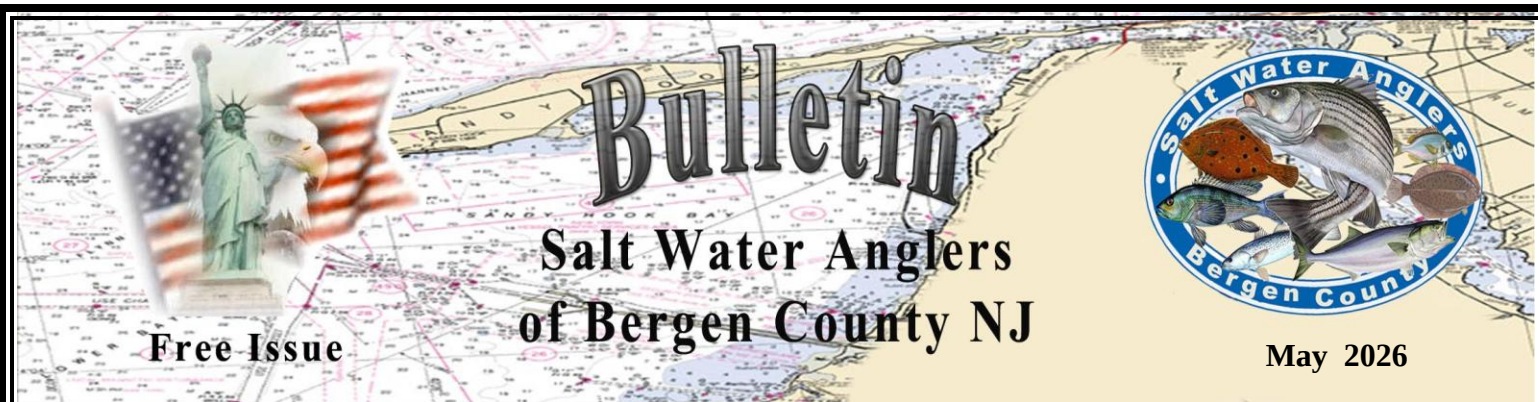




At The American Legion Hall, Post # 170, 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, N. J.

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Visit our revised Web page & try some of the new functions

www.swabc.org

**Hamza Issa's 38 lb. 6 oz. Striped Bass
is the 1st entry of the 2026 SWABC Big Fish Derby**



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

During our April 21st meeting, we drew the winners of our club's raffle and the lucky winners are posted in another section of this newsletter. I want to **Thank** all of you who supported our club's raffle program and especially to member **Fred Villanova** who administers it! With the striped bass season about to begin, Dave Lilly was our guest speaker to give us tips to catch more of them. He especially emphasized that anglers need to have a number of lures in their tackle box since stripers are sometimes finicky in what they want to hit. One day a jig with a red tail is the lure stripers can't resist and the next day the same red jigs don't work. Dave is a dynamic speaker and we can always learn something from him since he has won so many striped bass and fluke tournaments.

A number of our members, including myself, have gone on lobster/fluke combo trips when lobsters are brought up in the morning and the trip turns to catching fluke/sea bass in the afternoon. You get to take home big and fresh lobsters and the catch of the day. Accordingly, I invited Captains Jay Sullivan and Captain TJ to give us a brief presentation on his charter (Miss Magic) that he operates. It is a 6-pack charter based at Hoffman's Marina in Brielle. The cost of this trip is \$1,250 and Captain Jay Sullivan can be reached at (732) 547-0104 or www.missmagicsportfishing.com. Watching lobsters being pulled from traps in the morning is always a thrill to watch! With the start of our new fishing season, you can participate in our Big Fish Derby and the contest rules are in this newsletter. **Hamza Issa** is the first member to enter this Derby with a **38 lb. 6 oz. striped bass**. Turn in your affidavit to me at one of our club meetings along with a photo of your catch to tothjohn@verizon.net. I am always looking for photos of members catching fish to place in our newsletters and please send them to me at my email address

Our chef, Nico, prepared tasty blackfish along with rice, salad and brownies that are hard to resist. Member **Bill Fish** supplied the blackfish for Nico to prepare for us and **Thanks Bill!**

Member **Joe Mauro** has a few dollars to spend on fishing trip after winning our 50/50. We covered a lot of topics at this meeting with a raffle drawing, speakers to cover striped bass, a combo lobster/fluke trip and a nice meal to end the meeting.

