



HARBOUR LIGHT

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

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VILLAGE HARBOR FISHING CLUB

Editor: Jeff Orsoe VHFC Web Site: <http://www.vhfishingclub.com> April, 2017 Vol. 28 No.1

NEW MEETING PLACE

Bay Avenue Community Center

775 E. Bay Ave., Manahawkin.

Doors open at 7:30 PM

Parking is off Bay Avenue.

EVENTS in April and May

BOARD MEETING: April 7

7:30 P.M at the **Bay Avenue Community Center**

775 E. Bay Avenue
Manahawkin, NJ

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: April 21

At the **Bay Avenue Community Center**

7:30 PM: Doors Open Early - Come Help Set Up.

7:45 PM: Meeting Starts With Club Business:

Presentation of the **2016 VHFC Melanie Boytos Inshore Grand Slam Award**

_ Committee Reports

_ All-Present Fishing Discussion Break

May: Board Meeting Friday, May 5

General Meeting: Friday May 12

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all VHFC members,

Let me welcome everyone to the start of the 2017 fishing season and our first newsletter. After doing an outstanding job for the last 4+ years, past president Dave Spendiff has handed the reins over to me - Ed Valitutto the guy usually selling the 50/50 tickets. Dave will remain very active with other dedicated board members helping with all the activities needed to run our club.

Just when we thought this winter was going to be the mildest on record, March came in like a lion and except for a few days, stayed that way through the first week of April. Hopefully by the time you read this, warmer days have arrived and along with the milder temperatures, the white perch, winter flounder, stripers and gator blues have taken up residence in our local waters.

As most of you are probably aware, NJ 2017 fishing regulations are finalized except for fluke. In a surprise move, many NJ government officials have formally requested the 2017 fluke regulations remain at 5 fish at 18" until thorough scientific data is obtained regarding the biomass. The proposed 2017 regulations would increase the minimum size to 19" and decrease the bag limit to 3. At our April club meeting, guest speaker Managing Editor of The Fisherman magazine Jim Hutchinson Jr will provide the latest status. At the meeting, there will also be the presentation of the **2016 VHFC Melanie Boytos Inshore Grand Slam Award** to recipient Dave Spendiff.

Also at the meeting, we will discuss this year's expanded Fish of the Month program. Additional categories have been added increasing the total number of possible awards to 20.

Not that I want to see the time pass any faster but the long winter is now over. I look forward to seeing everyone and hope you all have a great fishing year. See you on Friday, April 21st.

Regards,
Ed

This month's speaker

This Month's speaker is **Jim Hutchinson Jr**, Editor of "The Fisherman Magazine" Jim will be speaking on what is happening on the the NJ Fluke regulations. Come on out to find out what we may expect.

REGLATORY Report

By Dave Spendiff

Summer Flounder

The New Jersey fishing community has come together; Democrats and Republicans, commercial and recreational anglers, state and federal officials, all to oppose the ridiculous decisions by the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council to drastically reduce the summer flounder quota for 2017. New Jersey was adamantly opposed and are standing firm on a "status quo" position. Our Federal legislators have put in bills and written multiple letters to the Secretary of Commerce stating the reason for our position and the New Jersey Senate and Assembly have passed resolutions in support of our position. The executive branch, through Commissioner Martin, has done everything possible to fight this cut in summer flounder quota, even traveling to DC for the ASMFC meeting and meeting personally with acting Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service. At this time, it appears that this battle is far from over and New Jersey may fight this battle all the way to the doorstep of the new Secretary of Commerce. Until this issue is resolved, probably the end of April or early May, we will abide by the 2016 regulations of 5 fish @ 18". Until a new and proper stock assessment is undertaken and the fishery managers apply all new summer flounder science when analyzing this data to determine an accurate quota, NJ will fight for status quo. No more "voo-do" science!

