



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER AUGUST 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): 14 August

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,

Well in case you hadn't noticed, we are just about in the middle of the Summer of 2020. First we had to deal with COVID-19 which made life as we knew it completely changed. Indoor dining at your favorite restaurant, air travel, movies, theater, sports, kids' schooling, group meetings and even Sunday services have been curtailed or drastically altered. Even worse are the folks who unfortunately either themselves, family members or friends contracted COVID-19 and those whose employment was impacted by it.

Then there was Isaias! High winds and rain but the worst part was the loss of power. I'm sure there were very few VHFC members who were not affected. For me in BHW, we lost power from 11:45 AM to midnight - over 12 hours! That was difficult but some folks went without electricity for days. Along with the power, phone service, cable / Comcast and internet service were also down. Ice became a commodity in high demand as local stores were quickly

emptied. Just a reminder for next time, in the Manahawkin area on 1279 E Bay Ave just before Tony's Bait & Tackle, is Eddin Ice (609) 597-1114 with 24 / 7 vending machine service. But without power, their supply will also be depleted.

Okay so before we write off the Summer of 2020, Isaias is behind us and dare I say, COVID-19 is certainly a reduced threat from what it was back in March but still remains a formidable force. So now let's address the fishing which has been fantastic! Almost every species that swims in our bay and ocean near and far with perhaps the exception of bluefish, have been getting caught. There's still plenty of fishing time available for jumping in your boat or on a head boat, booking a charter or fishing the beaches of LBI. The weather is perfect and will continue to improve as we move into late summer - my favorite time at the shore. Go on out and enjoy the open air and experience all this area has to offer.

Once again, I look forward to 'seeing' everyone at our next online Zoom meeting on Friday August 10th.

Ed

ZOOM Membership Meeting - Friday August 14 07:45 PM Eastern Time

Use this Link to Join the Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83140770964>

Meeting ID: 831 4077 0964

Dial-in: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

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

AUGUST SPEAKER - John Kolas, speaking on "Tips for Successful Fluke Fishing".

John is a lifelong resident of New Jersey and has fished the Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook, NJ waters since owning his first boat in the early 70's. Early on, the primary targets were Fluke (Summer Flounder) and then later into the 80's Striped Bass. John learned many techniques fishing aboard both party and charter vessels during that time.

John gives seminars at trade shows and fishing clubs throughout the tri-state area on the techniques of bucktailing for Fluke as well as clamming, bunker chunking, live lining and trolling for Striped Bass. John really enjoys sharing his fishing knowledge with other anglers and having the opportunity to exchange ideas as well as our successes and failures. He has devoted countless hours attending seminars by some of the top captains in New Jersey keeping abreast of the current fishing trends. John is also on the internet often reading reports and posts of fishing trips throughout the NY and NJ fishing area keeping up with the current happenings.

NEW JERSEY REGULATORY & EXCERPTS from JCAA MEETING by Phil Simon

JCAA did not hold a general meeting in July. The first two items are repeated from last month's newsletter:

1. JCAA will be running what they are calling the "Heavy Hitter" fluke tournament the weekend of Aug 7 – 9. The format is that you pick one of the three days to fish (texting in the night before), and the winners will be based on the combined weights of 3 fish. Up to four anglers per boat, the entry fee is \$125 before Aug 1, \$150 after. First prize is \$5000, with 5 places paid out plus \$1000 for the single largest fluke. Various calcuttas are also planned but not yet announced. 1000 entry forms were sent out by mail, but if you did not get one the JCAA website will soon have everything posted on their website including entry forms so standby. <https://www.jcaa.org/>
2. Tickets for the High Roller Raffle, to be held August 13th, are available from the JCAA office: \$2 each, 3 for \$5, or a book of 7 for \$10. Mail a check to JCAA, 1594 Lakewood Road, Unit 13, Toms River, NJ 08755, or call the office at 732-506-6565 and leave a message with your name, address and phone number and they will mail you what you want. First prize is an \$850 fishing charter with Jersey Nutz, with six other prizes for various fishing items.
3. For those of you who are interested, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC, coastal waters from 0 to 3 nm) will be holding its next meeting via zoom Aug 3 -Aug 6. For the agenda and meeting materials, as well as registration, here's the link: <http://www.asmfc.org/home/2020-summer-meeting-webinar> If you dig down a bit through all the materials you might find some items of interest regarding striped bass management. On Aug 6 there will be a joint meeting of the ASMFC and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAMFC, coastal waters from 3 to 200 nm), which will include meetings of the bluefish, and summer flounder/scup/black sea bass management boards. Here's the link: <https://www.mafmc.org/briefing/august-6-2020> However the zoom link will be the one from the ASMFC. The MAMFC will be holding a separate meeting August 10 - 13 to conduct its own business; here's the link for that one: <https://www.mafmc.org/briefing/august-2020> So all in all if you are looking for a way to pass some free time listening in on all things fishery, you have a lot of choices.

Hopefully Tom Fote of JCAA will be issuing some summaries of what transpires, which I can relay to you next month.

4. Do you fish for Tilefish? There are new registration and reporting regs effective Aug 17. For more info:

<https://www.mafmc.org/newsfeed/2020/recreational-tilefish-permitting-reporting>

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. Note: bluefish must be at least 22" for award consideration.

Ryan Mollicone took the July Fluke FOM with a monster 27" fish and **Bobo Dodds** took the seabass award with a 19" beauty. Congratulations Ryan and Bob! There are 5 contests presently open through August. See the Table below for all 2020 FOM awards. I would also like to note that Nick Salamone also had a 19" seabass but his fish was caught and entered several days after Bob's catch. Still a nice catch! Per the rules stated in the May Newsletter, *"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!"*

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	Caesar Pesarini	12 1/2	4/16
1 APR – 31 OCT	Weakfish	In Process		
1 - 31 MAY	Striped Bass	Pat Presutto	36 1/2	5/20
1 - 31 MAY	Bluefish	No Entry		
15 MAY - 22 JUN	Seabass	Marty Friedrich	18 1/2	5/17
22 MAY - 30 JUN	Fluke	Marty Friedrich	23	6/21
1 - 31 JUL	Seabass			
1 - 31 JUL	Fluke	Ryan Mollicone	27	7/17
1 JUL - 30 SEP	Sheepshead			

1 - 31 AUG	Seabass	Bob Dodds	19	7/23
1 - 31 AUG	Fluke			
1 - 19 SEP	Fluke			
1 - 31 OCT	Blackfish			
1 - 31 OCT	Striped Bass			
1 - 31 OCT¹⁶	Bluefish			
8 OCT - 30 NOV	Seabass			
1 - 30 NOV	Blackfish			
1 - 30 NOV	Striped Bass			
1 - 30 NOV	Bluefish			

July Entries:

Sea Bass	Bob Dodds	19	7/23
	Bill Figley	16 1/2	7/25
	Nick Salamone	19	7/27
Fluke	Cherie Hebert	22 1/2	7/07
	Ryan Mollicone	27	7/17
	Marty Friedrich	23	7/19
	Robert Rode	22 3/4	7/31
Weakfish	John Spano	14	7/16
	Cherie Hebert	19	7/03

Email your FOM entries to Carmine at dianatocci@verizon.net and copy me please.

2020 Marine Recreational Fishing Regulation Cards Available Online - I know it's late into the 2020 season but if you would like a fishing regulation card, go to <http://njseagrant.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/FishCard2020.pdf> and print a copy.

