

FISHING SEMINARS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

1:00 PM

FISHING FOR STRIPED BASS

Jim Hutchinson, Jr.
The Fisherman Magazine

With the March 1 opening of the back bays, the spring run of striped bass is officially underway in the Garden State. Whether it's bloodworms to start the year or chasing down a personal best during the bunker run, new regulatory changes put greater focus on increasing the survival of released fish. Join Hutch for a spring kickoff primer and the latest news on striper management.

3:00 PM

INTRO TO TUNA FISHING

Capt. Phil Howarth
*Goose Hummock Shops,
Orleans, MA*

Every angler must start somewhere—just as Phil did ten years ago. Now a self-confessed tuna addict, Capt. Phil will explain the rules, regulations and reporting requirements surrounding tuna fishing, which can often feel like a minefield. He will discuss how to equip your boat with the right fishing and safety equipment and conclude with valuable tips on how to catch this majestic species.

4:30 PM

THE TROLLING MOTOR INSTALL

Aaron Held
Octopus Yachts

The trolling motor has become a real “game-changer” in local fishing, whether locking onto a prime tautog snag, sneaking up on shallow water stripers or eliminating “wind against tide” in fluking. As these unique tools become increasingly common on the bows of Jersey Shore boats, here's your chance to learn what it takes to add this high-tech tool to your arsenal.

6:00 PM

TARGETING DOORMAT FLUKE

Jenni Ackerman
The Fisherman Magazine

Summer brings a bounty of boat fishermen targeting summer flounder. Whether you're fishing the local wrecks or along the shallow flats there are plenty of tactics, tricks, and tools to use which can optimize your chances of scoring that personal best doormat. Start your first drift of the new season with Jenni as she shares a few secrets to summer flounder success.

FISHING SEMINARS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

1:00 PM

FISHING WITH TECHNOLOGY

Capt. Greg Cudnik
Fisherman's Headquarters

Barnegat Light charter captain (Fish Head Charters) and owner of Fisherman's Headquarters, Capt. Greg Cudnik, dives into how he use technology for fishing every day. Discover how to employ mobile apps, electronics (sonar and trolling motor) and advanced fishing tackle for a competitive edge. Whether by beach or boat—fishing the back bay or coastal waters—stay ahead of the curve and maximize your success on the water.

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4:30 PM

NJ REEFS & WRECK FISHING

Capt. Peter Clarke & Tom Daffin
NJDFW & Fishin' Fever Charters

Join the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife's artificial reef coordinator Peter Clarke and one of New Jersey's best tautog captains Tom Daffin of *Fishin' Fever Charters out of Cape May* for this special presentation. Get the latest updates on the reef program, and learn how to fish them with the South Jersey captain whose charters have twice broken the state record for tautog.

6:00 PM

FISHING FALL STRIPER BLITZES

Capt. Jim Freda
Shore Catch Sportfishing

Following epic trophy striper action in the spring, the past two striper seasons delivered all-out blitz fishing along the Central and North Jersey coast from September through December. Whether you were in on the blitzes or not, join Capt. Jim as he shares unique video of the action, along with tips and tactics to help make your 2025 striper season one for the ages.

FISHING SEMINARS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

1:00 PM

WRECK & BOTTOM FISHING

Capt. Adam Nowalsky
South Jersey Charter Captain

Whether you're looking for your own hidden snag or working the state's artificial reef complex, get a pro's point of view for putting more fish in the box when fishing structure. With more than 15 years experience as a professional charter captain, Capt. Adam is known as an expert bottom fisherman and offers unique insight into the tackle and techniques to pull blackfish (tautog) and black sea bass from hard bottom.

3:00 PM

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SOUTH JERSEY SHEEPSHEAD

Khoa Nguyen
*Tidechasers Podcast &
Century Rods*

Learn all about targeting New Jersey's more unusual seasonal residents, sheepshead, from Khoa an expert in sheepshead fishing. The popularity and availability of sheepshead has soared in recent years. Learn what gear and techniques you need to target these accessible and delicious fish. Khoa is co-host of TideChasers Podcast which covers topics from conservation to seasonal tactics and gear reviews.

