

JCAA NEWSPAPER APRIL 2021

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on March 30th, 2021)

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

JCAA REGULAR MEETING

March 30th, 2021 via Zoom Meeting

Starting at 7:30 PM

385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 8th, 2021

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.

2020 OFFICERS

President	John Toth	732-656-0139
1st V.P.	Mark Taylor	732-656-0139
2nd V.P.	Bill Browne	732-504-9344
Treasurer	Doug Tegeder	732-575-2661
Rec. Sec.	Sue Rothermel	732-547-8730
Cors. Sec.	Paul Turi	609-709-9215
Mem. Sec.	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Tournament Dir.	Paul Turi	609-709-9215

Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

Canceled Atlantic City Boat Show

Canceled March Saltwater Expo

April 6th-7th ASA Gov't Affairs Committee Meeting

April 6th-8th MAFMC Virtual Meeting

April 8th Bluefish Public Hearing

April 8th JCAA Board Meeting

April 27th JCAA General Meeting

May 3rd-6th ASMFC Virtual Spring Meeting

August 5th-8th JCAA Heavy Hitter Fluke Tournament

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 calls about upcoming events that JCAA is running or involved with. 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.

JCAA Fundraisers Please Help Us Out!

By Paul Haertel

Currently JCAA has two fundraisers. One is that we are selling \$25 gift cards Applebee's Restaurant. JCAA will receive a check for \$200 for every \$1000 worth of cards we sell. The other

fundraiser is our Hi-Roller raffle with prizes having a total value exceeding \$3000. All of the shows that we normally sell these tickets at were cancelled this year so we really need you to help us out by buying some. Checks for either the gift cards or raffle tickets can be made out to JCAA and mailed to: JCAA, 1594 Lakewood Rd., Unit 13, Toms River, NJ. 08755. We will mail you the gift cards. Regarding the raffle tickets, we can fill them out for you and mail you the stubs or we can mail you books of tickets and you may fill them out and return them to us with your payment. Either way is fine and we appreciate your anticipated support. We also accept Paypal and credit cards. For more information call our office at 732-506-6565. Please leave a message if no one answers and we will get back to you.

2021 Hi-Roller Raffle Tickets - \$3 each, 3 for \$5 or a book of 7 for \$10

List of Prizes (*retail values*)

1. Jersey Nutz Six Man Charter (6 hour, 6 man inshore weekday charter) – **\$950**, *Donated by Captains Robert and Cody Melton*
2. Star 6' Handcrafted B03806SHC Conv. Rod/Canyon EX-16 Reel – **\$590**, *Donated by JCAA and Star Rods*
3. \$500 gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters – **\$500**, *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
4. Fenwick 7' HMG70MH-FC Conv. Rod/Shimano 14 HG Reel – **\$320**, *Donated by Grumpys Tackle and Shimano*
5. Tica 12' UEHA936502S Spinning Rod/ Tica Taurus TP5000S Reel – **\$300**, *Donated by Tica*
6. Collection of Custom Striper Plugs – **\$250**, *Donated by various plug builders*
7. Penn Battle 7' BTL11815S70 Spinning Rod/Battle II 3000 Reel – **\$135**, *Donated by Pure Fishing*

President's Report

By John Toth

The first thing I want to do is to **THANK** Phil Simon and Paul Haertel and Tom Fote in putting their

heads together to develop a response on the behalf of the JCAA to the Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council (MAMFC) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) on the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Allocation Amendment. This amendment is complex with a lot of information requiring a lot of reading and interpretation to determine how it impacts our recreational fishing industry. If we are not on guard, our fishery can be damaged by this amendment and that is what the JCAA does well – Protect the Rights of Anglers who Fish in New Jersey!

Both Paul Haertel and I listened to the New Jersey's Marine Fisheries Council meeting by Webinar on March 4th concerning their determining of what will be our 2021 season for summer flounder. Many anglers were upset by the Council's decision on this season and, quite frankly; this meeting was just out of control with all types of interruptions to manipulate the Council's final decision on the season. I wrote an article on this issue and it is in another section of this newsletter.

