


Bulletin

Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County NJ



Free Issue

January 2024

At The American Legion Hall, Post # 170, 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, N. J.

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www.swabc.org

Bingo Trip

Mark Capalbo, Harry Vogt, Barry Paull, Nick Casamisso, Rick Reitano, John Toth



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Good fishing, good friends.

That's what SWABC is all about

The Best Fishing Club in NJ

The regular meetings will be held every third Tuesday of the month, (except March) at **7:30 PM** at the Legion Hall. A \$5 fee is required, for non-members. This entitles you to refreshments, snacks, and some new tricks about fishing plus participation if you choose in our dark horse drawings. Welcome all; we hope you enjoy the evening.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

President's Corner

We had a very enjoyable Christmas/Hanukkah party and I think everybody had a good time! There was a huge assortment of food and nobody left the meeting hungry! Our members brought so much food and it is difficult to list who brought what, but these members brought food to it: Lou Castellano, Rick Reitano, Mark Capalbo, Nick, Casamassimo, John Toth, Ralph Dejulio, Jim Catanzaro, Tom Tyls and Art Vrola. Our club also purchased **8 trays of food** for the party (Chicken Parm., Penne Vodka, Sausage & Peppers, Meatballs, Chicken Fiancées) and Steve Totten brought them from the caterer (Al Dente, from Elmwood Park) to our meeting. **Thanks Steve!** **Mark Capalbo and his lovely wife played Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus in handing out gifts.** Setting up the tables with red tablecloths were Mark Capalbo, his wife Michelle, Chuck Santoro, Art Vrola, Don Lohse, myself and Fred Villanova. Bill Goodsir, Don Lohse and Lou Castellano helped to arrange food items on the tables along with the beverages. Steve Totten prepared the boards for our turkey and ham raffles and Gary Gusterson sold our 50/50 tickets. Because of all of the efforts on behalf of our club members, this party was enjoyable and we all had a nice evening together and shared the holiday spirit with each other!

Our large Christmas 50/50 was won by **Bob Goldstein!**

Speaker for January 16th Meeting

Carl Bruger

Carl Bruger loves to fish for salmon in Lake Ontario and also for Cohos, Steelhead and Brown Trout. Carl will share his fishing Lake Ontario experiences with us and how and where to catch these fish. Carl may make some of us Lake Ontario anglers!

February 20th Meeting –

Jeff Brust, NJ Marine Bureau Chief

Our state has a great artificial reef program and Jeff will give a general overview of them and how important these reefs are to our recreational anglers.

March 19th –

Past President's Dinner at Mountainside Inn.

More information on page 3.

Club Membership Dues are Now Payable

All club members must have their dues paid up by February 2024. If dues are not received by the end of February, delinquent members will be removed from our membership roster and will not receive our club's monthly newsletter or be eligible to participate in the club's activities. Checks for dues payment should be made out to **SWABC**. Mail your check to the American Legion Post # 170 c/o SWABC, 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, NJ 07662.

Our club membership dues are **\$55 for an individual and \$60 for family membership. Included** in the dues are **two club raffle books** with a value of **\$20**. (Each book has ten tickets in it at a cost of \$1 for each ticket). Members can buy these raffle tickets for their own use to possibly win our raffle prizes, or sell the tickets and keep the \$20 from selling their two raffle books.

The new raffle tickets are in the process of being printed and will be distributed at our meetings.

This membership policy was adopted by the club's Board to have an ongoing revenue stream to cover the club's expenses relating to insurance fees, hall rentals speaker fees, postage, refreshments for our meetings and other expenses.

Nick Casamisso with a short Tautog



February 4th – Club Flea Market at the

Hilton Hasbrouck Heights

Our club is having its Flea Market at the Hilton Hasbrouck Heights and Don Lohse is our Chairman for it. Don will need volunteers to take entry fees at the door, selling Dark Horse tickets, 50/50 tickets, security, and selling our club's raffle tickets. We will have a special raffle for a charter trip with Kevin Fahey's Lobster & Fishing Trip and we will need a volunteer for this raffle. A volunteer is needed to be outside the building to monitor the surroundings and direct customers to the entrance door or to respond to any issue that may develop. At our December meeting, Don asked members to bring fishing tackle that do not need any more to our January's 16th meeting and we will sell this donated equipment at our Flea Market as a fund raiser for our club. We will also need volunteers to sell this donated tackle.

