



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER December 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 April

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone,

This will be the last Newsletter for 2019. I hope you had an enjoyable and successful fishing season. As with everything in life, there were highs, lows and in between. Bluefish and weakfish were almost nonexistent, fluke were okay but you had to work for them, stripers were hard to find most days and ran smaller in our area, bottom fishing for tog & seabass as well as bay fishing for white perch and crabs were generally very good and blowfishing was exceptional. At least that's my assessment of this year but your results may have been vastly different. But the most important thing is to get out and enjoy fishing.

The coming months offer a good opportunity to inspect all your fishing tackle. Remove the reels from your rods so you can clean & lube the reel seats. Inspect your rods for damaged or worn guides and have them replaced for a few dollars or get yourself a new rod. Determine if the line on your reels needs replacing due to age, wear or loss of line. If you have the time and

ability, service your reels or drop off one or two every few weeks at one of our local tackle shops. They will service them quickly once the holidays are done. Go through your tackle and rediscover all the items you bought over the seasons and forgot where you stored them. Discard, repair or replace badly rusted hooks and lures. You will be amazed what you can do with permanent marker pens, emery cloth, new trebles, deer hair, braid or dental floss and epoxy. Not your thing - then trash them and buy new. You deserve it but do not put it off until the next time you need to use your tackle!

Just a reminder, support the 11th annual Fisherman's Flea Market at Barnegat High School on Saturday December 14th. The event runs from 9:00 to 1:00 and admission is \$4. VHFC will be there actively recruiting new members so stop by and say hello! Later this winter, on Saturday, February 15th, Southern Regional High School will hold their annual fishing flea market fundraiser. Held in the Southern Regional Middle School cafeteria, doors open at 8:00 AM and close at 2:00 PM. VHFC will also be there recruiting new members.

Lastly, have a wonderful holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting in April, 2020.

Ed

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 14, 2019 - Fisherman's Flea Market Barnegat High School 9:00

February 15, 2020 - Fisherman's Flea Market Southern Regional High School 8:00

April 11, 2020 - First VHFC Club Meeting for 2020

2019 YEAR SUMMARY - I would like to take this opportunity to summarize what we the VHFC members as a club accomplished this year:

- 1) **Club Meetings** - Held eight (8) very informative meetings with great speakers, opportunity to check out the latest books, magazines & DVDs, hear about the latest rules, regulations & happenings at JCAA & ASMFC and discuss the latest member fishing reports
 - a) Added subscriptions to *The Fisherman & On The Water*
 - b) Served food including hot dogs, sausage & peppers and hero sandwiches

2) Battle of the Beach - VHFC officiated the "Battle on the Beach" high school surf fishing tournament on June 6th on the sands of Barnegat Light. VHFC volunteers led by Bob

Massa measured fish during the 4 hour afternoon contest and recorded the results. All teams caught fish but Southern Regional won by a landslide and VHFC presented them with an engraved trophy for display this year in their school lobby!

- a) VHFC now has full responsibility for the tournament since the Barnegat Light Heavers Club disbanded.



VHFC Volunteer Judges for the 2019 Battle on the Beach

3) FOM Awards - Twenty One (21) Fish of the Month \$50 FHQ gift certificates were available this year to club members. A table with all the winners appears later.

- c) New this year, if no entry was made for a species for a specific month, the award was added to the award for that species if offered again in 2019.

4) Dinner - Once again, thanks to Vince Sebona, our annual VHFC Dinner was held at Manera's Restaurant on 21 September. Great food and wonderful conversation were abundant during the delightful evening.



5) Fluke Tournament - Our 4th annual VHFC fluke tournament for members, family and friends was held on Saturday July 13th. As good as the fishing was, the barbecue at the home of hosts Donna and Vic Harris was spectacular! Everyone had a fantastic time socializing, enjoying some fine food and having a few beverages.



Tournament winner Bill Dabney shown with his 3 lb 10 oz catch.

6) Reef Donation - The Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association announced a reef building campaign this year and reached their initial \$100,000 goal to begin reef replenishment. Many people and organizations contributed their time and money including VHFC member Bill Figley during his working career was responsible for the initial reef deployment. Thanks to your dues, VHFC contributed \$500 to this worthy cause.

7) Bottom Fishing Trip - There were actually two trips.

- a) The first trip was on Sunday, June 9 aboard the Voyager out of Point Pleasant Beach, NJ. VHFC was invited to join Dr. Doug Zemeckis on his IFISSH (Introductory Fisheries Science for Stakeholders) charter. The seabass were not too cooperative but the ling were non stop.
- b) The second trip was our 2nd annual bottom trip on the Norma K out of Point Pleasant. A small group of us met at the boat for a day of seabass and porgy fishing.

