



# ***HARBOUR LIGHT***

**OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER May 2019**

*Editor: Ed Valitutto* VHFC Website: <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: 10 May***

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hi everyone,

It's Sunday morning, May 5th as I'm writing this, and outside it's windy, raining and cooler than early spring should be. What's worse, the extended forecast - which no one should take seriously - through May 19 shows 8 of the 15 days with rain and only 3 days with temps breaking 70! Let's hope the forecast is wrong again. But so what! We all own rain gear, boots and heavier clothes. Put them on and go fishing. There is some really good action being reported in the bay by boat or LBI bayside as well as off the LBI surf. Just check out the reports from members Pat Presutto (Bluefish), Tyler Leary (Stripers), Dave Spendiff (White Perch) and Basil Dubrowsky (King Mackerel) - oops that was from Florida but still a nice report. Furthermore, my neighbor reported his brother in law murdered the blowfish last Thursday and dropped off a bag of 20 tails! I'll do my best to get more info for the club meeting.

The worst part - here comes some self pity for yours truly - I'm sitting home with a 5 1/2 week old knee replacement that is not ready for prime time as in able to go fishing. My boat which is usually first in and last out at Causeway Marine, sits on blocks in the driveway and I have not wet a line. So get on out and fish so I can live vicariously through your reports!

Hope to see you this Friday evening. We have a great speaker in Greg Cudnik and chef Blandine will be serving hot dogs! Should be a fun meeting and a great way to save a stamp and pay your 2019 dues in person.

Happy Cinco de Mayo! Vamos a pescar!

Ed

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## **MAY CLUB EVENTS**

**BOARD MEETING: May 3**

**CLUB MEETING: May 10**

Club Meetings Start at 7:45 With Pledge of Allegiance

- Welcome Club Members, New Recruits and Guests
- Short talk by Bob Massa regarding the upcoming Battle of the Beach
- Guest Speaker Introduction and Presentation
- Break / Refreshments
- Committee Reports
- 50/50 Drawing
- Fishing Reports

## **MAY SPEAKER**

This month's speaker is **Greg Cudnik** – Greg is a passionate saltwater angler with a vast knowledge of the local fishery and saltwater fishing tackle. Greg is the general manager of Fisherman's Headquarters and also runs Fish Head Charters – a Light Tackle & Fly Guide Service. He is also the Editor of FishingLBI.com a fishing report blog focused on the waters of Long Beach Island. Greg will share information about light tackle striped bass fishing in our area. His simple presentation theme "Scale Down For Light Tackle Striped Fun" will detail topics like rod/reel choices, line/leader and best knots as well as his top five springtime lures. With current trends in the fisheries (less bigger fish but more smaller ones), a light tackle

approach will ensure fun on the water even with small fish. Greg will also give an update on recent happenings with the early May fishing and what he's looking forward to this season.

**Correction to the April Newsletter: I incorrectly listed the 2018 Fluke Fish of the Year awarded to Marty Friedrich as weighing 6 lbs 14 ozs - a fantastic catch nonetheless. However, Marty's fish was 8 lbs 5 ozs. The scale doesn't lie!**



For a complete list of all fish entered for 2018, go to the VHFC Web Site:

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

**Notice to Club Members:** Membership dues are required by the 10 May club meeting. Please be sure to keep your membership in good standing. Only members in good standing can enter fish into VHFC contests.

**2019 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 at any of our 6 weigh in stations. There are 21 FOM awards for 2019 as shown below with final approved dates for fluke and seabass. Please note the new category for White Perch is one award from 1 April thru 30 June. Just a reminder, if no entry is made for a species for a specific month, the award will be added to the award when the species is again offered in 2019 as often as required. Therefore, since there were no entries for striped bass & bluefish for

April, the May awards are now \$100 each. **Note: bluefish must be at least 5 lbs for award consideration.**

