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## *Jersey Coast Shark Anglers*

2022 Tournament Schedule

5/21 - Bluefin Fever

6/16 - 6/19 THRESHER FEVER

7/30 - FLUKE TOURNAMENT

7/30-8/30 MONTH LONG FLUKE TOURNAMENT

8/20 VETERANSTOURNAMENT

9/10-9/11 ST. JUDE'S KIDS WITH CANCER

11/19-11/20 FALL STRIPER TOURNAMENT

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### **2022 Tournament Schedule**

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**Ladies Catch of the Day July 9**

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**Membership Info: Don Beyer 908-494-0980**

**[www.raritanbayanglersfishingclub.com](http://www.raritanbayanglersfishingclub.com)**

# JCAA NEWSPAPER JANUARY 2023

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*  
(Published on December 23rd, 2022)

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

### JCAA REGULAR MEETING

January 27th, 2023 via Zoom Meeting

Starting at 7:30 PM

NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 12th

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.

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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.**  
~~~~~

### 2022 OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Mark Taylor	732-245-9445
<b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b>	Greg Kucharewski	732-429-9637
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b>	Don Marantz	908-347-1434
<b>Treasurer</b>	Doug Tegeder	732-575-2661
<b>Rec. Sec.</b>	Sue Roethermel	732-547-8730
<b>Cors. Sec.</b>	Paul Turi	609-709-9215
<b>Mem. Sec.</b>	John Toth	732-656-0139

**Tournament Dir.**

**Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page**

### IMPORTANT DATES

December 27<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting

January 12<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting

January 31<sup>st</sup> JCAA General Meeting

March 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> AC Boat Show

March 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Saltwater Expo

## President's Report

*By Mark Taylor*

With the end of year 2022 upon us, so does my term as your President of this great Association that continues to standup and fight hard for the recreational fishing community of New Jersey. Jersey Coast Anglers Association will be electing its YR2023 Officers that will lead this Association for the next year at the December 27<sup>th</sup> hybrid meeting if there is a quorum. If there is no quorum the election will be in January. The scheduled meeting is January 31<sup>st</sup> which is currently setup as a hybrid meeting. If you're interested in running this year or in the future, contact Don Marantz or myself. We will explain the duties of the position you're interested in. I am still eligible for another term as president according to the JCAA bylaws and I would be honored to run again. So, reach out, the recreational fishing community needs you to step up. It is a great learning experience and will open your eyes to things you never thought of on how the fishing allocation system works. With the way things have been during these past few years, we all need to change with the times. What I mean by this is rather simple. Strictly in person only meetings of any kind will not be the same format for some time, but you need to be involved if you want a future of recreational fishing.

Paul Haertel and his committee put together the 2023 JCAA High Roller Raffle. Times are being tough on all of us, and the prices of things continue to rise. It is

getting tougher to raise money for clubs, this association as well as others to continue to operate. We all need to dig deeper to help each other out if we want to have a future in fighting for what we love doing for recreational fishing. JCAA will be rolling out this fundraiser shortly and will have tickets at each of the shows where we have a booth. For more information read Paul Haertel's article and contact us if you want to purchase some tickets. Help support the JCAA Fundraiser.

There is a lot of things going on currently with the fisheries management. It's important to educate yourself by reading as much as you can on these different topics and participate in the process. There is a lot of information put in past and future JCAA newsletters including this one. The people that write these articles put a lot of their time in to get the information out to you, so read them. By reading them and participating in the process is the best way to show appreciation to them of all the volunteer hours they put into getting the information to you.

March is coming up in a few months. Now is the time start thinking of which shows or events you plan on attending and plan your busy calendar schedule. JCAA will have a booth at both the Atlantic City Boat Show (March 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>) and Saltwater Fishing Expo (March 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>). I will be looking for volunteers to staff these dates at each of the shows. If you can volunteer 4 hours or more let me know. I can be reached at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com) or 732-245-9445. This is one of the ways to reach anglers that don't belong to a club or have the latest information, we need to educate them. Remember to purchase your High Roller Raffle Tickets.

