



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER June 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): 12 June

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,,

Wow! Three months ago we started Zoom online meetings and unfortunately, it has become the new norm not just for our club but for many organizations and schools everywhere. Hopefully, we are starting to move into the final throes of this situation. But for now, the Stafford Community Center remains closed while everyone battles the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, our June 12th general membership meeting will once again be held via Zoom. The Zoom meetings have worked out well with 25-30 members online. It's definitely not the same as attending in person, but for now it is the best and only alternative available. Details for the meeting appear later in the Newsletter.

On the fishing front, things are progressing into early summer happenings - officially summer starts in 13 days on June 20 - with bay waters teetering around 70°F and the ocean in the lower 60°F range. But that will change quickly once we get a prolonged spell of warmer weather.

Some personal observations: White perch have disappeared early this year in Mill Creek. Usually May and even June are good times for getting a tasty dinner close to home. Striper FOM entries and club reports are not being made. So either the fish aren't there or Pat Presutto's 36.5" entry has everyone gun shy! Blue fish are even scarcer or at least getting one over our club's 22" minimum hasn't happened yet. But the small eating size 1-2 lbs are showing up as folks fish for fluke. Speaking of fluke, the early season keepers seem to be there but the largest entry for our FOM is still under 20". I'm sure that will change in the very near future as more boats are launched and members spend more time on the water. Seabass are plentiful out on the reefs according to the party boat reports and members Bill Figley and Marty Friedrich.

Blueclaw crabs are supposedly becoming more active but I haven't had any luck yet in my lagoon. I personally haven't fished for Blowfish but I know a few catches are being made around the Causeway bridges and along the LBI side of Manahawkin Bay. Anyway, now is the time to take advantage of all this area has to offer. Go out and enjoy our beaches and waterways or hop on board one of the local party boats finally allowed to sail.

Stay safe and hopefully this will all be behind us - I know I used that line in a previous Newsletter but eventually it will be true!. Once again, I look forward to 'seeing' everyone at our next online Zoom meeting on Friday June 12th.

Ed

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 5 - Online Board Meeting via Zoom

June 12 - Online VHFC Club Meeting via Zoom. See details below.

Zoom Membership Meeting - Friday June 12 07:45 PM Eastern Time

Use this Link to Join the Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87203292281>

Meeting ID: 872 0329 2281

If Dialing by Phone: +1 646 558 8656

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

June SPEAKER - Jim Hutchinson Jr Jim is a former RFA Managing Director, a national political action organization dedicated to safeguarding the rights of saltwater anglers. Jim rejoined The Fisherman family in early 2015 as Managing Editor. He will discuss the long and grueling regulatory debate on striped bass and provide a quick look at where we're at now including circle hooks, rigging and chasing bunker. Jim will also provide an update on The Fisherman's Northeast Striped Bass Study using satellite tags in post-spawn stripers

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

Tom Fote reports that there will be a meeting soon to decide how to divide up the money allocated from the Covid19 rescue funds among the various fishing businesses in NJ. Hopefully some of our local bait and tackle, party and charter boats, and marinas will get a piece of the pie.

George Brown, Tom Fote, and John Toth of JCAA met with the leadership of the Forsythe Reserve to discuss access issues and a potential ban on lead fishing gear. They apparently are amenable to more angler access, including handicap access at Graveling Point.

JCAA is pushing for extended seasons on fluke and sea bass to make up for days lost due to the closures earlier in the season, but Tom Fote indicates that this will be tough to achieve.

The JCAA Fluke tournament is still scheduled for September, but so far no details have been communicated.

FYI some of the local police forces have been aggressive on ticketing fishermen trying to fish from closed shorelines. Report of at least one \$500 ticket up in Manasquan.

