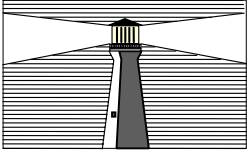


THE HARBOUR LIGHT



The Official Newsletter of
Village Harbour Fishing Club, Inc.
PO Box 1026
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

VOLUME # 103 ISSUE # 2 April 2003

Web Site Address: <http://FishermansHeadquarters.com/VHFC>
E-mail Address: VHFCInfo@aol.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

BOARD MEETING: 04 APRIL 2003
8 P.M at the Community Center

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 11 APRIL 2003
at the Community Center on Mill Creek Rd.
7:30 PM: Doors open early so come help set up.
7:45 PM: Club Business:

- Look ahead at 2003
- Presentation of eight 2002 Awards:
 - 7 “Trophy Fish of the Year” &
 - Striped Bass Fish of the Month
- Intro - Weakfish Tournament
- Break
- Presentation by Nick Cocco on Electronics & Rescue 21 Systems

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE by Ray Williams

April is here finally! Our thoughts can turn from removing piles of snow to catching fish. We have a great year planned for our club. We have scheduled some interesting speakers and a variety of tournaments. Surveys were sent out to all members; if you did not receive one, please let us know. I hope to see all of you at our first meeting of the year on April 11th.

Remember that the doors open at 7:30pm & we will start at 7:45pm.

DON’T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR DUES AND RENEWAL FORM

Renewals are due no later than 09 May 2003; the earlier the better. The 2003 membership renewal forms are on page 7. It is important that you complete all items, sign and return yours, with your ‘03 dues, by 09 May..

2003 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VHFC’s 2003 Calendar is included as a page in this newsletter. We had to prepare the calendar before the survey could be finished.

Depending on the Survey results, there may be some responsive adjustments to the calendar.

2003 WEAKFISH TOURNAMENT AND SOCIAL by Don Longstreet & Bill Dabney

See attached 1 page description and signup sheet for full details.

VICTORY – THE SUBWAY CARS ARE IN

“Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell announced today the state is acquiring 250 obsolete New York subway cars for placement on five offshore artificial reef sites.”

Thanks to all who wrote letters and/or called.

WEIGH-IN RULES from the Board

Following some ties, etc. in 2002, the Board has reviewed the awards process and made the following decisions:

1. For our Fish Of The Month And Fish Of The Year prizes in 2003:
 - a. We will use date & time of weigh in as the tiebreaker (earlier wins).
 - b. Only weigh-ins at Fishermans Headquarters, including a completed VHFC weigh-in form, will be eligible.
2. Weigh-ins at our individual tournament events will be handled with rules clearly defined and distributed to the members before each event.
3. The Trophy Fish Of The Year and Fish Of The Month awards for 2003 will continue to be \$50.00 gift certificates.

2002 FISH OF THE YEAR by George Fruh

Winter Flounder (4/13)	1 lb. 8 oz.	Gerald Kelleher
Winter Flounder (4/13)	1 lb. 8 oz.	Shane Barrett
Blackfish (10/16)	3 lb. 8 oz.	Dave Sikorski
Weakfish (06/01)	8 lb. 4 oz.	Bob Citarelli

Bluefish (05/19) 13 lb. 7 oz. Paul Galasso
 Fluke (07/04) 8 lb 8 oz. John Lyszczarz
 Sea Bass (04/21) 5 lb. 4 oz. Bob Gers
 Striped Bass (11/05) 35 lb. 0 oz. Richard Jessen

LAST FISH OF THE MONTH FOR 2002

by George Fruh

Striped Bass was the last but not the least Fish of the Month for 2002. In fact it was the heaviest award winner for the year.

Congratulations to Richard Jessen for this nice catch:

Striped Bass (11/05) 35lb. 0 oz. Richard Jessen

2003 FISH OF THE MONTH WEIGH-INS

by George Fruh

The Fish of the Month for March & April 2003 is Winter Flounder. As of 1 April, we've had no weigh-ins this year.

BOATING BILL by Dave Sikorski

The state senate recently passed the Shallow Water Bill 39 to zero. This bill bans the use of power vessels in water less than 12" in excess on no wake speed. In response to concerns voiced by fishermen, the bill was amended to allow the operation of a boat under "muscular power". When we get the full text of the bill, we will post it on the web site.

