



# Bulletin

## Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County NJ



Free Issue July 2020

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

President/ Writer/ Editor

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[www.swabc.org](http://www.swabc.org)

**John Toth**

[tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net)



1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Craig Zincavage**

[Zincman70@yahoo.com](mailto:Zincman70@yahoo.com)



2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

**Mark Capalbo**

[markcapalbo@aol.com](mailto:markcapalbo@aol.com)



Membership Secretary

**Art Vrola**

[Art@ajvrola.com](mailto:Art@ajvrola.com)



Treasurer

**Jim Galanaugh Jr.**

[Jgalan4962@aol.com](mailto:Jgalan4962@aol.com)

Assistant Treasurer

**Charles Santoro**

[Boats62@aol.com](mailto:Boats62@aol.com)



Assistant Writer/Editor

**Fred Villanova**

[Gray13beard@gmail.com](mailto:Gray13beard@gmail.com)



Mark Capalbo, Jim Zimmer (seated) Chuck Santoro, Don Lohse, Fred Villanova & Dave Nicholson having a nice day on the water with Captain Art Lein

**Stories & Events**

**Page 2 – Presidents Corner, Up Coming Meeting & Trips?**

**Page 3 – Fishing Report & NJ Salt Water Registry**

**Page 4 – Windmill Noise Study, Big Fish Contest Start Up**

**Page 5 – Big Fish Contest Rules & Affidavid**

**Page 6 – Sponsors, Articles & SWABC Membership form**

*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

Due to COVID-19, the Legion was still closed, and we could not meet in our usual meeting location. So, we held our June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Legion's outdoor pavilion. It was great to see all of you who attended it! We did not have club meetings for March (our Past president's Dinner), April and May so it was good to finally have a club meeting and get our club active again after so many meeting cancellations!

Dave Lilly was our guest speaker to talk about catching fluke. He introduced Plug Baits, which is very similar to Gulp, but it is tougher and stays on the hook better. He donated two packages of it to our Dark Horse drawing. Dave is still testing the Plug Baits and will let me know if they produce positive results in landing fish. I will share his reports in future bulletins. I won one of our Dark Horse prizes and chose the two packages of Plug Baits that Dave donated. (More information on Dave's presentation is in another section of this bulletin with the title – Fishing Report – The Good & the Bad News).

Our Grand Chef Nico told me that he wanted to cook something up for this meeting and Nico prepared delicious baby back ribs, rice pudding, salad and corn. Thanks again Nico! Don Lohse filled up a big cooler of beer, water and soda for us to drink and Captain Art Lein donated \$50 to pay for these refreshments – Thanks Art! In addition to our Dark Horse prizes to win, we also had a 50/50 drawing and the winner was Chuck Santoro who won **\$100!**

At the time I am writing this bulletin, I do not know when Governor Murphy will lift restrictions to allow the American Legion post to open up so that we can have our meetings in the Legion hall. We may have to meet again at the Legion's pavilion for our July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and frankly it worked very well for us! We set up tables and chairs for about 50 members with social distancing in mind. Chuck Santoro did a head count and we only had 35 members in attendance. Usually at our meetings, we have between 70 to 80 members attending, but the concern of contacting COVID-19 was certainly a factor in keeping attendance down. Also, Governor Murphy announced on June 9<sup>th</sup> that 100 people could meet in an outdoor setting and our Board had to quickly get this June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting together in a short time period with confirming if the pavilion could be used etc. Consequently, word did not get out to a number of anglers that we were having this June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. This lack of communication is the result of this virus situation.

### July 21<sup>st</sup> Club Meeting – Tony Maja

to give a power point presentation on his bunker spoons and catching striped bass. These spoons are very productive in catching striped bass and other fish. Tony also wants to show other new fishing gear that his company has designed to catch various species of fish. This will be a good meeting & so don't miss it! Tony puts on a good show!

**Note** – June 8<sup>th</sup> trip on the MiJo for the Ranch Hope youths was cancelled. This trip is now scheduled for **September 14<sup>th</sup>**. Tom Tyls will be taking the names of members who want to help out on this trip by showing kids how to fish. You can reach Tom by calling (201) 575-3740 or at [tatyls@aol.com](mailto:tatyls@aol.com).

**July 17<sup>th</sup> – Club charter trip on the Helen H** – This trip reluctantly had to be canceled by Craig Zincavage. Fearing the catching of COVID-19, a number of members changed their minds about going on it or did not sign up for it for the same reason.

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

**September 12<sup>th</sup> – Club Picnic at the American Legion Post # 170** (To be determined).

**October 10<sup>th</sup> – Sea Bass trip – Leonardo – John Piazza Trip Captain**

**November 14<sup>th</sup> – Club Beefsteak Dinner at the American legion Post # 170** ( To be determined).

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

All Americans believe that they are born fishermen. For a man to admit distaste for fishing would be like denouncing mother-love and hating moonlight”.