Current Membership Chairman John Toth has already started putting a schedule together to attend clubs and groups meetings to give a presentation for the coming year. John has done an outstanding job this past year reaching and attending their meetings. If you belong to a fishing club or group that currently does not belong to JCAA and wants to learn more about us, read John's article in this newsletter for more information. You can contact John at 732-656-0139 or [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net).

There is a lot that still needs to be done by me along with all of you this coming year. Each one of us needs to get more involved in the process if we want a future in recreational fishing. I will continue working to get

all the recreational community motivated, but I need you too. This is not a one person or group fight. We all need to get involved in the issues and what effects our fisheries. So, if you do not belong to a club for whatever the reason and want to get involved, reach out to me at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com) or 732-245-9445.

## JCAA Newspaper Goes Digital

*By Tom Fote, Publisher*

I started the JCAA Newspaper when I became Vice President of JCAA in 1988. I realized JCAA needed to do more than send out a postcard to the club representatives letting them know about an upcoming meeting. Remember, this was before cell phones, the internet and fax machines were available to everyone. I felt that we needed a communication vehicle to get word out in a timely fashion to our member clubs, the press, state and federal legislators, the governor's office and departments that deal with our issues, the president and the federal agencies and the general public.

The newspaper grew over the years from 4 pages to 20. What has also grown is the cost of paper, postage and printing. Even with donations we couldn't cover the cost. The \$25 dollars a year from associate members didn't pay for their copies. Our other fundraisers had to fund the cost of the newspaper. We made that commitment because we thought the information was vitally important. We have always verified all the information we printed, making our newspaper trusted by our readers. When there were outdoor writers, they would often just copy our articles since they knew they could rely on our research. Our members were gathering much of this information by attending the Councils and the ASMFC state meetings, which created an additional cost. We didn't pay people to go but we tried to pay their expenses. The last ten years have been difficult financially. The Fluke Tournament is no longer a huge fundraiser. In fact, we barely broke even the last few years. We have been running in the red for the last four years and have been using our reserve. Since the newspaper is one of the most expensive parts of our operation, we need to go digital to preserve the newspaper and still save money.

There are advantages to going digital. We can increase the number of pages without worrying about

printing and mailing. This will allow us to include more information. The sponsors to our Fluke Tournament will have access to the newspaper to talk about their products. We can list our donors and all of our associate members. Since we are an organization of clubs, we can help our clubs spread the word about their issues and events by giving them space in the newspaper.

If we have your email address in our database, you should now receive the newspaper via email. If you are not receiving the newspaper via email, you can go to the JCAA website ([jcaa.org](http://jcaa.org)) and hit the gold button that says “[subscribe](#)” and fill in the information. You will start getting an improved copy of the online newspaper and start receiving alerts. We do not share our database with anyone, including our sponsors. If at any time you want to stop receiving the newspaper by email and other JCAA emails, just hit unsubscribe on the email and you will be removed from the list automatically. While visiting the site to sign up, please support JCAA by hitting the other gold button – “[DONATE](#).”

## Let's Take Advantage of Matching Funds

*By Tom Fote*

Because of the letter I wrote below for *Giving Tuesday*, I realized JCAA needed another way to generate funds for 2023. We have managed to reduce our budget but we are still looking at a deficit. For this reason, I have pledged \$5,000 to JCAA for a matching fund drive. For every dollar, up to \$5,000 that you donate by January 31, I will match it. If you are generous enough, JCAA will have \$10,000 to fund our work for the next year. If everyone who receives this newspaper would donate \$20 or more, we could make this goal. I know many of you already donate to JCAA, but I am asking you to do a bit more this year, doubling your impact. Please read the letter below to get a better idea of the work we do.

Jersey Coast Anglers Association that started in 1982 needs your support. We have been operating in the red since before the pandemic. The pandemic just exacerbated the existing problem. The Fluke Tournament, which used to fund JCAA, has barely covered its expenses in the last couple of years. Last year we gave away over \$80,000 dollars in prizes.

