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JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION  
1594 Lakewood Rd. (Rt. 9), Ste. 13, Toms River, NJ 08755  
Phone 732-506-6565 Fax 732-506-6975  
Web Site <http://www.JCAA.org>  
Follow us on Facebook  
**March 2023**

## **Atlantic City Boat Show - March 1-5**

*Atlantic City Convention Center*

## **Saltwater Fishing Expo - March 17-19**

*New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center*



(p) 201.836.2100 x2118  
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Charles (Chuck) Santoro  
Insurance Specialist

### ***Jersey Coast Shark Anglers*** **2023 Tournament Schedule**

Bluefin Fever - June 3-4  
Kids Fishing Fever - July 21  
Thresher Fever - TBD  
Fluke Tournament - TBD  
Month-Long Fluke Tournament Veterans - TBD  
Tournament - TBD  
Fall Striper Tournament - TBD

For information go to [www.jcsa.org](http://www.jcsa.org)

### ***Forked River Tuna Club*** **2023 Tournament Schedule**

White Perch Tournament - April 15  
Sea Bass Tournament - May 20, 21  
Ladies Catch of the Day - July 8  
Tuna Tournament - July 15, 16  
Fluke Tournament - August 12, 13

**Mark Your Calendar**

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Douglas Vitale In Memory of Bruce Vitale

**Women's Surf Fishing Club of NJ**, www.wsfcnj.org



**A Saltwater Anglers Club**  
New Members Welcome  
Go to [www.FISHHAWKS.NJ.com](http://www.FISHHAWKS.NJ.com)

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



**New Jersey Beach Buggy Association**

P. O. Box 511, Seaside Park, NJ 08752

Membership Info: Ken Hollins 732-814-7021

[www.NJBBA.org](http://www.NJBBA.org)

Fighting for Beach Access & Conservation Since 1954

**Raritan Bay Anglers Club**

**PO Box 546**

**Perth Amboy, NJ 08862-0546**

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

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

# JCAA NEWSPAPER MARCH 2023

Official Newspaper of the *JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION*

(Published on February 27, 2023)

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

## **JCAA REGULAR MEETING**

**February 28th, 2023 via Zoom Meeting**

**Starting at 7:30 PM**

**NEXT JCAA BOARD MEETING**

**Thursday, March 9th**

**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.**  
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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
<b>Tournament Dir.</b>		
<b>Committee and Chairpersons listed on last page</b>		

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**March 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>** Atlantic City Boat Show

**March 9<sup>th</sup>** JCAA Board Meeting

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

**March 28<sup>th</sup>** JCAA General Meeting

**May 21<sup>st</sup>** Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament

## **President's Report**

*By Mark Taylor*

It's that time of the year when everybody is getting the itch for the upcoming fishing season and better weather and start going through their tackle and see what they need to purchase for the upcoming season. A great place to get some good deals is at fishing flea markets, local tackle shops and at the larger shows. You should support the people that back you and your sport.

The show season is in full swing. JCAA will have a booth at the Atlantic City Boat Show which is March 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> and Saltwater Fishing Expo on March 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. You should attend these great shows because there is a lot of items you may be interested in. I am assigned to get volunteers to staff these booths. If you are willing to volunteer your time for JCAA in staffing these booths, contact me so I can enter your name on the sheet. What I try to do is split the show day into two 4-hour shifts. I can be reached at 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. We will be selling them at the shows as well.

Not everyone that fish is aware that fishery issues and decisions are happening all times of the year. That is why JCAA along with many others continue to tell people to get involve. The only way things can change is if more people get involved and know what is going

on in the fishery. Right now, on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in the morning, ASMFC will be approving the options that the states will have to choose from for Summer Flounder, Black Sea Bass and Scup. Later that evening the NJ Marine Fisheries Council will be holding their meeting with a public comment session and decide what NJ law for those species will be. You need to get involved, read the options and voice your options. Check out JCAA's Facebook page that Paul Haertel posted or go to ASMFC webpage. For more about this read Paul's article.

