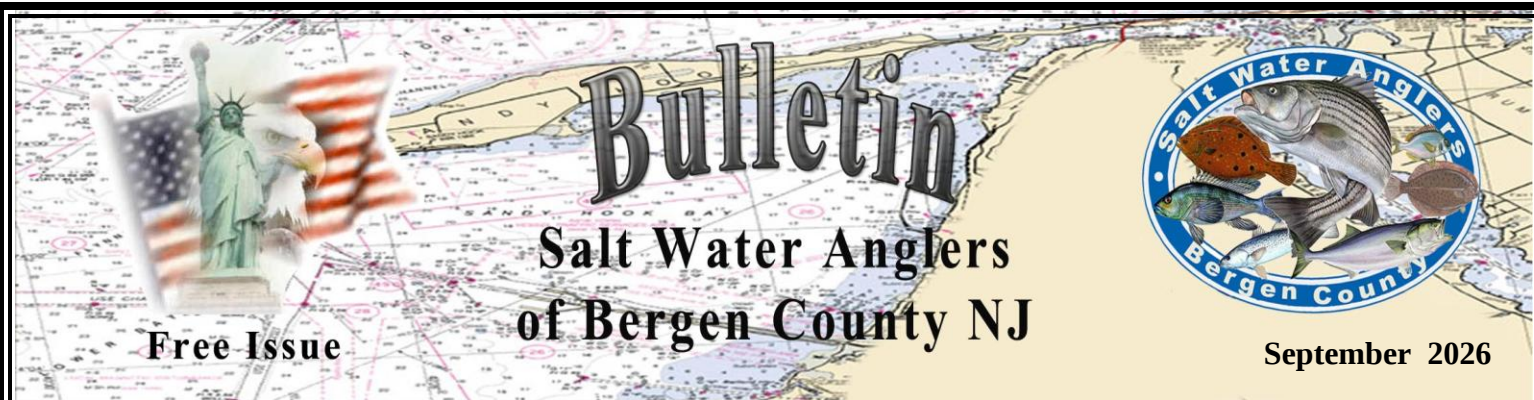




At The American Legion Hall, Post # 170, 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, N. J.

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www.swabc.org

Ebbtide Fishing Trip Results



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

Justin Saginor is in charge of the American Littoral Society's fish tagging program and he was the guest speaker at our August 18th meeting to give a presentation about it. Justin explained that it is very useful for fishing management to determine how fish migrate and their growth and aging. Justin took questions from our members and his presentation was well received by us.

The Hudson River Fisherman's Association (HRFA) won our Interclub fishing tournament and its president, Joe Albanese, was at our meeting to accept the trophy from us since we won this contest last year. This tournament was fun and we will do it again next year and most likely we will be the winner of it! A summary of this trip is in another section of this newsletter.

Ralph DeJulia gave a report on our club's August 15th charter trip and while fish were caught, the seas turned rough making it difficult to fish. Ralph also asked members to jump on board to other trips planned for this year and the status of these trips are in another section of this newsletter. Don Lohse picked up a nice fluke on this August trip.

On August 16th, I booked a charter trip on the Miss Magic that sails out of Hofmann's Marina for lobsters and then a half day of fluke fishing. A total of 19 lobsters were picked up and we all went home with fresh lobsters and some fluke fillets. The seas again turned rough and we had to sail to port early so we don't get banged around. It is not worth having broken arms, legs and other body parts since fish will be around for us to fish again!

Sal Crochiola sold our new club hats at this meeting, along with Don Burns and Dominic Caiazza selling club shirts and surf plugs and sunglasses.

We had pizza delivered from a local pizza place and they were good

Tom Bornemann was a lucky member again because he won our 50/50.

Lou Castellano (Uncle Lou) is in charge of selling our 50/50 tickets.

Hamza Issa is also in charge of our Dark Horse prizes and thanks to him we had nice rods on hand as prizes.

September 15th Meeting –

Pedro Ildefonso

Pedro will be speaking at this meeting about his custom rods, including Tsunami and providing guidance on which rods to use for different types of fishing applications. His presentation will include visual support to enhance his presentation and the practical uses of the rods. (Pedro is just a teenager and he has incredible knowledge about fishing at a young age and the ability to present his knowledge to the public).

Jim Zimmer Fluke Contest

This contest is being held in memory of Jim Zimmer who liked catching fluke and passed away a number of years ago. A **\$50 prize in cash** will be given to a member of our club who catches the biggest fluke each month during July and August.

The winner of the July contest is **Jim Catanzaro with a 3.88 lbs. fluke** and Jim donated his \$50 winnings back to the club! The rules of our Big Fish Derby apply for this contest. The entry fee is only \$1. Please see member Don Lohse to enter this contest at our meetings or call him at (201) 832 -1298.

Pictures from the Debra Ann trip Sal Crochiola



Mike Prelich



New Charter Trips:

September 12th – Club Charter trip for fluke on the Ebbside – Cost \$125. (A few spots are open).

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

November 21st – Club Charter trip for blackfish on the Debra Ann – Cost \$125 (full).

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 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

Club Charter trips for 2026

Trip Captain Ralph DeJulia wants full payment in **Cash** for all 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. Also, when you sign up for one of the charters, **you are responsible for the payment of that trip.** If you decide not to go or don't show up- you are still responsible for the payment. You must inform Ralph if you cannot go. That is the only way to remove your name and take care of any financial responsibility for any fishing trip. If you have any questions about the trip, please do not call the captain of the boat, call Ralph since he is the Trip Captain for all of our trips.