The \$50,000 prize for the fluke over 12 pounds is paid for by an insurance policy which JCAA must pay for. We didn't take in enough money from the \$25 Big Fish entry fee to even cover the insurance policy.

### Why support JCAA?

JCAA has always sent members to meetings, gathering firsthand information to share with our members and the public. The people covering state meetings have absorbed most of the expenses of going to state meetings in the last couple of years, but out-of-state meetings get expensive, and our current budget does not allow for all the meetings we would like to attend. Two of the meetings I attended this year cost \$1,000 each and I absorbed the cost. This is not sustainable. The people who will replace me and other board members may not be able to fund their attendance. And they shouldn't have to.

Because of the hard work of Don Marantz and Greg Kucharewski, JCAA has expanded our work with Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs, to include special days for Wounded Warriors and handicapped children. We had over 500 participants at our most recent fishing day with everyone going home with a prize and other goodies.

We need to expand our presence on social media to draw in younger members. I am seventy-five and I am still the 5th youngest board member. I was the 5th youngest board member when I joined the board in 1986. Expanding our social media will cost us time and money. Our board is not strong with social media, and we need to pay someone to do this work for us. Volunteers would be wonderful but are hard to come by.

The JCAA Office, all our events and our board members all need insurance. That's the world we live in. The liability for the office, the board insurance all cost a lot of money. You all know how much you pay for your personal insurance.

I started the JCAA Newspaper in 1988 and was running on a shoestring out of my home. As we grew and the newspaper grew to thousands of copies each month that was not an option anymore. Our office provides storage for all our events, keeping our records, a place for us to meet and to work on the newspaper.

Without all this infrastructure, we cannot do the job we need to do for our member clubs. Just to list a few:

- We need to make sure legislation that is passed protects the interests of recreational anglers and the environment.
- We worked to make striped bass a gamefish in New Jersey in 1991.
- In 1989, JCAA after working since 1983 on getting the reduction boats we made stay 1 Nautical mile off the beach through the NJMFC, JCAA did not give up and many more years later, working with other groups, got them out of state waters completely
- We worked to end ocean dumping of chemicals, wood burning, dredge spoils and any other materials that would harm the ocean.
- We worked on C1 designation for streams to prevent further pollution of New Jersey's streams.
- We worked to end mercury contamination of our streams and estuaries, and we continue that work today.
- We have sent people to testify before Congress on a variety of issues and those testimonies are posted on our webpage.
- We have been in the forefront of the fishing community working on getting endocrine disruptors out of the environment because they impact the sexuality of fish. This may be one of the reasons for low recruitment.

These are some of the battles JCAA continues to fight. We need your help to fund this important work. We understand that many of you are not available to attend meetings. We try to be your voice. Because JCAA is an association of clubs and our decisions are made to represent all our member clubs, we sometimes make difficult decisions. But every decision JCAA makes about policy, every club has a vote at the General JCAA Meeting, not a board meeting, and the board follows the lead of our member clubs.

We know there are many worthwhile organizations asking for your support and your money. Think about what you spend on a new, high-priced plug, just one, and donate that to JCAA. The cost of one plug from everyone on our email list would help us get back in the black. It would allow us to plan for the future and protect your rights as recreational anglers and the environment. One less plug will hardly be noticed but that could keep JCAA

operating! It is easy just go to the JCAA webpage at [jcaa.org](http://jcaa.org) and hit the gold button that says [Donate!!](#)

Sincerely,  
Tom Fote

<@(((((>< <@(((((>< <@(((((><  
Legislative Chairman & JCAA Newspaper Publisher  
Jersey Coast Anglers Association

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## Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

*By Tom Fote*

