




Bulletin

Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County NJ



Free Issue October 2019

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

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09/13/2019 23:45

One of our Pig Roast Chefs – Art Vrola

Stories & Events

- [Page 2](#) – Presidents Corner, Speaker Schedule & New Club Dues Policy
- [Page 3](#) – 2019 & 2020 Events, Beefsteak Dinner, Club Flea Market, Striped Bass Bonus Tag
- [Page 4](#) – Summary of Public Comments at Striped Bass Hearing by John Toth
- [Page 5](#) – Pictures of the Beef Steak BBQ & 2019 Big Fish Contest Affidavit
- [Page 6](#) – Beef Steak Dinner Flyer

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 8:00 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 and participation if you choose in our 50/50 and dark horse drawings. Welcome all; we hope you enjoy the evening.

President's Corner

For our club's September 17th meeting, we had Bob Hryszko as our guest speaker and he gave us a very informative presentation on using fishing rods. His presentation included such topics as how to use rods to reach their best performance, what types to use for various species and how rods work best for the user. When he first came to our meeting, he told me that he has never given a presentation on fishing rods to any club or organization! He said that his approach to us would be like he would be talking to an angler who just walked into Grumpys Tackle shop in Seaside Park, NJ where he works and asked "what type of rod should I buy." All through his presentation, you could not hear a pin drop and when our meeting hall is quiet with all of us anglers, you know he was giving us good information on using the right fishing rod for what we want to do. When Bob finished and I told our members that he has never done this before, he received a big round of applause! I think Bob has launched a new speaking career that began with the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County!

While Bob was speaking, there was a nice smell coming from our kitchen and Nico made delicious calm & linguini along with salad and pineapple upside down cake! Thanks for another good meal Nico! Our 50/50 winner was Jeff Schwarz with a winning of **\$192**, and he donated **\$50** of it towards our fund to take youths on our annual fishing trip! **Thank You for your generosity Jeff!**

Craig Zincavage organized our club's Pig Roast/Picnic that was held on September 14th at the American Legion's pavilion. This pig roast started at 1:00 p.m., but Craig wanted volunteers to show up at 9:00 a.m. to set up tables and to ensure that all was in order. I showed up at 8:20 a.m. and did not expect to see many of our members to be at the pavilion that early. I was surprised to see so many of our members already there working to get things ready for our 1:00 p.m. start time. When our picnic was over, so many members chipped in to put the tables away and assist in the clean up. I was amazed how fast the pavilion was cleaned up in such a short time period! It looked like we were never there!

In my many years of being involved with various fishing clubs and organizations, I have witnessed so many of them struggling to get members to volunteer to do anything. We do not have that problem! Our club has a nice "**Can Do**" spirit going for it and our members go out of their way to make things happen. I cannot **Thank You enough** for making our events so successful! More information on this Pig Roast/Picnic is in another section of this bulletin.

On another note, our club may have lost a little money by holding this event, but our club does **NOT exist to make money on every event!** Our club exists to have fun together with our passion for fishing and friendship with our membership. This event was not a club meeting, but an event to have fun socializing with each other. That is what a good fishing club is all about!

Speaker for our October 15th Meeting

Frank Mihalic – Blackfish

Frank Mihalic has an **excellent power point presentation** on black fish for our club that should **not be missed** by anglers who want to catch these tasty fish. This presentation is the type anglers pay to see it at fishing seminars. Frank will show up at our meeting early, around 6:30 – 7:00 p.m., and he will talk about the black fish rigs he uses and how they work to their best advantage. No matter what level of skill you have in catching blackfish, you will walk away with some points in landing more of these fish in your cooler.

Payment of 2019 Club Dues

At our club's August 13 Board meeting, Board members discussed moving the date when club members need to pay their dues by **February 2020**. Currently, club by laws indicate that club dues need to be paid by the end of April. This change makes it easier for our membership secretary to keep track of dues payment instead of stretching it over 4 months. Also, this change facilitates the giving of club raffle tickets in a shorter time period instead of 4 months. The club by laws will be changed to reflect that change.

