

JCAA NEWSPAPER NOVEMBER 2020

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on October 27th, 2020)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING:

October 27th via Zoom Meeting

Starting at 7:30 PM

385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 12th 8th, 2020

Via Zoom Meeting

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.**

### **2020 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**

**November 12<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**November 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>** JCAA Blackfish Tournament

**November 24<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**December 12<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

**December 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>** Joint Meeting ASMFC, MAFMC

**December 29<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

??? We do not know at this time what shows will take place in 2021. We will keep you posted

### **Note From the Board of Directors**

Jersey Coast Anglers Association hope 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*.

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*

While we are doing JCAA meetings by ZOOM, I do miss our monthly General Membership meetings that were held at the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers Building in Herbertsville. At this location, we

could see each other, face-to-face, and chat about our exaggerated fishing stories! This is the type of interaction you just can't have with a meeting done by ZOOM! Also, a number us would meet at the nearby Vinnie's restaurant and have dinner together. Being together like this builds a bonding of members and that type of bonding is important to the success of any organization. On the plus side of ZOOM, we do not have to drive to Herberstville and we can be present at our JCAA meeting in the comfort of our home. But, I look forward to the day when we can have our meetings at the Shark Anglers building and I want to thank the members of the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers for hosting our monthly meetings there!

I also want to THANK JCAA member Paul Haertel who will be running a new **Blackfish Tournament** as a fundraiser on behalf of the JCAA. As you all know, we had to cancel both our annual JCAA Fluke Tournament and our annual Sportsman of the Year Dinner that generates funding for the operating expenses of the JCAA such as rent, insurance and other costs. The JCAA, like other organizations, have lost funding due to the cancellation of their fundraising events. Paul is stepping up to the plate to help raise funds for the JCAA and your support of entering this new Blackfish tournament would be most helpful for the finances of the JCAA! Details of the tournament are in this newsletter and I wish you luck to win our prizes and bragging rights for catching the big ones!

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Tom Fote*

### **ASMFC Annual Meeting Summaries**

This was the strangest annual meeting I ever attended. New Jersey was scheduled to be the host but that has been postponed to 2021. There were many meetings but most were not as long as usual. Winter flounder and lobster were the usual disappointments, not because of our management but because of factors beyond our control. The southern New England stock of lobsters is at the lowest level I remember. Winter flounder in southern New England shows no signs of recovery. Overfishing is not the issue for either of those stocks but rather the environmental conditions. Climate change continues to grow as a major issue. It

is not just that fish are migrating north or south but that they are abandoning the inshore waters for the cooler offshore areas. One day during lunch break I attended the MAFAC meeting to listen to a presentation on warming of the waters due to climate change. There were some interesting maps shared that show the unusual heat events in the ocean and one of the areas is the New York bight. This is probably one of the reasons the inshore fishermen are not seeing striped bass and bluefish during those heat events. Fish have a comfortable range for temperature and will vacate areas when they exceed their comfort zone. If the waters inshore are too warm when they are migrating south, they will avoid coming inshore along the beaches. I am going to cover a couple of the meetings and I have included the summaries for the meetings below.

### **Menhaden**

The Menhaden Board finally used ecosystem management to cut the quota for menhaden harvest to take into account the needs of striped bass. Many of us have been pushing for this for many years not only for striped bass but many other species that depend on forage species for their overall health. Right now, the only model we have is for striped bass but in the future other fish species, birds and marine mammals will be included. We need to protect the entire ecosystem for the long-term health of the ocean. Some of the advocates were upset that we didn't take the entire 18% but the system requires some compromise. We really need to begin taking the bulk of the reductions from the reduction boats. One company should not be able to control almost 83% of the harvest. This is a public resource, not a private one. That reduction quota does not belong to them but to the states that once had reduction plants in their states. This is a work in progress.

