



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER May 2020

Editor: Ed Valitutto VHFC Website: <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 (Online via Zoom): 08 May

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,,

Not surprisingly, the Stafford Community Center remains closed while everyone battles the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, our May 8th general membership meeting will once again be held via Zoom. Our April Zoom meeting went very well with 30+ members online. It's definitely not the same as attending in person, but for now it is the best alternative we have. Details for the meeting appear later in the Newsletter.

On the fishing front, things are starting to happen and will definitely speed up when some warmer spring weather shows up. White perch have been active for almost a month initially in the Mullica River and now in Mill Creek. Stripers are showing up in larger size and increasing numbers along the ocean and in the bay. Fortunately, Surf City and Barnegat Light beaches remain open for public surf fishing. Joe Filice got a keeper bass yesterday in Beach Haven where he has a home. Bluefish allegedly arrive by Mother's Day and that's next Sunday - let's

hope ‘they’ are correct. Blueclaw crabs are becoming more active, Black Drum are around, Blowfish are being caught and Blackfish are chewing if you put in the time to fish for them. But probably the most anticipated event is the opening of the Summer Flounder aka Fluke season on Friday May 22nd. Hopefully all you boat owners are ready to sail since most boatyards have been working but unfortunately party boat fishing remains shut down.

Lastly, please continue to do your part and adhere to the guidelines - use gloves, masks, wipes, maintain a safe separation and only travel as necessary. Stay safe and hopefully this will all be behind us. Once again, I look forward to ‘seeing’ everyone at our second online Zoom meeting on Friday May 8th.

Ed

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1 - Online Board Meeting via Zoom

May 8 - Online VHFC Club Meeting via Zoom. See details below.

ZOOM Membership Meeting - Friday May 8 07:45 PM Eastern Time

Use this Link to Join the Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/99542102115>

Meeting ID: 995 4210 2115

If Dialing by Phone: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 489 170 460

Any questions, call Phil Simon @ 908 656 4086 or Ed Valitutto @ 609 994 1311.

MAY SPEAKER - Dr Doug Zemeckis - Dr. Zemeckis grew up spending his summers at the Jersey Shore and fishing recreationally throughout New Jersey and beyond. Doug transformed his passion for the ocean and fisheries into a career in marine sciences after earning a B.S. in Marine Science from Rutgers University and a PH.D. in Marine Science and Technology from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. He currently works as a County Agent, Assistant Professor with Rutgers Cooperative Extension where he focuses on delivering educational

programs and conducting research to address issues related to fisheries, aquaculture, and coastal resource management. Doug's topic is: **"Biology, Assessment, and Management of Black Sea Bass"**.

NEW JERSEY REGULATORY & EXCERPTS from 4/28 JCAA MEETING by Phil Simon

1. Tom Fote reports that operations by the various institutions that conduct the fishery independent surveys that provide data for regulatory decisions on recreational and commercial fishing limits have pretty much come to a halt as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. Combined with the reductions in recreational and commercial fishing data, it's likely that the ASMFC and others will not have enough data on 2020 fish stocks to propose any significant changes to regs not already proposed or implemented, but then the lack of data never stopped them before! Most meetings of the various councils and commissions have been either postponed or are being conducted via electronic communication. ASMFC will hold its Spring Meeting May 5 via a webinar, which will be open to all: <http://www.asmfc.org/home/2020-spring-meeting-webinar>. Paul Eidman reports that reduced fishing pressure on forage species is improving the prospects for these stocks, which are essential for maintaining the stocks of striped bass, bluefish, and other species of interest to the recreational community.
2. Paul Turi reports that JCAA still plans to run its annual Fluke tournament on September 12, with a planned awards ceremony at the Resorts Casino September 18. They have also set up plans to run their annual "Sportsperson of the Year" dinner on November 15, and plans for a second "Heavy Hitter" fluke tournament (combined weight of 3 fish) are in the works according to Paul Haertel although no date has been set. Naturally, all these plans are subject to revision pending the status of the pandemic. For those of you holding "High Roller" raffle tickets, the drawing has been moved from May to August 14.
3. George Browne, Access chairman for JCAA, reports that JCAA was central to the action by the Pt. Pleasant township government and DEP to remove unapproved and illegal signs and barriers put up to stop fishing activity at Bay Point Harbor at the north end of Barnegat Bay. In addition, on behalf of JCAA, George has submitted a letter to the Edwin Forsythe National Wildlife Reserve commenting on their proposed fishing plan, which includes a ban on using lead fishing tackle, which is basically non-enforceable and discriminates against land fishermen. George also argues for additional fishing access within the reserve. You might be surprised at the size of the reserve – a lot of you probably fish their waters and don't realize it. Check out this link: <https://www.visitnj.org/nj-national-state-parks/edwin-b-forsythe-national-wildlife-refuge>.

