



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER June 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: 08 June

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone,

Well Memorial Day is now behind us and the days will continue to get a bit longer for another three weeks. Hopefully the longer days will bring some nicer spring weather as we usher in the start of the summer season. As I am writing this, the bay waters are in the mid to upper 60's but the ocean is still pretty cool at 58-60. But that can all change quickly with some nice sunny days and favorable winds.

June is a great time at the Jersey shore. With the kids still in school, the crowds have not yet arrived (except for Memorial weekend) and you can still get in to your favorite restaurant. The weather is usually nice but not overly warm and humid like later on in summer and the fishing has a lot to offer. Fluke and seabass have just started, bluefish are sporadically about, stripers have a few more weeks before they head North, kingfish and blowfish should become more prevalent and the blueclaws should be getting really active. There's action for everyone either by boat in the bay or ocean or off the surf. Now is the time to get out and enjoy what this great

area has to offer. And be sure to weigh-in your catch for our FOM / FOY awards and submit a report of your success for others to enjoy.

On a personal note, I will be on travel 1 - 14 June in Europe - not my idea how to spend two weeks of great flounder fishing time but my wife made me go :) Dave will run the June meeting and I will be reachable by text (609 994 1311) or email (edvalitutto@gmail.com).

Hope you can make our meeting this Friday evening,

Ed

June Events

BOARD MEETING: June 1

CLUB MEETING: June 8

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

June SPEAKER - This month's speaker is **Captain Alex Majewski** – Captain Alex pilots the Debbie M a 23' Dusky and is a recognized local expert with over 35 years fishing Barnegat Bay. He has taught several classes on fishing Barnegat Bay and is a published author with articles in The Fisherman and Saltwater Sportsman magazines.

Notice to Club Members: We still have a few members who have not renewed their 2018 dues. Members can renew at the June 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) - Since I have no information regarding official weigh-ins for the June striped bass and bluefish FOM awards, I cannot announce the winners at this time. Once again, the largest fish caught during the month will be awarded a \$50 gift certificate to Fisherman's Headquarters (no expiration) so be sure to enter your catch. FOM weigh-ins are made the same as FOY weigh-ins. There are 15 remaining FOM awards for 2018 including fluke and sea bass which started in May as shown below. Fluke and Sea Bass are the June FOM candidates.

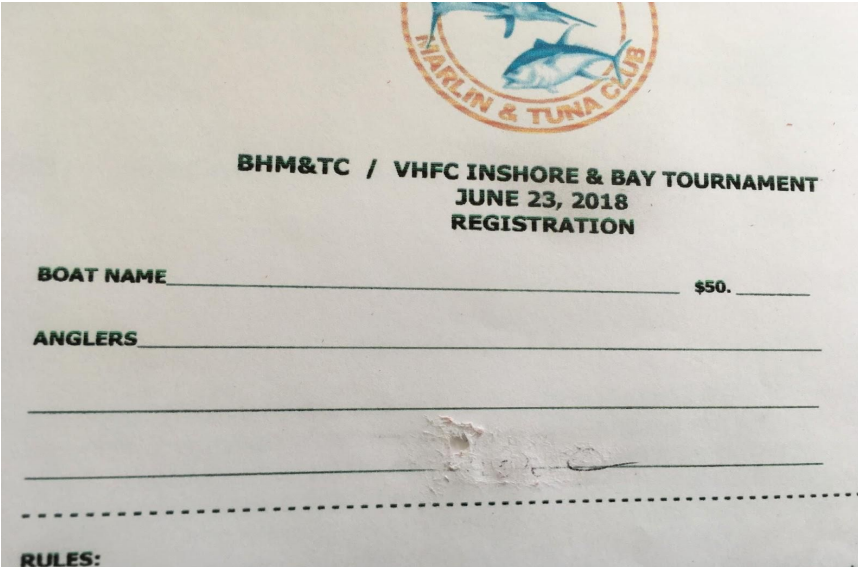
1 March - 30 April (3 Awards)	Winter Flounder, Striped Bass & Bluefish (No Fish Entered)
1 - 31 May (2 Awards)	Striped Bass & Bluefish
25 May - 30 June (1 Award)	Fluke
15 May - 22 June (1 Award)	Sea Bass
1 - 31 July (2 Awards)	Fluke & Sea Bass
1 - 31 August (2 Awards)	Fluke & Sea Bass
1 - 22 September (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

- 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 JOINT FLUKE TOURNAMENT - The BH M&TC joint fluke tournament with VHFC is planned for 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. Registration of the boat name and anglers fishing on it can be done at the June VHFC meeting or at the BHM&TC Captains' meeting at 7:00 PM on 22 June at the BHM&TC clubhouse - 420 N Pennsylvania

Ave, Beach Haven. Complete rules are listed on our website and will be reviewed at the June meeting. Entry Forms as shown below will also be available at the meeting.