### 2019 VHFC Fish of the Month Winners

Month	Fish	Name	Size	Date
1 March – 30 April	Winter Flounder	No Entry		
1 March – 30 April	Striped Bass	No Entry		
1 March – 30 April	Bluefish	No Entry		
1 April – 30 June	White Perch			
May 1 - 31	Striped Bass			
May 1 - 31	Bluefish			
May 24 – 30 June	Fluke			
May 15 – 22 June	Seabass			
July 1- 31	Fluke			
July 1- 31	Seabass			
August 1- 31	Fluke			
August 1- 31	Seabass			
September 1 - 21	Fluke			
September 1- 30	Weakfish			
October 1- 31	Blackfish			
October 1- 31	Striped Bass			
October 1- 31	Bluefish			
October 8 - 30 November	Seabass			
November 1 - 30	Blackfish			
November 1 - 30	Striped Bass			
November 1 - 30	Bluefish			

**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

**2019 New Jersey Marine Fishing Regulations by Phil Simon** - As noted last month, the striped bass population has been declared overfished with overfishing occurring, requiring that the regulatory bodies take action to reduce mortality. In a statement released May 1, the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission initiated the process to draft an addendum to the existing regulations which will list potential actions to reduce total removals (commercial and recreational harvest, including dead releases) by roughly 17%. Some of the options being considered include higher minimum size and slot size limits for the recreational fishery in the Chesapeake Bay and along the coast, as well as a coastwide circle hook requirement when fishing with bait. Once this addendum is created and released to the public, most likely in August or September, there will be a series of public hearings at which time we will have the opportunity to comment on the proposals. We need to keep a close eye on this, and the VHFC should be prepared to develop positions on the various proposals that could be communicated to JCAA, as well as the ASMFC/MAMFC, and our state and federal elected officials. The NJ Beach Access bill sits unsigned by Governor Murphy. Word is that it will die if not signed next week. Apparently a number of the coastal municipal governments have mounted a strong resistance, either because they don't want fishermen on their beaches, or, are trying to protect their restrictive licenses and fees which supplement their revenues.

Entries for the upcoming JCAA fluke tournament have been slow coming in so far. JCAA needs support from its member fishing clubs; this tournament is one of the major fundraisers for the organization and is one of the best run tournaments in NJ. Have you signed up yet? Entries can be made online at the JCAA website <https://www.jcaa.org/>.

**NEW VENUE for Jim Hutchinson Sr** - Once again fellow club member and local notable Jim Hutchinson Sr has posted his report at [www.jerseyshoreoutdoors.com](http://www.jerseyshoreoutdoors.com). Check it out for the latest fishing news. Jim will gladly take any reports and pictures from VHFC members.

**ROD & REEL RAFFLE** - Just a reminder, the June combo is a Shimano Talavera 7' 6" Inshore Rod, Medium Heavy Power, Fast Action with a Shimano Sedona FE 4000 reel with 19lb drag. This is a great outfit for our area fluke, bluefish, stripers, sea bass, black fish & drum. Retail Value ~\$175

**BATTLE OF THE BEACH** - As mentioned in last month's NL, VHFC has taken over officiating the "Battle on the Beach" high school surf fishing tournament from the Barnegat Light Heavers. The contest will be held on Thursday June 6th in Barnegat Light. Bill Massa will be at our May meeting to provide all the details and make a pitch for the 8 volunteers needed for measuring fish during the 4 hour afternoon contest. So far Gene Geld, Pat Presutto, Phil Simon, Bob Dodds and I have volunteered. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a day on the beach, spend time with our future anglers and learn how to read the beach from a very knowledgeable Bob Massa.

**BEACH ACCESS LAW SIGNED** - New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed a law Friday intended to protect the public's right to reach the beach in a state where some shore towns have employed a wide variety of tactics to discourage outsiders from sitting on or even walking across their sand. The bill codifies in law the state's public trust doctrine, which holds that waterways including the ocean, bays and rivers, are common property kept in trust by the state for the use of all people and has been at the heart of decades of battles between access advocates, government and private property owners in a state where demand for access to the water remains high, but so do physical and legal obstacles.

Some communities have actively worked to discourage outsiders from using their beaches by restricting beach badge sales to residents-only (something that was struck down by the courts); drastically limiting public parking, prohibiting food on the beach, and refusing to provide public restrooms.