In other news, the NJ government has approved curbside delivery for bait and tackle stores, and most marinas are allowed to open for business, although my understanding is that you will

need advance permission to enter marina offices. Charter and Party boats however are still prohibited from operating, and recreational fishing still requires proper social distancing, which means fishing by yourself or with immediate family when out in boats. The unfortunate facts are that (1) a substantial fraction of the population is infected but not showing any symptoms, (2) the virus spreads rapidly via contact with infected people, (3) morbidity and mortality for this virus are estimated to be five to ten fold worse than for the flu, (4) there is no effective treatment yet, and (5) we (VHFC members) mostly fall into the demographic most likely to progress to serious complications when infected. So, to quote the line from Hill Street Blues, "Be careful out there people". NJ has the second highest number of reported Covid 19 cases in the country.

NJ DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE - You can help manage our marine resources by reporting your fishing trips through the NJ Volunteer Angler Survey. It's confidential and all trip information is important, so please report trips even if no fish are caught. Information on the number and size of both kept and released fish is vital and may support management strategies that increase fishing opportunities. For your convenience, you can submit a report in a number of ways:

Complete the [Online Survey](#) at NJ F&W and / or

Complete a [Survey Log Sheet](#) . Can be done during or after your fishing trip, take a photo and send via email to marine_survey@dep.nj.gov)

For more information, go to [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

2020 NJ SALTWATER REGULATIONS - The following chart has a complete list of the 2020 Size by Species, Possession Limits & Season Dates. Go to <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/pdf/2020/maregsum20.pdf> for a more readable version or if you would like to print a copy.

ATTENTION ANGLERS

2020 NJ Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits, & Seasons

- Fish are measured from the tip of the snout to tip of the tail (except Black Sea Bass and Sharks).
- Filleting of fish with a minimum size limit at sea is prohibited. See the Marine Digest or the Fish & Wildlife website for exceptions.



Hard Clam 1.5 inches
 Recreational Limit – 150 clams
 No harvest on Sunday
 Shellfish license required



Summer Flounder (Fluke)
 Del. Bay and Tributaries 3 Fish at 17 Inches
 All Other Marine Waters 3 fish at 18 inches
 See Digest for IBSP and DE Bay Regulations
 Open Season: May 22 – Sept. 19



Weakfish
 1 fish at 13 inches
 Open Season: Jan. 1 – Dec. 31



Black Sea Bass
 10 fish at 12.5 inches May 15 – June 22
 2 fish at 12.5 inches July 1 – August 31
 10 fish at 12.5 inches Oct. 8—Oct. 31
 15 fish at 13 inches Nov. 1—Dec. 31



Bluefish
 Private/Shore Angler - 3 fish
 For-Hire Vessel - 5 fish
 Open Season: Jan. 1 – Dec. 31



Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass
 1 fish at 28 inches to less than 38 inches
 See Digest for Striped Bass Bonus Program

Del. River and tributaries Calhoun St. Bridge,
 Trenton to Salem River and tributaries
 Open Mar. 1 – Mar. 31 & June 1 – Dec. 31

Atlantic Ocean

0-3 miles from shore, no closed season
 Greater than 3 miles from shore, closed

All other marine waters, open Mar. 1 – Dec. 31

PROHIBITED SPECIES
 See the Marine edition of the NJ Fish & Wildlife Digest or Fish & Wildlife's website for a complete list.