Unfortunately, JCAA, Sandy Hook Bay Anglers and the NJ Recreational Fishing Community have lost another great guy we all will greatly miss. Bruce Smith attended McDonough Military Academy and served his country in the US Army. He leaves behind his wife of 65 years Betty along with three daughters and five grandchildren. Bruce was a dedicated family man with a love of fishing. Bruce joined the Sandy Hook Bay Anglers where he was greatly involved. He was not the type of person that sat back. He was the person that was always there to help who ever needed it. Bruce helped his club with their annual fluke tournament, events and fundraising. He was their representative to this organization (JCAA) where he got right into it from the start. Bruce participated by going to meetings locally when issues came to light, fundraising events and eventually became President of Jersey Coast Anglers Association. Bruce, we all salute you for all you had done for your family, this country and the NJ Recreational Community.

Paul Haertel and committee put together our 2023 JCAA High Roller Raffle. Times are being tough on all of us, and the price 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 we have a booth. For more information read Paul Haertel's article and contact us if you want to purchase a few tickets. Help support JCAA Fundraiser. Paul and his committee have already sold tickets at a few fishing flea markets. Great job.

Membership Chairman John Toth has some fishing clubs already scheduled for the JCAA presentation. 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. Please reach out to John Toth at 732-656-0139 or tothjohn@verizon.net.

If you want to get involved with JCAA contact me at mtsport64@aol.com or 732-245-9445. We all need to get involved so the future of fishing as we know it will be gone.

## JCAA Hi-Roller Raffle and Upcoming Shows

*By Paul Haertel*

Once again, this year we will be having our Hi-Roller Raffle and as you can see there are some really nice prizes. This is one of our major fundraisers so please buy some tickets. If you buy tickets, I absolutely guarantee you will have a chance to win. We will be selling tickets at the Fish Hawks Fishing Flea Market on 3/4, the Atlantic City Boat Show from 3/1-3/5 and the Saltwater Fishing Expo from 3/17-3/19. Stop by our booths and say hello and learn the latest regarding our fluke, sea bass and scup regulations. The prizes listed below have a ***total value of \$3003.***

### **New Jersey Amin. Code § 13:47-8.7**

Location:

**At the JCAA office located at:  
1594 Lakewood Rd., Unit 13,  
Toms River, NJ 08755**

Drawing Date: **July 13, 2023, at 7:30 pm**

NJLGCCCC Identification: **#475-4-32152**

Municipal Raffle License: **#9471**

Beneficiary: **Jersey Coast Anglers Association**

Price of Ticket: **\$2 each, 3 for \$5, or a book of 7 for \$10**

### **List of Prizes & Retail Values**

1. Jersey Nutz Six Man Charter (6-hour, 6-man inshore weekday charter) – **\$1100, Donated by Captains Robert and Cody Melton**
2. \$500 Gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters – **\$500, Donated by Fisherman's Headquarters**

3. Shimano Talavera 7' TEC70HC Boat Rod/Canyon Conv. Reel – **\$420**, *Donated by JCAA*
4. Daiwa Saltiga 6/6" SA66MFB Boat Rod/Canyon HS15L Conv. Reel – **\$400**, *Donated by Grumpys Tackle and JCAA*
5. Hatteras Outfitters 7' Custom Power Stick CP1020S/FinNor Ahab 12 Spinning Reel – **\$350**, *Donated by JCAA*
6. Shimano Tallus 7' TLC70M Conv. Rod/Montauk Cerebus CER210 – **\$233**, *Donated by JCAA*

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

## **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](#)."

## **Fisheries Management & Legislative Report**

*By Tom Fote*

*Watching the news has caused me to reflect on many things from the past 40 years. I will cover three topics: fishing, water and energy (global warming).*

### **Water**

I have been talking about water for the past 35 years. I live in Ocean County. Many of us still have well water. JCAA worked with Clean Ocean Action, Clean Water Action, and a number of other environmental groups to make the issue of draining our aquifers a topic of discussion. We pointed out the amount of water we were pumping along the coast

directly from the sewer plants into the ocean was astronomical. Billions and billions of gallons are being sent into the ocean every year because we have no way to process gray water. We were looking for alternatives to pump it back into the aquifer, but the current programs did not filter out the chemicals that were having an impact on all of us. The amount of drugs we take, the amount of cleaners we use and everything that goes down the sink and the toilet, all ends up in the sewer system. The storm water system needs to be separate from the sewer water since it washes in everything from the roads and the ground due to non-pervious ground cover. I said that water would be more valuable than gold or gasoline and would certainly cost more. Talk to people on the West Coast and that will convince you. Thirty-five years later, even after all the Federal and State agencies have agreed to the problem, no agency has come up with a solution or been willing to spend the money. The water problems are just going to get more serious. There has been a lot of rain in many of those dry areas in the last few months but most of it just runs off and causes damage on the way.

