



# Bulletin

Salt Water Anglers  
of Bergen County NJ



Free Issue June 2020

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

President/ Writer/ Editor

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**Jeff Schwarz  
with  
three  
nice sea  
bass!**

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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

Our club has been in existence since **1937!** It has survived World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, the Gulf Storm War, 9/11, the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Hong Flu, Hurricane Sandy, and the SARS epidemic. Our club will survive this COVID -19 because we are resilient and will not fold when the going gets tough! We will survive because our club is in the forefront of promoting salt water fishing, the sport we all love! We will get through this!

However, now it seems like our country was invaded by an army that we could not see, but one that is so sinister that it has affected every American in so many ways. COVID-19 has inflicted so much personal and economic damage to our country that it will take a long time for America to completely recover from its damage. Prior to the entry of this disease, our country had an unemployment rate of just 3% at the end of 2019. Now it is over 20%!

COVID-19 has certainly affected our fishing club! The first shock for us was the closure of the March 13-15<sup>th</sup> Salt Water Expo that we all eagerly looked forward to with our club having a booth at it. Even when this show was closed, a number of our club members called and emailed me to check to see if it was closed because they could not believe it! The next shock was the cancellation of our March 24<sup>th</sup> Past President's Dinner at the Mountainside Inn! Next up was the cancellation of our following April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup> club meetings. At the time I am writing this newsletter, I am not sure if our June 16<sup>th</sup> club meeting will take place with only 10 people being able to gather according to Governor Murphy's directive during this virus situation. If the American Legion Post where we hold our club meetings is still closed, then we cannot have a June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

With the large number of club members we have (about 150) going to ZOOM to have our meetings would be problematical. I do use ZOOM with a much smaller number of participants, but even then we encounter technical problems with sound, log in etc. Also, our meetings are geared to speakers that are the "hands on" type and are difficult to show on ZOOM. Our scheduled speaker for June's 16<sup>th</sup> meeting (if it happens) is Dave Lilly to talk about catching fluke and he also uses a fishing rod while doing it and that does not project well with ZOOM.

With the cancellation of our meetings, I and our Board are not comfortable with the lack of communication we regularly have with you. That is why I am writing this newsletter whether we have the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting or not! Two months have passed since you received any information about our club and I will not let this go on any longer. A lot has happened over two months and I will try to piece all of this information together just as best as I can.

## Up Coming Meetings & Trips?

June 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting - Dave Lilly to give a presentation on catching fluke

July 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting – Tony Maja to give a presentation on his bunker spoons and catching striped bass.

Note – June 8<sup>th</sup> trip on the MiJo for the Ranch Hope youths was cancelled. This trip, hopefully, will still go on at a date to be determined.

July 17<sup>th</sup> – Club charter trip on the Helen H – Craig Zincavage – **Craig is still looking for members to fill this trip! Without our having our regular club meetings, it is tougher for Craig to fill trips like this. Give Craig a call at (973) 234-9618 or at zincman70@yahoo.com.**

July 26<sup>th</sup> – Club charter trip on the Isabella – (free trip for 6 members won by lottery)

## Governor's Surf Tournament

The Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament is normally held on the third Sunday in May at Island State Beach Park. In 2020, however, this tournament will be held on **Sunday, October 25**, due to the social distancing and other factors related to COVID – 19. More information on the fees and other information will be posted in future newsletters.

## In Memoriam

Club member **Jack Walker** lost his son, **Gary**, to COVID-19. **May he rest in peace!**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Norma K 111 Party Boat Owner Passed Away

**Norma Keller**, owner of the party boat *Norma K 111* in Point Pleasant, died at the age of 80 to complications of old age. Her husband, **Ken Keller** died last fall and that was a contributing factor according to her daughter, Sharon. Norma and her husband were married for 53 years.

The 95-foot Norma K 111 was constructed in 1975 and is the last of the Norma K fleet standing. A fleet that once also proudly boasted three wooden boats: Miss Point Pleasant, Norma K and Norma K 11.

Norma's son, Keller Kass, will continue to run the Norma K111. He is quoted as saying "I don't plan on changing anything. It's in my blood and it is going to stay that way".

