

Bulletin

Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County NJ



Free Issue

April 2026

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

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Visit our revised Web page & try some of the new functions

www.swabc.org

2025 Big Fish contest Winners

Chuck Santoro, Lou Castellano, Jon Campbell, Carmelo Bufardeci (a 3 Species Winner), Nick Casamassimo & Don Lohse



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

We had our Past President's Dinner at the Mountainside Inn on March 24th and in a nutshell, it was a terrible experience! The food was served late and for the most part it was lousy! We have had our Past President's Dinner at the Mountainside Inn for many years, perhaps 15 years, and we never had such a negative experience. This catering place is under new management and they do not know how to run this business. In spite of things not going right for us at this place, I noticed our members still having a good time chatting up their fishing stories with each other and enjoying themselves. We had a huge Tricky Tray and had a lot of good prizes to be won. More details of this dinner are located in another section of this newsletter.

I have been closely following the black sea bass and fluke seasons for 2026 and updated information on these fish is also detailed in another section of this newsletter. We have a bigger quota for black sea bass, but we should have received a bigger one. The same goes for fluke! This is all so frustrating and points to so mismanagement of our fisheries!

With the new fishing season about to begin, please send me photos of the fish you catch so I can place them in our club newsletters. Send them to me at tothjohn@verizon.net.

May 19th Meeting – Al Durso – The Gulp Guy

Al Durso was at our club's Flea Market and he had several tables of all types of Gulp to sell. Al will be at this meeting and he will have several tables of Gulp to sell at discounted prices. He will also explain how to best use Gulp to catch various types of fish and at different lighting conditions. Those of us who use Gulp, and that means almost everybody, should not miss this meeting.

Report on the Salt Water Fishing Expo

By John Toth

The Salt Water Expo ran from March 13th to March 15th and it was a great show and so well attended that at times it was difficult to walk in the aisles. This show had everything you could possibly want as a salt water angler. Our club had a booth at this show to sell our raffle tickets and to talk to people who may have an interest in joining our club. From the people I talked to, I know will see new faces at our meetings. I want to **Thank** our members who worked at this show and they include: Fred Villanova, Tom Bornemann, Art Vrola, Ralph DeJulia, Bob Goldstein, John Farrell, Bill Fish, Chuck Santoro, Dave Slater, Don Lohse, Sal Crochiola and Rick Reitano who helped me close our booth at the end of the show.

I got to our booth early to set it up and the first thing that needs to be done is to hang our club banner over our booth. I asked staff from the **Norma K** fishing boat that had a booth beside us to help me with hanging this banner and they were so helpful to do it. I thought that they should be recognized in this newsletter. The **Norma K is docked in Point Pleasant, NJ.**

It was a good show and we will be in it next year!

April 21st Meeting – Dave Lilly

Will give a presentation on catching striped bass.

Captain Jay Sullivan from Miss Magic to give a brief presentation on his lobster/fish trip combination and to make reservations

Striper fishing is not good as it used to be and dropping a lure into the water with the expectation that you are going to get a quick hit is not going to work as it had in the past. Dave is going to give his pointers on what you can do to increase your opportunities to land some nice stripers.



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**

Garden State Surf Fishing Classic Tournament – May 17th

(formerly the Governor's Surf Fishing
Tournament) at Island Beach State Park

The name has changed since our governors have not attended it with the exception of Lt. Governor Kim Gordano, but it is still the former Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament with the same type of rules that apply to it. Ages 18 and older - \$15, Ages 13- 17 \$5, Ages 12 and under – Free.

For More information, visit

www.njfishandwildlife.com or (609) 947-1201

Hudson River Fishermen's Association (HRFA)

**Fred Rung Memorial Striped Bass Derby – Catch,
Photo, & Release or Catch, Tag, Photo & Release**

Start April 15th & end on May 3rd

Cash prizes based on number of registrants

Contact Joe Albanese – joealbanese2@gmail.com

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

Past President's Dinner Recap

By **John Toth**

We had our Past President's Dinner on March 24th at the Mountainside Inn in Clifton and it was, quite frankly, a disaster! We have had our Past Presidents Dinner at the Mountainside Inn for over **15 years** and nothing like this ever happened before! People who own a bakery shop across the street from the Mountainside Inn bought it and while they know how to run a bakery, they don't have a clue on how to run a restaurant/catering service!

The main course, chicken and roast beef was not served until 9:30 p.m.! We had to wait for soup, salad, pasta and the salad came out before the soup. The roast beef turned out to be a pot roast and it looked more like dog food than pot roast. The potatoes were burned and by the time coffee and cake came out most of our members left. These new owners ruined the Mountainside Inn and while we have fond memories of having our dinners there, we will not go back there again!