Other Species	Possession Limit	Total Length
American Eel	25	9"
Black Drum	3	16"
Cobia	1 per person, no more than 3 per vessel	40"
• Open Season: June 1 – Sept. 30		
Cod	NO LIMIT	21"
Haddock	NO LIMIT	18"
King Mackerel	3	23"
Pollock	NO LIMIT	19"
Red Drum	1	18-27"
River Herring	CLOSED	N/A
Scup (Porgy)	50	9"
Shad	6	NO LIMIT
• No more than 3 American shad in Del. Bay, River & tributaries		
• No American shad in all other waters		
Spanish Mackerel	10	14"
American Lobster	6	3 3/8" to 5 1/4" Carapace Length
• LMA 4 Open Season: Jan. 1 - Apr. 29 & June 1 - Dec. 31		
• LMA 5 Open Season: Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 & Apr. 1 - Dec. 31		
Jonah Crab	50	4 3/4" Carapace Width



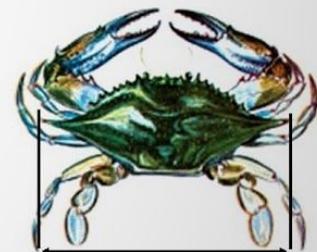
Tautog 15 inches
 4 fish Jan. 1 – Feb. 28
 4 fish Apr. 1 – Apr. 30
 1 fish Aug. 1 – Nov. 15
 5 fish Nov. 16 – Dec. 31



Winter Flounder
 2 fish at 12 inches
 Open Season: Mar. 1 – Dec. 31



Shark
 1 fish per vessel
 See NMFS for size, season, and gear restrictions



Blue Crab
 (measured point to point)
 Peeler or Shedder — 3 inches
 Soft — 3½ inches
 Hard — 4½ inches
 Recreation Limit — One Bushel
 Crab pot/Trot line Seasons:
 Delaware Bay & tributaries
 Apr. 6 – Dec. 4
 All other waters
 Mar. 15 – Nov. 30

Register before fishing! It's free, easy, and required.
SaltwaterRegistry.nj.gov

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
 Division of Fish and Wildlife
www.njfishandwildlife.com



4/1/2020



2020 Award Changes - As announced on 15 April, **2020 VHFC Awards - Fish of the Month (FOM), Fish of the Year (FOY) & Melanie Boytos Award (MBA) Will Be Based Solely on Length!** This idea has been discussed in the past based on angler's not wanting to kill a fish to enter a contest coupled with fighting traffic to get to a weigh in station after a day of fishing. But with the striper limit now maxed at less than 38" and weigh-in stations' hours reduced due to COVID-19, this year was the ideal time to try out this method. The rules are simple:

1. Measure your fish using a yardstick, retractable metal tape, aluminum fish ruler or adhesive boat tape ruler. Do not use a cloth tailor's tape since they can stretch or shrink over time. **Leg tattoo scales are definitely chic but not legal for measuring your catch!**



2. Place your fish on top of the ruler. Measure from the tip of the closed mouth to the center of the tail for all species. No bunching the tail fin together or counting that little dangler on a seabass. **Yes this is different from the NJF&W striper measurement but it will be easier to take a picture of a flopping fish and easier to interpret the measurement if you measure to the middle of the tail!**

3. Take a picture using either your camera or Iphone making sure the entire fish is in the frame with the measuring device visible. We will enlarge the photo to read the measurement.

4. Email your photo to Weighmaster

Carmine Tocci at dianatocci@verizon.net with a backup copy to me at edvalitutto@gmail.com. Include your name, where caught and length assessment rounded down to the nearest ¼ inch. The date and time your email is received will be your entry's timetag.

