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**January 2024**

**Happy and Prosperous  
New Year to All!**



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Membership Info: Don Beyer 908-494-0980

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# JCAA NEWSPAPER JANUARY 2024

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on December 26th, 2023)

**"WORKING FOR MARINE RECREATIONAL ANGLERS"**

## JCAA REGULAR MEETING

**January 30th, 2024, 7:30pm**

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

or via Zoom, for link contact:

[tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net) or [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com)

**NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, January 11th**

## 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

**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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### 2023 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>		
<b>Cors. Sec.</b>		
<b>Mem. Sec.</b>	John Toth	732-656-0139

*Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page*

## IMPORTANT DATES

**January 11<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting**

**January 30<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting & Elections**

**February 3<sup>rd</sup> George Poveromo's Saltwater**

**Sportsmen National Seminar Series**

**February 8<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting**

**February 27<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting**

**February 28<sup>th</sup>–March 3<sup>rd</sup> Atlantic City Boat Show**

**March 14<sup>th</sup> JCAA Board Meeting**

**March 15<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> Saltwater Expo**

**March 26<sup>th</sup> JCAA General Meeting**

## JCAA Position Striper Addendum II to Amendment VII

*By Paul Haertel*

At our last general membership meeting on October 31st, JCAA club representatives had an interesting discussion about the new striped bass addendum. As is always the case with striped bass, there were a number of varying opinions. Still, we were able to reach a consensus on the addendum which is reflected in the letter below that was sent to the ASMFC.

12/5/2023

ASMFC Striped Bass Board,

I am writing on behalf of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association which represents approximately 75 fishing clubs and many thousands of fishermen throughout our state. We are pleased that you are accepting comments in regard to Addendum II to Amendment VII for striped bass. However, we are very unhappy with how you have mis-managed this species.

Had the board listened to JCAA and the vast majority of fishermen up and down the coast when they were considering Amendment VII, we would have had a minimum size limit of 35" or so which would have protected the abundant 2015-year class. Periodically raising the size limits to protect a dominant year class was the strategy that worked well in the past and what we would still support. What happened is that the 2015-year class grew to legal size and removals from the biomass dramatically increased in 2022 due to both harvest and C&R mortality. That lowered the probability of restoring the stocks by 2029 to just 15%. There are other factors in play that you cannot control such as pollution, blue catfish taking over Chesapeake Bay, and weather patterns that have not been conducive to successful spawns in the Chesapeake for the last 5 years. Despite that there are more than enough striped bass in the SSB to produce a very good spawn if we get the right conditions. Further restricting commercial and recreational fishermen may not do much good. However, one thing you can do is to eliminate or reduce the number of menhaden that are netted commercially in the Chesapeake Bay. Increasing the number of menhaden would be beneficial to stripers of all sizes in the bay. We also believe that striped bass should be a no-sale or gamefish along the entire east coast. It is reprehensible to see how many stripers are being poached in the Raritan Bay area and then being brought to New York where they are sold. We need more law enforcement and stricter penalties.

One other thing that the ASFMC/MAFMC might do is liberalize the recreational measures for other species such as fluke and sea bass. Sea bass have been rebuilt to far beyond their target for several years now. Liberalizing measures for these species would take some of the pressure off striped bass.

The fishing in the NY bight area has been phenomenal during the past couple of seasons, perhaps the best fishing in over 50 years. Unfortunately, this has resulted in a large number of "floaters" particularly larger fish that don't survive as well when they are released. The mandated use of circle hooks apparently did very little as the C&R mortality rate has remained at 9%. We need to make a better effort in educating people as to how to properly handle and release fish.

The Raritan Bay area has become the striped bass capital of the east coast with thousands of boats coming from all over the country to fish here. This has

been occurring this fall as well as in the spring when the fish are congregating to spawn and are easy pickings. This has caused the C&R mortality rate to skyrocket. In fact, there have been some reports of C&R mortality being responsible for as much as 52% of the removals from the biomass. It certainly appears as though the board has chosen to manage stripers as a commercial and C&R fishery. The C&R crowd needs to bare some of the burden of rebuilding the stocks by having seasonal closures to both harvesting and targeting of striped bass. Further, Massachusetts commercial hook and line fishermen are allowed to keep 15 stripers per day at a minimum size of 35". At the recent NJ webinar hearing on the addendum, we were told that the reason for this is that there might be increased C&R mortality if they had to release larger fish while trying to catch smaller ones. Well, that's what the rest of us have been forced to do. It's just great that the recreational fishermen have to release stripers greater than 31" so that they can grow large and be harvested commercially in MA.

That having been said below are our preferences for the various options included on the addendum:

### **Section 3.1-1 Ocean Recreational Fishing Options**

We favor option B, a slot of 28"-31" rather than Option D which is 30"-33". It is a tough choice between the two but we believe it gives shore-based anglers a little better chance of catching a fish that they can bring home to eat. Also, the 30"-33" fish are reaching prime breeding size. Some 30-33' stripers will still be from the 2015-year class which we should be protecting. We don't like options C or E as they give a wider ranged slot to the for-hire sector. We are adamantly opposed to sector separation but if anything, more lenient regulations should be for shore-based anglers who fish for sustenance and can't afford to go on a boat. What happened to the Environmental Justice that NOAA had been talking about?

### **Section 3.1.2 Chesapeake Bay Recreational Fishery Options**

We prefer Option B1 which includes a slot of 19"-23" fish for all bay jurisdictions. Options B2, 3, and 4 all have wider slot ranged. It is imperative that we try to protect these smaller fish particularly from the last two decent spawning year classes in 2017 and 2018. We do not like option C1 or C2 because once again

those options create sector separation by giving a wider ranged slot to the for-hire fleet.

### **Section 3.1.3 For Hire Management Clarification**

We prefer Option B. In the unfortunate event that sector separation is chosen the measures should only apply to the patrons. The captains and crews should be restricted to the private vessel/shore-based regulations.

