

Bulletin

Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County NJ



Free Issue

November 2024

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

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Assistant Writer/Editor

Fred Villanova



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Captain Frank - Fins on Feather Charters

After a Black Sea Bass Trip

Some Captains work hard finding fish & some have to clean them too!



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

For our October 15th meeting, we had Dr. Paul Bologna from Montclair University to give us a presentation on jellyfish and its impact on our local ecosystem. He explained how jellyfish especially love to eat the larvae of fish and of course this leads to a reduction of our fisheries. Also, some of them have a sting that can become quite serious leading to paralysis and even death by heart attack. This was a very informative presentation and Dr. Bologna presented it in a very professional manner. Jellyfish have an important role in our fisheries and it is in our benefit to better understand the role they play in it.

A Big **Thank You** goes to member **Arnie Ulrich** who gave Nico a big batch of haddock that he caught so that we could have it for our October meeting. Nico fried this tasty fish and presented it also with rice, salad, tomato salad and apple pie with ice cream on the side. **Great meal Nico!**

Frank Kasetta won our 50/50 with a total of **\$130**. It was a nice meeting with a good speaker and delicious food along with good friendship to share our fishing stories with.

Ralph DeJulia gave a report on the October 5th club charter trip on the Bingo for black sea bass. This trip turned out to be a mixed bag for porgies, sea bass and even blackfish. It was not one of our better trips, but everyone had some fish to take home.

Club Speakers – I arrange speakers for our meetings and I am always looking for speakers who are involved in fishing-related topics to be at our 2025 club meetings. If you have a speaker in mind, please let me know and I can do the necessary follow up. I can be reached at the above email or at (732) 656-0139.

Finally, keep giving me pictures of your fish so I can place them in our club's newsletter. Email them to me at tothjohn@verizon.net.

November 19th Meeting –

New Jersey Marine Police Presentation

Our Marine Police will give us information that we need to know to be in full compliance with the regulations that apply to salt water fishing. The marine police also encounter anglers who commit crimes, often stupidly, and the police will share their stories about them with us. Expect some strange tales and even funny ones.

Also at this meeting, we will again have our traditional turkey and ham raffle so that you can prepare for your holiday meal by winning a nice turkey or ham. Our club will have cards on hand and you can simply write your name in a numbered box for a \$1 dollar chance. At the end of the meeting, we will draw a number for each card and if you have the winning number you get to take home a turkey or a ham to start the holiday.

Also, if you pay your 2025 dues at this meeting, you will receive a ticket for a special raffle to receive either a turkey or a ham.

December 17th Meeting – Christmas/Hannukah Party

This party is our December 17th meeting and no speakers are scheduled. We will do a little club business and then have a good time with our fishing friends and enjoy eating a lot of good food and forget about any dieting! Members can also bring their favorite food items to this meeting and we will eat very well because that is what we are supposed to do for the holidays! Our club will also have some food items catered. Please tell member John Toth what you are bringing to this dinner so that we do not have duplicate food items. He can be reached at (732) 656-0139 and also at email tothjohn@verizon.net.

We will also have an exchange of gifts and Santa Claus will hand them out. If you want to participate in this exchange of gifts, please bring an item (preferably a fishing-related one) that is approximately **\$10 or more** in value.

Also at this meeting, we will again have our traditional turkey and ham raffle again. We will have cards on hand and you can write your name in a numbered box for a \$1 dollar chance. At the end of the meeting, we will draw a number for each card and if you have the winning number you get to take home a turkey or a ham for the holiday.

Again, if you pay your **2025** dues at this meeting you will also receive a numbered ticket to win a turkey or a ham. At the end of the meeting, we will have a special raffle just for those anglers who pay their 2025 dues.

Club Dues Policy

&

Purchase of Club's Raffle Tickets

Our club membership dues are **\$55 for an individual and \$60 for family membership**. Included in the dues are two club raffle books with a value of \$20. (Each book has ten tickets in it at a cost of \$1 for each ticket). Members can buy these raffle tickets for their own use to possibly win one of our raffle prizes or sell the tickets and keep the \$20 from selling their two raffle books.

This membership policy was adopted by the club's Board to have an ongoing revenue stream to cover the club's expenses relating to insurance fees, hall rentals, speaker fees, postage, refreshments for our meetings and other expenses. In regard to refreshments, our club puts out quite a spread of food at each meeting, courtesy of our Grand Chef, Nico, along with free beer and soda. Members have an opportunity while eating their food to sit down at the various tables and chat with each other to hear about fishing and, consequently, developing new friendships. This is what our club is all about!