5. The winning entry will be determined by Carmine. If multiple entries are too close for a decision, then the first entry received will be the winner. Therefore, take a clear photo and enter it ASAP!
6. Bluefish minimum entry length is 22".
7. Slot stripers entered must show the bonus tag attached.
8. Stripers 38" and greater can still be entered in our contests.
9. A new point table based on length for the MBA is on our website at <https://vhfishingclub.com/conteststournaments/vhfc-contest-rules/>

At the conclusion of the 2020 season, based on feedback from VHFC members, an evaluation will be made whether to keep awards based on length or return to awards based on weight. It is totally whichever method the majority of the membership wants!

Weight Calculation - If you catch a nice striper that you plan to release or if you catch a keeper and don't have a scale but are curious about the weight, the standard formula to estimate the weight for the striper's body shape is **length to the fork of the tail times girth squared divided by 800**. Therefore, a fat 30" fish that measured 20" in girth would weigh:

$$(30 \times 20 \times 20) / 800 = 15 \text{ lbs}$$

I own a Boga grip that is very accurate. In the next issue, I will provide a comparison of the Boga reading to the formula calculation. Oops hold on a minute - that would require me to actually catch a striper! Change that to "In a future issue".

2020 FOM - The largest fish by length caught during the time periods stated in the table below will be awarded a \$50 gift certificate to Fisherman's Headquarters (no expiration). There are 22 awards for 2020. Just a reminder, if no entry is made for a species for a specific period, the award will be added to the award when the species is again offered in 2020 as often as required. Note: bluefish must be at least 22" for award consideration.

There were no winners for Bluefish or Striped Bass for the 1 March - 30 April awards. There are 5 contests presently open with 2 more added later in May.

Month	Species	Name	Length	Date
1 MAR – 30 APR	Striped Bass	No Entry		
1 MAR – 30 APR	Bluefish	No Entry		
1 MAR – 30 NOV	Winter Flounder	In Process		
1 APR – 30 JUN	White Perch	In Process		
1 APR – 31 OCT	Weakfish	In Process		
1 - 31 MAY	Striped Bass	In Process		
1 - 31 MAY	Bluefish	In Process		
15 MAY - 22 JUN	Seabass			
22 MAY - 30 JUN	Fluke			

1 - 31 JUL	Seabass			
1 - 31 JUL	Fluke			
1 JUL - 30 SEP	Sheepshead			
1 - 31 AUG	Seabass			
1 - 31 AUG	Fluke			
1 - 19 SEP	Fluke			
1 - 31 OCT	Blackfish			
1 - 31 OCT	Striped Bass			
1 - 31 OCT	Bluefish			
8 OCT - 30 NOV	Seabass			
1 - 30 NOV	Blackfish			
1 - 30 NOV	Striped Bass			
1 - 30 NOV	Bluefish			

April Entries:

White Perch - Dave Spendiff	12.0"	4/17
Carminc Tocci	12.25	4/21
Caesar Pesarini	12.5"	4/24

For a complete list of all fish entered for 2020, go to the VHFC Web Site:

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

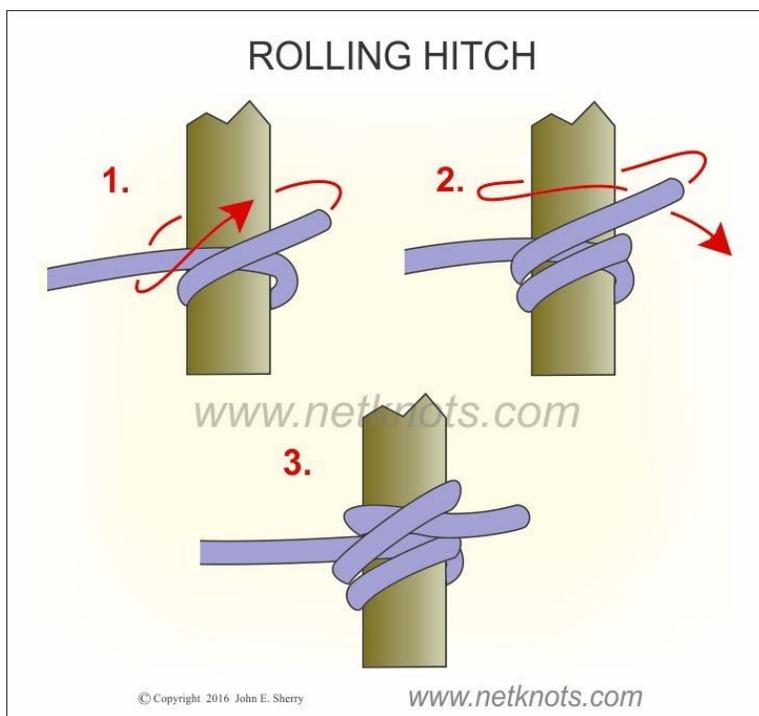
CLUB DUES - VHFC dues are required by our May meeting. Normally, most members pay in person at the April or May meetings. However, with the Community Center closed for April and May, everyone should mail in their dues. Please remit your check payable to VHFC for \$40 per adult / \$10 per junior member. Send it to