### **Section 3.1.4 Recreational Filleting Allowance Requirements**

We prefer option B which will require states that authorize filleting at sea to establish minimum requirements such as saving racks and leaving the skin on.

### **Section 3.2.1 Commercial Quota Reductions**

As previously stated, we believe striped bass should be a no-sale or gamefish in all states. It is unfathomable that the ASMFC allows commercial fishing while the recreational sector is limited to a 3" slot. It is also disgraceful that the ASMFC allows the commercial hook and line boat fishermen in MA to harvest 15 stripers per day with a minimum size of 35". Much of the 2015-year class is now approaching that size and you are supposed to be protecting them! However, since these changes are not currently options, we prefer option B with a quota reduction of 14.5%.

### **Section 3.3 Response to Stock Assessment Updates**

We prefer Option A. Option B, which would allow the Board to swiftly respond to stock assessments without having to go through the more time-consuming Amendment or Addendum process might seem like a good idea. Unfortunately though, we no longer trust the board to do the right thing and we want to be assured of having our say even if our opinions are ignored. Still, we remain hopeful that someday the board will listen and begin better managing this fishery for the recreational fishermen.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Haertel

JCAA Striped Bass Committee Chairman

## **President's Report**

*By Mark Taylor*

As the year 2024 is about to start and the end of 2023 draws near. There have been many issues for the recreational community, some good and bad. Over the years the same issues never go away. We as a community must continue to work together in the hope there is a future of our sport. I will continue to try to unite the recreational community no matter what position I may hold. Everyone have an enjoyable and safe holiday season and a great new year with your families.

I want to remind all the club representatives that there is No December General Membership Meeting. The next General Membership Meeting will be held on January 30th. At this meeting the elections of JCAA Officers will be voted on. If anyone wants to get more involved at the start of the new year this is the time to step up and be a Officer of a great Association that fights for the rights of the recreational community in New Jersey. If you are interested, please contact me at [mtsport64@aol.com](mailto:mtsport64@aol.com) or 732-245-9445.

I have mentioned the last few months at meetings that our lease is up where currently JCAA has its office. Don Marantz has been working very hard trying to find something that fits JCAA's needs. A few board members have looked at a few and it is coming down to one. JCAA is currently working on procuring a new lease. Don Marantz and Steve Machalaba have been making huge strides working out some of the details and should have a lease agreement shortly. I would like to thank them both and the other officers that took time out of their busy day to look at the other potential places.

I am still working on the volunteer list for the events /shows that JCAA will have a booth or a table. The upcoming shows that JCAA will have a booth at in 2024 are Atlantic City Boat Show February 28th to March 3rd and Saltwater Fishing Expo March 15th to 17th. I have received some volunteers but still need more to fill in open time slots at both shows. It is very important that JCAA is present at these shows and other events to talk to people and inform them who is JCAA and about also what is happening in fisheries. We always staff our booth with volunteers. If you are interested in being one of those volunteers let me



know. I put the volunteer work list together and always I try to split the day into two shifts with three volunteers on each shift. I would need to have your name, date, shift, email, and cell if you plan on volunteering. You can contact me by phone, text, email or at one of the JCAA Meetings. I was hoping to have all the time slots filled by now, but there are still time slots that need volunteers to step up. I will be sending out a copy of the work lists so you can choose where you or someone from your club can volunteer within the next few days to all the club representatives and with the January 30th General Membership Meeting Agenda and Zoom invite.

JCAA will also have a table at the 37th Annual Saltwater National Seminar Series featuring George Poveromo at Resorts Casino Hotel Ocean Ballroom on Saturday February 3rd, starting at 9AM. This is a day filled with many “how to” and information on catching fish both inshore as well as offshore, well worth the \$65. This is a seminar not to miss. You can reserve your seat by calling 954-755-6898 or [nationalseminarseries.com](http://nationalseminarseries.com). I will see you there.

Before we know it, there will be many fishing flea markets run by many of the fishing clubs. Look for dates of these on social media and support them. I have always found great deals on things and met a lot of people that enjoy fishing. Many of the local tackle shops also have sales going on now and you can get what you are looking for. Please support them because they are there for you throughout the year and support you.

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

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**Important Information:** The next meeting is scheduled for January 30th at 7:30 pm and will be held in person at 385 Herbertsville Rd., Brick, NJ 08724. (Hybrid Meeting)

## Happy Holidays and a Joyful New Year



## Fisheries Management & Legislative Report

*By Tom Fote*

It is the holidays and I wish I could give you a present. But the Grinches in charge of fisheries management have made sure that won't happen. I wish there was good news on summer flounder, black seabass and scup but you can read the summary below and see there is none. I'm not sure what will happen at the winter ASMFC meeting in January, but I don't expect any good news to come from the striped bass meeting either. In order to change the path of what has been happening, we need to organize and get back to working together. We should not allow them to separate the recreational community into little groups that work against each other. We need to unite the factions of the recreational community, no matter how you fish or what you fish for. We should not allow them to pit the party and charter boats, the private boats and the shore-based anglers. The catch and release anglers should not be pitted against the anglers who want to take a fish home to eat. When we worked as a united community during the rebuilding of striped bass we had power. We are so busy fighting among ourselves we allow the commercial community to deny us the reallocation that should have happened on black seabass, scup and summer flounder. Unless we start working together, I don't see any good news on the horizon.

### Chemical Pollution

I have attached an article about chemicals in tires that are causing all kinds of problems on the West coast and possibly killing salmon runs. I am wondering if that is part of the problem we are having on the East coast with striped bass, winter flounder and others. Once you read the article, you should have questions we should be asking the scientists. It is bad enough we are dealing with endocrine disruptors and climate change. Now we have other chemicals to worry about.

### New Jersey Saltwater Registry

There is a release in this newspaper about the way you can renew your saltwater registry. It is important you do this so we have a legitimate count of the number of

recreational anglers in New Jersey. Unlike other states, registration does not cost anything to register. Most tournaments will ask for your registry number to qualify for a prize.