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

BOAT NAME _____ **\$50.** _____

ANGLERS _____

RULES:

2018 New Jersey Marine Fishing Regulation

Nothing new to report for this month. 2018 NJ regulations appear at the end of this Newsletter.

LIBRARY REPORT

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

Featured Book of the Month *The Fisherman Master Angler Series Striped Bass* The Master Angler series of guidebooks is a collection of many of the best how-to and where-to features that have appeared in the The Fisherman magazine. The guidebooks cover a wide range of topics for all anglers regardless of their fishing experience. The Striped Bass edition has 36 articles covering everything including wire trolling, chunking, tips for using eels, jigging, plugging and party boat fishing. Be sure to check it out! VHFC library number is #70.

VHFC THIRD ANNUAL FLUKE TOURNAMENT & BBQ

VHFC will hold our 3rd annual fluke tournament for VHFC members, family and friends. Prizes will be awarded to anglers weighing in the three (3) largest fluke.

Following the tournament, the club will sponsor a barbecue to be held at the home of Donna and Vic Harris located at 181 Bruce Drive, off Newell Drive in the Coves section of Village Harbour. Her cell phone is 908-377-7371 if you need to contact her.

Tournament entry fee is \$20 per person, which includes the BBQ. Spouses of participating club members are also included and invited to attend the BBQ. Non-member participants may invite a guest(s) to attend the BBQ, but guests must pay \$10 - still a great deal!. BBQ includes burgers, dogs, sides, soft drinks, beer & wine. Feel free to bring your favorite side dish for all to enjoy!

TOURNAMENT RULES

- **Entry Fee** - \$20 per person
- **Date** - Saturday July 14, 2017 **Time** – 12:01 AM to 5:00 PM
- **Rain Date** - July 15, 2017 decided at club meeting on Friday July 13
- **Where** – Participants must leave and return to an Ocean County port.
- **Weigh In** – All fish must be weighed at Donna's house from 3 – 5 PM. Only one (1) fish per person can be entered for award. Fish entered for Fish of the Month/Year must still be weighed at one of the VHFC official weigh stations.
- **Prizes** – All entry fees will be paid out as Prize Money:
 - 1st Place** 50% of Prize Money
 - 2nd Place** 30% of Prize Money
 - 3rd Place** 20% of prize money

SIGN IN SHEET

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

	<u>Circle</u>			<u>Circle</u>			
Member?	Y N	Will you / spouse attend BBQ?	Y N	1 X \$20 =			

Non Member?	Y N	Will attend BBQ?	Y N	1 X \$20 =			
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Non Fishing Guest(s) attending BBQ	Number x \$10.00 =	
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Last entries accepted at club meeting 13 July but earlier entry preferred for BBQ planning

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 ten reports submitted in May. Reports do not always have to be about your own personal fishing or having made a great catch. Marty Friedrich's report relayed information from a friend's outing targeting early bluefish. Donna Harris reported just a small bass one day and nothing the next on the beach. Dave Spendiff lamented about the small (by his standards) bluefish. But all these reports convey important information to club members.

Of course, the fantastic beach report and catch from Pat Presutto was certainly impressive. Pat caught his striper in Surf City. It was 37.5 inches and weighed in at 22.64 lbs.



The "Dodds" family went sea bass fishing with Captain Greg Carr on the Kev'N Ash II. Bob, his son Shawn and 15 year old granddaughter Ashley had a great day fishing the ocean outside of Barnegat Light. They had a boat limit of sea bass with the biggest over 17" and 2+ pounds. They also caught and released over 10 nice sized tog, a cod, several ling and some nasty doggies.



Phil Simon fished the bay opening day of fluke. No action at the BI and #40 buoy resulted in a move to the Research Buoy. After algae on the bottom kept fouling his bucktail and teaser, Phil switched to a white floating jig with a white gulp swim shad as mentioned last month. He started picking up shorts in the 14 - 16 range and finally landed a nice 22 inch keeper.



Marty Friedrich and his two pals had a great opening day in Great Bay. They limited out with 15 throwbacks. Two fish were 22.5 inches including one weighing over 4.5 lbs! That's the way to set the pace for 2018.



Yes I know he looks familiar but Pat Presutto caught another beauty! This one went 42.75 inches and weighed 28 lbs 1 oz. So far, Pat holds third place in the Surf City store tournament and the LBI spring derby. He puts a lot of time on the beach and certainly knows surf fishing!

Go to the VHFC website to read all the details of these reports.

