


# Bulletin

Salt Water Anglers  
of Bergen County NJ



Free Issue November 2023

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

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## Striped Bass Season is Here



**John Castiglia**

proves it with this 49.5-inch beauty!

**Stories & Events**

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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.

## President's Corner

There was a miscommunication and Tony Maja was under the impression that he was scheduled to attend our November meeting with the result that he did not show up for our October meeting. We will reschedule Tony for one of our club meetings during 2024. Things like this happen, but we went on with our meeting anyway.

We were concerned with our upcoming sea bass trip on the Bingo scheduled for October 21st. Rain was predicted, but strong winds are more of a concern. Rain does not make for a pleasant trip, but a strong wind is always a major concern and safety always comes first. I can talk about this firsthand since on two of our past club trips. I was knocked unconscious due to rogue waves hitting the boat!

Nico made a delicious chicken stew dinner with salad, rice, bread and apple pie for dessert. With the absence of a speaker, I was going to talk about windmills, but when I asked Nico if the food was ready and it smelled so good, our members went for the food and I knew my words on windmills would fall on deaf ears!

So, Nico, the smell of your tasty food is stronger than my windmills message! And that is **a tribute to your good cooking for all of us!**

John Manzo won our 50/50 raffle drawing.

**Fishing Photos** – keep sending me your fishing photos to me so I can put them in our newsletter. Send them to [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net).

**Club Speakers** – I arrange speakers for our meetings and I am always looking for speakers who are involved in fishing-related topics to be at our 2024 club meetings. If you have a speaker in mind, let me know and I will follow up. I can be reached at the above email address or at (732) 656-0139.

### Boater Update

#### New Mandatory Winter Coast Guard Regulation

Starting this November, a United States Coast Guard approved life jacket is required to be worn at all times outside of cabin on a boat **under 26 feet long** during the cold winter months while in motion from November 1st until May 1st to prevent hypothermia.

Person (s) inside the cabin vessel shall be exempt from this requirement.

To learn more about this new regulation go to:  
[www.nj.gov/njsp/marine-services](http://www.nj.gov/njsp/marine-services)

## Welcome Aboard!

**Justin Lewis from Totowa**

is our new member  
and we welcome Justin aboard!

## Speaker for November 21st Meeting

### Captain Frank Tenore

Captain Frank (Fins on Feathers Charters) will be the guest speaker at our November 21st meeting to give us a presentation on catching blackfish and he may touch on sea bass and striped bass. Captain Frank is an excellent captain for catching these fish and it is always good to pick up tips from him to catch more of these tasty fish before the year ends.

**Also at this meeting, we will again have our traditional turkey and ham raffle** so that you can prepare for your holiday meal by winning a nice turkey or ham. Our club will have cards on hand and you can simply write your name in a numbered box for a \$1 dollar chance. At the end of the meeting, we will draw a number for each card and if you have the winning number you get to take home a turkey or a ham to start the holiday.

Also, if you pay your 2024 dues at this meeting, you will receive a ticket for a special raffle to receive either a turkey or a ham.

### Christmas & Hanukkah Party- December 19th

This party is our December 19th meeting and no speakers are scheduled. We will do a little club business and then have a good time with our fishing friends and enjoy eating a lot of good food and forget about any dieting! Members can also bring their favorite food items to this meeting and we will eat very well because that is what we are supposed to do for the holidays! Our club will also have some food items catered. Please tell member John Toth what you are bringing to this dinner so that we do not have duplicate food items. He can be reached at (732) 656-0139 and also at email [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net).

We will also have an exchange of gifts and Santa Claus will hand them out. If you want to participate in this exchange of gifts, please bring an item (preferably a fishing-related one) that is approximately **\$10 or more** in value.

**Also at this meeting, we will again have our traditional turkey and ham raffle again.** We will have cards on hand and you can write your name in a numbered box for a \$1 dollar chance. At the end of the meeting, we will draw a number for each card and if you have the winning number you get to take home a turkey or a ham for the holiday.

Again, if you pay your **2024** dues at this meeting you will also receive a numbered ticket to win a turkey or a ham. At the end of the meeting, we will have a special raffle just for those anglers who pay their 2024 dues.