### **Striped Bass**

Paul Haertel's article is the official JCAA position on the proposed options. My testimony goes a different way and ignores their options. I feel these options will not help us one bit. So please read the article below to find out my thinking on this topic. I have submitted this as my personal written testimony.

### **Summer Founder, Black Seabass and Scup**

The release from the Joint Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Council and ASMFC is included below. We lost more ground again this year even though stocks are really healthy. Sometimes I question my 40 years involved in fisheries management. I used to be an optimist but now I am becoming a pessimist. I can no longer see the light at the end of the tunnel. Some of the reasons for the downward trend of what we can harvest are dependent on issues we don't control. And the politicians choose not to deal with these issues. One of the big problems is the only species left we can fish on in the New York Bight are striped bass, summer flounder, scup, bluefish and tautog. Many of the species my dad and I fished for are gone; inshore Boston mackerel, ling, whiting, winter flounder, weakfish, and others. In the 50s, 60s and 70s they were an important part of the recreational fishery. This puts a tremendous amount of pressure on the few species we are able to fish for. The saltwater recreational community is experiencing tremendous change. Along the coast, hundreds of charter and party boats are out of business. Tackle stores have closed. Marinas have plenty of empty dock spaces. The businesses that depend on the recreational community like restaurants, gas stations and motels are all struggling. We need to get involved and work together.

### **Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) Dissolved**

It is always upsetting to me when we lose a recreational advocacy group. We might not have always agreed but whenever we can find common cause, we are much stronger. RFA and JCAA worked together on many issues in New Jersey. Why New Jersey always had a voice was because we had many fishing clubs whose members were involved. They got

together and started JCAA and provided the workers we needed. They saw the need for the RFA for offshore fisheries and other issues and gave them the support they needed. In the last 15 years I saw CCA chapters in Connecticut and New York disappear. New groups have not formed to pick up the work. My concern is that the lack of younger anglers involved in JCAA, we will cease to exist. Now is the time to step up and volunteer.

### **Tom Fote's Testimony on Addendum II to the Striped Bass Board Plan**

I attended NJ's virtual striped bass hearing on November 15th. There was not a lot of support for what ASMFC is doing with striped bass. The testimony that night was a shorter version of my testimony below. I did not comment on the options then and I will not comment on them now since they are totally unacceptable. Paul Haertel will be commenting on JCAA's position on the options. I think we should go back to 28 – 35 but that is not listed as an option. Here are the reasons why: I have 45 years of experience in Striped Bass Management, I have been attending Striped Bass Board Meetings for 37 years, since 1991, even before I was appointed to ASMFC. Since I was first appointed to ASMFC I attended almost 23 years as NJ Governor's Appointee and 6 years as NJ Legislative Proxy. I retired in June and there is no one presently attending that has been there as long as I have been.

1. The reductions are being proposed because of a lack of recruitment. It is not the size of the spawning stock biomass but environmental conditions that are having a negative impact on the recruitment especially in Chesapeake Bay. That is what I have been saying for years. Any manager on ASMFC knows that. But to placate the people who believe "the sky is falling" the managers continue to restrict the recreational catch.
2. The commissioners stated a few years ago that they want to protect the 2015-year class but they did just the opposite by putting in slot limits that targeted that specific class. Again, history tells us what they should have done was the same thing we did when we rebuilt the stocks in the 80's and 90's. At that time, we had a great year class coming up and we were counting on that year class to rebuild the stock. What we did was raise the size limit to keep protecting that specific year

class from being harvested. The last two addendums have targeted the 2015 years class they claim to be protecting. If we were doing this right, we would have kept raising the recreational size limit to 36 inches or above to stop harvesting that year class. The commercial fishery should be at the same high level. That is not what we have been doing. Why have we not learned from experience?

3. What is proposed in this addendum is having separate size limits for party and charter boats and leaving the remains of the recreational community to fish on a much smaller slot. This is really an environmental justice issue. I assume this is against NJ law. The Governor and our Legislature has confirmed their commitment to regulations that consider environmental justice. We should consider suing if this comes to pass.
4. Years ago, when the striped bass board was meeting on Amendment 5, Bruce Freeman and I had to leave the meeting early to catch an 8 PM flight. When we left, the NY delegation proposed to eliminate the Delaware River and the Hudson River as producing areas. NJ was not consulted. Virginia, Maryland and Potomac River all agreed. This was also supported by other states that did not want specific regulations on their producing areas. This change only restricted NJ, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New York. Since New York didn't have a commercial fishery in the Hudson River due to PCBs, this served their needs as well. NJ realized we were being disadvantaged and we tried to make the change at the next board meeting and put Delaware and Hudson Rivers back as producing areas. Because we were trying to reverse a position taken at a previous meeting, we would need a 2/3 vote. We were unable to get that since many other states were advantaged by the earlier decision. New Jersey never proposed to manage the producing areas differently than the ocean. But we wanted to have credit for what we were producing. This had an interesting impact on how we allocated the 25% of the coastal fishery to the producing areas.
5. How do we allocate the ocean striped bass fisheries based on 1990s information? The states that fish in ocean waters get 75% of the quota of the migratory stock since the Striped Bass Technical Committee estimates mature striped bass spend 25% of their time in the producing

areas and the rest in the ocean. When the addendum was passed to eliminate the Delaware and Hudson Rivers as producing areas, the Chesapeake Bay producing areas got the entire 25% for their use. That was many years ago when we were estimating that 75% of the coastal migratory stocks were coming from the Chesapeake and only 25% from the other producing areas. The Delaware River had just started recuperating from the oxygen block from Camden and Philadelphia sewer systems. The stocks in the Delaware River have risen significantly. The Hudson River has always been a good producing area and has not seen the recruitment problems the Chesapeake Bay is currently experiencing. Tagging studies in the last 10 years have shown that at least 40% of the coastal migratory stock is coming from areas other than the Chesapeake Bay. We can use DNA from the Hudson River stock to prove where certain fish come from. Because of the canal between Delaware and Maryland, there is a greater mixing of stocks in the two producing areas. If you contribute less, you should get less. We are allowing the Chesapeake Bay to get credit for 25% of the coastal migratory stock as if they were producing 100% of the coastal migratory stock. If you think about this, they are hammering their coastal migratory stock harder than they should be since the 25% should be reduced by 30 or 40%. As I pointed out in this document, in the past 10 – 12 years, the other producing areas are contributing 40% of the migratory stock. The quota for the Chesapeake Bay leads to overharvesting there. I recommend we cut their use of the ocean quota by at least 30%. This would better reflect what is currently happening and give a better chance for a higher recruitment in the Chesapeake Bay.

