

To – Sen. Jeff Van Drew

11/28/10

Dear Jeff,

As you know our Coalition on Civic Associations Of Cape May County (COCA) is made up of a number of civic/home owners/tax payer organizations with a combined membership of over 20,000 Cape May County citizens. Our purpose is to represent all member organizations and speak with a unified voice on vital countywide and statewide issues of common concern.

We strongly support a properly written NJ Fishing License to take the place of a “free registration”. A “free registration” would place another aprox. 1 million dollar burden on the Marine Fishery budget.

The NJ Marine Fishery is a multi billion-dollar industry in our State. Currently the NJ Marine Fishery is grossly under funded. The NJ Marine Fishery should receive additional funding from the State. Cutting funding to fund a “free registration” would leave Marine Fishery without sufficient funds to have the staff needed to keep in compliance. Being out of compliance means no fish, which is unacceptable.

A NJ Fishing License would place money into the Hunter Angler Fund. Federal money would be added to the Hunter Angler Fund from Wallop Breaux. Wallop Breaux moneys are calculated from the number of licensed fishermen. This results in more Federal money.

NJ is the only State on the East Coast that does not already have/is working on a Salt Water License. Currently NJ fishermen now pay a license fee to fish in NY & Del shared waters and these moneys are helping to add to the funds these other states efforts to fight for fish.

We ask your support to have a properly written NJ Fishing License not a “free registration” to save/secure our multi billion dollar fishing industry.

Regards,

Larry Kratzer  
President