John Toth handing over the Inter-club Trophy to Joe Albanese of the HRFA



Recap of the Interclub Trip on the Ebbside with the SWABC and the HRFA

By John Toth

We set sail at 7:00 a.m. in the morning of August 8th with 10 members from each club with the purpose of which club can catch the biggest fluke. I met with HRFA President, Joe Albanese, to set the ground rules of this trip and it stipulates that which club that catches the biggest fluke by weight, not length, is the winner of this contest. All types of fish like striped bass, bluefish and other species are excluded from this contest.

The day started off reasonably cool and then it gradually increased to 94 to 95 degrees with expected thunderstorms in the afternoon to late evening. Member Sal Crochiola caught the first keeper fluke on the boat and later went on to catch a fluke over 6 lbs! When Sal caught that big fluke, I thought for sure that we would win this contest. However, Jeff Grabowski from the HRFA also picked up a big fluke and I knew that it would be a close call to determine the winner and in the end Jeff's fluke was slightly bigger than Sal's fish. A total of 17 keeper fluke were caught with many smaller ones thrown back. We would have done better if we had stronger winds to move our boat to cover more ground. We fished by Monmouth Beach and Shrewsbury Rocks. Nevertheless, we had fun fishing together and making fun of ourselves by teasing each other over catching the biggest fluke. We will do this interclub fishing trip next year. We won this trip last year, lost it this year and we most surely will win it in 2027!

New Projector for our Club – Thanks to TJ!

Tom Taber (TJ) was able to receive a projector from his company that it no longer needed. It has a value of about \$700 and a number of times speakers scheduled for our club ask for one and now we can provide if needed. Thanks to TJ!.

With this new projector and screen, does any member have a presentation on a fishing-related topic that we can use to show at our meetings? If so, please contact John Toth at (732) 656-0139.

New Hats for our Club

Member Sal Crochiola has worked with a vendor to develop new club hats that look sharp and have a nice club logo on its front. They are on sale at \$25 and Sal will have them on hand for sale at this meeting.

Where have all of the Bunker (Menhaden) Gone?

By John Toth

A number of years ago, Bruce Franklin, a professor from Rutgers University, published a book with the title “Menhaden, the Most Important Fish in the Sea”. In this book, he describes how so many marine species rely on this fish and its important role in our marine ecosystem. If bunkers are not around in our waters, bluefish and stripers are also not around since they forage on bunker. Ospreys also depend on bunkers as their food source and so many other marine-related species like dolphins and whales. Bunkers filter our waters, feed our wildlife and support our fisheries. While the stocks of bunker have been in decline, most recently it seems that these fish are not prevalent in our waters like they used to be, especially during this year. Even bait shops don't have them like they had in the past. Many Osprey nests are seen empty since chicks do not have food to eat.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) met during August 4-6 in Arlington Virginia and on its agenda was what to do about the lack of bunker in our marine ecosystem. Paul Eidman, Founder and President of Menhaden Defenders and a member of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, read a statement to the ASMFC board and gave reasons why bunker are in decline and they include the following:

- Omega Protein are experts in catching bunker and are now flying spotter planes hundreds of miles from Readville to Cape Cod Bay searching for what remains of the adult bunker biomass so that they can maximize their yields. Their vessels stream hundreds of miles to the New York-New Jersey Bight and return with only partial loads – almost entirely pre-spawn juveniles, just 6 to 8 inches long, fish that have never contributed a single egg to the future of this stock.
- The Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary on the East Coast – is dying before our eyes is being exploited while its key forage fish is being ground into dog food and taking the most vital food source out of this estuary - and out of the mouths of striped bass, osprey chicks, and more – makes zero sense. It is insane.
- The ASMFC has catered to Omega Protein's push for the highest possible harvest levels, even after the stock was previously declared overfished. Yes, we recognize that the stock is not classified as overfished at this moment, but the record shows exactly where this approach leads – right back to overfishing and ecosystem and decline.

- Every Atlantic coast state has already stopped reduction fishing inside the 3 mile line – except Virginia, which continues to allow Mega Protein to remove roughly **a billion menhaden a year** to be ground into pet and agriculture feed.
- Menhaden Defenders calls on this Board to take meaningful action now: suspend or restrict the reduction fishery, push Omega Protein out of the Chesapeake Bay past the 3-mile line, cut the quota by 50 percent – especially in the Bay, expand independent ecosystem - based research, and align management with the Commission's own ecosystem-based framework.
- **Nature is not whispering – it is shouting.** The ecosystem is failing in plain sight. You have the authority, the responsibility, and the obligation to act now. Delay is not caution – delay is collapse. Put the ecosystem first. Protect the forage base.
Do your job.

It seems that the ASMFC is moving to reducing the reduction fishery landings cap in the Chesapeake Bay. How will the ASMFC take meaningful steps to help the bunker industry bounce back to a healthy fishery remains to be seen. Omega Protein has money and political power to thwart any challenge to its lucrative bunker industry. As the saying goes –Money talks and BS walks!

Ray Pharaoh being congratulated by Frank Rella



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.	3.6 lbs.	Don Lohse
	FLUKE	4	6 lbs. 12 oz.	Sal Crochiola
	LING	2		
	POLLOCK	10		
	PORGY	1lb.8oz.	3 lbs	Jeff Criswell Sr.
	SEA BASS	2	2.65 lbs	Jeff Criswell Sr.
	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. _____

Here's Dominic Caiazza & Ralph DeJulia with their catch on the Debra Ann Trip



Ebbtide Fishing Trip



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: _____