



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER September 2018

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

***VHFC meets the second Friday of each month
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: 14 September

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone,

Can you believe it is already the 9th of September! In just 13 days, the fluke season will close. More amazing, in 12 days the official summer season of 2018 will be over. Where did the time go? Notice that I said the 'official summer season' will be over. The upcoming months are in my opinion the best seasonal times for being down the shore. This summer seemed especially brutal heat and humidity wise. There were many days in the last several weeks when you just couldn't be out during the afternoon hours. The air conditioner never worked so hard!

Unfortunately the extended forecast has some strong winds and large waves thanks to Gordon on our west and Florence to our east. Hopefully things will have settled down by next weekend for a last shot at fluke fishing. Regardless, the weather will start to cool down, traffic is lessening and restaurant dining is returning to normal. Now is the time to enjoy a peaceful outing for blowfish or crabbing in the bay. This is my favorite time for fishing the beach with a

light rod for bluefish or kingfish. Both are a lot of fun and make for great eating. Besides, it is a nice way to spend some time outdoors. Enjoy it now - striper season is right around the corner!

Hope you can make our meeting this Friday evening.

Ed

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

BOARD MEETING: September 7

CLUB MEETING: September 14

Club Meetings Start at 7:45 With Pledge of Allegiance

- Welcome Club Members and Guests
- Melanie Boytos Award Presentation
- Guest Speaker Introduction
- Break / Refreshments
- Committee Reports
- 50/50 Drawing
- Rod & Reel Raffle
- Fishing Reports

VHFC Dinner: September 22

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER - This month's speaker is **Bill Figley**. – Bill spent his career as a Fisheries Biologist for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and is considered by many to be the patriarch for the Artificial Reef Program within New Jersey. By the time Bill retired, over 140 wrecks, 3500 patch reefs and 14 million tons of various materials had been sunk on the ocean bottom. Bill is an avid hunter / fisherman with a wealth of knowledge. VHFC is proud to have him as a member.

2018 FISH OF THE MONTH (FOM) - Winner for the August Fluke FOM was Brendan Jelley. Brendan's fish weighed just over 5 lbs. Winner for the August Sea bass FOM was Pat Presutto with a 3 lb beauty. Congratulations Brendan and Pat!! The largest FOM species featured for 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 9 remaining FOM awards for 2018. Fluke and Weakfish are the September FOM candidates.

1 March - 30 April (3 Awards)	Winter Flounder, Striped Bass & Bluefish (No Fish Entered)
1 - 31 May (2 Awards)	Striped Bass Pat Presutto Bluefish (No Fish Entered)
25 May - 30 June (1 Award)	Fluke Aaron Allison
15 May - 22 June (1 Award)	Sea Bass Bob Dodds
1 - 31 July (2 Awards)	Fluke Marty Friedrich Sea Bass (No Fish Entered)
1 - 31 August(2 Awards)	Fluke Brendan Jelley Sea Bass Pat Presutto
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

MELANIE BOYTOS AWARD



The 2017 VHFC Melanie Boytos Inshore Grand Slam Award was won for the second year in a row by Dave Spendiff. This annual tribute was initiated by the Hutchinsons to honor Captain Melanie Boytos, a close friend of this club and its members. The award is made to the angler who has the most points for the largest fluke, weakfish, bluefish and striper. Dave's 2017 impressive catches were fluke (6 lb 14 oz), bluefish (18 lb 13 oz) weakfish (4 lb 11 oz) & striped bass (13 lb 14 oz).

Jim Hutchinson Jr Presents the Melanie Boytos Award to Dave Spendiff at the August VHFC Club Meeting

2018 NEW JERSEY MARINE FISHING REGULATION - Report by Phil Simon

On August 20 the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC, responsible for regulations 0 – 3 miles from shore) and the MidAtlantic States Fishery Management Council (MAFMC, responsible for regulations from 3 – 200 miles, the exclusive economic zone EEZ) jointly announced the catch and landings limits for summer flounder, scup, black sea bass and bluefish for 2019. The commission's actions are considered final, but the councils still require higher level approval from NOAA. Noteworthy to the recreational fishing community, the recreational harvest limit for summer flounder was increased from the 2018 limit of 4.42 million pounds to a higher limit of 5.15 million pounds, in what seems like good news. However, NOAA is in the middle of a benchmark stock assessment for summer flounder, which will not be completed, and the results released until February of 2019. Depending on how that assessment shakes out, we could see significant alterations to the summer flounder harvest limits as the winter progresses into spring. Especially problematic for us are the new sets of data emerging from the revised fishing effort methods implemented by the folks at the Marine Fisheries Information Program (MRIP), which indicate that the old telephone surveys underestimated fishing effort (number of individual person fishing trips) by three- to eight-fold. As the recreational catch is calculated by multiplying the fishing effort times the catch rate (fish caught per angler), we can expect some lively discussions about just what the recreational catch numbers really are, and the impact on past and current stock assessments.

As we heard from Jim Hutchinson Jr Managing Editor for The Fisherman at last month's membership meeting, there is a reasonable chance that the summer flounder fishery could be declared overfished with overfishing occurring, which would trigger (as defined in the Magnuson-Stevens act) a rebuilding program for summer flounder. Interim stock estimates for summer flounder have been declining for the last 5 years or so, apparently caused by poor recruitment of new fish into the stock. With recreational and commercial landings of summer flounder already at near historical lows, its hard to see how the regulators should expect that tighter regulations are going to have any significant impact on stock levels. Oh Boy! We will keep an eye on this as the winter progresses.