MONTHLY HANDS ON

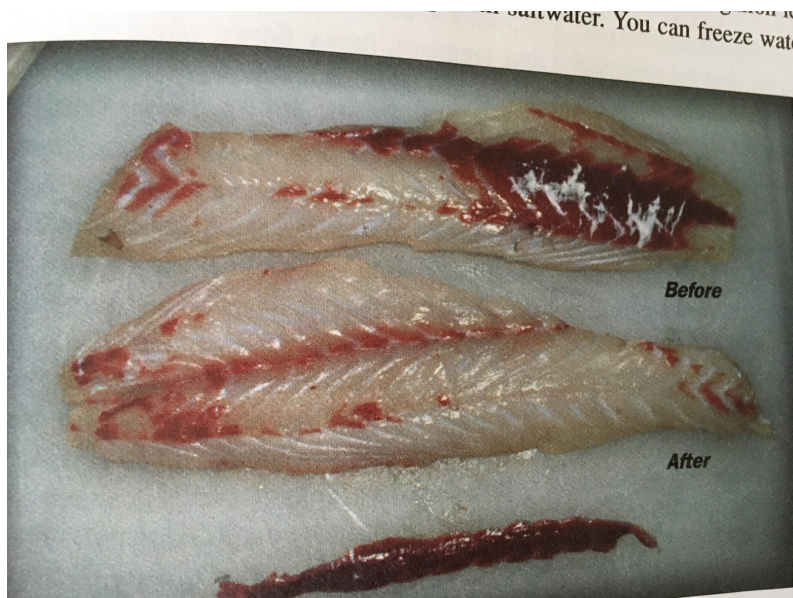
There was an interesting article in the June edition of On The Water magazine called Caring For Your Catch. The first point was about bleeding your catch. Besides removing blood, bleeding your fish quickly dispatches it and minimizes the buildup of lactic acid while the fish struggles. While I always bleed bluefish and striper, the article stated you should bleed all fish including fluke, seabass and tog.

For large fish, simply insert your knife through the gills and gently cut downward. You will immediately know when you hit the bloodline. Do this over your cooler or be ready to wash off your boat. For smaller fish, reach under the gill plate and tear the gills. But be careful of the sharp edges! A few years back during one of my many Tokyo business trips, I visited the famed Tsukiji fish market. There at 4:30 AM, someone was buying what appeared to be a 17" fluke (Hirame at Sushi restaurants). Once weighed, the fishmonger reached into the gills with a hook shaped utensil and severed them. Then almost as fast, he brought a cleaver down across the base of the tail and neatly chopped through the dark side to the spine while leaving the tail still attached. The fish then went into a plastic bag with ice where I'm sure every part of it was consumed later.

That leads to their next point - ice your catch. Very simple to do. With all the money spent on your boat, fuel and tackle do not skip this step to save a few bucks. Better yet, freeze milk containers and reuse them next trip after a quick rinse off.

Lastly, as you fillet your fish, drop them into salt water to rinse off. I keep a bucket handy for that purpose. If saltwater isn't available, tap water - as is or with some added salt - is still worth doing. For striper and bluefish, I remove the dark meat with a sharp fillet knife - why would

anyone use a dull one - as shown in the photo. If you're not comfortable doing that, cutting the fillet lengthwise will make removing the dark meat easier. If you enjoy the stronger flavored meat, then just leave it alone.



MONTHLY TIP

Everyone knows to rinse off their rods and reels with fresh water after a day of fishing. Folks also know to loosen their drags when the reels are put back into storage so that the drag washers are not compressed. A few years back while making the run to the fluke grounds, I looked back to see one of my reels completely emptied with the line only attached by the reel knot! I quickly stopped and retrieved my 100+ yards of braid. I guess my bouncing boat caused the jig to free up and hit the water where my reel quickly emptied. What a near disaster! The line could have wrapped around my prop or simply broke off and deposited itself in the bay.

So be sure to tighten all drags before putting your rods in your boat or car rod holders. Even better, attach your lure or hook to a nail or other suitable attachment and set the drag with your rod arched to simulate a hooked fish. I think this is more accurate than just pulling the line straight out from the reel.

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 Owners Association of The United States

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.

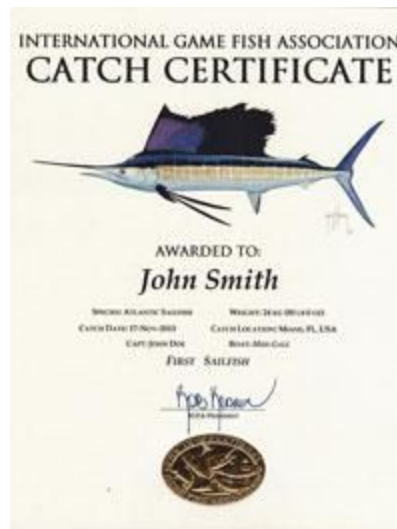


VHFC encourages everyone to go to the RFA website at www.joinrfa.org where you will find a tremendous amount of useful information for your personal use. In addition, RFA also puts out a quarterly publication call **“Making Waves”** which can be requested via email on the Homepage of the RFA website.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

06 July 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

2018 FISHING REGULATIONS

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"