Another boating bill is under consideration. This one would require most boaters to pass a certified safe boating course. We will provide more details when this one passes.

YOUR FISHING REPORTS by Dave Sikorski

Most of us enjoy reading fishing reports. Well, we all want to see your fishing reports.

If you look at the last year's newsletters, the reports are primarily from Board Members.

We know you're fishing. You can bring your report to a meeting and give it to Dave Sikorski or Dick Vesper or e-mail them directly to VHFCInfo@aol.com or call 609-865-5403.

No need to be elaborate. Simply tell us whatever you are willing to share about when, where, how, what kind of fish, and how many. If you'd like, we'll "smoothen" your report and you can remain anonymous – whatever is your preference. Digital pictures are invited as well.

2003 FISHING REGS by Dick Vesper

The latest set of regulations I've seen for 2003 is given below; by species, Bag Limit (#.), Minimum Size (in.) and season:

Species (#.) (in.) Season

Weakfish	8	13	Open
Fluke	8	16 ½	May 03-Oct 13
Sea Bass	25	12	Jan 01- Sep 01
Sea Bass	25	12	Sep 16 – Nov 30
Porgie	50	10	Jul 01 – Dec 31
Tog	4	14	Jan 01 – May 31
Tog	1	14	Jun 01 – Nov 14
Tog	8	14	Nov 15 – Dec 31
Bluefish:	15	NA	Open
Striped Bass	1	24 to, but less than, 28 &	
	1	28 or greater	
W. Flounder	NA	11	Mar 1– May 31
	NA	11	Sep 15 – Dec 31

2002 REEF TOURNAMENT REPORT by Dave Sikorski

Mother nature was not as kind to us for this year's Reef Tournament as last year. However, we did have 24 people signed up, in 13 boats.

On Saturday, the winds were about 6 to 10 knots early with choppy 2 foot seas. Around 11 am, the wind picked up to about 10 to 15 knots and the seas got a little rougher. Despite the weather, some of our members were able to get out to the Barnegat Light Reef, and caught some nice Fluke. Unfortunately, no Sea Bass were weighed in. The results are given below:

Fluke

Jeff Barnhart 7 lb. 5 oz.
 John Lyszczarz 5 lb 6 oz.
 Jeff Barnhart 3 lb. 11 oz.

Larry Russell, who decided to fish the Middle Grounds after returning from the ocean, picked up two nice Weakfish: one was 3 pounds, and one was 2 pounds 14 ounces.

2002 SURF TOURNAMENT by Steve Cook

We had a nice turnout for the event, but unfortunately the fish were no shows. The weather was great except when the wind picked up late Sunday morning. We had 17 members who showed up out of 24 signed up. There were 6 that fished both days. Also, 13 members attended the luncheon afterwards.

If the fishing had been better, we probably would have had more fishermen on the second day. Perhaps, next year a later date would be better since the water temperature was still too high (high 50's). One positive sign was that we had quite a few novice surf fishermen this year.

They all seemed to enjoy themselves and mentioned that they intend to do more surf fishing in future. There was only one keeper

striper caught and no bluefish. I can honestly say that I wish I didn't catch that one striper as I would have loved to see many fish weighed in. The weight for the fish was 5 lb. 4 oz. and the length of 25 in.

I hope everyone that attended did enjoy themselves and ask if anyone has any ideas or suggestions about how to improve future tournaments, please feel free to contact me or any board member.

DAVE'S FIRST KEEPER by Dave Sikorski
Hi Y'all. Just thought you might want to see my first keeper Striper, finally. It was 34" long and weighed 12 lb, 12 oz. (biggest fish I've ever caught). Caught it from shore on a yellow swimming plug, in the bay inside Barnegat Inlet, just after sunset on Nov. 9th, 2002. Hopefully, I will be able to catch more.