Finally, Zach McCue, Senator Booker's Chief of Staff, is placing his hat in the ring to be considered the Regional 2 Director of the EPA Administration. Zach has assisted us with access issues at the Sandy Hook National Recreational Park and the JCAA, NJOA and the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs signed a joint letter to recommend his appointment to this position to federal EPA staff. Tom Fote assisted me in putting this paper together.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Tom Fote

Striped Bass

The hearing in New Jersey was attended by about 80 people including staff. That might seem like a large representation of NJ anglers but it is not. There were questions raised by why the EEZ was closed for recreational anglers. I can understand this since many at the hearing were not fishing in the late eighties and early nineties when NMFS was trying to open the EEZ and lift the moratorium for both commercially and recreationally. There is a link below that will take you to my December 12, 1995 Congressional Testimony. There were three NJ public

hearings in 1995 about whether to open the EEZ. The first hearing took place in Toms River and was shut down by the Fire Marshall before it began because there were more than 900 people trying to get into room that would hold 125. The National Marine Fisheries Service rented a room at the Long Branch Ocean Spa and Resort. When I arrived early for the hearing Bill Hogarth, the hearing officer, complained about the \$2,000 it cost for a room for 900 people. I bet him a dinner we would run out of chairs and that is exactly what happened. I won a dinner! There was another hearing at Ocean County which was attended by over 500. With the exception of a few commercial fishermen, not one angler wanted to open the EEZ. Please read the [testimony here](#). Next month I will provide more details about why we wanted the EEZ closed. At that same hearing, the RFA also testified to keep the EEZ closed.

There will be hearings on bluefish on April 8th. Information is below. The Mid-Atlantic Council and ASMFC will be having a joint meeting on the reallocation amendment for summer flounder, scup and sea bass. Read Paul's article on this issue.

MAFMC and ASMFC to Hold Public Hearings for Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment

NJ Public Hearing, April 8 at 6PM

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) are seeking public comment on management options under consideration in the Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment. This amendment contains alternatives to:

1. Revise the fishery management plan (FMP) goals and objectives;
2. Modify the bluefish allocations between the commercial and recreational sectors;
3. Modify the commercial allocations to the states;
4. Initiate a rebuilding plan;
5. Revise the quota transfer processes;
6. Revise how the FMP accounts for management uncertainty; and
7. Revise the *de minimis* provisions in the Commission's FMP.

8. Comments may be provided at any of 5 virtual public hearings to be held between **March 24** and **April 8, 2021** or via written comment until **April 23, 2021**.

We encourage you to visit the Council's [Bluefish Allocation and Rebuilding Amendment](#) web page or the Commission's [Public Input](#) web page, where you can read the Public Hearing Document, the Draft Amendment, and watch the public hearing presentation (to be posted by March 12, 2021).

The Council's [Public Hearing Document](#) is an abbreviated version of the amendment which summarizes proposed management options and impacts. The Commission's [Draft Amendment](#) is a more comprehensive management document that will resemble the Commission's final amendment once approved. Both documents contain identical options for public input, but each have been developed according to each management body's differing requirements. Commenters need only to submit comment on one of the documents. We have also developed a [Quick Reference Guide](#) which provides an overview of the alternatives under consideration in the amendment.

Virtual Hearing Schedule

Interested members of the public are encouraged to provide oral comments at any of the following public hearings. While we encourage you to attend the hearing that is targeted toward your state or regional grouping, anyone is welcome to participate in any hearing.

The upcoming joint meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Board will be hosted by the Council via Webinar

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM on Tuesday, April 6th

At this meeting, the Board and Council will consider final action on the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Commercial/Recreational Allocation Amendment.

Prior to the joint meeting, the Council will also receive an update on the summer flounder recreational discard management strategy evaluation (MSE) at 9:00 – 10:00 AM on Tuesday, April, 6th. Please feel

free to attend this meeting if interested. Future MSE updates will be conducted jointly with the Board and Council as this project develops further.

The full meeting agenda is available on the April 2021 Council Meeting Page. The Council is transitioning from Adobe Connect to Webex as its primary webinar platform. In the coming weeks, the Council will post detailed webinar connection instructions, an updated webinar guide, and information about training sessions. Please stay tuned for updates. Once finalized, the meeting materials will also be made available on the Council's meeting page.

JCAA Comments on Summer Flounder, Scup & Black Sea Bass Allocation Amendment

By Paul Haertel

Below are the comments submitted by JCAA regarding the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Amendment. While many of you may not understand it or even know about it, if you fish for these species, this is probably the most important amendment to come down the pike in quite some time. It is going to affect what the recreational harvest limits will be many years to come. Should the ASMFC and MAFMC decide to leave the percentage splits between commercial and recreational fishermen as they are right now, we are in a heap of trouble. We need everyone who fishes recreationally to become involved in this!