John Steinbeck

### Bill Fish and the scale says it all...



## Fishing Report – The Good & the Bad News

By John Toth

As president of the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County, I have many responsibilities including recruiting speakers for our club's monthly meetings. I try to have speakers to give presentations on various topics, but they all have some connection to salt water fishing.

Given that we are in the start of the summer flounder fluke season, I invited Dave Lilly to talk at our club's June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to give a presentation on his best techniques to catch summer flounder. He has won many summer flounder tournaments and he certainly know how to catch these fish. Weather - permitting, he is the type of angler that is on the water just about every day to catch whatever fish is in season. He is also a very good speaker and the proof of that is when he is speaking, club members are totally silent even when the room has almost 70 to 80 of them in it!

At our meeting, Dave first talked about last year's fluke season and said that it was the worst he experienced in memory. The fish were just not there and he, like us, struggled to land a few keepers. Fish as low as 5 pounds were winning some fluke tournaments! What caused this collapse of fluke fishing could be a number of factors such as sand mining, warming waters or some unknown factor. However, in Dave's opinion, the major factor was the lack of baitfish in our waters. We all know that if there is no bait, there are no fish! Fishing for fluke during 2019 was a struggle, even for the "sharpies".

However, the good news is that Dave is seeing all types of baitfish in our waters! The fluke he has been catching have been spitting up small porgies, crabs, small fluke and other baitfish. Schools of bunker are everywhere, and they are prime forage for striped bass and bluefish. Dave indicated that fluke fishing has had a slow start because of the unusual cold spring we have just experienced. But given the abundance of baitfish, fluke fishing for 2020 looks very promising!

The bad news is the effect COVID-19 has had on the for-hire fleet. Dave reported that during his many fishing trips he has seen party and charter boats only partially filled. The social distancing requirement has not only reduced the number of anglers allowable on boats, but captains have had to raise their fares to compensate for the number of anglers they need to turn a profit. Increased fares to go fishing, especially at a time when so many citizens are unemployed, does not put more people on fishing boats.

The fear of catching COVID-19 may be the biggest problem for the for-hire fleet and just about every business and organization in our country! For example, at our club's

June 16th meeting only 35 members came to it when my club meetings normally have between 70 to 80 members in attendance. Since our club did not have club meetings in March, April and May and that we have been house bound for so long, I was convinced that we would have the normal turnout of members, but I was wrong. I also receive reports from a number of fishing boats, and they petition anglers to come on board for even the next day's trip. That shows me that they are lacking anglers to fill their boats

What was funny at our club's June meeting was the hairy look of our club members and a few were almost unrecognizable! It has been so long since any of us have seen a barber! I have grown a beard for the first time in my 75 years of existence! If I hardly go anywhere and am mostly housebound, why should I shave?

### New Jersey Salt Water Registry

It is important for all anglers to sign up for our state's saltwater registry. It is mandatory for anglers using private boats, but not on party or charter boats.

More importantly, it is used by our state to request federal funding that is based on the numbers of anglers that each state has. The more anglers, the more funding our state receives. Also, when requesting the striped bass bonus tag from NJ DEP we are asked for our registry number.

To apply for this registry, simply Google New Jersey Saltwater Registry or go to: [www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov](http://www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov).



**Bob Goldstein** with his big fluke caught in Nantucket. The length is 31 1/2 inches.

## Report on Study to Determine the Effect of Windmill Noise on Fish

By John Toth

By 2024, it is expected that about 99 wind turbines will start to be operating at approximately 15 miles from Atlantic City. These windmills will be constructed by Orsted, a Danish company that has built many of them in the waters of Europe. These windmills will be placed 15 miles off New Jersey's coast so that they do not disturb bird migrations that are usually two miles from shore line and be less visible so that they do not detract from the beauty of our beaches. This project called Ocean Wind is expected to produce 1,100 megawatts and its goal is to power 500,000 homes when completed. Orsted leased 108 acres of ocean floor for their Ocean Wind project from the U.S. Bureau Energy Management (BOEM), a federal agency that has the responsibility of managing offshore energy projects.

Producing clean energy is certainly a worthwhile goal but with projects of this magnitude, it has drawbacks. There are questions about the electromagnetic effects that their transmission cables to shore may have on fish and whale migration patterns. Also, the construction of 99 windmills will certainly disrupt the ocean floor and the effects on its habitat which all marine life depend upon is unknown.

However, one of the main concerns with windmills is the noise they will make when they are being anchored and are ultimately in operation. This noise can have a negative effect on the movements and migration patterns of whales and fish. Anchoring windmills that are up to 800 feet high cannot be a quiet operation! Whales are especially affected by windmill noise and the anchoring of windmills by construction crews may be stopped when they are seen approaching the windmills.