## Past President's Dinner Cancelled

Our Past President's Dinner scheduled on March 24<sup>th</sup> had to be cancelled because of COVID-19. Will it be rescheduled sometime this year is a good question? With so much up in the air over this virus, no final decision has been made by our Board at this time. If we do not have it, refunds will be made for those members who have already paid for this dinner at a future date.

## Winners of our Club's 2020 Raffle

1. Charter Fishing Trip on the Fins on Feathers – John Toth – Monroe Township, NJ
2. JW Black Demon Rod and Saltiga Reel – Captain John Koliass – N. Brunswick, NJ
3. JW Nexus Rod and Cronos Star Reel – Scott Wager – Washington Twp., NJ
4. Apple iPad - Don Lohse – Waldwick, NJ
5. 2 Tickets on the Party Boat Fishermen – Alan Morganstein – Fair Lawn, NJ
6. \$100 Gift Card at Tackle World – Fred Fuerstack – Montgomery, NJ
7. \$100 Gift Card – Tackle World – Sergio Radossi, Ridge Field Park, NJ

Normally, these tickets would have been pulled at our club's May 19th meeting. This meeting was cancelled because of the virus but, by the terms of our raffle permit, the tickets must be pulled on the May 19<sup>th</sup> date and at the Legion's premises. Since the Legion was closed, the tickets were drawn at the Legion's parking lot. In attendance were: Chuck Santoro, Jim Galanaugh, Fred Villanova, Don Lohse, Mark Capalbo and Jeff Schwarz. (Note from John Toth winning the 1<sup>st</sup> place charter trip – After the drawing of the tickets, Chuck Santoro called me with the names of the winners of our raffle so that I could have this information posted on our web page. Chuck told me that the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner lives in Monroe Township, where I live. It still did not occur to me that I could be the winner since we sold raffle tickets at two winter trade shows. I was really shocked that I won that prize! By the way, all of the raffle winners are from our club and that does not usually happen with about 4,000 tickets sold).

A **Big Thank You** goes to **Fred Villanova** for managing our club's raffle ticket program. In addition to keeping track of who has tickets, Fred does the very tedious job of separating all those tickets that are loose or stapled together so that they are not bunched up for the drawing.

**Thank All of You who supported this raffle and all of our club's activities!**



Separated tickets before loading drum

## Beachgoers in Awe of 800-Pound Turtle!

An **800 – pound** leatherback turtle nested on May 21<sup>st</sup> on a beach in Melbourne Florida. After laying her eggs, she went back to the sea a day later.

Leather backs are endangered species. The world's largest turtles, they average **six feet long** and typically **weigh 500 to 1,500 lbs.**, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission reports.

The denizens of the deep, leather backs are capable of descending more than **3,000 feet** and travelling more than **3,000 miles** from their nesting place.

They eat soft-bodied animals such as jellyfish. Their throat cavity and scissor-like jaws are lined with stiff spines that help them swallow this soft, slippery prey. (Asbury Park Press, May 23, 2020).



## Delaware Bay Shore Birds are Going Hungry

One of them, the red knot, has been listed as a threaten species. Since the year 2000, red knot numbers have plunged as low as 10,000, around one-ninth of the level in the 1980's. At the moment, the population hovers about 30,000, still too low to be sustainable. Populations of other migratory shorebirds, like semipalmated sandpipers and ruddy turnstones, have also declined.

The red knots start their journey from as far away as their breeding grounds in southern Chile and then stop in the Delaware Bay area to feast on the eggs of horseshow crabs. After this stopover, they journey to the Canadian Arctic! The big problem, conservationists say, is overfishing of horseshoe crabs for commercial fishing and the harvesting of these crabs for their blood used by the biomedical industry to detect bacteria. Recognizing the threat to these birds, by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), it banned the harvest of female horseshoe crabs for bait starting in 2013 in the hope that a recovering population of females would lay more eggs. Unfortunately, since this ban neither has there been the increase in the numbers of horseshoe crabs and red knots. There seems to be poor law enforcement of the ban on the taking of female crabs and the medical industry continued bleeding of the crabs kill and as many as 15 percent may prevent survivors from reproducing. The population of the red knot continues to be monitored and if it does not improve the ASMFC may impose a total ban on the harvesting of horseshoe crabs (Asbury Park Press, June 4, 2019).