6. Because of climate change and other conditions in the Chesapeake Bay, I think other areas are producing a greater percentage of the striped bass. Because of the warming of the water, this may continue to increase. I have been waiting to see what happens to the stocks in the Kennebeck River since that has always been considered a producing area. It is also interesting to see if Connecticut's waters are becoming producing areas. We know that Canada is having a problem with wild Atlantic Salmon being eaten by striped



bass and that may indicate more production further north. We need to do the necessary research to find out what is happening with the coastal migratory stocks and not just continue to see the Chesapeake Bay as the only producing area. At the last striped bass board meeting I attended as a commissioner, I requested we include Delaware and Hudson Rivers as producing areas. I wasn't a commissioner at the August meeting and I didn't attend because of health problems. There was no one there to champion that cause. Why am I not surprised.

7. One of the biggest problems we are having with striped bass is hook-and-release mortality. It has been as high as 51% of the overall mortality including both the commercial and recreational fisheries. No where in this addendum does it address this issue. Could it be that the catch and release anglers are dead set against even discussing this issue? I found it extremely interesting that a release by Stripers Forever included this quote in the Striper Forever Action release on 11/15/23: "To be honest, we still believe that an equitable (commercial and recreational) harvest moratorium is the most efficient and fool proof way to rebuild the Striped Bass stock to abundance." Why was I not surprised? I helped start Stripers Forever and was the first vice president. After a few years I resigned because they were becoming elitist, just wanting catch and release and not considering subsistence fishermen. The catch and release guys know they have been able to stop seasons being put in and they continue to fish even if there is a moratorium. They will say they are fishing for bluefish or another species with their light tackle and causing the same fish catch and release mortality. They are selfish and don't care about the rest of the community. They have no regard for subsistence fishermen and everyday anglers who just want to take home a fish for dinner. They want to privatize the catch and release fishery for their enjoyment or their customers while eliminating everyone else. Years ago, at a meeting with a number of environmental groups, as we were introducing ourselves, the ASA representative stated that there were 40 million anglers in the United States. One of the representatives from an environmental group stated the reason we had so many recreational

anglers was because the United States is a rich country. When I had a chance, I said the reason we have 40 million anglers is not because we are rich but because the fish do not belong to the royalty or the wealthy. The fish belong to the public. The catch and release anglers seem to have forgotten that.

In closing, on paper this addendum looks like it will accomplish something but in reality, it will just make things worse. It will needlessly penalize both the commercial and recreational fisheries without protecting the long-term health of the striped bass stocks. I can't believe we strayed this far from the original plan.

Sincerely,

Tom Fote

<@(((((>< <@(((((>< <@(((((><

Legislative Chairman & JCAA Newspaper Publisher  
Jersey Coast Anglers Association

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## **Meeting Summary Joint Meeting of ASMFC & MAFMC**

*MAFMC Release  
December 2023*

### **Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Recreational Management Measures**

The Council and Board also adopted recreational management measures (i.e., bag, size, and season limits) for summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. This was the second year of setting measures under the Percent Change Approach, and the first year of setting measures for two-year cycles for summer flounder and scup. Black sea bass measures were set for 2024 only due to the timing of the management track assessment.

The Percent Change Approach uses a comparison of the RHL to an estimate of expected harvest, in addition to stock size, to determine if measures should be restricted, liberalized, or remain unchanged for the next two years.

Prior to their deliberations for each species, the Council and Board received a brief overview of the Recreation Demand Model (RDM). The RDM was developed by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) to predict the effect of proposed recreational measures on angler satisfaction, fishing effort, recreational harvest, and recreational discards of summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass. The RDM was first used in setting 2023 measures and will be used again for the upcoming years.

### **2024-2025 Summer Flounder Recreational Measures**

The Percent Change Approach requires a 28% reduction in recreational harvest of summer flounder in 2024-2025. This reduction is needed because the RHL for 2024-2025 (6.35 million pounds) falls below the confidence interval around projected harvest for these years, and the stock size is below the target level. Measures will be restricted to achieve the full 28% reduction in 2024 and then will remain unchanged in 2025 unless new information suggests a major change in the expected impacts of those measures on the stock or the fishery.

The Council and Board also approved the use of regional conservation equivalency in 2024-2025. Non-preferred coastwide measures, which are written into the federal regulations but waived in favor of state measures, include an 18.5-inch minimum size, 3 fish possession limit, and open season from May 8-September 30. Precautionary default measures include a 20-inch minimum size, 2 fish possession limit, and open season from July 1-August 31. These measures are only intended to be used for states/regions which do not comply with the conservation equivalency process. State waters measures will be determined through the Commission process in early 2024.

### **2024-2025 Scup Recreational Measures**

A 10% reduction in recreational harvest of scup in 2024-2025 is required under the Percent Change Approach. This reduction is needed because the average RHL for 2024-2025 (12.51 million pounds) falls below the confidence interval around estimated

harvest under status quo measures for these years, and stock biomass is more than 150% of the target level. Measures will be restricted to achieve the full 10% reduction in 2024 and then will remain unchanged in 2025 unless new information suggests a major change in the expected impacts of those measures on the stock or the fishery. The Council and Board agreed that the 10% coastwide harvest reduction will be achieved by the states through the Commission process in early 2024.