MY 2002 WEAKFISH TOURNAMENT **Story** by Ray Williams

Last year's Weakfish Tournament was a lot of fun. I took an old friend, Jerry Gertner, & his son, Mitch in my boat. I knew that a lot of guys would be fishing with shrimp but I decided that we would use Fin S's & shedder crabs. We went to the Brick Pile in Marshelder Channel & drifted. We caught several small Weakfish during the morning; around noon I decided we would make one last drift before going in. As we drifted towards the very shallow water east of the Brick Pile, Mitch hooked into a big fish. We were in 3 feet of water & I knew the boat would be grounded very soon. About 5 seconds after Mitch hooked his fish, I got a hit on my line. To make a long story short, he hauled in a 6lb. 11 oz. Weakie & mine was 6lb. 7 oz. Mitch's fish won 3rd place in the tournament & I came in 5th. I guess

you don't always catch the big fish at dawn & on grass shrimp!



FISHING IN FLORIDA WITH MAURICE
by Walt Thomas
(Ed. Note: For the new club members – Maurice Piergrossi, an active VHFC member, former VHFC Officer and avid Weakfisher, moved to Florida last year.)

Over Labor Day Weekend our Past President Walt Thomas and his wife traveled down to visit our Past Treasurer Maurice Piergrossi and his wife at their new home in North Miami Beach. We arrived and the weather was hot, 90 degrees with sunny skies.

On Saturday Maurice, his son Nick and I traveled out into the ocean to fish. The seas were a little choppy but not bad. We left early in the morning to catch some live pilchers as bait. This attempt created some frustration with few pilchers boated. We had also stopped and got some ballyhoo for trolling. We decided to first try some wreck fishing. We drifted over a wreck in about 250 feet of water. Once getting our baits down to the bottom we quickly had action with Lane Snappers. These fish were rather small. These fish also love to steal bait. After cranking up the rigs to check baits several times in this depth, we decided to try something else.

We next went on the hunt to find Dolphin (Mahi-Mahi). We cruised from about 2 miles off shore to about 6 miles off shore not seeing any fish. As we headed back toward the inlet Nick spotted a 3'X4' piece of plywood.

We steered the boat over to check it out and we saw TONS of bait fish. Since Dolphin love shade under the plywood and since there were many bait fish around we quickly put our baits overboard in the hopes of getting some Mahi-Mahi. About three minutes later, we all got hit

HARD. The Dolphin were screaming off line and they were jumping and breaking water as we fought them in. We quickly had fish in the cooler.

. We followed that piece of plywood for about two and a half hours and every time we came close to it we had Dolphin hooked. We must have boated about 40 Dolphin. They were in the 5 pound size. We keep about 10 of them.

After the two hours of fishing with none stop action we looked up and we had followed that plywood up to Fort Lauderdale. We had about a forty five minute ride back to our inlet. Everyone had a great time on the boat that day fishing. Maurice put us over the meat.

When we got back to the dock Nick cleaned the fish. While cleaning the fish for the filets the rest of the fish was thrown into the lagoon. At the bottom of the lagoon were two BIG Tarpon swimming around. They cleaned up the carcasses. One of these Tarpon had to be 150 pounds. Seeing them swim by so close to the dock was amazing. They even broke the surface of the water a few time. They knew where to get a free meal.

Once the Mahi-Mahi was filleted Maurice was nice enough to pack some into a small cooler for us to travel on the plane back to Atlantic City. When we returned home we grilled them with some teriyaki sauce and they were DELICIOUS.

Beth and I enjoyed seeing the area where Maurice and Laura are now living. We ate at some great restaurants and had some great memories. That fishing day was great. We enjoyed it so much that we have booked ourselves down there again during Christmas break. Hope the fishing is just as good.

STRIPED FLOUNDER by Dave Sikorski

I hadn't had much success fishing the beach for stripers (I've even forgotten what they look like), so one day late last year I decided to try to catch some of those winter flounder you had reported about on the beach. I stopped in at Fisherman's Headquarters for some worms and tiny little hooks. I also picked up some clam to try for stripers as well.

I hiked all the way out to the beach, baited my striper rod with clams on circle hooks, cast out and set it in the rod holder. Then I baited up my small rod with some small pieces of worms

on those tiny little hooks and cast that out. I held onto the rod for a while, then put it down.