3/15/21

ASMFC and MAFMC,

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association represents approximately 75 fishing clubs throughout our state and we appreciate this opportunity to comment on the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea bass Allocation Amendment. We would like to start with a little history. Back in the 1970's it was widely accepted that recreational fishermen accounted for a much higher percentage of the catch and landings of fluke, scup and sea bass than the commercial fishermen. Eventually it was decided that quotas needed to be established and that percentages of the allocation would be split between the commercial and recreational sectors. However,

regarding fluke the NMFS numbers were used by ASMFC/MAFMC in setting up the base years that favored the commercial fishermen after they had devastated the stock. This occurred because during the fall and winter, commercial fishermen found that the fluke were concentrated far offshore near the continental shelf. NMFS then approved a 60/40 split favoring the commercial fishermen when the split should have been the other way around and based on historical data. Recreational fishermen were given the short end of the stick back then and the problem only compounded over the years. Imagine how many more fish the recreational sector would have accounted for had the quotas been fairly assigned and regulations had not become so restrictive over the years. It is because of this that JCAA believes that even the most favorable options for recreational fishermen in the amendment are insufficient.

However, in 2018 the MRIP numbers were recalculated, and the revised estimates revealed that the recreational fishermen had caught far more fish than originally believed going back to 1981. That in turn caused our fisheries managers to conclude that the stock biomass for fluke, scup and sea bass was significantly higher than the previous estimates had shown. Regarding fluke, the higher biomass estimate resulted in a 49% increase in the quota for commercial fishermen and a 49% increase in the RHL for recreational fishermen. However, regulations for recreational fishermen could not be liberalized because the previous year's landings estimate indicated they were already equal to the 2019 RHL. The allocation percentages for all three species do not reflect the current understanding of the recent and historic proportions of catch and landings between the two sectors. In other words, the heart of the problem is that though the revised data revealed that recreational fishermen were responsible for a much higher percentage of the catch, the split between the two sectors could not be changed without an amendment. We now have this amendment before us and that is why you must act to rectify this situation as soon as possible.

Regarding the amendment itself we would like to make the following recommendations:

As good stewards of the resources we recommend catch based allocations for all three species. This method gives incentive for both commercial and recreational fishermen to reduce their dead discards as there may be an opportunity to increase their landings if they are able to do so.

Though we passionately believe that all of the proposed percentage increases of the RHL for recreational fishermen are insufficient, we recommend the following:

- **Fluke** – Option 1a-3 (60% recreational 40% commercial)
- **Scup** – Option 1b-4 (59% commercial 41% recreational) provided a catch-based approach is chosen. If a landings-based approach is chosen we support options 1b-7 (50% commercial 50% recreational) as it would provide the most benefit to the recreational sector in the form of higher angler satisfaction, greater economic opportunity and more revenue for the for-hire sector compared to other allocation alternatives.
- **Sea Bass** – Option 1c-3 (76% recreational 24% commercial)

Regarding phase-in alternatives, we recommend immediate implementation and certainly no more than two years. By not correcting this problem as soon as possible, the catch and landings numbers would be skewed favoring the commercial fishermen during the years before full implementation takes place. Then in the future, these years might be used in management decisions and once again recreational fishermen would end up with the short end of the stick. In fact, it is a shame that the new MRIP data and allocation changes were not done at the same time. The commercial sector was given larger quotas than they should not have been given and now they do not want to give it back. Most don't even understand the problem.

Lastly, we are opposed to quota transfers between the sectors.

Respectfully submitted,

John Toth, JCAA President

Controversial NJ Marine Fisheries Decision on the 2021 Fluke Season

By John Toth

The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council met on March 4th to discuss a number of issues on its agenda, but the “main event” for those of us listening

in on the meeting by Webinar was the Council's decision on what will be the 2021 fluke season for NJ's anglers. There were 2 options to be considered for this season:

- Option 1: **May 22nd to September 19th** – (Status Quo) – no change from the 2020 season. – **121** days of fishing
- Option 2: **May 28th to September 28th** – **124** days of fishing

Note – in both options, the bag limit remains the same with 3 fluke at 18 inches.

