




Bulletin

Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County NJ



Free Issue **August 2017**

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

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Mark Capalbo, Barry Paull, Harry Vogt and Lou Castellano holding some big fluke (12.2 lbs. by Mark) caught on the Helen H in Massachusetts



Stories & Events

- Page 2 – Presidents Corner, Upcoming Meeting info**
- Page 3 – Calendar of Events, Nice Fish Fishing Articles**
- Page 4 – Fishing Management Issues, China Want Fish, Million \$ Marlin**
- Page 5 – Big Fish Derby update, Fishing Contest Affidavit**
- Page 6 – Sponsors & Application Form**

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

At our July 18th meeting our members gave a report on their Massachusetts trip to catch fluke and they came back with pictures to show how well they did and they did very well! They had huge fluke in the 10-12 lbs. category, and they still did not win the pool with these big fluke. If I remember correctly, a 14 lb. won the pool. What is nice to see is our members having a good time fishing together and forming nice friendships. This often happens when our members fish together and these friendships develop even though our members come from very different backgrounds.

We had Jonathan Klotz and Chuck Karr as our guest speakers to talk about the surveys they take of anglers to help our state get a better picture of the status of our fluke stocks. They also covered the better ways to keep fish from dying when we catch them and that is important to save our fisheries.

We had four new members sign up at this meeting. I asked one of them "why did you join our club"? His answer was "you guys are into fishing with the entire trip that you have and that is what I want to do". That for me is nice to hear since fishing is the main focus of our club and by having these trips we are doing something right with all of the trips we have scheduled. Check our Schedule of Events section and while a number of these trips are in the Fall/Winter categories, sign up for them now to reserve your spot and enjoy fishing with your fellow members.

Our chef Nico did his usual fine job with a nicely seasoned pork dish, salad and dessert. Thanks again Nico!

August 15th Meeting - Presentation on Sun Glasses for Protection of Eyes

At this meeting, Mr. Jack Alt will talk about the right sunglasses that anglers should purchase for the protection they need to protect their eyes from harmful rays. He will also explain why effective sun glasses do not have to be so expensive and that they can be purchased at very reasonable prices.

Welcome Aboard!

We have four new members who joined us at our last meeting and they are:

Ken Wheeler - Hasbrouck Heights

Anthony Ranaudo - Leonia

Ken Lesenko - Pompton Plains

Richard Melton - Lselin

In Memoriam - Rich DeMelo

We mourn the recent passing of club member **Rich DeMelo** who loved his fishing. **Rich** was on the front cover of our 2015 December club newsletter holding a **12 lb. 4 oz. fluke!** **Rich** had a special talent for catching some big fish. **May you rest in peace Rich!**

August 12th (Saturday) - 6th Annual SWABC Fluke Tournament - Last Call!

Mark Capalbo is our Fluke Tournament Director and he has set up three weigh-in ports (Twin Lights in the Highlands and at Clark's Landing in Point Pleasant. The 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 Mark with this tournament, see him at our meetings. Mark would also like to have help at the tournament's Captain's Meeting on August 10th (Thursday) that will be held at the Twin Lights Marina from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 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 would like to 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! Please call Mark if you are available to help him.

Surf Fishing Enthusiasts

A number of our club members like to go surf fishing. Why not surf fish with fellow club members and have more fun doing it! The Hudson River Fishermen's Association (HRFA) also has a contingent of anglers who like to go surf fishing, and they expressed an interest in having an inter-club surf fishing contest with us. We used to do this a number of years ago and had a lot of fun doing it. The HRFA is also interested in a boat contest between our club and that will be scheduled at a later time.

These contests would be for **Fun only** with **no contest money** involved and the rewards would be for bragging rights only! Just friendly completion! Our member, Rob Callen, is interested in setting these trips up for our club and with the HRFA. See him at our July 18th meeting to let him know you are interested, especially you surfers out there. Rob can also be reached at Rbrtt2005@yahoo.com.

Rhode Island Bus Trip Canceled

Unfortunately, our Rhode Island bus trip on July 29th for fluke organized by Mark Capalbo was canceled due to bad weather. This was very disappointing to Mark who worked so hard in putting it together, but we all have been down this road at some time in our fishing career. Mark will give a report on it at our August meeting.