I had found a ball of rope and fishing line that had a plug and teaser tangled up. I worked on that until I freed the plug. (happy plug) I then reeled in both rods, rebaited and cast back out, moving a few feet down the beach in the process.

I held onto the flounder rig again, and after a few minutes, I felt a little tapping. I thought to myself, cool! Jay Mann was right, there are flounder up here. So I set the hook, and he took off! Then I thought to myself, what a fish, this is a big flounder! After a few runs and about a five minute fight, I landed the biggest, strangest looking flounder I ever saw!

It was about 27 inches long, had one eye on each side of it's body, and it was white on both sides with dark stripes. This flounder looked just like a Striped Bass! Its a good thing I knew I was fishing for flounder, cause no stripers were hitting the clam rig.

I rebaited the flounder rig and about 15 minutes later I caught another one, just like the first one, but a little smaller, about 23". Hey, this flounder fishing is pretty cool, huh? You just never know...

Happy New Year.

BOATING SAFETY by Dick Vesper

I took 2 evenings of training at Southern Regional High School during the winter, received a certificate and expect a nice reduction in my boat insurance. In spite of spending most of my life near salt water and boating, I learned a lot of things that will make me a safer boater. For example, I can now tell me grandkids with authority that "Persons 12 years old or younger may not remain onboard any underway vessel (except some ferries & large commercials) unless they are properly wearing a USCG approved personal floatation device".

FISHERMANS HEADQUARTERS

UPDATE by Dick Vesper

They've got some new stuff this year; including boat maintenance products. The OKUMA line of reels has also been added. My favorites are the SPRO plastic baits. They are both realistic and made to last a lot longer. Finally, a lot of fly stuff was put on sale now.

**5th ANNUAL VHFC HOLIDAY
WEAKFISH TOURNAMENT AND SOCIAL**

1. **Tournament Date: Saturday, June 7, 2003 - RAIN or SHINE**
2. **Fishing Time: Dawn till 2:00 PM - Weigh in 2:00 to 3:00 PM sharp**
3. **Boat Captain must be VHFC member**
4. **Each Captain may have up to 3 non-member anglers on his boat**
5. **Each fisherman must pay \$10.00 entry fee (regular or junior) before the event**
6. **Only one fish can be entered for each fisherman**
7. **All fishing must be by boat with rod and reel**
8. **Fishing boundaries are Barnegat Inlet to Wreck Inlet in bay waters only**
9. **Prizes will be awarded as follows for heaviest fish**



- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 st Place | 50% of entry fees |
| 2 nd Place | 30% of entry fees |
| 3 rd Place | 10% of entry fees |



10. **Ties will be settled by length of fish**
*That angler must catch any fish weighed in
11. **Weigh-in will be at the house of Don Longstreet (28 Ronnie Drive, Beach Haven West)**
Social, for entrants & spouse only, will be from 2-4 PM (snacks, food, refreshments)
*All VHFC and IGFA rules will apply

ENTRY FORM	NAME	Amount	
VHFC Member (Name)		@\$10 =	
Guest (Name)		@\$10 =	
Guest (Name)		@\$10 =	
Guest (Name)		@\$10 =	
BOAT NAME (if applicable)		Total	

- Signed entry forms and related fees can be mailed to VHFC, Tournaments, PO Box 1026, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.
- Each captain is responsible for the safety of his or her boat and all the people aboard.
- Village Harbour Fishing Club, Inc. does not inspect the boats or assess the training and experience of the captain or crew.
- Each captain is responsible for all the decisions regarding the safe operation of their vessels, including the decision to leave the dock.
- Event dates are scheduled well in advance of any weather forecast. Conditions necessary for safe operation are different for different vessels and captain and crew experience levels. The captain of a participating vessel who signs this entry form agrees to take full responsibility for all decisions affecting the safe operation of his vessel and agrees to indemnify and hold the club harmless from any claims made by anyone affected by the operation of the captain's vessel.

