

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

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## Winners of the 2019 Big Fish Contest - Plaques & Gift Cards given out to:



**Jeff Criswell Sr.,** ↑ **Mark Capalbo** ↑  
**Jeff Schwarz,** **Rick Swarthe**



### 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 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

We held our September 15<sup>th</sup> club meeting in the Legion instead of the Legion's outside pavilion. It was nice to be in the Legion's hall since the weather turned out to be a little chilly. Also, the hall has better lighting and with a pull-down screen for our speaker to use for his power point presentation. Our future club meetings will be held in the Legion and not at their outside pavilion. Our meetings will start at their regular time of 8:00 p.m.

Our speaker was Michael Sardinias and he gave an excellent presentation on surf fishing! He covered just about everything you need to know about it that included casting, plugs to use, clothing for it, and the equipment that you need to carry with you. Surf fishing is a family affair for Michael and he brought his lovely wife to our meeting along with his son who will definitely grow up to be just like Michael as an avid surf angler. It was a pleasure to have Michael as our speaker and his family at our meeting!

Nico made tasty rotisserie chicken, salad, potato salad and cookies for our refreshments. Thank You Nico! John Piazza won out 50/50 prize of **\$147!** It was good to be back in the Legion's hall with an excellent speaker and the good company of our members!

## Note from Pat Zimmer

As mentioned in our September bulletin, we lost our long-time member Jim Zimmer and at his wake, we performed a special ceremony asking our Lord to take him into his bosom. A number of our members were in attendance to pay their respects for Jim. At the end of this ceremony, Pat Zimmer thanked us for having this ceremony along with his son Brian. Pat sent a note to our club with this message:

### To all of Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County

"Jim loved his club. I know he was looking down when you did the prayer. He was a good husband, father and grandfather. The club was his second family".

## Note from Butch Pawson

Butch Pawson (former president of our club) lost his wife Patricia who also was an active member of our club and participated in our Youth Outreach Trips among other activities. We received the following note from Butch:

### To the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County

"From the Pawson family, we wish to thank you for the lovely flowers you sent to Patricia. Thank You!" (Butch, Brian, David, Michelle & Joey Pawson)

## Weird but True

A survey of 1,000 people conducted by the UK marketing research firm OnePoll found the desire for fast food spiked amid the coronavirus crisis. (NY Post, July 25, 2020).

## October 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Eddie Goodell

Eddie Goodell manufactures Toggy Times jigs that are especially made for catching blackfish. These jigs have a unique design to present bait better. He will give us a power point presentation on the effectiveness of his jigs and they will be for sale. This will be a very interesting meeting and a timely one with the blackfish season upon us. Don't miss it!

## Upcoming Club Events

**October 30<sup>th</sup>** – Club Trip on the Fishmonger – Craig Zincavage Captain

**November 21<sup>st</sup>** – Black Fish trip – Leonardo – John Piazza Trip Captain (filled)

## 2021

**Garden State Show – January 7 – 21**

**Boat Show – February 18- 21**

**Salt Water Expo – March 19- 21**

All three shows will be held at the Garden State Convention Center. Given the unknown course of COVID-19 at this time, we shall see if these shows take place.

**John Farnell** with an 8 lb. fluke caught on the Fish Monger charter



## This Whale's Harrowing Tale Is No Exaggeration

A juvenile humpback whale was spotted by the entrance to New York harbor. While it is always nice to see whales in our waters, something seemed wrong with it. On closer inspection, the whale's tail was entangled in a thatch of fishing gear – rope, netting, buoys, and cables that seemed to be anchoring the whale to the seafloor.

Experts from the Atlantic Marine Conservation Society and the Army Corps of Engineers used bolt cutters and hacksaws for three days to remove all of the debris that was wrapped around this whale!

This rescue got off to a slow start since the whale's tail was weighed down about **20 feet** below the water's surface. Crews could barely see the fishing gear they were trying to untangle. The rescuers are not allowed to submerge themselves since the risk of their entanglement is too great. Instead, they worked with small inflatable boats that let them get close to the whale.