Club Events for 2024 & 2025

Ralph DeJulia is looking into setting up a club charter fishing trip for blackfish before this year is finished.

2025

February 2nd – Club Flea Market at the Hasbrouck Heights Hilton

February 13- 16 – New Jersey Boat Show at the NJ Convention Center. Our club has a booth at this show

March 14-16 – Salt Water Expo at the NJ Convention Center. Our club has a booth at this show

March 18 – Past President’s Dinner at the Mountainside Inn, Clifton, NJ

Election Time – Board Members for 2025

At our November 19th meeting, the current slate of officers will be read and club members will be asked if they want to run for any of these positions. The following is the slate of our club’s Board members for 2025. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please see member Don Lohse at our November meeting so that he can include your name to run for one of these offices. Don can also be reached at (201) 832-1298. The current positions and the members who occupy them follow:

President – John Toth

1st Vice President – Don Lohse

2nd Vice President- Gary Gusterson

Treasurer – Jim Galanaugh Jr.

Assistant Treasurer – Chuck Santoro

Recording Secretary – Chuck Santoro

Assistant Recording Secretary – Don Lohse

Corresponding Secretary – Fred Villanova

Assistant Corresponding Secretary – Gary Gusterson

Membership Secretary – Art Vrola

Assistant Membership Secretary – Fred Villanova

Sergeant at Arms- Gary Gusterson

Assistant Sergeant at Arms- Rick Swarthe

Chaplin – Rick Swarthe

Publicity Officer – John Toth

Assistant Publicity Officer – Fred Villanova

Club Orientation Director – Steve Totten

Assistant Club Orientation Director – Lou Castellano

At our **December 17th** meeting, we will have a final vote on these positions. If there are no new nominations, our Secretary, Chuck Santoro, will cast his vote to accept this new slate of officers for 2025.

**Surfing the ‘net is great—
unless, of course, you’re a fish.**

Fishing Regulations for 2025

By John Toth

Fluke - when our fishing regulations were adopted for 2024, it was decided that the fishing regulations for fluke during 2024 would be the same for fluke during 2025 – 3 fluke at 18 inches and over with the season about the same or with some slight modifications.

Black Sea Bass – unlike fluke, the regulations for sea bass could be adjusted for 2025 according to available stock assessments. From what I am hearing through the grape vine, our black sea bass quota for 2025 could be reduced by almost **20%**. This is **not final** yet, but indications are that we will face some reduced quota for this fishery. We were told not too long ago by fishing managers that sea bass stocks are in great shape and have been rebuilt to about 215%. I will keep you updated as soon as I learn the latest information about this fishery.

Don Lohse showing two black sea bass. **Barry Paul** wishes he can caught some



Jeff Criswell with a nice 32 inch striped bass



Will Surfers and Anglers be required to buy a Beach Badge Anymore?

By John Toth

During August in Belmar, police patrols were increased due to people avoiding purchasing a beach tag to use the beach. A surfer, Liam Mahoney, was on his way to the surf and was asked by the police to show his beach tag. His beach tag was on his surf equipment, but for some reason known only to him, he walked away from the police without indicating that he had the tag. Not responding to questions by police and walking away from them is a crime and police charged him with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and obstruction of justice that left him in the sand in handcuffs. He also was issued a ticket for violating the municipal ordinance for not having a beach tag. All of this trouble could have been avoided if he simply showed his beach tag to the police and went on his way to the beach. The Belmar police were criticized in the local media for using excessive force in their confrontation with Mr. Mahoney.

On learning about this incident, Assemblywoman Maggie Donlon (D Monmouth), who is also an avid surfer for over two decades, introduced Assembly Bill A 4816 to the legislature. This bill would prohibit a municipality from requiring a municipal beach tag or similar admission pass for access to the wet sandy beach below the mean high tide, for a surfer or a fisherman for the exclusive purpose of surfing or fishing. She introduced this bill based on a law that Governor Murphy introduced in 2019 that allowed access to the tidal water and the ocean, without a badge. The law signed by the Governor is based on the Public Trust Document and the essence of it is that beaches do not belong to anybody and the public has the right for access to them. This law has its origins when the Romans ruled much of the world and believed that everybody should have access to beaches without hindrance.

