

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

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The Anticipation Builds as they make there way to the first drop



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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

Dave Lilly was our speaker for our May 20th meeting and he first talked about the necessity of using sun screen and clothing to protect our skin from getting cancer. Dave said that he had to have surgery to remove skin cancer from his finger and it was painful and not pretty. He went on to talk about catching big fluke in the Ambrose Channel that was very productive especially in May and June of last year.

He said striper fishing was red hot now and they are jumping into his boat, especially with a new striper rig that he has designed. The room was quiet as Dave talked and that is a sign of a good speaker! We can always learn a few things about fishing with Dave as our speaker.

Steve Totten donated so many items for our Dark Horse that he does not need or use anymore along with John Farrell who placed his Fluke Killer Rigs on the table.

Thank you Steve and John! It took some time to raffle off so much tackle on display!

Nico came through with a nice Pasta Bolognese dish along with bread, salad and tasty lemon cake. Thanks Nico!

Our 50/50 of **\$147** was won again by Nick Casamassimo (Lucky Nicky) and he had a big smile on his face with all that loot!

Our fishing season is starting to move into high gear and please send me photos of you and your big fish so I can place them in our club's newsletter at tothjohn@verizon.net.

Also, check the rules to enter your fish in our Big Fish Derby contest.

Our club's first charter fishing trip for sea bass on the Ebbtide Too sailing out of Atlantic Highlands that was held on May 24th and I have a recap of this fishing trip in another section of this newsletter. More club charter trips are being developed for this year by member Ralph DeJulia.

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. This will be an informative meeting on using Penn tackle and we never stop learning new ways to land some nice fish!

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 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.

Here they are lined up at the Rail



**Hamza Essa with a 22" Fluke
caught off the dock in Belmar**



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 stopped, these kids would rush to the rails to catch fish and were excited to bring them in. Tom Tyls will be taking the 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.

Club Charter trips for 2025

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

August 21st – Interclub charter with the HRFA on the Last Lady - Neptune

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

November 16th – Club Charter for Blackfish on the Captain Cal - Belmar

Trip Captain for all of these trips is Ralph DeJulia and he can be reached at (201) 206-4506 or at: newknee22@yahoo.com.

Interclub Fishing Trip – August 21st SWABC vs. HRFA

This trip with the Hudson River Fishermen's Association (HRFA) will be held on the Last Lady that holds about 15 anglers comfortably. This friendly completion between our two clubs will have 7 members from each club trying to win by catching the biggest fluke. Our club has been defeated on two of these trips and it is about time we win this contest! Representing our club will be Tom Tyls, Jim Galanaugh Jr., Barry Paull, Harry Vogt, and John Toth so far.

Our Trip Cabin "Ralph DeJulia" with his 1st fish of the day



Recap of our Club's Charter Trip on the Ebbtide on May 24th

By John Toth

This was our first charter trip on the Ebbtide with Captain Bob Henn. We had 23 anglers on board and everybody went home with some fish. The wind came up to 20-25 knots and made conditions uncomfortable with white caps around us and holding the bottom a bit more challenging. For quite some time, strong and prevailing winds have made fishing more difficult with the opening of our fishing season this year.

We had a \$5 pool for the biggest sea bass and Barry Paull and Steven Weinstein shared the pool of \$115 since both of their fish weighed about the same. A few ling were also caught. Pesky dogfish are always a problem with bottom fishing.

The mates, Daniel and Justin, were very helpful and were on top of cutting bait and resolving tangles. I was really stuck on the bottom and could not believe how Justin got my rig loose and also intact.

I think we all had a good time fishing together and that is what a fishing club should do!

I also want to Thank Rick Reitano for helping me collecting and counting money from our members, and also a Thank You goes to Rick's wife, Susan, who made cookies for us to munch on the boat!

A big **THANKS** goes to **Ralph DeJulia** for putting this trip together for all of us to enjoy!

Steve Weinstein can't believe he's tied with Barry Paull for biggest fish



With Empire Wind Getting the Green Light – the Trouble Begins Now

By John Toth

Empire Offshore Wind LLC, a project between Norway-based Equinor and oil and gas company BP, received permission from the Bureau of Energy Management (BOEM) during the Biden Administration to build an Offshore Wind Farm 19.4 miles east of Long Branch, NJ. On April 16th, the Trump administration put a temporary stop to this project on the grounds that it was not properly reviewed for its environmental impacts on habitat and marine life. On May 4th, the Trump administration lifted its stop-work order on this off shore wind project. Once a project like Empire Wind receives approval from BOEM and the previous administration, it is very difficult to stop this work in progress since it has been deemed to be fit to move forward.