VHFC Tournament Standings

2016 TROPHY FISH OF THE MONTH AND FISH OF THE YEAR

The "Fish of the Month and Fish of the Year" is changing slightly this year with a few changes. It is important the you make it to the meeting to hear about the improvements.

2016 Trophy Fish of the Year Program.

The rules are simple: you have to catch a fish of the above species, take it to one of our official weigh stations to have it weighed and recorded on our official weigh-in forms. If you have weighed in the largest fish of a particular species for the calendar year 2017 then you win the FOY trophy for that species. **Note:** your dues have to be paid before you catch an eligible fish. .Go to our website for more information.

(<http://vhfishingclub.com/conteststournaments/vhfc-standings/>)

**Regulatory & Legislative Report
April, 2017**

WEIGH INNS – Please see a separate sheet for the 2016 fish weigh inns for the year.

The current Weigh Stations for the club are as follows:

Captain's Quarters, Brighton Beach, NJ

Creekside Outfitters, Waretown, NJ

Fisherman's Headquarters, Ship Bottom, NJ

West Creek Bait and Tackle, West Creek, NJ

Viking Outfitters, Barnegat Light, NJ

IN THE Reading Room

Check out the Books and DVD at the meeting

By Bill Dabney

Check out John Skinner's new book entitled "Fishing For Summer Flounder"

"Techniques and skills for targeting a fun and VERY tasty fish the prowls the waters along the East Coast and Gulf States. John Skinner, the author, is a well respected fishermen for a variety of species and when he's not fishing is often still in the water scuba diving. He also holds degrees in Biology and Computer Science"

NOW available at the club's library table.

If you borrowed anything from our library over the winter, please make sure to return it at the next meeting so that other members may enjoy our library collection.

OLD FISHING BOOKS WANTED

Bill Dabney has accumulated some very good books & videos for our library but we will gladly accept any donations if you have fishing or boating books or videos you would like to donate to our library. If you have something, either bring it to a meeting or call Bill at 978-6893 to make arrangements for us to get your book or video.

Take a look at the new additions to our library

Boat US also have their publications on line. There you can find back issues. Go to [:http://www.boatus.com/magazine/archives/default.asp](http://www.boatus.com/magazine/archives/default.asp)

But you will also need your Member number to access them



Boat Owners Association of The United States

(Vessel Safety)

Jeff Orsoe

With As a reminder to all members, Village Harbour Fishing Club is enrolled in BoatUS Cooperating Boat

Program. This allows you to join BoatUS for half of the normal membership fee. Please contact me via email at jorsoe786@comcast.net for our code number. You must be a paid up member for use of this code.

The latest piece of fraud that is show up concern about the documentation of vessels. Boat Owners Association of The United States (**BoatUS**) Consumer Protection Department is advising boaters with vessels having a US Coast Guard Certificate of Documentation to be wary of any letter arriving by US mail offering renewal. An increasing number of BoatUS members have complained that these letters direct them to websites that may be mistaken for the actual **US Coast Guard Vessel Documentation Center** located in Falling Waters, West Virginia, and appear to show a significant increase in the annual fee to renew US Coast Guard (USCG) documentation.

BoatUS advises that while the USCG does send official annual renewal notices by US mail, other notices being received by members are not from the USCG but rather third-party companies whose name or return addresses may appear similar to that of the official USCG Vessel Documentation Center. Members of the half-million boat owners group report the letters look like “real” USCG communications. Some examples members have forwarded to BoatUS do not have any disclaimers noting that they are not official USCG correspondence.

While third-party companies may legitimately provide services to assist with vessel documentation renewals, the USCG’s own renewal process is simple for most vessels and the price, \$26, is often much lower than

what third-party services may charge. To renew, go to the USCG National Documentation Center website at www.uscg.mil/nvdc and click on “instructions and forms.”

To be documented, a vessel must measure at least 5 net tons and, with the exception of certain oil-spill response vessels, owned by a US citizen. Boats about 27 feet in length or longer generally meet the weight requirement.