It seems like this is a no-brainer and the preferred option would be Option # 2 since it gives us 3 more days of fishing! Also, it better closes the gap when the fluke season ends and when we have limited fishing opportunities until the sea bass season starts on October 8th.

Anglers in the southern part of our state prefer Option # 1 since the fluke come in earlier in their bays and their rivers providing them with better opportunities to catch legal size fluke in inshore waters. Anglers in the central and more northern part of our state prefer Option #2 since it provides more days of fishing and also reduces the gap until we can fish for sea bass.

There was a survey done before the Council meeting was conducted by NJ Marine Fisheries to determine which of these two options anglers preferred. This survey showed overwhelming support for Option # 2! Of the 725 responses to this survey, 73% or 531 recreational anglers and related businesses picked the later season! In a breakdown of the four Shore communities, Atlantic County was the only one to support Option # 1.

With this information at hand, the logical conclusion would be for the Council to approve Option # 2. After discussing these options, the Council asked the public to voice their opinion on these two options. To do this, the public had to pre-register on their Webinar site before the meeting if they wanted to give their comments. This is standard procedure so that the meeting chairperson can recognize the caller and proceed with the call list in an orderly fashion. Most, if not all the callers, voiced their opinions to approve Option # 2. I was taking notes of the responses made by the callers and not one person by my notes voted approval for Option # 1!

Why and how did the Council approve **Option #1 (May 22 - September 19)** that was not supported

by most of the public? Several Council members in favor of Option #1 indicated that the Council did not hear enough comments from the public on the two options. One Council member indicated that his phone “was ringing off the hook” from people calling in to support Option #1. (Funny, no other Council members commented that their phones were “ringing off the hook”). Another Council member said that “he has many friends who support Option # 1”. (I could have easily said that I have two million friends that prefer Option # 2)! Another Council member said that the Council cannot make a decision unless it hears from the entire public. (Why not the entire world)? All of this was just maneuvering to steer the Council to approve Option # 1. It succeeded so that southern anglers could have better opportunities to catch legal fluke in their inshore bays and rivers! In these inshore waters, fluke arrive early and their numbers decrease as the season progresses. For these anglers, the later season of Option # 2 would not be to their benefit.

This inshore/offshore issue has come up in almost every meeting I have attended on fluke fishery as an Advisor to Council members to determine what should be our next season for fluke. I sent an email to the NJ DEP’s Marine Fisheries indicating that this issue should be resolved ASAP by different seasons, size limits or even by different regions so that this issue receives resolution. Hopefully, this will be done so that we will not have to address this problem again that has been so divisive to anglers across our state and a huge problem for our NJ Marine Fisheries Council.

NJMFC Spurns Public Opinion and Sets Early Fluke Season

By Paul Haertel

At their webinar meeting on March 4th, the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council shockingly voted unanimously in favor of Option 1 (status quo). Therefore, our season will be exactly the same as last year, beginning on May 22nd and extending through September 19th. Special regulations for Island Beach State Park and the Delaware Bay area will also remain the same. The decision left many people outraged as the vast majority of those who commented at the meeting as well as those who submitted emails favored option 2 with a later season. The later season had across the board support from all sectors; the

private boaters, shore fishermen, the for-hire fleet and tackle stores. Bay and ocean fishermen alike overwhelmingly favored the later season. Even when broken down by counties along our coast, only Atlantic County favored the early season. The state had made their survey available to everyone and there were 826 responses with 725 choosing an option. Of those, an astounding 73% favored the later season. The council’s decision left many scratching their heads and asking what’s the sense of having public input if their recommendations are going to be totally ignored. Others were calling for all new council members while some further indicated they would never get involved again. Still others said they don’t care what the regs are; they are just going to go fishing and keep whatever they want.

As far as why the council chose option 1 the reason is unclear. One council member argued that the survey and meeting was not fair as it did not allow everyone to speak. Information about the survey was in several newspapers and our Bureau of Marine Fisheries sent out an email blast. I was on Rack and Fin Radio talking about it and also posted it on the JCAA Facebook page. That post was shared 41 times and reached over 20,000 people. Simply put, the meeting and survey were as fair as they could be under the circumstances. Everyone had an equal opportunity to email their comments in or join the webinar. It is not the Bureau of Marine Fisheries fault that some people are technologically challenged. Also, there were far more people who voiced their opinions via email or on the webinar than any other council meeting we ever had.