1 of 2

2020 NJ Recreational Minimum Size, Possession Limits & Seasons

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	MINIMUM LENGTH	POSSESSION LIMIT (per person unless noted)
American Eel	No Closed Season	9"	25
Black Drum	No Closed Season	16"	3
Black Sea Bass	May 15-Jun. 22	12.5" exc. tail filaments	10
	Jul. 1-Aug. 31	12.5" exc. tail filaments	2
	Oct. 8-Oct. 31	12.5" exc. tail filaments	10
	Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	13" exc. tail filaments	15
Blue Crab - Peeler or Shedder	Crab Pot/Trot line Seasons:	3"	Recreational limit - One Bushel
Soft	Delaware Bay & Tributaries: Apr. 6 - Dec. 4	3.5"	
Hard	All Other Waters: Mar. 15 - Nov. 30	4.5"	
Bluefish (Snapper)	Jan. 1-Dec. 31	No minimum	3
Private/Shore Angler	No minimum	No minimum	5
For Hire Vessel	No minimum	No minimum	1 per person- No more than 3 per vessel
Cobia	Jun. 1 - Sept. 30	40"	No Limit
Cod	No Closed Season	21"	No Limit
Pollock	No Closed Season	19"	No Limit
Porgy (Scup)	No Closed Season	9"	50

For more information on what catch is safe to eat, visit: FishSmartEatSmartNJ.org

Fish are measured from tip of snout to tip of tail (except Black Sea Bass and Sharks). No species of fish with a minimum size limit listed above may be filleted or cleaned at sea.

Remember to register before fishing. IT'S FREE! SaltwaterRegistry.nj.gov

FishCard2020.pdf
[Open file](#)


1 of 2


SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	MINIMUM LENGTH	POSSESSION LIMIT (per person unless noted)
Red Drum	No Closed Season	18" to less than 27"	1
River Herring	Closed	NA	0
Shark - not including dogfish	See current Marine Digest or njfishandwildlife.com for regulatory requirements.		
Spanish Mackerel	No Closed Season	14"	10
Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass			
• Delaware River & Tributaries (Calhoun St. Bridge to Salem River & Tributaries)	Mar. 1-31 & Jun. 1-Dec. 31	28" to less than 38"	1
• Atlantic Ocean 0-3 miles from shore	No Closed Season		
• All other marine waters	Mar. 1-Dec. 31		
• Greater than 3 miles from shore	Harvest and Possession Prohibited	Harvest and Possession Prohibited	0
Summer Flounder (Fluke)			
• All waters except those noted below:	May 22-Sept. 19	18"	3
• Delaware Bay & Tributaries	May 22-Sept. 19	17"	3
• Island Beach State Park	May 22-Sept. 19	16"	2
Tautog (Blackfish)	Jan. 1-Feb. 28	15"	4
	Apr. 1-Apr. 30	15"	4
	Aug. 1-Nov. 15	15"	1
	Nov. 16-Dec. 31	15"	5
Weakfish	No Closed Season	13"	1
Winter Flounder	Mar. 1-Dec. 31	12"	2


To report violations call 609-748-2050 or 877-WARN-DEP


NJFishandWildlife.com NJSeaGrant.org

This card is provided free of charge by the following agencies:

 New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife

 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

 Sea Grant
NJ Sea Grant Consortium

 NOAA

FishCard2020.pdf
[Open file](#)

RECIPE by Ed Valitutto - Flounder / Chicken Francaise - This is another family favorite that can be made with either fillets of fish or chicken. Since my wife does not like fish, I often start with a few chicken fillets before I cook the fish. The important part is that the fillets are thin. I usually use the belly side of the fluke although the dark side of the 18" monsters I catch is okay.

Ingredients

2 beaten eggs
1 TBS Olive oil
1 TBS Butter
½ Cup Flour
½ TSP Salt
½ TSP Onion powder
½ TSP Garlic powder
½ TSP Paprika
¼ TSP Black pepper
4 -6 (1 1/2 to 2 lbs) Flounder fillets

SAUCE

4 TBS Butter
¼ Cup White wine
¼ Cup Water
¼ Cup Lemon juice
Capers - optional
Garnish with lemon slices and parsley - optional

In a large skillet, heat the oil and 1 tablespoons of butter over medium heat.