### **Striped Bass**

I didn't see many of your names signed in to listen to the five-hour striped bass meeting. There will be a follow up meeting on this in February. At that meeting we will approve a draft document to go to public hearings. We are now working on the questions we want to ask the public. The problem is wording the questions correctly and gathering comprehensive information. It would be important for you to listen to the recording of the meeting when it is posted. You don't have to do this in one sitting; you

have until February to finish. But this would be a good background for you before any public hearing. There were many proposals at this meeting but they are in the reading materials for this meeting. You cannot wait until February to begin developing a position with your clubs and fellow anglers. Where do we want to go on striped bass? How do we want to balance the many factors that impact on any decisions? What do we want to do about the high level of mortality with catch and release? We need to find a way to reduce the 52% of recreational mortality and the overall 48% mortality caused by catch and release. Are we managing fisheries just so people can catch and release or is there a place for anglers to take a fish home to eat or for those who want to fish tournaments and catch large fish? Do we want to increase the commercial fisheries? All of these issues will be part of the discussion in February. The good news is February is the beginning of the discussion and the board is committed to taking as long as it takes to make sound decisions.

### **Joint ASMFC & MAFMC**

The two boards that met were dealing with Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment and Recreational Management Reform Initiative. There should be a draft bluefish plan going out after the December Joint Meeting. This plan will deal with how we stop perceived overfishing and the commercial allocations. The Recreational Management Reform Initiative will be a longer process. The way we are managing recreational fisheries is not working and is destroying the industry and discouraging recreational anglers. In some species we are killing more by catch and release than by harvesting. Read the summaries below and it is important for you to stay alert to upcoming decisions.

### **George Howard former JCAA Sportsperson-of-the-Year passes**

The sportspersons of New Jersey lost one of our heroes on October 18<sup>th</sup> with the death of George Howard. My first official meeting with George Howard when he took over as Director of NJ Fish and Wildlife was arranged by Bruce Freeman. Bruce Freeman told George that I was trying to make striped bass a gamefish. George simply inquired if bluefish and summer flounder would be next. This was the beginning of a terrific working relationship. George supported striped bass as a gamefish and used his

influence as director to make it happen. Among George's accomplishments was the passage of the menhaden regulations in 1989 that moved the reduction boats further offshore.

George's early retirement due to heart issues was a loss for Fish and Wildlife but a great gain to the sportspersons of New Jersey and the management of the resource. As a private citizen, George could take on any issue and support any decision without worrying about the political consequences. George was clear that all the sportspersons needed to work together, and he used his influence to make that happen. George took over as President of the NJ Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and pushed to bring organizations like JCAA, Trout Unlimited and Ducks Unlimited into the Federation. The eleven statewide organizations that joined the Federation increased its clout in Trenton and worked to everyone's advantage. George attended more meetings as President of the Federation than he ever did as Director of Fish and Wildlife. He joined many coalitions and served on many boards. Most people do not think of George as a teacher but that's what George was. He was a teacher and mentor to many of us. He made many of us look at issues in different ways. George always looked at the long game, willing to compromise now for a win later. He knew how systems worked and always had a plan in mind, even if was not immediately clear to us. As our mentor he always kept us in the loop and helped us build our own coalitions. He never looked down at anyone and was willing to listen to all ideas. He was aware of the diversity within the sports community and always took that into account.

On a personal level, I loved and respected George and will miss him. I will miss the annual call to this **Marine on Memorial Day**, as a member of the greatest generation who fought in the Pacific to thank him for his service. Read the obituary below to get a better idea.

## **Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

*Meeting Summary*

October 22, 2020

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board met to consider approving state implementation plans for circle hook measures, which are required by Addendum VI; receive a Technical Committee (TC) report on release mortality in the recreational fishery;

and review the first draft of the Public Information Document (PID) for Amendment 7.

