



Bulletin

Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County NJ



Free Issue

March 2025

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

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Ron Stewart,
inshore fishing
for Tautog &
here's a nice
one.

**Remember
March 18th
Meeting
is the
Past
President's
Dinner
at the
Mountainside
Inn, Clifton**

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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 Report

For our February meeting, we had Kimberly Korth from the NJ DEP to give us a power point presentation on red knot birds and their dependence on horseshoe crabs for their journey starting from Brazil to the Artic. She also covered other shore birds that journeyed to the Artic to nest, but for shorter distances. It was an amazing presentation with nature at its best to have red knots fly over 19,000 miles round trip on their migrations. She told us that horseshoe crabs have been with us for over 450 million years! At the end of this meeting, two club members told me how much they enjoyed her presentation. I try to have interesting and varied speakers at our club to cover topics that have an impact on the sport we all love.

Our March 18th meeting is the past President's Dinner and it will be held at the Mountain Side Inn in Clifton starting at 7:00 p.m. Incredibly, the cost for this dinner is still the same as last year, \$35 per member, and this dinner is served family style with roast beef, chicken and much more. See details of this dinner in another section in this newsletter.

Our Nico made a pollock dish with a creamy base along with rice, salad and a delicious cake. Thanks Nico and Thanks to member Bill Fish who supplied Nico with pollock that he caught on one of his New England trips.

Our club had a booth at the Boat Show (Feb. 13- 16th) and I want to Thank all of our members who worked at it. A report on the Boat Show is in another section of this bulletin.

The Salt Water Expo is scheduled for March 14-16th and the list of our members who signed up to work for it is another section of this bulletin. The focus of this show is on salt water fishing, unlike others that have a multitude of exhibitors selling windows etc.

Ralph DeJulia was lucky again and won our 50/50 raffle; I'm sure he will use it for his fishing trips.

In spite of the very cold weather, we had a nice turnout of members and I think we had an informative meeting that we all enjoyed.

Welcome Aboard

To our New & returning Members:

Vic LoBue – Rochelle Park

Frank Scalise – Hasbrouck Heights

Barry F. Doll – Bergenfield (a returning member from the 80's & 90's) glad you're joining us again!

March 18th Meeting – is the Past President's Dinner at the Mountainside Inn

Our club will host this annual event on **March 18th 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 **\$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! 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 18th meeting. The Past President's Dinner is our March club meeting.

April 15th Meeting – Dr. Melinda Weber to talk about skin cancer/melanoma

Since we are in the sun so much as we fish, so many of us have experienced some sort of skin cancer or serious problems like melanoma. Dr. Weber, Director of Clinical Nursing Practice, Hackensack Meridian, will be our guest speaker telling us about the dangers of too much exposure to the sun. She will also provide us with handouts to explain how we can further protect us from these diseases, especially before the start of the 2025 fishing season.

Dr. Weber will be introduced to us at this meeting by Captain Kevin Fahey who has been treated by Dr. Weber to recover from a serious case of melanoma.

Also, **Captain Jay Sullivan** will be present to take reservations for his **lobster/combo** charter trips for this fishing season

May 20th Meeting – Dave Lilly – Fluke Fishing the Ambrose Channel

Dave Lilly, winner of many fluke tournaments, will be our guest speaker to talk about fishing on the Ambrose Channel which he has caught some big fluke in it. Fishing this channel requires special techniques to catch big fish and Dave will explain them to us. Dave is a dynamic speaker and he always has words of wisdom for us to catch some nice fish.

**Date for Youth Trip is Set –
July 29th**

We will be taking kids from the Garfield YMCA on July 29th on the MiJo for our annual Youth Trip. We took these kids last year on the MiJo and they were so enthusiastic about fishing and they were a joy to watch them catch fish. As soon as the boat would stop, these kids would rush to the rails to catch fish and were excited to bring them in. Tom Tyls will be taking names of members who want to volunteer to assist kids in catching fish.

Member **Alex Rubino** donated **\$2,000** to pay for this trip with the kids! Thank you so much Alex for your continued support to help our club finance this charter on the MiJo for the kids!

Dates for other club charter trips – Ralph DeJuia will be setting up charters for sea bass, fluke and blackfish and will be announced as soon as they are firmed up.