If boat owners wish to file a consumer complaint about this or any other boating-related advertisement or company, BoatUS welcomes boaters to visit <http://my.boatus.com/consumer/dispute.asp> and click on “send us a complaint” button.

BoatUS also advises boaters who may have received mail that they believe is misleading or deceptive may contact the US Postal Inspection Service at 1-877-876-2455 or through its website <https://postalinspectors.uspis.gov>

For those that would like to have a free USCG Vessel Check, I am available tp perform that service to you. Please contact me via email at jorsoe786@comcast.net or leave a message on my cell at 732-672-5530

Till next time, Tight Lines!

T-Shirts are still Available

VHFC T- shirts will be available at all meetings. The cost is \$18. Please see Vince to purchase yours while supplies last. T shirts may also be purchased by mail.

Please send a check for \$23 which includes shipping to: VHFC, P.O. Box 1026, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.

These shirts are very nice & are being sold at cost



I encourage everyone to go to the RFA website at (www.joinrfa.org) . Along with the current information that is on the website. They also put out a quarterly publication call "Making Waves". The latest issue that is on the site can be located at: https://issuu.com/recreationalfishingalliance/docs/fall_2016_making_waves

From their latest news as on their website is the latest information. received

MODERNIZING RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2017 INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE

U.S. Reps. Graves, Green, Webster, Wittman

Champion Federal Saltwater Fisheries Reform

Washington, D.C. – April 6, 2017 – The recreational fishing and boating community praised the introduction of a bill that addresses critical challenges facing saltwater recreational fishing at the federal level. Led by Congressmen Garret Graves (R-La.), Gene Green (D-Texas), Daniel Webster (R-Fla.) and Rob Wittman (R-Va.), the "Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017" (Modern Fish Act) would improve public access to America's federal waters, promote conservation of our natural marine resources and spur economic growth.

"On behalf of America's 11 million saltwater anglers, we thank Congressmen Graves, Green, Webster and Wittman for championing this legislation to modernize federal recreational fishing management," said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy. "For decades, the recreational fishing community has been subjected to antiquated federal policies not designed to manage recreational fishing. The time is now to update these policies so families can fully enjoy our nation's remarkable marine resources and continue a proud American tradition on the water."

The Modern Fish Act addresses many of the recreational fishing community's priorities including allowing alternative management for recreational fishing, reexamining fisheries allocations, smartly rebuilding fishery stocks, establishing exemptions where annual catch limits don't fit and improving recreational data collection. The bill aims to benefit fishing access and conservation by incorporating modern management approaches, science and technology to guide decision-making.

"We applaud the introduction of the Modern Fish Act in the House and the efforts of Rep. Graves and his colleagues to modernize the federal regulations governing access to the public's natural resources by boaters and anglers," said National Marine Manufacturers Association President Thom Dammrich. "We appreciate the Congressmen's support for better management of our recreational fisheries that will bring federal management into the 21st century."

"Getting more Americans outdoors and enjoying our wonderful natural treasures, including in saltwater spaces, requires updating and modernizing federal management approaches," said Mike Nussman, president of the American Sportfishing Association. "The Modern Fish Act addresses the core issues within federal saltwater

fisheries management that are limiting the public's ability to enjoy saltwater recreational fishing, and will help maximize the economic, social and conservation benefits that recreational fishing provides to the nation."

"This legislation reflects the vision and commitment of the recreational angling community to work with Congress and NOAA to provide quality angling opportunities for all stakeholders," said Patrick Murray, president of Coastal Conservation Association. "We commend Congressmen Graves, Green, Webster and Wittman for providing a pathway to better management of America's marine fisheries in the future."

"For decades in federal fisheries management, recreational fishing was always an afterthought," explained Jim Donofrio executive director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance. "The Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act introduced by Congressman Graves and his colleagues finally addresses the specific needs of the recreational fishing community; stands to bring parity to fisheries management and will get anglers back on the water."