### **Energy and Climate**

We have been talking for years about how we diminish the fumes into the atmosphere from cars, trucks, planes, and ships. We have also been talking about getting more renewable energy and get off fossil fuels. We started to do some work because OPEC was fluctuating our gas prices. But the minute gas prices dropped, the work stopped. We never worked on the real problem, what all this was doing to our climate. Some of us started doing our part, we put solar panels on our roof and began driving hybrid cars. We also began changing our electric appliances to those that are more efficient. We went from incandescent to fluorescent and now LEDs to cut back on our power needs. But we are still generating too much carbon dioxide into the air. We talk about solutions, but the oil companies are spending money to keep us depending on fossil fuels, even when what they say is not true. Because of the changing majorities in Congress, there has not been a consistent commitment to dealing with global warming. This needs to be a bi-partisan issue. Your great grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren are depending on us to deal with this problem before it is irreversible. The World War II generation were committed to leaving a better world and a better life for their children. And they thought they could do it.

The baby boomers forgot that and lived for the moment. We didn't think for the future and the world is paying the price. Time for all of us to start working together, accept that this is a serious problem and work together. Time is running out.

### **Fisheries**

One of the biggest disappointments of the last 40 years is what is happening with fisheries management. In the 90's, we promised both commercial fishermen and recreational anglers that short-term pain would result in long-term gains. We were promised that rebuilt stocks would allow both groups to expand their catches. I cry when I think about what we have done. Just read Paul Haertel's article below and see what we are doing with scup, summer flounder and black sea bass. NMFS has totally betrayed their commitment to the fishing community. Their regulations, many done needlessly, have cost thousands and jobs with the loss of the commercial and recreational community. We put regulations in place just because a plan says we must without considering the impact on human beings. We know the quotas on recreational fishing should be larger.

Many of the stocks can support a higher quota. But NMFS refuses to use common sense and uses the law as their excuse. Truthfully, I think many of them did not plan for global warming. But I had scientists who acknowledged the coming problems 30 years ago. Those scientists told us that the difference of a few degrees totally changes the recruitment. The weather patterns also have a huge impact on spawning with runoff into streams, bays and the ocean. Now NMFS has committees studying the impact of global warming and developing ideas for climate sustainable fisheries. I hope this is not too little, too late but it certainly seems that way.

We need to wake up. If this article depresses you, time to get to work. When I was in the service, I was taught to work as a team to accomplish a task. We need to clearly identify the tasks ahead of us, put our own personal opinions and agendas aside and find a way to work together. Now it is up to you.

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## **Atlantic City Boat Show**

**March 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Atlantic City Convention Center*



## Edgewater Development Holds up Hudson Walkway

*By Mike Kelly, Asbury Park Press, 2/26/2023*

Sometime in the coming months, a construction crew might cut a hole in a chain link fence in the town of Edgewater, a narrow sliver of “Gold Coast” development on the Hudson River. If this fence cutting actually happens, it will represent one of the most significant victories in the battle of public access to our natural resources.

But don’t hold your breath. This dispute over a chain link fence that surrounds a condominium apartment building in Edgewater is just the latest skirmish in the long-running battle to create a continuous walkway on the Jersey side of the Hudson River.

The fence blocks an otherwise pleasant piece of the walkway that runs along the Hudson River. But the fence symbolizes years of frustration to build something that once seemed so simple — a continuous sidewalk with a river view stretching from the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee to Bayonne.

Edgewater is just one piece of this chain. But it may be the most significant — and the most mind-boggling.

