



JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

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Website: <https://www.JCAA.org>

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June 2025

**U.S. FIRST CLASS MAIL
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JCAA Hi-Roller Raffle

July 10th

JCAA Annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner

Saturday, November 8th



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Charles (Chuck) Santoro
Insurance Specialist



Jersey Coast Shark Anglers 2025 Tournament Schedule

Spring Striper Fever: May 10-17

Fluke Fever: July 19

Arrowhead Inn Fluke Tournament: Aug. 23

Fall Striper Fever: Nov. 1-8

Bluefin Fever: TBD

For information go to www.jcsa.org

Forked River Tuna Club 2025 Tournament Schedule

War at the Shore Meeting - TBD

Ladies Catch of the Day - July 12

Bi-Club Fluke Tournament - TDB

Tuna Tournament - TBD

Tournament Rain Date - TBD

Mark Your Calendar

\$500+ JCAA SPONSORS

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Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat Association
Hi-Mar Stripper Club
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Bayshore Anglers Assoc., P.O. Box, 94, Middletown, NJ
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Betty & Nick's Bait & Tackle, Seaside Park, NJ, (732) 793-2708
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Delaware River Shad Fishermens Assn., Allentown, PA, www.drsfa.org
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In Memory of Betty Henze, Lafayette Hill, PA
In Memory of Tom Ortman. A great fisherman, a great guy!
In Memory of Randy Minix, Gibbstown, NJ
Hudson River Fisherman's Association, Cresskill, NJ
L Raymond Humphreys, Jr., Pennsville, NJ
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Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club
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Phil Simon, Skillman, NJ
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Sunshine Organization
Village Harbour Fishing Club, Manahawkin, NJ
In Memory of Bruce Wagner
West Orange Anglers, West Orange, NJ, (793) 669-6799



A Saltwater Anglers Club

New Members Welcome

www.FISHHAWKSNJ.com

Meetings are at 7:30 PM on the first Thursday of the month at the Lacey Elks, Forked River, NJ

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New Jersey Beach Buggy Association
Raritan Bay Anglers Club
Paul Shafer, Bethel, CT

\$50 JCAA Sponsors

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Belmar Fishing Club, P.O. Box 38, Belmar 07719
Michael Blonske, Morrisville, PA
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Vito F. Cardinale, Red Bank, NJ
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Daniel DeChurch, Moorestown, NJ
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Point Pleasant Fishing Club, rmazz1428@gmail.com
Newark Bait & Flycasting Club
New Jersey Beach Buggy Association
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Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County
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Richard Secare, West New York, NJ
Shore Aquatic Club, Sea Girt, NJ
Silverton Fishing Club, Toms River, NJ
David Strom, Jr., West Orange, NJ
South Jersey Saltwater Anglers
Surf Kings Fishing Club
Douglas Vitale In Memory of Bruce Vitale Women's
Surf Fishing Club of NJ, www.wsfcnj.org



New Jersey Beach Buggy Association

PO Box 511, Seaside Park, NJ 08752
Buggy Membership Info: Ken Hollins 732-814-7021
www.NJBBA.org

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Manasquan Fishing Club

PO Box 513, Manasquan, NJ 08736

Meetings held first Friday of the month at 7:30pm
Manasquan Woman's Club, 62 Main Street
www.manasquanfishingclub.com

JCAA NEWSPAPER JUNE 2025

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION*

(Published on May 25th, 2025)

"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"

JCAA REGULAR MEETING

May 27th, 2025, 7:30pm

Jersey Coast Shark Anglers Building
385 Herbertsville Rd, Brick, NJ 08724

or via Zoom, for link contact:

tothjohn@verizon.net or mtsport64@aol.com

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 12th

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOC.

PO Box 1191, Wall Branch Post Office
Wall, NJ 07719

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

Publisher Tom Fote, 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.

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**JCAA General Membership Meetings are for club representatives and invited guests only. These meetings are not open to the general public. If you would like to attend as a guest, call the President at 908-913-0551 or Tom Fote at (732) 270-9102 before the meeting date to ask permission.**  
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2024 OFFICERS

President	Mark Taylor	732-245-9445
1st V.P.	Stephen Machalaba	908-588-1426
2nd V.P.	Don Marantz	908-347-1434
Treasurer	Doug Tegeder	732-575-2661
Rec. Sec.	Karen Noe	732-245-2751
Cors. Sec.		
Mem. Sec.	John Toth	732-656-0139

Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page

IMPORTANT DATES

May 27th JCAA General Meeting

June 12th JCAA Board Meeting

June 24th JCAA General Meeting

July 3rd JCAA Board Meeting

August 7th JCAA Board Meeting

No General Meetings in July & August

August 23rd 9th Annual Play Hook-e (see flyer)

JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner

By John Toth

Save the date! Our **Sportsperson of the Year Dinner** is going to be held on **Saturday evening on November 8th**. Once again, the dinner will be held at the **Captain's Inn** located at 304 E Lacey Rd., Forked River, NJ. This is a dinner you don't want to miss, just ask anyone who has attended over the last three years what they thought of it. It's going to be a great event again this year. This sit-down dinner starts at 5 PM with cocktail hour. Appetizers will include bacon wrapped scallops, mini crab cakes, calamari and pigs in the blanket. A cheese and cracker platter along with bruschetta and toast will also be placed at each table. That will be followed by a dinner beginning with a house salad and stuffed shells with vodka sauce. Then you will have your choice of 4 entrees, prime rib, a broiled seafood combo, chicken marsala and pecan salmon. All entrees will come with potatoes and vegetables. Finally, dessert will consist of Tartufo & mini pastries. Coffee, tea and soda are also included. There will be a cash bar.

As always, we will have gifts and silent auctions along with a 50/50. We will have a lot of really nice prizes including some for the ladies. We are requesting that our member clubs and individuals donate something for our raffle and/or our silent auction, or perhaps a bottle for our basket of cheer. To make a donation, please contact **Don Marantz** at (908) 347-1434. Tickets are \$100 per person. **John Toth** will

be handling the ticket sales as well as the seating arrangements this year. John can be reached at tothjohn@verizon.net or at (732) 656-0139.

Also, there are 4 entrees to choose from and please ask your members which of these entrees they want to have as their dinner selection. Please provide me with this information so that I can pass it on to the Captain's Inn so that they can know how much food to prepare for each entrée.

Nominations for the Sportsperson of the Year will be made at the JCAA's General Membership Meeting on September 30th. Start now to think of who from your club should be nominated to receive this prestigious award!

JCAA Hi-Roller Raffle

By Mark Taylor

Once again, this year we will be having our Hi-Roller Raffle and as you can see there are some really nice prizes. This is one of our major fundraisers so please buy some tickets. If you buy tickets, I absolutely guarantee you will have a chance to win. If you want tickets call the office at (732) 506-6565 or email jcaa@jcaa.org. The prizes listed below have a **total value of \$3,040**.

The drawing will be held on **July 10, 2025**, during the July JCAA board meeting at the Toms River Knights of Columbus Building, 113 Tennyson Ave. Toms River, NJ 08753.

New Jersey Amin. Code § 13:47-8.7

Location: Toms River Knights of Columbus Building
113 Tennyson Ave,
Toms River, NJ 08753

Drawing Date: **July 10, 2025, at 7:30 pm**

NJLGCCCC Identification: #475-4-32152

Municipal Raffle License: #9951

Beneficiary: Jersey Coast Anglers Association

Price of Ticket: **\$2 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) – **\$1200**, *Donated by Captains Robert and Cody Melton*

2. 7'4" Shimano Curado Rod/Shimano TPXD Reel Combo – **\$660**, *Donated by JCAA*
3. \$500 Gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters – **\$500**, *Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters*
4. 7' Penn Battle III LE / Penn Spinfisher VI 2500 Reel Combo – **\$235**, *Donated by Atlantic Bait & Tackle*
5. 7' Shimano Rod / Montauk Cerebus CER210 Reel Combo – **\$230**, *Donated by JCAA*
6. 7' Penn Spinfisher Rod / Penn 6500LL Reel Combo – **\$215**, *Donated by Penn Fishing*

Note: No substitution of the offered prize may be made and no cash will be given in lieu of the prize.

President's Report

By Mark Taylor

During summer months, many enjoy saltwater activities like boating, jet skiing, swimming, diving, and fishing. We should always do so safely and respectfully, ensuring this resource remains available for future generations.