Upcoming Fish Contests

Hudson River Fishermen’s Association (HRFA) Fred Rung Memorial Striped Bass Derby – Catch, Photo, & Release or Catch, Tag, Photo & Release

Start 7:00 a.m. April 1st & end on May 18th at 2:00 p.m.
Many cash prizes up to \$1,200

Contact Joe Albanese – joealbanese2@gmail.com or Alex Spindelman at siztastic@aol.com.

American Angler Classic Surf Tournament

April 26 at Long Branch, NJ

Cash Prize of \$500 for biggest fish

Contact Carl Hartmann at (201) 481-4390 or
www.americanangler.com

**May 18th – Governor’s Surf Tournament –
Island Beach State Park**

Club Raffle Prizes

The drawing of raffle tickets will be held on
April 15th

at our regularly scheduled club meeting at the American Legion Post # 170. Our club has some very nice prizes to offer and they are:

1. **Charter Fishing Trip on the Fins on Feathers Charters - \$800 value
Captain Frank Tenore - 125 Concord Ave.,
Leonardo, NJ. (Gratuity not included).**
2. **JW Onyx 701C-H Rod, Tsunama Shield
6000 Reel – \$230 Value**
3. **JW Onyx 701S- H Rod, Quantum AT 100S
Reel - \$200 value**
4. **2 Tickets for the Party Boat “Fisherman”-
\$200 value**
5. **Gift Certificate – Jigging World, \$100
value, 175 Rt.17, Rochelle Park, NJ 07667**

Salt Water Expo –

March 14th – March 16th

Friday, March 14th

Noon – 4:00 p.m. – John Toth, Steve Totten, John Piazza
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tom Bornemann, Gene Snyder,
Tom Tyls

Saturday, March 15th

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Don Lohse, Jon Campbell,
Steve Blumenfeld, Steve Totten, John Piazza
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Bob Goldstein, John Farrell,
Ralph DeJulia

Sunday, March 16th

10:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. – Dennis Kuntz, Steve Totten,
John Piazza
1:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – John Toth, Rick Swarthe, Dave
Nicholson

Boat Show Report - by John Toth

We usually have a good location for our booth at this show, but not this time. We were positioned in a corner and away from the flow of people entering the convention hall to see the boats on display. In spite of this, we were still able to sell our raffle tickets, but not as many as in previous years. Additionally, the weather did not help attendance with a snow storm on Saturday evening that scared people away from the show and rain on Sunday.

I do want to Thank our members worked at this show and they include: Tom Bornemann, Fred Villanova, Rick Reitano, Jim Catanzarro, Tom Tyls, Gene Snyder, Frank Rella, Jim Galanaugh, Art Lein, rich Melton, and Steve Totten who helped me to set up our booth and did a great job in selling raffle ticket as he usually does. Hopefully, we will have a better booth location next year at this show.

**Message from our Membership Chairman –
Art Vrola**

While the payment of club dues is required by the end of February, it has been my experience that a number of our members send in their club dues after February for a number of reasons. If you are in this category, checks for dues payment (\$55 for an individual and \$60 for family membership) 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. This will be the last call for payment of club membership dues. Better late than never!

Update on Offshore Windmills – the Trump Effect

By John Toth

As a candidate for presidency, Donald Trump indicated that he was against the deployment of windmills off our country's shoreline. On his first day as president, Trump signed an Executive Order (EO) that halts the expansion of offshore windmills in U.S. waters until this EO is revoked. There are a number of leases that have been approved by the federal Bureau of Energy Management (BOEM) and signed by windmill developers (Empire Wind and Atlantic Shores) and this EO does not outright cancel these leases. However, this EO requires a review of the leases by the Secretary of the Interior and the Attorney General to determine the "ecological, economic and environmental necessity of terminating or amending any existing windmill leases or "loans" until federal agencies conduct an assessment of leasing and permitting practices".

From my perspective, this language means that the existing leases can be canceled or amended since BOEM (with pressure from the previous administration to advance their Green initiatives) approved these leases without adequate environmental review to determine if these windmills would be harmful to the ocean's animals and its habitat. Windmills would be placed on traditional fishing grounds causing loss of income for the commercial fishing industry and a resulting diminished supply of seafood resulting in higher prices for them such as scallops. Questions about the electro-magnetic effects of cables, noise from windmill affecting fish migrations, whales and others have never been fully answered by BOEM or windmill developers. The whole attitude seems to be by BOEM and developers is let's put the windmills up and see what happens next!