We also need club members to promote our flea market by telling Don of vendors you know that would be interested in being a vendor at our February 5th Flea Market. The cost is **\$35 for a table**. The entry fee is **\$5 for adults and kids under 10 years free**. The flea market will start at **8:30 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m.**

If you know of vendors that would be interested in our flea market, direct them to Don Lohse at (201) 832-1298 or at ddlohse@yahoo.com.

Most flea markets have seminar to provide attendees with a speaker to give them an interesting presentation on a fishing topic. We will have Frank Mihalic to give his best techniques on how to catch blackfish. He gives seminars on blackfish and he has an article in this January's edition of the Fisherman on catching blackfish.

Don would much appreciate any help that you can provide to him and ultimately make our flea market a fun and successful event!

Big Fish Derby

The latest submission of affidavits to enter our club's Big Fish Derby is at our **January 16th 2024 meeting**. (Affidavits can be downloaded at our club's web – www.swabc.org). After this January 16th meeting, **no more affidavits will be accepted**. Please return them to John Toth at our January 16th meeting or email your affidavits to John at (tothjohn@verizon.net) Also, check the listings in the Big Fish Derby to make sure your entries are correct.

Prizes for the winners of our Big Fish Derby will be given out at our **Past President's Dinner** that is scheduled for **March 19, 2024** at the **Mountainside Inn in Clifton, NJ**. This is our club meeting during March and it will **not** be held at our regular meeting place at the American Legion Post in Rochelle Park.

Congratulations!

Member **Jeff Criswell Jr.** and the love of his life **Christina (Chrys)** were married on November 11, 2023. We wish them a **Long and Happy life** together!

Winter Trade Shows

The first one up is the Boat show in February (15 – 18) and followed by the Salt Water Expo in March (15- 17) We have a booth at both of these shows and we need volunteers to staff them to sell raffle tickets and to talk to visitors at these shows to see if they would be interested in joining our club. We want to have at least 2 members for each shift for bathroom breaks. Members working at these shows **do not pay an entrance fee**. Please see John Toth at our January 16th meeting to sign up for one of these shifts or reach him at (732) 656-0139 or at tothjohn@verizon.net.

The schedule for the Salt Water Expo (March 15-17) will be posted in our February newsletter. Both of these shows will be held at the NJ Convention Center in Edison.

NJ Boat Show Sale & Expo – February 15th – 18th – NJ Convention Center, 97 Sunfield Ave. Edison, NJ

Thursday, February 15th

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – John Toth, John Piazza, Steve Totten

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Tom Bornemann, Fred Villanova

Friday, February 16th

11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. – John Toth, **Need 1 Volunteer**

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Jim Catanzaro, Tom Tyls

Saturday, February 17th

10:00 am. -2:30 pm-Steve Totten, **Need 1 Volunteer**

2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – **Need 2 Volunteers**

Sunday, February 18th

10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.:John Piazza, Steve Totten

1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.:John Toth, Jim Galanaugh Jr.

March 19th Meeting – Past President's Dinner –

Mountainside Inn

Our club will host this annual event on **March 21st at 7:00 p.m.** to honor all the presidents who have served our club over its many years. Food is served **Family Style** with roast beef, chicken, salad, pasta, potatoes, veggies and dessert. Beer, wine and soda are also included with the dinner. The price for this year's Past President's Dinner with all of the above is **\$35 even in spite of this high inflation!** We will have speakers to touch briefly on a variety of fishing-related topics, a **huge Dark Horse**, door prizes, and certificates/gift cards to be presented to all of the winners of the Big Fish contest! **Tickets for this dinner will be available for purchase at our January 16th February 20th meetings.** The Mountainside Inn is at 509 Hazel Street, Clifton, NJ To purchase tickets and to receive more information about this dinner, please call Art Vrola, our Dinner Chairman, at (201) 280-8612.

This dinner is our club's March meeting & it will be at the Mountain Side Inn in Clifton. There will be **no club meeting held during March** at the American Legion Post # 170.

Report on December 2nd Club Charter Trip on the Bingo

By John Toth

I picked this date for our club charter on the Bingo and as luck would have it, December 2nd (Saturday) turned out to be a nice day, sandwiched between rainy and windy Friday and Sunday. We had a little sprinkle in the morning and the rest of the day turned out fine with little wind and calm seas.