The coalition of groups supporting the Modern Fish Act includes [American Sportfishing Association](#), [Center for Sportfishing Policy](#), [Coastal Conservation Association](#), [Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation](#), [Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation](#), [International Game Fish Association](#), [National Marine Manufacturers Association](#), [Recreational Fishing Alliance](#), [The Billfish Foundation](#) and [Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership](#).

Take a look at it.

Taken from the RFA Website



Village harbor Fishing Club is a contributing member of the IGFA. The International Game Fish Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making and record keeping.

One of the benefits that they provide is a "Catch Certificate" It works like this:

Got a catch you're proud of, but isn't quite big enough for a record? Now you can commemorate it with an IGFA Catch Certificate. IGFA now offers certificates for both fresh and salt water species and getting one couldn't be easier. Simply [download an application](#) - all that's needed is the angler's name, species, date of catch, place of catch and estimated weight. Each certificate features a beautiful selection of fresh or saltwater fish species, a gold embossed IGFA logo and President's signature. At a price of \$20 each, it's a great way to venerate any catch. For any questions, please contact Jack Vitek at jvitek@igfa.org or 954-924-4246.

FISHING REPORTS

I suggest that you look at the VHFC website at <http://www.vhfishingclub.com> to catch up club news and fishing reports.

MONTHLY HANDS ON

A monthly hands on workshop at the monthly meeting may be of interest to members.

Let me know if you want to help out or just stop by if you have any fishing questions.

CLASSIFIED ADS by Jeff Orsoe

Classified ads may be placed free of charge by any club member for non-commercial fishing related items. Please contact Jeff Orsoe via email at jorsoe786@comcast.net to place your ad if you wish to place a free ad.

.FISHING WITH CLUB MEMBERS

Members may place free ads in this section if you wish to find someone to fish with. Maybe you need to find someone with a boat or you are interested in finding someone to share expenses on your boat.

What's This KNOT?

A new column is being started with this month's issue entitled "What's This KNOT". Each month issue will highlight a fishing knot and how to tie it. At one of our board meetings we sort of got sidetracked and began discussing knots. The name of the "KG" knot came up. We all looked at each other as to what it was. It is a small knot that will allow you to link a mono line to a braided line. We found it on "Utube" under the title "The strongest and smallest braid to leader knot ever created: Google it and view the movie.

If any one wishes to see a particular knot featured, simply send me an email at jorsoe786@comcast.net and I will put it in the newsletter.

BUY, SELL or TRADE

Classified ads may be placed free of charge by any club member for non-commercial fishing related items. Please contact Jeff if you wish to place a free ad. Please contact Jeff Orsoe via email at jorsoe786@comcast.net to place your ad.

OFFICIAL VHFC WEIGH-IN STATIONS

As of this time, we have 8 official weigh-in stations. More are in the process of being added. If you know of a tackle shop that may become a club sponsor and also become a weigh station, forward that to a member of the board. The two sponsors are both Club Sponsors & offer VHFC members nice discounts: The 3 Weigh Stations are:

Fisherman's Headquarters, Ship Bottom

Captains Quarters Bait & Tackle, Brighton Beach

Creekside Outfitters, Waretown

West Creek Bait & Tackle, West Creek

Viking Outfitters, Historic Viking Village

CALENDAR**MEETING DATES**

<i>Board Meeting</i>	Friday, 7 April, 2017
<i>Club Meeting</i>	Friday, 21 April, 2017
<i>Board Meeting</i>	Friday, 5 May, 2017
<i>Club Meeting</i>	Friday, 12 May, 2017
<i>Board Meeting</i>	Friday, 2 June, 2017
<i>Club Meeting</i>	Friday, 9 June, 2017

- Board Meeting* **Friday, 7 July, 2017**
- Club Meeting** **Friday, 14 July, 2017**
- Board Meeting* **Friday, 4 Aug, 2017**
- Club Meeting** **Friday, 11 Aug, 2017**
- Board Meeting* **Friday, 1 Sept, 2017**
- Club Meeting** **Friday, 8 Sept, 2017**
- Board Meeting* **Friday, 6 Oct, 2017**
- Club Meeting** **Friday, 13 Oct, 2017**
- Board Meeting* **Friday, 3 Nov, 2017**
- Club Meeting** **Friday, 10 Nov, 2017**

Board Meetings are open to any members wishing to attend/

Reminder: New Meeting Location

Bay Avenue Community Center

775 E. Bay Ave., Manahawkin

USEFUL INFORMATION LINKS

Boat/US:

<http://www.boatus.com/>

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary:

<http://www.cgaux.org/>

Notice to Mariners (District 5)

<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=lnmDistrict®ion=5>

Fisherman's Headquarters:

<http://www.fishermansheadquarters.com/>

The Boat Shop:

<http://theboatshoponline.com/>

The Bass Barn:

<http://www.thebassbarn.com>

Barnegat Fishing Hole:

<http://www.barnegatfishinghole.com/ubbthreads/ubbthreads.php>

Animated Knots

<http://www.animatedknots.com/>

Vessel Safety Checks

Vessel Safety Checks: Call Jeff Orsoe @ 732-672-5530 and leave a message or email him at jorsoe786@comcast.net

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS:

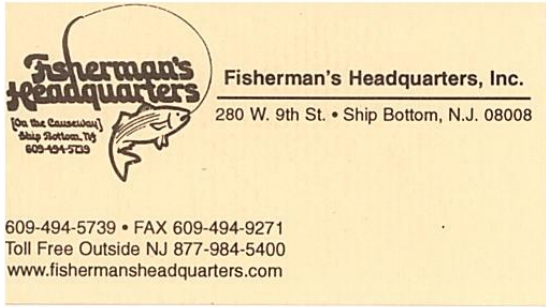
15 April 2017

at jorsoe786@comcast.net

Our Sponsors: **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





10% discount on bait & tackle



www.theboatshoponline.com

10% discount on regular prices

American Sportsman LLC
Bait and Tackle

Hunting, Fishing, Crab and Shellfish

857 Mill Creek Rd



609-597-4104

Manahawkin, NJ 08050



David Kelton

10%

discount on bait & tackle

BRASWELL TROPHY & ENGRAVING

Ken Braswell, Owner

618-1744

10% Discount to VHFC Members

BOAT U.S.

VHFC members only pay \$9.50 for a year of Boat U.S. Forms for members' use will be at VHFC meetings

Or call Jeff Orsoe 732-672-5530

GALLIVANT GRAPHICS

BOAT LETTERING

We come to you ---- 10% off for members



609-812-9883

BILLS SURF AND TACKLE

6332 Long Beach Blvd, Harvey Cedars

609-342-1372

15% discount on everything in the shop, EXCEPT FUEL AND OILS. Present VHFC card before purchase

CAUSEWAY BOAT RENTALS

On the LBI Causeway

494-1371

10% discount on bait and tackle

BOAT & ENGINE PARTS / SERVICE / REPAIRS



Boat Slips & Storage • Boat Hauling • Mobile Service
Shrink Wrap • Winterize • Tune Ups • Engine Rebuild
Boat, Engine & Trailer Sales

f 609-296-0309
460 Dock Road • West Creek, NJ 08092
"Honest Work For-a-Fair Price"

10% Discount

WEST CREEK KAYAK & CANOE
SALES / RENTALS
RECREATION / FISHING
224 MAIN STREET (ROUTE 9)
WEST CREEK, NJ 08092
Phone: 609-296-3030
Fax: 609-296-8030
Email: westcreekkayakandcanoe@comcast.net

10% Discount

Viking Outfitters

W 19th and Bayview, Historic Viking Village

609-361-9111

609-389-3647

10% Discount