VHFC MEMBERSHIP
PO BOX 1026
MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050

Please include a completed membership form if possible with your check. The form was an attachment to the email with this Newsletter. Just a reminder: **Dues must be paid up to enter fish into any of our award contests!**

ROLLING HITCH - This appeared last year but I thought it worth repeating especially for any new members or new boat owners. I used it again this year to secure my 24' Sea Pro to my pilings. That nasty storm a few weeks ago (Barnegat Light recorded 81 mph winds) blew straight down my lagoon into the bow of my boat. Between the whips and 4 mooring lines, minimal movement occurred without any loosening of the lines. See the following instructions or GO TO https://www.netknots.com/rope_knots/rolling-hitch for an animated version.

How to tie the Rolling Hitch Knot. A very secure and easy to tie method of fastening a rope to a post. The knot 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.



Tying Instructions

1. Wrap the end of a line around an object. Repeat, crossing over the standing line a second time.
2. Wrap a third time around the object but wrap above the standing line so as to not cross over it.
3. Pass the free end under the last wrap and pull tight.
4. Repeat the top loop with any remaining line.

The following cartoon was originally from *The Far Side*. I took the liberty to update it.



After weeks of self quarantine, things weren't going so well at the Kent Household.

ROD & REEL RAFFLE - Our two yearly rod & reel raffles are usually held in June and September. The June raffle has been moved to July and let's hope we're back to having in-person meetings at the community center by then. Our raffle items are:

1. Shimano 7' Medium power / Fast action GLF spinning rod with a Penn Pursuit III 2500 reel
2. Tsunami 5 Star 6' 6" Medium heavy power spinning rod with a Penn Pursuit III 3000 reel

RECIPE - Bill Dabney suggested the following two recipes The first cooks fish whole and the second fries smaller fillets. Bill suggests a Sauvignon Blanc from Australia to go with them. My two cents are included in italics.

Baked / Grilled Whole Fish from Jay Mann 5/31/09 - Jay claims roughly 20 percent more meat results from a whole fish versus fillets. Also, fillets were not as moist or tasty, as whole-cooked fish. Cooking in the skin holds in moisture and eliminates the post filleting wash-off, which also removes essential oils, especially in thinner fillets. *Jay's recipe was for seabass but I have cooked white perch and kingfish whole. An Asian angler told me he bakes all his tog whole regardless of size.*

All you do to cook a fish whole is to gut and rinse it well - no need to scale or head - and bake on an oiled tray in a hot 450 oven or on an oiled grill. Foil is optional but don't wrap the entire fish otherwise it will steam.