A lot of small blackfish was caught but there were not that many keepers. The captain moved the Bingo at different spots to put more keepers in the boat, but it did not work out the way we wanted. What I like about this captain is that he moves around his boat to not only see how we are doing but he also helps anglers that are stuck on the bottom and lending assistance to anglers who need it. The mate on this boat was Jennifer, the captain's daughter, and she was very helpful!

We all had a good time kidding each other and having a lot of laughs! That is why a charter with our club members beats a trip on a party boat. We are going to book charter trips on the Bingo next year. We will take about 20 -25 members so we have a lot of room on this boat to fish. We had 19 club members on our December 2nd charter.

I want to thank Rick Reitano for helping me collect money from our members and Jim Galanaugh Jr. for handling payments to the captain and tips for Jennifer. Some of the photos taken from this trip are in this newsletter.

Rick Reitano with a nice Tautog



Updates on Striped Bass, Fluke, Sea Bass and Porgy Regulations for 2024

By John Toth

Striped Bass - On Tuesday, December 5th, there was a meeting in Stafford, NJ to hear public comments on the Interstate Management Plan for striped bass. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) wants to keep the emergency regulation 28 to 31 inches size limit in place in order to protect the 2015 year class and to meet a rebuilding goal for 2029.

About 60 people attended this meeting. There was an overall consensus to keep the 28 to 31 inches regulation in place since the other options were not that good and the ASSMFC most likely would not approve of them anyway. The ASMFC also has an option to divide the recreational sector into a for-hire category and a private vessel /shore angler category. In that scenario, the for-hire fleet would get a bigger 28 -33 inch size limit while the private sector would not. There was not much support in the room for different regulations for striped bass anglers. Also, this regulation would be problematic from an enforcement perspective.

The ASMFC will make a decision in January 2024 on what our striped bass regulations will be for this year. Most likely, the ASMFC will keep the 28-31 inch regulation in place for 2024 until October 28, 2024 for striped bass. It may adopt different size limits for striped bass for the for-hire sector and private sector.

Fluke may be reduced by 14%. What this means for bag limits and seasons will be determined sometime in 2024

Sea Bass – most likely, our quota will be the same.

In regard to sea bass, these fish are voracious eaters for baby fluke, lobsters and about anything that can get in their mouths. The stocks of these fish are in great shape in the range of 214%. We would have a lot more fish to catch if we were able to catch more sea bass.

This issue has been brought up to fishing managers many times, but they keep our quota for sea bass the same or even reduced.

Porgies – There is talk about a reduction for 2024 quota, but nothing definitive yet.

I will keep you updated as soon as I learn more about our 2024 fishing prospects.

NJ Saltwater Registry Program for 2024












Beginning December 15th, NJ saltwater recreational registration for 2024 will be available on the NJDEPFISH&WildlifeLicensing webpage.

This webpage gives detailed information on our state's registration program and the cost to register is still free.

For more information on registration call (609) 748-2020.

2023 BIG FISH OF THE YEAR DERBY Rules

1. Fish have to be in season to be entered.
2. The fish can be caught anywhere, not in just New Jersey's waters.
3. The fish entered has to be verified by the boat captain or another club member or at an official weigh station. A picture of the fish is a much-preferred way to verify an entry into the Big Fish contest done by a cell phone or a regular camera. A club member can win more than one Big Fish contest prize.
4. Affidavits must be received within 30 days after the fish is caught. Entries for fish caught after 12/15 of a given year must be received by January 15th of the following year.

FISH	SPECIES	MIN. WEIGHT	ENTRY WEIGHT	ANGLER
	BLACKFISH	4	17 lbs.	Chuck Rutar
	BLUEFISH	12		
	COD FISH	10	10 lbs. 6 oz.	Kevin Kozlowicz
	FLOUNDER	1.5 lbs.	2 lbs. 6 oz.	Barry Paull
	FLUKE	4	9 lbs. 6 oz.	Joe Antiorio
	LING	2	4.0 lbs.	Kevin Kozlowicz
	POLLOCK	10		
	PORGY	1.5 lbs.	2 lbs. 2 oz.	Rick Swarthe
	SEA BASS	2	5.2 lbs	Jeff Criswell Sr.
	STRIPED BASS	12	42 lbs.	Frank Rella
	WEAKFISH	2		

Any member submitting a false affidavit will be disqualified from entering the contest during the year. If disqualified twice, the member will be expelled from the club.