One question that I have asked repeatedly at seminars at Rutgers and Stockton universities and at ZOOM/Webinar meetings is what will be the cost of electricity for an average household since offshore windmills are not revenue producing and require subsidies to remain in business. This question has never been answered and I always receive the "we are looking into it" response. I really believe that this question does not want to be answered because if the public really knew the cost of it, they would never support any windmill development off our coast. While I have been stonewalled on this issue, the Trump administration will get the answer to this and that may be due cause to the cancellation of existing windmill leases.

What may stop the windmill industry before Trump does is the increasing cost of material and labor to build them. Erecting windmills 850 feet high requires a lot of steel that is not cheap and costing more each day with inflation. It is much harder to erect windmills at sea than on land and requires a lot of labor to do it. Finally, there are continuing supply problems for the necessary parts to

with. However, given the cost of material and labor and coupled with the Trump effect, Shell did not want to invest more in a business that has dubious business results.

I have written many articles against offshore build them. The Shell Oil company, a partner with the Atlantic Shores windmill developer, recently pulled out of its partnership with them and Shell took a \$1billion loss to do it that its shareholders will not be happy windmills and spoke against them at many opportunities since I believe that they are a threat to our environment and will result in much higher and unnecessary energy costs to our public that is already stressed with higher costs of everything. I support Trump in his efforts to stop or curtail offshore windmill development that has so many downsides to it.

I will continue to monitor offshore windmill development and will keep you updated as it unfolds.

Ominous Fish Found in California?

A deep-sea fish considered to be a **harbinger of doom** washed up on a California shore.

The roughly 10-foot-long **Oarfish** – in Japanese folklore is a **sign of impending earthquakes** – was found stretched out on the rocky shore of Grandview Beach. A second 12 foot long Oarfish was also found near La Jolla Cove about 20 miles from Grandview Beach.

The Oarfish is a rarely seen creature.

(Maybe not an Earthquake, but a fire like in LA)?

Harry Vogt & Barry Paul –

Did a great job selling 50/50 tickets
at our Flea Market in February



(NOAA) Withdraws Speed Restriction Rule

By John Toth

The Atlantic Right Whale is an endangered species with approximately 350 of them left in our ocean. NOAA (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration) in a misguided attempt to protect the whales proposed a rule during August 1, 2022 that would impose speed restrictions of up to 10 knots (11.5 miles) on vessels 35 to 64 feet in length so that they do not strike a whale. At the speed of 10 knots, the for-hire industry would have to operate at much slower speed to reach their fishing grounds and limit where they could fish in a day. This would result in less charters and loss of income for the charter/for-hire fishing fleets. Also, boats operate more fuel-efficient when they are moving at speeds of 15 knots or more. This speed restriction was developed without any input from the recreational fishing industry.

On January 16, 2025, NOAA announced that it would rescind the proposed 10 knot speed restriction on boats less than 65 feet after more than two years of debate and over 90,000 public comments. However, NOAA also indicated that their withdrawal of the 10 knot speed restriction does not prevent NOAA from taking future action to initiate a new rule to address ongoing lethal right whale vessel strikes. Ships that are 65 feet or more are still subject to the 10-knot speed restriction.

Opposition to this 10-knot speed rule by the recreational fishing industry was ongoing and strong since it had such a negative impact on it. On behalf of the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County, I wrote a letter on my club letterhead to both Senators Booker and Menendez requesting them to help New Jersey's anglers by stopping the NOAA from implementing this 10-knot speed rule. I did not even receive the courtesy of a reply from either of them. From my perspective, neither of them has done anything to help us anglers like Senator Schumer has done for his New York anglers. In fact, at one time Senator Booker wanted to raise the minimum size of fluke to 21 inches to appease the anti fishing/hunting groups in our state. At 21 inches as a minimum size, most anglers would not even bother to fish for fluke and that would be devastating to the party/charter industry. The Fisherman magazine in its editorial section made the comment on that 21-inch size for fluke as "We have been Bookered". Senator Gold Bar is facing jail time and maybe his replacement will be more receptive to the many challenges facing the recreational fishing industry.