Pig Roast/Picnic

Approximately 80 members and guests attended our pig roast/picnic and the weather was nice to make it even a better day! Having the picnic under the Legion's pavilion guarantees a protection from all of the elements and even a scorching sun. We had plenty to eat with clams (that were so delicious) hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, London broil, potato salad, macaroni salad, baked beans, soda beer and wine and of course pig that Craig prepared himself on the grounds with hot charcoal. All of that with for only \$25!

To make this all happen, we had so many volunteers and they included: Jim Galanaugh Jr., Nico, Jim Zimmer, Chuck Santoro, Glen Peckel, Mike Peluso, Jim Piobino, Art Vrola, Mark Capalbo, Don Lohse, Jeff Schwarz, Rick Reitano, Joe Ruggerio, Amy Zincavage, Ken Lesenko (hope nobody was overlooked since members just popped up out of nowhere to put things away after the event with record speed like we were not even there! Dale and Ronnie from the Legion did a great job as bartenders and the beer (Bud & Bud Light) was especially good and fresh with just tapped kegs! Rick Reitano brought the clams and he and Mark Capalbo shucked the clams during the event. We had a DJ playing all types of good music and the kids had a great time getting their faces painted, along with some of our members. The kids also received cotton candy from a machine Jeff Schwarz was operating.

A **Big Thanks goes to Craig Zincavage and his lovely wife Amy** for pulling this fun event all together and also to our members for volunteering their time and effort to make it all happen!

2019 & 2020 Events

The following is a list of **charter fishing trips** and events that that our club is either holding or participating in. Craig Zincavage and John Piazza are Trip Captains for the following charter fishing trips. Craig can be reached at (973-234-9618) or at zincman70@yahoo.com. John Piazza can be reached at (201) 647-5350.

November 2nd – Fins on Feathers – Sea Bass – Leonardo - John Piazza - Trip Captain

November 9th – **Beefsteak Dinner** – at the club’s meeting location (American Legion) – not a club meeting – just an excuse to have a good time!

November 16th – MiMi VI – Blackfish – Craig Zincavage - Trip Captain

November 21st – Fishmonger – Blackfish – Craig Zincavage – Trip Captain (**New**)

November 23rd– Fins on Feathers – Blackfish – John Piazza - Trip Captain

December 7th – Fins on Feathers – Blackfish – John Piazza – Trip Captain (**New**)

2020

January 9th – 12th – Garden State Outdoor Sports Show

February 13th – 16th – New Jersey Boat Sale & Expo

February 15th - Club Flea Market –Hasbrouck Heights Hilton

March 13th – 15th – Salt Water Fishing Expo

March 24th – Past President’s Dinner at Mountainside Inn, Clifton

Club Beefsteak Dinner – November 9th

Our club is going to have an **all you can eat** catered beefsteak dinner on **November 19th at our regular meeting location – American Legion Post # 170.** The caterer (Nightingale from Clifton) did a similar beefsteak dinner last with us last year and the steak was delicious, tender and kept on coming. This is **NOT** a club meeting where we read minutes, do business and have a speaker etc., but it is just a fun night and one to enjoy the company of our members and our wives and friends. The price per person is **\$50** and **includes all you can eat beefsteak with delicious fries, salad, beer, wine, soft drinks, coffee, tea and dessert.** This dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. and ends around 9:00 p.m. So, mark your calendar for November 9th for good food and company at our club’s regular meeting place! We will also have nice tricky tray prizes and a 50/50 raffle. **Tickets for this dinner will start to be on sale at our October 15th meeting.** Please see Craig Zincavage at this meeting to buy your tickets or call him at (973) 234-9618. He can also be reached at zincman70@yahoo.com.