## Election Time - Board Members for 2024

At our November 21st meeting, the current slate of officers will be read and club members will be asked if they want to run for any of these positions. The following is the slate of our club's Board members for 2024. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please see member Don Lohse at our November meeting so that he can include your name to run for one of these offices. Don can also be reached at (201) 832-1298. The current positions and the members who occupy them follow:

**President – John Toth**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Don Lohse**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President- Gary Gusterson**

**Treasurer – Jim Galanaugh Jr.**

**Assistant Treasurer – Chuck Santoro**

**Recording Secretary – Chuck Santoro**

**-Assistant Recording Secretary – Don Lohse**

**Corresponding Secretary – Fred Villanova**

**Assistant Corresponding Secretary – Gary Gusterson**

**Membership Secretary – Art Vrola**

**Assistant Membership Secretary – Fred Villanova**

**Sergeant at Arms- Gary Gusterson**

**Assistant Sergeant at Arms- Rick Swarthe**

**Chaplin – Rick Swarthe**

**Publicity Officer – John Toth**

**Assistant Publicity Officer – Fred Villanova**

**Club Orientation Director – Steve Totten**

**Assistant Club Orientation Director – Lou Castellano**

At our December 19th meeting, we will have a final vote on these positions. If there are no new nominations, our Secretary, Chuck Santoro, will cast his vote to accept this new slate of officers for 2024.

## February 4th – SWABC Flea Market at the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton

Our club is doing a new Flea Market at the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton and Don Lohse is our chairman for this 2024 flea market. Our club members chipped in to make our last flea market successful and Don will need your help in making our 2024 flea market even more successful! We 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 also need club members to promote our raffle 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 **\$7 for adults and kids under 10 years free**. Flea market will start at **8:30 a.m. and ends 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](mailto:ddlohse@yahoo.com).

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

## Club Dues Policy & Purchase of Club's Raffle Tickets

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 one of our raffle prizes or sell the tickets and keep the \$20 from selling their two raffle books. 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. In regard to refreshments, our club puts out quite a spread of food at each meeting, courtesy of our Grand Chef, Nico, along with free beer and soda. Members have an opportunity while eating their food to sit down at the various tables and chat with each other to hear about fishing and, consequently, developing new friendships. This is what our club is all about!

## Report on the October 21st Trip and the December 2nd Trip Coming Up October 21st Club Charter Trip on the Bingo for Sea Bass

Unfortunately, this trip was questionable from the start with bad weather reports that were coming in. When our Trip Captain, Ralph DeJulia received a Small Craft Advisory from the captain of the Bingo, this trip was canceled. We are not going to have a trip with our members being beaten up with rough seas.

### December 2nd Trip on the Bingo for Blackfish

Ralph DeJulia has a family obligation that he must attend and John Toth will be the Trip Captain for this trip. If you want to go on this trip, contact John at (732) 656-0139 or at [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net). The Bingo will leave the Leonardo State Marina at **7:00 a.m. and the fare will be \$110, including tip**. At this point, we have 11 members signed up for it and they include: Fred Villanova, Rick Swarthe, Lou Castellano, Rick Reitano, Barry Paull, Nick Casamassimo, Harry Vogt, Jim Piobino, Mark Capalbo, Jim Galanaugh Jr., and John Toth. We would like to have at least 20 members signed up for it.

**During the time of the trip**, John can be reached at **(732) 397-2346**

**Directions:** Driving on Route 36, take the Exit for Leonardo State Marina, cross Route 36 and drive straight (**no turns**) to the beach. At the beach, turn left into the parking lot. The address for the Bingo is 232 Beach Ave. Leonardo, NJ.

## Sick Call

Member **Bob Wojtasek** is under the weather and we all hope he gets better to join us at our club meetings and fish with us again! **Get well Bob!**

## **Sometimes Bad News is Good News! NJ Offshore Wind Farms in Financial Trouble**

By John Toth

We don't like to hear bad news, but I like this bad news since it most likely delay or possibly stop the construction of windmills off our coastline. The march toward implementing windmills seemed unstoppable, but now money and supply problems are giving us some hope that this march may go in slow motion or even end.

Not too long ago, the cost for a can of sardines at Shoprite went from 89 cents to \$1.29! I went to buy a gallon of distilled vinegar and not only did the price of it go up but a sign by it said to take only one gallon because of supply issues! (How the Hell are we short of vinegar now!). Boats have been sitting at their docks this fishing season since they can't get parts to repair them.

Examples like what I mention above of inflation and supply chain problems have definitely impacted the offshore windmill industry in their schedules to have their windmills in operation along our state's coastline. Rising labor costs and higher interest rates that dissuade them from borrowing money are also problematic for them. Orsted, a Danish company, planned to have their windmills in operation off Atlantic City in 2024 and has now moved this date to 2026.