SALT WATER ANGLERS OF BERGEN COUNTY FISHING CONTEST AFFIDAVIT



ANGLERS NAME: _____

Date submitted with picture: _____

I certify that the following statements are true and that all contest rules were complied with and the witness actually witnessed the weighing and the measuring of the fish.

Caught from: ___ Boat ___ Surf - Date: _____

Name of Boat: _____

Port: _____

Where caught: _____

Signature of Angler _____

SPECIES

LBS.

OZS

Witnessed by: _____

1. _____

Address: _____

2. _____

Phone No. _____

3. _____

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Deep-Sea Mining is the Next Battleground for Energy Rip up the Ocean to Extract Precious Minerals for Electric Vehicles By John Toth

My wife and I visited Norway several years ago and we were so impressed with the beauty of this country that we are thinking of visiting it again. The mountains and fiords are so incredible and this nation has a strong track record of being environmentally friendly. However, I was shocked to learn that Norway, along with other countries, China and Russia, are pushing ahead to mine waters off their shores to extract precious minerals that are needed to produce batteries for electric vehicles (EV). These metals include lithium, cobalt, nickel and copper. The waters off Norway’s coast are so beautiful that it is hard for me to understand why Norway would even consider it. Russia and China have little regard for the environment with China opening up new coal furnaces just about every other week. Why is deep-sea mining for precious minerals even being considered? Surging demand for minerals used in EV batteries has kicked off an international race to mine the deep seas and there are no rules. During July 2023, the International Seabed Authority, comprised of 167 member states and the European Union, missed an important deadline to establish a regulatory framework for deep-sea mining. Until this framework is formalized, nations can go ahead with their plans for mining the seas.

On December 5th, 2023, Norway announced that it is opening the Arctic Ocean to deep-sea mining in an area southwest of the Arctic Island of Svalbard. The Norwegian government indicated that it will do this mining in a step-by-step process so it can be done in a manner to limit environmental damage.

Canada, France and Germany and others want to pause deep-sea mining because of its largely unknown environmental consequences. Norway, China and Russia are pushing ahead on deep-sea mining asserting that it is less destructive than land mining.

Mining could damage ecosystems that scientists don’t yet understand. A study published in the Journal, Nature, indicated that sea-bed mining could interfere with tuna migration patterns as climate change drives fish into new waters. Norway’s Greenpeace Director, Prode Plemn, said that this decision to mine the ocean was a “disaster for the sea” and that the mining would “take place in our last wilderness.” He also indicated that “We do not know what consequences this will have on the ecosystems of the sea for endangered species such as whales and seabirds or for the fish stocks on which we base our livelihood.”

Citizens of Norway are mounting a campaign to stop this mining and I hope that they are successful! Some 30 companies such as BMW, Volvo, and Volkswagen will not use minerals that are derived from deep-sea mining. Seafood industry groups are alarmed at the damage this mining could do to their industry and have demanded a moratorium on deep-sea mining.

China has an ample supply of rare earth minerals. It has about two-thirds of the world’s supply of lithium and cobalt, essential for the production of electric cars. A significant share of the world’s nickel supply comes from China. Many countries will have to purchase these minerals from China since they do not have them. The Chinese can reap huge profits by raising the prices for them. A Chinese move to restrict exports of these minerals would hit non-Chinese automakers hard, throwing production of electric car batteries into disarray. Accordingly, countries are trying to secure their own sources of rare earth minerals so that they are not dependent on China. Deep-sea mining may offer them less reliance on China for their rare earth minerals.

Electric vehicles are supposed to reduce the impacts of climate change. Mining for these rare earth minerals is occurring on land and a lot of land has to be ripped up to extract the minerals in countries that even use child labor. That is bad enough and now, this deep-sea mining may occur in our oceans with long term devastating effects. In the name of climate change, are we going to ruin our oceans to save us from climate change?

References: New York Times – 7/4/ 2023 Asbury Park Press – 12/7/2023

Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County #1 Salt Water Fishing Club

Enclose a check in the amount of **\$60** for a one-year membership, into New Jersey’s #1 Salt Water Fishing Club

Mail To: **American Legion Hall Post # 170, 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, N.J. 07622**

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____