Our Club Members Catching Some Nice Fish!

While these fish are **NOT** in the Big Fish contest, these are the fish that we all would like to catch!

Tom Sicilaino - 10.83 lb. blackfish
Joe Salib - 3.73 lbs - flounder
Bill Fish - 2lbs. 8 oz - flounder
Tom Sicilaino - 2.7 & 2.5 lbs. flounder
Mark Capalbo - 11.2 lb. fluke
Ray Pharao - 8lbs. 8oz. fluke
Arnie Ulrich - 6 lbs. fluke
Mike Cargill - 5 lbs. fluke
Rich Bunger - 42 lbs. striped bass
Tony Carbone - 31 lb. halibut

Every Year, the Sky Rains Fish!

Things don't come easy in La Union, a small community in the north central region of Honduras. Poverty is universal and large families are crammed in mud-bricked homes. But every once in a while an amazing thing happens that makes these people feel special.

The skies rain fish! It happens once a year or even more during the late spring or early summer and only under specific conditions: a torrential downpour, thunder and lightning, so intense that nobody dares to go outside. Once the storm clears, the villagers grab buckets and baskets and head down the road to a sunken pasture where the ground will be covered in hundreds of small, silver-colored fish. For some, it will be the only time of the year they will have a chance to eat seafood. Also, nobody is allowed to sell these fish and they are distributed to everybody.

"It's a miracle, explained Lucio Perez a farmer. We see it as a gift from God. He has heard many explanations for it, but it is a blessing from God."

The phenomenon has happened in and around town for many generations. Some residents attribute the occurrence to the prayers of Manuel de Subirana, a Catholic missionary from Spain, who in the mid-1980's asked God to ease the poverty and hunger of these people. Soon after he issued his plea, the legend goes, the fish rain began.

There are theories to explain this like the fish may be in streams or caverns and they are washed up with these intense storms and deposited on land. Another is that these fish are sucked up by water spouts about 45 miles away in the Atlantic and then dropped on land. But, these theories do not explain how these spout score direct hits on the same patches of turf year after year!

A Jesuit priest who lives there now says "I think most people would say there is a scientific explanation for it. But in the absence for it, faith can fill the gap." (New York Times, July 17, 2017).

2017 Calendar of Events

There are a number of new fishing trips (**5 in total**) that have been added to our Calendar of Events

August 12th - 6th Annual Club Fluke Tournament

August 15th - Club Meeting - Presentation on Using Sun Glasses for Eye Protection

October 22nd - Sea Bass trip on the Break Even Charters - Belmar (\$95 inc. tip)

October 29th - (**New**) Sea Bass Trip on the Skylarker (\$90 inc. tip) Belmar (Craig Zincavage - trip captain)- (973) 234-9618.

November 18th - Club Bus Charter Trip (sea bass, cod, ling) on the Black Hawk in Connecticut

November 24th (Friday after Thanksgiving) - (**New**) Black Fish on Break Even Charters in Belmar (\$95 inc. tip - 6 pack)

November 26th - (**New**) Charter trip for blackfish on the Skylarker sailing from Belmar - Craig Zincavage is the Trip Captain.

December 2nd - (**New**) Black Fish Charter Trip on Break Even Charters (\$95 inc. tip - (6 pack)

December 30th - (**New**) Off shore - 18 hours - Sea Bass trip (\$180 inc. tip)

New Jersey Tops Mid-Atlantic in Salt Water Fishing

New Jersey is the leader in the Mid-Atlantic region when it comes to salt water recreational fishing according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) report.

No fishermen take more trips, buy more fishing tackle or work in the industry more than the Garden State. The Mid-Atlantic States include: Delaware, Maryland, New York, Virginia and New Jersey.

Based on NOAA report's 2015 numbers, New Jersey's salt water industry generated the most jobs at 16,100 and 4.3 million fishing trips. New York was next at 7,800 jobs and 3.2 million trips.

Salt water angling generated 63 billion in sales across the country in 2015. (Asbury Park Press, June 8, 2017).