Among other things, the law signed Friday requires the doctrine to be applied to coastal development, protection and funding issues. "New Jersey's shoreline and coastal communities are some of our state's greatest treasures," Murphy said. "By strengthening the public's right to access our beaches, we are ensuring that all New Jersey residents and visitors can enjoy our beautiful shore this summer and for generations to come." But not everyone is convinced the new law will actually change that.

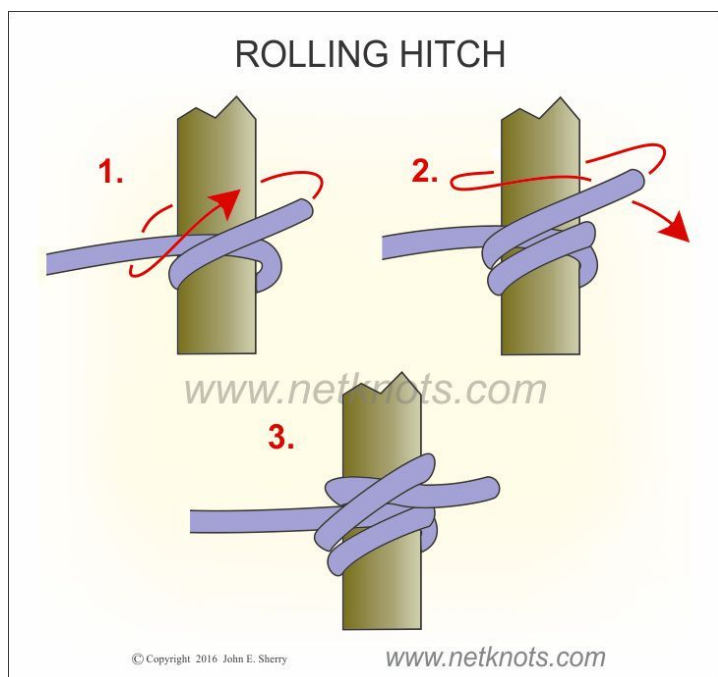
Stay tuned for further developments.

**ONE REASON FOR THE FLUKE SHORTAGE BY CAPT HARVEY YENKINSON** - This article appeared in November in *The Fisherman* last year. CAPT Yenkinson operates Vetcraft Sportfishing in Cape May. He is very knowledgeable, authors many articles and is an advisor to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council for fluke. VHFC Bill Dabney has chartered with him and received permission to reprint parts of his editorial.

CAPT Yenkinson does not believe several of the reasons being offered are the source of the problem fluke shortage. Ocean warming (too slow over time), slowing of the Gulf Stream & ocean acidification (negligible in deep ocean water) have been played up as causative factors. However, NOAA in 2014 stated the main reason for the shift northward of fluke biomass is due to fishing pressure. CAPT Yenkinson agrees and further argues that commercial pressure is the biggest factor.

North Carolina and Virginia have 48% of the commercial fishery allocation originally issued because they caught so many fish in their local waters. Over time, local catches dropped and the fleet traveled offshore to northern New Jersey. Even worse, much of their fishing occurs in late fall and winter when fluke are spawning. CAPT Yenkinson believes taking so many spawning fish off the NJ coast was never the intent of the allocation to VA & NC and is having an impact on our biomass. Let's hope he can convince others to investigate his concerns.

## **GREAT KNOT FOR SECURING MOORING LINES TO DOCK POSTS**



The knot is called the Rolling Hitch. It is a very secure and easy to tie method of fastening a rope to a post and holds firmly in the direction of the standing line. The Rolling Hitch is much more secure than the similar clove hitch when tying a rope to a pole or other object.

I plan on definitely using it this year for securing my boat at my dock. Go to [www.netknots.com/rope\\_knots/rolling-hitch](http://www.netknots.com/rope_knots/rolling-hitch) for an animated view of tying it along with instructions.



**VHFC T Shirts** - As stated at the April meeting, new T Shirts are available. Sizes will range from XS (Extra Small) to 6XL. All sizes will be available in nine colors. Shirts have long sleeves and feature UPF 50 Sun Protection. These are quality shirts to be worn proudly. White is shown with the ordering info.



