

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

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**Hamza with his limit & Pool Winner on the Dark Horse**



**Stories & Events**

**Page 2 – Presidents Corner, Upcoming Meetings**

**Page 3 – Fishing Trips & Events**

**Page 4 – Article-Update on Striped Bass by John Toth**

**Page 5 – Big Fish Contest & Affidavit**

**Page 6 – Membership application, Two Articles**

*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

For our September 16th meeting, we had Tony Maja as our guest speaker who gave us a very interesting presentation on fishing for stripers with his Bunker Spoons. Having Tony at this meeting is very timely since stripers are just about to come into our waters in September and October. Tony told us that he fished so much with his father, who invented the Bunker Spoon. I found it amusing when he said that his father knew where the bunker where because his father could smell them and he was always right! I know we all learned something from Tony about catching stripers. Our 2026 season for stripers may significantly change and not the better for us. More about this issue is in another column in this newsletter.

Our Lou Castellano won the Interclub fishing tournament for us and HRFA President, Joe Albanese, came to our meeting to present the trophy to Lou. It was a tournament that we all enjoyed and we will do it again next year. Hamza Issa has taken the responsibility of buying the Dark Horse prizes for our meetings and he is quite suited for this role given that he works at Jigging World. Hamza is also managing our Face Book page and has made it more attractive to read. **Thank You Hamza!**

Setting up the many tables and chairs for our meeting takes some work and **Dominic Ciazza** and **Don Burns** came early before our meeting to set things up for us. **Thanks to both of you!**

Nico made breaded pork chops, finger potatoes, string beans, salad and blueberry cobbler and it was all so delicious! **Thanks Nico!**

Nico not only made good food for us, but he was also lucky and well deserved to win our **50/50 prize of \$205!**

### October 21st Meeting –

#### **Pedro Lldefonso – Blackfish Presentation**

Pedro gave a power point presentation on how to catch blackfish at the 2025 Salt Water Expo in March and it was very informative and well received by attendees. Pedro will do this presentation at our October 21st meeting and it should not be missed by those of us who like to catch blackfish!

### November 18th Meeting – Dennis Kuntz

Dennis Kuntz (2nd Chance Tackle) will give a presentation on how to maintain reels so that they are in good working order for the 2026 fishing season. Dennis will also repair reels that you give him at this meeting. Place your reels in a plastic bag and write your name, contact information so Dennis can call you and what repair work you want done to them such as cleaning.

### December 16th Meeting – Christmas /Hannukah Party

**Ralph DeJulia and son Jake**



**Andrew Basso & son Beni**



**Lou Castellano with his winning fluke  
on the inter club trip Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>**





## Club Charter trips for 2025

**October 11th** – Club charter trip on the Debra Ann for sea bass – Belmar. This trip is full.

**November 16th** – Club Charter for Blackfish on the Debra Ann – Belmar. Trip is full.

Trip Captain for all of these trips is Ralph DeJulia and he can be reached at (201) 206-4506 or at: [newknee22@yahoo.com](mailto:newknee22@yahoo.com).

These two charter trips may be the last for 2025, but Ralph wants to schedule more of them for 2026 since they fill up so fast by our members. Ralph has done a fantastic job in setting up these club charters and a big **Thank You** goes to **Ralph** for a job well done!

### Recap of September Club Charter Trip on the Debra Ann

We sailed with 20 anglers on the Debra Ann for fluke and the weather was gorgeous and the sea relatively calm. We all had a nice time fishing together even though the fishing for fluke was slow going. Some nice fish were caught with Steven Weinstein winning the \$5 pool with a 26 inch fluke. Barry Paull pulled in a 23 inch fluke and Harry Vogt's rod had a lot of action catching small ones and a few keepers.

Our youngest member at 13 years, Hailey, caught about six undersized fluke and a double header of black sea bass! One day this girl is going to be a real pro at fishing and may even catch more fish than many of us.

**Steven Weinstein (pool winner),  
Don Lohse, Ralph DeJulia, Harry Vogt, blocked by  
Barry Paull's fish**



## JCAA Sportsperson of the Year Dinner

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) hosts a dinner to honor a person who has made a significant contribution for recreational fishing industry. The recipient of this award will be honored at the JCAA dinner at the Captain's Inn in Forked River NJ on November 8, 2025. The cost of a table for this dinner is \$100 and our club, as a member of the JCAA, subsidizes this dinner so the cost to attend this dinner is only **\$50.00 per person**. This dinner starts at 5:00 p.m. with appetizers, and a selection of prime rib, chicken marsala, salmon pecan or a broiled seafood combo dish and a cash bar will be available. A huge tricky tray will offer an assortment of tackle along with door prizes.

Let John Toth know if you want to attend this dinner and also the selection of food that you want. John can be reached at (732) 656-0139 or at [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net).

John is in charge of this event for the JCAA.