### **The Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass, and Scup Debacle**

I am an optimist at heart and always expect the Council and Commission to do the right thing. After 34 years, I should know better. I sat through the Monitoring Committee Meeting the week before the Joint Meeting. It was an interesting discussion. All I did was listen. The Monitoring Committee is now really the Management Committee since whatever they recommend becomes the decision. No common sense comes into the process anymore. Years ago, the biologists representing their states would add some common sense into the process. They knew what was showing up on paper was not always the reality. I will repeat this phrase that I use regularly, "Garbage in, garbage out." This was the first course I took on computers back in the dark ages of 1972. All the professors stressed the models you create can only be successful if the data you put in reflects the actual reality. There are areas where formulas exist to give you accurate data. We can even get an accurate count of fish in a lake. But that doesn't work in the ocean, the bay or an estuary. To get better data for the models we would need to spend enough money to create surveys that would give us accurate data. In the 80's we were spending about 18 million dollars to develop recreational statistics. When we passed the Magnusson Stevens Act in 2006, Congress charged

NMFS to do a better job and get more accurate statistics. Dr. John Borman took over the program for NMFS and testified to Congress that 50 million would be required to get more accurate statistics. As Congress and the President often do, they create mandates but don't fund them. Now, as we enter 2023, we are still spending only \$18 million dollars. We keep designing more models to handle bad information. The other thing that happened in 2006, the responsibility for managing fisheries at the Federal level was given to the scientists rather than to the managers. The scientists can make recommendations based on the best data they can come up with, even when that data is suspect. We must rely on Council and Commission members to study the data and use their expertise to make good decisions. Because of lawsuits that were filed in the 90's by non-fishing NGOs who have no real connection to anglers, NMFS started managing strictly to avoid lawsuits. I have been saying for years that we have lost sight of the needs of all anglers, commercial and recreational, and simply manage to avoid lawsuits.

It seems to me that there has been a change in the attitude of the members of the Councils and Commissions. They have bought into a system that allows them to avoid any responsibility for their decisions by relying on the models. This way they can make decisions based on what the models say and ignore any impact on anglers and commercial fishermen. The few who speak in opposition to that strategy get outvoted by the regional director who has more power than any member of the Councils or Commission on jointly managed fisheries. NMFS manages by threatening to close the EEZ or put a moratorium on a specific fishery. The State Directors, the Council Members and Commissions are not willing to call their bluff. They have given away all their power to NMFS. They have given away what they know is correct just to maintain a minimal fishery. At the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NMFS, a commercial fishing group from New Jersey printed t-shirts that insinuated that NMFS had spent 25 years destroying our fisheries. Although I did not agree at the time, in retrospect their shirts should have said, "25 years of destroying the commercial and recreational fishing communities." At the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the same holds true. The decisions made to regulate fisheries have cost thousands of recreational and commercial jobs. If this was a business, all the managers would be fired. They have

forgotten the mandate to regulate and create sustainable fisheries. That is not what we are doing.

Let me summarize what happened at the Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass and Scup meetings. The Monitoring Committee recommended a 10% increase in summer flounder. When we left the meeting we assumed we would have a 10% increase. Why am I so naïve? By the time we were at the meeting the following week, we were at a 10% reduction due to new/faulty data that was put into the models. They included the usual outliers that made no sense but that was the "best data available."

I was not surprised at scup. Because of the makeup of the Commission and the Council, the quota reset did not reflect the historical data. They did the least they could possibly do for the recreational quota. Since the current small quota set us up to fail, we go over what they say our quota should be. I would understand if this overage was going to impact the commercial quota and scup was not 2.5 times over target. The commercial fishery that gets 70% of the quota only harvests about 80% of that amount. The overall quota is not being reached by a huge margin. There is plenty of room to absorb the recreational overage. Instead, NMFS decided to punish the recreational anglers with another reduction in allowable harvest for 2023. When some Council and Commission members suggested they would not vote for a reduction that makes no sense, NMFS just threatened to shut the EEZ to recreational anglers and got their way again. For black sea bass, we are 2 times over target. Black sea bass is not overfished and overfishing is not taking place. But, because this doesn't fit the models that say we are over catching our quota, there will be a reduction.