Some individuals have been participating in early season fishing. To ensure the availability of resources in the future, involvement is needed from both individuals and clubs. There are various types of meetings for different species held regularly. This is a reminder about the diverse groups conducting meetings, such as the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (NJMFC). These organizations are among those setting regulations that impact New Jersey anglers. It is important for clubs and individuals to stay informed about these meetings. The responsibility cannot fall on just a few people, which is why there is an effort to encourage more participation in the JCAA Committees. Anyone interested in specific species should contact the committee chairperson. Increasing attendance at meetings and gathering information from the start would benefit all anglers in New Jersey. Everyone should be involved in the process, not just the recipients.

The MAFMC and ASMFC Advisory Panels held a joint webinar on March 25, 2025, to discuss the Recreational Sector Separation and Data Collection Amendment for Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, and Bluefish FMPs. Additional public meetings in early April focused on setting recreational measures and accountability for these species. For updates, sign up for their emails and visit their websites. These decisions will significantly impact on the recreational community.

The 2025 ASMFC Spring Meeting took place from May 5 to 8. During this meeting, revisions were made to Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Addendum III. A detailed summary of the meeting is available in the JCAA newsletter. For more information, please refer to the [May 2025 ASMFC Spring Meeting Summary](#). Individuals interested in fishing for Atlantic Striped Bass are encouraged to review this addendum. Those who wish to become more involved and join the JCAA Striped Bass Committee can contact Chairperson Paul Haertel at (973) 943-8201 or via email at anglerpmh@aol.com.

I want to remind everyone that politics can be controversial and intense, but it impacts our fisheries. Regardless of political affiliation, any action affecting our environment or fisheries whether it is resource protection, regulatory changes, or funding cuts that needs our attention. The recreational community should focus on addressing the issues, not the party involved to be effective.

The 35th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament took place on Sunday, May 18th at Island Beach State Park (IBSP). With great weather, the beach was packed with anglers, including Military Veterans, High School Fishing Clubs, novices, and experienced participants. Thanks to IBSP for hosting and NJ DEP Fish & Wildlife, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, and NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs for organizing the event. Special appreciation to Grumpys Tackle, Charlie's Bait & Tackle, and Hook House Bait & Tackle for their support. Anglers should visit these establishments to show gratitude and support. JCAA had a table at which Tom Fote sold high roller tickets and spoke to individuals about JCAA. Karen Noe was at the Tournament table selling tournament tee shirts all day. JCAA could use more volunteers at this event next year.

The 2025 JCAA High Roller Raffle Tickets are currently available for purchase. Support for JCAA is still needed, as the drawing will take place on July 10th. Tickets will be available at the next general

membership meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, May 28th, at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724. If you or your club would like to purchase or sell raffle tickets, please attend the meeting or contact the JCAA Office at (732) 506-6565 and leave a message. A past newsletter article listed the sponsors who donated the prizes. It is encouraged that everyone supports these sponsors and others who support the community.

For recreational clubs or individuals interested in saltwater fishing who are not currently members of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, please contact the JCAA Membership Secretary, John Toth at (732) 656-0138 or via email at tothjohn@verizon.net for more information. Additionally, member clubs that have not submitted their current club information along with their dues should also reach out to John Toth. It is crucial for JCAA to have updated information for meeting notifications and fishery issue alerts.

Tom Fote and I attended the American Sportfishing Association (ASA) Government Affairs 2025 Committee Spring Meeting from May 6th to 8th in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Mike Leonard, ASA Government Affairs Vice President, and the Committee extended an invitation for this event. The meeting provided useful information, and the tours of the Pennsylvania State House and Fish & Boat Commission Facility were notable parts of the visit. The future articles will cover my experiences in Pennsylvania.

For those passionate about supporting their local fishing community, the importance of staying informed and engaged cannot be overstated. Whether through attending meetings, volunteering at events, or discussing pressing issues with peers, every effort contributes to preserving the vibrancy of the recreational fishing scene. Organizations such as JCAA play a pivotal role in advocating for regulatory measures and resource management that directly affect the angling experience. By fostering community unity and participation, anglers can collectively address challenges and ensure the future of this cherished activity. Contact me at (732) 245-9445 or via email at mtsport64@aol.com.

Get Involved, unite as a community so the future of recreational fishing as we know it will not be gone.

Important Info: The Next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for **June 24th** at 7:30pm, held in person at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724 with a zoom meeting invite (Hybrid Meeting).

ASMFC Moves Toward Better Management of Chesapeake Bay Menhaden Fishery

By Capt. Paul Eidman

At its May 7 meeting, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Menhaden Management Board (MMB) agreed to move forward with exploring new, more precautionary strategies to manage Chesapeake Bay's menhaden fishery. This comes in response to ongoing concerns about the impact of the menhaden reduction fishery on the Bay's ecosystem, especially on predators like striped bass and osprey.

Board members from eight coastal states are now tasked with refining questions and data needs for their technical committee, which will explore management tools such as seasonal or area-based fishing closures, catch distribution controls, and potential reductions to the Chesapeake Bay harvest cap. These measures aim to protect key predator species during critical times, like the osprey chick-rearing season, when menhaden are a vital food source.

Despite being the largest fishery by volume in the Bay and along the Atlantic coast, there is still no solid data on how many menhaden are actually present in the Chesapeake. This information gap makes it difficult to fully assess the local ecological impacts of intense commercial harvest—especially when so much of the coastwide quota is concentrated in Virginia's Bay waters.

Public engagement has been key. Over the winter, conservation partners and anglers helped gather more than 24,000 signatures calling for better science and stronger management. While past efforts to fund critical research have stalled due to industry opposition, momentum is building for change.

The next big step will come at the ASMFC's summer meeting, August 5–7, where the board will decide what direction to give its technical committee. Hopefully, this process results in meaningful protections for the Bay's forage base and the health of our inshore fisheries.

Why it matters to us: Whether you're targeting stripers, or other gamefish, or just enjoying the Bay's natural beauty, a healthy menhaden population is foundational. These fish fuel the coastal ecosystem. As anglers and stewards of the water, we all have a stake in ensuring their sustainable management.

Coast Guard Proposes Removal of 350 Buoys – Your Voice Matters

By Capt. Paul Eidman

The U.S. Coast Guard is proposing the removal of approximately **350 navigational buoys across the Northeast**, as part of a broader effort to modernize the nation's navigation systems. This change, which would impact roughly 6% of all federally maintained aids to navigation (A to N) in the region, could have serious implications for safety and fishing access - especially for those of us who depend on these buoys both offshore and inshore.

While the Coast Guard is aiming to lean more heavily on electronic tools like GPS, electronic charts, and smartphone apps, **physical markers still play a crucial role**, particularly when tech fails or visibility drops. Buoys aren't just waypoints - they're fish magnets. Offshore anglers know that species like **mahi often hold near the surface**, while **fluke and sea bass patrol the bottom**. Losing these structures could change the game for many recreational and commercial fishers.

One prime example: the large buoy once stationed near **BarNEGAT RIDGE**, a reliable hotspot, was removed several years ago. It was replaced by a much smaller weather buoy that just doesn't draw the same activity. That kind of loss cuts into opportunity—not just for fishing, but for navigation safety in deep waters.

Closer to home, conditions on the **Navesink River** highlight another problem: **lack of maintenance**. This past winter, for the first time in 8 years, we saw ice on the river—and it ripped up many of the channel markers. As of today, **those markers still haven't been replaced**, and boaters are literally **running aground** trying to navigate the channel.

If you rely on these buoys to fish, navigate, or make safe harbor approaches, **now is the time to speak up**. The Coast Guard is actively seeking public input, and the deadline is **June 13**. To submit a comment, email D01-SMB-DPWPublicComments@uscg.mil and be sure to include:

- The size and type of your vessel
- How you use specific buoys (navigation, fishing, etc.)
- The distance at which you begin looking for or relying on each aid

More Info & Resources

- Official Coast Guard summary: www.bit.ly/D1Buoy
- Visual map of proposed removals: uscg-marker-removals.webflow.io
- Additional reporting: onthewater.com

Let's make sure our voices are heard—these buoys aren't just markers; they're vital parts of our navigation system and fishing lifestyle. Please share this with fellow boaters and anglers. The more feedback the Coast Guard receives, the better chance we have to keep essential aids in place.

Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

By Tom Fote

It has been a busy couple of weeks since the last JCAA Newspaper. It also brought back a lot of memories. I attended the ASA Government Affairs meeting with Mark. I remember the first time I attended this meeting when it had a different name. The Sportfishing Institute was still in existence. At that time, it was called the United Fishmen. When ASA came into existence and merged with the tackle trade show, it started a new Government Affairs meeting, and I was one of the original members. I was the young kid back then and now I am the old man. I am the last of the original Government Affairs members. It is just as energetic now as it was over 30 years ago. There was a lot of talk about tariffs and about the impact on the industry. The Trade and Commerce Subcommittee did not focus on lead but rather on PMAFS. ASA Government Affairs staff is much larger and we are focusing on areas we could not dedicate the time to in the past. I enjoy going to the meetings and I will continue to do so.