May 19th Meeting – Al Durso – Gulp Guy

Al Durso was at our club's Flea Market and he had several tables of all types of Gulp to sell. Al will be at this meeting and he will have several tables of Gulp to sell at discounted prices. He will also explain how to best use Gulp to catch various types of fish and at different lighting conditions. Those of us who use Gulp, and that means almost everybody, should not miss this meeting.

June 16th Meeting – Captain Bob Henn – Presentation to Catch Fluke

Captain Bob Henn of Ebbside Fishing Charters will give us his tips to catch more fluke. With the fluke season heating up, this is the time we need to learn more strategies to increase our ability to bring more of them in the boat.

Aram Setian looks happy with his nice striper



In Memoriam – Captain Paul G. Fosberg – Viking Fishing Fleet

Captain Paul Fosberg of the Montauk Viking Fishing Fleet passed away at 86 years old. He took over the fleet from his father, Carl Fosberg and he designed and added new ships to this fleet.

Many of our club members have fished on Viking Fleet boats for many years even with his father ran the Viking fleet.

Welcome Aboard Edward Caravan & Daughter Carlie Pompton Lakes

No Limit Charter Vessel Sinks

The NO Limit Charter boat sank on February 3rd while fishing for tuna in the Carolinas. Fortunately, there was no loss of life since nearby boats rescued the anglers.

Rest in Peace Captain!

Club Charter trips for 2026

Our first club charter trip is **May 23rd** and Trip Captain Ralph DeJulia wants full payment in **Cash** for this trip and other trips (**Not Checks**) so that he can pay captains with hard cash. Paying in cash makes it easier for Ralph to handle all of these trips.

May 23rd – Club Charter on the Ebbitide Fishing boat for black sea bass docked at Atlantic Highlands – Leaving at 7:00 AM be there at 6:30AM Cost - \$125 includes tip.

June 20th - Club Charter trip for fluke on the Night Hawk for fluke at Atlantic Highlands – Cost \$120 includes tip – (trip full)

July 11th – Club Charter trip on the Debra Ann for fluke in Belmar – Cost \$115

August 15th – Club Charter trip on the Debra Ann for fluke in Belmar – Cost \$115 includes tip – (trip full)

New Charter Trips:

August 8th - Interclub fishing trip with the HRFA on the Ebbitide Charters in Atlantic Highlands- details below.

October 11th – Club Charter on the Debra Ann for sea bass – Cost \$125

November 21st – Club Charter trip for Blackfish on the Debra Ann – Cost \$125

Note: even though these trips may be full, you may want to be added to a standby roster in the event a member has to cancel due to a schedule conflict. Contact Ralph DeJulia to be to be on it.

The trip captain for all of these trips is **Ralph DeJulia** who has done a great job in setting them up! Ralph can be reached at **(201) 206-4506 or at newknee22@yahoo.com**

Interclub Fishing Trip – August 8th (SWABC vs. HRFA)

This trip with the Hudson River Fishermen's Association (HRFA) will be held on the Ebbitide Charters that holds about 20 anglers comfortably. This friendly competition between our two clubs will have 10 members from each club trying to win by catching the biggest fluke by weight. Our club won this tournament last year, much to the consternation of HRFA members and we want to win it again! Ten members from our club will be asked to fish in this tournament.

Garden State Surf Fishing Classic Tournament – May 17th

(formerly the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament) at Island Beach State Park

The name has changed since our governors have not attended it with the exception of Lt. Governor Kim Gordano, but it is still the former Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament with the same type of rules that apply to it. Ages 18 and older - \$15, Ages 13- 17 \$5, Ages 12 and under – Free.

For More information, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com or (609) 947-1201

Date for Cub's Youth Trip Set – July 17th

We will be taking kids from the Garfield YMCA on July 17th on the MiJo for our club's annual Youth Trip. We took these kids last year on the MiJo and they were so enthusiastic about fishing and they were a joy to watch them catch fish. As soon as the boat stopped, these kids would rush to the rails to catch fish and were excited to bring them in. Tom Tyls will be taking names of members who want to volunteer to assist kids in catching fish. Tom can be reached at (201) 575-3740 or at tatys@aol.com.

