org](mailto:publicaccess@jcaa.org).

If we win and protect or improve existing fishing access, be prepared to show it was the right decision. Participate in beach cleanups or other local projects that improve the beach for everyone. If you belong to a local fishing club, have the club show their appreciation by doing something that shows the community anglers care about the beach. Many clubs already participate in beach sweeps, run kids’ fishing clinics and more. When you participate in beach projects, make sure the locals know you are an angler,

you fish that beach, and taking caring for the beach is just as important to you as it is to them.

We must not become our own worst enemy. Do not let the few people who cause the problems ruin it for us. We should not suffer loss of access because of the failings of a few people who may not even be fishing.

## **Landmark Bunker Decision by the ASMFC**

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

This decisive event was the biggest since the catch cap reduction back in 2012. There hasn't really been a drop of good bunker news since. Until now.

The Menhaden Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) voted unanimously to adopt Ecological Reference Points (ERPs) for managing Atlantic menhaden during the 2021-22 fishing seasons. This vote is a landmark decision to shift from "single species management", which considers harvest limits of individual fish species without regard to their ecological role, to "multi-species management" that considers the balance between a sustainable ecosystem and supporting commercial and recreational fisheries.

This shift represents a much more "holistic" approach to managing forage fish that will hopefully set the precedent for managing other keystone species as well. Up until now, bunker have been treated just like any other managed species, which for over a decade we have been begging for this change.

Note that the ASMFC received 16 letters from over 100 organizations, 1,000 form letters and 200 individual comments, the majority of which supported ecosystem-based management. Here is a copy of mine:

ASMFC Commissioners:

Please remember that Atlantic menhaden belong to the public and the future of menhaden is at stake here. Please support ecological reference points (ERPs) because menhaden are critical forage for a wide diversity of marine life in the Atlantic, including many commercially and recreationally-valuable fish like striped bass, bluefish, tuna, cod, king mackerel and tarpon, as well as many species of seabirds and marine mammals.

Please emphasize that the ecological reference points are based on the best available science from the Ecological Reference Points Assessment that the Board approved for management use in February.

We insist that the ASMFC adopt the new ERPs with the clear intention to manage to the ERP TARGET. Maintaining abundance in the water is the goal for a forage species, not simply preventing the collapse of menhaden and its predators (managing to the threshold).

Please adopt ERPs, as they will not only be taking an important step in transitioning to ecosystem-based fishery management, they will be setting a national and global precedent for managing forage species to safeguard their role in the food web.

Sincerely,

Capt. Paul Eidman

President and founder of Menhaden Defenders

In August, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) will consider adopting potentially game-changing management targets for Atlantic menhaden that better account for their important role in the ecosystem. These ecosystem reference points (ERPs) will help managers determine how much menhaden to leave in the water as a food source. In a nutshell:

- The best available science supports implementing Ecological Reference Points
- Menhaden and their predators play an essential role in marine ecosystems and to businesses along the Atlantic coast
- The public overwhelmingly supports adopting and then conservatively implementing ERPs
- Managers can set a national, even global precedent for how forage fish like menhaden should be managed

Please help us tell the ASMFC TODAY that you support the adoption of ERPs to account for menhaden's importance to the ecosystem. Moving forward with ERPs for menhaden will support recreational fisheries and coastal economies across the entire Atlantic seaboard! Thank you for doing your part in helping the "Most Important Fish in the Sea."

Naturally, the only bunker processor in the world chimed in after the decision with this:

*"Omega Protein looks forward to working with the Commission and its staff on further developing the*

*ERP model and identifying future harvest levels for the fishery,” said Omega spokesman Ben Landry.*

*“Nonetheless,” he continued, “many of [menhadens’] key predator stocks, notably striped bass, are currently overfished. These species will require harvest reductions to fully restore the population back to targeted levels and cannot rely simply on the availability of menhaden to rebuild it.”*

Yes, our work is never over, and we need your involvement to move forward on this and other fish and habitat issues. But we do thank the ASMFC for finally making this progressive decision and making sure that this vital forage fish will be maintained to support recreational fisheries and coastal economies.

Tight Lines, Paul ([paulyfish@reeltherapy.com](mailto:paulyfish@reeltherapy.com))

## **2020 JCAA Heavy Hitters Fluke Tournament Final Results**

The JCAA Heavy Hitters Fluke Tournament concluded on Sunday, August 9th. It was a three-day event although participants were only allowed to fish on only one day. Eighty-five boats were entered and most fished in very nice conditions on Saturday and Sunday. While fishing was slow for some boats, other boats had outstanding catches. The tournament was based on the total weight of the three heaviest fluke caught on each boat. The big winner was Matt Sorrentino who fished with Capt. Tony Pacitti aboard his Parker that does not have a name. The crew also included Tony’s Dad, David, and their friend Joe Damiano. Their three-fish total had a combined weight of 24.42 lbs. Matt led the way with his personal best 9.92 pound fluke and also won the single prize that was awarded for the largest fluke in the tournament. The team also swept all the Calcuttas and won a whopping total of \$14,684!