The intent of the circle hook provision is to reduce release mortality when fishing with bait in recreational striped bass fisheries. All state proposals included final (or proposed) regulatory language and a definition for ‘circle hook’ comparable to that cited in Addendum VI. The Plan Review Team (PRT) noted a lot of variation in regulatory language among states, although all the regulations essentially say the same thing. The PRT reiterated concerns previously raised by the Law Enforcement Committee, stressing the importance of all jurisdictions agreeing on standardized regulatory language to improve compliance and enforcement, especially where states share common borders and fishing areas. Addendum VI also provides states flexibility to propose exemptions to mandatory circle hook requirements to address specific needs of the state fishery. Two states (Maine and Massachusetts) proposed exemptions, but the PRT was unable to make a definitive recommendation to the Board regarding exemptions due to limited guidance on what constitutes an acceptable level of flexibility. The Board discussed whether the proposed exemptions would lead to other ‘niche’ exemptions across state fisheries, further weakening enforceability and undermining the intent of the provision. In order to achieve the greatest level of conservation for the resource, the Board approved the state implementation plans, with the caveat that no exemptions to Addendum VI mandatory circle hook requirements will be permitted. Maine and Massachusetts will begin their rulemaking processes to remove exemptions to circle hook measures from state regulation.

The Board reviewed a TC report on release mortality in the recreational fishery, which constitutes a significant proportion of total fishing mortality on the stock. The report highlighted how recreational release mortality is calculated for stock assessments, the factors (data and modeling) limiting the accuracy of those estimates now and in the future, as well as potential management actions the Board could pursue to reduce release mortality in the fishery. Following review, the Board tasked the TC to explore the relative impact of different release mortality rate estimates on stock status, with the TC reporting back to the Board in February. The Board also reiterated

the importance of hearing from the public on this issue as part of the adaptive management process within Amendment 7.

Lastly, the Board reviewed the first draft of the PID for Amendment 7. The PID is the first step in the amendment process; it is a broad scoping document intended to solicit stakeholder feedback on any issues concerning the management of the striped bass resource and fishery, and to inform development of the Draft Amendment. The PID highlights nine issues that have already been identified by the Board for consideration in Draft Amendment 7, including fishery goals and objectives, biological reference points, management triggers, stock rebuilding, regional management, conservation equivalency, recreational release mortality, recreational accountability, and the coastal commercial quota allocation. The Board offered a number of changes to the PID, including additions to the ‘statement of the problem’ and questions to the public to help focus stakeholder feedback. The Board will consider approving the PID for public comment in February 2021 at the Winter Meeting after these changes and additions have been addressed.

Finally, the Board appointed Bob Danielson, a recreational angler from New York, to the Striped Bass Advisory Panel. For more information, please contact Max Appelman [mappelman@asmfc.org](mailto:mappelman@asmfc.org), Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, or Toni Kerns [tkerns@asmfc.org](mailto:tkerns@asmfc.org), ISFMP Director, or at 703-842-0740.

## **ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Board Approves TAC for 2020-2022**

Press Release

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board (Board) approved a total allowable catch (TAC) of 194,400 metric tons (mt) for the 2021 and 2022 fishing seasons, which represents a 10% reduction from the 2018-2020 TAC level. The 2021-2022 TAC was set based on the ecological reference points (ERPs) approved by the Board in August, and reaffirms the Board’s commitment to manage the fishery in a way that accounts for the species role as a forage fish.

“This TAC represents a measured and deliberate way for this Board to move into the realm of ecosystem-based management,” said Chair Spud

Woodward of Georgia. “The TAC strikes a balance between stakeholder interests to maintain harvest on menhaden at recent levels, while also allowing the ERP models to do what they are intended to do.”

Based on projections, the TAC is estimated to have a 58.5% and 52.5% probability of exceeding the ERP fishing mortality (*F*) target in the first and second year, respectively. The TAC will be made available to the states based on the state-by-state allocation established by Amendment 3 (see accompanying table for 2021 and 2022 based on a TAC of 194,400 mt).