By the third morning of the rescue, a new plan was needed to free this whale. A ship provided by Monmouth University's Urban Coastal Institute lowered a grappling hook toward the seafloor to grab the gear weighing the whale down. This hook was then handed off to a larger boat provided by the Army Corps of Engineers which had a crane on board that was powerful enough to lift the gear to the surface. Rescuers cut through all of this gear and the whale was free!

In all, the team removed a staggering **4,000 pounds of gear** from the whale, which had deep lacerations on its tail! The rescuers are optimistic that this whale will make a full recovery since it was recently spotted by whale watchers off Montauk on Long Island (New York Times, 9/16/2020).

### Rare Lobster at Toms River Stop & Shop gets a Reprieve

Stop & Shop's seafood department will not sell a rare **orange lobster** it received in a shipment of five lobsters. Employees noticed the oddity and set the lobster aside for display in a lobster tank. How rare is an orange lobster?

"Unofficial estimates are in the range of 1 in a million", said Rich Wahle, Director of the lobster Institute at the University of Maine. While 1 in a million certainly makes Stop & Shop's lobster a rarity, Wahle said that it wouldn't be surprising if 100 orange lobsters are harvested each year, given that 100 million lobsters are harvested in the U.S. waters.

Stop & Shop is looking for a home for this orange lobster and so far, they've received some interest from Rutgers Department of Agricultural & Natural Resources. (Asbury Park Press, July 31, 2020).

## Bob Goldstein with 3 nice Fluke!



## Chinese Ships Poach Rare Squid

A fleet of **300 ships** was caught on a month-long illegal fishing mission off the coast of the **Galapagos Islands** – threatening rare species in the marine wildlife oasis, according to an investigation.

The ships were seen taking squid between July 13 and August 13<sup>th</sup> (New York Post, 9/19/2020).

**Note** – these ships maintain radio silence so that they cannot be detected even if there is a medical, sinking or another emergency. That is why **300 ships were not detected for a month!** This article does not provide other information on fines or other punishments like the seizing of their ships.

## Gone Fishing

An Illinois man unofficially broke his own Guinness World Record when he caught **2,645 fish in a single 24-hour period.**

Jeff Kolodzinski, a professional fisherman dubbed the "**Marathon Man**" started his fishing spree at 9 a.m. at the Sankoty Lakes Resort and Retreat in Spring Bay on Wednesday and he stopped fishing at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday.

In 2019, Kolodzinski caught a record **2,172** in a 24-hour span (Weird, But True, New York Post 9/19/2020)

**(Note – is this man related to Craig Zincavage, Bob Goldstein or the Criswells both Senior and Junior)?**

## Adjustments to Fishing Seasons & Fishing Regulations – by John Toth

To stem the spread of COVID-19, Governor Murphy would not allow the for-hire fleet to sail until some social distancing regulations could be established. On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Governor Murphy announced that the for-hire fleet could sail with 10 anglers, with social distancing and with masks. Unfortunately, the for-hire fleet lost the entire blackfish season during April when anglers could have kept four fish as the bag limit. Also, much of the for-hire fleet could not financially sail with only 10 anglers. During this time period, striped bass fishing was red-hot and the for-hire fleet lost some of this season until the governor allowed the for-hire fleet to sail with 25 anglers on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Even with 25 anglers, the for-hire fleet had to raise their prices to cover expenses for fuel and to pay their mates and other expenses like insurance. Additionally, a number of anglers, especially us older ones, may not fish for fear of catching this virus. As we all know, we do not see that many young people fishing since they do not have the time to do it with their increasingly busy schedules. Also, so many people have lost their jobs and they will not have the money to fish. Placing food on their tables is their first priority, not fishing. Given this scenario, how the for-hire fleet and tackle shops can survive during this pandemic is a real question.

On behalf of the JCAA, I wrote an email to managers of our recreational fishing industry requesting their assistance to help our for-hire fleet by extending our fishing seasons and changing our fishing regulations so that captains have more days to fish and more types of fish that anglers can catch. This email was sent to the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Council (MAMFC), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and other fishing managers. In this email, I asked them to consider extending the summer flounder season from September 19<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. The black sea bass stocks have been rebuilt to 240%. So why not allow anglers to catch sea bass on October 1<sup>st</sup> or earlier just as the summer flounder season ends so that anglers have something to fish for? Why wait until October 8<sup>th</sup> for this sea bass season to open? As mentioned earlier, the for-hire fleet lost April's blackfish season. Allow blackfish to be caught during months when they are restricted. For example, allow blackfish to be caught in mid-September when the summer season is winding down. As you can see, there are a lot of options available to adjust seasons and regulations, but the whole point here is to have more days for captains to fish and more anglers to be on their boats so that they can earn enough money to survive this pandemic.

