



Bulletin

Salt Water Anglers
of Bergen County NJ



Free Issue

April 2015

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

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Happy winners of our Big Fish contest - Chuck Santoro, Barry Paull, Bill Fish, Doug Parker, Bob Cameron, Dennis Nieradka, Frank Prelich

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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 on the third Tuesday of the month, at 8:00P.M. The only meeting that is not held at the Legion Hall on Tuesday will be the night of the Past President Dinner. That month is March. A \$5 fee is required, for non-members, this entitles them to the 50/50 drawing, refreshments, snacks, and some new tricks about fishing. Welcome all; we hope you enjoy the evening.

President's Corner

Our past President's Dinner on March 24th was a memorable night for our club, and especially for me since on that day I turned 70 years old and a big surprise was also waiting for me at our dinner. We had approximately 125 members and guests attend this dinner and a big Dark Horse was available along with plenty of good food and drink. My wife rarely attends any of my fishing functions that I am involved with, but she came to this dinner with a friend of mine and I did not know that she was at our dinner. During the dinner, Chuck Santoro announced that this day was my birthday and my wife came up to me at the podium and they all sang Happy Birthday to me! Needless to say, I was surprised and it turned out to be a very memorable occasion for me, and one that I will not forget for quite some time!

We had an incredible Dark Horse thanks to Jim Zimmer and 1st Vice President, Bill Fish. Bill did a lot of running around to solicit and receive many passes for a number of party/charter boats that we are familiar with and other prizes. A **BIG THANK YOU** goes to all of the boat captains and tackle shops that donated prizes for our dinner! Harold Gusterson and his son Gary did a great job in handling all of the tickets for our dinner! Chuck Santoro, Steve Totten, Jim Galanaugh Jr., Dan Eberle, Fred Villanova, Harry Vogt all contributed to the success of this dinner by selling tickets for the Dark Horse, 50/50 or tickets on a special rod combo. However, your support by showing up for this dinner made it successful and I thank all of you! Seeing this dinner well attended gives me, and also all of you, a vote of confidence in the direction our club is moving!

A BIG THANK YOU

From the entire membership of the Bergen County Salt Water Anglers we want to **thank the American Legion Post # 170, Rochelle Park** for their \$500 contribution that will go toward our charter trip for the kids. We hope Ed O'Dowd has a speedy recovery!

Welcome Aboard!

We are happy to have the following new members to join our club. Enjoy fishing with us!
John Duddy - New Milford, NJ
Kevin Morgan- Cresskill, NJ
Marvin Oresky - Paramus, NJ

Speakers for our April 21st Meeting - New Jersey's Marine Police

Two representatives from New Jersey's Marine Police will be our guests to talk about enforcement issues related mostly to fishing, but they will also touch upon some hunting issues as well. These police will have a lot to talk about! For example, **5 lbs.** of glass eels (elvers) sell for **\$10,000** and they are illegal to catch in NJ's waters. A group of 12 poachers were caught and they were found to make **\$1.25 million** by catching these eels. Who knows what they made before they were caught! The eels are so expensive because they are a delicacy in China and other Asian markets. The poachers for these illegal eels have a sophisticated network to evade our marine police and our police have a tough time in catching them. Our police have even resorted to train undercover agents to monitor and catch these poachers. This story and others will be told by our police on how they catch illegal activity that we do not usually hear about. So this will be a very interesting meeting and the police will also tell us some of their funny experiences about anglers and hunters trying to beat the regulations. As they say "truth is stranger than fiction".

Speakers for our May 19th Meeting "Bucktail Boys"

We will have two representatives from the Bucktail boys company (JP & Keefe) come to our meeting and give us a power point presentation on how to use bucktails, the best colors to use under certain light conditions and the advantages of using their bucktails in comparison to other companies that make them. They will also have bucktails for sale at our meeting. The Bucktail Boys gave this seminar at the recent Boat Show in Raritan that we attended, and they are scheduled to do another one at the upcoming Somerset show. What better way to start the upcoming fluke season with a good "how to" presentation on using bucktails and buying new ones.

