

# Bulletin

## Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County NJ

Free Issue

JULY 2024

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

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### Rick Reitano with a nice 40 lb. Striped Bass



#### 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 June 18th meeting, we had Captain Alan Lee as our guest speaker. As a representative from Shimano Tackle, he gave us a power point presentation on his tips to catch fluke. His presentation covered the best tackle to use in landing this fish and we need to hear these tips with the fluke season picking up in earnest. Captain Alan told me how much he enjoyed coming to our club and being with anglers like us, who enjoy fishing.

Speaking of fluke, congratulations are in order for **Jeff Criswell Sr.** who recently landing a **12.5 lb. fluke!** With a fish like that, he is the current leader in our Big Fish Derby in the fluke category. While the fluke season is still early, a bigger fluke may still be caught to lead in this contest.

We had delicious Shoprite rotisserie chicken, potato and macaroni salad and cake THANKS to Nico and Don Lohse for our refreshments. A **Thank You** also goes to **Bill Goodsir** who always helps with Nico and Don with arranging food and beverages at our meetings.

Incredibly, I won the 50/50 drawing and 2 Dark Horse prizes. I have always bought 50/50 tickets for many years and have not won for a very long time. This year I won twice. In May & June, TWO, back to back. I guess lightening does struck twice in the same spot; at least for me it did!

### July 16th Meeting –

#### Captain Ryan Burlew –

#### Lobster & Fish Trip Combo

Captain Burlew purchased the lobster business formerly owned by Captain Fahey (Curlaw) who developed serious health issues. Captain Ryan will talk about his new business and will sign up charters at this meeting for members who want to catch lobsters and then fish for fluke or sea bass. If you want to sign up for this charter, it would be a good idea to have the date you want before you go to this meeting and an alternative date so that you can reserve the date you want for your trip.

### August 20th Meeting – Michael Sardinas

#### Surf Fishing Presentation

Michael Sardinas gives an excellent presentation on surf fishing and he will get us prepared to fish the surf for the upcoming fall season. A lot of what Michael covers can also be applied to fishing by boat.

### In Memoriam –

#### Kenneth Halvorsen

The fishing community lost Kenneth Halvorsen recently who was the owner of Pell's Bait & Tackle on Mantoloking Road in Brick. He was not just a respected businessman but also a cherished member of the fishing community. May he rest in peace.



### Joe Arterio with a 9.65 lb, fluke

#### Shark Eyes from a Horror Movie

A haunting new “Ghost Shark” species with glowing eyes straight out of a horror movie has been discovered off the coast of Thailand.

Scientists with the Pacific Shark Research Center discovered the Chimaera Supapae 1, 640 feet below the Andaman Sea and have published images of the species in Raffles Bulletin of Zoology.

The deep-sea predator features iridescent eyes which appear to change colors when spotted from different angles. (New York Post, March 28, 2024).

#### Sexy Fish – Hold Down the Noise!

Unnerved residents of Tampa Bay, Florida, are scrambling to explain mysterious rolling bass tones that vibrate their walls at night and rob their kids of sleep.

Frantic theories have run the gamut – from secret overnight operations from a nearby military base to a code –violating nightclub or even **incoming alien squadrons.**

But a scientist from the region believes the source of the confounding racket is frisky fish.

This week, James Locascio of the Marine Laboratory and Aquarium in Sarasota, installed marine microphones in the area to confirm his theory – that the noise stems from mating noises emitted by the aptly named black drum fish! (New York Post, February 9, 2024)



## Upcoming Club Events

**July 18th** – Club Charter on the MiJo to take youths from Garfield YMCA

**July 25th** – Interclub fishing contest – our club vs. Hudson River Fishermen’s Association (HRFA)

**Fluke Trip – August 3rd** - club charter trip on the Bingo. Ralph DeJulia Trip Captain.

Ralph DeJulia can be reached at (201) 206-4506 or [newknee22@yahoo.com](mailto:newknee22@yahoo.com). The Bingo holds 25 anglers comfortably. 17 members have already signed up for this trip.

At this time, the following members have signed up for this August 3rd trip: Don Lohse, Barry Paull, Harry Vogt, Jim Galanaugh, Chuck Santoro, Ralph DeJulia (and 4 more with Ralph), John Toth, Steven Blumenfeld, Rick Reitano, Mark Capalbo, Nick Casamassimo and Steven Weinstein. Contact Ralph if you want to be on this trip.

### July 18th Youth Outreach trip Charter on the MiJo

Member Tom Tyls will be taking names of club members who want to volunteer their time to assist youths from the Garfield YMCA in catching fish. Contact Tom to sign up for this trip at (201) 575-3740 or at [tatys@aol.com](mailto:tatys@aol.com). Our club has been taking kids on fishing trips for many years so that they can have fun and learn how to fish.