Being at the ASA meeting meant I missed the ASMFC meeting. I did not sit on any of the conversations. Mark was able to listen to some including striped bass and menhaden. Again, there was no conversation about how we deal with the recruitment problem in Chesapeake Bay. The Striped Bass Board continues to strictly focus on whether to cut back the catch to protect the spawning stock biomass. As we know, the size of the spawning stock biomass is not the problem. I was hoping that ASMFC, US Fish and Wildlife Service and NMFS would do the same thing they did in the 80's when there was a problem.

That was to spend the money necessary to get the information needed to solve the problem. This is not going to happen because of the proposed budget cuts proposed to NOAA and the Department of the Interior. We are going to have to use the flawed information we have available since there will not be an increase in the number of people working on recreational statistics.

Anglers don't usually pay much attention to the federal budget unless it directly impacts on them. This year there will be a direct impact on our work on conservation, habitat restoration and obtaining better fisheries data. Some people might think a budget cut might result in less management. That is not true. If just means the management will not be done with the best available science. Where we were hoping for some changes with better data, there is no money for this. Where we were hoping for adaptive management to deal with climate change, we will get less due to fewer staff to do the work. As an example, at the ASA meeting, we usually have some people from both the Fish and Wildlife Service and NMFS to listen to our issues. With them available, we can get information about how they might address our concerns. But since travel is frozen, there were no representatives there from either service. It will be interesting what happens once the full cuts and layoffs are implemented.

I started working on the Barnegat Bay Management Plan in the early 90's. After a lot of pressure from Congressman Saxton we got Barnegat Bay included in the estuary program. The Barnegat Bay Partnership was the outcome of all of our hard work. I was on the original Citizen's Advisory Committee, and I was on the Policy Committee for 18 years before I retired. I am now representing JCAA on the Advisory Committee. At the last meeting I was told by EPA that we will not be working on climate issues and environmental justice issues. We were unable to plan our budget for next year since we don't know how much money will be allocated.

In closing, we need to keep our eye on the prize which is clean water, habitat protection, sustainable fisheries and fair quotas for the recreational sector. We all need to be involved and pay attention to new information as it becomes available. We as anglers need to focus on issues and not politics.

Past JCAA Articles

I am hoping some of you go through the articles written since 1995, choose your favorites and we will run them in the current JCAA Newspaper. As times have changed and we have learned more, we have become

more aware of the impact of the warming of the oceans.
I will not edit the columns but put them in as they appeared in the JCAA Newspaper.

President's Column

By Bill Degnan & Gary Caputi
(Reprinted from November 1996)

A Crisis in Participation Reaches a Critical Mass

Very shortly, 1996 will come to a close. We fought a lot of battles on a variety of issues, but the war still rages on with no letup in sight. The only thing that doesn't seem to change is the people who are on the front lines on our behalf and the people that work behind the scenes to supply research materials, statistics and impact studies for them. They carry the burden of representing and presenting the position of recreational anglers for us all, with very little help and credit for the work they do.

This might sound like something you've heard before, but this is directed to all of you who read this newsletter, who are members of clubs affiliated with JCAA or who are just anglers who want to be able to continue enjoying the sport we all love. If we are to continue to gain ground (or even hold the hard-fought ground we have won already), we need your help! **WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW!**

There are too many anglers sitting back saying, "I don't have the time to give." Well people, if you don't give some time now, you'll have plenty of spare time in the future to say, "I should have helped." What are you going to do when we're socked with more closed seasons, unfair bag limits and closed fisheries. Every fishery we participate in is now regulated and the restrictions just keep rolling in. About the only thing the Councils, Commissions and NMFS are always willing to give a fair share of to the recreational community is the restrictions necessary to rebuild a depleted fishery after they let the commercial boys decimate it. They do the damage we become full partners in the restrictions necessary to rebuild it, even though we did not cause the problem in the first place. That's fisheries management folks and it will continue that way unless we double and redouble our efforts to change it.

What we must continue to drive home is just how economically important recreational fishing is. How about all the hard earned money you spend on tackle, boats, motors, buggies. Did you know that over

17,000 jobs in New Jersey alone rely directly on recreational fishing (using 1991 statistics gathered by the state).

Here are other related statistics from the Compendium of Sportfishing Statistics, published by the American Sportfishing Association in June of 1996, but keep one important thing in mind when you are thinking about how powerful they seem. In the 1980s, New Jersey boasted over 1 million recreational saltwater anglers, not just 695,000. The manner in which fisheries have been managed since then, the over regulation of recreational fishing and the decline in key species abundance has reduced the roles of recreational anglers in this state by about 40% already, with the resulting decline in economic benefits, tax dollars and the like also declining proportionately. During 1994, New Jersey anglers took 5,325,000 shore-based fishing trips, 1,754,000 party/charter boat trips and 9,036,000 private and rental boat trips. During 1991, the last year we have figures from the state in dollars, anglers in this state spent \$630,930,000 on their sport, a figure that appears very low compared with the number of trips actually taken. They generated \$44,165,000 in state sales tax alone. The survey showed that only 695,000 resident and 268,000 non-resident anglers generated that economic boost to the state economy. That works out to \$655.17 per person over age 12. Do these numbers give you an idea of just how important recreational fishing is to the economy of this state? Then why must we continually battle for recognition within state, regional and federal fisheries management bodies? Why don't our elected representatives represent us to the extent of the economic benefits we generate?

In 1995, New Jersey residents purchases of boats, motors, trailers and other marine accessories amounted to \$136,577,000. As of the last year on record, we spent \$55,986,141 on boat fuel, \$8,533,803 on boat launch ramp fees, \$29,065,643 on bait, \$32,520,481 on fishing rods, \$21,113,001 on fishing reels, \$19,368,301 on artificial lures and the list goes on and on. This is only a summary to show how important we are to the economy of this state. If you're willing to spend this volume of hard-earned dollars on fishing, why can't you spend some time helping to preserve the sport for today and tomorrow, to help us gather the political recognition and momentum we deserve in the management process and the only way we can do that is with your help. **WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW!**

JCAA has a core of about a dozen dedicated volunteers that pull 90% of the weight necessary to run this association and carry out the lobbying and educational functions necessary to represent recreational fishermen. They don't get paid, they donate their time and efforts, and they have jobs and families just like you. But how long can we continue to depend on those few individuals before they say, "to hell with the members and member clubs. If they can't help even a little bit in fighting for our common cause, why are we killing ourselves?" Without an immediate increase in volunteer help at our office and around the state, the core group will become even more burned out and when they throw up their hands and say "enough," we all lose!

Am I getting through yet? Is there anyone out there in those dozens of member clubs that really gives a damn? Then turn off the TV with the remote in your hand, get out of the recliner and do something constructive to help. Attend the meetings, but much more importantly, get involved with the inner workings of the association. Your contribution can be a simple as donating a few hours a month to help us put together the JCAA Newspaper, the most important vehicle we have to communicate issues to concerned fishermen, members of the press, legislators and fisheries managers who all read it religiously.

If you have talents we can use to help us with fund raising, even better. We are in the planning stage for next year's JCAA-Jersey Coast Fluke Tournament. This is our major fund-raiser for the year, and we need a considerable amount of help to improve it and increase participation. It helps fund more than 50% of our annual operating costs, which have risen exponentially in the past few years. There are just so many places we need help and if our own member clubs can't provide the manpower, you won't have to worry about having fishing clubs much longer. You'll be able to make them knitting circles or book clubs when we are regulated out of a few more fisheries. Then you can read to your children about the wonderful sport of saltwater fishing you used to be able to enjoy, but that has been taken from them because you were too lazy to get off your behind and work to preserve it.

The JCAA, after almost two years of searching, has a new Striped Bass Committee Chairman and he needs assistance. His name is Mike Burke with the Berkley Striper Club based in Seaside Park. If striped bass are your fish, call and help Mike. The striped bass might be in a rebuilding mode, but Chesapeake Bay states are fighting tooth and nail for dramatic increases

in the commercial harvest of 18-inch fish again this year. Maryland's DNR is pulling out all the stops in pushing for 2.5-million-pound increase for their Bay netters, while the Striped Bass Board of ASMFC is calling for a 40% reduction in harvest for the coastal states. Did you think the striped bass battle was won and over? Forget it!!! When commercial greed, supported by corrupt state agencies pushed along by politicians who have been bought and paid for by commercial PAC moneys are trying to stay in the driver's seat, we cannot let down our guard for a minute. Guys, wake up and smell the rotten fish. JCAA and other state advocacy groups can never let down their guard, because as soon as they do, regulations will permit the decimation of the fisheries we have fought so hard to protect. Commercial harvest is already at levels that pushed striped bass populations into collapse yet Maryland DNR under Pete Jensen is pushing for more fish for his commercial consistence. Call Mike, his phone number is listed in the personnel listing under Striped Bass Committee. He needs your help! You need your help!