The trick to cooking any fish is hot and fast. After ~15 minutes of baking (no need to turn), lift up the skin from the belly flap to check for doneness. Whiteness is doneness. Visually, the skin will look fairly rigid and dry as it nears cooking completion. Otherwise, continue cooking a few more minutes until it reaches an internal temperature of 145°F and flakes easily with a fork. To eat, peel back the skin and fork off the white meat. Try dipping in butter or black bean sauce. *I like to put a few slashes through the thicker parts and sprinkle with olive oil. After cooking, I add a little more oil, lemon and salt & pepper. This is the standard Mediterranean method with branzino or fresh sardines.*

Fried Bluefish from The Fisherman by Fred Golofaro - *Fred's recipe was for smaller bluefish but it is really the standard for frying any fish, thin chicken breast or even eggplant and green tomatoes. But for bluefish, you need to start with the following rules:*

1. *Bleed the fish immediately - also applies to stripers and tog - by inserting a thin knife through the gills and making a downward cut until you see blood flowing. Be careful not to poke yourself with the knife exiting the gills. Been there, done that!*
2. *Ice your catch - really applies to all fish - and makes a big difference.*
3. *Remove all dark meat - also applies to stripers - by making a cut along the length of the fillet down the lateral line. Then do an angled cut removing all red meat.*

Now for the recipe:

- Fish Fillets
 - Bowl with some milk
 - Flour - plain or with salt & pepper, parsley or paprika added
 - Beaten Eggs 1 or 2 as needed
 - Bread Crumbs - regular or flavored
 - Oil for frying
 - Lemon Juice & Tartar Sauce
1. Soak the fillets for two minutes in the milk. *I soak all my fillets in cold water with some kosher salt added to the bag. The water immediately clouds up due to any blood residue. Drain and pat dry with paper towels.*
 2. Dip in flour and shake off the excess. *Using a bag makes this & clean up easier.*
 3. Dip in beaten eggs and drain off excess.
 4. Press into the bread crumbs and let sit on a rack or plate for ~30 minutes to set. *I like half bread crumbs and half Panko. Sometimes I add in some cornmeal.*
 5. Heat a ¼" of oil in a heavy skillet to ~350°. An electric skillet makes this easy. *You can also stick the end of a wooden spoon into the oil. When hot, the water in the handle will immediately bubble. Or use a small bread cube.*
 6. Fry until nicely browned on both sides, drain on a paper towel and place on a tray in a warm 150° oven until ready to serve with lemon wedges and tartar sauce.

7. *I make my own tartar sauce using mayonnaise and sweet relish at approximately 2 to 1 ratio but I don't measure. Drain the relish or the sauce will be watery. I add several drops of Sriracha to get the sauce slightly pink. It won't be spicy but adds a nice touch. You will never buy jarred tartar sauce again!*

VHFC T Shirts - VHFC T Shirts are still available for purchase. 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. These are quality shirts to be worn proudly. White is shown below 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 Green, Sand, Pale Orange, Pale Yellow, Pale Teal, Aqua, Lime & Medium Blue

For a slightly loose fit, order your normal shirt size. For a tight fit, order one size smaller than your normal shirt size. Our supplier requires a minimum order of 12 shirts. Presently, we have requests for 6 shirts. Order yours and help us complete this order! Contact Dave Spendiff at dnspendiff@netscape.net for placing an order.

VHFC Hats -



Hats are also available for purchase. Hats are khaki colored, feature a high definition VHFC patch on the front, a velcro size adjustment and sell for \$20. These are quality hats at a fair price and advertise our club. Dave will personally deliver hats or shirts to your home (less than 100 mi radius). Okay, let's restrict it to local delivery only! Contact Dave at dnspendiff@netscape.net for placing an order.

BOATERS DON'T HAVE TO DIE by Jeff Orsoe - As I was finishing this article and reviewing it for any final revisions, I heard a report of a person who had died in the waters off the Jersey Coast and decided to make that the focus of my article.

The report said that a vessel had an engine failure and the owner had attempted to swim to shore. Later there was a second report of a Toms River man who was thrown from his boat. He was found by good Samaritans who pulled him out of the water and performed CPR. Unfortunately, the man was later pronounced dead. I believe these were the same incident with different reports. Either way, the victim did not survive.

Later in the day, I heard another report of three kayakers out in Raritan Bay who also ended up in the water. Last report said that two were located and safe. The Coast Guard and Police were still looking for the third person as of last evening.

All I could think was "My God, this is too early in the season for this to happen". We can speculate as to what may have happened, but the results are the same. Boaters should never end up in the water, especially this time of the year with the water still so cold.