Our club members assist youths to catch fish and the following members have signed up with Tom Tyls to help the kids and they include: Chuck Santoro, Jim Galanaugh, Don Lohse, Barry Paull, Harry Vogt, Rich Melton, Mark Hovsepian, Lou Castellano, Dennis Kuntz, Bill Lessimore, Jim Piobino, Frank Rella, Mike Modeski, Hector Chacon, John Toth & Tom Tyls.

This is a fun trip and we will leave the dock around 7:30 a.m. The MiJo has a nice galley and breakfast and lunch will be available. The MiJo will be back at the dock around 2:00 – 2:30 p.m.

### Interclub Fishing Contest July 25<sup>th</sup> SWABC vs HRFA

This contest will be held on the Last Lady that holds 15 anglers comfortably. Our club will have 7 anglers representing us and the HRFA will also have 7 anglers. The first time we had this contest (2021) the HRFA won it. We did not hold it in 2022 because of COVID and in 2023 it was canceled at the last moment because of high winds.

The 7 club members representing our club are: Barry Paull, Harry Vogt, Tom Tyls, Jim Galanaugh, Don Lohse, Rich Melton and John Toth. During the first time we had this contest, the HRFA won it and came home with the winning trophy. If our guys don’t win the contest this time, **appropriate punishment will be determined by our Board members!**

## Researchers Find Mercury Levels in Tuna Stubbornly High

In the 1960s and 1970s, the horrors of mercury poisoning in Japan and elsewhere shocked the world. Thousands of people in Minamata, Japan came down with neurological and other diseases due to their consumption of fish having high levels of mercury in fish, especially in tuna. Mercury can harm the brains of unborn children and have toxic effects on the human nervous, digestive and immune systems.

Given the global scientific consensus over mercury’s health risks, most of the countries signed the 2013 Minamata Convention committing to eradicating its use. Measures to reduce mercury levels include strengthening standards on mercury and other pollutants from power plants and the burning of coal. Yet in contrast to a global decrease in mercury emissions since the 1970’s, mercury levels in tuna have remained unchanged. The stubbornly high level of mercury in tuna may have to do with ocean mining, which is churning up mercury that’s lurked for decades in the ocean’s depth.

Environmentalists and advocates for public health say that the Minamata Convention has a big loophole. It allows for the trade and use of mercury in small-scale gold mining, a significant source of mercury pollution. Gold mining is now thought to be the world’s largest source of human-caused mercury pollution.

Elimination Network, a non-profit group based in Sweden indicated “Business as usual means contaminated tuna well into the next century.”

(Asbury Park Press, May 28, 2024)

### Bill Fish with his Father’s day Haddock



## Court Fight Could Change Fate of Most Important Fish in the Sea

By John Toth

The American Fisheries Act (AFA) prohibits foreign citizens from having “de facto control” of over any vessel that engages in commercial fishing in United States waters. A Canadian company, Cook Inc., acquired Omega Protein in 2017 and is using it as a shell company in Delaware to mask its ownership of a lone menhaden reduction business on the East Coast out of Reedville, Virginia. The CEO of this shell company is an American, but he is also the nephew of the CEO of Cook Inc. This company uses menhaden (bunker) to produce fish oil pills, fertilizer and other products.

Omega Protein utilizes spotter planes to direct their boats to scoop up million metric tons of menhaden and when there is no bait, there is no fish for us like striped bass and bluefish. Their boats come into our waters and when they do, our ability to catch striped bass, bluefish, fluke and other fish drops accordingly. Omega Protein is no friend of recreational anglers and we have been in a battle with them to have their menhaden quota (about 80%) reduced by fishing managers for quite some time. A number of years ago, I and others were in a meeting in Baltimore to provide testimony to fishing management to lower Omega Protein’s menhaden quota and this is still an ongoing issue.

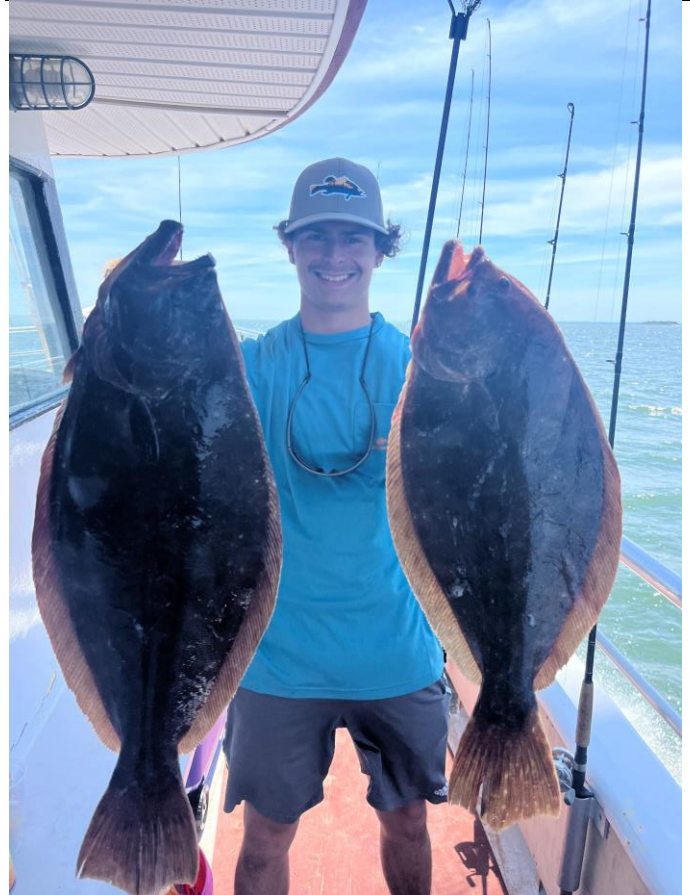
Two individuals filed a lawsuit in 2021 against Cooke Inc., under a False Claim Act that deputizes private citizens to sue on behalf of the United States in cases like this. It was kept under seal to allow time for our government to investigate the claim. The Department of Justice recently opted not to pursue the case, but also not to have it dismissed. If found that Cooke Inc., is in violation of the American Fishing Act, it then can be fined up to \$154,000 per fishing trip for menhaden or up to a total of \$2 billion.