In Memorium

We mourn the recent passing of long-time member **Ronnie Wong** who lost his battle with cancer. He passed away on August 2. **Ronnie** loved his fishing and we loved fishing with him. In addition to belonging to our club, Ronnie was a member of the Hudson River Fishermen's Association (HRFA). He was also a Navy veteran. May you rest in peace Ronnie and we all will miss you. Rest in Peace **Ronnie** - Always have "Tight Lines"

Fishing Management Issues - by John Toth

Most of us have already heard about this and it is old news. Wilbur Ross, the new Secretary of Commerce, has approved the fishing regulations developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and our state's DEP Commissioner Bob Martin who led the challenge against a 19-inch fluke minimum size for our 2017 fluke season. We now have an 18-inch minimum size for the rest of our season. This can be viewed in many ways as a victory or defeat and we have already discussed this issue at length in these bulletins and at our club meetings.

What is significant as I see it is that our state has said **NO** to the increasingly crazy restrictions imposed on us by fishing management at the federal level. This is the first time that this has happened! Other states may follow New Jersey's example and also say **NO** when new restrictions on their fisheries come out in 2018. It will be interesting to see how this all plays out with our fisheries in 2018 and beyond.

"Some men would rather be photographed with their fish than their wives." - Gwen Cooper

China Wants Fish, So Africa Goes Hungry

China needs to feed its people and fish is one of the main staples of this country. So much so that is important for social stability and political legitimacy for the Chinese Communist party. With its own waters heavily overfished, the Chinese are looking elsewhere to feed its people, especially in African waters.

The Chinese government commands a fleet of nearly 2,600 vessels, 10 times larger than the American fleet, and all heavily subsidized. Most Chinese ships are so large that they scoop up as many fish in a week as Senegalese boats catch in a year! Also, many Chinese ships don't hesitate to break the law to meet soaring demand. These ships misreport their coordinates or underreport their tonnage, known ploys to fish in prohibited areas.

Yet, this presents nations like Senegal with a difficult choice, because China is pumping \$60 billion into African development. As a Senegalese government official said "It'd hard to say no to China when they are building your roads". (NY Times, May 4, 2017).

15 Minutes Cost Millions in Marlin Tournament.

There are strict rules to be followed in any tournament, but especially in a big game tournament when the entry fee is from 1,000 to \$10,000! During the August 9, 2016 Ocean City, Maryland, White marlin tournament, the fishing boat Kallianassa and its crew landed a **76.5 lb.** White Marlin and was declared the winner of this tournament with a prize of **\$2.9 million!** However, this boat was observed landing this marlin at **8:15 a.m.**, when the contest rules mandates the starting time at **8:30 a.m.**

Another fishing boat (Hubris) observed this violation of rules and challenged the winner since it was next in line to be declared contest winner. In cases of dispute like this, polygraph tests were given and the crew of the Kallianassa failed the tests. This challenge also went to court and a federal judge, based on the failed polygraph tests and other information, ruled that the Kallianassa was disqualified as the contest winner and the Boat Hubris was the winner. In this case, wetting a line 15 minutes early before the tournament was set to begin was a very costly mistake - like \$2.8 million dollars! (Asbury Park Press, June 15, 2017).

Leaping Shark Floors Angler in Australia

A Mr. Selwood, 73, was less than a mile offshore near the town of Evans Head, New South Wales, in Australia, when a Great White Shark jumped into his boat! He had been fishing for snapper with hand lines on a calm sea when the far bigger catch appeared without warning. The shark hit his forearm, spun him around and knocked him off his feet and he fell on the floor. He thought that the shark had broken his arm, but it just caused a severe abrasion from its skin. He was not bitten. He jumped on to the side of the 15 foot-long boat to prevent the shark from causing him injuries. The shark was thrashing around madly!

He radioed the Marine Rescue Unit, but they did not initially believe him. But they finally reached him and brought him to a hospital, and then returned to his boat to check out the shark. I weighed 440 lbs. and was nearly nine feet long! The government removed the shark with a forklift for further study.

Encounters between sharks and humans are a long standing issue in Australia with 14 people killed since the beginning of 2012. The country has experimented with a range of measures to reduce shark attacks including culls, shark-detecting sonar etc., to repel the animals.

Mr. Selwood says he is unfazed and simply wants to get back out on the water. "Still a mundane story as far as I am concerned." (NY Times May 30, 2017).

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 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.

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