



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER May 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: 11 May

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone,

This past week finally saw a rise in temperatures and we experienced the first days that felt like spring would indeed arrive for 2018. On Thursday (5/3), I took a family lagoon ride and windy bay trip. I was pleased to see the lagoon water temperature had risen to 65 with the bay water at 63. That is a much needed improvement over the lower 40 degree temps just a few weeks ago. The warmer air and water will certainly hasten the awakening of the bay and ocean which are a bit behind schedule compared to a year ago. But as I write this, the fishing is definitely improving. White perch have been active for two weeks and will run well into June. Smaller bay stripers are being joined by larger stock and a few keepers are being reported in the surf along with a few drum. Bluefish that we now expect to be catching based on several years of monster fish invading the bay are being sporadically reported in the inlets and mid-bay. I have not yet put a crab trap out but I hear that some crabs are already being caught.

Now is definitely the time to kick things into high gear! Get your boat, fishing rods, reels and tackle ready to go, start bringing all the outdoor stuff out from winter cover, do some painting (ugh!), plant your flowers and veggies and get ready for the 2018 fishing season and fun time living on the Jersey shore. The fluke opening (25 May) is less than 3 weeks from now!

Hope to see you this Friday evening,

Ed

May Events

BOARD MEETING: May 4

CLUB MEETING: May 11

Club Meetings Start at 7:45 With Pledge of Allegiance

- Welcome Club Members and Guests
- Guest Speaker Introduction
- Break / Refreshments
- Committee Reports
- 50/50 Drawing
- Fishing Reports

MAY SPEAKER - This month's speaker is **Captain Fran Verdi** – Captain Fran pilots the Francesca Marie, a 27' May Craft center console. Fishing from the back bay to the ocean, Fran fishes for striped bass, bluefish, fluke, sea bass and tog inshore and tuna and shark offshore.

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 11 May club meeting. Either renew at the meeting or mail your check to VHFC Membership PO Box 1026 Manahawkin, NJ 08050

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 (FOY) - Just a reminder - If you catch a Striped Bass, Bluefish, Seabass, Tautog, Weakfish or Fluke 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 (FOM) - So far there have been no official weigh-ins for March and April. I'm sure that will change quickly. Once again, the largest fish caught during the month will be awarded a \$50 gift certificate to Fisherman's Headquarters (no expiration).

FOM weigh-ins are made the same as FOY. There are 17 remaining FOM awards for 2018 as shown below:

1 March - 30 April (3 Awards)	Winter Flounder, Striped Bass & Bluefish (No Fish Entered)
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 6 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
- 6) Surf City Bait & Tackle, Surf City

BHM&TC - VHFC INSHORE & BAY FLUKE TOURNAMENT - The BH M&TC has proposed a joint fluke tournament with VHFC on June 23rd. This is a boat tournament with \$50 per boat registration. The heaviest three fluke per boat total weight determines the cash prize winners with a trophy to winning club. A minimum of 5 boats are required. I plan on participating and hopefully at least 4 other VHFC members will too. See complete rules below.



**BHM&TC / VHFC INSHORE & BAY TOURNAMENT
JUNE 23, 2018**

RULES:

You must register the boat name and anglers fishing on that boat at the June VHFC meeting or at the BHM&TC Captains' meeting on June 22nd at 7:00PM—8:00PM.

This is a boat tournament with a \$50 Registration/Calcutta fee per boat. All registration fees will be paid out as prize money.

Leave your dock anytime after the 7:00PM June 22nd captains' meeting. Start fishing at 5:00AM—Stop fishing at 3:00PM. Weigh in time 3:00 to 5:00PM.

Weather date if needed will be Sunday June 24th. & announced at the BHM&TC Captain's meeting. Call Bill Kleimenhagen at 215-760 2285 for a weather update.

Weigh in by boat on which the fish were caught or by car at the Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Clubhouse.

Food at the BHM&TC will be free for all registered anglers and our paid bar will be open for drinks.

This tournament requires a 5 boat minimum participation. IGFA rules apply.

SCORING:

By weight—1st, 2nd & 3rd place.
Heaviest three FLUKE per boat total weight.
Qualifying fish species are FLUKE.

Prizes:

Prize winners must be registered anglers fishing on a registered boat.
All Calcutta money collected from both clubs will be paid out to the winning boats.

A trophy will be presented to the winning club.

2018 New Jersey Marine Fishing Regulations

At the April meeting, we indicated that the Fluke and Black Sea Bass regulations had been set for the 2018 season with the possibility that the recreational regulations for Black Sea Bass could change pending the appeal of the Northern Region states of NY, CT, RI, and MA. At

their May 3rd meeting in Arlington, VA, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission agreed with the states that there was adequate justification to bring portions of their appeal to the Interstate Fisheries Management Program Policy Board. The ISFMP Policy Board initiated a Plan Development Team to develop a "white paper" to consider the impacts of changes in Black Sea Bass abundance and distribution to the management of recreational and commercial fisheries. The findings of this study will be used in considering the 2019 regulations. An overall management program was developed to meet the needs of the Northern Region without impacting the remaining states, while still constraining harvest to the 2018 recreational harvest limit of 3.66 million pounds. **Therefore, New Jersey's regulations remain unchanged from those published on our website as shown below.**

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.