Sizes/Cost: XS, S, M, L & XL @ \$31, 2XL @ \$32, 3XL @ \$33 4XL @ \$34, 5XL @ \$35 & 6XL @ \$36

Colors: White, Pale Grey, Sand, Pale

Orange, Pale Yellow, Pale Teal, Aqua, Lime & Medium Blue. Due to the cost of the shirts, we require a completed order form and money before ordering. Orders must total 12 shirts of any size/color combos to be placed with the manufacturer so there could be a delay in receiving an order. ***For a slightly loose fit, order your normal shirt size. For a tight fit, order one size smaller than your normal shirt size.***

### **VHFC Hats**



New hats will also be available this year. Hats will be khaki colored, feature a high definition VHFC patch on the front and will sell for \$20. VHFC has ordered a quantity of hats, but at the time of this writing have not yet been received.

**Library** - Check out books, magazines and DVDS from our library available at club meetings. New for 2019, VHFC has added subscriptions to ***The Fisherman*** and ***On the Water*** magazines for members to enjoy.

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.



**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 for fellow club members. Even a poor report - Went fishing and caught nothing! - is useful information.**



That's Basil Dubrowsky holding a pair of King Mackerel caught on the troll 14 miles off Sarasota, FL. Basil and his wife Lynn will return north later this month but he's hoping the big king mackerel show up before then.

Basil also commented that fishing overall had been very poor this year in the bay and the gulf due to the red tide. The only fish regularly caught this winter were sheepshead - which are fun to catch and eat - but Florida usually has so much more to offer.

BTW, Basil has VHFC Card Number 2 so he's been fishing and a club member for a few years!



That's one nice batch of white perch caught by Dave Spendiff. Dave caught them on killies while fishing off his dock on May 2nd. He reported the lagoon water temp was almost 70 degrees that afternoon but the next morning dropped back down to 60.

At least Dave remembered to take a photo of the fish. His first report in April just showed a bag of fillets!



Accomplished surf angler Pat Presutto reported a 33" bluefish caught on 26 April followed by a 30" fish taken on 1 May. Both were off the surf and were not entered into the FOM! Hopefully this is a sign that things are finally picking up!





This last report was submitted by junior member Tyler Leary. Tyler's a junior member by age; his skills and dedication to fishing rival any VHFC member! He reported catching stripers in the bay on a variety of lures - Stillwater Smack-It poppers, Sebile shads and swimbaits. He reported catching from 5:45 am until 7:00 am and then again at dusk from 6:45 pm until 8:45 pm. No specific location was given but you can ask him during the fishing discussion at the meeting.

Tyler - have an answer to the location request you'll definitely be asked. Also, it's not a lie if it can't be proven!

**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.

Bob Dodds is looking to fish on a member's boat and is willing to share expenses. Please contact Bob if you would like a fishing companion and save a few bucks.

**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](mailto:jorsoe786@comcast.net)

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS:**

**08 June 2019**

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

**SPONSORS / (WEIGH IN STATIONS) :** 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 (Weigh In Station)** 10% discount with VHFC card  
857 Mill Creek Rd Manahawkin, NJ 08050  
**609-709-5424**

**Boat U.S.**

Special membership price call Jeff Orsoe. Forms for members' use will be at VHFC meetings or call Jeff Orsoe 732-672-5530. Also, VHFC members only pay \$9.50 for a year of Boat U.S.

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

**Creekside Outfitters (Weigh In Station)** 10% discount with VHFC card  
403 Rt. 9 Waretown, NJ 08758  
609-242-1812

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

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

**JB Awards** 10% discount on engraving and trophies with VHFC card  
**609-290-5851**

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

**Viking Outfitters** 10% discount with VHFC card  
W.19th and Bayview in Viking Village, Barnegat Light, NJ  
**609-361-9111**

**West Creek Bait and Tackle (Weigh In Station)** - 10% discount with VHFC card  
387 Route 9, West Creek, NJ 08092  
**609-857-3516**

**West Creek Kayak and Canoe (Weigh In Station)** 10% discount only on accessories with VHFC card  
224 Route 9, West Creek, NJ 08092  
**609-296-8030**