From 2001 up until Superstorm Sandy, I rode with my town's local First Aid Squad. I saw many calls which more than likely did not have to happen. But the best part of that experience was the training I received. One session was "Boat Rescue Training". This was not a sit back classroom powerpoint presentation. This was hands on, in your face and IN THE WATER training. The time of the year was late October in the Raritan River. Water temperature was not warm to say the least and the days were not sunny. The equipment we were using was a 16-foot Boston Whaler, several jet skis and rescue sleds. The course required that all trainees take turns being victims in the water.

Now it was my turn to be the victim: the scene was set up for a water rescue in a river with current flow and the rescue was to be done with a Jet Ski and rescue sled. The instructor told me to get ready. I replied "Ready" and jumped in. What could go wrong. I had my PFD on and was wearing a wetsuit. I still was not ready for what happened in the next few seconds (seemed like a lifetime). In a split second I went from warm and fuzzy to having ice cold water running between my skin and the inside of the wetsuit. The SHOCK of the cold water took my breath away. The cold water had me sucking for air to fill my lungs. When you are in that situation, you may also be sucking down water into your lungs. When that happens, it is another form of drowning. Eventually the water layer did warm up to my body temperature and everything started working as intended. But remember this all happened under controlled conditions. And most importantly, I jumped in fully aware of what I was doing with a PFD and wetsuit on. Imagine if I had been thrown from a speeding boat and struck my head or suffered some other injury. The lessons I learned from that class will never be forgotten.

Now think for a moment what could happen if you found yourself in the water and you were not ready for it. Cold water, windy in the choppy bay or outside with 2, 3, or maybe 4-foot waves would not be uncommon. Depending on your physical condition, you could suffer a heart attack from the sudden shock of cold water or you could be easily exhausted and your judgement become impaired. Wearing a PFD may not look pretty in the boat or kayak but you should definitely wear one. It doesn't do any good lying in the cabinet below deck or at home!

We just can't emphasize Safety enough. We need to go through our checklist prior to venturing out especially offshore. For each trip, do a radio check, PFD check, engine operating check, EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) check and review your Float Plan. That is your plan should your vessel start taking on water or if you ended up in the water. Yes, it is an awful thought but you need to take a moment and think about it before you go out on the water. "Stuff Happens!" Maybe we can't completely control it, but we can control how we respond to those things. No one should have to die over things that can be prevented. Let's all be safe out there. We go out with 10 fingers and toes; let's come back with 10 fingers and toes.

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 / text 609 994 1311 and I will submit a report for you. There were five reports for the month of April.



Dave Spendiff decided to quell his cabin fever and headed to the end of William Cook Blvd South. Four anglers were there, including club member Caesar Pesarini all fishing with grass shrimp. Dave prefers lures (and hates buying bait) so he used a spinner. After an hour, he headed home with 7 great eating perch including the 11 1/2" first entry for FOM under the new length rules!



Just weeks after having a knee replacement, Caesar Pesarini called me to join him on 4/16 for some white perch fishing. Shrimp was unavailable but he had some blood worms. Fishing was not great but anglers using shrimp definitely outfished