Another council member claimed that the BMF did the survey to influence their decision. Well, isn't public opinion supposed to influence their decision? Yet another council member claimed his phone was "blowing up" with texts and phone calls from people who wanted to comment. Funny how that was not happening to the other council members. Finally, one of the council members said he had a lot of friends who wanted option 1 so he made a motion for that option which passed unanimously. No explanation was given to the public as to why they voted that way.

Some council members seemed miffed that the BMF did the survey without consulting them. They had no knowledge of the results until a day or two before the meeting. Additionally, a majority of advisors had recommended the early season long before the survey was completed. Most agree that in

the future it would be beneficial for the BMF to consult with the advisors and council members for input for the survey and then have the results to share with them well before any meetings. The BMF agreed to try to do that.

Despite the fact that 73% of those surveyed preferred the later season, the council sided with the 27% of people who wanted the earlier season. Even had everyone who wanted to comment had been able to do so this, the percentage would not have changed by much. People are really upset about this and believe the decision was made long before the meeting. It is a shame that so many people have now lost faith in the system.

Amazon Smile

By Paul Turi, Office Manager

Amazon Smile is a program where Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization selected by its customers. JCAA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and is registered with Amazon Smile to receive these donations from Amazon. If you would like to support JCAA in this manner, whenever you buy something on Amazon, simply go to smile.amazon.com whenever you make a purchase from Amazon and when asked indicate the Jersey Coast Anglers Association as the charitable organization you would like the donation to go to. You will still get the same price you would normally get but Amazon makes the 0.5% of the purchase price donation to JCAA. It's that simple and it is a great way to support JCAA.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

YOUTH FISHING CHALLENGE

The DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife NJ Fishing Challenge is scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 2021. NJ HOFNOD will support fishing teams at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. Visit their website at: [NJ Fish & Wildlife](https://www.nj.gov/dep/fish-wildlife/). If you are interested in attending a NJ HOFNOD workshop, please contact Liz Jackson, NJ HOFNOD Coordinator. Email

liz.jackson@dep.state.nj.us or phone 908-637-4125 x122.

Youth Fishing Challenge - The Hooked On Fishing - Not on Drugs Program's Youth Fishing Challenge is a statewide event to promote fishing among youths and their families. It is being held on the first of the state's two Free Fishing Days, Saturday, June 5, when no license is required to fish regardless of age. For more information and to register your group location visit: [Youth Fishing Challenge](https://www.nj.gov/dep/fish-wildlife/youth-fishing-challenge/).

30th ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

The 30th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament (GSFT) will be held at Island Beach State Park on Sunday, May 23, 2021. Get ready to enter the largest surf fishing tournament along the Jersey Shore. Don't miss a day of family fishing fun! Pick up a brochure about the tournament at Island Beach State Park or at your favorite tackle dealer. Remember admission to the park is FREE for the tournament.

Tournament officials and sponsoring organizations are excited about the 30-year anniversary and are looking forward to another successful event. This year, Yamaha Motors has joined us to set up an outdoor booth to support the tournament and provide items for the high school and NJ HOFNOD fishing teams.

This is the time to start preparing your fish catching strategies so that you can catch a trophy fish that will win the 2021 Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament and win PRIZES. If you catch the largest fish, your name will be inscribed on the Governor's Cup, with previous winners and displayed at the IBSP for all to see. High school fishing clubs, along with other school-based fishing teams will have a chance to win the high school team competition trophy and it will be on display.

If you are a novice angler and plan to fish the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament always prepare before the event and you will increase your chances of catching fish. Spend time looking over your equipment and making sure it is in workable condition. A week before the tournament visit a local tackle dealer and ask where fish are being caught and purchase items you might need. Tackle shops are usually extremely busy the day before and morning of the tournament. View online fishing reports to get an

idea of what fish are biting on. Review NJ saltwater rules and regulations or pick up a copy at the tackle shop to know size limits.

The following equipment checklist will get you started: Check rods for loose guides. Be sure the reel seat tightens properly on the reel. Check for cracks in the rod by the guide feet. Look for grooves and cracks in ceramic guides and tip top guide. Reels, lubrication, is the roller guide clean and working smoothly, inspect the drag system, bail springs, check all movable parts, handle, and if needed replace and discard line properly.