## COVID – 19's Effect on our Recreational Fishing Industry By John Toth

Prior to May 16<sup>th</sup>, our for-hire fleet could not sail due to Governor Murphy's restrictions on social distancing. Party and charter boats sat still in their ports while the April black fish season was in full swing with a bag limit of four fish. Striper fishing was also reported to be red hot, yet these boats sat idle. What did not sit idle are the costs these boats have to operate such as dockage fees, insurance, maintenance costs, etc.

The United Boatman and the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA) interfaced with the Murphy administration to allow the for-hire fleet to sail again by developing a protocol to address the administration's concern over social distancing. This protocol calls for six (6) feet distancing between anglers, mandatory wearing of face masks, no fishing equipment shared, nets and gaffs handled only by crew members etc. With this protocol accepted by the Governor, he announced on May 16<sup>th</sup> that the for-hire fleet could sail with a maximum of 10 anglers on board!

There was initial jubilation that the for-hire fleet could sail again! But the big party boats like the Gambler, Jamaica and others could not sail with only 10 anglers on board. How could 10 anglers generate enough income to even pay for fuel and other expenses for these big boats? At the urging of the United Boatman and the RFA, the Governor on May 23<sup>rd</sup> relaxed his 10 angler regulation and increased it to 25 maximum on board. This allowed these bigger boats to sail again since 25 anglers make it financially doable. On the downside, these bigger boats may have to increase their rates since 25 anglers may not be enough for these boats to make a profit. I received a notice from the Belmar Princess that they would have to adjust their rates. But the bottom line is that the for-hire fleet can sail during the summer fishing season and **Thanks** goes to the United Boatman and the RFA for making this happen!

On a different track to help the recreational fishing industry, the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) petitioned fishing managers to adjust the fishing seasons and their regulations to have more days for anglers to fish and more types of fish to catch. For example, the stocks for black sea bass are in good shape, yet their seasons and bag limits are severely restricted. Only two sea bass can be caught from July 1 to August 31. Why not allow 10 sea bass to be caught during this period? Only 1 blackfish can be caught from August 1 to November 15<sup>th</sup>. Since anglers can catch fluke during the summer, why not allow anglers to catch 4 blackfish or 10 sea bass right after the fluke season ends on September 19<sup>th</sup>? Possibly extend the fluke season from September 19 to the end of September.

**The whole point here is to give the for-hire fleet more days to fish for various species that they cannot do so now and attract more anglers to their boats so that they recoup the money they lost during this virus situation.** We do not want to see our for-hire fleet go out of business and closed tackle shops. Once they close up, we may not see their comeback anytime soon. *(Continued on next page)*

### Eat Seafood to Have Smart Children

Does fish make children smarter? There is some evidence that it might.

In two reviews of data from 44 studies, researchers have concluded that eating seafood during pregnancy and childhood is associated with improved performance in tests of mental skills.

In children, the benefits of eating seafood were apparent as early as 14 months. The studies variously found that seafood eaters had lower risk of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, better school grades and higher I. Q. by as much as 9.5 points, compared with their peers who ate no fish. The highest intakes-more than eight to 12 ounces a week associated with the greatest benefits.

Pregnant women have been advised to avoid eating fish high in mercury, such as tuna and swordfish. Three of the studies that included data on mercury **content** reported that the beneficial effect was present even with elevated levels of mercury.

(Smart Move: Oredrign Seafood – New York Times, November 5, 2019).

### Crab Lover on a Roll!

A Japanese bidder forked over \$46,000 for a single snow crab, setting a new world record, officials said.

This winter seafood delicacy which weighed nearly 3 pounds was sold at an auction in Tottori.

The crustacean clawed its way past the previous record-setting snow crab, which sold for \$18,000 last year.

(Weird, but True, New York Post, November 9, 2019).