Dr. Eleanor Bochenek, Director, Fisheries Cooperative Center from Rutgers, is submitting a proposal to the Bureau of Energy Management (BOEM) to study this important noise issue and she requested the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) to offer her support for BOEM to approve it. This study would involve tagging black sea bass from a chartered boat and creating a wind farm type noise to study the effect it has on the movement of these fish. This study is a very worthwhile endeavor and it certainly needs to be done! I wrote a letter of support for Dr. Bochenek on Jersey Coast Anglers Association letterhead and it follows:

"Fishing consists of a series of misadventures interspersed by occasional moments of glory".

Howard Marshall

(On JCAA letterhead)

Dear Dr., Bochenek

May 19, 2020

The Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) fully supports your proposal entitled "In situ Fish Response to Sounds Originating from Wind Turbine Installation and Operation in the Mid-Atlantic Bight" being submitted to the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Environmental Studies Program.

Many offshore windfarms are planned off the coasts of Massachusetts to North Carolina and their impacts on fish species are not known. Black sea bass supports an important recreational and commercial fishery in New Jersey and the Mid-Atlantic and occupies the areas of proposed windfarms during early summer through fall. These fish are known to spawn in these regions as well. This project will collect critical information on the impacts of windfarm noise during construction and maintenance on this important species.

Your proposal should improve the knowledge of whether noise from windfarm construction and maintenance affects black sea bass behavior. This study is very timely and is needed to assess potential windfarm noise on a key recreational and commercial fish species in our region.

Sincerely,

John Toth

President, Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA)

(Note in situ means in the field)

### Big Fish Contest to Start up Again!

With the cancellations of our March, April and May meetings, our Big Fish contest was on hold with all of the disruptions going on with our cancelled meetings. Now, we are starting up this contest again and need your information to enter it. Send a photo of the fish you are entering to John Toth and his email address is: [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net). And his home address is: 24 Kings Mill Road, Monroe Twp., NJ 08831. Affidavits to enter this contest can be found on our club's website at [www.swabc.org](http://www.swabc.org). Click on to the Big Fish Contest link to print it. Members often display scale showing the weight of their fish as proof of the weight of their fish. Affidavits also need to be signed by a captain or a person verifying the weight of the fish. **Good Luck and Good Fishing!**

Give a man a fish, and you feed him for the day. Teach a man to fish, and he is going to spend a fortune on gear he'll use only twice a year. (American Legion Newsletter, February 2019)

# 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	7 lbs.	Barry Paull
	LING	2		
	POLLOCK	10		
	PORGY	1lb.8oz.	2.8 lbs.	Barry Paull
	SEA BASS	2		
	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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**Hudson River Fisherman's Association (HRFA) Sinks Tug Boat to Honor Member**

On June 9, an old tug boat was sunk on the Sandy Hook reef by the HRFA in dedication to the late Darren Cardinal who was an avid fisherman and he ran the youth programs for this association. The tug boat was stripped of its mechanical components, emptied of its fuel and power washed in preparation for its new life as a marine habitat in New Jersey's artificial reef program. This tug boat was filled with water, careened to its starboard side, then slip below the surface and begin its descent. As is the tradition, HRFA members who drove out in their boats to watch, sounded their horns once the vessel was out of sight.

A total of 16 man-made or artificial reefs line the floor off the New Jersey coast. A 17<sup>th</sup> reef sits in the Delaware Bay. Sometimes referred to as "fish havens", they provide vertical structure for fish and other marine life. The new Darren Cardinal memorial reef site will hold and protect a lot of marine life in the future and HRFA members certainly held him in high regard to build this new reef in honor of his memory! May he rest in peace!

**Club Youth Outreach Trip – Looking for Sponsorship**

Frank Rella, a club member and a former employee of Williams, was able to receive a sponsorship from this company that sponsored our club's charter trip for disadvantaged youths. It seems our club may no longer receive sponsorship for this trip since Williams only gives sponsorships to its active employees. Since Frank has retired from Williams, it does not appear likely that the sponsorship from Williams for our club's Outreach trip will continue.

Do you know of companies or individuals that could be a sponsor for our Youth Outreach trip that is scheduled for June 8 and on the boat MiJo that sails from Atlantic Highlands. This trip costs our club approximately \$2,500. Sponsorship could cover the whole trip or even partial amounts in any increments. All monies for this trip are place in a separate account and are **not comingled** with the club's treasury. Monies in this special account are earmarked **only** for the charter trip for disadvantaged youths.

Please contact John Toth for more information at (732) 656-0139 or at [tothjohn@verizon.net](mailto:tothjohn@verizon.net).

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