Introducing a bill in the NJ Legislature is the easy part, but getting it passed is a lot more difficult. The next steps are having other legislators sign this bill for support and then having it assigned to a committee for review and possible revisions. If the bill receives support for passage in the legislature, it moves forward to speakers of the Assembly and Senate to post the bill for a vote in the legislature. If this bill is not posted by either of the speakers of the Assembly or Senate, the bill is not passed. If this bill does receive passage from the legislature, it moves to the Governor who can pass or veto it. This bill most likely will be strongly opposed by the League of Municipalities since they do not want to see their beach tag revenues reduced. I hope I am wrong but I think that Maggie Donlon's bill will not experience an easy passage in our legislature, especially when municipalities see loss of revenue, they count on to operate their beaches and towns. However, Assemblywoman Donlon will receive

support for her bill from the surfing and fishing communities.

Having a beach tag is not the only issue surfers and anglers have to contend with since a number of municipalities prevent the public from accessing their beaches by restricting the number of available parking spaces. Also, some beach residents place "no fishing signs" or place obstructions with fences to prevent access to their nearby beaches. The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) has an Access Committee and a number of anglers have complained to the JCAA about these restrictions. The JCAA has contacted mayors of beach towns or police to have them remove signs or fences that are geared to restricting access to anglers. Basically, some of these municipalities are of the opinion that their nearby beaches belong only to them and visitors are not welcome.

Should we even have beach tags in New Jersey? While he was senator, Steve Sweeney tried to have them removed but was unsuccessful. Why is it that beaches in other states that do not have beach tags are perfectly able to operate their beaches without them? We are told that the revenues from the tags go to offset the costs of cleaning and providing security for the beaches, but other states face similar costs to operate their beaches and do not have these tags. The cost of beach badges varies by each coastal town and the cost to use the beach at Belmar was \$10 this summer. A family of 4 can pay up to \$40 to use this beach and that is a hefty price to use this beach or any beach.

When I moved to New Jersey in the early 1970's, I was unaware of the beach tag policy and I have never encountered it anywhere in the USA or even in Europe where I was stationed for 2 years in the U.S. Army. I took my family to Asbury Park for a day on the beach. While I was on it, a woman came up to me and snapped "where is your beach tag"? I told her I did not know what she was talking about since beaches are always free and I have never paid a fee to be on it. She told me "Not in New Jersey"! So, I paid her \$2 I think and went into the ocean for a swim. While in it, I stepped on a board with a nail protruding from it and it went into my foot. I had to go to a hospital for treatment and a tetanus shot. Since that episode, I have never been on a beach in New Jersey and will not do so since I will not pay for a beach tag to use a beach that I believe should be free for use.

Sick Call

We have a number of members on the mend and they include **Steve Totten** who has had knee replacement surgery and is undergoing therapy.

Art Vrola who has been sick but is getting better

Kevin Morgan who has had a bad fall, but is recovering

Chuck Routar who felt good enough to attend our October meeting and it was nice seeing Chuck again.

2024 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 | 13 lbs. | Bob Goldstein |
|  | BLUEFISH | 12 | | |
|  | COD FISH | 10 | | |
|  | FLOUNDER | 1.5 lbs. | 2 lbs. 9 oz. | Glenn Peckel |
|  | FLUKE | 4 | 12.5 Lbs. | Jeff Criswell Sr. |
|  | LING | 2 | | |
|  | POLLOCK | 10 | | |
|  | PORGY | 1.5 lbs. | 2 lb. 1 oz. | Ralph DeJulia |
|  | SEA BASS | 2 | | |
|  | STRIPED BASS | 12 | 48 lbs. | Rick Reitano |
|  | 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. _____



Captain
Art Pein

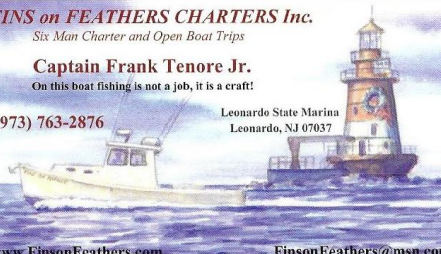
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Some Nice Tautog were caught by Rick Reitano, Bill Fish and Mark Capalbo on their charter with Arch Angel out of Rhode Island



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: _____