According to the stock assessment, all three of these stocks have large enough spawning stock biomasses to produce outstanding recruitment. In reality, recruitment has been bad in summer flounder, not because of the size of the spawning stock biomass, the commercial or recreational anglers but because of environmental factors. There are reasons this is true. The health of the bays and estuaries has declined because of more development and the introduction of endocrine disruptors into the sewer systems and runoff. Another factor is the impact of global warming. Since the Commissions and the Councils and NMFS don't have the clout and the tools to impact on these environmental factors, they just punish commercial and recreational industries by cutting their quotas. They make these decisions even

though the new regulations will have no impact on recruitment for the following year.

Because of global warming, the ASMFC came to the realization that no matter what decision they made on Southern New England lobster populations, the decline would continue. When the water temperature went above a certain point, recruitment went down to almost zero. If NMFS managed the lobster fishery, all the lobstermen would have lost their livelihoods and the fishery would have been shut down 10 years ago. Since ASMFC used common sense, we just let the lobstermen continue fishing on the declining stocks. Yes, some of the lobstermen have moved to other fisheries but there are still many in business and making a living. Just an example of how ASMFC used common sense, based their decision on the reality of the situation and not on avoidance of a lawsuit.

## **MAFMC & ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board**

*December 13, 2022*

### **Meeting Summary**

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC or Council) met jointly with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board (Board) to set recreational bag, size, and season limits (i.e., management measures) for all three species for 2023.

This was the first time setting recreational management measures using the new "Percent Change Approach," which was approved by the Council and Commission in June 2022. Under the new process, measures for the upcoming year(s) will aim to achieve a specified percent change in harvest compared to expected harvest under the current measures. The appropriate percent change in harvest will be defined by the following two factors: (1) a comparison of the confidence interval around an estimate of expected harvest in the upcoming year(s) under current measures to the average recreational harvest limit (RHL) for the upcoming two years; and (2) biomass compared to the target level, as a measure of whether the stock is overfished (see [this table](#) for additional details). Although this process intends for recreational measures to be set for two-year cycles, 2023 will be

set for a single year to align with the timing of the management track stock assessment.

During their deliberations for each species, the Council and Board reviewed the results of two statistical models: the Recreational Demand Model and the Recreational Fleet Dynamics Model. These models predict the impacts of bag, size, and season limits on recreational harvest and discards of summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. Prior to the meeting, the Monitoring Committee reviewed both models and recommended using the Recreational Demand Model for summer flounder and the

Recreational Fleet Dynamics Model for scup and black sea bass. However, on December 8, 2022, the Greater Atlantic Regional Office (GARFO) sent a letter to the Council indicating they believe the Recreational Demand Model to be the best scientific information available for estimating coastwide harvest and determining the appropriate percent change in harvest for all three species for 2023. The letter indicated that GARFO would not approve measures set based on the Recreational Fleet Dynamics Model. Although Council and Board members expressed serious concerns about the timing and rationale for this determination, they ultimately decided to use the Recreational Demand Model for all three species.

### **Scup**

The Percent Change Approach requires a 10% reduction in recreational harvest of scup in 2023. The Council and Board agreed to reduce the federal possession limit to 40 fish and shorten the season to May 1-December 31. The Council and Board recommended maintaining the current 10-inch minimum size in federal waters. These measures do not achieve the full 10% reduction in harvest required; therefore, the Council and Board also agreed that the states would further modify state measures through the Commission process to achieve the full 10% coastwide harvest reduction. State waters measures will be determined through the Commission process in early 2023.

### **Black Sea Bass**

The Percent Change Approach also requires a 10% reduction in recreational black sea bass harvest in 2023, which will be achieved through state measures as developed through the conservation equivalency process. The Council and Board adopted non-preferred coastwide measures, including a 15-inch