The new catch limits for scup and bluefish are basically unchanged from 2018, but black sea bass was reduced from 3.66 to 3.27 million pounds. Needless to say, the yelling and screaming about black sea bass will continue, as the stock is well above its threshold target levels for being declared overfished, and no one seems to know how to deal with the fact that the catch numbers are high because there are so many fish around, especially in the northern range of the stock.

A recent proposal to turn over a portion of the recreational bluefish quota (which has been historically underused) to the commercial side appears for now dead in the water.

A benchmark stock assessment for striped bass is also underway, with results to be published in 2019. Right now, no one is expecting big changes, but again we will have to keep an eye on this. There could be some impact from the revised MRIP numbers here as well.

For those interested the council and commission will be holding a hearing at 6pm on Monday September 24 at the Ocean County Administrative Building (101 Hooper Avenue, Toms River) to gather public input on a proposal to reallocate the commercial summer flounder fishery based on the fact that the stock has moved north since the last state allocations were set. While not directly impacting the recreational harvest numbers, these proposed changes could impact who is catching the commercial quota and where they operate from.

I attended the recent “Stakeholders Participation Day” at the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society held in Atlantic City. This meeting brings together thousands of fishery academic researchers, government regulators and scientists, and commercial representatives over a five day period to attend lectures, scientific presentations, and workshops on various aspects of marine and freshwater fishery science. This opportunity provided recreational and commercial fisherman who would not normally attend the 5-day meeting (daily registration was in the \$100s) an opportunity to attend for one day for a reduced rate of \$50. A few takeaways from the meeting: (1) fish stocks of interest to us, especially summer flounder and black sea bass, are continuing to show a northeast shift in the stocks, most likely due to changes in ocean temperature; (2) new approaches to monitoring fish behavior and location are revealing we know a lot less about where and why fish go where they go than we thought; (3) the regulatory councils and commissions, forced to “do something” about falling fish stocks, only have the tool of regulating harvests, even if the causes of declines are unrelated to fishing.

NJ 2018 FISHING REGULATIONS & SALTWATER ANGLER SURVEY

Paste this link into your browser for NJ Regulations:

<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/2018/maregsum18.pdf>

Paste this link into your browser for Saltwater Angler Survey

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/marinesurvey.htm>:

LIBRARY REPORT

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

Featured Book of the Month *Striped Bass* from the The Fisherman Master Angler Series Guidebooks - The magazine editors have selected 36 of the finest articles from the various Fisherman editions and regional coverage on how and where to catch striped bass.

VHFC DINNER

Final reminder that the VHFC Dinner will be on Saturday, September 22nd at 6:00PM. **Either mail your check now so that it is received by 14 September or bring it to the meeting this Friday.** The dinner will be at Manera's Restaurant located at 291 Rt. 72 East, in the Day Plaza. For \$36 per person (includes tax & tip) you get soup or salad, entree selection, beverage and dessert. Manera's is BYOB so please bring your favorite libation. Full details are posted on our website. See the Home page at <https://vhfishingclub.com/> or the What's New under the About pulldown menu at <https://vhfishingclub.com/about/whats-new/>

VHFC AUCTION

Just a reminder that at our November 9 club meeting, there will be an auction of various fishing, boating and marine equipment. This is a great opportunity to acquire some fine gear at bargain prices! It is also a fine opportunity to clean out your garage, shed, storage unit, etc. of supplies you no longer need or use and donate them to our club. Any items acquired before the auction will be listed in the Newsletter. BTW, the November Club meeting is Pizza Night!

OFFICIAL VHFC WEIGH-IN STATIONS - Weigh in stations and sponsors are listed on our website <https://vhfishingclub.com/sponsors/>

STRIPED BASS Bonus Program (SBBP) - Applications for the 2018 SBBP are currently available. The application deadline is October 31, 2018. Applications postmarked after the deadline will not be processed. Paste this into your browser for access - <https://www.njfishandwildlife.com/bonusbas.htm>

FISHING REPORTS

Please go to the VHFC website at <http://www.vhfishingclub.com> to read the 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.** During the month of August, there were 7 reports submitted.



Marty Friedrich and three friends fished the Garden State South reef. They ended up with 5 keepers with the largest at 20 ½".



That's Pat Presutto with a beauty of a sea bass. Pat went to the Garden State South reef to catch that nice 3 lb. sea bass. Besides a great meal, that fish won the August FOM!



Fishing at the Tires, Junior member Brendan Jelley caught this 4.46 lb Fluke. In addition, he and his brother Tyler Leary caught 7 other keepers. If that wasn't enough, they also had 2 bonito and a spanish mackerel shown below.





On a beautiful August day, Alan Goracy joined yours truly for a quick trip to Barnegat reef where we joined up with at least 150 of our closest friends.

Alan was the hot hand with three keepers at 18", 21" and one at 22+".



Alan Goracy and I made another trip to the Barnegat reef and once again, he out fished me. Alan had three fluke and a Spanish Mackerel and I had one fluke. Sizes were decent 19" up to 22".

The absolute killer rig was Alan's chrome fluke ball with a Gulp nuclear chicken. That combo accounted for most of the shorts and his keepers. I caught my fluke on a teaser with a live peanut bunker I cast netted on the morning trip out of the lagoon.



Brian Leary & the grandkids went to the Little Egg reef and enjoyed some fantastic fishing. They ended with 10 keepers up to 5 lbs and 1 Mahi. Another great day of fishing on grandpa Larry Leary's Jen-Jen!

BTW, that 5 lb fluke was caught by Brendan Jelley and was the August FOM winner!

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

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.

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:

03 September 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

Paste this link into your browser for the latest NJ 2018 Fishing Regulations

<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/2018/maregsum18.pdf>