

# Bulletin

## Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County NJ



Free Issue

March 2026

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

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

**Carmen Bufardeci with last entry a Large Tog – 13 lbs.**



**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

At our February 17th meeting, we had Jayne Bryan as our guest speaker to give us a presentation on the oyster rehabilitation program of our NJ DEP and the commercial industry to seed discarded oysters to improve the oyster industry in our state. She answered a lot of questions and her presentation was well received.

The NJ Boat Show was held from February 12th to the 15th and a number of our members donated their time to staff our booth to sell raffle tickets and recruit new members and they include: Fred Villanova, Tom Bornemann, Gene Snyder, Glenn Peckel, Hector Chacon, Jim Catanzaro, Chuck Santoro, Bobby Jones, Sal Crochiola, Frank Rella, Rich Melton and Art Lein who made a special trip on the first day of the show who helped short guys like me and Fred Villanova in hanging up our banner over our booth. Thanks Art!

Our Past Presidents dinner will be held on March 24th at the Mountainside Inn in Clifton and it is our March meeting. More information on this dinner is in another section of this newsletter.

For our refreshments, Nico made tacos, rice and beans to go with it, salad, and delicious cake. Thanks Nico!

Board member, **Rick Swarthe**, missed a number of our meetings because of health issues and it was nice to see Rick back again at our February meeting. Rick does a great job in selling our Dark Horse tickets.

Board member **Steven Totten** has medical issues and we look forward to his returning to our club meetings!

**David Greip** won our 50/50 several months ago and is one lucky guy since he won our again at this February meeting. Our club has many members who donate their time, energy and even money to support it. Member **Rick Reitano** has been a long and dedicated supporter of our club by providing baskets of cheer for our Past Presidents dinner and handing me a check for **\$200** several times at this dinner to support our treasury. At this February club meeting, Rick gave me a check for **\$1,200** to pay for the rent we pay to the Legion for the use of their hall over the period of six months! Needless to say, I was surprised to receive this check but in retrospect I was not since he has been so generous in his long support of our club. **A Big Thank You, Thank You, Thank You goes to Rick** for his continued support and generosity to our club over many years!

### Definition "Pole"

Many people use the term "pole" to describe fishing rods in general, but this is inaccurate. Fishing poles do not have reels or guides. A Pole is the simplest form for fishing. It's just a rod (pole) with a length of line tied off to the end. Though rudimentary, fishing with a pole can still be very effective. The Japanese have extendable poles 30, 40 & 50 feet long with just a length of line tied to the end.

## March 24th Meeting – Past President's Dinner at the Mountainside Inn

Our club will host this annual event on **March 24th 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 \$40 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.

Tickets for this dinner is on sale by Dinner Chairman Art Vrola. To purchase tickets and to receive more information about this dinner, please call Art Vrola at (201) 280-8612.

***This is our club's March meeting*** and we **Will NOT** meet at the American Legion Post this month. Our club normally has its meetings on the third Tuesday of every month. However since the third Tuesday in March is St. Patrick's Day; many of our members attend events elsewhere and are not available. That is why this dinner has been moved to the following 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, March 24th.

### Message from our Membership Chairman Art Vrola

On behalf of our Board members, I want to **Thank** all of you members who have already paid their 2026 dues. As stated in our club's by-laws, in order to be an active club member our dues are due no later than **February 2026**.

For those members who are delinquent with their dues payment and wish to remain in our club, mail your dues payable to **SWABC**. Mail your check to the **American Legion Post # 170 c/o SWABC, 33 West Passaic Street, Rochelle Park, NJ 07662**.

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 keep these raffle tickets for their own use or sell their tickets and keep any money collected from the sales.

### Good News about the Endangered North Atlantic Right Whale

Most of the time we hear bad news about the population of North Atlantic Right Whales declining, but this time there is good news about them. The whale population increased from 376 to 384 according to the North Atlantic Right Whale Commission. While not out of the woods yet, this is encouraging news to hear that the population of Right Whales is slightly on the increase. An increasing concern is that Right Whale is on the verge of extinction and this news is very welcome to hear.