Suggested list of what you might need to fish if you walk to your location on the beach. Surf bag with prepared assorted baits & soft cooler pack, terminal tackle for targeted fish, sinkers, hooks, snaps/swivels, etc., Lure assortment, casting metal/jigs, small variety of swimming, diving, surface poppers that mimic local bait. Other gear, pliers w/line cutter, knife, measuring tape to record catch and release, dry bag for camera/phone, waders/boots, foul weather gear, extra small first aid kit, water, sunscreen, sunglasses, cap, sand spikes, stringer/plastic bag, and a towel. Packing your fishing equipment in advance will allow you to carry everything compactly. If you must walk to another fishing location, it is especially important to pack your fishing gear, so you can move easily through the sand.

We would like to remind our physically challenged anglers that there is an area at OBA 1 with beach wheelchairs available. Anglers that are not able to walk in the sand can now get to the water and try surf fishing. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice and physically challenged anglers at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. World Jeep – Chrysler – Dodge - Ram, Shrewsbury, NJ will assist physically challenged anglers with a NEW 2021 4x4 VIP vehicle to transport anglers that will be fishing the reserved area in front of OBA 1. Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 12) and volunteer anglers from various fishing clubs will also assist physically challenged anglers. If you know a disabled veteran or angler that would like to fish the tournament, please phone Greg K at 732-785-9278 or email vkucharews@jcaa.org.

Please visit the JCAA Website for updates and don't forget to register for the Free NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program.



HOW A CIRCLE HOOK WORKS

New Jersey Striped Bass anglers need to know how to fish with circle hooks. New Hook regulations will be enforced this year and anglers must use non-offset circle hooks. The most effective way to hook a fish with a circle hook is **not to raise the rod backwards in a quick motion**. It is recommended anglers reel and lift the rod slowly at the same time. If you jerk the rod back as with a typical J hook set, you will pull the circle hook out of the fish's mouth. Hooking sequence: The fish grabs the baited hook and starts to swim away. The line tightens slowly and usually pulls the hook out of the throat and to the corner of the mouth, where the point rotates and pierces the jaw hinge or cheek. Once the fish is hooked, it is difficult for the fish to escape. According to manufacturers, advantages of the circle hook design include increased catch rate, higher lip hook rate, which greatly reduces mortality; ease of use because the fish hooks itself; and less snagging in certain bottom fishing applications.

Remember; avoid the typical hook setting practice by jerking the rod back. I practice the circle hook setting technique when I plastic worm fish for largemouth bass. Practice makes perfect...You can feel the bass pick up the worm and this helps to wait until the line is taut, then I lift the rod and reel. It's hard to resist the typical hook set motion but after learning the lift and reel method, I can reel in my

catch, and quickly release fish unharmed. Read Paul Haertel's [recent report](#) about circle hook regulations.

NO COST TO ELIGIBLE VETERANS MOBILE SPORT FISHING PERMIT

Time is running out to apply for a 2021 Island Beach State Park vehicle permit. Eligible disabled veterans are exempt from paying Annual Mobile Sport Fishing Vehicle Permit fees to ride on the beach. Please be advised that once the number of permits are issued for this year, permits will no longer be issued. This is another great way for our veterans to "Play HOOK-e from PTSD."

Eligible veterans applying for an Annual Mobile Sport Fishing Vehicle Permit at Island Beach State Park must provide the following: Form DD 214 Honorable Discharge, Valid NJ Driver License and Registration, Veterans ID Card proof of service-connected disability. If you plan to fish on the beach

you must [register](#) for a Free NJ Saltwater Recreational Registration Card. It is suggested new beach drivers take a beach safety driving course. NJBBA offers a beach driving course – info can be found at [this link](#). For more information about permits and hours contact: Island Beach State Park, 732-793-0506.

INDOOR FISHING TACKLE SALE

Help support JCAA Youth and Veteran Programs. April 3rd, 8:00am - 2:00pm, Where: Jackson Crossing, 21 S. Hope Chapel Road, Jackson, NJ 08527,(next to All State Insurance). Saltwater and Freshwater gear, New/Used/Antique Rods & Reels, admission \$2.00 Donation will get you in the door to support Jersey Coast Angler's fishing programs for special needs children and disabled veterans. Call Al Marantz for Special Showings 732-859-0020.

HEAVY HITTERS MULTI-DAY TOURNAMENT AUGUST 5th – 8th

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS
