



# **HARBOUR LIGHT**

**OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER April 2018**

*Editor: Ed Valitutto* VHFC Web Site: <http://www.vhfishingclub.com>

***VHFC meets the second Friday of each month from April through November***

***Location: Manahawkin Community Center 775 East Bay Ave Manahawkin, NJ***

***Doors open at 7:30; Meeting begins at 7:45 PM***

***Next meeting: 13 April***

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hi everyone,

I know it is difficult to think about fishing & getting your boat ready for launch with the cold, windy, rainy/snowy spring weather that has prevailed from the beginning of March through early April. But hopefully this will change within a week or two and suddenly we will all be behind in our spring schedule tasks including outside yard work, getting all the furniture uncovered and making the repairs that winter brings. If you haven't spent some time devoted to your fishing & boating needs, now is definitely the time to start especially if you fish the early arrivers - white perch, bluefish & stripers.

Since I mentioned it, white perch and stripers including a keeper have been reported in the Mullica and at Graveling Point. Three visits by me to Mill Creek (William Cook Blvd) and per discussions with locals, the perch are not there yet. But they are overdo! Stripers are being caught more and more frequently in the bay and are almost keeper size. I was told bluefish were recently seen near AC and reading our Member Reports confirmed they arrived last year between the 2nd and 3rd week of April. So it is definitely almost time for the 2018 season to happen!

On the upside of things, Double Creek has finally been dredged (no buoys as of the Thursday before Easter), Little Egg Inlet work is completed and our fluke season regulations are much better than last

year. See Dave's report further down for the details and issues regarding the seabass regulations. I look forward to a fun year with our club. Jim Blandine has a great lineup of speakers for our meetings, Donna and Vic have graciously offered their lovely home for a third Fluke Tournament party (planned for 14 July so some large fluke are still in the bay) and Vince will put together another great club dinner. Other news items include getting a group of us together for a bottom fishing trip on a head/charter boat and Bill K working the details for VHFC participation in a BHMTTC fluke tournament. If you haven't lately visited our website [vhfishingclub.com](http://vhfishingclub.com) (generously provided by Jeff Barnhart's company CMA), please do so. I updated the home page pictures with newer photos based on Member Reports over the last 2-3 years. It's a great site with a lot of information.

Finally, no club can exist on its own without the input and personal help of its members. We are looking for a few members to lend a hand to keep the club an organization worth your membership. It is not healthy for a club to have the same few people doing the same thing for long periods of time. If you enjoy the club and would like to personally help out, we could use you!

Hope to see you this Friday evening,

Ed

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## **APRIL Events**

**BOARD MEETING: April 6**

**CLUB MEETING: April 13**

Club Meetings Start at 7:45 With Pledge of Allegiance

- Welcome Club Members, New Recruits and Guests
- 2017 Fish of the Year and Remaining Fish of the Month Awards
- Guest Speaker Introduction
  - Break / Refreshments
- Committee Reports
- 50/50 Drawing
- Fishing Reports

## **APRIL SPEAKER**

This month's speaker is **Bob Misak** – Bob is a Field Editor for The Fisherman magazine, a local fishing expert and one of South Jersey's best known anglers especially noted for his jetty fishing. Bob will discuss jigging methods and chumming for weakfish with shrimp.

**2017 VHFC Contest Winners****Melanie Boytos Award**

The prestigious honor of having your name engraved on a memorial plaque is awarded to the angler who earns the most points based on weight / length for one fish in each of four species - Striped Bass, Bluefish, Fluke and Weakfish. If no one catches a weakfish, seabass is the alternate species. For the second year in a row, **Dave Spendiff** captured the award with his outstanding catches - a 15 lb 4 oz striped bass, a 6 lb 14 oz fluke, a 4 lb 11 oz weakfish and a most impressive 18 lb 13 oz bluefish.

**2017 VHFC Fish of the Year Trophy Winners**

<b>Fish</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Date</b>
Bluefish	Dave Spendiff	18 lbs 13 ozs	5/09/17
Fluke	Dave Spendiff	6 lbs 14 ozs	8/25/17
Sea bass	Bill Figley	3 lbs 7 ozs	5/27/17
Striped Bass	Carmine Tocci	41 lbs 11 oz	5/10/17
Weakfish	Dave Spendiff	4 lbs 11 oz	9/11/17
Blackfish	Bill Figley	3 lbs 11.5 oz	10/19/17

For a complete list of all fish entered for 2017, go to the VHFC Web Site:

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

**2017 VHFC Fish of the Month FHQ \$50 Certificate Winners:**

Month	Fish	Name	Size	Date
1 March – 30 April	Winter Flounder	No Entry		
April	Striped Bass	No Entry		
April	Bluefish	Bill Kleimenhagen	15 lbs 2 oz	4/18
May	Striped Bass	Carmine Tocci	41 lbs 11 oz	5/10
May	Bluefish	Dave Spendiff	18 lbs 13 oz	5/9
May 25 – 30 June	Fluke	Martin Friedrich	5 lbs 3 oz	6/23
May 26 – 18 June	Seabass	Bill Figley	3 lbs 7 oz	5/27
July	Fluke	Martin Friedrich	3 lbs 8 ozs	7/27
July	Seabass	Jeff Wilson	2 lbs 6 ozs	7/27
August	Fluke	Dave Spendiff	6 lbs 14.4 oz	8/25
August	Seabass	Bill Figley	1 lb 12.8 ozs	8/20
September 1-5	Fluke	No Entry		
September	Weakfish	Dave Spendiff	4 lbs 8 ozs	9/11
October	Blackfish	Bill Figley	3 lbs 11.5 oz	9/19
October	Bluefish	No Entry		
October	Striped Bass	Larry Leary	41 lbs 9.6 oz	9/21
Oct 22 – 30 Nov	Seabass	Bill Dabney	2 lbs 5.4 oz	10/22
November	Blackfish	Bill Figley	2 lbs 8 oz	11/2
November	Bluefish	No Entry		
November	Striped Bass	Martin Friedrich	17 lbs 14 oz	11/25

**Notice to Club Members:** VHFC dues for 2018 will remain at \$40 for adults and \$10 for junior (under 16) members. Dues are due by the 12 May club meeting. Please be sure to keep your membership in good standing. Only members in good standing can enter fish into VHFC contests.

**2018 TROPHY FISH OF THE YEAR** - The same six species awarded for 2017 will continue for 2018.

The rules are simple: If you 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. The fisherman who catches the largest fish of each species for 2018 will be awarded the FOY trophy for that species.

**2018 TROPHY FISH OF THE MONTH** - The largest fish caught during the month will be awarded a \$50 gift certificate to Fisherman's Headquarters (no expiration). Weigh-ins are made the same as FOY. There are 20 FOM awards for 2018 as shown below:

1 March - 30 April (3 Awards)	Winter Flounder, Striped Bass & Bluefish
1 - 31 May (2 Awards)	Striped Bass & Bluefish
25 May - 30 June (1 Award)	Fluke
15 May - 22 June (1 Award)	Sea Bass
1 - 31 July (2 Awards)	Fluke & Sea Bass
1 - 31 August (2 Awards)	Fluke & Sea Bass
1 - 22 September (1 Award)	Fluke
1 - 30 September (1 Award)	Weakfish
1 - 31 October (3 Awards)	Blackfish & Bluefish & Striped Bass
8 October - 30 November (1 Award)	Sea Bass
1 - 30 November (3 Awards)	Blackfish & Bluefish & Striped Bass

**OFFICIAL VHFC WEIGH-IN STATIONS** - Presently there are 5 official weigh-in stations.

- 1) Fisherman's Headquarters, Ship Bottom
- 2) West Creek Bait & Tackle, Manahawkin
- 3) Creekside Outfitters, Waretown
- 4) BHW Marine Center, Manahawkin
- 5) Sheltered Cove Marina, Tuckerton

**2018 New Jersey Marine Fishing Regulations**

At the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council meeting on April 5th, 2018 at the Manahawkin Community Center, regulations for fluke and sea bass were set. However, there may be a problem with the sea bass regulations as states to our north have filed an appeal with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and they are threatening to go out of compliance. The process is pretty complicated but they are going after a portion of New Jersey's quota. Depending on the outcome of the appeal, our sea bass regulations may change. **The official Black Sea Bass 2018 regulation will not be final until the NOAA decision following the appeal hearing in early May.**

**BLACK DRUM:** No closed season, **3** fish at 16" (Proposed 32" size limit pending hearings)

**BLACK SEABASS:** May 15 to June 22, **10** fish at 12.5"; July 1 to August 31, **2** fish at 12.5"; October 8 to October 31, **10** fish at 12.5"; November 1 to December 31, **15** fish at 13"

**BLUE CRAB:** 3" minimum size for peeler/shedder 3-1/2" for soft shell 4-1/2" hard shell

**BLUEFISH:** No closed season, **15** fish, no min. size

**COBIA:** No closed season, **2** fish at 37" (no possession in Federal waters)

**COD & HADDOCK:** No closed season, no creel limit, 21" min. size

**FLUKE:** May 25 – September 22, **3** fish at 18" (same rules for IBSP and Delaware Bay as 2017)

**KING MACKEREL:** No closed season, **3** fish at 23"

**POLLACK:** No closed season, no creel limit, 19" min. size

**PORGY:** **50** fish at 9"; 1/1 - 2/28 & 7/1 - 12/31

**RED DRUM:** No closed season, **1** fish from 18" to 27"

**SPANISH MACKEREL:** No closed season, **10** fish at 14"

**STRIPED BASS:** No closed season, **1** fish from 28" to less than 43", **1** fish greater than 43" - NJ waters only (0-3 miles out)

**TAUTOG:** Min. size 15": **4** fish 1/1 - 2/28; **4** fish 4/1 - 4/30; **1** fish 7/17 - 11/15; **6** fish 11/16 - 12/31

**WEAKFISH:** No closed season, **1** fish at 13"

**WINTER FLOUNDER:** 3/1 - 12/31/18, **2** fish at 12"

## LIBRARY REPORT

Check out books, magazines and DVDS from our library available at club meetings.

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

**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 / boating books or videos for VHFC use. If you have something, either bring it to a meeting or call Bill at 609 709 5093 to make arrangements for us to get your book or video.



**Boat US** has made their publications available online including back issues. Go to <http://www.boatus.com/magazine/archives/default.asp> to access their informative material.

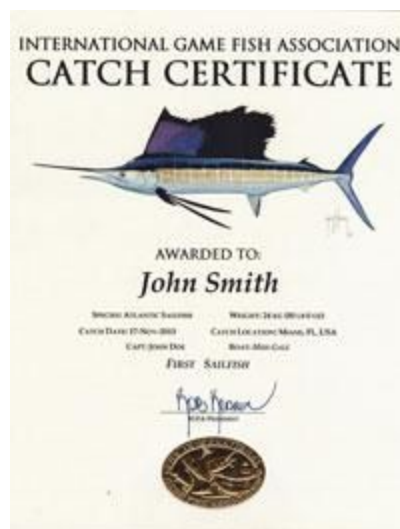


VHFC encourages everyone to go to the RFA website at [www.joinrfa.org](http://www.joinrfa.org) where you will find a tremendous amount of useful information for your personal use. In addition, RFA also puts out a quarterly publication call "**Making Waves**" which can be requested via email on the Homepage of the RFA website. There is also a link to access all past issues.



## CATCH CERTIFICATES

Have 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 saltwater 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. If there are any questions concerning the IGFA World Record Application, please contact World Records Coordinator Jack Vitek at 954-924-4246 or [jvitek@igfa.org](mailto:jvitek@igfa.org)



## FISHING REPORTS

Please go to the VHFC website at <http://www.vhfishingclub.com> to read fishing reports submitted by fellow club members. Please submit your own reports using the simple form on the pull down menu. If you do not feel comfortable using the form, please email Ed Valitutto @ [edvalitutto@gmail.com](mailto:edvalitutto@gmail.com) or call 609 994 1311. If you provide me the details, i will submit the report for you. **Your reports are important information for fellow club members.**

## MONTHLY HANDS ON

### Estimating Monofilament Backing When Using Braided Line

If you wish to use monofilament line as backing when using a braided line as your main line, this handy article is for you. It is a nifty calculation on how to estimate how much monofilament backing you will need to use with braided line top-shots. Access the link below to see how it's done and how much to use. **Monofilament backing is a lot cheaper than filling your reel completely with braid!**

<https://www.igfa.org/About/Estimating-Monofilament-Backing-When-Using-Braided-Spectra.aspx>



**MONTHLY TIP**

Learned the Hard Way by yours truly - Before using your reels this season, take a few minutes with a small screwdriver and tighten down all the screws. You will be amazed at how loose they can become over time. Last year my Avet reel & rod were mounted in my T Top rod holder. I happened to turn around while driving my boat and saw my line hanging down from the rod to the spool which was rolling around on the floor of my boat. The three side screws had come out - I guess due to boat vibration. Had the spool gone over the side, things would have been worse. As it was, it took some time to get replacement screws.

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

Classified ads may be placed free of charge by any club member for non-commercial fishing related items. Please contact Ed Valitutto via email at [edvalitutto@gmail.com](mailto:edvalitutto@gmail.com) to place your 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.

**BUY, SELL or TRADE**

Classified ads may be placed free of charge by any club member for non-commercial fishing related items. Please contact Please contact Ed Valitutto via email at [edvalitutto@gmail.com](mailto:edvalitutto@gmail.com) to place your ad.

**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=InmDistrict&region=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:** Call Jeff Orsoe @ 732-672-5530 and leave a message or email him at jorsoe786@comcast.net

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS:**  
**04 May 2018**

Email items / requests to [edvalitutto@gmail.com](mailto:edvalitutto@gmail.com)

**SPONSORS:** The following sponsors offer a discount with the presentation of your current VHFC Membership Card. Discounts normally do not apply to items that are fair traded or items on sale.

**BHW Marine Center** (10% discount w/ VHFC card)  
857 Mill Creek Rd Manahawkin, NJ 08050  
**609-709-5424**

**Boat U.S.**  
Special membership price call Jeff Orsoe  
**732-672-5530**

**Causeway Boat Rentals** (10% discount on bait & tackle w/ VHFC card)  
2200 E. Bay Ave., Manahawkin, NJ  
**609-494-1371**

**Creekside Outfitters** (10% discount w/ VHFC card)  
403 Rt. 9 Waretown, NJ 08758  
**609-242-1812**

**D & S Marine Service** (10% discount on parts w/ VHFC card)  
460 Dock Rd, West Creek NJ 08092  
**609-296-0309**

**Fisherman's Headquarters** (10% discount w/ VHFC card)  
280 West 9th St, Ship Bottom, NJ 08008  
**609-494-5739**

**JB Awards** (10% discount on engraving and trophies w/VHFC card)  
**609-290-5851**

**The Boat Shop** (10% discount w/ VHFC card)  
756 E. Bay Ave, Manahawkin, NJ 08050  
**609-597-1271**

**Viking Outfitters** (10% discount w/ VHFC card)

W.19th and Bayview in Viking Village, Barnegat Light, NJ

**609-361-9111**

**West Creek Bait and Tackle** (10% discount w/ VHFC card)

387 Route 9, West Creek, NJ 08092

**609-857-3516**

**West Creek Kayak and Canoe** (10% discount only on accessories w/VHFC card)

224 Route 9, West Creek, NJ 08092

**609-296-8030**

**Boat US** 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