6:00 PM

ARGO APP FOR FISHING

Jeff Foulk
ARGO Navigation

Anglers are always looking to discover new tools, tips and tactics, and in this Friday night session you'll learn how Argo is helping anglers navigate safer, easier, and more cost-effectively. Access unlimited NOAA/USACE/CHS charts and over 33,000 artificial reefs for free, with an ability to find and route to these reefs effortlessly while managing your favorite fishing spots.

FISHING SEMINARS

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

11:00 AM

OFFSHORE WIND & FISHING

A Panel Discussion & Workshop
Protect Our Coast, NJ.

An open discussion on industrial offshore wind and its impacts on coastal fisheries featuring local for-hire captains, anglers, fishing tackle industry leaders and others from New Jersey's fishing community. We hope to draw both sides, pros & cons, for a comprehensive presentation on offshore wind and fishing, moderated by *The Fisherman's* Jim Hutchinson with public "Q&A".

12:30 PM

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2:00 PM

CATCHING JUMBO BLACKFISH

Frank Mihalic
Century Rods

Blackfish are pound for pound one of the hardest fighting fish in the Mid-Atlantic, with some of the biggest bruisers coming from New Jersey waters. A dedicated togger and author, Frank has spent years perfecting the equipment he uses to target tog—and he'll share proven tips on hunting down and landing the biggest togs in our region.

3:30 PM

SOUTH JERSEY SHEEPSHEAD

Capt. Dan Schafer
Insomniac Guide Service

As one of the most respected light tackle and flyfishing backwater guides in New Jersey, Capt. Dan Schafer has effectively revolutionized sheepshead fishing at the Jersey Shore. The Stone Harbor guide and lure designer (Bottom Sweeper jigs) is an expert at targeting New Jersey's more unusual seasonal residents such as sheepshead, spadefish and triggerfish in the shallow, back-bay waters.

5:00 PM

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HOW TO THROW A CAST NET

Capt. Frank Crescitelli
Fin Chasers TV, Manhattan Cup

Throwing a cast net is the easiest and most efficient way to gather a mess of live baits for the well. Since the circle hook restrictions were put in place, learning the art of cast netting is even more important in today's fishery, particularly in the striped bass fishery. Learn to throw pancakes with one of the region's top live bait professionals.

FISHING SEMINARS

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

11:00 AM

TROLLING MOTOR TACTICS

Capt. Brett Taylor
Reel Reaction Sportfishing

Trolling motor technology has revolutionized how many people fish for fluke, tautog and stripers at the Jersey Shore. Trolling motors paired with navigation electronics allow you to pinpoint your drift and put you on the exact spot you want to be, or, once you find the fish, put you back on that same drift. Trolling motors also allow you to fish in less-than-optimal conditions such as wind against the tide.

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1:00 PM

JERSEY SHORE FLUKE

Capt. Scott Newhall
Time Out Charters

Having spent the last 20 years fishing every part of the Jersey Shore, Capt. Scott Newhall has learned a thing or two. With all those years on the water, primarily targeting fluke, one is almost guaranteed to learn something from Scott. His ability to put clients on fish consistently speaks to his expertise. Join him as he shares proven tips to help make your outings for fluke more productive.

2:00 PM

POT HOPPING MAHI

Capt. Erik Kerber
On A Mission Fishing

A popular species on the offshore grounds every summer, mahi (aka dolphin and dorado) can also be found along the midrange and inshore waters where savvy captains are loading up around the pots, markers and buoys. Gear up for some offshore excitement close to port this season with a seasoned Jersey Shore charter captain.

3:30 PM

NORTHEAST STRIPED BASS STUDY

Jim Hutchinson, Jr.
The Fisherman Magazine

Since 2019, a revolutionary study by Gray FishTag Research and *The Fisherman* has deployed mini satellite tags on post-spawn striped bass off the Atlantic Coast. The tags record salinity, depth, temperature, and location before detaching from the fish after a pre-set intervals. The findings from those tags have been eye opening and may someday disrupt the dogma of migratory striper beliefs.