8) Melanie Boytos Award - This prestigious award was presented to Bill Figley by Jim Hutchinson Sr for Bill's angling skills in 2019. This was Bill's second time for the award.

9) New Hats and TShirts - I know what's the big deal about new hats and shirts! Well thanks to Dave Spendiff's hard work, we now have some great looking quality hats and T shirts.



With everyone's continued support and hard work, 2020 should be even better!

2019 TROPHY FISH OF THE MONTH - All 21 FOM awards for 2019 are now complete.

November FOM winners were: Striped Bass **George Guerin** 32 lbs 1 oz and Sea bass **Bill Figley** 2 lbs 2 ozs. Congratulations George and Bill!

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	Tyler Leary	2 lbs 6 ozs	6/12
May 1 - 31	Striped Bass	Pat Presutto	27 lbs 8 ozs	5/15
May 1 - 31	Bluefish	Marty Friedrich	12 lbs 14 ozs	5/19
May 24 – 30 June	Fluke	Frank Tourine	5 lbs 14 ozs	6/30
May 15 – 22 June	Seabass	Carmine Tocci	2 lbs 10 ozs	5/15
July 1- 31	Fluke	Marty Friedrich	4 lbs 6 ozs	7/9
July 1- 31	Seabass	Bob Dodds	2 lbs 10 ozs	7/13
August 1- 31	Fluke	Marty Friedrich	6 lbs 9 ozs	8/18
August 1- 31	Seabass	Bill Figley	2 lbs 8 ozs	8/13
September 1 - 21	Fluke	Cherie Hebert	6 lbs 13 ozs	9/1
September 1- 30	Weakfish	Cherie Hebert	3 lbs 5 ozs	9/16
October 1- 31	Blackfish	No Entry		
October 1- 31	Striped Bass	Bill Figley	6 lbs 2 ozs	10/30
October 1- 31	Bluefish	No Entry		
October 8 - 30 November	Seabass	Bill Figley	2 lbs 2 ozs	10/24
November 1 - 30	Blackfish	No Entry		
November 1 - 30	Striped Bass	George Guerin	32 lbs 1 oz	11/06
November 1 - 30	Bluefish	No Entry		

For a complete list of all fish entered for 2019, go to the VHFC Web Site:

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

NEW JERSEY FISHING REGULATIONS by Phil Simon - This month the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) provided an update on the status of the weakfish stock. Although overfishing is not occurring (a technical definition), the stock continues to be officially depleted, and the combination of fishing mortality and natural mortality estimates are exceeding the current threshold. I suspect we might see even further tightening on this fishery, if that's even possible.

I've heard nothing further on the striped bass situation for 2020. The NJ Marine Fisheries Council should by now have submitted a conservation equivalency proposal to the striped bass board, but I have not heard anything about what they have proposed. The recreational fishing community seems to be split between those who want to bring a fish home for the table versus the catch and release crowd searching for a trophy fish. We should still expect to hear something official towards the end of February.

Omega Protein in Virginia has been exceeding its quota on bunker harvest and is likely to be penalized. However, the penalties normally are limited to reductions in next year's quota, so unless Omega has a change in its fishing practices, we are likely to see a repeat next year. Overfishing of bunker is certainly one of the contributing factors to the decline in the striped bass breeding stock. The other factors include excess fishing mortality from recreational catch and release, poor habitat in the major breeding areas (Chesapeake, Delaware, Hudson), and regulations that force us to target the breeder females.

There will be a joint ASMFC / Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) meeting Dec 9 -12 in Annapolis MD. Proposals and reviews of all the fisheries of interest to us are scheduled. Stay tuned.