Another committee that needs immediate attention is the Menhaden Committee. We all know what can happen when reduction boats come in the bunker disappear and so do the fish that follow and feed on them, like striped bass, bluefish, weakfish and others. The reduction boats harvest unbelievable quantities of bunker for making chicken feed and they have strong financial backing and political power from the chicken industry. They basically own the politicians through big money donations. They don't care if they strip our inshore waters clean of this important baitfish. They couldn't give a damn about the repercussions of those actions and how it negatively affects recreational fishing and the New Jersey economy, while not putting one red cent into this state because those bunker are not even landed here. Even worse, the legal "bait" fishery for bunker inside 1.6 miles has gone through the roof. In just the past few years, the commercial bait harvest has risen from a couple million pounds a year to over 30 million pounds. You read that right **30 MILLION POUNDS!** Is that catch being used to provide bait for New Jersey fishermen. NO! It's being shipped to Maryland, Virginia and points south for use in commercial crab pots. **IS ANYONE READING AND UNDERSTANDING THIS YET???? PLEASE TELL ME I'M GETTING THROUGH THE HAZE AND YOU'RE STARTING TO GET MAD ENOUGH TO GET INVOLVED!**

With all this happening, we're having trouble getting anyone to show interest in working on the Menhaden Committee. Greg Hall, an energetic member of the Spring Lake Live Liners (not a member club of JCAA) has done yeoman's work on compiling the statistics when he was a committee chairman for this fishery under the now-defunct New Jersey Alliance to Save Fisheries. He would like to work within JCAA to impact the problem, but even his own club won't back him and join this association. They can't find one member willing to come to one lousy meeting a month, yet they will complain and whine about the bunker problem, fisheries declines and restrictive bag limits louder than most clubs. Why, then, won't at least a few members of their club support JCAA and Greg's initiative and do something about it? Damned if I know maybe because it's easier to just complain, roll over and play dead. What are recreational fishermen in this state coming to? Are they so self-interested that they can't put in time to support initiatives taken on by their own club members? JCAA would like to take this fight to Trenton, but without the help to accomplish the task, we simply don't have the spare personnel. Those dozen overburdened volunteers everyone wants to take on "their issues" are already up to their necks in other battles. Remember, they're volunteers who have businesses and families too. Amazingly enough, they would like to have the time to go fishing once and a while, too, yet they work their tails off on our behalf and far too many of you just sit and complain when they don't generate enough clout to accomplish a specific task. It's time to put up or shut up, gentlemen.

These are only two of the many committees we need help with. Only you can make a difference if you want to see these fisheries brought back to health and see recreational fishing continue to be a viable sport in the years to come. Without pressure, the Governor, legislators and fisheries managers in this state will continue to kowtow to the commercial lobbyists, of which there are now seven or eight full-time, paid representatives in New Jersey alone. Do you think they give a damn about recreational fishermen? They only care about their pocketbooks, how much they can take without giving anything back to the resource. Deplete one fishery, then move on to the next with government's blessing, unless we serve as an opponent to their wishes and a conscience to our elected officials.

The new Governor's appointee to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is John Connell. He is brand new to the process and must undertake a rapid and intense indoctrination into the process. The

learning curve is going to be steep if he is to represent the recreational fishermen of this state without losing ground during the initiation phase. I am sending Mr. Connell an invitation to attend JCAA meetings, the sooner he comes, the better. It is incumbent upon us to bring Mr. Connell up to speed if he is to do the job he was appointed to do. If you have suggestions, comments or recommendations for Mr. Connell, he can be reached at 27 Plymouth Drive, Freehold, NJ 07728 (908-431-4260). We look forward to seeing him at a meeting very soon.

Gentlemen, I can't be any more blunt than I was in this column. JCAA is undergoing a crisis of participation and it has to be reversed. Many of you thought that when the New Jersey Alliance to Save Fisheries came on the scene, everything would be taken care of for you. They were going to generate industry money, political lobbyists and get our positions on the front burner and many of you were willing to sit back and let them do the work. Well, the NJ Alliance fizzled as many well-intentioned advocacy groups have in the past. But JCAA is still here working hard to represent us, as it has been for the past 15 years. The guys fighting the battles for JCAA are getting tired. They need backup and the association cannot continue to be recognized as the recreational fishing advocacy powerhouse on the East Coast if they don't get it. What are you willing to do to further the cause? Isn't it time you stopped reading about what we do and become part of the process? Without your help, we cannot continue to fight and without our voices being heard loud and clear in Trenton and Washington, we will, most definitely, lose more ground, more fisheries, and more access to those fisheries. **Sounds scary? Then do something about it! DO IT NOW!**

Congressional Testimony

April 21, 1997

**Subcommittee on Fisheries,
Wildlife and Oceans**

By Tom Fote

(Reprinted from May 1997)

Subject: Interactions of Striped Bass, Bluefish and Forage Species

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Jersey Coast Anglers Association would like to thank Congressman James Saxton for holding this field hearing on this important subject in New Jersey and Congressman Frank Pallone for attending this hearing. JCAA is aware that both Congressmen understand the importance of Ecosystem Management to the citizens of New Jersey.

This is a subject near and dear to my heart. The more I learn about fisheries management the more I realize that we cannot manage interrelated species one at a time. We keep managing the marine environment species by species when we should be managing the Ecosystem. Ecosystem Management is looking at the interrelationship of species and managing those species by their interdependency on each other and other environmental factors. To me this means that every time we take an action that impacts one species, we need to consider the effect on all species. The marine environment is like a gigantic structure built with many supports. We can pull out one or two of these supports and pretend there is no effect, but the structure will have been weakened. Because the structure has many supports, it is able to sustain the loss of a few. Eventually, however, the stress of the continual undermining of more and more supports results in the collapse of the entire structure. Then people will point at the last support removed as the one that caused the collapse, but anyone with common sense knows the collapse was imminent as soon as we began removing the original supports.

In the marine environment, every species is a support for the entire ecosystem. We might be able to overfish one species without causing a dramatic change in others. However, once we begin to decimate the food stocks for species like striped bass or bluefish, we cannot help having a serious negative effect on that species' total population. Some species are more adaptable and can find alternative forage sources to augment their diet. Striped bass and bluefish, as juveniles, feed on similar prey. Striped bass are opportunistic feeders. According to a NOAA technical study stomachs of adult stripers have been found to contain alewife, blueback herring, menhaden (locally called bunker), mummichogs, mullet, rock eels, shad, sculpin, silver hake, silversides, smelt, tomcod, weakfish, white perch, lobsters, crabs, shrimp, isopods, gammarid crustaceans, worms, squid, clams and mussels. Over the years, through personal experience, I have seen striped bass feeding on sand eels, American eels, winter flounder, and summer flounder. Striped bass as adults feed by sight, sound (vibrations) and

smell. They will eat almost anything that swims in the ocean, bays and rivers. They eat their prey whole because they do not have cutting teeth. When we impact their basic diet, we may not see a dramatic decrease in striped bass population because they adapt by eating something else and have a more varied diet to choose from.

Bluefish, however, have very different feeding habits as adult fish. They are primarily sight feeders. According to the study, adult bluefish consume primarily live fish by eating them whole or by chopping them into pieces. Their feeding is triggered by moving prey. They normally eat menhaden, butterfish, mackerel, squid, mullet, and sand eels. We have seen a faster change in the bluefish population than with striped bass due to the decline of menhaden, squid, sand eels, herring, and butterfish. We can expect any decrease in their normal prey species to have a dramatic and quickly observable effect on the overall population and regional distribution of this species in particular.

When forage species were particularly prevalent in the 1970's, both predator species were eating the same abundant forage species. The abnormally high bluefish and strong striped bass populations during this time could be credited to the concurrent high population of sand eels and menhaden. Just to make the ecosystem point again, the high populations of sand eels are attributed to the collapse of the sea herring fishery in the 1970's because of the overharvesting by foreign fishing vessels. Sea herring are natural predators of sand eels in their larval stage. The population of menhaden rose significantly during the 1970's. This was due to a dramatic decrease in fishmeal production plants along the East Coast. Fishmeal demand dropped because of the increase in soybean production. With the closing of fishmeal plants we saved the menhaden populations from overharvesting for a while.