The MiJo is docked at Atlantic Highlands and we will depart around 8:00 a.m.- return around 2:00 p.m. We sail in local waters to avoid high seas so the kids do not get sick. There is a galley on board for breakfast and lunch. **Please do not bring any alcohol on board.**

Our club has been taking youths on club charter fishing trips for many years starting at the end of WW 11 and only stopped once during the time we had COVID that stopped fishing altogether. The benefits of our taking kids on these trips are many and they include **introducing them to nature** first and foremost! They are so excited when they see sharks coming on board the ship or whales and dolphins swimming around us. Many of these kids go on to becoming salt water anglers because of their catching their first fish and we need more young anglers in this sport. Finally, **we give kids a good time on the water**, even for some kids that come from broken homes.

Member **Alex Rubino** donated \$2,000 to pay for this July trip for the kids! **Thank you so much Alex** for your continued support to help our club finance this charter on the MiJo that the kids enjoy so much!

Club Raffle Prizes

The drawing of raffle tickets was held on April 21st at our regularly scheduled club meeting at the American Legion Post # 170. The winners of this raffle follow:

1. **Charter Fishing Trip on the Fins on Feathers Charters - \$800 value**
Captain Frank Tenore - 125 Concord Ave., Leonardo, NJ. (Gratuity not included). – Jason Bertero
2. **JW Rod JW-X 761 C-H with Seagate 20 H – \$290 value- John Farrell**
3. **JW Onyx S 701 H Rod, Shield 600 Reel – \$230 Value – Jan McDonald**
4. **2 Tickets for the Party Boat “Fisherman”- \$200 value – Shane Whelan**
5. **Gift Certificate – Jigging World, 175 Rt.17, Rochelle Park, NJ 07667 - \$100 value. – Jim Catanzaro**

Update on Locations for Past President's Dinner and 2027 Flea Market

By John Toth

We have had our Past President's Dinner at the Mountainside Inn for over 15 years and our dinner there in March was terrible and we will not go there again. We are also looking for a new location to have our 2027 Flea Market since the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton rental is expensive and most likely will increase. Our Board members, especially **Gene Snyder**, has been looking at alternate venues for these functions and they are:

For our President's Dinner – the Brownstone in Paterson or the Graycliff in Moonachie

For the Flea Market – the Paramus Elks Lodge

Our Board will make decisions on these new venues soon and they will be announced published once it's passed.

A "Jaws" Hoax

By John Toth

During the movie "JAWS", people on the beach were nervous going into the water due to the hysteria that sharks were waiting nearby to kill them and their blood would turn the nearby water red. Lifeguards were constantly looking for any signs of sharks. When they spotted a fin sticking out of the water, they warned people and they rushed to shore to escape this menacing shark that was posed to kill them. In the movie, the shark turned out to be a hoax perpetrated by kids holding up a fake shark fin in the water.

A similar hoax happened in 1975 at a private Jersey shore beach in Toms River and the person or persons who carried off the hoax are a mystery to this day. A lifeguard, Jim Dougherty, has always suspected that the stunt was pulled off by surfers at nearby Normandy Shores who wanted to get one over on them. Dougherty reported that he and other lifeguards had confrontations with surfers all summer long who were impeding on the swimming section of this beach and lifeguards were telling them to move. Beachgoers, like in the JAWS movie, were very vigilant about sighting sharks and even a bird in the water looked like a shark to them and lifeguards would have to launch their 18-foot wooden boats to check on reports like this and other shark reports. They turned out mostly to be false alarms.

However, on August 14th, it appeared beachgoers worst fears had materialized when a "huge shark fin" was spotted 100 yards off the beach. The fin was bouncing up and down in the ocean water. This news

travelled fast and crowds of people began to gather on the wet sand. The lifeguards pulled everybody out of the water and while they were upset about it, they were happy to be out of it when they heard about this new shark threat.

Dougherty and another lifeguard launched their boat to check out this shark and nervously approached it. When they got to 50 yards and then 20 yards, the shark was still there and something did not seem right. When they finally got to the fin, they found a piece of Styrofoam shaped as a fin, painted black on a piece of plywood on a rudder anchored by a fishing weight, something similar to the scene in the movie "JAWS" although in that scene the fake fin was pulled by two kids in scuba gear.

