

Spring Issue

March 2010



Tide Lines



COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

GRANITE TIDES

A newsletter from CCA NH

President's Report

For the fifth consecutive year, CCA NH hosted its Tuna Mania event for another sold out crowd at the Redhook Brewery in Portsmouth in late January. **Bryant Bickford** and the committee put together a fine program that included some first time presenters. Almost 200 bluefin tuna fishermen and others gathered to hear presentations from commercial and recreational fishermen, regulators, and researchers. Auctions and raffles raised \$4000 for **Dr. Molly Lutcavage**, director of the UNH Large Pelagic Research Center, to assist in her continuing research and juvenile tagging studies. Her work has been vital in better understanding the migratory patterns of the species in the western Atlantic. Attendees left the event with a better understanding of the plight of bluefin tuna worldwide, ICCAT, and the possible CITIES listing.

At the January board meeting, CCA NH voted to request that CCA National reconsider its public stand of support for a bluefin tuna CITIES listing. Given the movement by ICCAT in November to reduce quotas, a listing may not produce the desired effect. CCA National responded that the subject would be on the agenda of the Government Relations Committee for the March meeting. Opposition support to the CITIES listing has been growing in the Northeast. A recent letter enumerating reasons **not** to list bluefin tuna, has been sent to Dr. Jane Lubchenko, administrator of NOAA and Thomas Strickland, Asst. Sec. of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. The opposition position was drafted and signed by most of the Northeast federal congressional delegation.

CCA NH is gearing up for its **12th Annual Banquet and Fundraiser** on Sat. March 27th. Have you reserved your seat, yet? Call Don Swanson right now at 603 731 2669. A change in venue to the Great Bay Gallery in Somersworth has allowed us to decrease the price which **includes** your annual membership fee. The rate is \$55 per individual and \$100 per couple. This event is our primary fundraiser and **your support is critical** to our programming.

Several major donors are already on board: **Lynne Cote Joyce of Tate and Foss Realty; Eldredge Lumber and Design Center; Irving Oil; and DLP Restaurant Inc.** Doors open at 5:00pm with a social hour, cash bar, and auction item viewing. If you have a donation for the live or silent auction,

contact Christian Stallkamp at christianstallkamp@yahoo.com.

Don't forget to buy your tickets for the **\$500 Kittery Trading Post raffle** to be drawn at the banquet. You need not be present to win. Fill out the stub with your contact information, cut, and send to CCA NH, PO Box 4372, Portsmouth, NH, 03802.

Two extraordinary individuals will be recognized. **Peter Wellenberger**, director of the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve has been selected to receive the Conservationist of the Year award. Not only did Peter advocate for the creation of the reserve which is a cooperative federal-state partnership between the NH F&G and NOAA, he has been its director since 1990. During his tenure, several thousand acres of the watershed have been protected from development and added to this important NH estuarine system. This is one of the very few bright spots in the health of Great Bay which is plagued by many of the same problems facing the Chesapeake.



The 2010 Artist of the Year award will be presented to **Ellen McCaleb**. Ellen has made a name for herself as one of the worlds' top three trophy fish carvers who carry on the British tradition of trophy fish model making. Her work has been featured in such magazines as ForbesLife, Country Living, Coastal Living, The Atlantic Salmon Journal and on the cover of the Orvis Fly Fishing catalogue. Ellen has been a staunch supporter of CCA NH over the years. Significant program dollars have been raised in auctions and raffles.



Event dates for the next two months have been established. Please save the calendar and the contact so you can participate.

Jeff Barnum
Pres. CCA NH

ASMFC Takes Wrong Turn on Striped Bass



News Release

Coastal Conservation Association

6919 Portwest, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77024

Email: twenker@joincca.org Website: www.joincca.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 11, 2010

CONTACT: Ted Venker, 1-800-201-FISH

After hearing a litany of significant concerns about the health of the striped bass population presented by its own Technical Committee and by law enforcement personnel, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Striped Bass Management Board did the last thing anyone expected at its meeting last week - directing staff to draft an addendum to the management plan which would increase the coastal commercial striped bass harvest.

The stunning turn of events left conservationists shocked at the Board's apparent disregard for strong evidence pointing to numerous problems with the Atlantic striped bass population. Unlike the 1970s when rampant overfishing was the primary cause of the stock's crash, the current picture painted by scientists and officers is all the more bleak because of the wide variety of factors that are negatively impacting striped bass.

"This is just the latest indication that the ASMFC has lost its way as an agency committed to proper resource management," said Charles Witek, chairman of CCA's Atlantic Fisheries Committee. "As bad off as the stock was in the late '70s, the fix was rather straight-forward. What we are looking at today could be much more difficult to reverse. The very last thing anyone needs to discuss during this time of uncertainty is increasing commercial harvest."