The Captain's Inn is located in Forked River just off **Exit # 74** on the Garden State Parkway. Turn right at the exit drive straight ahead **without making any exits, including Route 9**. The Captain's Inn will be on your left. It has a very good reputation for seafood. The address of the **Captain's Inn is 304 E. Lacey Road, Forked River, NJ (609) 693-3351**

### Bluefin Tuna Fishery Now Closed

NOAA announced that the bluefin tuna fishery is closed as of Tuesday, August 12th and for the rest of this year. Anglers cannot retain, possess, or land any bluefin tuna, including school, large school, small medium, large medium or giants.

NOAA based this decision on the best available landings information that the bluefin tuna quota has already been reached.

(Asbury Park Press, August 12th)

### Jeff Crisswell Sr. on the Lil Bingo with a 9 lb. 7 oz Tog



## Update on Striped Bass Fishing for 2026

By John Toth

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) has published Addendum 7, a 67 page document which aims to reduce the mortality of striped bass by 12%. The ASMFC believes that striped bass is overfished. It has a 2029 goal of restoring the female spawning stock biomass to 247 million pounds, a benchmark set in 1995, the last time the stock was declared recovered. The spawning stock, according to 2023 data currently sits at 191 million pounds which is below the threshold of 197 million pounds – the overfished line. To reduce mortality of striped bass by 12 %, the ASMFC is considering seasonal closures in 2026 for a month or possibly two months that may or not be in consecutive order.

There was a hearing on September 16th at the Stafford firehouse in Manahawkin, NJ to hear the ASMFC make a presentation on this Addendum and to take public comments on it with about 80 people in attendance. With only two individuals who spoke in favor of it, the rest of the people spoke against it and favored status quo – no changes to our present regulations of striped bass. One individual, Nick Cicero of Folsom Corp, tackle wholesalers, called the goal of growing the spawning stock biomass of 247 million pounds impossible to reach. “You’re taking the highest number in the past 40 years and you’re saying, “if we do not achieve that level in 2029, then the fishery is in trouble and we have to take action”.

From what I hear is that most people in the recreational fishing industry favors status quo including the New Jersey Marine Fishery Council and the American Sports fishing Industry (ASA). The data used by the ASMFC to justify seasonal closures for striped bass is questionable and that is another reason to stay with the status quo for 2026.

Of course, if we have seasonal closures in 2026, they will cause economic hardships to the party/charter boat captains, tackle stores, marinas and associated industries connected to the recreational fishing industries. In my many years involved with dealing with federal fishing management agencies, they have had little no concern about how people make a living in the recreational fishing industry. That would change if they had to make their living as party/charter boat captains!

How this will all play out for us is uncertain at this time. I am an advisor to the NJ Marine Fishery Council on striped bass and I will keep you updated on where we are going with this fishery.



## Nick Casamassimo with 30 lb. striper out at Montauk



### Fish Quotes

“Fishing consists of a series of misadventures interspersed by occasional moments of glory” – Howard Marshall








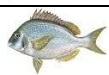



## Bob Goldstein with another fine outing for Fluke





# 2025 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	9 lbs. 7 oz.	Jeff Crisswell Sr.
	BLUEFISH	12		
	COD FISH	10		
	FLOUNDER	1.5 lbs.	2.62 lbs.	Chuck Santoro & Don Lohse
	FLUKE	4	10 lbs.	Carmen Bufardeci
	LING	2	2 lbs. 4 oz.	Lou Castellano
	POLLOCK	10		
	PORGY	1.5 lbs.		
	SEA BASS	2	2.5 lbs.	T.J. Taber
	STRIPED BASS	12		
	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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### Hey! Sea Bass Season is Open again



**Don Lohse**



**& Dave Nickolson**

**Know it.**

### Connecticut Angler May Have Caught a Record Shark

Ed Lovely spent six hours on August 6th reeling in a **700 lb. Thresher shark** which may be a new record for the largest shark caught in state waters.

Once out on the water, Lovely felt a huge tug on his line and it kept peeling fast off his reel. He knew he had something big, but no idea of the **16.5 foot shark** that did not want to be caught. At one point, he was in complete "awe" over the shark's head peeking out of the water.

Once the catch was completed, he and his friend found that it was too big for Lovely's boat and that it had to be rigged to the side of the boat to bring it to the dock to be weighed and certified.

Lovely is in talks with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to see if his catch is a new state record.

(Asbury Park Press, August 9, 2025)

### China's Dominance of Critical Minerals

China is the top producer of 30 of the 50 minerals the U.S. considers critical, and 90% of the 17 that comprise rare earth that are used in batteries for EV's and many electronic devices.

It normally takes 7 years to secure a permit for mining and the Trump administration is trying to remove these obstacles so that the U.S. can start mining its soil for these much needed minerals. For the first time in 70 years, the U.S. opened up a rare earth mine in Ranchester, Wyoming.

(New York Post, August 8, 2025)

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

Enclose a check in the amount of \$55 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:** \_\_\_\_\_