The Council and Board revisited their previous decision to close the recreational scup fishery in federal waters from January 1 to April 30. The shortened season was recommended by the Council and Board in December 2022, but due to the timing of federal rule making, it is not expected to go into effect until 2024. During this meeting, the Council and Board discussed concerns that some states may be disproportionately impacted by the federal waters closure. Staff presented an analysis of Vessel Trip Report (VTR) data which were used to estimate total recreational harvest during this time period. The analysis suggests the closure would have minimal impact on overall coastwide harvest given the limited recreational effort for scup that typically occurs between January and April. Based on this analysis and recommendations from the Monitoring Committee, the Council and Board recommended a year-round open season in federal waters for 2024-2025 to give the states greater flexibility when modifying measures to meet the 10% reduction. The Council and Board recommended no changes to the current 40 fish possession limit and 10-inch minimum size in federal waters.

### **2024 Black Sea Bass Recreational Measures**

The Council and Board discussed the approach for recreational black sea bass management in 2024. Recreational measures for 2023 were set for a single year with the intent of setting 2024-2025 measures based on a 2023 management track assessment. However, this assessment was later delayed to 2024 to allow more time to fully develop a research track assessment.

The RDM indicates the confidence interval around the estimated 2024 harvest based on 2023 measures exceeds the 2024 RHL. Combined with the most recent estimate of biomass from the 2021 management track assessment (i.e., 210% of the target level), this

would require a 10% reduction in harvest under the Percent Change Approach. However, the Percent Change Approach did not contemplate a situation where the RHL would be revised without updated stock assessment information, as was the case with the 2024 black sea bass RHL. The 2024 RHL is about 5% lower than the 2023 RHL due to three additional years of catch data in the calculations. As such, updated information is only available for one of the two factors that guide decision making under the Percent Change Approach (i.e., an updated comparison of the harvest estimate confidence interval to the RHL, but no updated biomass information). Therefore, the Council and Board agreed with the Monitoring Committee's recommendation to leave recreational black sea bass measures unchanged in 2024. This would treat 2024 as the second year in a two-year cycle with 2023. They noted that this is the only opportunity for unchanged measures across two years for black sea bass under the Percent Change Approach given the expected timing of management track assessments and the sunset of the Percent Change Approach after 2025. Measures for 2025 and 2026 will be set based on updated stock assessment information and updated runs of the RDM.

If states wish to consider slight season adjustments under this status quo approach (e.g., to maintain a Saturday opening), those proposals must be supported by additional runs of the RDM and approved by the Board.

The Council and Board also agreed to continue the use of conservation equivalency to waive federal waters measures in favor of state waters measures. Under the status quo approach, the non-preferred coastwide measures will remain a 15-inch minimum fish size, a 5 fish possession limit, and a May 15 – October 8 open season. Under conservation equivalency, these measures are waived in favor of state measures. The precautionary default measures will remain a 16-inch minimum fish size, a 2 fish possession limit, and a June 1 – August 31 open season. These measures are only intended for states/regions which do not comply with the conservation equivalency process.

### **Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass and Bluefish Recreational Measures Setting Process Framework/Addenda**

The Council met jointly with the ASMFC's Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board (Policy

Board) to receive an update on the Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass, and Bluefish Recreational Measures Setting Process Framework/Addenda. The Council and Policy Board agreed to refine the preliminary range of alternatives by modifying the Biological Reference Point Approach and Biomass Based Matrix Approach alternatives such that measures will no longer be assigned to all bins the first time either approach is used through the specifications process. Over the next several months, the Fishery Management Action Team (FMAT)/Plan Development Team (PDT) will continue to develop all alternatives under consideration, including providing greater detail on how measures would be set under the Biological Reference Point and Biomass Based Matrix Approaches.

## **ASMFC Winter Meeting Agenda**

*The Westin Crystal City, Arlington, VA  
January 23-25, 2024*

### **Tuesday, January 23**

#### **12:30 – 2:30 pm: American Lobster Management Board**

- Review American Lobster Technical Committee Report on Northern Edge
- Review Jonah Crab Technical Committee Report on Stock Indicators
- Consider Pursuing a Management Strategy Evaluation for American Lobster
- Discuss Inconsistencies in Federal and Commission Rules for Lobster Conservation Management Areas 2 and 3
- Progress Update on American Lobster Benchmark Stock Assessment

#### **2:45 – 3:45 pm: Spiny Dogfish Management Board**

- Review Management Track Assessment
- Set Specifications for 2024-2025 Fishing Year
- Elect Vice-Chair

#### **4 – 5:30 pm: American Eel Management Board**

- Consider Draft Addendum VI on Maine's Glass Eel Quota for Public Comment
- Consider Draft Addendum VII on Yellow Eel Coastwide Cap for Public Comment

- Consider Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports for the 2022 Fishing Year

**Wednesday, January 24**

**8 – 10 am: Executive Committee**

**10:15 – 11:45 am: Coastal Pelagics Management Board**

- Consider Approval of Spanish Mackerel Fishery Management Plan Review and State Compliance Reports for the 2022 Fishing Year
- Update from Cobia Plan Development Team on Reallocation Addendum Scoping
- Update on 2025 Cobia Stock Assessment, if necessary
- Update from the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council on Mackerel Port Meetings and Framework Amendment 13
- Elect Vice-Chair

**11:45 a.m. – 12:45 pm: Lunch**

**12:45 – 1:30 pm: Shad and River Herring Management Board**

- Consider Update to New Hampshire River Herring Sustainable Fishery Management Plan and Proposal to Reopen Fishery
- Progress Update on River Herring Benchmark Stock Assessment

**1:45 – 4:45 pm: Atlantic Striped Bass Management Board**

- Review Public Comment and Advisory Panel Report on Draft Addendum II
- Select Management Measures and Consider Final Approval of Addendum II

**Thursday, January 25**

**8:30 – 10:30 am: Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board**

- Discuss Aquaculture in the Exclusive Economic Zone
- Review 2023 Commissioner Survey Results
- Review Species Management Board Declaration of Interest Changes
- Stock Assessment Progress Reports

- Committee Updates
- Review Noncompliance Findings, if necessary

**10:30 – 11 am: Commission Business Session**

- Modify and Approve 2024-2028 Strategic Plan
- Consider Noncompliance Recommendations, if necessary

## **West Coast Tribes Called for an Investigation into Toxic Chemicals Found in Car Tires that are Killing Salmon Populations**

*by Owen Bellwood, jalopnik.com,  
November 6, 2023*



*The chemical is used to preserve tires and prevent them from cracking. Photo: Darren McCollester (Getty Images)*

A chemical [compound found in many car tires](#) is coming under scrutiny after west coast tribes claimed it is killing salmon populations across America. Federal regulators will launch a probe into a [preservative used in most car tires](#) as it [can be toxic to many species of fish](#) when rainwater washes it into rivers and streams.