Windmill developers are encountering these problems because it took years to plan and reach financial agreements with state and federal agencies to place their bids on lease areas to build windmills. At that time, inflation and supply problems were not an issue and borrowing costs were especially low. COVID, caused all types of supply issues and inflation took off around the beginning of this year. The Labor Department announced that the September job report showed 336,000 jobs were created this month and most likely the Federal Reserve will again raise interest rates. Mortgage rates used to be around 3 to 4 percent and now are currently around 7.35%. Because of these issues, Orsted said that delays in its U.S. operation would cost this company at least 2 billion dollars resulting in their stock shares tumbling 25 percent after this news. The CEO of Orsted, Mads Nipper, indicated that "We are willing to walk away from projects if we do not see the value creation that meets our criteria."

To help keep Orsted from pulling the plug on its plan to place windmills off our coast, NJ's Senate and Assembly recently passed a bill to give Orsted a tax break of \$1 billion dollars! Even with this tax break, Orsted is still seeking more financial help from our state and the federal government to maintain its goal of placing its windmills off our coast. Orsted is not the only developer in financial straits, but other developers like Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind would like to have a tax break from our state like the one given Orsted.

People from different organizations have expressed our deep concerns over the placement of hundreds of windmills over 850 feet high along our coast and the damage it could do to our fisheries and environment. We are always told by federal agencies that they want our input, but they don't listen to us -

questions go unanswered. Even like what the average NJ household will have to pay for their electric bill really know this cost, the public support for these windmills would collapse. We are being ignored by the federal and state governments that want to push windmills off our coast no matter what the cost would be in terms of the damage to our environment. Those of us who have been questioning the wisdom of having windmills off our coast have been told that they are coming no matter what we do. However, at least inflation, supply chain problems, high interest rates and rising labor costs are doing what we could not do by slowing or possibly stopping developers from placing hundreds of windmills 850 feet high off our coast.

### **Sometimes, bad news is good news!**

## **Montauk Fisherman Convicted Selling \$900,000 Illegal Fluke and Sea Bass**

A Montauk commercial fisherman was accused of vastly exceeding legal limits on how much fluke he could bring ashore and was convicted on all charges in a federal court in Central Islip on October 4th.

Chris Winkler, 63, captain of the 45-foot trawler called the New Age was accused of falsifying records in order to sell illegal fluke and black sea bass to partners from Gosman's Dock, a mini-empire of restaurants and shops in Montauk, and also to dealers in Fulton Fish Market located in the Bronx. Prosecutors said the over quota fish was worth nearly **\$ 900,000** on the wholesale market.

Two cousins from the Gosman family were initially charged-but they flipped their testimony and testified against Mr. Winkler with one claiming he had helped the New Age evade detection by the Coast Guard.

Captain Winkler could face many years in prison on five charges of conspiracy, obstruction and mail fraud, though he is unlikely to receive a lengthy sentence under federal sentencing practices.

His lawyer, Richard Levitt, said "There is nothing at all rational about this system, but Mr. Winkler and other Long Island fishermen are easy scapegoats for this regulatory insanity." He said that that this case was based on outdated legal limits on fluke fishing and vowed to appeal this case against Captain Winkler.












The proceedings shined on a light on a long-running debate between Long Island commercial fishermen and the federal government, which has increasingly turned to criminal prosecutions instead of civil proceedings to enforce fishing regulations.

The Gosman's cousins each pleaded guilty to one felony count of conspiracy and now wait for sentencing that could land them in prison for 5 years. The Gosman's Dock complex, which is owned by family members, was put up for sale this year for \$45 million dollars. (New York Times, October 5, 2023).

Note: While the fishing regulations we have may be unfair and do not make sense, the regulations are the law and we must abide by them. The defense lawyer can say the rules are not right, but it is a weak defense & cannot be used.

# 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.		
	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. \_\_\_\_\_





**Captain Art Lein**  
 Katie James  
 Sport Fishing

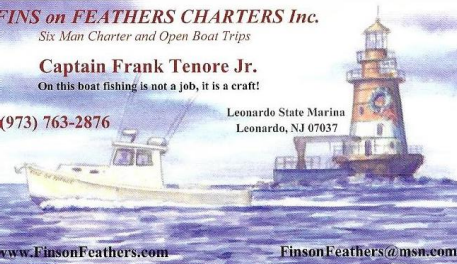
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**Bob Wojtasek when he was out fishing**



**Rick Swarthe with 2 lb. 2 oz. Porgy**



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_