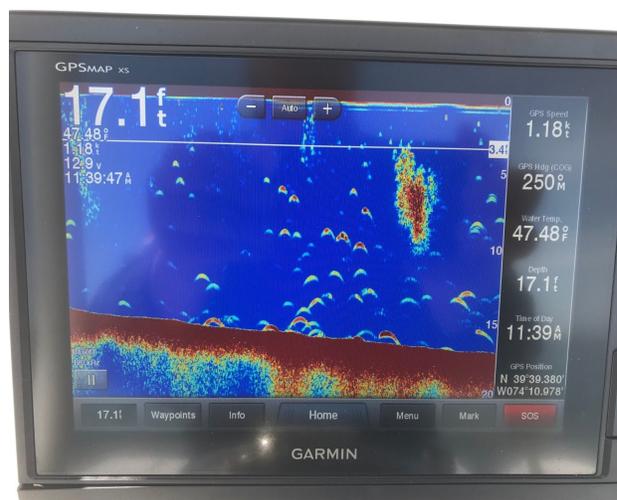
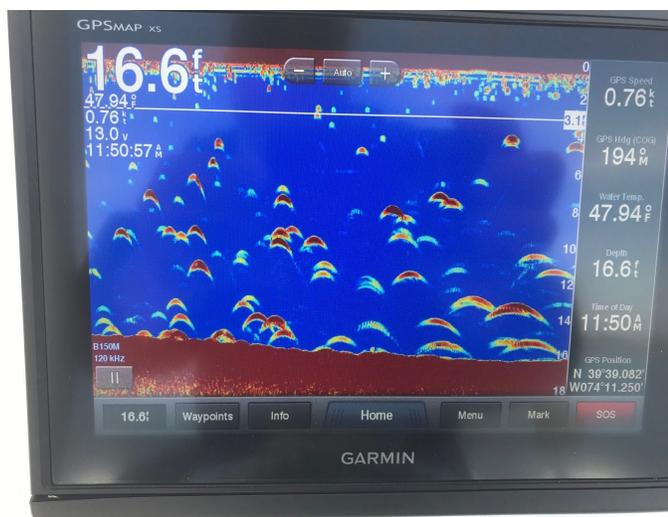
us. I had one keeper and Caesar reeled in the extra large 12.5" perch shown in the photo. Also interesting, the angler next to me caught a jumbo yellow perch. I told him what it was and assured him it was definitely 'good eating'.



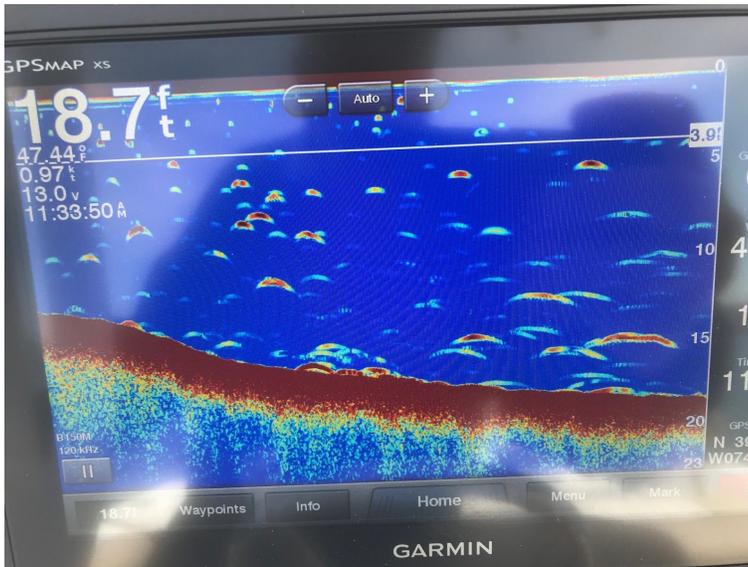
Marty Friedrich went out trolling in Great Bay and caught one striper. The fish was about 25 inches and was released. Note: This was not a FOM entry since there are no 2020 bonus tags yet available. Also, when enlarged, the ruler markings became visible.



Weighmaster Carmine Tocci went fishing off his backyard dock and caught 6 white perch. He was using a chrome spinner and the largest shown in the photo went 12 1/4". Nothing beats 'Stay at Home Fishing'!



Screenshots from my boat are explained on the next page



While out for a Saturday ride, I went by Hochstrasser's marina and under the 4th Causeway bridge span. The shots of my fish finder screen baffle me. I trolled and jigged a Storm Shad with not even a follow up.

Please offer any plausible explanation except of course "Ed doesn't know how to fish!"

I showed these to Andy Tonnesen at Tony's B&T. He said they were likely stripers but with the water temp so low, only blood worms would get

them to bite. Needless to say, Andy has plenty for sale!

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) : (Until NJG lifts the closure due to COVID-19, all sponsors and weigh in stations remain closed.)

The following sponsors / Weigh In Stations (shown in red) 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**