The two individuals filed this lawsuit not because they want compensation, but they are concerned over Omega Protein’s taking of so many menhaden without concern over its sustainability, especially in the Chesapeake Bay area that has seen a serious decline in striped bass stocks that feed on menhaden. One of the litigants is a private detective from Atlantic Highlands and the other is from New York City and is involved in fishing management. Cooke Inc. has until July 11th to respond to this lawsuit and I will keep you informed about its outcome.

The person who coined the phrase “**Menhaden, the most important fish in the Sea**” was a gentleman named Bruce Franklin and he was a professor at Rutgers University and very much involved in the welfare of menhaden stocks. He wrote a book with the above title and I had him as a speaker for our club many years ago. He gave a presentation to us on how valuable menhaden is to

the health of our fishery and to the ecosystem of our ocean. Our members were spellbound on what he had to say about these fish. He passed away some time ago, but his bringing our attention to this important fish in the sea and how we depend on it, is his legacy that has not been forgotten.

Source: Asbury Park Press, 6/9/2024














**Jake DeJulia’s 6 lb. & 4Lb. fluke caught on the Keyport Princess with his dad, Ralph**



**Barry Paull with one of his Flounders**

# 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.		
	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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### Die-Off of Endangered Fish in Florida Baffles Scientists

Fish are dying in the Florida Keys and scientists are stumped to find the reason causing it. The usual suspects that kill fish like red tide or a big algae bloom have been ruled out. Fishing guides in the Florida Keys began reporting unusual sightings to Ross Boucek last fall of small bait fish spinning in tight circles at night, seemingly in distress. Dr. Boucek is a biologist with the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust, a non-profit conservation group. As months went by, more reports trickled into Dr. Boucek of bigger fishlike jacks, sharks and snook were swimming in spirals or upside down in the shallow waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

In January, the mysterious ailment began afflicting small tooth sawfish, a type of large, prehistoric-looking ray named for the look of its snout-like mouth lined with sharp teeth. The sawfish, which are endangered and reliably found only in southern Florida, started dying. The search for why this endangered fish began dying became urgent. At least 38 sawfish died this year.

A research team led by state scientists has raced to conduct experiments to identify the cause of this problem that included tagging fish, taking blood samples, reviewing last summer's record-breaking hot temperatures that may have altered the ecosystem triggering unusual microalgae growth. Florida's legislators quickly designated \$2 million in emergency funds to help carry out this work. In their best lead to date, they have learned that microalgae naturally present near the sea bottom have produced an elevated level of toxins that acutely affect the neurological systems of fish when they swim into those areas. This might explain why spinning fish seem to recover when pulled up from the sea bottom toward the water surface where toxic concentrations are lower.

Since early April, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has been trying to rescue sawfish in distress. This is not an easy task since unlike the rays we catch in our local waters, **these sawfish can grow up to 18 feet in size!** NMFS rescued its first sawfish on April 5th, an 11-foot male that was seen swimming in circles. It is now recovering in a marine aquarium in Sarasota, Florida.

Greg Furstenwerth, a local resident, who has been spotting spinning fish for months, shared videos on social media. He saw a 14-foot sawfish in distress near Key West. "My wife started crying," he said. "I wish it was, better. I'm sitting here watching the ecosystem tear itself apart, and I am powerless to stop it."

Some fishing guides reported that their clients have cancelled a number of trips over concern that the fish they catch are not safe to eat. The state cautions that fish exhibiting unusual behavior should not be consumed.

A "Smoking Gun" causing these deaths and fish exhibiting strange behavior has not been identified. Scientists seem to believe that a number of factors may be responsible for this problem. However, whatever it is, the endangered sawfish are dying and fish from other species.

Hopefully, scientists in Florida can identify why these fish are dying, especially its endangered sawfish before it is too late and, before whatever is causing this problem in Florida spreads to other states.

Source: New York Times, April 17, 2024

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_