Many [tires sold across America](#) contain a compound called 6PPD, which is a rubber preservative that helps prevent tires from cracking and degrading too quickly. However, the compound reacts with the air in our atmosphere to create a toxic substance that is threatening the safety of streams and rivers across America.

Now, federal regulators are considering launching an investigation into the use of 6PPD in

tires sold across America, [reports the Associated Press](#). The investigation has been called for after scientists discovered a link between the use of the compound and a condition called “urban runoff mortality syndrome” that kills coho salmon populations and affects other native fish like rainbow trout, arctic char and white sturgeon. The AP reports:

*The Yurok tribe in California and the Port Gamble S’Klallam and Puyallup tribes in Washington asked the Environmental Protection Agency to prohibit the rubber preservative 6PPD earlier this year, saying it kills fish — especially coho salmon — when rains wash it from roadways into rivers. Washington, Oregon, Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut also wrote the EPA, citing the chemical’s “unreasonable threat” to their waters and fisheries.*

*“We could not sit idle while 6PPD kills the fish that sustain us,” Joseph L. James, chairperson of the Yurok Tribe, told The Associated Press. “This lethal toxin has no business in any salmon-bearing watershed.”*

The EPA’s decision to review the use of 6PPD in tires is the first step in the long process that could result in it being banned from tires sold across America. But despite the process for its banning being a long one, the AP reports that [tire manufacturers are already](#) “looking for an alternative that still meets federal safety requirements.”



*Chemicals released by the tires are harming coho salmon populations. Photo: Gabrielle Lurie/San Francisco Chronicle (Getty Images)*

While the chemical is used in many different rubber products, including shoes and playground equipment, its use in car tires is the most damaging to wildlife. That’s because as a car drives along a road, [tiny particles of rubber](#) are kicked off as the tire rubs against the tarmac.

The 6PPD that’s found in these particulates can then break down into a toxic compound called 6PPD-quinone, which is water soluble so can be washed into rivers and streams when rain falls. Once in the waterways, 6PPD-quinone [can kill coho salmon “in hours,”](#) according to the west coast tribes.

But the tribes aren’t the first people to alert lawmakers to the dangers of this compound to fish stocks in America. In 2020, scientists in Washington state [published a paper investigating](#) the impact of tire wear on American fish populations. They found that 6PPD-quinone could kill some fish species in as little as 70 minutes.

## **RFA Members are Welcome to be Members of the JCAA!**

The Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) has represented the interests of the recreational community for many years. On many occasions, the RFA and the JCAA have worked on the same issues that had at its goal to restrict our ability to enjoy saltwater fishing that we enjoy so much.

For a variety of factors, the RFA has ceased its operations to represent the interests of the recreational fishing community. At this point, the JCAA is the only major organization in New Jersey that works to protect the rights of anglers in this state. So that you can still be a part of an organization that still represents your fishing interests, you can join the JCAA as a fishing club with a dues of \$50 per year or as an individual for \$25 per year.

If you are interested in joining the JCAA, please contact the Membership Chairman via email at [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net) or phone at (732) 656-0139 and John will send you the forms that need to be completed for JCAA membership.

**Welcome Aboard to the JCAA!**



## Attention Saltwater Anglers:

### Changes are in store for the NJ Saltwater Recreational Registry Program!

Beginning December 15, New Jersey Saltwater Recreational Registrations for 2024 will be available on the [NJDEP Fish & Wildlife licensing webpage](#), where all other NJFW licenses and permits can be purchased.

Registering is still FREE. When added to your online cart, there will be zero cost. Migrating the Registry to the licensing system enables 'one stop shopping', allowing you to register along with purchasing your shellfish, crabbing or freshwater fishing licenses/permits. Unlike other NJFW licenses and permits, Saltwater Registrations are ONLY available online and not at license agents or NJFW offices.

Registration certificates will not be mailed and will need to be printed from the licensing page. Registration certificates can be saved to a computer and/or accessed by logging into your customer profile, where you can reprint as many times as needed.

- If you already have a customer profile with NJFW, you will simply login using your last name and DOB and then click the Saltwater Registry button to 'purchase' a free Saltwater Registration (individual or for-hire).
- If you are new to the NJFW licensing system, you will need to fill out your contact information and then proceed to 'purchase' your free Saltwater Registration and/or any other licenses you may need. After signing up, you will be able to access your customer profile by logging in using your last name and DOB.
- Anyone over the age of 18 will need to provide the online system with their Driver's License Number or their State Issued ID card number.

Questions: Contact Marine Fisheries staff via the [contact form](#), email to [saltwaterregistry@dep.nj.gov](mailto:saltwaterregistry@dep.nj.gov), or by calling NJFW Marine Fisheries at (609) 748-2020.

## Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series Returns to Atlantic City

### Series Presented by Bass Pro Shops & Mako Boats

After three years of televised seminars due to COVID, the Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series returns to the road in 2024 - and to Resorts Casino in Atlantic City on Saturday, February 3. Hosting the 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. event will be **George Poveromo**, Host of George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing on Discovery. **Nick Honachefsky**, a noted writer, author, TV personality and New Jersey fishing authority, will co-host. Joining Poveromo and Honachefsky in Atlantic City will be:

- **Matt Upton** – Renowned authority on how to use ocean-circulation features and water surface temperature breaks to catch more fish, with Rof's Fishing Forecasting Analysis!
- **Captain Kyle Chudzinski** - Noted deep-dropping specialist for trophy class Golden tilefish and cod, and an accomplished trophy fluke and seabass pro!
- **Captain Mike Villanova** - Renowned Waretown-based specialist at catching tautog, striped bass and fluke, with No Limits Sportfishing!
- **Captain Tom Frey** - Noted authority on fishing New Jersey's offshore waters for tunas, marlin and swordfish, aboard the Dialed In!
- **Sloane Endick** – Authority on fishing the jetties and surf for fluke, tautog, and striped bass!
- **Captain Tom Daffin** – Premier trophy striped bass, fluke, wreck and offshore fishing authority, with Fishin' Fever Sportfishing!
- **Captain Steve Purul** - Barnegat Light-based pro specializing in fishing the back bays and inshore waters for striped bass, fluke and weakfish and coastal waters for tautog, seabass and tuna, with Reel Fantasea Charters!
- **Harry Vernon III** – Premier South Florida-based offshore trolling, live-baiting and bottom fishing pro!



- **Captain Al Crudele III** - Veteran South Jersey light-tackle fishing specialist, with Bayhound Charters!
- **Captain Alan Wenzel** - South Florida-based authority on deep-drop bottom-fishing and offshore trolling!

"The National Seminar Series has become the nation's longest running and most popular educational course on recreational marine angling tactics and techniques," says Poveromo. "This is year number 37 for the tour. The backbone to its success has always been the vast amount of cutting edge and pertinent how-to information on catching more and bigger game fish within the waters of the respective Seminar Series stop. This information is explained in great detail by some of the very best saltwater anglers, and each session is backed by elaborate visuals that include video bytes, technical- and action-oriented images and on-stage demonstrations. One can't help but to walk away from the seminar with numerous new tricks and techniques, regardless of their experience level".

Courses for the February 3 seminar will encompass the how-tos and where-tos of catching the regions inshore, near shore and offshore saltwater game fish. The Seminar Series kicks off at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude by 3:00 p.m., with a one-hour break at noon. Considered to be the best bargain in sportfishing, a seminar series ticket is only \$65.00.

The ticket price covers five hours of instruction from the best pros in the business, a course textbook, a one-year subscription or extension to Salt Water Sportsman, one Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Analysis, Star Brite boat care products, bottle of OrPine Wash & Wax, a \$10.00 discount card off any purchase of \$75.00 or more from Bass Pro Shops and chances to win thousands of dollars' worth in door prizes! The grand prize at the conclusion of the New Jersey seminar is a Florida Keys fishing trip with one of several premier Florida Keys guides. The super grand prize, to be awarded two weeks after the conclusion of the 2024 series, is a new Mako Pro Skiff 17 cc!

At the conclusion of the seminar, an After Seminar Party will be held inside the Bass Pro Shops in Atlantic City. Beginning at 4:00 p.m. and concluding at 7:00 p.m., seminar participants and a guest of their choice can enjoy socializing with many of the seminar faculty, Poveromo included. There will be complimentary food, soft drinks and music. A cash bar will be on hand.

**How to Register** – To register, purchase tickets, or learn more about the seminar, please visit the site at [www.nationalseminarseries.com](http://www.nationalseminarseries.com).

**About the Salt Water Sportsman's National Seminar Series:** In its 37th year, the Salt Water Sportsman National Seminar Series is the nation's longest running and most popular educational seminar on recreational marine angling. Featuring George Poveromo, SWS's Editor-At-Large, and Host of "George Poveromo's World of Saltwater Fishing" on the Discovery Channel, Poveromo will take the stage at each location, along with teams comprised of Salt Water Sportsman editors, nationally-recognized anglers and some of the region's top guides. Their job: Cover in explicit detail the how-tos and where-tos of catching the most popular game fish within a specific Seminar Series region, along with the latest rigging and fishing techniques.

## JCAA Membership Report

*By John Toth*

During 2023, we have received checks for JCAA membership from the: Seaside Heights Fishing Club, the Fish Hawks, Surf Kings Fishing Club, the Beach Buggy Fishing Club (NJBBA) and the Hudson River Fishermen's Association (HRFA) Bay Head Shores, Delaware River Shad Fishermen's Association, Newark Bait & Fly Casting Club, Berkley Striper Club, NJ Shark Anglers Club, the Hi-Mar Striper Club with a \$500 Sponsorship, Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County, Bradley Beach Surf Casters, Barrington Rod & Gun Club, Jersey Coast Shark Anglers, Forked River Tuna Club, Manasquan Fishing Club with a \$250 Sponsorship, and Sandy Hook Bay Anglers with a \$500 Sponsorship, the Bayhead Shore Flyrodders, the Sunrise Rod & Gun Club the Village Harbor Fishing Club, Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club, Staten Island Fishing Club, the Ocean City Marlin & Tuna Club, the Schuyler Tuna & Fishing Club and the Shore Surf Club.

Please let me know if I have missed your club with a dues payment or if I need to make a correction to your club's payment.

I want to **THANK** all clubs for renewing your JCAA club membership during 2023. Invoices for JCAA club membership will be sent out during January 2024.

Mark Taylor and I have been invited to give a presentation about the JCAA to the Sunrise Rod & Gun club during **April 5, 2024**.

If you are still interested in having a JCAA presentation to your club, please contact me at my address below.

To schedule this JCAA power point presentation, I need to know the date when you club has is 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 power point presentation and I would appreciate your getting back to me at your earliest convenience so that I can arrange our meeting with you.

Remember, the JCAA does not have a General Membership meeting during December because of the holidays. Our next JCAA General Membership meeting be on **January 30th, 2024**, and it will be done as an in-person meeting and by ZOOM starting at 7:30 p.m.