At the time of my writing this report, there has been no movement by fishing managers to change fishing regulations or seasons to help the recreational fishing industry to better survive this pandemic. We are already into mid-September, so I do not see these adjustments for the recreational industry happening. Perhaps if these adjustments are not made this year, something to help the for-hire fleet can be done in 2021. If nothing else, asking these types of questions may plant the seed for the changes we need to help our party/charter boat industry and tackle shops survive during this difficult time for all of us!

**Jeff Criswell Sr.** with a nice sea bass – which he entered in the Big Fish Contest.



### DUO Busted for 66 Undersized Stripers in New Jersey

On March 30, NJ Conservation Police busted a pair of fishermen behind Atlantic City in possession of **66** undersized Atlantic striped bass between 13 to 24 inches. The police noticed them running their vessel at high rates of speed from various locations under the cover of darkness and fog without any navigation lights. They were fined **\$100 per fish adding up to \$12,800 for each angler**. Additionally, they were charged with unsafe operation of a vessel without valid registration and failing to have appropriate safety gear. The police will seek forfeiture of their boat due to the severity of their crimes (The Fisherman magazine, May 2020 edition).

# 2020 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. Dues card number must be on the submitted application (Dues number can be obtained from our Membership Secretary)
5. 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		
	BLUEFISH	12		
	COD FISH	10		
	FLOUNDER	1lb.8oz.	2.8 lbs.	Bill Fish
	FLUKE	4	10 lbs. 2 oz.	Jeff Criswell Jr.
	LING	2		
	POLLOCK	10		
	PORGY	1lb.8oz.	2.8 lbs.	Barry Paull
	SEA BASS	2	4 lb. 7 oz.	Jeff Criswell Sr.
	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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**791-Pound Blue Marlin Catch Ruined by a Shark**

A near 800-pound blue marlin gave the crew of the Shark Byte all that it could handle, **including dragging one of the mates overboard!**

The boat was competing in day two of the five-day Mid Atlantic tournament which is run out of Cape May and Ocean City, Maryland. The crew member, Blaine Champlain, was trying to control the marlin with a fly gaff when he was pulled over the side of the boat!

Crew members rushed to get him back into the boat and he was lucky to be saved unharmed! Just after he was lifted in, a large shark, possibly a mako or a tiger shark sank its teeth into the marlin. The crew successfully brought the marlin onboard after rescuing Champlain.

Unfortunately, the blue marlin which weighed **791 pounds** on the scale was disqualified due to a technicality. Tournament rules follow the International Game Fish Rules (IGFA), which call for a fish to be disqualified if any mutilation to the fish, prior to landing the catch, is caused by sharks, or other fish, mammals or propellers occurs.

The tournament president said, "That shark may have cost them their prize money, but their story and memories they'll have forever". The prize money of \$4 million was divided among the tournament winners.

**\$275,000 for Whale Vomit!**

Two highly fishy smugglers were busted bringing valuable whale vomit into India without a license, authorities said. Rizwan Fadnis and Rajesh Surve were allegedly caught at a bus checkpoint in Mumbai with more than **three pounds** of the waxy gray material, valued at **\$275,000**.

The substance, known as **ambergris**, is used to make perfume and is believed to be a libido booster. (Weird but True, New York Post, 9/5/2020).

**Boat for Sale** - Club member Hector Chacon is selling his boat; specifications are: 2006 27-foot Polar Walkaround. Excellent for fishing & Family fun! – Well maintained – 9.6 ft beam, Beautiful condition inside & out. 2 - 225 Yamahas-400 hours. \$62,000 – Call (973) 960-5740.

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

Enclose a check in the amount of **\$60** 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: \_\_\_\_\_

