

Bulletin

Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County NJ

Free Issue

February 2024

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

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

www.swabc.org

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John Farrell with loads of blackfish!



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 the night of our January 16th club meeting, we had a snow/ice storm that kept a lot of our members away from attending. Given the roadway conditions, this is certainly understandable. Making my way up to the Legion from the Freehold area, I saw several traffic accidents and drivers going too fast for conditions. This always happens with the first snowfall. We had about 20 members at this meeting.

Our speaker, **Carl Bruger**, gave an excellent presentation on fishing for salmon at Lake Ontario! He showed the tackle to land salmon and even gave a rod & reel to one of our young members to catch salmon. Another member asked for a rod & reel for his granddaughter and it was given to him in the hope that she would become interested in fishing. Carl even gave us a tip to not use yellow rain gear since salmon do not recognize this color and will swim away from anglers wearing it. Carl's presentation was really good about salmon fishing and it was a shame bad weather kept so many of our members from attending.

Our Grand Chef, Nico, made Ziti with delicious meatballs, salad and Brownies. Nico also had a Lucky night and won our club's 50/50.

Regarding weather, it is difficult if not impossible for me to contact all of our members if a meeting is canceled. An Email Blast stating that the meeting is canceled, May not be seen by all members and think our club meeting is still on. However, If Governor Murphy issues a **State of Emergency** and tells you to stay off the road, **then do not come to the Legion!** If you don't feel that it is safe to drive, **stay home!** If you want to check with on a meeting is status call me at (732) 656-0139 tothjohn@verizon.net.

February 20th Meeting –

Jeff Brust, NJ Marine Bureau Chief

Our state has a great artificial reef program and Jeff will give a general overview of them and how important these reefs are to our recreational anglers.

March 19th Club Meeting –

Past President's Dinner at Mountainside Inn.

Our club will host this annual event on **March 19th at 7:00 p.m.** to honor all the presidents who have served our club over its many years. Food is served **Family Style** with roast beef, chicken, salad, pasta, potatoes, veggies and dessert. Beer, wine and soda are also included with the dinner. The price for this year's Past President's Dinner with all of the above is **s \$35 even in spite of this high inflation!** We will have speakers to touch briefly on a variety of fishing-related topics, a **huge Dark Horse**, door prizes, and certificates/gift cards to be presented to all of the winners of the Big Fish contest! **Tickets for this dinner will be available for purchase at our February 20th meeting.** The Mountainside Inn is located at 509 Hazel Street, Clifton, NJ

To purchase tickets and to receive more information about this dinner, please call Art Vrola, our Dinner Chairman, at (201) 280-8612.

We do not meet at the Legion for our March 19th meeting. The past President's Dinner is our March club meeting.

Club Membership Dues are Now Payable

All club members must have their dues paid by February 2024. If dues are not received by the end of February, delinquent members will be removed from our membership roster and will not receive our club's monthly newsletter or be eligible to participate in the club's activities. Checks for dues payment should be made out to **SWABC**. Mail your check to the **American Legion Post # 170 c/o SWABC**, 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, NJ 07662. **Please place c/o SWABC on your envelope** so our mail does not get mixed up with the Legion's mail. Thank You!

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 our raffle prizes or sell the tickets and keep the \$20 from selling their two raffle books. The new raffle tickets have been printed and will be distributed at our meetings.

Big Fish Derby

The January 16th meeting was the last date that affidavits could be received to enter the Big Fish Derby. Members presently listed in the Big Fish Derby have won in the category they have entered. **Congratulations!**

Prizes for the winners of our Big Fish Derby will be given out at our **Past President's Dinner** that is scheduled for **March 19, 2024**, at the **Mountainside Inn in Clifton, NJ**. This is our club meeting during March and it will **not** be held at our regular meeting place at the American legion Post in Rochelle Park.

Boat for Sale

Located in the American Legion's parking lot where we meet for our monthly club meetings there is a boat for sale. The information on it follows:

1996 FAL - 22 feet/ I/O

Trailer included.

Asking price **\$3,000 or best offer**

Contact Legion's **Commander Dennis Duddie at (973) 842-5887 or at dduddie74@gmail.com**



Winter Trade Shows

First Up - **Boat show in February (15 - 18)**; followed by the **Salt Water Expo, March (15- 17)**. Our club has a booth at both shows and volunteers are needed to staff our booth to sell raffle tickets and to talk to visitors about our club & see if they would be interested in joining. We want to have at least 2 members for each shift. Members working at these shows **do not pay an entrance fee**. Please see John Toth at our February 20th meeting to sign up for **one shift at the Boat Show** and **shifts needs at the Salt Water Expo**. John can be reached at (732) 656-0139 or at tothjohn@verizon.net.