Even though striped bass appear more adaptable and able to maintain their numbers over the short haul, if we continue to destroy their forage base, we will eventually see the same result as we have seen with bluefish. The striped bass, because of their ability to adapt to a wider range of forage species, have a broader support system. Still, we can remove only so many of their supports before the fishery collapses. The problem will not be just the last action we take, but all of the actions we have taken cumulatively over the years.

The species that play important roles in the historical diets of both striped bass and bluefish are

menhaden, sand eels, squid, mackerel, shad and river herring. In the last few years, we have seen a collapse in the population of sand eels due to a variety of causes that are difficult to pinpoint. We have seen a dramatic increase in the harvest of menhaden in the New Jersey bait fishery. In 1982, commercial harvesters landed 1,637,357 pounds of menhaden for use as bait. In 1995, New Jersey harvesters landed 36,567,357 pounds ostensibly for the same purpose. The change from 1982 to 1995 represents a 2,100 percent increase in removals. The preliminary numbers for 1996 indicate that processors in Cape May alone have shipped 46 million pounds, another massive increase, even over just 1995 landings. These huge increases in the New Jersey bait harvest represent only a portion of the bait harvest for the entire coast and does not take into account the hundreds of thousands of metric tons of menhaden being stripped from the ocean by commercial boats fishing for the fishmeal reduction industry. To add insult to injury, this bait is being used to fill the dramatically increasing number of crab traps along the East coast and Gulf of Mexico. So, as menhaden populations are decimated, so are the crab populations that striped bass feed on, leaving even fewer prey alternatives for this critically important and economically beneficial species.

In 1986, the squid fishery was very small due to low market demand and the lack of onshore freezer facilities. Presently the commercial and recreational industries fear that squid stocks are on the verge of collapse because of overharvesting. NMFS has now declared sea herring and mackerel as "underutilized" species so we can safely predict that these species will approach collapse within the next five years. We must change this phony terminology since NMFS' definition of "underutilized" is widely recognized as a death sentence for a species and more closely matches our definition of "on the way to extinction." I will not waste your time with a litany of NMFS failures in the underutilized species category but will simply mention bluefin tuna, sharks, whiting, tilefish, and monkfish. The point is that the historical staple dietary sources of striped bass and bluefish are under attack and will most assuredly damage these and other key predator species viability.

In the 1980's there were numerous articles blaming the collapse of the striped bass and weakfish stocks on the eating habits of bluefish. They were called the "piranhas of the ocean." Now, in the 1990's, we are calling the striped bass piranhas and blaming them for the decrease in the stocks of bluefish, river

herring, shad, and crabs. Dr. Lionel Walford, Director of NMFS Sandy Hook Marine Laboratory, studied the rise and fall of striped bass and bluefish populations. His research did not find a correlation between the abundance of one species and the decline of the other species. Will it ever occur to us to blame ourselves?

Whenever I get into discussions about whether one species is responsible for the collapse of another, I am reminded of the article "This Was the Potomac River" by Frederick Tilp. He used the most meticulous records available from colonial times through the 1920's. He indicated that in 1932 the number of shad taken during a usual six week season was 22,500,000 fish. Under similar circumstances the amount of river herring taken was 750,000,000. The record striped bass haul for one seine haul at Sycamore Landing, VA in 1827 was 450 fish averaging 60 pounds. If striped bass are responsible for the decline of river herring and shad, how did they coexist in such abundance in the early 1800s with hungry 60-pound striped bass in their midst? Using sturgeon as an example of all fish in the Potomac, Mr. Tilp points out that in 1880, 288,000 pounds of sturgeon were landed. By 1890, 60,920 pounds were taken. In 1899, only 45,710 pounds were recorded and in 1976 only 170 pounds were harvested. In the 1990s, we are now discussing closing every sturgeon fishery along the East Coast and the American shad stocks are almost collapsed. Commercial greed and our own shortsighted management strategies are responsible for these and other management follies, not nature.

Nature provides balance very well on its own. It keeps the predator/prey relationship in check, but man's greed is the fly in the ointment. For example, look at the lemmings in Alaska. The lemmings go through a cycle that begins at a low number and stocks build through the years when the plants they feed on are in a cycle of abundance. As their stocks increase, the number of predators increase as well. When they become overabundant and overgraze their range, they march en masse into the ocean, drastically reducing their numbers. The following year, the predators, foxes, owls and others, produce fewer offspring. The stocks of both forage species and predators drop in unison and remain in harmony. It is easy to study lemmings because all the dramatic action takes place on land under the watchful eyes of scientists. As a key part of the food chain, changes in the lemming stock are dramatic and easy to observe. The reason I use this analogy is because menhaden, sea herring, mackerel, and butterfish do not reduce their numbers by

committing mass suicide, however, humans have mass killing techniques such as purse seines, gill nets, and otter trawls that can accomplish the same results through overfishing, whether stocks are abundant or not. Our techniques have become so sophisticated that we have pushed many species to the brink of extinction.

In the ocean, the study of ecosystem management becomes much more complex. We cannot easily see the changes in stock in the same fashion that we observe changes in the number of lemmings, foxes and owls. For years, menhaden have been a major part of the striped bass and bluefish diet. There are studies to confirm this relationship. When we overharvest menhaden, other species like squid, sand eels and mackerel have historically made up the difference in the diets of striped bass and bluefish. The stocks of these species have now declined and have left few alternatives for supplementing the diet of striped bass and bluefish. For the last thirty years, NMFS has continued to declare some species, especially forage fish, as "underutilized." With the collapse of historical fisheries, many commercial fishermen have begun to harvest these "underutilized" species. There has been a dramatic increase in the harvest of bunker, herring, squid, ling and whiting. Some people do not consider ling and whiting as forage species, but bluefin tuna feed on them regularly. We are totally destroying the delicate ecological balance of nature by our unchecked overfishing and the result will be a dramatic shift in all predator/prey relationships in our oceans. We have seen what happens on land when we upset the balance of nature. Flooding, global warming, loss and contamination of potable water, extinction of species, and other man-made catastrophes all take place. When will we ever learn? It is my sincerest hope that the process will begin with this hearing today.

In looking at the available data and the natural history of bluefish and striped bass, clearly there is a paucity of data after 1980. Since the 1980s, we have spent and are continuing to spend millions of dollars on monitoring and modeling of striped bass. In comparison, only a small percentage of the money has been spent on collection of biological information. After 1980, fisheries research placed the emphasis on population analysis, a simple form of "bean counting." Now, with a reduction in available funds, scientists are directed toward using statistical modeling procedures as a cost saving method. They spend most of their time developing and maintaining these unproven population estimating techniques. Fisheries biologists today receive more training in statistics than in biology.

Growing number of economists, statisticians and specialists in population dynamics are sitting on technical committees. Frequently the goal appears to be the development of statistics that look good on paper rather than reflecting what is occurring in the ecosystem. This hearing emphasizes forage species and their interrelationships. However, when we look at ecosystem management, we must consider many areas. We must consider habitat loss, chemical contamination, physical change (dams, freshwater withdrawals for irrigation and drinking), and water quality. Without all the pieces to the puzzle, we cannot understand the problem and thus never solve the problem.

Release For Tomorrow
Thomas Fote

Celebrating the Legacy of Frank Dara and the Enduring Contributions of Tom Fote & Paul Harris

by Frank Virgilio

On Sunday, NJ Fish and Wildlife, alongside JCAA, the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, and the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, came together to celebrate not just the thrill of the catch, but also the legacy of a man who made a real difference—Frank Dara.

Frank was the kind of guy who got things done. He wasn't about fancy titles or empty talk. He put in the hard work, rolled up his sleeves, and made sure the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament wasn't just an event - it was a tradition. As Chairman, he worked hard to expand the tournament, maintain its strength, and ensure it provided a welcoming space for all sportsmen.

Under Frank's leadership, this tournament became more than just casting lines in the surf—it became a way to bring people together, to stand up for conservation, and to make sure future generations would know the joy of a day spent fishing. He had a gift for rallying folks, making sure everyone, anglers, conservationists, and weekend warriors felt like they had a stake in something bigger than themselves.

Frank could not have accomplished his work as president without the help of, Tom Fote and Paul Harris two seasoned advocates whose dedication to conservation and recreational access has left a lasting impact on New Jersey's outdoor community. Fote, a

longtime representative of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA), has championed marine ecosystem protections and fisheries management for decades. Harris, a stalwart of the New Jersey Beach Buggy Association, has worked tirelessly to preserve beach access and promote responsible coastal stewardship. Their combined efforts reflect a deep commitment to safeguarding natural resources while ensuring future generations can enjoy the traditions they hold dear.

But if you really wanted to know what drove Frank Dara, just look at the words he lived by: “Protecting Our Heritage.” He didn’t just say it; he lived it. He believed in keeping traditions alive, in looking out for our lands and waters, and in standing up for the things that mattered.