minimum size limit, a 5 fish possession limit, and an open season of May 15 – September 8. These measures are intended to achieve a 10% reduction. If approved through the federal rulemaking process, these measures would be written into the federal regulations but waived in favor of state waters measures. The Council and Board also adopted precautionary default measures of a 16-inch minimum size limit, a 2 fish possession limit, and an open season of June 1 – August 31. These measures are intended to be implemented in any state or region that does not put forward a proposal that can be approved by the Board through the conservation equivalency process. State waters measures will be determined through the Commission process in early 2023.

The Board also approved a proposal to open the recreational black sea bass fishery in Virginia state waters during February 2023 following the same process Virginia has used in prior years to monitor February harvest and modify the length of the open season later in the year as necessary to account for February harvest.

### **Summer Flounder**

There was significant debate regarding the appropriate percent change in recreational harvest of summer flounder for 2023. Although the model results that were originally provided to the Council indicated that a 10% liberalization of recreational summer flounder harvest would be appropriate for 2023, Council staff received an updated harvest estimate the week before the meeting which indicated that a 10% reduction is needed instead. The model revisions were based on a different range of years of catch per trip data and have not been reviewed by the Monitoring Committee or other technical advisory group. Given varying opinions on the appropriate configurations of the model inputs and the conflicting Percent Change Approach outcomes under the two model configurations, the Council and Board determined that status quo regional measures would be appropriate for 2023.

The Council and Board agreed to continue the use of regional conservation equivalency in 2023. While the Council and Board's intent was for regional measures to remain status quo in 2023, they agreed that the non-preferred coastwide measures should be modified given that the Recreational Demand Model (which was not available to analyze coastwide measures in previous years) concluded that the current non-preferred coastwide measures are too constraining

under both the previous and revised configuration of the model. The revised non-preferred coastwide measures include an 18-inch minimum size, 3 fish possession limit, and open season from May 15-September 22. Precautionary default measures will remain unchanged, including a 20-inch minimum size, 2 fish possession limit, and open season from July 1-August 31.

Presentations, briefing materials, motions, and webinar recordings are available at [this link](#). For more information, please contact Tracey Bauer, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [tbauer@asmfc.org](mailto:tbauer@asmfc.org) or 703.842.0740.

### **Motions**

Move to adopt a 10% harvest reduction for 2023 scup recreational management and adopt a 10 inch minimum size limit, 40 fish possession limit, and May 1- December 31 open season for 2023 recreational scup measures in federal waters, with the states to further modify state measures through the Commission process to achieve a 10% coastwide harvest reduction.

Board: Motion made by Ms. Meserve and seconded by Mr. Hasbrouck. Motion carries (Roll call: In favor – CT, DE, NC, MD, VA, RI, NOAA, NY, MA; Opposed – NJ; Abstain – PRFC)

Council: Motion made by Mr. Farhnam and seconded by Mr. Batsavage. Motion carries (16 in favor/4 opposed /no abstentions).

Move to adopt conservation equivalency for 2023 black sea bass recreational management, with a 10% reduction in coastwide harvest compared to expected 2023 harvest under 2022 measures. Nonpreferred coastwide measures are: 15-inch minimum size, 5 fish possession limit, May 15 – September 8 open season. Precautionary default measures are: 16-inch minimum size, 2 fish possession limit, June 1 – August 31 open season.

Board: Motion made by Mr. Maniscalco and seconded by Mr. Clark. Motion passes through unanimous consent (Roll call: In favor – MD, DE, NJ, NOAA, NC, MA, RI, VA, CT, NY, NH, PRFC)

Council: Motion made by Mr. Davidson and seconded by Mr. Cimino. Motion carries (18 in favor, 1 opposed).

Move to approve Virginia's proposal for a Wave 1 black sea bass recreational fishery for February 128,

2023, with a 13-inch minimum size limit and 15 fish bag limit.

Board: Motion made by Mr. Geer and seconded by Mr. Hasbrouck. Motion carries by unanimous consent.

Move to adopt regional conservation equivalency for 2023 summer flounder recreational management, based on the outputs of the Recreational Demand Model. Non-preferred coastwide measures would include an 18-inch minimum size, 3 fish possession limit, and open season from May 15-September 22. Precautionary default measures would include a 20-inch minimum size, 2 fish possession limit, and open season from July 1-August 31.

Board: Motion made by Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Mr. Clark. Motion carries (Roll call: MD, DE, NJ, NC, MA, RI, VA, CT, NH, PRFC; Opposed – NY; Abstain – NOAA)

Council: Motion made by Mr. Nowalsky and seconded by Mr. Feller. Motion carries (19 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstention)

## **MAFMC & Interstate Fishery Management Program Policy Board**

*December 13, 2022*

