

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

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**Rick
Reitano
With a
large
Tautog
caught last
October on
the Arch
Angel
Charters,
out of
Rhode
Island**

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.

The President's Corner

At our April 15th meeting, Captain Kevin Fahey was our guest speaker along with Dr. Melinda Weber to tell us about the dangers of melanoma/skin cancer due to exposure to too much sun. Kevin had such a severe case of it and he was in intense pain and almost died from it. Dr. Weber treated Kevin to recover from this serious medical condition and Kevin wanted Dr. Weber to give us information on preventing melanoma so that we do not suffer like he did. This presentation was timely with the fishing season about to break open and we will be out soon on the water and exposed to a lot of sun. Dr. Weber expressed the importance of covering up to limit sun exposure and to also receiving full a full body scan from your dermatologist to find any traces of skin cancer to detect it early before it threatens your life.

We also had Captain Jay Sullivan and his mate Jake as guests to tell us about their combo lobster/fluke trips that they are running this season. On this trip, the captain picks up lobsters from his traps and brings them up for you to take home. Then you go fishing, most likely for fluke. Captain Jay can be reached at (732) 547-0104. More information can be found at

www.MissMagicSportfishing.com. Miss Magic is docked at Hoffman's Marina in Brielle, NJ.

At this meeting, we drew the tickets for our club's raffle and the winners are posted in another section of this newsletter. I want to Thank all of you for selling our raffle tickets and at the winter trade shows and supporting our raffle ticket program as a source of revenue for our club. Our club's new member, **Monica Hanna**, pulled out the ticket for our 50/50 raffle and **Glenn Peckel** was the lucky winner.

With the beginning of the new fishing season, please send me pictures of your fish so I can place them in our club's newsletter. You can send them to me at tothjohn@verizon.net, along with an affidavit that can be found at our website, www.swabc.org. This affidavit is necessary to enter our club's fishing Derby and this Derby and the regulations that apply to it can be found in this newsletter.

Finally, I mentioned at this meeting that we are continually facing onerous fishing regulations from NOAA/NMFS and our recreational fishing industry is dying a slow death and I am sending a letter on behalf our club to President Donald Trump to put a stop to this. My letter is not driven by politics, but out of deep concern that our ability to fish is being eroded with continual loss of fishing seasons and bag limits due to the cutbacks by these federal agencies. A number of fishing-related associations have signed on to this letter to endorse this appeal to our president as recognition that it is a problem that needs a solution. Frankly, I am not sure of what progress we can achieve, but I would rather do something then sit back and do nothing and see our ability to fish slip slowly away. This letter is in another section of this newsletter.

May 20th Meeting – Dave Lilly – Fluke Fishing in Ambrose Channel & a New Stripper Rig that Dave Designed.

Dave Lilly, winner of many fluke tournaments, will be our guest speaker to talk about fishing in 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. Also, Dave loves to catch striped bass and he has designed a new rig to catch stripers that he wants to share with us. Anglers who like to catch striped bass should not miss this meeting!

June 17th Meeting – Vinny Delgrosso from Penn Tackle Company

Vinny, a representative from Penn Tackle, will give a presentation on using Penn tackle to land various species of fish like fluke.

July 15th Meeting – Al Durso – 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 will have several tables of Gulp to sell at discounted prices and he will also explain how best to 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.

Bill Fish with a 7 lbs. Cod



Date for Youth Trip 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. Tom can be reached at (201) 575-3740 or at tatys@aol.com. 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 that they enjoy so much!

Club Charter trips for 2025

May 24th – Club Charter on the Ebbtide Fishing boat for black sea bass docked at Atlantic Highlands – Cost - \$100 includes tip for mates (paid by our club) – Ralph DeJulia, Trip Captain. (201) 206-4506 – newkww22@yahoo.com.

August 9th – Club Charter trip on the Ebbtide Fishing boat for Fluke – Atlantic Highlands. Trip is full.

August – Interclub charter with the HRFA on the Last Lady – date to be determined

Fall 2025 – Club Charter on the Ebbtide for black sea bass- date to be determined

Fall 2025 – Club Charter for blackfish – date to be determined

Trip Captain for all of these trips is Ralph DeJulia

Governor's Surf Tournament on May 18th

For information, call (609) 947-1201 or visit njfishandwildlife.com

This tournament will be held on Island Beach State Park

Winners of the Club Raffle Prizes

The drawing for these prizes was held at our April 15th meeting and the winners are:

1. **Charter Fishing Trip on the Fins on Feathers Charters – Dennis Bowman**
2. **JW Onyx 701C - H Rod, Tsunama Shield 600 Reel – John Toth**
3. **JW Onyx 701S- H Rod, Quantum AT 100S Reel - Mark Suer**
4. **2 Tickets for the Party Boat "Fisherman"- Sal Crochiola**
5. **Gift Certificate – Jigging World, 175 Rt.17, Rochelle Park – Paul Diener**

Welcome – New Member!
Sal Crochiola – Fair Lawn

The Chacon's were out fishing. Debbie is so proud



With Hector showing Frank Rella how it's done



**Letter to President Donald Trump
By John Toth**

April 18, 2025

President Donald Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Urgent Need to Address Regulatory Burdens on
Recreational Salt Water Fishing

Mr. President,

The recreational fishing industry annually generates about \$148 billion dollars and 945,000 related jobs. While NOAA/NMFS plays a critical role in sustaining fish populations and long-term environmental health, there is a growing concern that some of their regulatory decisions have placed an undue burden on the salt water recreational fishing sector.