As the tournament came to a close, we reflected on more than just the catch. We honored Frank Dara—carried on his fight, protected our heritage, and ensured the sport he loved stayed strong for generations to come.

Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board

Meeting Summary, May 6, 2025

The Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board met to consider the terms of reference and Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS) nominations for the 2027 Benchmark Stock Assessment; receive a Technical Committee Report on stock projections to inform Draft Addendum III; and review the management options developed for Draft Addendum III and consider approving the draft addendum for public comment.

Work on the 2027 Benchmark Stock Assessment has begun and is scheduled to be peer-reviewed in March 2027 and presented to the Board in May or August 2027, depending on when the peer review report becomes available. The Technical Committee (TC) developed draft terms of reference for the Board’s consideration largely based on the terms of reference from the 2019 benchmark stock assessment with some modifications and new additions. The Board approved the terms of reference as recommended by the TC.

The SAS is populated prior to each benchmark assessment. Several state and federal scientists along with Commission staff were presented to the Board as SAS nominees. The Board approved the SAS nominations as presented.

The Board received a TC-SAS report on stock projections and associated reductions for 2026 to inform Draft Addendum III. Draft Addendum III was initiated in December 2024 to consider changing management measures in 2026 to support stock rebuilding. Stock projections were updated to include the preliminary 2024 estimate of fishery removals. The projections carried forward the TCSAS assumptions of an increase in fishing mortality in 2025 followed by a decrease in fishing mortality in 2026 and onward as the above-average 2018 year-class moves through the ocean slot limit. The base projection scenario (i.e., status quo management) indicates a 49% probability of rebuilding the stock by 2029 with a 1% reduction in 2026 needed to achieve a 50% probability of rebuilding. To achieve a 60% probability of rebuilding the stock by 2029, a 7% reduction in 2026 is needed. The TC-SAS emphasized that the outcome of management changes designed to achieve reductions of less than 10% would be difficult to measure given the uncertainty in the MRIP estimates. Total removals are not known within 10%, so a reduction of less than 10% would not be statistically distinguishable from no reduction at all (i.e., status quo measures), and there is a high degree of uncertainty in whether measures that accomplish that small of a reduction on paper would be effective in practice.

The TC-SAS report also included sensitivity runs extending the projections beyond 2029 and considering a very low recruitment assumption for future years based on the recent six years of very low recruitment. Under the very low recruitment assumption, spawning stock biomass will start to decline after 2029 as compared to increasing under the base recruitment scenario, even under the low fishing mortality rate projected for 2024. The Board requested that a summary of the very low recruitment sensitivity runs be added to the draft addendum.

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed management options in Draft Addendum III covering three issues: reduction in fishery removals to support rebuilding; commercial tagging at point of harvest vs. point of sale (added by the Board in February 2025); measuring total length of striped bass (added by the Board in February 2025). After lengthy discussion on whether to move forward with considering a reduction in fishery removals for 2026, the Board voted to keep options for a 2026 reduction in the draft addendum. The Board shortened the list of possible recreational options to achieve the reduction by removing some recreational mode split options and

removing the ocean size limit options. The Board also removed the option for a 0.8% commercial quota reduction since it was similar to the 0% commercial quota reduction option. The Board requested an additional option be added for New England seasonal closures considering a dual closure in Wave 3 and Wave 5. The Board also agreed that seasonal closure options must be a minimum of 14 days in duration with the exception of closures added to existing closures. The Board also requested adding text to explain the complexities with potential closures in North Carolina (due to limited fish availability) and potential closures in New York during Wave 2 or Wave 6 (due to existing New York season closures).

The Board also considered adding a fourth issue to the Draft Addendum considering Maryland's recreational season baseline. The Board agreed to add Maryland's proposed option for a new season baseline to the Draft Addendum contingent on upon a review by the TC-SAS. The Board requested the TC-SAS discuss the modifications to Maryland's methodology, the assumption of constant effort when opening a current closure, and any biological impacts that should be considered from the proposed season changes (e.g., impacts on fish staging for spawning in the spring).

The Plan Development Team will revise the Draft Addendum based on the above changes, and the Board will consider approving the revised draft addendum for public comment in August 2025.

For more information, please contact Emilie Franke, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at efranke@asmfc.org.

Motions

Move to approve the Stock Assessment Subcommittee nominations for striped bass as modified today.

Motion made by Dr. McNamee and seconded by Mr. Geer. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Move to approve the Terms of Reference for the 2027 Benchmark Stock Assessment for Atlantic Striped Bass.

Motion made by Ms. Meserve and seconded by Dr. McNamee. Motion passes by unanimous consent

Move to remove the entire section 3.3 Reduction in Fishery Removals to Support Stock Rebuilding from the document.

Motion made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Cimino. Motion fails for lack of majority (7 in favor, 7 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Move to remove Option 4 from Section 3.3 (0.8% commercial reductions)

Motion made by Mr. Batsavage and seconded by Mr. Clark. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Move to remove all the split separate equal mode reduction options.

Motion made by Ms. Meserve and seconded by Mr. Sikorski. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Move to remove the ocean size limit options of 37"-40" and 38"-41".

Motion made by Dr. McNamee and seconded by Mr. Gary. Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Main Motion

Move to add the Maryland baseline season option to Draft Addendum III.

Motion made by Mr. Sikorski and seconded by Mr. Clark. Motion amended.

Motion to Amend

Motion to amend to add contingent upon final review by the TC and SAS of the modifications that were made.

Motion made by Mr. Grout and seconded by Mr. Kane. Motion passes (15 in favor, 1 abstention).

Main Motion as Amended

Move to add the Maryland baseline season option to Draft Addendum III contingent upon final review by the TC and SAS of the modifications that were made.

Motion passes (13 in favor, 2 abstentions, 1 null).

Move to task the PDT with developing a sub-option for the MD season option that would add an uncertainty buffer

Motion made by Ms. Meserve and seconded by Ms. Patterson. Motion passes (9 in favor, 5 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Move to remove the entire section 3.2 Commercial Tagging Requirements: Point of Sale vs. Point of Harvest from the document

Motion made by Dr. McNamee and seconded by Ms. Meserve. Motion fails (3 in favor, 10 opposed, 3 abstentions).

Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

Meeting Summary, May 7, 2025

The Atlantic Menhaden Management Board met to consider the final report from the Work Group on Precautionary Management in Chesapeake Bay, review a progress update on the ecological reference point (ERP) benchmark stock assessment, and provide direction to the Technical Committee (TC) on stock projections for 2026-2028.

In August 2024, the Board established a Work Group to gain additional information and evaluate options for further precautionary management in Chesapeake Bay, including time/area closures. The Work Group met nine times from September 2024 to April 2025, and develop a report based on Chesapeake Bay predator and fishery data. The Work Group addressed its task without determining if there is or is not an adequate supply of menhaden to support predatory demand in the Bay; instead, it is the responsibility of the Board to determine if or when it is necessary to implement them. Based on the life history of the predators examined, the nature of Chesapeake Bay menhaden fisheries, and recent changes in menhaden availability, the Work Group discussed a number of precautionary management options that the Board could consider for further action (see [Work Group Report](#)). The Board discussed tasking the Technical Committee (TC) with evaluating options in the report, but in consideration of the priority for the TC and Ecological Reference Point (ERP) Work Group to complete the single-species assessment update and ERP benchmark assessment for presentation to the Board at the Annual Meeting, the Board decided to continue the discussion of the report at the Summer Meeting.

The Board received a progress report on the ERP benchmark stock assessment. The Board reviewed the conclusions of the Natural Mortality Work Group established by the Stock Assessment Subcommittee (SAS) to consider concerns raised about the estimate of natural mortality. After identifying the discrepancies between two proposed estimates, the SAS developed a new base estimate of natural mortality for the single-species model, which will be reviewed through the ERP benchmark assessment peer-review. The ERP benchmark assessment will be peer-reviewed through

the SouthEast Data, Assessment and Review (SEDAR) process in August 2025.

Stock projections are conducted after the stock assessment is complete to aid the Board in setting the Total Allowable Catch (TAC). Staff reviewed the previous projections requested prior to setting the TAC for 2023-2025 and requested the Board provide the TC with direction for conducting the projections for the next 3 years. The Board requested the projections include the TACs associated with a 40-60% probability of exceeding the ERP target for 2026-2028 combined and as separate years, and the percent risk of exceeding the ERP target and threshold for nine different TACs ranging from -20% to +20% of the current TAC in 5% increments when it considers specifications for the next one to three years at the Annual Meeting.

For more information, please contact James Boyle, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at jboyle@asmfc.org.

Motions

No motions made.