Dennis Machamer continued his hot streak in tournaments while captaining his new boat the Mistress. His crew’s three fish total was 20.56 pounds. Just behind them was Anthony Pansini’s crew with a total of 20.4 pounds. Their catch included an impressive 9.64 pound fluke. The top three finishers in the tournament all weighed in their fish at Fisherman’s Den in Belmar. That might be an indication that the best fishing was out of Shark River Inlet but how far they ran is unknown. Fourth place went to Robert Murdza and crew with a total of 19.26 pounds and the fifth place went to Rick Pagliuco and

his crew with a total of 17.79 pounds. The tournament also had a single prize for the largest sea bass which was won by Robert Dalglish with a 3.26 pound bass. However, Robert did not enter the sea bass Calcuttas. Therefore, both sea bass Calcuttas were won by Paul Haertel and his crew with a 2.48 pound sea bass that was caught by Ryan Loughlin. Their winnings totaled \$3,413. Not too shabby for a sea bass.

JCAA would like to thank all our participants and weigh-in stations as well as the publications, radio stations, FB groups and websites that helped promote our tournament.

### **Three Fluke Total**

1<sup>st</sup> - Matt Sorrentino 24.42 (*won all 3-fluke calcuttas*)

2<sup>nd</sup> - Dennis Machamer 20.56

3<sup>rd</sup> - Anthony Pancini 20.40

4<sup>th</sup> - Robert Murdza 19.26

5<sup>th</sup> - Rick Paglivco 17.79

### **Largest Fluke**

Matt Sorrentino 9.92 (*won all single fluke calcuttas*)

### **Largest Sea Bass**

Robert Dalglish 3.26 (*not in sea bass calcuttas*)

Paul Haertel 2.48 (*won both sea bass calcuttas*)

## **So Nice to See Whiting Again!**

*By John Toth*

Several of my fishing club members recently caught some nice whiting off the coast of New Hampshire. They filled a bushel basket of them with big whiting that I have not seen for many years and it brought back fond memories of me and my friends fishing for them.

Years ago, whiting was so prevalent in our waters that my fishing buddies and I used to start fishing for them the day after Thanksgiving. I remember catching those big whiting and we used to call them baseball bats! A number of my Bergen County club members would go on a party boat and we would have a great time bringing them on board! Since we went for whiting during the Thanksgiving holiday, I still remember that all of the anglers on a certain party boat (I can’t remember the name now) were invited into the cabin and the captain and mates poured shots of whiskey into small cups for all of us to have a toast for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Nobody became drunk or unruly, just a celebratory toast of whiskey for the holiday, good

cheer and the approaching New Year! Could you see this happening today?

While we were bringing nice whiting overboard, we also picked up some nice big ling! Would you believe at that time anglers called them “trash fish” and threw them overboard! Some anglers were even so angry to catch them, they cursed at them while throwing them back into the sea. Out of curiosity, I took some ling home to give them a try for dinner and I thought to myself, “what the hell is wrong with these guys” throwing ling away when they taste so good. I also learned that ling are tasty to eat while they are fresh, but deteriorate quickly in taste when frozen.

I also used to smoke my whiting and they were so moist and tasty! The smoked whiting on sale at stores today are usually dried out and I don't buy them. I am still looking for a place that sells good smoked whiting.

I know that a number of anglers remember whiting washing up on our beaches frozen during winter months and people would walk on the shore, like Coney Island, and pick them up and put them in a basket for dinner. They were called “frost fish.”

A few years ago, I was fishing and I saw three guys near me and they were obviously anglers that knew how to fish with their nice fluke coming aboard. I struck up a conversation with them and I mentioned catching whiting. They asked me “what is that?” It was so sad for me to hear that response about whiting considering not too long ago they were so plentiful and provided the party/charter fleet something to fish for during the winter season. Now, sadly, these party/charter boats basically have nothing to fish for during the winter months which makes their staying in business all the more difficult.

I can't recall the reason(s) why whiting disappeared from our shores. I have asked around my sources and it seems that intense commercial fishing in the Mud Hole may have something to do with it, climate change warming our waters or factors we do not know about. You may see whiting in some fish stores, but they are usually so small that I wonder why they are even selling them!

But, seeing these pictures of whiting brought back nice memories of fishing with my club friends that we would do in the winter on a regular basis. On one of those trips, I remember arriving at the dock and a person at the dock laughingly pointed to me and said to someone “look, he has icicles hanging from his hat!”