Among the information presented to managers was a report on the declining trend in the striped bass Juvenile Abundance Index, a report from law enforcement personnel on suspected "significant and unreported" poaching in the Exclusive Economic Zone, and a report on the potentially devastating impact of *Mycobacteriosis* in Chesapeake Bay, the primary striped bass spawning ground for the entire Atlantic Coast, where 70 percent of the fish sampled had lesions associated with the disease. In aquaculture, *Mycobacteriosis* infections are virtually always fatal, and since infected striped bass that are tagged and subsequently recovered never show any signs of recovery, the disease has dire implications for striped bass everywhere on the coast.

Such reports by fisheries professionals, viewed with the well-documented decline in spawning stock abundance and decreasing recreational harvest at the northern end of the striped bass' range, paint a troubling picture of the species' future.

"This stock has problems mounting on all fronts, and managers seem content to wring everything they can from it before the party ends," said Richen Brame, CCA's Atlantic Fisheries director. "This is not the stance anglers have come to expect from the same commission that was widely credited with making the hard decisions needed to save striped bass just over three decades ago. They say those who forget history are doomed to repeat it, and that is a road anglers don't want to go down again."

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CCA is the largest marine resource conservation group of its kind in the nation. With almost 100,000 members in 17 state chapters, CCA has been active in state, national and international fisheries management issues since 1977.

For more information visit the CCA Newsroom at www.JoinCCA.org.

ASMFC Takes Wrong Turn on Striped Bass: Additional Perspective by Ritchie White ASMFC Commissioner NH

I agree with the press release from CCA but this issue is far from decided. One must look at the details of the vote to see the possible outcome for this addendum. The Striped Bass Management Board of the ASMFC has 13 voting member states, District of Columbia, Potomac River Fisheries Commission, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service. The vote to proceed with taking this addendum to the public was 5 states (NY,DE,MD,VA,NC), PRFC, USF&WS, and NMFS in favor and 7 states (ME,NH,MA,RI,CT,NJ,PA) opposed and DC abstained. Immediately after the vote I questioned the two federal agencies why they had voted because historically they do not vote on allocation issues. They said the vote was to allow for public input on this issue. I believe there is a good chance that the two agencies will abstain in the final vote and the majority of states will prevail and this addendum will not be approved. I hope CCA members will provide input at the NH hearing and in written format to express a clear and strong message to the Commission on this issue.

CCA NH Calendar of Events...

March 10, 2010

Board Meeting, 6:30pm, at Zampa's Bistro, Epping, NH. All are welcome.

March 13, 2010

Navtronics and Redman Marine Fabricators of York Maine hosting their 2nd annual open house. **1st Light Anglers** will be presenting, and CCA NH will have an outreach table. For more info, visit www.navtronics.com

March 27, 2010

12th annual CCANH **Banquet & Fundraiser**
Register now: Call Don Swanson at 603-731-2669

March 29, 2010

4th Annual Fly Auction, 5-7pm at Weeksies Pizza, Dover. Great Bay TU's fundraiser event. [To learn learn more-visit www.greatbaytu.org](http://www.greatbaytu.org)

April 3, 2010

Eldredge Brothers Fly Shop, 7th Annual Fly Fishing Expo, 9am - 4pm, Cape Neddick, ME. CCA NH will have an outreach table, and will be serving hot dogs and burgers. Come on by! For more info, go to www.eldredgeflyshop.com

April 9, 10, 11, 2010

Kittery Trading Post Paddle Sports Show, Durham, NH. CCA NH outreach event. Contact [Jeff Barnum](http://www.ktp.com). For more event information go to [ktp.com](http://www.ktp.com)

April 18, 2010

Coastal Cleanup, 9am, Wallis Sands State Park. Collaboration with the [Blue Ocean Society](http://www.blueoceansociety.org) and [Home Depot](http://www.homedepot.com). Should be done by noon, contact [Jeff Barnum](http://www.ktp.com) for more information.

Report from ASFMC Herring Advisory Committee...

As a member of the CCA NH board I was presented with the opportunity to serve on the Herring Advisory Committee to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) as a member of the recreational fishing community. At first it seemed so cut and dry...more herring not commercially caught means more food for the predator species that we recreational fishermen chase. No one can argue with that. So when ASMFC announced recently that there was to be sharp decrease over the next 4 years in the commercial herring take in the Gulf of Maine it seemed like a reason to rejoice.

Well, yes and no. More forage for countless predatory fish, and better spawning recruitment and juvenile survival rates. But this decrease in harvest has broader implications. Bait will be more expensive and possibly harder to come by. For recreational fishermen, that cost is far less of an impediment because if there's fish to be caught we'll eat the increase and launch the boat. But consider for a minute the lobstermen who buy much larger quantities. I know they are not recreational anglers but I have a few that are my friends and their profits are razor thin. For some, this may be what pushes them out of the business for good.