EPA Announces Appointment of Mike Martucci to Region 2 Administrator

EPA Press Release, February 26th

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(mears.mary@epa.gov)
212-637-3673

New York, N.Y. - Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin announced that President Donald J. Trump has appointed Michael Martucci as the Regional Administrator for EPA Region 2. As Regional Administrator for EPA Region 2, Mike is overseeing the EPA's work to carry out important priorities of the administration's environmental agenda and protect the people of the region covering New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and eight federally recognized Indian Nations.

"As a businessman, state senator, and community leader, Mike Martucci has proven he is committed to service," said EPA Administrator Lee

Zeldin. “In the New York State Senate, he championed legislation aimed at improving our environment and advancing conservation. Mike brings a wealth of private and public sector experience and is exactly who we need leading Region 2. I am excited to have him aboard.”

“I am honored to have been chosen for this role and just a few weeks into my job I am already impressed with the professionalism, thoughtfulness and dedication of the EPA’s regional workforce,” **said Regional Administrator Martucci.** “I am proud to lead this regional office to meet the important priorities of the Trump Administration, which include balanced environmental protection.”

Mike Martucci is a former NY State Senator, and respected business owner and farmer from the Hudson Valley. During his time in the NY State Senate, Mike was a supporter of New York's Environmental Bond Act and passed legislation related to open space protection and inland waterway designation throughout his district which included portions of Orange, Ulster, and Delaware Counties as well as all of Sullivan County.

After college, Mike founded a school transportation company which grew from one bus that Mike drove to one of the largest in the country. The company now serves thousands of schoolchildren and their families in the Hudson Valley Region of New York. A family farmer, Mike is a steward of our environment and understands the importance of preserving open space for future generations.

Mike is a lifelong resident of Orange County. He is a dedicated family man who believes in giving back to his community through volunteerism, teaching and philanthropy. He is a graduate of Marist College where he obtained a Master of Business Administration degree. Mike and his wife Erin are raising their three children in Orange County, NY.

JCAA Membership Report

By John Toth

The following is a list of clubs that have paid their dues and sponsorships for 2025. Please check to see if my information is correct and let me know if I am in error with it. I can be contacted at (732) 656-0139 or at tothjohn@verizon.net.

- Barrington Rod & Gun Club - \$150
- NJ Beach Buggy Association (NJBBA) - \$300

- Surf Kings - \$50
- Hi-Mar Stripper Club - \$500
- Belmar Fishing Club - \$50
- Seaside Heights Fishing Club - \$100
- Bradley Beach Surf Casters - \$150
- Manasquan Fishing Club - \$300
- Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association - \$100
- Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County - \$100
- Bay Head Shores Fishing Club - \$50
- Hudson River Fishermen's Association - \$100
- Village Harbor Fishing Club - \$50
- Sandy Hook Bay Anglers - \$250
- Spring Lake Live Liners - \$100

Sponsorships have been received from:

- Paul Shafer - \$200
- Barnegat Animal Clinic - \$70
- Jon Brunetti - \$100
- Linda & Chris Jewel - \$210
- Adam Piasecki - \$70
- Joseph Palumbo - \$500
- Greg Jewell - \$45
- Raymond Humphreys - \$100
- Fisherman's Headquarters - \$100
- Louis Schott - \$100

Please mail your dues & sponsorships to:

**Jersey Coast Anglers Association
P.O. Box 1191
West Branch Post Office
Wall, NJ 07719**

Our next JCAA General Membership meeting be held on **May 27, 2025**, and it will be held as an in-person meeting at the Shark Anglers Building in Herbertsville and also by ZOOM starting at 7:30 p.m.

Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

FISHING AND VOLUNTEERING MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER

You never know when a person is going to make a difference in someone's gloomy day. I was volunteering my time to teach youngsters to fish, and I had the pleasure of showing a young boy named Carson

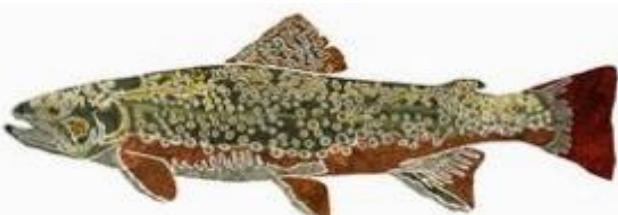
how to cast from a dock. He never used a spin-cast rod and reel before but managed to get the hang of it quickly. I noticed he was very patient and didn't seem to mind waiting for a bite. We chatted about sea birds, bait fish below us, sail boats going by, and white puffy clouds with deep blue-sky background.

It was just what I needed to settle my nerves after a few hard days of a family member's illness. Carson didn't know he was helping me get re-grounded by pointing out all the things I love about going fishing. Our conversation changed for a moment, and he told me he liked to draw comics and was interested in learning more about writing and drawing comics. I don't know what magical force connected us that day, but it was a blessing for me. I told my son-in-law Samuel McCauley, Graphic Novel Author and Artist about Carson and our fishing experience and he signed two of his books, one for Carson and another book for his classmates to share at their school. We managed to hook a good size fish that Carson had the thrill of reeling in till the line gave way. He said, "I was going to let it go anyway." Little did Carson know that he helped me let go of my gloomy day too. Thank you, Carson! Enjoy issue one of Striped Bandits and practice drawing comics.

INTRODUCTION TO TROUT FISHING *June 11 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm*

Get ready to hit the water and catch a trout by attending this seminar. This workshop is for new anglers who are learning to fish and would like to target trout. Learn what gear you need, regulations, where to go, techniques used to fish for trout.

For new anglers 12 years and older. Participants 16 years and younger must be accompanied by a ticket-holding adult. To register click image below:



NEW JERSEY
BROOK TROUT

YOUTH FISHING CHALLENGE

Saturday, Free Fishing Day, June 7, 2025, when a fishing license and trout stamp is NOT required for anyone age 16 and over. Sunday, June 8, 2025, when a fishing license and trout stamp is required for anyone age 16 and over. The Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs Program's Youth Fishing Challenge is a free statewide event to promote fishing among youths and their families. To participate in this event, please contact the site-specific host for registration details. This event will be held in all 21 counties in New Jersey and is sponsored by NJDEP Fish & Wildlife's Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs Program. Click following link for more [NJ Summer Events](#).

NJ Fish & Wildlife

**10th Annual Hooked On Fishing –
Not On Drugs Youth Fishing
Challenge**

**Saturday June 7, 2025
Sunday June 8, 2025**

Read more here>>

SUCCESSFUL IBSP SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

Many thanks to the volunteers that came to assist veterans and high school teams on the beach at the 35th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. Special thanks to IBSP Park Staff, NJ DEP Fish & Wildlife Karen Byrne, Alanna Newmark, and Linda DiPiano. Thank you to the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament Committee, Representing NJ Beach Buggy Association: Gary Conk, Tournament President, Ken Hollins and George Browne - Representing NJ State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Frank Virgilio and Jerry Natale, Tournament Treasurer - Representing Jersey Coast Anglers Association, Tom Fote, Karen Noe and Kevin Nolan. Thank you to Tsunami and Grumpys Tackle for the generous donation of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament Governor's Cup prize. Thank you to: Charlie's Bait & Tackle, Hook House Bait & Tackle and Grumpys Tackle who donated raffle prizes. Karen Noe, JCAA Office Manager, did an awesome job of selling GSFT

merchandise and fielding tournament questions from customers.



Emerson High School



Jason Zimerla, 2025 Governor's Cup Winner

The new Surf Fishing Veterans Experience was a real hit and Alana Newmark, and her volunteer team did an excellent job of making our new fishing veterans feel welcome.



Please view the tournament winners and high school fishing challenge results at [this link](#).

9th ANNUAL VETERANS, DISABLED CHILDREN AND ACTIVE-DUTY FISHING DAY

Save the date for the Play HOOK-e 9th Annual Veterans, Disabled Children and Active-Duty Military Fishing Day. This year, Paul Hewitt and Rob Felicito from American Warrior Outdoors are joining us to assist Don Marantz to make the event bigger and better. The goal of the veteran, active-duty military, and disabled children fishing day is to encourage attendees to feel the health benefits of getting in touch with nature while making good memories with friends and family while fishing.

CARDINALE ENTERPRISES
Developers • Construction • Leasing

“9th Annual “PLAY HOOK- e”
Veterans, Children with Disabilities and
Active-Duty Military Fishing Day

Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025
9:00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M.