Speaker for our June 16th Meeting - Carl Benson

Carl Benson, an advisor to the Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council, is also an avid fisherman, especially for fluke. He will give us a power point presentation on the best type of hooks to use to reduce fluke mortality. All too often, we unintentionally kill fluke since they swallow the hook too deeply and when we release these fish we know that they won't survive. Carl will also talk about the methods we can use to really cut down on this mortality of these fish. Another way to help save our fisheries for future generations.

Somerset Show and Other Shows

Our club had a booth at the Raritan Show, Boat Show and most recently at the Somerset show, the weekend before our dinner to sell raffle tickets and to recruit new members for our club. Our members did a great job in setting up our booths and sell tickets, and they also got to see the shows because volunteers get in free. A total of **eleven days** was involved in staffing our booths and promoting our club and our hats go off to all these volunteers who worked at the shows. They include: Ray Sebecke, Aram Setian, Jim Piobino, Mike Peluso, Harold Gusterson, Harry Vogt, Chuck Santoro, Fred Villanova, John Toth, John Piazza, and Steve Totten, Jim Galanaugh Jr., Jim Catanzaro, Bill Fish, Barry Paull, Rich Cybulski, Bob Cameron, and Dave Niicholson. Steve Totten and John Piazza are certainly a dynamic duo in selling tickets! At the Somerset show between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. on Saturday March 21st, they sold **343 of our raffle tickets!** Steve is the hawk and John handles the money. Steve has been described as a **"used car salesman"**! A captain came up to Steve and asked **"Why should I buy raffle tickets for a \$600 charter trip on the Reel Fun charter when I have a boat of my own"**? Steve convinced him to buy our tickets and he ended up buying **five** of them! The captain said while buying the tickets **"Why the (blank) am I doing this"**! **Steve can sell ice cubes even to the Eskimos!** Both Steve and John worked on Friday afternoon at the Somerset show and they also showed up for the 9:00 a.m. morning shift on Saturday! That is called dedication to our club and they both deserve our gratitude! **Thank you John & Steve!**

It is Important to for NJ Anglers to Register

When the NJ register first started, about 600,000 anglers signed up for it. Now, only 202,000 signed up for it in 2014! The drop off of anglers not registering means less information for our Bureau of Marine Fisheries to obtain data it needs on fishing stocks. Also, less anglers registering looks like our state has fewer anglers than other states. When it comes time to allocate fishing quotas among states, if NJ looks like it has less anglers than other states it may receive a smaller allotment for its quota. With the start of 2015, it is time to think of either renewing your NJ registry or obtaining a new one if you have not already done so. All New Jersey anglers over the age of 16 must be registered. New Jersey Anglers can only register on line at www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov. There is not a telephone number you can use to register nor is a mailing address available that you can use to mail in for the registry. For those who do not have a computer, you can have a friend who has a computer to register you. Also, please consider filling out the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey to help the Bureau of Marine Fisheries. This information will give our Bureau a better count of the fish we caught so that the Bureau can make a more accurate picture of the fish we caught in 2015 instead of relying on other sources that are best known for their faulty numbers. Go to: www.njfishandwildlife.com/marinesurvey.htm.

Club Fluke Tournament - August 8, 2015

Our club's Fluke Tournament is scheduled for August 8, 2015 (Saturday) with a rain date of August 9th. Like last year, we will have three weigh- in ports (Twin Lights Marina in the Highlands, Fisherman's Den in Belmar, and Clark's landing in Point Pleasant. The new entry fee is **\$100 per boat** (up to 6 anglers). Instead of one fish being weighed to win a prize like we have done with our previous tournaments, the **combined weight of three fish** will be used to determine the winners of this tournament. There will be three categories of prizes, 1st, 2nd and 3rd with a **maximum of \$6,000 in cash payouts and Calcuttas** will also be offered. For those members who would like to help Fluke Tournament Director, Mark Capalbo, with this tournament, see him at our meetings. If you have any questions about this tournament or would like to enter it, please call Mark at **(201) 313-6576**. Also, if you know of anglers who go into tournaments, please direct them to enter our tournament by contacting Mark. He would certainly appreciate your help in making our tournament a very successful one! Thank You!

Governor's Surf Tournament - May 17, 2015 (Sunday)

The Governor's Surf Tournament will be held on May 17th at Island Beach State Park. It was always held on the first Sunday in October, but the tournament was changed to the month of May to improve fishing opportunities with more stripers and blues being available. The cost to pre-register is \$15 for anglers 18 years and older, and \$5 for ages 13-17. Ages 12 and under are free. During the day of the tournament, the cost for adults to register is \$20. For more information, call (609) 748-4347 or go to www.njfishandwildlife.com.