What is very troubling about the 10-knot rule is that NOAA did not take the time or even think it was necessary to engage representatives from the boating industry and the recreational community about their implementing such a rule that would certainly have a damaging impact on our fishing industry. This is not the first time this has happened. The 28-to-31-inch regulation for striped bass went into effect very quickly by fishing managers and again the

recreational community was not even contacted and had no opportunity to provide any input on it. Such indifference to us does not help our common goal of protecting and enhancing our fisheries.

Hopefully, one of these days we may be able to better communicate with NOAA and work in tandem with other fishing management agencies to improve our recreational fishing industry and its related ecosystem.

"Doomsday" Fish Sighting

A rare "doomsday" creature known as the oarfish washed ashore in the Canary Islands, sparking fear that a disaster is on the doorstep.

Generally speaking, at the depths of up to 3,200 feet, this fish was found by bathers on the coast of Playa Quemada as seen in a video with over 9 million viewers on Instagram.

The creature presence is believed to be unlucky for humans.

According to Japanese mythology, the serpentine plankton-eaters will purposely rise to the surface and beach themselves whenever they sense that trouble is on the horizon.

(New York Post, February 19, 2025)

Bob Goldstein with 2 nice Togs





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China's Fleets Overwhelm Fishing in Peru

By John Toth

In the 1970's, the Russians and other countries came over to our waters and were plundering our fishery by taking cod, haddock and other fish by using a very large fishing fleet. Our fishery was severely depleted and we were so frustrated by watching this tragedy unfold. Our fishing community worked together to extend our shoreline by 200 miles to legally claim fishing was in the jurisdiction of our country and this pushed these foreign fleets out of our waters. I remember my fishing club (Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County) and the Hudson River Fishermen's Association (HRFA) writing letters, filling out post cards and sending petitions to our legislators to establish the 200-hundred-mile regulation. At least we were able to stop the plundering of fishery in our waters, but countries like Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Argentina, Ecuador and now Peru are having their fishery taken over by China and seem powerless to stop it.

The first Chinese fleet of 22 ships arrived off Peru's territorial waters in 2021 and caught about 17,700 tons of squid. This fleet has now grown to 500 ships and it looks like a floating city. A mother ship transports the catch back to China. Other vessels provide fuel. One ship serves as a hospital. This fleet fishes' day and night and captures approximately 500,000 tons of squid annually! Peru's squid catch has collapsed and is down by 70% this year which the fishing industry claims is the result of industrial-scale fishing by the Chinese.

Peru's fishermen fish with small wooden boats and are no match for the Chinese fleet. It is like a David vs. Goliath competition for their fishery. The Chinese fleet is pushing the Peruvian fishermen with their small boats out of business with their catches of squid being increasing lower. A number of them have lost their jobs and are having increasing difficulty in providing for their families and are turning to other jobs like picking mangoes to make ends meet.

The Peruvian President, Dina Boluarte, visited China in June to deepen their friendship so there is no help for Peruvian fishermen coming from their government. In fact, Chinese leader, Xi Jinping, is scheduled to inaugurate a Chinese-owned Megaport in Peru by the end of 2024. A Megaport results in more Chinese ships in Peruvian waters and more ships fishing for their squid.

The Biden administration has sanctioned Chinese-vessel ships for so-called illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, which the U.S. says has surpassed piracy as the leading global maritime-security threat. The Chinese are putting pressure on the world's richest grounds for fishing from Asia, Africa and South America. This pressure is more pronounced in the Philippines with the Chinese ramming and even shooting at Philippines fishing vessels with high pressure water cannons. The Chinese boarded a Vietnam fishing boat recently and beat the three anglers on it causing broken ribs and they even took their catch of fish worth \$8,000.

The Chinese have depleted their local fishing grounds but still need to feed 1.4 billion of their people. To accommodate their diet for fish, the Chinese have built the world's largest fishing fleet of 3,000 ships. Unfortunately, they are being used to bully other nations by taking over their rich fishing grounds and causing fishermen in Peru and other nations to lose their livelihoods.

(New York Times, October 26, 2024) (New York Times, October 30,2024)

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**

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Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____