

Focus on Membership

From the International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades (ICAST) to advocating on your behalf, there are many benefits for American Sportfishing Association (ASA) members. If you have any questions about membership or becoming a member, please contact Membership Director [Jill Calabria](#), x234.

Protecting your business interests

ASA's members have a variety of concerns, including the federal manufacturers excise tax, counterfeiting, marketing and supply line changes, increasing participation in the sport and ensuring that there are many and varied places to fish with healthy and abundant fish populations.

Despite such a large and varied membership base, the decisions ASA makes benefit all of its members.

On its members' behalf ASA is working to:

- Promote the use of sound science to conserve our fisheries resources while minimizing the establishment of no-fishing zones in all federal and state marine and fresh waters (California, Oregon, Florida, North Carolina and the Gulf of Mexico are top priorities)
- Secure reauthorization of the Sport Fish and Boating Trust Fund (Wallop-Breaux), the main source of

funding for state wildlife and natural resource agencies in the United States, which comes from the federal manufacturers excise tax on fishing tackle

- Fight a decision by the National Park Service (NPS) to ban fishing tackle with lead components in national parks by 2010
- Maintain and improve the health of our nation's fisheries resources through the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act, the Clean Water Act and other issues (such as monitoring off-shore drilling and energy development in the West and Alaska)
- Inform its members about legislation that could impact the sportfishing industry, such as the Consumer Product Safety Protection Act of 2008, which impacts products marketed to children 12 years of age or under

ASA's online [Legislative Action Center](#) enables its members to contact members of Congress or reach the media in a specific geographic area to share their thoughts regarding issues that affect sportfishing.

ASA also maintains www.keepamericafishing.org, a resource dedicated to highlighting fishing access issues. Here anglers can find information about pending

legislation and other actions that could impede them from enjoying their favorite fishing spots.

Business and networking opportunities

ASA produces [ICAST](#), the premier trade event for the sportfishing industry and the largest showcase of fishing gear and accessories in the world. ICAST 2009 will be held July 15-17 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla. Each year, ICAST draws 7,000 attendees, including 2,000 buyers and nearly 500 members of the outdoor media.

Each fall, ASA also hosts the Sportfishing Summit, the association's annual business and membership meeting. The 2009 Sportfishing Summit will be held Oct. 27-29 at the [Rancho Bernardo Inn](#) in San Diego. Make plans to attend the only event where the entire sportfishing community convenes to discuss the issues and events that affect the industry.

Through ASA's consumer-show partnership with Fred Hall & Associates on the West Coast and ASA's Eastern Fishing & Outdoor Exposition consumer shows in the Northeast, ASA is securing investments for the future and creating avenues to help reach members' customers. ■