### **Meeting Summary**

The Council met jointly with the Interstate Fishery Management Program Policy Board (Policy Board) to discuss priorities and next steps for several Recreational Reform Initiative topics. These actions would address all four jointly managed recreational species (i.e., summer flounder, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish).

### **Percent Change Approach Replacement Action**

The Percent Change Approach approved through the Recreational Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addendum will sunset at the end of 2025, and a separate action will need to be developed to consider the appropriate replacement. The Council and Policy Board agreed that this action is a higher priority than the other recreational reform actions described below.

### **Recreational Sector Separation and Catch Accounting Amendment**

The Council and Policy Board agreed to move forward with scoping for an amendment to consider options for managing for-hire recreational fisheries separately from other recreational fishing modes (referred to as sector separation) and options related to recreational catch accounting, such as private angler reporting and enhanced vessel trip report requirements. Although some members were concerned about the feasibility of addressing catch accounting issues through a Council action, the Council and Policy Board agreed that this is an important issue and should remain in the document for scoping. They agreed that all recreational sector separation options summarized by staff should be considered through scoping, but that the development of sector separation through separate recreational management measures may be a higher priority to consider than separate recreational for-hire and private/shore allocations.

### **Recreational Reform Technical Guidance Document**

The Council and Policy Board previously agreed to develop a technical guidance document to address several recreational reform topics, including best practices for identifying and smoothing Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) outlier estimates, use of preliminary current year MRIP data, and guidelines for maintaining status quo recreational measures. During this meeting, the Council and Policy Board noted that many of the topics proposed to be considered through the technical guidance document have already been at least partially addressed (e.g., through use of the Recreational Demand Model and/or the Recreational Fleet Dynamics Models, described in the previous sections) and can be further considered through other ongoing or planned actions. As such, they agreed that the technical guidance document is no longer a priority.

### **Commercial/Recreational Sector Transfer Framework/Addendum**

The Council and Policy Board also discussed whether the Recreational Sector Separation Amendment should include consideration of options to allow transfer of quota between the commercial and recreational sectors. They agreed that this issue would be more appropriately addressed through a separate framework/addendum if desired. During a subsequent discussion the next day, the Council agreed to add a

framework action to consider commercial/recreational quota transfers for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass to the list of “Possible Additions” in the Council’s 2023 Implementation Plan.

Presentations, briefing materials, motions, and webinar recordings are available at [this link](#). For more information, please contact Tracey Bauer, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at [tbauer@asmfc.org](mailto:tbauer@asmfc.org) or Toni Kerns, Fisheries Policy Director, at [tkerns@asmfc.org](mailto:tkerns@asmfc.org).

## JCAA Article - Help Save our Stripers – Action Needed!

*By Paul Haertel*

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and Atlantic coastal states from Maine to North Carolina have scheduled hearings to gather input on Draft Addendum I to Amendment 7 to the Atlantic Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP). The Draft Addendum considers allowing voluntary transfers of striped bass ocean commercial quota between states that have ocean quota. New Jersey’s hearing was on 12/20. I posted various links in my Facebook article, but most were not working. However, you may view a pre-recorded presentation at [this link](#). Allowing the transfer of unused commercial quota from one state to another will result in many more stripers being killed at a time we are trying to rebuild the stocks. **Therefore, the Jersey Coast Anglers Association supports Option A - (status quo) Commercial quota transfers are not permitted.** JCAA urges all those who are interested in conserving striped bass to comment on this matter via mail or email. Comments do not have to be lengthy; you may simply say you oppose the commercial transfer of striped bass quota. Comments should be submitted by 11:59pm EST on January 13, 2023 to:

Emilie Franke  
FMP Coordinator  
1050 N. Highland St, Suite 200 A-N  
Arlington, VA 22201

*OR*

Email: [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org)  
(Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum I)

## JCAA Membership Report

*By John Toth*

Both President Mark Taylor and I have been visiting JCAA member clubs to present a PowerPoint presentation on what the JCAA is all about since COVID-19 has curtailed in-person meetings. At this point in time, we have made in-person presentations to 10 JCAA clubs. We have also made presentations by ZOOM to 2 clubs due to weather and scheduling issues.