Welcome Aboard

Bob Rini & Mary Hopson
Rochelle Park

Club Flea Market - February 15, 2020

Our club will hold its annual Flea Market at the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton on February 15th (Saturday). The cost of a table is \$40 and they are 6 feet long. Tables are moving fast and over 60 have already been sold. Craig Zincavage is in charge of our Flea Market and he can be reached at (973) 234-9618 for more information. More information on this event will be posted in future bulletins as we move closer to the date of it.

Club Shirts & Hoodies on Sale

Our club shirts and hoodies are on sale and will be available for purchase at our meetings. The shirts cost **\$15 each** or you can buy **two of the shirts at \$25.** The colors of the shirts are blue and tan with a picture on the back of the shirts of a fluke, striped bass and a bluefish. All these shirts have a pocket. The hoodies are gray in color with the same design on the back. The hoodies cost **\$25.** The shirts and hoodies look sharp and the pictures of fish on the back of them are eye-catching! See member Don Lohse to purchase them at our meetings.

Striped Bass Bonus Tag Program

The striped bass Bonus Tag program goes into effect on September 1st and this Bonus Tag can be used until December 31st. This Bonus Tag allows anglers to catch one striped bass from **24 to less than 28 inches.** In addition to this Bonus Tag fish, one striper from **28 to 43 inches** and another one at **43 inches or greater** are permitted to be caught. The Bonus Tag fish **does not have to follow any order of catch** and it can be used for the first striper caught. To apply for this Bonus Tag, just Goggle “**New Jersey Striped Bass Bonus Program**” and you will be in the NJ DEP website for the Tag. Don’t delay contacting the NJ Fish & Wildlife to get your tag since the striped bass may start to be coming in during September. Application deadline for the Bonus Tag is October 31st.

New Records for Cobia in New Jersey

Joe Cunningham of Cape May Courthouse made his way onto the state **spear fishing** record for a cobia he speared on August 11th. He was free diving off Sea Isle City when he got the fish. It weighed **74.5 lbs.** and was **14.5 pounds** more than the previous record.

The **rod & reel** record was made August 9th and confirmed by NJ Fish & Wildlife on August 22nd. Len Andalis of Philadelphia reeled in a **90.6-pound cobia while flounder fishing** on McCrie Shoal, located off Cape May. His catch bested the previous rod & reel record by a little more than 3 pounds.

New Jersey does not get a whole lot of cobia. This fish is more common in the South Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico, but it ranges as far north as Long Island in the summer according to NOAA. (Dan Radel, Asbury Park Press, September 13, 2019).

Summary of Public Comments at Striped Bass Hearing in the Bay Avenue Community Center in Manahawkin, NJ September 12, 2019

By John Toth

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) published Striped Bass Addendum VI in response to the overfishing of striped bass. The ASMFC has proposed options to help bring back the stocks of this fish to a higher level and two of the options have a least an 18 % reduction or more of our striped bass quota during 2020. The ASMFC scheduled several hearings to receive public comments on these options, and I attended the one that was held at the Community Center in Manahawkin. This meeting lasted for about 2 ½ hours and I will try to present only the main points presented at this meeting.

The format of this meeting was to first give an overview of the Addendum and its three options, solicit questions from the audience **only** on the overview of this addendum and then hear comments from the attendees on this addendum. There were about 100 in attendance and a significant number of them were boat captains and others very concerned about the striped bass fishery. I have been to many of these management types of meetings and I can't recall seeing so many boat captains at this one.

The three options included:

1. Status Quo – no change
2. Reductions of 18% or more for both the recreational & commercial anglers
3. Reductions of 20% for recreational & 1.8 % for commercial anglers. (Striped bass is a game fish and is not commercially harvested in New Jersey. In other eastern states, commercial fishing for striped bass is legal).

Options 1 received limited discussion since almost everybody in the room recognized that something has to be done to improve striped bass stocks. Only one person supported Option 1. Nobody supported Option 3 that would impose a 20% reduction for the recreational sector and only 1.8% for the commercial industry. It also received little discussion.