**May all of you have a wonderful holiday and the very best for 2024!**

*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*

### GET NJ HOFNOD CERTIFIED



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](http://NJ.HOFNOD.org) to view a group near you.

### FISHING AND BOATING SHOWS

Be sure to visit the JCAA booth at upcoming fishing and boating shows. Stop by and meet our team. They can answer all your questions about saltwater fisheries management and pending regulations. You can also ask questions about flea markets that will be held in the spring of 2024. Don't forget to support the high school fishing flea markets that help our youngsters learn about fishing.

- Annual Pete D'Alessio Memorial -

### NEW JERSEY BEACH BUGGY

### 2024 FISHING FLEA MARKET

Co - Hosted with Toms River South High School Fishing Club

**Saturday - January 6, 2024**

**9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

### TOMS RIVER SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

Held in the Cafeteria

Customer Parking - Hooper Avenue Right Side Cafeteria entrance

Parking lot behind Toms River South High School

Vendors Parking - Lots in front of TRHS or Jurors lot adjacent to Left Side of Cafeteria off of Hooper Ave.

### Admission:

Early Bird - Enter at 8am - 8:45 - \$8.00 per person all ages

\$4.00 Starting at 9am Under 12 - Free

Questions ? Call Gary 609-556-9241 or 732-928-9495  
Or checkout - [www.NJBBA.org](http://www.NJBBA.org)

### NEW VETERANS' CATEGORY FOR SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

This year there will be a new fishing category for veterans who enter the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. The tournament is scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 2024. When you register, please check the veteran box. The veteran who wins will be asked to prove their veteran status by showing a government issued ID or copy of DD 214.

## TSUNAMI ROD AND REEL DONATION

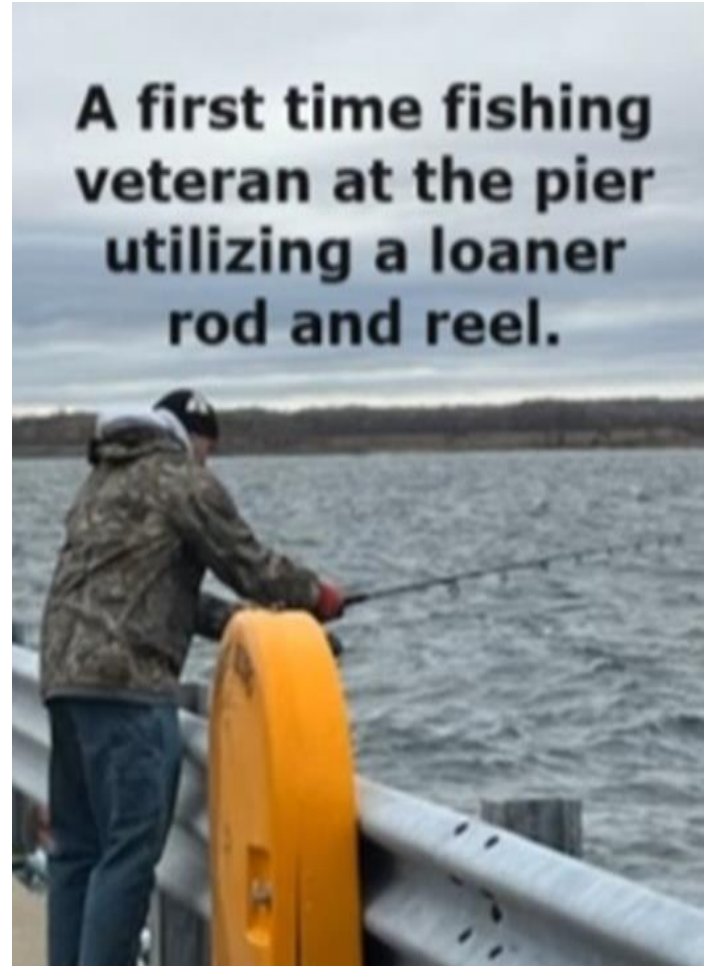


We received another supply of new Tsunami rods and reels that will allow us to expand our Play HOOK-e from PTSD program to other organizations and veteran families. Thirty-eight rods and reels will be distributed to our Play HOOK-e Volunteer Leaders. The leaders will monitor the loaner rods and reels and be sure the equipment is utilized to the maximum. We will also give rods and reels to veterans that are living on limited funds and are not able to afford fishing equipment. If you know a veteran in need of a rod and reel and would like to learn about surf fishing, please contact Don Marantz at 908-347-1434. We also provide fishing support to keep the program self-renewing. We thank the folks at Tsunami for their continued support and all the help from our volunteers and custom rod crafter Roy H. George Browne, Fishing Instructor IBSP has distributed two rods and reels to veterans that tried fishing and are now part of the IBSP fishing program at the interpretive center. Please see Karen Noe at the next JCAA meeting if you would like to help distribute rods and reels to veterans in need. Karen and Michele Koler are also collaborating with veteran women that would like to learn the basics of surf fishing.

## EARLE PIER FISHING 2024

Sean Moley is assisting disabled veterans that are utilizing loaner rods at Earle Fishing Pier. If you are

disabled veteran or active-duty personnel, and would like to try fishing the pier, please contact Sean Moley. For more information about NWSE pier fishing contact MWR (732) 866-2448.



## DISABLED VETERAN FREE MOBILE SPORTFISHING PERMIT

We remind all eligible disabled veterans to apply for an IBSP 2024 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, info available at [this link](#). For more information about permits and hours contact Island Beach State Park at (732) 793-0506. Also, visit [VVA Chapter 12](#) for Play HOOK-e veteran news and discounts.



# Please Support our Sponsors!

## 2023 Sponsors List

### Grand Prize Sponsors

- **New Jersey Outboards** – [www.njoutboards.com](http://www.njoutboards.com)
- **Yamaha** - [www.yamahaoutboards.com](http://www.yamahaoutboards.com)

### Gold Sponsors (\$1000+)

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