SWABC Fund Raising Raffle

Tickets are now on sale for our fund raising raffle that helps to support the many activities of our club and to essentially help pay our club bills related to hall rental, food and beverages for our meetings, printing and mailing of our newsletters and other related expenses. Please see member **Fred Villanova** at our meetings and **take at least two raffle books or more to sell or buy!** Each book has 10 raffle tickets in it and at a cost of \$1 for each ticket. We have some very nice prizes to offer.

1. **Charter Fishing Trip on the Reel Fun Sport Fishing - \$600 value**
2. **Canyon Reel HS 16 and Shimano Terez Rod - \$550 value**
3. **Canyon Reel HS 15 and Shimano Terez Rod - \$450 value**
4. **32 inch LCD High Definition TV - \$300 value**
5. **Fishing Trip – 2 Tickets for the Party Boat “Fisherman”- \$150 value**
6. **Gift Certificate – Dick’s Sporting Goods - \$75 value**
7. **Gift Certificate – Dick’s Sporting Goods - \$75 value**

We want to thank **Captain John Kalias** for donating a charter to our club on his Reel Fun – www.reelfunsportfishing.com.

Fishing Management Reports - by John Toth

At the time of this writing, the Senate and Assembly have approved striped bass legislation and it is on Governor Christie's desk for signature. The bill calls for our taking one striped bass at **28 inches to 43 inches**, and **the second striped bass at 43 inches and above**. So, **two striped bass can be caught** during 2015.

The legislation includes language so that new regulations for 2016 and beyond will **not** be controlled by our legislators, but they will be under the responsibility of the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife. Striped bass is the **only** species that has been under the control of our legislators, and it takes time to move any legislation in Trenton resulting in nail-biting delays to have new striped bass regulations in place for the start of a new season. Quite frankly, our legislators do not fully understand what striped bass regulations are all about and it is not high on their list of priorities. This is **good news for us** since we can move more quickly in having our new striped bass regulations in place and on time.

Bonus Tag - in **addition** to the two striped bass we can catch as mentioned above, we will also have a bonus tag program for 2015. There are two options for it and they are:

One striped bass at 24 to 28 inches or: One striped bass at 28 inches and above.

The NJ Marine Fisheries Council was supposed to choose which one of these options to go with after receiving public opinion at its March 5th meeting. Unfortunately, a bad snow storm caused this meeting to be canceled because of dangerous driving conditions. Next meeting scheduled for April 9th in Manahawkin. A decision will be made at this meeting on which **one** of these two options will be in place for our 2015 season.

However, at a March 26th Outdoor Writer's Workshop, that was sponsored by the NJ DEP at its Central Region Office, Russ Allen of the Bureau of Marine Fisheries reported that because of the necessary reviews to get this Bonus Tag program up and running to have **one** of the two options mentioned above, the Bonus Tag with the **new option** was **not expected be in effect until September of this year!** Will the bonus tags already issued be OK to use before the September date? This question and others related to it still have to be resolved.

Sea Bass - In one word, it is a mess! We are facing a **33% cut back** in our quota for 2015 because the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) does not know the present status of sea bass stocks, so they take the precautionary approach and instituted this severe cut back **on the fear** that we will overfish our sea bass quota for 2015! I attended a NJ Marine Fisheries Council meeting held at Nacote Creek on 3/19 and the boat captains at this meeting complained bitterly that these arbitrary regulations are putting them out of business (I wrote an article about this called "**Fishing Mismanagement**" and it is on our club's web page). There are **3 options** being considered and they are too complicated to list in this newsletter, but they can be reviewed at the JCAA's April newsletter on pages 6 and 7 and can be accessed at <http://www.jcaa.org>. Option # 1 has a total of **137 days** for its season with a 12 1/2 size, a 15 bag limit and its open seasons stacked more to the Spring and Fall so there is enough sea bass for anglers to do a charter trip. The downside to this option is that only 2 bass can be harvested during July, and the August season is completely closed. This is the preferred option by captains at this March 19th meeting and the one the NJ Marine Fisheries Council presently favors. Option # 2 has **153 days** in its season and Option # 3 has **175 days** in its season. Keep in mind, the more days you have to fish for sea bass, the seasons for it shrink and the size limit also bumps up to 13 inches. The NJ Marine Fisheries Council will take public input at its April 9th meeting and decide on which one of these three options will be our sea bass regulations for 2015. I will also update you on this issue.