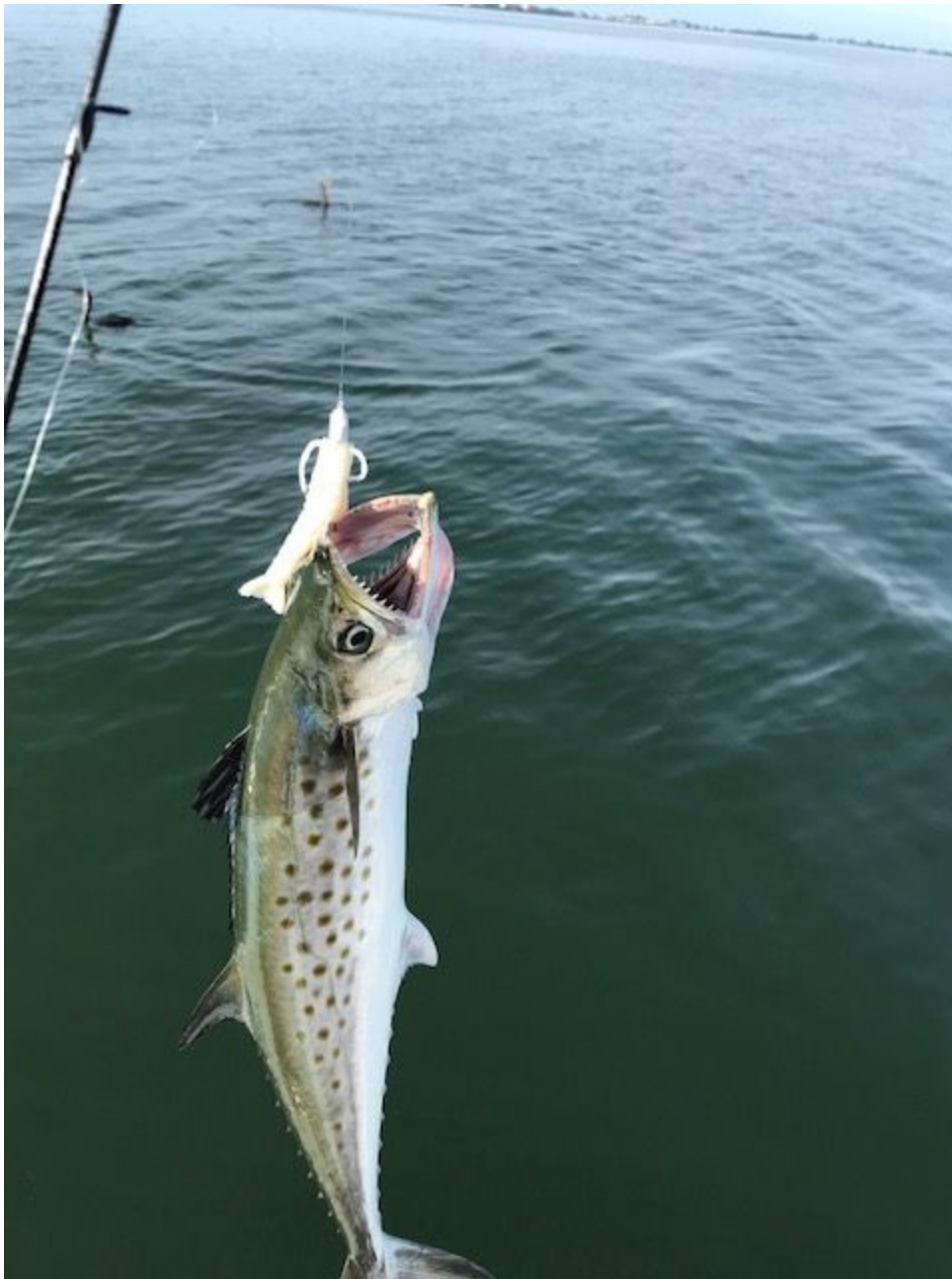
The Jersey Coast Anglers Association appears to me to be in some distress. Fundraising efforts have not been keeping up with expenses, club and individual membership participation is down and leadership seems to be at a loss as to how to fix it. Overall most of the NJ fishing clubs have also been stressed due to declining membership, and there is obviously a direct link to the JCAA issues. Things VHFC could do to help include greater participation in JCAA events such as the annual fluke tournament and Sportsman of the Year dinner, and club advertisement in the monthly JCAA newsletter.

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 or call 609 994 1311 and I will submit a report for you. There were three reports for the month of November. See photos that follow:



That's me, Phil Simon and future member Dan Ludwig after a tough trip with Brett Taylor. We saw the returning morning trip with a nice catch but the afternoon was not so good. Oh well!



VHFC member Basil Dubrowsky had a great day in Sarasota Florida. Basil caught over 20 Spotted Sea Trout and 8 Spanish Mackerel.



That's George Guerin with a beautiful 32 Lb Striper caught on the troll with a green bunker spoon. That wish won the FOM for November. Congratulations!

VHFC T Shirts - The new VHFC T Shirts are available for ordering. Sizes range from XS (Extra Small) to 6XL. All sizes are available in nine colors. Shirts have long sleeves and feature UPF 50 Sun Protection. We now have orders for 8 of the required 12 minimum lot buy.

VHFC Hats - The new hats have been delivered! Hats are khaki colored and feature a high definition VHFC patch on the front. They are available at club meetings and sell for \$20.

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/>

Long Beach Island Water Temperature & Winds:

<https://seatemperature.info/long-beach-island-water-temperature.html>

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

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

Jingles Bait & Tackle (Weigh In Station) - 10% discount with VHFC card
1214 N Bay Ave, Beach Haven, NJ 08008
609-492-2795

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**