To understand the sadness of this Jersey-based story, all you have to do is gaze across the Hudson River to New York City and take in the continuous pedestrian walkway running from the George Washington Bridge to Battery Park.

Yes, New York City’s government has its share of problems. Think homelessness. And, heaven knows, the New York bureaucracy can turn a simple request to fix a pothole into a bureaucratic version of Eugene O’Neill’s landmark play, “Long Day’s Journey Into Night.”

But when it comes to building a walkway, New York became something of a gold standard, compared to New Jersey’s crazy-quilt, unplanned “Gold Coast” development sprawl.

New York set a goal for the walkway. It found the money. It hired the workers to lay down the asphalt and attorneys and planning experts to navigate the various pieces of property, which included railroads, a helicopter pad and a pier where the Titanic was supposed to dock before it met that nasty iceberg in 1912.

The whole job took less than a decade. It’s worth giving credit here to former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Yes, I know what you’re thinking: With his recent love-sick allegiance to Donald Trump and his poisonous election conspiracy theories, Giuliani’s star has clearly fallen since he was named “America’s mayor” two decades ago in the wake of the 9/11 attacks. But Giuliani took the lead in championing a Hudson River walkway. Without his leadership in the 1990s, New York’s walkway might still be a pipe dream.

On the Jersey side, let’s just say the nightmares continue.

Four decades ago, the New Jersey state Legislature called for a walkway to stretch for nearly 19 miles along the Jersey side of the Hudson, from Fort Lee to Bayonne. Tom Kean was governor. Ronald Reagan was president. Bruce Springsteen did not have gray hair.

But instead of taking control of the overall project and hiring planners and contractors as New York did, New Jersey authorities came up with a completely boneheaded idea of asking waterfront developers and other property owners to do the job piecemeal style.

In practical terms, this meant that each developer or property owner was required to build only a portion of the walkway. Eventually the plan was for all the pieces to link up. Hopefully. Maybe.

OK, maybe not. Think of this plan as a bureaucratic version of herding cats. Some cats cooperated. Some did not.

That pretty much sums up what happened with all of these New Jersey waterfront developers. Some built magnificent stretches of walkway along the Hudson — for example, in Hoboken. Far too many did as they pleased. They improvised by erecting “security” gates. They used shoddy bricks and concrete. Or they just did nothing.

Sorting out all of these pieces of the puzzle may turn out to be the longest running public works project in the U.S. history. Or as Don Stizenberg, the glass half-full optimist who is president of the Hudson River Waterfront Conservancy, notes: “Don’t be discouraged. We’re only 35 years in.”

Which brings us to that chain link fence in Edgewater.

Nearly three years ago, the Conservancy, which is cited in court papers as the “eyes and ears” of New Jersey government efforts to build a Hudson

walkway, filed a lawsuit against the Admiral's Walk condominiums in Edgewater.

Admiral's Walk, one of the first of Edgewater's "Gold Coast" developments in the 1980s, occupies almost 900 feet of Hudson waterfront. But for years, Admiral's Walk refused to build a walkway. The condo owners even erected a chain link fence, separating the property from a marina and a park.

Admiral's Walk attorneys claimed that they did not need to participate in the group effort to build a continuous walkway because their development predated the state law that ordered up such a walkway. They also objected to "taking private property without just compensation."

In a sign of desperation, Admiral's Walk even tried to bar testimony in favor of the walkway from a certified planner and licensed landscape architect, claiming he was "not qualified as an expert cartographer nor an expert in interpreting maps."

Thankfully, State Superior Court Judge Lisa Perez Friscia, based in Bergen County, saw through these silly legal excuses. In January, Friscia ordered Admiral's Walk to take down its fences and open up the waterfront to the public. "The public's right is inalienable and vested," she wrote in her 23-page decision, released on Jan. 14.

But no fence is likely to be cut down anytime soon. Despite Friscia's seemingly strong ruling, the dispute is still tied up with all manner of legal and practical roadblocks.

For example, the Waterfront Conservancy suggests that a ramp should extend over a narrow stretch of water from the Edgewater Marina to the edge of the Admiral's Walk property.