### Scientists say Paddle Fish is Extinct

Once a delicacy eaten by Chinese emperors, one of the world's largest freshwater fish just went extinct after surviving 150 million years.

Chinese paddlefish populations began to decline drastically in the 1970's as a result of overfishing and habitat fragmentation. Construction of a dam on the Yangtze River blocked the paddlefish's migration route and prevented adult fish to spawn.

The largest Chinese paddlefish recorded was **25 feet long and weighed over several thousand pounds.** (Asbury Park Press, January 12, 2020).

**(Continued Article) :** To start this process of possibly making changes to our fishing seasons and regulations, I have written the following email to Commissioners who are directly involved in the decision process to make the changes in question. This email follows:

To: Chris Moore, Ex. Director, Bob Beal, Ex. Director, Peter Hughes, Tony DiLernia, MAFCC Council Board, Adam Nowalsky, ASMFC Board Chairman

From: John Toth

Date: April 29, 2020

Subject: Assistance for Recreational Fishing Industry – Adjustments to Fishing Regulations/Seasons

COVID-19 has changed the world we live in, especially with the recreational fishing industry. Social Distancing has basically shut down the charter/party boat industry and boat captains are facing financial ruin. We are in this lockdown situation until May 15th when Governor Murphy is expected to make his decision on whether our state will continue to be in this lockdown mode or relax his current restrictions on COVID-19.

Because of COVID-19, our state's blackfish season for April has been lost and while the current striped bass fishing season is red-hot, our recreational fleet is tied up at dock. What is not tied up are the costs associated with running fishing boats such as insurance, dock fees, and maintenance costs. Faced with these costs and no business to offset them, the prospect of going out of business becomes more realistic and the only way out. Also, even if Governor Murphy lifts his present COVID -19 restrictions, a number of anglers may still be fearful of contracting this virus and delay or even stop fishing resulting in less business for the for- hire fleet. Given how many people have lost their jobs, many anglers will not have the income to go fishing, even if they want to.

What can be done to help this industry by Commissioners and Council Members that is fairly quick and without involving financial compensation? Consider adjusting fishing regulations/seasons so that there are longer seasons in the fall and have the possibility of different bag limits; anything to provide better opportunities for party/charter boat captains and the related industries that depend on them for summer flounder and black sea bass to recoup some of their losses. This consideration should also be extended to species that closures have had an effect on like the April 2020 season for blackfish that was essentially lost because of Social Distancing.

The joint MAMFC and ASMFC meeting scheduled for a webinar meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup> and the June 16 to June 18 meetings in Virginia Beach can provide a perfect opportunity to place this loss of business caused by COVID-19 on the meeting's agenda for discussion and resolution. This issue needs quick attention so changes can be made in time to help make the recreational fishing industry recoup some of its losses before the 2020 fishing season ends.

Your support to assist the recreational fishing industry during these trying times would be most appreciated by the entire recreational community!

John Toth

President, Jersey Coast Anglers Association

Trustee, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance

President, Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County

Cc: Joe Cimino, Ray Bukowski, Tom Fote

(I will keep you updated if any changes are made to the seasons and regulations to help the recreational fishing industry during this difficult time caused by COVID-19).

#### **Cod – Fun Facts**

- The Atlantic cod has been referred to as the “Sacred cod” for a few reasons: According to New England folklore, the cod was the fish Jesus multiplied to feed the crowds of people. Jesus was thought to have thrown cod into the sea with his hands, leaving a white lateral line on the fish. Haddock were thought to be cast into the sea by Satan, who left his black mark on the lateral line of this fish.
- Many of the American coins struck between 1776 and 1778 featured a codfish on the reverse side.
- The Revolutionary War did not end in 1776 when there were peace talks in Paris because John Adams refused to give up American fishermen's fishing rights to the Grand Banks.
- In the early days of cod fishing in the New World, more cod were eaten in Europe than in New England.
- Cod can travel 200 miles to reach breeding grounds.

(Courtesy of the Fisherman, February 2019)

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Who are these Masked Fishermen?



I don't know but the fish must smell bad?

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