When the lifeguards got back to the beach, some people laughed while others booed the lifeguards. Some beachgoers were skeptical and some thought that the lifeguards even staged this event. Dougherty said that most people just laughed off this event, but the world was different then. Today, people would not get away from pulling a stunt like this.

(Asbury Park Press, July 23, 2025)

Diver Spears Record Winter Flounder

Jared Smith went diving on July 21st with the intention of spearing some fluke and lobster. He dove 125 feet to a wreck, R.P. Resorwreck, a 435 - foot oil tanker sunk by a German submarine during WWII. He saw a patch of big winter flounder by the tanker and shot a dart in to a snowshoe that turned out to be **3.82 lbs.!**

He had it officially weighed at two locations and submitted it to NJ's DEP. It is now recognized as NJ's new state record in the diving category, beating the previous record holder by 1.2 ounces set in 2018.

(Asbury Park Press, October 3, 2025)

Mark your Calendar Sea Bass Opens May 15th



2026 Big Fish Contest

1. Fish must be in season.
2. **The fish can only be caught in New Jersey & New York waters.**
3. The fish entered must 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 the Dec. meeting of a given year must be received by the January meeting of the following year.

Any member who knowingly submits a false affidavit, faces expulsion from the club.

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	38 lbs. 6 oz.	Hamza Issa
	Trigger Fish	1lb. 8 oz.		
	WEAKFISH	2		



SALT WATER ANGLERS OF BERGEN COUNTY FISHING CONTEST AFFIDAVIT



ANGLERS NAME: _____
 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.

Date submitted with picture: _____

Caught from: ___Boat ___Surf - **Date:** _____

Name of Boat: _____

Port: _____

Where caught: _____

Signature of Angler _____

SPECIES **LBS.** **OZS**

Witnessed by: _____

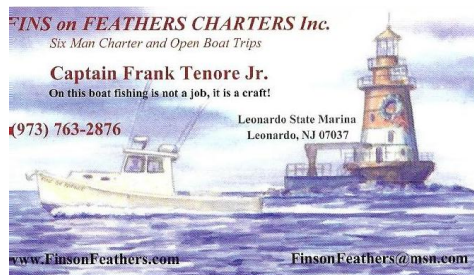
1. _____

Address: _____

2. _____

Phone No. _____

3. _____



Blackfish (or cod, Pollock) with Potatoes & Red Peppers

Ingredients:

- ☐ 4 Tablespoons of oil (canola or olive oil)
- ☐ 3 or 4 potatoes, sliced thin, about ¼ inch or so (they cook faster)
- ☐ 3 onions, sliced thin about ¼ inch or so
- ☐ 3 or 4 red peppers – cut them up so they are large bite sized.
- ☐ blackfish – at least 2 lbs. or so. This is good left over, so more may be better. (First pat them dry on paper towels to get the water out)
- ☐ Salt to discretion.
- ☐ Black pepper – nice dash or ☐ White pepper – nice dash if you have it.
- ☐ Several cloves of garlic - peeled, crushed or chopped , or a good dash of garlic powder.
- ☐ ¼ cup of chopped parsley
- ☐ 2 Tablespoons of butter (cut the butter so that it is in pats about ¼ inch)

Preparation:

- ☐ Heat a large skillet with the oil.
- ☐ Add the onions and sauté them over medium heat. A few minutes or so.
- ☐ Add the sliced potatoes – cook them so that they are ½ done - check with a knife – the potatoes should stick to the knife a little.
- ☐ Add the red peppers, cook until they are almost, but not completely done.
- ☐ Add fish fillets on top, cut up in about 3-4 inches.
- ☐ Add the spices on top of the fish & place the butter pats on top of the fish.
- ☐ Cover and cook the fish so that it is done. Usually a little longer after you see the butter melted. Move the skillet off the burner when the butter has melted and let stand for about 5-10 minutes. You want the juices of the fish to melt into the potatoes and peppers.

This dish creates delicious juices, so you want to have bread (the type with sesame seeds on top) to sop up the juices. Have a nice bottle of wine (your choice) chilled and enjoy. This dish is a very balanced dish and you do not need much more than good wine and bread! If you have leftovers, this fish is even better the next day! Enjoy!

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: _____