Such a proposal is entirely logical. The ramp would be about 30 feet — hardly akin to building the George Washington Bridge. Plus, it would link up a walkway at a marina with the Admiral's Walk waterfront. But lawyers are arguing over whether they might need state approval for a ramp. And then comes the question: Who pays for this ramp?

Fred Daibes, the already-controversial developer of an estimated \$500 million of Edgewater's "Gold Coast," offered up his own vexing suggestion. He suggested that a portion of \$1.9 million he owes in fines for violating state environmental laws in his developments on the river, could be used for the new ramp and walkway at Admiral's Walk. But state officials aren't so willing to agree — not yet. Anyway, Daibes has other problems. Last year, he pleaded guilty to federal banking crimes.

In other words, this is one complicated story.

What's taking place at Admiral's Walk is just one example of how years of foot-dragging, coupled with intricate legal disputes, have delayed completion of the walkway on the Jersey side of the Hudson. Instead of joining together for the common good — as New York City did — New Jersey opened to door to all manner of obstacles.

Knocking down those obstacles has taken years.

This is why cutting a hole in the fence at Admiral's Walk — or removing it altogether — would represent a major victory for those championing the Hudson walkway.

After Admiral's Walk, only a half-dozen other pieces of the Hudson waterfront remain blocked from pedestrians. Taken together, these pieces represent less than a mile of the overall 18.5-mile walkway. They include a federal Superfund site in Edgewater and another parcel in the borough that was once home to oil tanks, a dry dock in Hoboken, a vacant property in North Bergen, a section of a Weehawken Park and a quarter mile stretch near Liberty State Park in Jersey City.

"It's not a big lift to do all of these," says Stitzenberg of the Waterfront Conservancy. "But they all cost money."

And, of course, New Jersey is relying on developers to put up the cash. Which means, finishing this job will likely take years — perhaps another decade. As Stitzenberg puts it: "One step at a time." Sadly, these are baby steps, in slow motion.

Email: [kellym@northjersey.com](mailto:kellym@northjersey.com)

## **Agency: Whale Deaths aren't Linked to Wind Work**

*By Wayne Parry, Associated Press, 2/23/2023*

### *Unusual Mortality Event seen along US East Coast*

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — An independent scientific agency that advises the federal government on policies that could impact marine mammals said there is no evidence linking site preparation work for offshore wind farms with a number of whale deaths along the U.S. East Coast.

In a statement released Tuesday, the Marine Mammal Commission became the third federal agency to reject a link between the deaths and the



offshore wind energy industry, despite a growing narrative among offshore wind opponents that probing the ocean floor to prepare for wind turbine projects is killing whales.

Last month, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management said there is no evidence linking offshore wind development with whale deaths.

The commission said 16 humpback whales and at least one critically endangered North Atlantic right whale have washed ashore dead on the East Coast this winter.

“Despite several reports in the media, there is no evidence to link these strandings to offshore wind energy development,” the commission said.

The deaths are part of an “unusual mortality event” involving humpback whales declared by the National Marine Fisheries Service in 2016. The agency said 40% of the whales that could be examined at necropsy, or post-mortem, showed evidence of a ship strike or entanglement with fishing gear. Others were floating at sea or otherwise inaccessible.

The commission said the number of whale strandings is not unusual. Ten or more humpback whales have stranded each year since 2016, with a high of 34 in 2017, it added.

It said the number of whales in the northeast is growing, something other agencies have noted as well. As the population grows, more whales are choosing to spend the winter in the northeast, where they are more vulnerable to being struck by ships or entangled in fishing gear, instead of migrating to warmer areas.

On Feb. 12, a dead North Atlantic right whale washed ashore in Virginia Beach, Virginia. It was a 20-year-old, 43-foot male.

A necropsy was conducted by numerous state and city agencies and a private stranding response program, determining that the whale suffered a catastrophic blunt force traumatic injury, impacting its spine. The injuries, which are consistent with those often found in animals that have been struck by ships, included multiple vertebral fractures that would have resulted in death shortly after the injury.

Today, there are fewer than 350 North Atlantic right whales in existence, with fewer than 95 mature females in the population. An unusual

mortality event was declared for these animals in 2017.