NEW JERSEY MARINE DIGEST - The 2020 edition of the Marine Digest is available on the Division's website. Print versions arrived in stores on or before May 12. In addition to regulations, there are these articles:

- Artificial Reef Program
- Horseshoe Crab: A Profile
- Offshore Wind

You can enjoy or download your own version at [NJ Marine Digest](#)

NEW JERSEY REGULATORY NJ DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE (Repeated last from last Newsletter) - 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](#)

Weight Calculation - As I promised in the last newsletter, *"I will provide a comparison of my Boga reading to the formula calculation for a bass I caught."* Well, that offer still holds until I actually catch a striper but in the meantime, here's some data from a recent Jingle's weigh in vs. the formula. 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.

$$\text{Weight} = \frac{\text{Length} \times \text{Girth} \times \text{Girth}}{800}$$

Jingle's numbers were 33" length & 17.25" girth. Therefore,

$$\frac{33 \times 17.25 \times 17.25}{800} = 12.27 \text{ lbs}$$

The actual weigh in was 12.2 lbs. It's only one data point, but certainly a very good estimate!

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.

Pat Presutto won the Striped Bass for the 1 - 31 May award. Since there was no bass entry for 1 March - 30 April, Pat will be awarded a \$100 certificate. Congratulations Pat! No one entered a bluefish (22" minimum) for bluefish. There are 6 contests presently open through June.

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	Pat Presutto		
1 - 31 MAY	Bluefish	No Entry		
15 MAY - 22 JUN	Seabass	In Process		
22 MAY - 30 JUN	Fluke	In Process		
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			

May Entries:

Striped Bass	Joe Filice	29	5/02
	Pat Presutto	36 ½"	5/12
Sea Bass	Bill Figley	17 0"	5/17
	Marty Friedrich	18 ½	5/17
Fluke	Alan Goracy	19 ¾"	5/26

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 were 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!**

Also, unpaid members as of 30 June will not receive the July newsletter or future publications until their dues are remitted. VHFC values all our members and sincerely hopes you will remit your dues.

ROD & REEL RAFFLE - Our two yearly rod & reel raffles are usually held in June and September. The June raffle has been rescheduled to November and the September raffle is rescheduled for 2021. The 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

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

dnspeidiff@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 dnspeidiff@netscape.net for placing an order.

BoatUS / Boater Safety by Jeff Orsoe - There is a lot going on this year. First it was Covid 19, which caused all kinds of issues in our daily lives with lock ins (also known as STAY at HOME). Besides all the things that we could not do, for the longest time we could not get our boats in the water when we really wanted to. Some folks are still scrambling to get in the water and as we are working toward that goal, we should be checking navigational lights to make sure they are working. How about our navigation equipment? Is it working as intended? Motor and all of the associated equipment? One last thing. **INSURANCE!** Do we have the policy coverage that we really need to have?

It's only June and we already have had 3 named storms in the 2020 Hurricane Season. Two in May and now Tropical Storm Crestobal is approaching the states on the Gulf Coast. We should really check to see if the policy has those little extras that may save us a few bucks. Depending on who you have for your coverage, I really believe that they are all pretty much the same. The only difference may be in how they handle payments and to what limits is the coverage. Do they cover a professional haul out? I am not talking about you or myself pulling the boat out. I am sure that they will not pay the cost of it. More than likely it is a percentage. I'm not going to go into details, but it may be a good idea to review it before another storm comes along.

As a public Service Notice for those looking for Safe Boating Class or a Vessel Safety Check, the members of the USCG Auxiliary are in an "Operational Stand Down". What this means is that they are not permitted to have any activities that would require face to face contact. We are all hoping to be able to get on with these services as much as you want us to perform them. Please have patience and hopefully the powers to be will come up with a way to allow them to happen. Until next time. Tight Lines!

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 May.



That's Joe Filice with a fine Striper caught on May 2nd off the Beach Haven surf during his first outing for 2020. Joe said this was the first striper he's had in close to 2 years on the beach. Hopefully it's a good omen for 2020!



That's Pat Presutto holding the FOM Striped Bass winner for May. Pat's fish was 36 1/2" and weighed 18 lbs 8 oz on his scale.



With the seabass season one day old, it was time for Bill Figely to visit the AC reef for some early season fishing. They had decent weather and some good catching topped off by this 17" beauty!



Marty Friedrich had a rough ride to LE Reef with an east wind blowing 10 to 15 kts to get his first legal fish. Everyone says the reefs are loaded but you can't prove it by me!



That's Alan Goracy with his grandson Chayton, my grandson Nick and yours truly as photographer. We fished High Bar and Nick had three keepers. Alan added a keeper after a few drifts in Double Creek.

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**