For 2023, we have a January 17 presentation prepared for the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County. Another one is scheduled on April 4th to the Newark Bait & Fly Casting Club. A new club, the Coastal Fly Rodders is interested in having us to do a presentation to them also. At this point, we are working on a date to have it done. I plan to meet with the Manasquan Fishing Club on January 6th to give them an update on a few issues that the JCAA is involved with.

JCAA clubs have different meeting schedules. Some clubs do not have club meetings every month and others do not even meet during the winter months and start during early spring. While some clubs want an in-person presentation, others would prefer ZOOM presentations due to their schedules.

Our JCAA presentation can be customized to fit into your club meeting schedule either by in-person or by ZOOM. We have done it about 20 minutes or about 45 minutes. We cover a lot of ground starting with the beginning of the JCAA, what the JCCA has accomplished, what it is working on today and the fishing challenges all of us anglers face in the future. We also take questions and provide answers to them to the best of our ability.

To schedule this JCAA PowerPoint presentation, I need to know the date when your club has its meeting, the time of it, the address of the meeting location and the contact person to arrange your meeting with me. I have been contacting clubs to schedule this PowerPoint presentation and I would appreciate your getting back to me at your earliest convenience so that I can arrange our meeting with you.

Also, I would like to have updated emails of your club representatives so that we can send you the agendas of our General membership meeting and also

contact you on important issues that may quickly come up about our fisheries.

Our next JCAA General Membership meeting is on December 27<sup>th</sup>, and it will be done both as an in-person meeting and also by ZOOM at the Shark Anglers building in Herbertsville where we used to have in-person meetings until COVID came along.

JCAA club membership dues are payable in January of 2023. Invoices for JCAA membership dues will be mailed to you in the near future.

May you and your family members have a Happy and Safe Holiday and the very best for 2023 (and that also includes fishing)!

I can be contacted at [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net) or at (732) 656-0139 if you have any questions.

## Youth Education Report

By Greg Kucharewski

### NJ HOFNOD LEADER MEETING

Liz Jackson and Alana Newmark will host a NJ HOFNOD leader brainstorming workshop during February. If you would like to become a certified NJ HOFNOD instructor, please contact Liz Jackson, NJ DEP Division of Fish & Wildlife, Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs, 605 Pequest Road, Oxford, NJ 07683, 908-637-4125 x122. Visit the [NJ HOFNOD website](#) to view a group near you.

### RIVER RANGERS SUPPORT

We received a request to support the River Rangers, Navesink Maritime Heritage Association with a presentation during the summer of 2023. If your club members are interested in volunteering to present a program about saltwater fishing, please contact: Greg @ [gkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:gkucharews@jcaa.org).

### EARLE FISHING PIER 2023

We appreciate the time and effort that Sean Moley took to work with Naval Weapon Station Earle Moral, Welfare, and Recreation officials to extend pier access to disabled veterans that receive less 100 percent compensation. Call to apply for a 2023 application 732-866-2448.

Sean Moley will distribute loaner rods and reels for veterans and active-duty personnel at Earle Fishing Pier. We thank Roy H, Vietnam War

Veteran, and custom rod crafter for his contribution of rods and reels to keep the Play HOOK-e from PTSD program self-renewing with new equipment. If you are a disabled veteran or active-duty personnel, and would like to try fishing the pier, please contact Sean Moley. For more information about contact MWR 732-866-2448.



### DISABLED VETERAN FREE MOBILE SPORTFISHING PERMIT

We remind all eligible disabled veterans to apply for an IBSP 2023 Mobile Sportfishing Permit to drive on the beach. Veterans 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 at [this link](#). For more information about permits and hours contact: Island Beach State Park, 732-793-0506. Visit [VVA Chapter 12](#) for Play HOOK-e veteran news and discounts.

### JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We are proud to welcome Janet Noe and Michele Kohler, Play HOOK-e volunteers that have offered to assist the JCAA Youth Education Committee. Karen and Michele are completing their NJ HOFNOD instructor training and during the fishing show season offered to volunteer at our JCAA Marine Education booth. Please stop by the JCAA booth and say hello. Youth education committee members include Dr. Eleanor Bochenk, Don Marantz, Tom Fote, Tim Burden, Paul Smith, and Eileen Smith.

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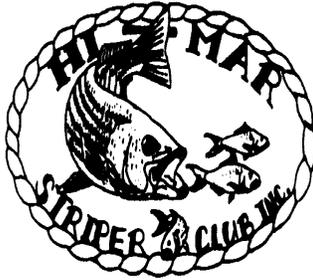
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