The commission’s report comes as offshore wind opponents are pushing for investigations into whether offshore wind is killing whales, even though the federal government has been investigating whale deaths since 2016.

Earlier this week, two Republican Congressmen from New Jersey announced legislation aimed at investigating, pausing or halting offshore wind projects.

Rep. Chris Smith’s bill would require an investigation into the environmental approval process for offshore wind projects. A bill by Rep. Jeff Van Drew would impose a moratorium on all existing offshore wind projects and prohibit all future projects.

About 30 New Jersey mayors have signed a letter calling for a moratorium on offshore wind projects and an investigation into whether the whale deaths are related to such work.

The Marine Mammal Commission is an independent government agency charged by the Marine Mammal Protection Act to further the conservation of marine mammals and their environment. Its website says it provides “science-based oversight of domestic and international policies and actions of federal agencies with mandates to address human impacts on marine mammals and their ecosystems.”

“Our role is unique,” the agency’s mission statement said. “We are the only U.S. government agency that provides comprehensive oversight of all science, policy, and management actions affecting marine mammals.”

## **So it’s not the Turbines Killing Whales**

*Letter to the Editor: Asbury Park Press, 2/25/2023*

Although I applaud the general mandate of Clean Ocean Action, they have it wrong on whale deaths. One thing we do know is ship strikes, fishing gear and climate change are confirmed as a major source of whale deaths. So far there is no evidence that construction of the turbines, which do not exist yet, is causing whale deaths.

Clean Ocean Action should also know that one of the worst years of whale deaths was 2017, well before any turbine activity. What I do suspect

is the opposition to the turbines is driven and financed by wealthy beachfront homeowners who are more worried about their view and property values.

Wind turbines will produce clean renewable energy to slow climate change and, I think, are aesthetically beautiful.

From an economic viewpoint, wind turbines will be a multi-billion dollar industry in the near future and the United States will be left out and China will benefit since they have embraced renewable energy while special interest groups have stifled growth here for decades. It's time to move forward with clean energy, not backwards.

*Joseph Marra, Seaside Park*

## **2023 Fluke Regs Already Set Sea Bass and Scup Regs to Be Set on March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*By Paul Haertel*

### **2023 Fluke Regs Finalized!**

Much to the dismay of the majority of fluke fishermen in our state, we are being forced by NOAA/ASMFC/MAFMC to have the exact same fluke regs as last year. This includes the season, bag and size limits. Therefore, our season will run from May 2<sup>nd</sup> through September 27<sup>th</sup> with a limit of just one fish 18" or greater AND 2 fish from 17-17.99". The special regulations for Delaware Bay, 3 fish 17" or greater and Island Beach State Park, 2 fish at 16" or greater remain the same. There is nothing at all our state can do about it. The NJBMF was all set to consider other options but they cannot do it. Please do not blame them. This applies to all states, it's not just New Jersey.

What happened was that for 2023 a new model is being used. Initially data was plugged in from last year which showed that we could have a 10% liberalization. A week or so later they decided to use data from the last 5 years rather than just one year. That would have resulted in us having to take a 10% reduction. A lot of people were really upset about that and the ASMFC and MAFMC then agreed that we should have status quo measures but it was unclear if conservation equivalency could be used. Apparently, NOAA then approved status quo measures provided

that each state maintains the exact same regulations that they had in 2022.

### **Sea Bass and Scup Regs to be Set on 3/2**

Below is a breakdown of the final four sea bass and scup regulations for New Jersey in 2023. All of these options resulted in the 10% cut (or more) mandated by NOAA. These are the proposals that were submitted by our state to the ASMFC. It is highly unlikely that any other options will be considered. This is the beginning of an eco-system management approach which is why the sea bass and scup regulations are tied together. Our fisheries managers are now taking into account that these two species are often caught at the same time and locations whether the season for one or the other is open or closed. The ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Board will be meeting at 10:30 AM on 3/2 to consider final approval of these proposals as well as those submitted by the other states/regions. On that same day the NJBMFC will meet at 5 PM to decide which option will become law. Prior to that decision, the public may give their opinions on the various options by attending in person at the Atlantic County Library, Galloway Branch located at 306 E Jimmie Leeds Rd., Galloway or by signing up for the webinar at [this link](#). In the event you have trouble with the link just google NJ Marine Fisheries Council Meetings.

