



## The Star-Ledger

### Bochenek honored for her work

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**BY AL RISTORI**  
Star-Ledger Staff

Eleanor Bochenek was honored Sunday by the Jersey Coast Anglers Association (JCAA) at the organization's annual Sportsperson-of-the-Year Dinner/Dance at Crystal Point Marina in Point Pleasant. That major fundraiser for the JCAA's conservation work and defense of angler's rights was attended by Gov. Jon Corzine, Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Lisa Jackson and other DEP officials.

Bochenek was presented the Sportsperson-of-the-Year award in recognition of many years volunteering to use her scientific expertise in development of JCAA positions as well as in the "Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs" program. She put together a youth fishing book, and has always been available for JCAA events. Bochenek is an avid angler with many years of experience in environmental issues. She worked for N.J. Sea Grant before taking a position as a research scientist for Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory.

Blackfishing was a mixed bag over the weekend, but there was no lack of effort. That was especially the case Sunday at Sandy Hook Reef where there must have been around a hundred boats pounding every piece of structure. It was a miracle anything could be caught under those circumstances, but we managed a decent pick on Team Wellcraft from Twin Lights Marina in Highlands.

I got lucky during my first tautog trip in a couple of years as eight of the 15 tog I hooked were keepers up to 19 inches. Jorge Gomez of Clifton, Chris Iraca and Bill Sternkopf from Ewing, Orlando Arana of Newark, and Capt. Victor Medina from Nutley added to the catch of 22 blacks over 14 inches. Medina had enjoyed better action the previous morning while running Capt. Fred Gamboa's Andrea's Toy from Keyport.

That corresponded with Capt. Stan Zagleski's experience on his Elaine B. from Highlands as he had very good blackfishing Saturday, but Sunday's Togathon was much tougher despite the longer hours, though a 9-pounder topped the catch. Surprisingly, yesterday was slow again.

Fisherman's Headquarters in Ship Bottom reported the change in wind direction to the west sparked better surf action as the Long Beach Island Surf Tournament was winding down. Brian Dalton of Tabernacle beached a 17-pound, 14-ounce bluefish that hit bunker at the local beach. Then Larry Weidner used the same bait to fool a 42-pound, 10-ounce striper at Beach Haven.

Boaters generally had slow striper fishing, but Capt. Bruce Miller trolled bunker spoons at Shrewsbury Rocks from Mirage out of Point Pleasant with the Ray Huffman charter from Hightstown for two short bass before a switch to shad rigs produced 36 more from 24 to 27 inches with only two keepers of 34 and 32 inches. Miller said all those throw-backs reminded him of the fluke season.

Boats clamming to the north had some good action with shorts plus some keepers. Capt. Ron Santee of the Fishermen from Atlantic Highlands drifted with clams down the beach and found lots of action with short bass plus good numbers of keepers over the weekend, though it was almost all shorts yesterday. Spiny dogfish were a big problem Saturday, but not as bad the next day. The Benchmark from Twin Lights clobbered stripers while clamming Friday and Saturday at Romer Shoal. Boat traffic slowed Sunday's bite, but it was back in shape yesterday.

#### TOP CATCHES

Dave Walsh of Tinton Falls joined Chris Walowitz of Point Pleasant on his Wally World from that port to troll Saturday off Island Beach, where shad rigs produced 11 short stripers plus one 31-incher and a 13-pound bluefish. Walsh said they marked some fish and bait, but there was no bird life.... At Brielle,

Capt. Francis Bogan had good catches of ling on Wednesday's Mud Hole sailing of the Paramount. Anglers averaged five to 15, and Jerome Hodge from Rahway was high hook with 23. Frank Sorgie of Allendale and Joe O'Leary from Waldwick combined for 26 ling.

Brielle Tackle reports Lenny Smith of Manasquan recently trolled a 14-pound bluefish south of the inlet. Mickey Alpert of Brick recently cast a plastic shad at Sea Girt to beach a 16-pound striper. The Tackle Box in Hazlet reported Pat Mack of Highlands last week boxed a limit of blackfish up to 12 pounds on Sandy Hook Reef from among over 45 caught. An 18 1/2-pound striper was taken on clams at Pebble Beach by Jerry Walker of Union Beach.

Other recent weigh-ins included a 22-pound striper taken on a Gibbs popper in the Sandy Hook surf by Bob Rocca of Milford. Anthony Altobelli from Hazlet used a Storm Shad at Sea Bright for a 20-pound bass. Scott Smith of Aberdeen plugged a 13 1/2-pound striper at Sandy Hook. Tackle Box Sportfishing had a limit of bass to 21 pounds recently on eels and clams for the Tim Gibney party from Toms River. T&A Tackle in Port Monmouth reported a 34-pound, 8 1/2-ounce striper caught recently on clam at Sandy Hook by Jim Nicholas of Oak Ridge. That bait also tempted a 15-pound, 2 1/2-ounce striper for Dave Lapsley of Middletown while fishing at Leonardo where he released five other bass.

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