2015 Big Fish Contest Rules: To limit confusion about the rules governing our Big Fish Contest, our Board members discussed this issue and agreed to the following provisions that would take into effect for 2014 and in the future:

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. Dues card number must be on the submitted application (Dues number can be obtained from our Membership Secretary)
5. 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.

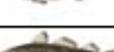
Any member submitting a false affidavit will be disqualified from entering the contest during the year. If disqualified twice, the member will be expelled from the club.

New Fishing Charter Trip for Big Fluke!

Both Mark Capalbo and Bill Fish are organizing a **bus charter trip to Rhode Island** to catch some nice big fluke. Mark has gone to Rhode Island a number of times for fluke and he is gung ho about doing this again and introducing our members to some good fluke fishing. The bus for it has been reserved and the details follow:

The date is August 15th, and the bus leaves at 2:30 a.m. from the American Legion Post # 170 in Rochelle Park (where our club meets every month). We expect to be fishing on one of the Frances Fleet boats (Admiral Frances) around 8:00 a.m. and return to the dock around 3:00 p.m. Then we will board our bus for our return trip and arrive at the Legion around 8:00 p.m. or so. The cost is **\$150** that is **all inclusive** and includes the **cost for the bus, tip for the bus driver and tips for the mates on the boat.** Any leftover money will go toward a pool. **Only 40 anglers** will be signed up for this trip so that we have ample room on the bus and boat. Signups will be on a first come-first serve basis. Payment must be made in full by our May 19th meeting. If paying by check, please make your check out to Mark Capalbo. At our April 21st meeting, see Mark to give him your money. See more about the Frances Fleet at: www.francesfleet.com

2015 BIG FISH OF THE YEAR DERBY

FISH	SPECIES	MIN. WEIGHT	ENTRY WEIGHT	ANGLER
	BLACKFISH	4		
	BLUEFISH	12		
	COD FISH	10		
	FLOUNDER	1lb.8oz.		
	FLUKE	4		
	LING	2		
	POLLOCK	10		
	PORGY	1lb.8oz.		
	SEA BASS	2		
	STRIPED BASS	12		
	WEAKFISH	2		

2015 Membership Dues are Due!

Club memberships for 2015 are due and they **must be paid by the end of April.** If they are not paid, then members are removed from the mailing list and will not receive our club newsletters and not be eligible to attend our club meetings, hear scheduled speakers, be involved in fishing trips, our Big Fish Tournament and other scheduled activities. Our dues to renew membership is only \$35. For an individual joining our club for the first time it is \$40 and \$35 for each year thereafter. Please see Membership Chairman, Matt Christensen or Charles Altman at our April meeting to pay your dues, or mail it to the American Legion Post # 170, 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, NJ. 07662.

Member Russ Binns is looking for Anglers to Go Fishing With Him

He is **not a charter boat captain**, but simply wants good company to be with him in having a good time; sharing in the related expenses. He owns a 30 foot Rampage that can hold up to 5 anglers. His boat is kept in his backyard at 277 South Shore Drive in Toms River (on Silver Bay). His telephone # is (732) 279-0560. His email address is: coastboatingschool@gmail.com. As his email implies, Russ teaches boating safety.

Big Time Poacher for Striped Bass

Michael D. Hayden of Tilghman Island, MD., was sentenced to 1 1/2 years behind bars for poaching nearly **200,000 lbs. of striped bass** out of the Chesapeake Bay between 2007-and 2011. "The scale of this conspiracy was massive," said federal prosecutor, Todd Gleason. (NY Post 3/3/2015)

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Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County, New Jersey Sponsors
Membership Application for the Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County
 Mail To: American Legion Hall Post # 170, 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, N.J. 07622
 Please enclose a check or money order in the amount of \$40.00 for a one-year membership, into New Jersey's #1 Salt Water Fishing Club.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Home/Business Ph #. _____
 E-mail Address _____