In determining which level to set the TAC, the Board also considered recent updates to the fecundity (*FEC*) reference points, and current stock condition. According to the latest assessment results, the 2017 estimate of fecundity, a measure of reproductive potential, was above both the ERP *FEC* target and threshold, indicating the stock was not overfished. A stock assessment update is scheduled for 2022 which will inform the TAC for 2023 and beyond.

For more information, please contact Max Appelman, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, or Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director, respectively at [mappelman@asmfc.org](mailto:mappelman@asmfc.org) or [tkerns@asmfc.org](mailto:tkerns@asmfc.org).

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

*Meeting Summary: Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment*

October 7 2020

The Commission’s Bluefish Management Board (Board) met jointly with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) to finalize the range of alternatives for the Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment. The Board and Council reviewed recommendations from the Plan Development Team/Fishery Management Action Team (PDT/FMAT) and approved a range of alternatives for inclusion in a draft public hearing document.

Consistent with PDT/FMAT recommendations, the Board and Council reduced the range of alternatives for further consideration in this amendment. The state commercial allocation alternatives were condensed to better represent recent state-by-state landings trends in the bluefish fishery. The Board and Council also voted to remove the

alternatives related to regional commercial allocations from further consideration in this action. Board and Council members were concerned that this management approach would result in a loss of autonomy and flexibility necessary for state fishery managers to effectively manage to the needs of their state’s commercial fisheries. The Board and Council also removed the two rebuilding plan alternatives that were projected to rebuild the stock to its biomass target within 10 years. The Magnuson Stevens Act mandate to rebuild an overfished stock in as short a time as possible while taking into consideration biological and socioeconomic impacts was an important factor in this decision. Board and Council members reasoned that the three remaining rebuilding plan alternatives span a reasonable time period of 4 to 7 years. Lastly, the Board and Council refined the range of alternatives pertaining to the sector transfer process, whereby landings are transferred between the recreational and commercial sectors, and the *de minimis* provision, which would relieve a state from adopting certain fishery regulatory measures when its harvest has minimal contribution to the coastwide harvest of bluefish.

Approaches retained for further consideration include the fishery management plan goals and objectives, commercial/recreational sector allocations, commercial allocations to the states, the rebuilding plan, the recreational/commercial sector transfer process, sector specific management uncertainty, and the *de minimis* provision.

The Board and Council expect to approve the draft amendment for public comment at the joint February meeting. Additional information, including an updated list of issues addressed in this action, can be found at [this link](#).

*For more information, please contact Dustin Colson Leaning, ASMFC FMP Coordinator, at [dleaning@asmfc.org](mailto:dleaning@asmfc.org).*

## **Joint ASMFC Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board & MAFMC**

*Meeting Summary: Recreational Management Reform Initiative*

October 7 2020

The Commission’s Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board (Board) and the Council

reviewed progress on the Recreational Management Reform Initiative and discussed next steps. After reviewing nine topics that were either recommended by the Recreational Management Reform Initiative Steering Committee or by stakeholders through scoping for two separate ongoing amendments, the Board and Council agreed to initiate a joint framework/addendum and a joint amendment to address several recreational issues.

The framework/addendum will further develop and consider the following topics and management issues:

- Better incorporating MRIP uncertainty into the management process
- Guidelines for maintaining status quo recreational management measures (i.e., bag, size, and season limits) from one year to the next
- A process for setting multi-year recreational management measures
- Changes to the timing of the recommendation for federal waters recreational management measures
- A proposal put forward by six recreational organizations called a harvest control rule

The amendment would consider options for managing for-hire recreational fisheries separately from other recreational fishing modes (referred to as sector separation) and would also consider options related to recreational catch accounting such as private angler reporting and enhanced vessel trip report requirements for for-hire vessels.

The Board and Council Board may consider an initial draft range of alternatives for the framework/addendum, as well as a draft scoping document for the amendment, in early 2021.

