GOVERNOR'S SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT Great Fun for Families and Friends By Sue Canale, Senior Biologist and Al Ivany, Principal Biologist

The 14th annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament will be held Sunday, Oct. 2, 2005, along the beaches of Island Beach State Park in Berkeley Township, Ocean County. This extremely popular family fishing event draws approximately 1,000 participants every year and attracts people from throughout New Jersey as well as neighboring states.

Each year anglers compete for the coveted Governor's Cup, awarded for the largest catch of the day. In 2004, bluefish dominated the tournament with contestants submitting more than 190 entries of this fast and hard-fighting fish. However, top honors of the event went to Pompton Plains' Sal Amato, who won the day by reeling in a 37-inch striped bass. Amato received a plaque along with a Penn rod-and-reel combination and gear bag and had his name engraved on the Governor's Cup, permanently on display at Island Beach State Park.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Assistant Commissioner of Natural & Historic Resources John S. Watson Jr. presided over the tournament and thanked the many prize sponsors, volunteers and participants who made the day a success. Joining Assistant Commissioner Watson were Division of Fish & Wildlife Director Martin McHugh and Division of Parks and Forestry Director Jose Fernandez. Awards were presented to winners of the various tournacategories, and opportunities were arranged for participants and their families.

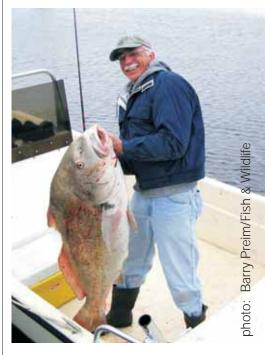
During the awards ceremony, special

honors went to Paul Smith, retiring president of the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament Committee and founding tournament organizer, for his 13 years of dedication to the event. His many contributions have helped make the tournament a tremendous success year after year. Fortunately, he will continue to serve as an advisor to the Tournament Committee.

Fish & Wildlife thanks the following organizations for their contributions to the 13th Annual Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament: ANDE Rods Inc., Big Racks.com, Buck Knives, Cabela's Inc., East Coast Fisherman's Products, Jenkinson's Aquarium, Lamiglas Inc., Legal Limits Co., Leatherman Inc., Mann's Bait Co. Inc., Bill Lewis' Rat-L-Trap Fishing Lures, Penn Fishing Tackle Mfg. Co., Shakespeare Fishing & Tackle Division, Sportsman's Center, and the Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor.

Funds raised by the Governor's Surf Tournament benefit conservation efforts in and around Island Beach State Park, including specialized balloon-tire beach wheelchairs to provide beach access for the disabled and elderly at Island Beach State Park; educational displays for the park's Interpretive Center; a beach access ramp connecting parking area A7 to the beach; an automatic heart defibrillator unit; and two mobile fishing equipment trailers with rods and reels for fishing education programs statewide. The funds also have helped purchase educational materials and field study equipment for various environmental education programs including Barnegat Bay Kayak Tour Environmental Education Enhancement, Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs, Pathways to Fishing, Becoming an Outdoors Woman and the Sedge Islands Natural Resource Education Center.

For more information about the Governor's Surf Fishing Tournament, visit www.njfishandwildlife.com or call (609) 748-4347. Registration forms are available by sending a self-addressed, stamped business-sized envelope to DEP Division of Fish and Wildlife, Nacote Creek Research Station, P.O. Box 418, Port Republic, NJ 08241, Attn: G.F.T.



Fish and Wildlife's Marine Fisheries Administrator Tom McCloy lands an 82-pound, 50-inch black drum on 20-pound test line in Great Bay.



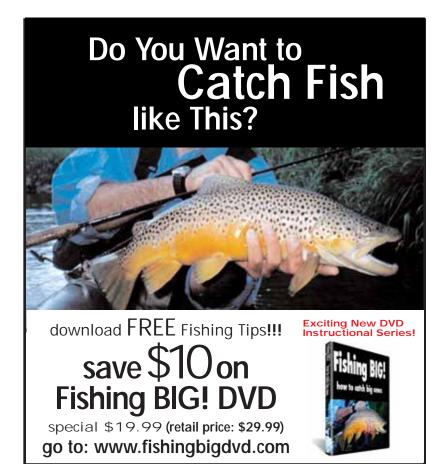
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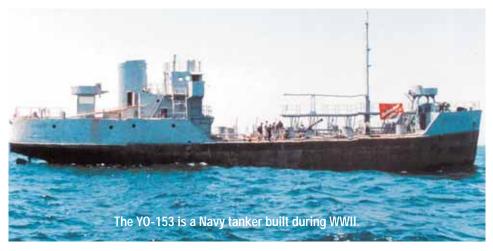
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. . . the vessel is being sunk by cutting holes in the hull and opening the engine room sea cocks...

DEP's new initiative will enhance artificial reef sites for anglers, divers

eeking to improve New Jersey's artificial reefs and raise awareness of their economic and environmental value, the Department of Environmental Protection is deploying a decommissioned Navy tanker on the state's Garden State North Artificial Reef Site off the coast of Harvey Cedars.

New Jersey is a national leader in artificial reef management, and the DEP is committed to enhancing its reef sites to benefit the environment, fishermen, divers and the state's economy.

DEP is acquiring the tanker through a \$100,000 appropriation, which also will allow the state to acquire two other decommissioned ships. The state will deploy the other ships later this year. DEP is placing the three ships at different reefs along the entire Jersey coast so all residents can enjoy the benefits of these new acquisitions.

Built for the U.S. Navy in 1943, the 170foot tanker, known as YO-153, had been stationed at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. Before the tanker is deployed, DEP supervises a thorough cleaning of the vessel to remove all greases, floatables and other materials that might harm the marine environment. The U.S. Coast Guard then inspects the cleaned tanker before it is transported to the reef site.

The 1.1-square mile Garden State North Reef Site, approximately 6.5 miles offshore from Harvey Cedars in Ocean County, comprises more than 44,000 cubic yards of vessels, tanks, specially designed Reef Balls and other materials. In 2003, it was one of five artificial reefs where New Jersey deployed 250 decommissioned New York City subway cars.

The vessel is being sunk by cutting holes in the hull and opening the engine room sea cocks, which allows the ship to take on

water slowly. This vessel is the 134th ship to be sunk on New Jersey's artificial reef sites.

Artificial reefs play a key role in supporting New Jersey's marine fishing and diving industries, which contribute more than \$850 million to New Jersey's economy.

The DEP initiated its ocean reef building program in 1984, establishing over time a network of 14 reef sites from Sandy Hook to Cape May that encompass a total of 25 square miles of sea floor. The state has made more than 3,500 deployments of various reef materials - more than any other state in the country - including ships and barges, massive undersea ridges from six million tons of rock, and thousands of fabricated concrete reef units.

For more information on New Jersey's artificial reef program, visit the DEP's Web site at:

www.njfishandwildlife.com/artreef.htm.





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