Both of these shows will be held at the NJ Convention Center at 97, Sunfield Ave., Edison, NJ

As a reminder, the following volunteers have signed up to work at the Boat Show

NJ Boat Show Sale & Expo – February 15th – 18th – NJ Convention Center

Thursday, February 15th

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – John Toth, John Piazza, Steve Totten

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Fred Villanova, Bobby Jones

Friday, February 16th

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – John Toth, Rick Swarthe

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Jim Catanzaro, Tom Tyls

Saturday, February 17th

10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – Steve Totten – **Need one Volunteer**

2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Art Lein, Rich Melton

Sunday, February 18th

10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – John Piazza, Steve Totten

1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.- John Toth – Jim Galanaugh Jr.

Club Raffle Prizes

The raffle tickets have been delivered. All members with paid dues for 2024 may see Fred Villanova and pick up their two free books.

Any member wishing to purchase additional books can also do so, however payment of \$10.00 per book needs to be paid in advance. Any unsold tickets will be refunded with the return of any unsold tickets.

Sick Call –

Captain Fahey

Captain Fahey of the Curlew, who charts lobsters & a half day of fishing, is not feeling well. Keep him in your prayers for his recovery.

Salt Water Expo – March 15th – March 17th

Friday, March 15th

Noon – 4:00 p.m. – John Piazza, Steve Totten, John Toth, Rick Swarthe

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tom Bornemann, Art Lein

Saturday, March 16th

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. John Piazza, Steve Totten, Rick Swarthe

2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Bob Goldstein, John Farrell, Ralph DeJulia

Sunday, March 17th

10:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. John Piazza, Steve Totten, John Toth

1:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – **2 volunteers needed.**

NJ Saltwater Registry Program for 2024

Beginning December 15th, NJ saltwater recreational registration for 2024 will be available on the NJDEPFISH&WildlifeLicensing webpage.

This webpage gives detailed information on our state's registration program and the cost to register is still free.

For more information on registration call (609) 748-2020.

Enjoy a Wild Game Dinner

The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance, a PAC that supports the rights of hunters and anglers in New Jersey, is holding a Wild Game Dinner on March 10th at the Black Forest inn in Stanhope starting at 4:00 p.m. The menu has a lot offer with venison prepared in many ways, wild boar, smoked turkey, smoked salmon and trout, a huge buffet selection, and a carving station offering roast venison with a port wine reduction. A tricky tray and a 50/50 will be available.

The cost per ticket is \$100 and John Toth (a Trustee of the NJOA) will have tickets for sale at our club's February 20th meeting. John can be reached at (732) 656 – 0139 if you want to order tickets or have questions about this dinner.

Massive Taugzilla

Angler Aiden Cole caught a huge Tautog in the Thames river of Connecticut that was **36 inches long and weighing 25.78 lbs.**

The Connecticut Fish & Wildlife confirmed that it is a new state Catch & Release record for Tautog It was caught on a green crab board the Melissa Ann with Captain Luke Wiggins.

Latest Updates on 2024 Regulations for Striped Bass, Fluke, Sea Bass and Porgies

By John Toth

I am giving you the latest information that I have as I am writing this newsletter (February 1).

Striped Bass – 1 fish at 28 to 31 inches and Bonus Tags will be available – season to be determined. **Note:** This regulation of **28-31 inches** has been approved by the Atlantic States Marine Commission on January 23rd.

Fluke – I reported in our January newsletter that our quota may be reduced by 14%. Now our quota for fluke has been **reduced to 28%! This is over 1/4th of our quota!** The result will be a shorter season, most likely in the fall and may end around after the first week of September. The bag limit is to be determined and may be 3 fluke at 17.5 inches or 3 fish at 18 inches. If it is 17.5 inches, the season will be shorter than one with 18 inches. Reducing our fluke quota by 28% is based on faulty data that will lead to more fishing boats and tackle shops going out of business! The regulations for fluke are yet to be determined.

Sea Bass- the quota for sea bass has not been changed and **most likely** the regulations for sea bass will have a size limit of **12.5 inches** for all seasons.

