

## **THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE ORIGINAL WOMEN'S SURF FISHING CLUB OF NJ CORPORATION**

On February 11, 1952, a group of women who were interested in surf fishing began a club. They registered the club as a corporation in the state of NJ and Women's Surf Fishing Club of New Jersey, Inc. was born.

WSFC of NJ was nurtured by these determined, founding members, Mrs. Robert Fite, Mrs. Jeffrey Paul, Mrs. John Mortimer, and Mrs. Emil Wirth. These ladies all went on to hold officer's rank on the board and became better known as Joan Fite, President, Francis Paul, Vice President, Janey Mortimer, Corresponding Secretary, and Sara Wirth, Treasurer. The first meeting had 18 women in attendance.

In March of 1952, WSFC of NJ was accepted as a member of the New Jersey State Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, a foundation created in 1935 and then all male. Today NJSFSC serves over 150,000 members, both men and women. By April of the same year, WSFC of NJ was accepted as a member in the Association of Surf Anglers Clubs whose inception in 1915 was all male. Today, WSFC of NJ is the only women's club in ASAC.

By March 7<sup>th</sup> of 1953, WSFC of NJ held their first Awards Banquet. The club was 100 members strong! Trophies were donated by male dominated businesses. Women wore cocktail dresses and the men in attendance wore suits and ties. Henry W. Stelwagon, then President of ASAC and H. Willard Shaner, then Secretary of ASAC were the invited guest speakers.

These women broke many barriers and never looked back.

**THEY DID IT!!!!!!!**

WSFC of NJ remained active for over 3 decades. They hosted their own tournaments, were involved in environmental issues, planned awards banquets, created their very own cook book, fished side by side with some of the best surf fishermen in the east coast, and found many ways to keep the club prosperous.

But time was taking its toll on the club. Several of the original members were in the 60's, 70's and 80's and could no longer fish, or their husbands retired and the

couples moved to warmer climates. Some of the members passed away. WSFC of NJ was feeling the aches and pains of “old age” just like her members.

In mid 1980's our own Sara Wirth, who had been treasurer for decades, laid the accounting books down. There was hardly anything to count anymore. Our corporate registration with the state of NJ wasn't being paid. The club was in critical condition brought on by time, neglect, lack of funds and most important, forgotten accomplishments.

By the early 1990's, with about 10 members left, WSFC of NJ was almost defunct. The club didn't even have enough women to field a six member team for the tournaments. One of the original members, Flo Pancoast and her daughter Christine had to fish for NJBBA's team. The outlook was bleak.

A new leader was thought to be the tonic for rejuvenation. Christine Pancoast was voted in as President in 2002, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club's existence. Clinging on by her fingernails, Chris tenaciously sought new members. She went looking for women fishing from the beaches, in tackle shops and by spreading the word to anyone that would listen.

Slowly the numbers crept up. She recruited one by one until there was a core of women willing to fish and work hard for WSFC of NJ once again. Ten members became twelve. Twelve became eighteen and so on.

Now in 2011 we are 40 members strong again. We field at least 2 teams during any given tournament and rank in the top five teams as of this writing.

**MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, WSFC OF NJ IS PROUD AND EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE ORIGINAL WOMEN'S SURF FISHING CLUB OF NJ'S CORPORATION.** The very corporation filed in 1952 has been brought up to date and all corporate fees for the 24 years that it was neglected have been paid to date!

We have kept the integrity of all the women who started out so many decades ago to make a difference in the sport of surf fishing. We have stayed true to their intent and fought to keep the original identity of the club.

**AND WE DID IT!!!**

Arlene Perkowski and Andrea Tamburino set off on a mission that was conceived almost 5 years ago. We started with what was left of the original paper work and went to an experienced attorney. From there we were guided through all the correct channels that enabled us to maintain the original corporate seal. Please think about what a fantastic accomplishment this is for all of us.

Now more than ever ladies, we need your help! We need to recoup the lawyer's fees, that were nominal, and the corporate registration fees that hadn't been paid for over 24 years.

October 22, 2011 will be our 59<sup>th</sup> tournament; and it is coming up quickly. We need you to get out and find the merchant willing to donate items for the raffle tables. Go out and buy something you yourselves would love to have when you're surf fishing. And then donate it to us to raffle off.

Spread the news about our tournament. Explain to anyone that will listen who we are, what we are, and what we have accomplished!

This year's tournament MUST be financially successful. WSFC of NJ can never again bow to old age, financial hard times, or forgotten accomplishments!

Congratulations Ladies!!!

Women's Surf Fishing Club of New Jersey, Inc.