All Sea Bass options include a 12 ½" size limit for all seasons. All options for scup include a 10" size limit and a 30 fish bag limit.

#### **• Option 1**

- Sea Bass 12 ½" for all seasons 5/17- 6/19 (10 fish), 7/1-8/31 (1 fish), 10/1-10/31 (10 fish) 11/1-12/31 (15 fish)
- Scup 10" for the entire season 8/1-12/31 (30 fish) This option would allow us to stay open for all of July and August, but we would be able to keep only 1 sea bass per day.

#### **• Option 2**

- Sea Bass 12 ½" for all seasons 5/17- 6/19 (10 fish), 7/1-8/31 (1 fish), 10/1-10/31 (10 fish) 11/1-12/31 (15 fish)

- Scup 10" for the entire season 1/1 -10/15 (30 fish) This option would allow us to stay open for all of July and August, but we would be able to keep only 1 sea bass per day. The difference in this option would be that the Scup season would begin on 1/1 and end on 10/15 instead of 8/1-12/31.

- **Option 3**

- Sea Bass 12 ½" for all seasons 5/17-6/19 (10 fish), 7/1-8/7 (2 fish), 10/1-10/31 (10 fish) 11/1-12/31 (15 fish)
- Scup 10" for the entire season 8/1-12/31 (30 fish) This option would allow us to keep 2 sea bass from 7/1-8/7 (a 38-day summer season with 2 fish as opposed to a 62-day summer season with just 1 fish) One advantage of this option over option 4 is that it would allow us to be open for July 4<sup>th</sup>.

- **Option 4**

- **Sea Bass** 12 ½" for all seasons 5/17- 6/19 (10 fish), 7/20 – 8/31 (2 fish), 10/1-10/31 (10 fish) 11/1-12/31 (15 fish)
- **Scup** 10" for the entire season 8/1-12/31 (30 fish) This option would allow us to keep 2 sea bass from 7/20-8/31 (a 43-day summer season with 2 fish as opposed to a 62-day summer season with just 1 fish) the advantage of this option is that the summer season would be open 5 more days than in Option 3. It would also be open at a time when large sea bass are caught by those targeting fluke on the wrecks and rough spots as they migrate offshore.

## JCAA Membership Report

*By John Toth*

Our new Office Manager, Karen Noe, sent out invoices for JCAA club dues and we have received a number of checks from: **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)** Thank You All!

**The Barrington Rod & Gun Club** used to be a member of the JCAA and I am happy to report that this club has renewed its membership with us again largely through the efforts of its member Chris Tessing. **Thanks Chris!**

Visits to fishing clubs are planned by both Mark Taylor and me during 2023 to present our PowerPoint presentation on what the JCAA is all about. During January, we gave an in-person meeting to the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County and followed it by a ZOOM presentation to the Coastal Fly Rodders Club. We have scheduled presentations on April 4th to the Newark Bait & Fly Casting Club, April 14th to the Village Harbor Fishing Club, and the Surf Kings Fishing Club on May 3rd. Our presentation to the Sunrise Rod & Gun Club is in the process of being scheduled.

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 **February 28th**, and it will be done both as an in-person meeting and also by ZOOM at the Shark Anglers building in Herbertsville starting at 7:30 p.m.

*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

## BECOME A CERTIFIED NJ HOFNOD INSTRUCTOR

Hooked on Fishing Team Leader Training is set for the weekend of April 21-23, 2023, at the Lighthouse Center for Natural Resource Education located in Waretown, NJ 08758 from Friday 6PM- Sunday 3PM.

There is a \$60 non-refundable fee which covers meals, lodging, materials/supplies, and helps offset training costs. Please do not register if you cannot commit to the entire weekend.

To register, please complete the registration form which provides instructions on how to submit the required fee. Visit the [NJ HOFNOD website](#) to view a group near you.

## HOFNOD YOUTH FISHING CHALLENGE

The 8th Annual Hooked On Fishing – Not On Drugs Youth Fishing Challenge will be held on the weekend of June 3-4. Find [details here](#) on the NJ DEP site. [Click here](#) for registration form.