(Asbury Park Press, October 25th)

### Club Charter trips for 2026

**May 23rd** – Club Charter on the Ebbitide Fishing boat for black sea bass docked at Atlantic Highlands – Cost - \$125 includes tip for mates (trip full\*)

**June 20th** - Club Charter trip for fluke on the Night Hawk for fluke at Atlantic Highlands – Cost \$120 includes tip – (trip full\*)

**July 11th** – Club Charter trip on the Debra Ann for fluke in Belmar – Cost \$115

**August 15th** – Club Charter trip on the Debra Ann for fluke in Belmar – Cost \$115 includes tip – (trip full)

**August** – Interclub charter with the HRFA – date to be determined

\*Note: even though these trips are full, you may want to add your name to the standby roster in the event members cancel for whatever reasons. Contact Ralph DeJulia to add your name.

The trip captain for all these trips is **Ralph DeJulia** who has done a great job in setting them up! Ralph can be reached at **(201) 206-4506 or at [newknee22@yahoo.com](mailto:newknee22@yahoo.com)**

### Winter Trade Shows

The **Salt Water Expo** is March (13- 15). Our club has a booth. Show is at the NJ Convention Center at 97, Sunfield Ave., Edison, NJ.

The following is the list of volunteers that have signed up to work at this show. More volunteers are **not needed** since we have enough volunteers to staff it.

#### **Salt Water Expo – March 13th – March 15th Friday, March 13th**

Noon – 4:00 p.m. – John Toth, Fred Villanova (set up)  
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Tom Bornemann, Art Vrola

#### **Saturday, March 14th**

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Bob Goldstein, John Farrell, Ralph DeJulia  
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Bill Fish, Chuck Santoro, Dave Slater

#### **Sunday, March 15th**

10:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. – Don Lohse, Sal Crochiola  
1:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. – John Toth, Rick Reitano

### 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 29th at Pub 199 in Mount Arlington starting at 4:30 p.m. The menu has a lot offer with venison prepared in many ways, wild boar, and an assortment of seafood dishes that Pub 199 is noted for like mussels in garlic sauce, fried flounder etc. A tricky tray and a 50/50 will be available.

Cost per ticket is \$120 and John Toth (a Trustee of the NJOA) will have tickets for sale. John can be reached at (732) 656 – 0139 if you want to order tickets or have questions about this dinner.

### Keansburg Fishing Pier Damaged by Ice!

Thick ice sheets on the Raritan bay caused the partial collapse of the Keansburg fishing pier. About 500 feet of the 2,500- foot long pier has been destroyed as a result of the deep freeze in our area.

The ice has caused some pilings to pop out of the sea bed at some of the marinas along the bay's tributaries. Given this destruction, pilings and other debris may still be floating in the Raritan when the fishing season starts to open in spring and boaters should be careful. Be on guard while navigating these waterways.

The owner of the Keansburg pier, Hank Gehlhaus, said that he will rebuild it and the pier will be open by spring. (Asbury Park Press, February 6, 2026 courtesy Dan Radel)

### Boat for Sale – 1995 STRATOS WA 2300

1995 Stratos 23-foot Walk Around fishing boat. Strong running 1999 Yamaha Saltwater OX 66 250 horsepower with a SS prop and hydraulic steering.

Boat is set up for serious fishing with a removable bait table, 6 mounted rod holders, a factory hard top, mounted cooler, 2 large under seat compartments, a live well, and raw water wash down. Also rigged for night fishing with fore and aft deck LED flood and bow lights. Electronics include Simrad GOS7E (2024), Marine AM/FM Bluetooth radio and VHF Marine radio. Trailer included. Asking \$16, 500.

**Contact Gene Snyder (SWABC club member) at  
(973) 477-5753**

### Remember when Louie Got his big Ling 2.4 lbs.



## Update on whether surfers and anglers will be required to buy a beach badge

By John Toth

### Background:

During August of last year in Belmar, police patrols were increased due to people avoiding to purchase a beach badge to use the beach. A California surfer, Liam Mahoney, was on his way to surf with his wet suit and surf board. He was asked by police to show his beach badge. His beach badge was on his equipment, but for some reason known only to him, he walked away from the police without indicating that he had the badge. Not responding to questions by police and walking away from them is a crime and police charged him with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and obstruction of justice that left him in the sand with handcuffs.