Option 2 (That all jurisdictions would implement) received the most discussion and this option has several sub options:

Sub- Option (2-A1) One Bag Limit - 35 inches minimum – 18% reduction

Sub – Option (2-A2) One Bag Limit - 28-35 inches- slot – 19% reduction

Sub- Option (2-A3) One bag Limit -30-38 inches - slot – 18% reduction

Sub-Option (2 - A4) One Bag Limit - 32-40 inches - slot- 21% reduction

Included in this Addendum is the use of circle hooks to catch bass – should their use be mandatory or preferred.

With 100 anglers or more in the room, consensus on the above sub options could not be achieved, but most anglers preferred (2-A1) 35 inches and also the Sub- Option (2-A2) - 28- 35 inches slot. Only one fishing club preferred Sub-Option- (2-A4) 32- 40 slot inches which provide a 21% reduction.

In regard to circle hooks, a number of anglers wanted their use to be mandatory to reduce mortality of striped bass. It is estimated by the ASMFC that 9% of striped bass die when

returned to the sea. Other anglers indicated that the use of circle hooks should only be **encouraged** since surf anglers would have difficulty in using them to land fish. Anglers use bunker spoons to troll for bass and circle hooks would not be effective for trolling. Tackle shops would be adversely affected since they would not be able to sell bunker spoons and similar tackle to land bass.

Our NJ DEP representatives, and not the staff from the ASMFC, conducted this meeting. That is a very positive development since it shows that our state is listening to what NJ's anglers have to say about striped bass. The ASMFC will review all of the comments made by anglers during this comment period that will last until October 7th. It is most likely that the ASMFC will approve all or most of the options of 2 and 3 and their sub-options later that month. What this means is that these options could be pre-approved by the ASMFC and states can choose one of them. However, this addendum allows for Conservation Equivalency which means that each state will be allowed to develop its own striped bass regulation provided it results in the mandated reduction of at least 18%. For example, a state might choose a minimum size of 28 inches but reduce the length of their season. However, what the state chooses as its regulation has to be submitted to the technical committee of the ASMFC for approval to ensure that it meets the 18% reduction. The New Jersey Marine Fishery Council will meet possibly in November or later in January with its advisors to discuss the striped bass regulation it wants to have for our state in 2020.

There were many comments and questions raised during the presentation of the three options and I will give you a sample of them:

- Sandmining is destroying our fishing grounds and, consequently, our ability to catch not only striped bass, but other fish like fluke and bluefish. Have you taken into account how sandmining is contributing to the 18% reduction of our striped bass quota?
- Sea bass stocks are up by 230% according to ASMFC numbers, yet the fishing seasons for them are so restricted in spite of their abundance. If we could fish for them like we should, it would take some of the pressure off striped bass fish.
- Close striped bass fishing during their spawning season.
- Close striped bass in the summer months since their release in warm waters increases their mortality.
- Striped bass is a game fish and cannot be sold in New Jersey, yet other states allow it, especially Massachusetts that issues 3,500 permits to boats to allow commercial fishing and selling striped bass. While we are fighting over crumbs, the guys in Massachusetts are laughing at us!
- The data used to show striped bass stocks are in trouble are so wrong – just a guess! (This comment was made several times).
- Circle hooks are difficult to use for many anglers not accustomed to them.



SWABC

Beefsteak Dinner

Saturday 11/9/19 (6 PM - 9PM)

American Legion Post#170

33 West Passaic Street

Rochelle Park, N.J.

\$50.00 Per Person



The SWABC will be holding an all you can eat Beefsteak Dinner. This delicious all you can eat beefsteak dinner will be served by Nightingale Catering. The dinner will consist of Salad, French Fries, Beefsteak, Dessert, Tap Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks, Coffee and Tea. A cash bar will also be available. **There will be a fabulous tricky tray auction consisting of items for both men and women along with a 50/50 drawing. To reserve your tickets, see Craig Zincavage or contact him at 973-234-9618 or by email Zincman70@yahoo.com. **TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.****