## JCAA YOUTH EDUCATION

It's show season. Look for our JCAA booth at hunting and fishing expos. Stop by the JCAA booth and learn about how you can help protect recreational fishing. Become a member volunteer or an associate member to support the voice of recreational anglers. Is recreational marine fishing getting better or worse?

Let us know so we can do something about making saltwater fishing better for the future of fishing. Become a JCAA [associate member](#) today.

## 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).

## NJ TROUT SEASON OPENING DAY

New Jersey's Opening Day of Trout Season this year is Saturday, April 8, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife will again be celebrating by hosting a special event at the Pequest Trout Hatchery in Oxford. The Division would be honored if Veterans and their families would join Division staff at the hatchery for a morning of camaraderie and fishing at the Pequest fishing education pond. Breakfast provided by the Summit Elks Lodge 1246. For more information or to register, visit [this link](#). Space is limited so register early.



## 4x4 VOLUNTEER JUDGES NEEDED AT ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK

The State of New Jersey 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Surf Fishing Tournament at IBSP is looking for volunteer judges to ride the beach during the tournament and verify the length of fish caught by contestants.

Volunteers that would like to be a part of the tournament and measure fish will receive a 2023 Judges hat and compensation for fuel on the beach. We already have some Play HOOK-e from PTSD veteran volunteers signed up to judge.



For details, please contact Ken Hollins, Judge Chairman to become a volunteer judge [rugburnsbleed55@optimum.net](mailto:rugburnsbleed55@optimum.net) or phone Gary Conk @ (609) 556-9241.

We would like to remind our physically challenged anglers that there is an area at OBA 1 with beach wheelchairs available. Anglers that are not able to walk in the sand can now get to the water and try surf fishing. The JCAA Youth Education Committee is helping novice and physically challenged anglers at the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament. Downs Ford Toms River, NJ will assist physically challenged anglers with a NEW 2023 4x4 VIP vehicle to transport anglers that will be fishing the reserved area in front of OBA 1. Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 12) and volunteer anglers from various fishing clubs will also aid physically challenged anglers.



If you know a disabled veteran or angler that would like to fish the tournament, please phone Greg K at 732-840-9197 or email [gkucharews@jcaa.org](mailto:gkucharews@jcaa.org).

### **HIGH SCHOOL SURF FISHING CHALLENGE ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK**

The Jersey Coast Anglers Youth Education Committee is encouraging high school students to participate at the Island Beach State Park 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Surf Fishing Tournament. High school teams are already gearing up for the tournament five students per team plus a high school representative must accompany each high school team. If you know a

school team that would like to register for this event, please email Karen Byrne at [karen.byrne@dep.nj.gov](mailto:karen.byrne@dep.nj.gov).



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

### **EXPLORE THE SALT MARSH**

NJ Fish & Wildlife's Sedge Island Natural Resource Education Center is offering two overnight programs this summer for students interested in exploring the salt marsh through hands-on activities.

Sedge Island Field Experience, July 17-19, 2023, is open for students going into 7 - 9 grade in September 2023. Application deadline is Friday, March 31.

Sedge Island Field and Research Experience, July 20-22, 2023, is for students going into 10-12 grade in September 2023. Application deadline is Monday, May 1.



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Office Manager	Paul Turi	732-506-6565 <a href="mailto:jcaa@jcaa.org">jcaa@jcaa.org</a>
Access: (North)	George Browne	732-674-7060
Access: (South)	George Browne	732-674-7060
Blackfish	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Blue claw Crab	Bill Browne	732-504-9344
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Habitat	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Fluke	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Forage Fish	Paul Eidman	732-614-3373
Highly Migratory Species	Eric Engard	609-913-2281
Science & Research	Bruce Freeman	732-793-7871
Seabass	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Sponsorship	Frank Richetti	732-477-3120
Striped Bass	Paul Haertel	973-943-8201
Ways & Means	Don Marantz	908-347-1434
Webmaster	Phil V. Celmer	<a href="mailto:philipc@highlandstech.net">philipc@highlandstech.net</a>
Youth Education	Greg Kucharewski	732-840-9197

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

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