During the arrest, a woman, later identified as Liam's sister shouted at police "Why are you arresting him, his badge is right here." A video taken by a beachgoer that day showing only the latter part of the incident between Mahoney and the police was widely distributed. The Belmar police were strongly criticized for using excessive force in their confrontation with Mahoney. The video prompted a petition drive on change.org to "decriminalize beach access," which garnered more than 1,400 signatures in three days.

On learning about this incident, Assemblywoman Maggie Donlon (D Monmouth), who is also an avid surfer for over two decades, introduced a bill A 4816 to the legislature to address this issue. This bill would prohibit a municipality from requiring a municipal beach badge or admission pass for access to the wet sandy beach below the mean high tide for a surfer or angler for the exclusive purpose of surfing or fishing.

### Update:

On June 3rd, Liam Mahoney, 29, took a plea deal in Belmar's municipal court and pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, obstruction of justice and resisting arrest as well as the beach badge ordinance. His fines and court costs for all the offenses, including the beach badge ordinance, totaled \$1,410. If Mahoney successfully completes a year of probation, the disorderly person offenses will be dismissed.

I am not sure that this is the final chapter of this story. The video of his arrest stirred a lot of anger, especially in the angler and the surfer communities who resent paying a fee to go surfing and fishing on the beach. Having a beach badge is not the only issue surfers and anglers have to contend with since a number of municipalities prevent the public from accessing their beaches by restricting the number of available parking spaces. Also, some beach residents illegally place "no fishing signs" or place obstructions with fences to prevent access to their nearby beaches.

Assemblywoman Donlon's bill to oppose beach badges for surfers and anglers will be strongly opposed by the League of Municipalities. They will not support any bill that would reduce or eliminate revenues derived from their sale of beach badges.

Perhaps Assemblywoman Donlon will receive some support for her bill by the results of a recent poll conducted by Stockton University's Hughes Center for Public Policy conducted during June 18th to the 25th with 606 residents. This poll showed that the majority of New Jersey residents think that the state's beaches should be free, and that half of the respondents believe that beach badges cost too much. Statewide, 65% of survey participants "think that beaches are a public resource, and that they should be free to New Jersey residents. Interestingly, Atlantic City and Wildwood are two locations along our shore that do not require beach badges for public access to their beaches.

When this incident occurred in Belmar and went on video showing police handcuffing Mahoney while he was lying in the sand, there was a lot of public outcry and anger over his arrest. While it seems that this should all be over with Mahoney paying his fine in court, I do think that it will not go away so easily since resentment is still there especially with the surfing community over their access to use a public beach without a beach badge.

I will keep you posted with any new developments to this beach badge story

(Asbury Park Press, July 5th)

**Back in September** Arnie Ulrich had a good Day in Maine. He really hammered them . Catching Haddock, Cod, Pollock, Cusk, Whiting, and Sculpin. That Cusk He's holding was about 10 pounds or more.














# Correction to Final Standings 2025 BIG FISH OF THE YEAR DERBY

There was miss communication last month with updating the final standings in the Big Fish Contest.

Unfortunately for Bob Goldstwein, as he was out-fished by Carmen Bufardeci.

Carmen caught this big Tog Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> on the Fishing Fever out of Cape May.

**NOTE:** Carmen has been on a rampage for BIG Fish this year. He is top Angler in Three Species this year.

FISH	SPECIES	MIN. WEIGHT	ENTRY WEIGHT	ANGLER
	BLACKFISH	4	13 lbs.	Carmen Bufardeci
	BLUEFISH	12		
	COD FISH	10		
	FLOUNDER	1.5 lbs.	2.62 lbs.	Chuck Santoro & Don Lohse
	FLUKE	4	10 lbs.	Carmen Bufardeci
	LING	2	2 lbs. 4 oz.	Lou Castellano
	POLLOCK	10	12 lbs. 1 oz.	Jon Campbell
	PORGY	1.5 lbs.		
	SEA BASS	2	4 lbs.	Carmen Bufardeci
	STRIPED BASS	12	30	Nick Casamassimo
	WEAKFISH	2		

## Catching a Record Great White – a New Jersey State Record

By John Toth

As the movie JAWS reaches its 50th anniversary and we still remember its heart-pounding scenes, another story about catching a Great White shark took place almost 40 years ago on July 10th, 1988.