Captain's Name: _____ Signature _____

2003 Village Harbour Fishing Club, Inc. Meeting and Events Schedule (Revised 4/4/03)

<p>April 2003 FISH OF THE MONTH: WINTER FLOUNDER <u>7:45 APRIL 11</u>: Start with Club bus. ❖ Look ahead at 2003 ❖ Presentation of 2002 Awards for 7 "Trophy Fish of the Year" & for Striped Bass Fish of the Month ❖ Intro - Weakfish Tournament ❖ Break Nick Cocco on Boat Electronics & USCG's Rescue 21 System</p>	<p>May 2003 -DUES ARE DUE ON MAY 9- Fish of the Month: Blackfish <u>7:45 May 09</u>: Start with Club bus. ❖ W. Flounder Fish of the Month Award ❖ Membership Survey Results ❖ Update - Weakfish Tournament ❖ All-Present Fishing Discussion ❖ Break Jim Hutchinson & Son on Weakfishing in Barnegat Bay</p>	<p align="center">June 7 5TH Annual Weakfish Tournament Chairmen: Don Longstreet & Bill Dabney Species: Weakfish</p>
<p align="center">JUNE 2003 Fish of the Month: Weakfish <u>7:30 June 13</u>: Start with Jay Mann Castnetting (Bring your net) and more of Jay on local fishing ❖ Break ❖ Club Business ❖ Present Blackfish Fish of the Month Award ❖ Report on Weakfish Tournament ❖ South Bay Fishing Tournament</p>	<p align="center">JULY 2003 Fish of the Month: Bluefish <u>7:45 July 11</u>: Start with Club bus. ❖ Weakfish Fish of the Month Award ❖ Update - South Bay Fishing Tournament ❖ All -Present Fishing Discussion ❖ Break Speaker to be announced</p>	<p align="center">July 12 & 13 South Bay Fishing Tournament Chairmen: Ray Williams & Charlie Kochka Species: Bluefish, Fluke, Weakfish</p>
<p align="center">AUGUST 2003 Fish of the Month: Fluke <u>7:45 Aug.08</u>: Start with Club bus. ❖ Bluefish Fish of the Month Award ❖ Report on South Bay Fishing Tournament ❖ Intro - Reef Fishing Event ❖ All-Present Fishing Discussion ❖ Break Bill Haluska on Striper Fishing, Bass Rigs & Reading the Water</p>	<p align="center">15 AUGUST 2003 FRIDAY EVENING VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB DINNER (MORE DETAILS TO COME)</p>	<p align="center">SEPTEMBER 2003 Fish of the Month: Sea Bass <u>7:45 Sept.12</u>: Start with Club bus. ❖ Fluke Fish of the Month Award ❖ Update/Signups for Reef Fishing Event ❖ Intro - Surf Tournament ❖ All-Present Fishing Discussion ❖ Break Jim Schockley on Winterizing Your Boat</p>
<p align="center">SEPTEMBER 13 & 14 REEF FISHING EVENT Chairman: Basil Dubroski Species: Fluke & Sea Bass</p>	<p align="center">October 2003 Fish of the Month: Striped Bass <u>7:45 OCT. 10</u>: START WITH CLUB BUS. ❖ Sea Bass Fish of the Month Award ❖ Report on Reef Fishing Event ❖ Update/Signup for Surf Tournament ❖ All-Present Fishing Discussion ❖ 2003 Report and Plan for 2004 ❖ Break ❖ Tom Grothues (Rutgers): Sonar Tracking Stripers in the Bay</p>	<p align="center">October 11 & 12 SURF TOURNAMENT Chairmen: Steve Cook & John Nonnenmacher Species: Bluefish & Striped Bass</p>

3 of the 4 fishing tournaments are 2-day events. Monthly meetings are 2nd Fridays starting promptly at 7:45 PM. Doors open at 7:30 - Come early and help us get set up.

VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB, INC.
2003 Form for Member Renewals and New Applications
MAIL DUES (Checks only) FOR \$35.00 PAYABLE TO "VHFC" TO:
VHFC MEMBERSHIP
PO BOX 1026
MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050
Dues for renewals are due by May 9, 2003

Name*: _____ Member #: _____ Nickname: _____

Signature*: _____ Date: __/__/____ Note: Both * items must be completed.

Renewals: Please insert any changes from 2002 Membership list.