5/17 – 6/19 – 10 fish

7/1 – 8/31 – 1 fish

10/1 – 10/31 – 10 fish

11/1 – 12/31 – 15 fish

Porgies - 10% reduction in quota – season & bag limit to be determined

I wish I had better news for you on the fishing front! I will keep you posted as I learn more about our 2024 regulations.

Record Breaking King Mackerel Caught

On August 1st, Dominic Vricella and his son Joe of Medford hooked into a **67.45 lb. King Mackerel** trolling a pair of wide trackers and a pair of Clark spoons five miles from Manasquan Inlet on their way home. Their first thought that it was a tuna or a wahoo, but it wasn't until the fish was close enough to hit it with the gaff that they knew that they had a King Mackerel. At over 67 lbs., this fish is 13 lbs. heavier than the previous record set back in 1998.

The fish was weighed at Hoffman's marina in Brielle and the necessary paperwork was turned over to the state's Fish & Wildlife. The father & son are awaiting confirmation that they are the new record holders of King Mackerel for our state. (Asbury Park Press, August 4, 2023).



Paul Keppel with a 14 lb. Blackfish!

A Tuna Goes for \$800,000

The most expensive piece of seafood at Tokyo's largest fish sold for nearly **\$800,000** at auction on the first day of the season.

A mammoth bluefin tuna weighing nearly **525 pounds** was purchased January 4th by a wholesale dealer (Yamayuki) who has taken home the season's priciest fish four years running.

It was the fourth priciest fish on record at the Toyosu market and the highest for a tuna since the pandemic (NY Post, January 8, 2024).












New Jersey Approves two more Offshore Wind Projects

New Jersey officials approved two new offshore wind projects on January 24th that are expected to power 1.8 million homes across the state. One of them will be placed 40 miles east of Atlantic City and the other one will be placed 50 miles east of Barnegat Light. Note: the ocean floor will really be ripped up to lay cables for those long distances.

Representative Jeff Van Drew, a critic of offshore wind, who represents voters across southern New Jersey commented, "Despite numerous lawsuits, public forums, and rallies across the state of New Jersey, Governor Murphy continues to ignore the will of the people and only cares about lining the pockets of offshore wind corporations." "We do not want our coasts to be industrialized by massive offshore wind farms."

Final Standings as of December 31st, 2023 BIG FISH OF THE YEAR DERBY

Prizes for the winners of our Big Fish Derby will be given out at our **Past President's Dinner** that is scheduled for **March 19, 2024** at the **Mountainside Inn in Clifton, NJ.** A Huge Dark Horse will be available. This is our club meeting during March and it will **not** be held at our regular meeting place at the American legion Post in Rochelle Park.

| FISH | SPECIES | MIN. WEIGHT | ENTRY WEIGHT | ANGLER |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|
|  | BLACKFISH | 4 | 17 lbs. | Chuck Rutar |
|  | BLUEFISH | 12 | | |
|  | COD FISH | 10 | 10 lbs. 6 oz. | Kevin Kozlowicz |
|  | FLOUNDER | 1.5 lbs. | 2 lbs. 6 oz. | Barry Paull |
|  | FLUKE | 4 | 9 lbs. 6 oz. | Joe Antiorio |
|  | LING | 2 | 4.0 lbs. | Kevin Kozlowicz |
|  | POLLOCK | 10 | | |
|  | PORGY | 1.5 lbs. | 2 lbs. 2 oz. | Rick Swarthe |
|  | SEA BASS | 2 | 5.2 lbs | Jeff Criswell Sr. |
|  | STRIPED BASS | 12 | 42 lbs. | Frank Rella |
|  | WEAKFISH | 2 | | |

“March issue with have recap of Flea Market with pictures.”



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 Lein
Katie James
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Hector Chacon catching a huge Needlefish in Costa Rica!



Barry Paull with his Big Fish Contest entry 2 & 1/2 lb. Winter Flounder



Eye on NY: Green Waste Disaster

Within 25 years, New York will find itself trying to manage the disposal of five million or more waste solar panels every year. Yet, New York has no plans for managing it. Current methods call to export them and their toxic materials to developing countries. Recycling them would cost \$135 million a year. Non-recoverable materials in solar panels are incinerated after recycling. (New York Post, August 9, 2023)
Note: A big downside on solar panels that is often ignored. Also, windmill blades over 300 feet long cannot be recycled and have to be disposed by other methods.

**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: _____