For many of us who have fought offshore wind projects like Empire Wind, we were stunned by this bad news! We fear the negative environmental impact that it will have on our ocean and especially its marine life. Empire Wind will be in the process of dumping thousands of tons of rocks into the ocean by the New York Bight area to prepare for the construction of huge monopoles, the foundations upon which the 54 giant windmills will sit. These rocks- 32 billion pounds will destroy habitat by burying vital sand shoals that serve as nursery grounds for species like fluke, squid and scallops. If that is not bad enough, Empire will also start pile-driving the massive 180-foot monopoles into the sea floor. Tons of rocks will cover sand shoals that fish need and the tremendous underwater noise and vibrations will harm all marine life, especially endangered right whales

Already on the edge of extinction, these whales will migrate directly through Empire's construction zone. This noise will affect the navigation and communication abilities of these whales as well as fin and other whales. These whales may even experience temporary deafness. On top of that, the New York Bight area is one of the busiest maritime zones along the East Coast with many huge container ships passing through it. Placing 54 huge windmills near it risks a major catastrophe especially in poor weather conditions. Offshore wind farms can interfere with navigational radar used by ships to avoid collisions, posing challenges for safe maritime navigation, a 2022 report released by the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine found. Shutting down shipping activity in the New York Bight due to collisions would have grave economic consequences, especially for the container shipping industry and the jobs that depend upon it. Also, under the terms of its permit, Empire Wind must shut down operations whenever ordered to do so by the Department of Defense and the FAA has warned that the turbines, 850 feet high, could interfere with radar at JFK, Islip and Westchester Airports.

Empire Wind is expected to provide power to 500,000 New York homes, but at what cost? Offshore wind is four times more expensive than New York's average wholesale electricity price. Nor is it reliable needing 24/7 backup from fossil fuel when the wind is not blowing enough to move the blades. Offshore windmills require billions of dollars in new transmission lines to bring electricity ashore adding to its price. While households will pay more for electricity use, any profits will go to the Norwegian-based company of Empire Wind.

President Trump bans or restricts new offshore wind farms in federal waters, but does not explicitly halt projects already approved with federal leases and permits as in the case of Empire Wind.

Unfortunately, unless some miracle happens to slow or stop Empire Wind, I see this destructive project moving forward.

Asbury Park Press, May 22, 2025

New York Post, April 11, 2025

Clean Ocean Advocate, April 2025 Edition

Some Facts about the North American Right Whale

The American Right Whale is the most endangered species of whales in the world. There are estimates of only about 400 -350 of them left.

They can grow up to 50 feet and weigh 60 tons. At birth, they can be as long as 15 feet and weigh 2,000 pounds.












They are slow-moving at 3 to 7 miles per hour, making them vulnerable to boat strikes. In the USA, all boats are required to stay at least 500 yards away from them.

Bob Goldstein with a few of his sea bass



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. | 2.62 lbs. | Chuck Santoro & Don Lohse |
|  | 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.



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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Working at Sea for 8 Years without stepping on land

North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un established a new source of revenue for his cash-strapped regime by sending out 40,000 of his people to work abroad in restaurants in China, logging camps in Russia, construction sites in the Middle East and on Chinese fishing boats. Most of the salaries of these workers are sent to Kim Jong's regime with a very small amount given to them by their ruler.

Until now, the fate of North Korean fishermen has drawn little global attention because they were in vast oceans and cut off from the rest of the world and even their own families did not know where they were. These North Koreans were assigned to work on Chinese long line tuna boats working mostly in the Indian Ocean. Before these ships docked, North Korean fishermen were transferred to nearby sister ships and then moved back again when these ships went out to fish again. If their presence was discovered by port authorities, it would create legal trouble for Chinese captains. The passports of the North Korean fishermen have been seized by their government to have better control of them and their ability to escape.

The plight of these North Koreans was reported to authorities by Indonesian fishermen working on the same boat as the Koreans. They reported that the Koreans have worked up to eight years without being on land and one of them said that he has not contacted his wife during this entire time period. The Koreans are not allowed to have phones. Given these conditions, their families do not know if their loved ones are alive or dead.

In 2017, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution requiring UN member countries to expel North Korean workers by the end of 2019. But more than 100,000 North Koreans were still working in 40 countries according to a UN panel of experts. For more than three decades, North Korea has sent workers abroad earning billions of dollars according to South Korean estimates.

North Koreans are also required to spy on each other when they go abroad and maintain a life of indoctrination.

About 11,000 North Korean soldiers have been sent to Ukraine to fight for the Russians. A number of them have been captured by Ukrainians and interrogated, the North Korean soldiers indicated that they were not told by their government why they were sent to Ukraine to fight for Russia.

(New York Times, January 26, 2025)

Death by Octopus

A South Korean man has died of a heart attack after choking on a "Live Octopus"

- year old man could not be revived after he choked on a dish known as San-Nakji and suffered cardiac arrest. He was pronounced dead at a local hospital.

Still-squirming octopus seasoned with salt and sesame oil is among the nation's most notorious delicacies.

Many videos have been posted on YouTube showing thrill-seeking tourists trying San-Nakji in Korean fish markets.

Some have died of heart attacks. San-Nakji has been described as among the **world's most dangerous foods**.

San-Nakji translates to "live octopus", but the octopus is killed before serving with its tentacles cut into dish with wriggling tentacles that was served as a local delicacy.

(New York Post, August 3, 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: _____