*For more information, please contact Toni Kerns, ISFMP Director, at [tkerns@asmfc.org](mailto:tkerns@asmfc.org).*

## **Obituary of George P. Howard Jr.**

George P. Howard, age 95, of Pittstown, New Jersey died Sunday October 18, 2020 at home. George was born April 30, 1925 in Newark N.J. He was the son of the late Bernice Mitchell Howard and George Patrick Howard. He was pre deceased by his wife of 65 years Jean and two brothers, the late Congressman James J. Howard and Robert M. Howard.

George served 3 years in the United States Marine Corp, enlisting at the age of 17. He trained as

a radio operator - radio repairman, served in the 1st Marine Division, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 4th Joint Assault Signal Company and saw action in the World War II Pacific Theater. He participated in the battle of Peleliu, 15 Sept 44 to 14 Oct 44, landing on the beach on the 1st day of the assault and also saw action on Okinawa from April 1945 to July 45. He continued his service after the war shipping to China then returned home and was discharged in Feb. 1946.

George attended Seton Hall College in NJ before entering the Marine Corps, and graduated from the New York College of Forestry at Syracuse University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Forestry with a minor in Wildlife Management. He worked for the New Jersey Division of Fish & Game from 1950 until 1990 as wildlife worker, Wildlife Management Supervisor, Bureau Chief and finally Director of New Jersey Division of Fish and Game.

He served on the New Jersey Sportsman Fish and Game Council 1990-2001. George was an avid sportsman who was dedicated to the conservation of wildlife. He was actively involved in many organizations including the NJ State Federation of Sportsman's Clubs, serving as their executive director.

Surviving are his daughter Judith Burd of Washington N.J, Son John Howard and wife Shirley of Manahawkin, N.J. He also has two granddaughters Amy and David Giannetto of East Amwell, N.J., Rachel and Brian Moore and one great grandson Conner of Bozeman, Montana.

In lieu of flowers, donations in George's name may be made to ESF College Foundation (SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry) (In Memory of George Howard) P.O. Box 6486 Syracuse, NY 13217-6486 or The USO, P.O. Box 96860 Washington, DC 20077-7677.

## **Public Access**

*By George Browne*

This month's public access column is going to be a little different and the issue was brought to my attention by other members of the Berkeley Striper Club. This public access issue is not about a homeowner trying to block fishing access, a town closing their beaches due to Covid19, or even a fishing spot where parking regulations were changed to limit access. This column is about Sandy Hook National Recreation Area, the site called The False

Hook at the northern end of Sandy Hook, and the Army Corps of Engineers decision to dredge The False Hook area beginning October 1st.

Over time, sand from beach replenishment projects to the south of Sandy Hook migrates north with the littoral currents and is deposited at the northern end of Sandy Hook. The sand bar that is created is called The False Hook because it is extending Sandy Hook north into the mouth of the bay. As this sand accumulates the bar extends out towards the channel just off the beach and there is a periodic need to dredge the sand to keep the channel open. No one disagrees with the need to dredge the channel so that boats can safely pass. The problem is the timing of the closure.

With about one week's notice, Sandy Hook announced that the area surrounding The False Hook would be closed from October 1 until the end of the year. This wipes out oceanside fishing on the northern end of Sandy Hook for the entire fall run for Striped Bass, False Albacore, and Bluefish. The closure starts at the J Lot and extends about one mile to The False Hook. You may not enter the beach north of the J lot and you may not fish that area (see the map for the closed area). A mile of beach is closed so that an area about 1/10th of a mile can be dredged. And it will take three months to dredge that 1/10th of a mile. This is unacceptable.

Once JCAA learned of the closure, several board members, including me, went to work on doing three things:

First, we investigated the closure to see what information we could get from Sandy Hook about the closure, the short notice on the closure, the area involved, and why it was scheduled when it was.