However, credit is due to Don Lohse who did a great job in getting and arranging the Tricky Tray items and I am sure Ralph DeJulia helped him and others helped him too. Uncle Lou Castellano made up signs for the cost of tickets, and Bob Goldstein, Kevin Kozlowicz, Ralph DeJulia and Chuck Santoro came early to set up tables etc. Fred Villanova took pictures for our club newsletter, sold raffle tickets and prepared the plaques for the winners of our Big Fish Derby, Rick Swarthe sold Tricky Tray tickets and Jim Galanaugh Jr. sold 50/50 tickets. Rick Swarthe, our chaplain, started the meeting by giving a beautiful invocation by asking God to keep us safe on the high seas. Gary Gusterson handled the dinner tickets as people entered and Jim Galanaugh handled all the money and payments to the Mountainside. Patty Diaz helped Chuck Santoro drawing all the Tricky Tray prizes and 50/50 tickets and Kevin Kozlowicz brought up the Tricky Tray prizes to Chuck and Patty. Ron Stewart won the 50/50 prize of \$326. This dinner would not have happened if we did not have the support of all who put it together and for those of you attended it. **A Big Thanks** goes to all of you!

While the dinner did not go as planned, I did notice from the dais a lot of members laughing and having a good time with each other. We recognized member Ray Pharaoh who joined our club in 1967 and gave him a plaque for being such a long time member. It was dinner for all of us to remember and one that we will not forget!

Update on Black Sea Bass & Fluke Regulations for 2026

By John Toth

Sea Bass - The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council met on March 26th at the Stafford Twp. Firehouse in Manahawkin, NJ to take public comment on what our 2026 season should be for black sea bass. I attended it by ZOOM and there were two options under discussion and they included Option # 6 which would allow for 231 days of fishing and Option # 10 that allows for 206 days of fishing but also allows for 2 sea bass to be caught during the summer/early fall. The Council approved Option # 6 to be our 2026 season and it has a **minimum size of 12 1/2 inches and the season and bag limits are: 10 fish May 15 – June 21 – 1 fish – June 22 – Septemberr22 – 10 fish – September 23 – October 31 – 15 fish – November 1 – December 31.**

Sea Bass -stocks have been rebuilt to 284% according to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Council (MA-MFC). Given that the stocks of sea bass have been rebuilt to such a high number, we were expecting to see our quota for sea bass increased to higher number like 40 %. We only received an increase of about only 17% and that was the quota our NJ Fisheries Council had to use to develop Options # 6 and Option #10. Even though the stocks of this fish are in great shape. The ASMFC just does not want to bump up our quota where it really should be. This has been an ongoing problem for many years but at least we have a bigger season this year to catch sea bass.

PPD Photo



Note: This regulation for sea bass is in effect for 2 years so it will be the same for 2027

Fluke – the stocks of fluke have increased from 6.5 million pounds to 8.7 million pounds resulting in an increase of our quota by 38%. With an increase like that, we should expect a substantial increase in the number of fluke we can catch or a longer season or a combination of both. Since the ASMFC is now using a new Recreation Demand Model/Percent Change Approach currently being utilized by them to develop quotas, their numbers show our fluke stocks are rebuilt to only 90% of their target. This means we will not see any increase in the number of fluke we can keep or a longer season for us to fish for them. Accordingly, the fluke regulations we had for 2025 will be the same for 2026 and 2027 – 3 fish at 18 inches with a season from May 4th until September 25th.**Note:** Rubbing salt on the wounds, these Councils have increased the quota for fluke for commercial fishermen to 45% for 2026. Something is not right here when we have a 38% increase in our fluke quota but cannot catch more of them, while the commercial sector receives a 45% increase in their quota to bag more fish.

New Bluefish Regulations for 2026 & 2027

5 Bluefish from private boat or shore-based angler

7 Bluefish from for-hire party/charter boats

No closed season or size limits

2026 Striped Regulations

They will remain the same as last year – (1 fish at 28 to 31 inches) plus the Bonus Program.









Here's are President Mr. John Toth,
with Patty Diaz from The American Legion
& Chuck Santoro



2026 Big Fish Contest

1. Fish must be in season.
2. **The fish can only be caught in New Jersey & New York waters.**
3. The fish entered must 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 the Dec. meeting of a given year must be received by the January meeting of the following year.

Any member who knowingly submits a false affidavit, faces expulsion from the club.

FISH	SPECIES	MIN. WEIGHT	ENTRY WEIGHT	ANGLER
	BLACKFISH	4		
	BLUEFISH	12		
	COD FISH	10		
	FLOUNDER	1lb.8oz.		
	FLUKE	4		
	LING	2		
	POLLOCK	10		
	PORGY	1lb.8oz.		
	SEA BASS	2		
	STRIPED BASS	12		
	Trigger Fish	1lb. 8 oz.		
	WEAKFISH	2		

The Head Table from L to R – Don Marantz, John Debona, Mark Taylor (JCAA President), Paul Haertel, John Piazza, Chuck Santoro, Patty Diaz (American Legion) our President partially hidden, John Tote, with Don Lohse standing making an announcement and Nico in foreground.





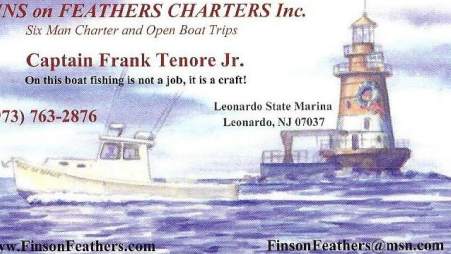
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Captain Frank Tenore Jr.
On this boat fishing is not a job, it is a craft!

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Leonardo, NJ 07037

www.FinsonFeathers.com FinsonFeathers@msn.com



Members enjoying themselves at the Past President's Dinner



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: _____