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 or have any issues using it, please email Ed Valitutto @ edvalitutto@gmail.com or call 609 994 1311. If you provide me the details, I will submit the report for you. **Your reports supply important information for fellow club members.**

There were two reports submitted in April. One by new member Greg Ruffing describing his outing for tog on the Carolyn Anne III with a nice picture of him with a fine tog.



What I found very interesting was Greg followed the advice of Bob Misak our April meeting speaker. But even more important, was his statement ***"I cast aside Bob Misak's jigging advice and went with what most of the boat was using – clams on a single hook rig (crabs weren't getting much love)."*** That is a most important lesson! Follow the advice of the experts but be ready to change and go with what's working that day. Misak's advice was certainly correct but spring tog can be rather lethargic so a change in tactics was needed.

I submitted the second report for April describing a fun time on William Cook Blvd

catching those tasty white perch with 5 club members and one former member. Go to the VHFC website to read all the details of both reports.

MONTHLY HANDS ON

There was an interesting article in the May issue of On The Water magazine regarding Floating Jigheads as a means to keep your bait above the weeds and slime in the back bays. I've had quite a selection of them for a few years now. Why - because they catch fisherman! They're different, pretty, shiny & colorful :) All the wrong reasons to buy something. But I will definitely give them a try this year. The article describes tying the floating jighead tipped with either spearing, killie or Gulp on 18 inches of fluorocarbon tied to a three way swivel or dropper loop. Then attach either a sinker or bucktail to 12 inches of line beneath the swivel or dropper loop. Both FHQ and Creekside Outfitters have these jigs made by Tin Man Lures. Definitely give them a try this season!



The floating jigheads made by Tom Scibek of **Tin Man Lures** come in bright, fluke-favorite colors and are made on large, sturdy hooks, making them a good choice for the back bays or the ocean.

Tin Man Lures are available at Creekside Outfitters in Waretown, New Jersey, Fisherman's Headquarters in Ship Bottom, New Jersey, or on Tom's eBay Store, stores.ebay.com/TINMANLURES.

MONTHLY TIP

I was out trolling stripers with a club member who will for now remain anonymous. I was using a green Maja #4 spoon and he had a brand new white Maja. Just 5 minutes into the troll, he had a striper on that quickly got off the hook. After resetting both lines, once again he was hooked up and within a few minutes again lost the fish. Not knowing what was wrong, he insisted I reel in the next fish. Well lightning struck a third time and I started reeling in what felt like a nice striper. After several cranks, this fish was also lost. I went back to manning the helm

to continue the troll while he reeled in his lure. I then heard a string of obscenities. When I asked what that was about, he showed me his Maja spoon complete with #9 Siwash hook with the plastic hook protector still attached. Quickly removing it, we resumed trolling and 4 hours later had not had another hit! So while it may seem obvious, be sure to remove the hook protector before fishing! BTW, I told that story to Tony Maja when he spoke at one of our meetings and he had a good laugh!

NJ DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE - The 2018 Marine Digest is now available in coastal bait shops, sporting goods stores, and online. In addition to regulatory information there are features on River Herring and Eastern Oysters along with information on many marine-related topics. Get yours now - just copy the addresses below into your browser.

2018 Marine Digest

http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/digmar18.htm?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

2018 Commercial Regulations (pdf)

http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/pdf/2018/comregs18.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

CLASSIFIED ADS

BUY, SELL or TRADE

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 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.



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.

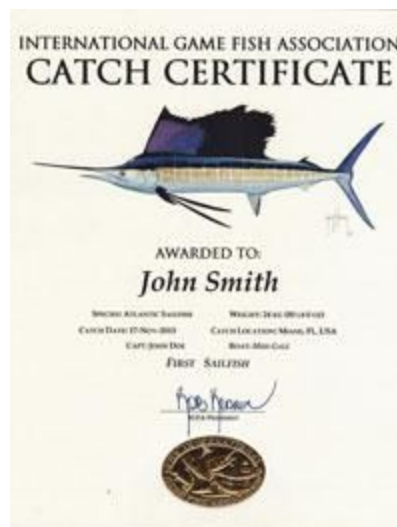


VHFC encourages everyone to go to the RFA website at www.joinrfa.org where you will find a tremendous amount of useful information for your personal use. In addition, RFA also puts out a quarterly publication call **"Making Waves"** which can be requested via email on the Homepage of the RFA website. 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



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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS:

01 June 2018

Email items / requests to 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

Surf City Bait & Tackle (10% discount on bait w/ VHFC card)

317 Long Beach Boulevard Surf City, NJ 08008

609 494-2333

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