Another unintended consequence is that some will have to go to alternate bait selections. Number one on this list is menhaden, another forage species being taxed by the commercial fishery. Finally, there are the small bottom mesh trawlers that operate locally. These fishermen help to satisfy local bait needs and are much smaller than the large commercial boats that take a far greater tonnage. The small bottom mesh boats typically can only catch a couple thousand pounds. It makes sense to take the plight of these smaller boats into account when making harvest cuts.

The more I learn about fishery management, the more obvious it becomes that species must be managed with broad consideration for unintended consequences whether they are economic, biological or, unfortunately at times, political. It is though, an honor to serve in this position in spite of the occasional frustration. We may be recreational anglers but every user group needs to be taken into account. The resource connects us all.

Submitted by Michael Watosky

\$500 KTP Raffle Tickets available now

CCA NH raises significant funds from the sale of KTP's \$500 gift card raffle tickets. Print the enclosed raffle ticket page, fill out, cut, and send only the stubs with your payment to CCA NH, PO Box 4372, Portsmouth, NH, 03802. If you are receiving this newsletter by regular mail, detach, fill out, cut, and send. Tickets are one for \$5 or ten for \$30. Stubs and payment (cash or check) must be received prior to the drawing on March 27th, 2010 at the Annual Banquet and Fundraiser.

Directions to Banquet & Fundraiser Venue

The banquet will be held at the Great Bay Gallery in Somersworth, NH. Directions to the Gallery: Route 16 N (Spaulding Turnpike) to Exit 9 and bear right. Take a left at the light onto Route 108. (Comfort Inn will be on the left) Follow Route 108 for 1 mile to Willand Drive on your right. Turn right onto Willand Drive, between Aquarius Pools and Hilltop Fun Center, and Great Bay Gallery is 0.2 miles on the right.

\$500 Kittery Trading Post Gift Card Raffle Ticket
\$5 for 1 Chance/\$30 for 10 Chances
You do not have to be present to win!
Drawing March 27, 2010 @ CCANH Annual Banquet
Just fill out & cut ticket stub to right and mail in with payment

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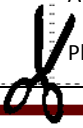
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CCA NH Says Goodbye to John Nelson



John Nelson of New Hampshire Fish and Game was a long time supporter of CCA New Hampshire. He passed away this past year and was awarded posthumously the Captain David H. Hart Award this fall at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Annual Meeting in Newport Rhode Island. The award was accepted by John's wife Sue.

John Nelson's career at NHFG was known for bringing a steadfast commitment to the conservation and management of marine resources in New Hampshire while serving as the Chief of Fish and Game's Marine Fisheries Division for the past 25 years. During his tenure, Nelson has overseen the conserva-

tion, regulation and promotion of marine resources for use by recreational anglers in the state. Nelson has also been a regional leader in marine fisheries management. He served for over 20 years as New Hampshire's Administrative Commissioner to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). He has served as chair of the Commission, guiding member states through implementation of its five-year strategic plan and streamlining the Commission's operating procedures. Nelson also has served as chair of several committees within the ASMFC, including those overseeing lobster, striped bass and Atlantic herring. In addition, he has served on the New England Fisheries Management Council for 17 years, holding a number of committee chairman positions. Nelson's major accomplishments as Marine Fisheries Division Chief in New Hampshire include a streamlined regulatory process, enhanced ecosystem monitoring of marine resources, protection of important habitats within the state's largest estuary, the Great Bay, and outreach efforts that have improved communication and interaction with commercial and recreational fishing constituents.



John was the recipient of CCA New Hampshire's Conservationist of the year award in 2006. John will truly be missed by both the commercial and recreational anglers in the state. CCA NH donated a portion of funds for the memorial bench at Odiorne Point.

Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire
P.O. Box 4372, Portsmouth, NH 03801

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



Membership Application/ Renewal: Please cut out and send to:

Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire
P.O. Box 4372, Portsmouth, NH 03801

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CCANH New Membership CCANH Gift Membership CCANH Membership Renewal Member ID # _____

\$25 Standard Membership– 6 issues of *Tide Magazine*, 4 issues of *Granite Tides*, membership card, window decal and bumper stickers

\$15 Associate Membership– for each additional family member; all Standard member privileges except *Tide Magazine*

\$10 New Tide Membership– all individuals 17 and under receive member privileges, *Rising Tide Magazine*, logo patch and iron on Tshirt transfer

\$100 Membership– your choice of a current CCA Membership print, 6 issues of *Tide Magazine*, 4 issues of *Granite Tides*, window decal and bumper stickers

Or enroll online at CCANH's secure website www.joincca.org

How did you hear about CCA New Hampshire?