FREE BBQ **Door Prizes**

AMERICAN WARRIOR OUTDOORS **HOOK-e** **RODS & REELS**

Pizza Truck **LOCATION LAKE JULIANNA**
PONDEROSA ESTATES FARM, MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP, NJ

TO REGISTER VISIT
[Eventbrite>>](#)

For more information contact
Don Marantz - Paul Hewitt - Rob Felicito
908-347-1434 609-408-7443 732-9487467

SODA, PIZZA, HAMBURGERS & HOT DOGS
WILL BE PROVIDED



Veterans and families that have disabled children and other special needs are welcome to register for the 9th annual event. Attendees and their guests are invited to fish at Lake Julianna to catch and release big fish and

then join Mr. Vito Cardinale and his staff of volunteers for a free BBQ that will provide soft drinks, pizza, hamburgers & hot dogs, and other goodies. Admission is free but [registration](#) is mandatory through Eventbrite. Come join us at Ponderosa Estates Farm, Millstone Township. Don Marantz, Event Chairman, Vito Cardinale, Cardinale Enterprises, and Randy Johnson, Laurita Winery always make this a fun event for children with disabilities and other special needs. The event includes a fishing fun day for children and honoring disabled veterans, along with active-duty military from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, on Saturday, August 23, 2025, 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Disabled Veterans and children with mobility challenges will have use of 4x4 transportation around the lake, along with fishing assistance if needed. Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Jersey Shore Chapter will assist with fly fishing instruction. New Jersey Fish and Wildlife will bring their mobile education trailer and “Hooked on Fishing not On Drugs” loaner rods and reels.

Don Marantz, Event Chairperson stated: “We have plenty of door prizes, terminal tackle, bait, and other fishing equipment available to ensure that participants have an enjoyable time at Lake Julianna. “Come out and catch a smile.”

NEWARK BAIT AND FLY-CASTING CLUB VETERAN FISHING TRIP

Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club will host their annual veteran fishing trip on Miss Belmar out of Belmar on Monday, June 2nd. This trip is a favorite among veterans who boat fish do not miss this fun fishing trip. Contact Rich MacDonald for more information about this trip at rich@nbfcc.org.

VETERAN FISHING CHARTER A GREAT SUCCESS

The Sandy Hook Bay Anglers fishing club co-sponsored a fishing trip for veteran men and women with Play HOOK-e from PTSD, Vietnam Veterans of America, Shore Area Chapter 12. We thank all the members of the Sandy Hook Bay Anglers for making this happen and Bill DiStaso - WYLD Grand Format for his contribution and VVA-12 Play Hook-e for supplying the extra funds for the trip. You can see from the photos all had a good time.

Don't forget to support the Sandy Hook Bay Anglers 43 Annual Fluke Tournament July 12-13, 2025. Over \$5,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded at the culmination of the two-day tournament and held at the Atlantic Highlands Municipal Marina. Read more at [this link](#).



Please Support our Sponsors!

2024 Sponsors List

Super Sponsors

- **Yamaha** - www.yamahaoutboards.com

Gold Sponsors (\$1000+)

- **Fisherman's Headquarters** – fishermansheadquarters.com
- **Jersey Nutz Sportfishing** – jerseynutzsportfishing.com
- **Sea Owl Sportfishing** – (see on FB)
- **South Harbor Marina** – 116 Oregon Ave, Waretown, NY (609) 693-3658

Silver Sponsors (\$500+)

- **Aqua Traction of the Mid-Atlantic** – www.aquatractionmidatl.com
- **Rich Hunsinger Custom Rods** – (732) 779-2604

Bronze Sponsors (\$200+)

- **Ahern Tackle** – aherntackle@gmail.com
- **Captain's Inn** – www.captainsinnnj.com
- **Chatter Lures** – www.chatterlures.com
- **Coastal Fishing** – www.coastalfishing.com
- **Creekside Outfitters** – www.creeksideoutfittersnj.com
- **Jigging World** – www.jiggingworld.com or www.tackleworld.com
- **Natural Balance** – www.thenbpowerbracelet.com
- **Next Level Tackle** – Dan McGrath (908) 472-7258
- **Palmarius Rods** – www.palmariusrods.com

Raffle, Door Prize and Gift Auction Sponsors

- **Alit'le Irish Too** – www.alittleirishtoo.com
- **All American Tackle Company** – www.allamericanatacklecompany.com
- **Atlantic B&T** – www.atlanticbaitandtackle.com
- **Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association** – www.bhcfa.net
- **Captain Bill's Landing** – (see on FB)
- **Fishermen's Den** – www.fishbox.tv/Belmar/FishermansDen
- **FJR Lures** – (see on FB)
- **Gambler Fishing** – www.gamblerfishing.net
- **Jewelry by Etchings, etc.** – www.etchingsetc.net
- **Jim's Bait and Tackle** – www.jimsbaitandtackle.com
- **Johnny's Tackle** – www.johnnyotackle.com
- **M3Tackle** – www.m3tackle.com
- **Manhattan Tackle** – www.manhattantackle.com
- **North Atlantic Jigs** – www.najigs.com
- **NY Damascus Cutlery** – www.nydamascuscutfery.com
- **One Stop Bait and Tackle** – (see on FB)
- **Papa's Plugs** – papasplugs@gmail.com
- **Pappy's Pride** – www.pappyspridefishing.com
- **Riverside Outdoors** – www.riversideoutdoors.com
- **Tak Waterman** – takwaterman.com
- **Viking Eyewear** – www.vikingeyewear@gmail.com

We need the support of your club and its members

Your club should be a member of JCAA and make a difference for only \$50 a year. Your club will have a voice in all JCAA positions that affect your fishing future. Your club will receive up-to-date information on vital issues each month. Look for [club membership link](#) on the JCAA home page or complete application below.

Club Membership Application

Club Name: _____

President's Name: _____

Pres. Address:
Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Ph. # _____

Fax # _____

Please make check \$50 payable to **JCAA**

JCAA SPONSORSHIP

The JCAA has 4 levels of sponsorship \$50, \$100, \$250 & \$500

Dues paying clubs or individuals can also provide additional help by becoming Sponsors. Sponsors are recognized in our newspaper. For more information call JCAA at 732-506-6565.

Become a JCAA sponsor and help our cause. As you can see by our newspaper many of our member clubs are also JCAA sponsors. If your club is not contact us today to become one. With all the new battles we are engaged in, we need to raise more funds in order to be effective. Become a sponsor now and help us to continue the fight.

Individuals can join JCAA as an Associate Member

Membership is now free! Sign up as an Associate Member and receive monthly JCAA News that gives you the most up-to-date news about Fisheries Management and Environmental Issues. If you would like to support the goals of JCAA, please contribute if you are able. Look for the [Subscribe](#) button on the JCAA home page or complete application below.

JCAA Associate Member Application

Date _____ New Renewal

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Ph. # _____

If contributing, please make check payable to JCAA

COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

Legislative	Tom Fote	732-270-9102
Operations Manager	<i>Open</i>	-
Office Manager	Karen Noe	732-245-2751
Fluke Tournament	<i>Open</i>	-
Access	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Blackfish	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Blue Claw Crab	<i>Open</i>	-
Bluefish	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Habitat	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Pelagic Species	<i>Open</i>	-
Forage Species	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Striped Bass	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Science & Research	<i>Open</i>	-
Website	Philip V. Celmer	jcaa@jcaa.org
Youth Education	Greg Kucharewski	732-429-9637

If you would like to receive JCAA Email alerts email your Name, Club, if you belong to one, and your interest to tfote@jcaa.org or just go to the JCAA site and [subscribe](#) from there.

Meetings:
1st Tuesday
of month
7:30 PM

VFW Post 2179
Port
Monmouth
Middletown
Route 36
New Members
Welcome



P.O. BOX 126 • MIDDLETOWN, NJ 07748

P. O. Box 126 Middletown, NJ 07748
www.Hi-Mar.com

Hi-Mar Striper Club

2025 Spring
Striped Bass
Tournament

Date: TBD

Hi-mar.com
for info



Fish the "Elite Fleet"
Beach Haven
Charter Fishing Association
Boats fishing from Beach Haven and Tuckerton, NJ
www.BeachHavenCharterFishing.com



Joe Palumbo

Member

Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County

American Legion Post # 170
33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, NJ

www.swabc.org

ENGEL
Coolers

WE BUILD REEFS

with proceeds from the

"Tuna Mania Tournament"

June 10th 11th 12th & 13th

Call the Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat Ass-
soc. to become involved:

732-892-3666

Hi-Mar Striper Club

2025 Spring
Striped Bass
Tournament

Date: TBD

Hi-mar.com
for info



Yacht Club
Trailers



**43rd Annual 2-Day
Fluke Tournament**

**July 12 & 13
2025**

sandyhookbayanglers.org

P.O. Box 513 Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716
Monthly Meetings: 2nd Friday of the month at the
senior building in Atlantic Highlands

Compliments of
Janice & Joe Blaze
Brielle, NJ



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When you want the best