Second, several board members reached out to Senator Cory Booker's office and Congressman Frank Pallone's office. We got their attention, and they contacted the agencies involved. We have a conference call the last week of October where we will get an update and a chance to give our views on the closure. We want to get The False Hook reopened as soon as possible this year and prevent an ill-timed closure in future years. Part of the reason cited for the fall closure was to protect the winter flounder spawn in late January or early February. We get that, we want to protect the species we fish for, but we also think there is a way to dredge late in the year and have it completed before the winter flounder spawn.

Third, the JCAA board has drawn up a position paper on the dredging related closure of The

False Hook. We want anglers to be considered beach stakeholders. We need to have our voices heard this year and in the future. The northern fishing area at Sandy Hook is already closed for half the year for nesting birds. Closing that same area for an additional three months to dredge it blocks us from fishing for three quarters of the year. Enough!

The position paper is included in this month's JCAA Newsletter. Please read it and share it with other anglers and your fishing clubs. We need to make sure our voices are heard.

If you have any public access questions or issues, please email me at [publicaccess@jcaa.org](mailto:publicaccess@jcaa.org). Provide a phone number or other way to contact you and I will get back to you.



## **Jersey Coast Anglers Association Position Statement on the Dredging Related Closure of the False Hook at Sandy Hook, NJ**

The False Hook area at Sandy Hook, NJ has been closed effective October 1st, 2020 for the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge sand from that location. This closure has completely cut off surf fishing access to the northern end of Sandy Hook just as Striped Bass, False Albacore, and Bluefish exit Raritan Bay on their southerly migration. In addition to fish leaving Raritan Bay, Striped Bass, False Albacore, and Bluefish are migrating south from the Hudson River, Long Island and New England. The unique geography and location of Sandy Hook places all of these fish close to shore and, coupled with the presence of large schools of migrating forage fish, makes the fall of the best times of the year to fish at Sandy Hook.

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association sees several problems with the closure and the way it is being managed.

- Anglers were only informed of this closure about a week before it was set to take effect on October 1st, but the dates of the closure were known well in advance of the announcement.
- The dredged area shown on the project maps released by Gateway National Recreation Area's Sandy Hook Unit shows the site being dredged about 1/10th of a mile in length. The Army Corp of Engineers is closing one mile of beach for this project.
- The start date of the project is October 1st, but the closure announcement states that the project will not be completed until late December or early January.
- There is a concern that if the dredging project continues past mid-January it can affect the winter flounder spawn.
- Anglers, as well as other beach users, are already banned from the Northern Fishing Area at Sandy Hook for over 6 months to accommodate nesting birds. Adding a 3-month, closure after the nesting birds' closure, denies beach users from using the beach for three quarters of the year. This leaves only the winter months for people to use the beach.
- The following is the official position of the Jersey Coast Angler's Association (JCAA) in relation to the current dredging project at The False Hook and the resultant area closure.

**1.** In the future, adequate notice of beach closures must be given to all affected beach users at least 45 days in advance of the closure.

**a.** Anglers have purchased annual nighttime fishing passes, but those permits are now devalued due to the closure.

**b.** Fishing not only provides recreational opportunities for anglers but supports the local economy through bait and tackle shops, restaurants, hotels, and many other businesses purchases.

**c.** Anglers from out of the Monmouth County area, plan on fishing The False Hook in the fall and now must change their plans. These anglers may have made lodging reservations that they cannot change or cancel.

**d.** Coupled with the Covid19 restrictions, the closure of The False Hook fishing access has

further impacted local businesses at a time when they could have extended their season.

**2.** The size of the closure area must be minimized to meet the needs of beach users while accommodating safety and security. The size of the current closure area is disproportionate to the actual work area.

**3.** Three months appears to be a long timeline for dredging an area approximately one-tenth of a mile long. The Army Corp of Engineers needs to improve their management of this dredging project by:

**a.** Moving future projects to be completed as late in the year as possible so as not to affect the prime fall fishing through beach closures, increased water turbidity, or disturbance of the nearshore environment.