## JCAA High Roller Raffle Winners

*By Don Marantz*

On Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, the winning tickets for the JCAA High Roller Raffle were drawn and the following are the winners along with their prizes:

1. **Glenn Lewis** - Jersey Nutz Six Man Charter (6 hour, 6 man inshore weekday charter) – **\$850**, *Donated by Captains Robert and Cody Melton*
2. **Rick Lombardo** - ODM 11' NXF1102 Spinning Rod/Canyon Salt 7500 Reel – **\$639**, *Donated by Canyon reels and JCAA*
3. **Gary Tretina** - \$500 gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters – **\$500**, *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
4. **Howard Brather** - Shimano 6'6" Teramar TMC-E66MH Conv. Rod/Shimano HG14 Reel – **\$380**, *Donated by Grumpys Tackle and Shimano*
5. **Brad Eddy** - Quantum 7' QSW5701H Spinning Rod/Quantum Boca BSP60 Reel – **\$260**, *Donated by JCAA*
6. **John Zingis** - Costa Blackfin Sunglasses – **\$259**, *Donated by Costa*
7. **Howard Kawajek** - Tica 7' WIGA70MHJ2S Spinning Rod/Tica CS4000 Reel – **\$147**

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in our High Roller Raffle fundraiser this year. 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. JCAA works to protect the rights of New Jersey's recreational fishermen by seeking fair and equitable

fisheries management. It fosters conservation and education while seeking to do what is best for our fisheries to ensure they will be sustainable for future generations. JCAA also strives to create increased angling opportunities and better public access. Further, it is involved with issues concerning our marine environment, such as fighting for better fisheries habitat, keeping our waters clean, and protecting our forage species while supporting an ecosystem-based management approach. JCAA works in concert with New Jersey's legislature, many major local, state and national organizations, congress and federal agencies to advance its objectives.

It takes a lot of money to keep JCAA as a viable organization, to keep our offices in Toms River and the costs associated with running an office. JCAA is self-funded and raises money through raffles such as our High Roller Raffle, our Super 50-50 raffle and our annual fluke tournament and sportsperson of the year dinner. Unfortunately, this year due to the Covid-19 virus we are unable to have our fluke tournament and sportsperson of the year dinner, and, as such, we will be running in the red this year. So any help our supporters can give us by participating in our raffles is of great help to the organization. Again, thank you to everyone who participated in our High Roller Raffle this year.

## Youth Education Report

*By Greg Kucharewski*

### WEEKEND FISHING RODEO LAKE JULIANNA

Due to the timing of our JCAA Newspaper we will submit an article about the Weekend Fishing Rodeo for disabled children and other special needs along with honoring our disabled veterans and active-duty military personnel.

Organizers decided to combine the Kids Wish'n to go Fish'n Fun Day and Take a Veteran Fishing Day to commemorate the environmental improvements at Lake Julianna that include: Disabled access and bird-watching observation stand, catfish feeding station, planting of environmental grasses, duck pond, frog and rabbit cover habitat areas. Several volunteer groups in Monmouth and Ocean County assisted with the ecosystem restoration project to provide a healthy environment for fish and wildlife. The goal of the Weekend Fishing Rodeo is to offer special needs children and disabled veterans a day to

fish and feel the health benefits of getting in touch with nature while making good memories.

### NJ HOFNOD WEB-BASED TRAINING

During 2020, think about becoming a HOFNOD instructor. NJ HOFNOD facilitator workshops are hosted by the DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife and it was well worth the time to learn creative aquatic activities to teach youngsters the importance becoming environmental stewards. This workshop is a great learning experience. If you are interested in attending a workshop, please contact NJ HOFNOD Coordinator Liz Jackson by phone (908-637-4125 x122) or email [liz.jackson@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:liz.jackson@dep.state.nj.us). Next training date is May 15-17, 2020.

The Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs Program's Youth Fishing Challenge statewide event will take place on the state's second Free Fishing Day, Saturday, October 17th, when no license is required to fish regardless of age. See the NJ HOFNOD [website](#) or the [event page](#) for more information.

### 2020 JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD

The JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner is cancelled, but it is not too early to start thinking about a deserving person for the 2021 JCAA Youth Education Award. 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 to [gkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:gkucharews@jcaa.org). Please view the JCAA website for the next general membership meeting.

### FISH, BOAT, HIKE, BIKE & SHOOT OPPORTUNITY

Veterans feeling stressed and wanting to get outdoors can now team together with another veteran. Play HOOK-e is offering veterans with PTSD an opportunity to relax for a few hours by the water and visit natural calming areas. If you would like to experience saltwater and freshwater fishing we have a short one-to-one fishing program to get you outdoors to fish, boat, hike, bike and learn about marksmanship. Connect with nature at Lake Julianna, LZ-64, Island Beach State Park and other open spaces. To schedule a day and time, please email Greg @ [gkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:gkucharews@jcaa.org). Let us know what your interests are and we will do our best to get you outdoors.