Five anglers entered the Jersey Coast Shark Anglers Tournament and they went to sea on a 28-foot Topaz called the Temptation in the hope of catching the big one to win the tournament's prize of \$15,000. They were out about 52 miles and around 11:00 a.m. on July 10, 1988, a fish bit a whole bluefish hanging on a stainless steel shark hook. Seconds later, the reel started to scream and for about an hour and a half, the crew did not know what they had on with the fish darting everywhere and under the boat. When they saw it first time, they were shocked at its size, but did know what type of shark they had on.

Jimmy Kneipp, a 26-year old policeman from Newark, was the reel man strapped in the fighting chair for four long hours. Every foot of line he gained on the 9/0 Penn International reel, the shark took back. Four or five times they had the wire leader to the surface, and each time the shark saw the boat and took another run. Incredibly, while they were trying to bring this huge shark in, another shark estimated to be bigger at about 1,000 pounds was circling this boat! When the shark was finally exhausted, it had towed the boat another 8 miles, leaving them 60 miles from the shore and to the scale at Clark's inlet.

This crew had an immediate problem of how to get this big shark into their boat after the captain fired 9 bullets into it to take the life out of it. In the end, they dragged it with ropes and laid it across the stern. It was too big to fit the tail in, and made quite a spectacle when they approached the dock with 15 minutes to spare. They were also on fumes as the gas tanks were almost bone dry from all that driving.

Upon arrival, there was a 500-pound tiger shark weighed in, but their **759 pound** Great White easily took first place in the tournament giving them the **\$15,000** prize money.

The story did not end there with the crew giving the shark to George Truesdale, owner of Clark's Landing, who had a taxidermist make a mount of it and he hung it in his bar, where for years it was a source off bar-room conversation. Tuesdale still has the mount he keeps in a storage crate, as Clark's Landing marina now caters to wedding banquets.

(Asbury Park Press, July 10, 2025 – Courtesy Dan Radel)



## Herb Baked Tautog

Ingredients: 4 Tautog Filets (about 2 lbs.)  
 or any white flaky fish  
 ¼ cup sliced scallions(green onions)  
 1 teaspoon Old Bay seasoning

Fresh Cracked pepper, to taste

Herb Butter: 1 stick butter (1.2 cup)  
 1 teaspoon fresh chopped dill  
 1 teaspoon fresh chopped cilantro  
 1 tablespoon fresh chopped basil  
 2 teaspoons fresh chopped parsley  
 1 teaspoon minced garlic  
 1 tablespoon lemon juice

### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F
2. Over medium heat in a small saucepan, melt butter, add remaining ingredients for herb butter and stir to combine.
3. Place filets in a baking dish sprayed with olive oil
4. Pour herb butter mixture over fish filets. Sprinkle with Old Bay & fresh cracked pepper. Top with sliced scallions.
5. Bake (uncovered) for 10-15 minutes. Or until fish are cooked & flaky.

## Colossal Squid do exist

In the movie 20,000 Leagues under the Sea, a colossal squid attacks a vessel captained by actor James Mason and his crew members fight it off by cutting off its huge tentacles. While the movie is fiction, colossal squid are not.

In Antarctica, a baby squid about a foot long that will grow to be a colossal one was photographed by a marine biologist with the use of a special camera. These squid can grow to more than 20 feet as adults. It took nearly a century to spot one of these squid that swim in very deep waters. They are very aware of their surroundings and have developed the largest eyes in the world, the size of basketballs to spot predators.

Sperm whales can dive up to 1.2 miles and are the main predator for these squid. In 1925, scientists' first look at this species was found in the belly of a Sperm whale.

Knowing now that these colossal squid do exist, scientists are eagerly exploring the ocean floor to get a picture of a full-grown colossal squid.

(New York Times, April 29, 2025)

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