Over the years, increasingly restrictive quotas that are not always based upon scientific data available have led to the closure of many fishing-related businesses. Attached is a report documenting 50 viable businesses that have shut down, excluding additional losses such as tackle shops, marinas and tourism-related business. While we fully support sustainable fishing practices, stocks of certain species such as black sea bass have been rebuilt to well over 100% of target levels since 2012 and are currently at 219% of their target. Still, in most recent years regulations for them have been tightening rather than being liberalized.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act mandates socio-economic impact assessments when implementing new fishing regulations. However, these assessments have not been considered when NOAA/NMFS implements new restrictions. Given the impact restrictions have on the fishing industry, their socio-economic impacts need to accompany all new regulations imposed by NOAA/NMFS to provide for a more balanced approach between conservation and economic stability.

Additionally, the recreational fishing industry seeks more involvement in regulatory decisions. Striped bass is an example of this. Further restrictions, including seasonal closures are being considered for 2026 that will result in more lost business. Policies such as the 28-31 inch slot limit for striped bass regulation was implemented with little input from the recreational community. Increased collaboration through industry roundtables and advisory panels would allow NOAA/NMFS to make more informed decisions to benefit both fish populations and those whose livelihoods depend on them.

Accurate data collection is essential for effective fisheries management. The current system utilized by NOAA/NMFS to collect this data is faulty leading to inaccurate data resulting in diminished quotas in the fishing industry and loss of business. We urge the administration to work with NOAA/NMFS to refine these processes to benefit both conservation efforts and economic stability

A solution to these challenges would include a review of NOAA/NMFS operations by Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick to ensure alignment with economic growth. Additionally, roundtable discussions between NOAA/NMFS officials and recreational fishing representatives could foster mutual understanding and lead to more balanced regulatory outcomes. We appreciate your attention to these pressing issues and look forward to working together to ensure that recreational fishing remains a thriving industry for generations to come. We look forward to discuss these concerns further and working together to achieve practical solutions.

John Toth, President, Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County
Trustee, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance (NJOA)
Membership Secretary, Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA)
tothjohn@verizon.net, (732) 656-0139












Mark Taylor, President, Jersey Coast Anglers Association
John Rogalo, President, New Jersey Outdoor Alliance
Wade S. Stein, President, The New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Club
Joseph Albanese, President, Hudson River Fishermen's Association
Robert Bogan, Captain, Gambler Charter Boat
Cc: Howard Lutnick, Commerce Secretary
Cc: Eugenio Pinerio Solar, Assistant Administrator, NOAA Fisheries
Cc: Lee Zeldin, Environmental Protection Secretary
Cc: Donald Norcross, Congressman
Cc: Van Drew, Congressman
Cc: Herb Conway, Congressman
Cc: Chris Smith, Congressman
Cc: Josh Gottheimer, Congressman
Cc: Frank Pallone, Congressman
Cc: Thomas Kean, Congressman
Cc: Miki Sherrill, Congresswoman
Cc: Bonnie Watson, Congresswoman

Mark Capalbo with his Tautog



2025 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		
	BLUEFISH	12		
	COD FISH	10		
	FLOUNDER	1.5 lbs.		
	FLUKE	4		
	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.

A New Year – A New Contest starts NOW!!



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: _____

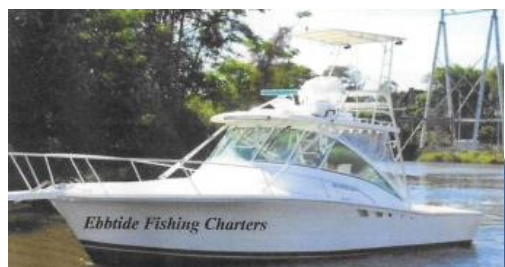
1. _____

Address: _____

2. _____

Phone No. _____

3. _____



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Winter Flounder Fishing

At the start of each fishing season we (Ref. picture) make a trip up to Dennis, Mass. To do some winter flounder fishing aboard the BAD DOG. We drive up the day before and have a festive dinner before the action begins. The surprise of this trip was thunder & lightning at 5 AM. It was not in the forecast. That kind of put our trip in jeopardy. After checking the local weather, the charter was still "ON" as the conditions were going to improve. As we waited in our cars at the dock there was a short break in the downpour so we boarded the boat a prepared with the skies opened up again. Another delay as we sat at the dock. As the rain let up a little, we ventured out to the fishing grounds but what would normally be a 10-minute ride took 25 minutes. As we got the go ahead to drop our lines the rain started again and just kept getting harder & harder. A few fish came over the side and then the Rain let up and we had clearing skies. Captain Mike repositions the boat and then the action began. We've had a full limit (48) of flounders on every trip. However, this year we set a record of limiting out in two hours of fishing. We spent more time waiting for the weather to clear then we did fishing. We did have a few shorts but for the most part the flounder were all in the 1.5-to-2-pound class. With a few 2.6 pounders by Chuck and Barry Senior.

Barry Paull Jr. , Don Lohse, Uncle Louis Castellano, Fred Villanova, Barry Paull & Chuck Santoro



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: _____