**b.** Minimizing the duration of any beach closure to this area so that the beach is reopened quickly.

**c.** Scheduling their contractors so that the work is done without interruption and completed efficiently.

**4.** The work can effectively be performed in late December or early January without interfering with the winter flounder spawning. Scheduling future dredging projects later in the year preserves the surf fishing while allowing anglers to have a better chance to catch fish.

**5.** When scheduling this dredging project, The Army Corps of Engineers must consider the seasonal needs of beach users. Fishing access at Sandy Hook should be increased in compliance with Department of the Interior Secretary issued Secretarial Orders number 3347 and number 3356.

## **Youth Education Report**

*By Greg Kucharewski*

During October, Point Pleasant high school students were surf fishing on New York Ave., Point Pleasant Beach. We had a conversation with educators from Point Pleasant High School about adding NJ HOFNOD to their curriculum for 2021 and sponsoring a high school team for the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. We look forward to answering any questions their Health and Physical Education teachers would like to discuss.

## NJ HOFNOD INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

During 2021, think about becoming a HOFNOD instructor. New Jersey HOFNOD facilitator workshops are hosted by the DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife and it is well worth the time to learn creative aquatic activities to teach youngsters the importance of becoming environmental stewards. This workshop is a great learning experience. If you are interested in attending a NJ HOFNOD workshop, please phone or email Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Coordinator Phone: 908-637-4125 x122 email: [liz.jackson@dep.state.nj.us](mailto:liz.jackson@dep.state.nj.us).

## SUPPORT LOCAL TACKLE DEALERS

We recently visited local tackle dealers to setup our Play HOOK-e display and inform veterans and their families about our “Play HOOK-e from PTSD” programs. All our Play HOOK-e veterans are encouraged to shop at local tackle dealers. Most tackle dealers offer discounts to veterans. See tackle dealer list at [this link](#).

Veterans that stopped by our table received a welcome gift bag supplied by Vietnam Veterans of America Shore Area Chapter 12 and Jersey Coast Anglers Association. We informed veterans about our JCAA newspaper and Play HOOK-e by-monthly newsletter. Many thanks to participating tackle dealers for supporting our magnet campaign and allowing us space to speak to veterans at their business. If your business would like us to setup a Play HOOK-e Go Fishing display, please contact Greg at 732-785-9278.

During November, we are 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 and boat. 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 @ [jkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:jkucharews@jcaa.org). Let us know what you're interests are and we will do our best to get you outdoors.

## NJSP MARINE SERVICES BUREAU POINT PLEASANT STATION

We would like to thank the NJSP Marine Services Bureau, Point Pleasant Station, NJ for

partnering with our “Play HOOK-e from PTSD” program and honoring our disabled veterans.

Our veterans appreciated how Troopers made their day special. Veteran men and women participated in fast boat rides, an outdoor facility tour, fishing for blackfish, friendly conversation, and eating together at the Point Pleasant Station BBQ. Many thanks to Jersey Shore Outfitters for supplying all the bait for the 35 veterans in attendance.

SFC Walsh and Sgt. Frake did a great job of organizing the event and made sure all our veterans were safe and engaged with outdoor activities. They also cooked and provided food for us. It was a wonderful experience for our veterans to relax by the water. We look forward to future events at their facility. We also thank the following businesses that helped supply door prizes and welcome gifts: Bob and Marci, The Fisherman, Norma K III, Pro Tapes C.O.R.E., Bogan's Brielle Bait & Tackle, Gabriel CO., Betty & Nicks B&T, The Tin Man Lures, Grumpy's B&T, Reel Seat B&T, Pell's Sport and Fish, Jersey Shore Surfcasters, Quilts of Valor, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, Vietnam Veterans of America Shore Area Chapter 12.



*Bill Browne, Veteran and JCAA board member*

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# JCAA Black Fish Tournament

**November 16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**