NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

The New Jersey Angling and Hunting Conservation Caucus was the 38th state to join the National Assembly of Sportsmen’s Caucuses, having been formed in 2009. The New Jersey Outdoor Alliance was instrumental in providing on the ground support during the formation of the Caucus and has since served as the Caucus’ Advisory Council – organizing events and policy briefings, and providing members with timely information on sportsmen’s issues. Presently the New Jersey Caucus is comprised of 13 members and is lead by Co-Chairs Senators Stephen Sweeney and Steven Oroho, and Assembly Members John Burzichelli and Parker Space. The Caucus has achieved many victories for New Jersey’s sportsmen and women, including: establishing the Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs program, authorizing Sunday archery hunting for deer, and passing Pots off the Reef legislation to ensure that artificial reefs constructed using sportsmen-generated conservation funding dollars were set aside for recreational angling and not overrun with commercial fishing activities. Whether it’s fighting to uphold sound, science-based management decisions regarding the management of the state’s bear population, or pushing back against the closure of state forests and parks, the New Jersey Angling and Hunting Conservation Caucus will stand firm for the Garden State’s sportsmen and women.

Policy Highlights

- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Caucus fought for maintaining access to public lands and for the continuance of the NICS system - both of which had been restricted/halted.
- Gun issues, bear hunting, predator management, dog bills, and others dominated the policy conversations in the Garden State in 2019.
- Introduced by New Jersey Caucus Member Senator Smith and signed by the Governor, NJ SB 1074 protects the right to tidal lands and waters for navigation, fishing, and recreational uses.

Economic Impact and Conservation Funding

- Sportsmen and women spent $1.26 billion on hunting and fishing in New Jersey in 2011 – that is more than the receipts for all agricultural commodities in the state for that year combined ($1.26 billion vs. $1.12 billion).
- New Jersey’s hunters and anglers support more than twice the number of jobs as Continental Airlines in Newark, the state’s largest employer (16,905 vs. 8,000).

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