New Applicants: Please complete all of the following:

Name of Spouse:	
Principle Address:	Shore Address:
City/St/Zip:	City/St/Zip:
Phone:	Phone:
Fax:	Fax:
E-Mail:	E-Mail:

Would you like to receive your monthly newsletter via e-mail? (circle): Yes No

Boat Owners, please complete the following:

Name of Boat: _____ Length (ft.): _____

Equipment on Boat (circle): VHF CB RADAR GPS LORAN FISH FINDER

VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB, INC.
Junior Angler Application Form for 2003
MAIL DUES (Checks only) FOR \$10.00 PAYABLE TO "VHFC" TO:
VHFC JUNIOR ANGLER
PO BOX 1026
MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050
Dues for renewals are due by May 9, 2003

APPLICANT : Please complete the following each year (one sheet per Junior Angler)

Name*:	Member #:	Nick Name:
Signature:	Junior Angler's E-Mail:	
Home Address:	Home Phone:	

Would you like to receive your monthly newsletter via e-mail? (circle): Yes No

SPONSOR:

SPONSORING MEMBER'S INFORMATION (ALL ARE REQUIRED EACH YEAR)

By completing the following, the Sponsor takes full responsibility to accompany and supervise the applicant's behavior and ensure the applicant's well being during and en route to and from any club activity or event and further certifies possession of the legal authority to do so.

Further, the sponsor affirms that the applicant will reach 18 years of age after May 9, 2003.

Sponsor's Name*:	Sponsor's Member #:
Signature*:	Date:* __/__/____
Relation to Applicant*:	

Junior Angler Boat Owners, please complete the following: Note: Five * items must be completed.

Name of Boat: _____ Length (ft.): _____

Equipment on Boat (circle): VHF CB RADAR GPS LORAN FISH FINDER

**VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB, INC.
2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Officers:

President	Ray Williams
1 st Vice President	Open
2 nd Vice President	Open
Treasurer	Ken Hansen
Secretary	Dave Sikorski

Immediate Past President	Don Longstreet
Newsletter	Dick Vesper
Weigh Master/Awards	George Fruh
Library	Jim McGrath
Printing	Bill Logan
Website	Dave Sikorski

Trustees

Sergeant at Arms	Charlie Kochka
Meetings Chairman	Bob Mueller
Weigh Master/Awards	George Fruh
Recruiting	Ray Williams
Membership Data Base	John Nonnenmacher
Hands-on Sessions	Steve Cook
Guest Speakers	Bill Dabney

All Past Presidents, not listed above, are non-voting members

2003 Tournament Chairmen

Weakfish Tournament	Ray Williams & Bill Dabney
South Bay Day	Ray Williams & Charlie Kochka
Reef Fishing Event	Basil Dubrosky
Surf Tournament	Steve Cook & John Nonnenmacher

**Manahawkin, NJ 08050
PO Box 1026
Village Harbour Fishing Club, Inc.**

The following have offered a discount with the presentation of current VHFC Membership Card Discounts normally do not apply to items that are fair traded or items on sale		
FISHERMAN'S HEADQUARTERS Causeway, Ship Bottom, NJ 494-5739 10% discount on all bait & tackle	BOBBIES 7 th & Bay Ave., Barnegat Light, NJ 494-1345 10% discount on bait & tackle	TIP'S HARDWARE West Creek, NJ 296-3192 10% on bait, tackle & supplies
THE CLAM BUCKET BAIT & TACKLE 381 Rte. 9, West Creek, NJ 294-2500 10% discount on all bait & tackle	CAUSEWAY BOAT RENTALS On the LBI Causeway 494-1371 10% discount on bait and tackle.	CLARKE'S MARINE SUPPLY Tuckerton, NJ 294-0166 15% off on OMC, etc. parts 10% off on marine supplies & tackle
ISLAND COVE MARINE CENTER 2601 Central Ave., Ship Bottom, NJ 494-8100 10% discount on bait & tackle	THE BOAT SHOPS 756 E. Bay Ave., Manahawkin, NJ 597-1271 10% discount on regular prices	BARNEGAT LIGHT BAIT & TACKLE Bay Avenue & 15 th St., Barnegat Lt. 494-4566 10% discount on bait & tackle