Place the flour and all the seasonings in a plastic bag and shake to blend.

Place the beaten eggs in a shallow dish.

When the skillet is good and hot, put the flounder fillets in the bag one or two at a time and then dip in the egg. Coat them completely with the egg and place in the skillet. The egg should sizzle immediately. If it doesn't, the oil isn't hot enough.

Save 1 tablespoon of the flour mixture for the sauce.

Saute over medium heat until brown on both sides, about 3 to 4 minutes per side. Add extra butter and oil if needed. Remove from the skillet and keep warm in a 175 oven. Continue until fish has been cooked.

Sauce - Discard any oil left in the skillet and add the 4 TBS butter and the 1 TBS of the reserved seasoned flour. If adding capers, do it now. Whisk until smooth. Add the rest of

the sauce ingredients, stirring constantly until well blended. Bring to boil and cook for 5 minutes, stirring frequently. If the sauce thickens too much, add water- just 1 tsp at a time until you achieve the desired consistency.

To serve, place the flounder over a bed of buttered rice or pasta and pour a little sauce over each fillet. Garnish with lemon slices and parsley. I often double the sauce since the rice or pasta will quickly absorb it. Enjoy!



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 11 reports for the month of July.



Weighmaster Carmine Tocci proudly displays a couple of nice bluefish from the inlet rocks. Unfortunately, they were shy of our 22” minimum for bluefish entry but still fun to catch and eat.

That’s Bob Dodds, son-in-law, Eric and granddaughter, Hannah on a “skinny water” charter with Capt. Brett Taylor. They caught fluke with 7 keepers!





John Spano caught this beautiful Weakfish while fluking off Beach Haven.



Bob Dodds and friend Bob Long went on a “skinny water” fluke trip with Capt. Brett Taylor. They ended up catching over 50 fluke which included 8 keepers from 19 – 22”.



Larry Leary's son Brian took the boys out The Jen-Jen and kept 6 nice fish off the tires section of Barnegat Reef.

Ryan Mollicone on the left had the doormat measuring 26 1/4" and weighing 7 1/2 lbs that easily took FOM honors for July



What a picture! The Jen-Jen team limited out with 18 keeper fluke to 24" and according to Larry without exaggeration probably caught 60 shorts. In addition, one nice keeper sea bass went into the box.



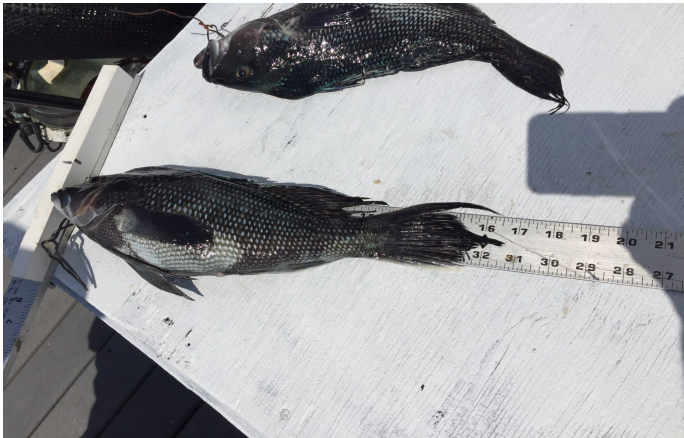
Bob Dodds went on a ling charter on the Kev n' Ash with captain Greg Carr. The ling were certainly biting! Keeping just the bigger ones, 63 went into the box! They also limited out on sea bass which included a beautiful 19" for Bob that was the July FOM. In addition, 3 legal fluke from 19 – 21" joined the party.



The Jen-Jen crew has had an incredible several days of fluke fishing. Members Brendan, Carter, Tyler, Larry and friend Jimbo had non stop shorts with 15 keepers to 25". They also caught 4 nice sea bass as well.



You would be smiling too if you were holding a 30 lb Bluefin! Larry Leary and son Brian, along with grandsons Sean, Tyler and Carter left the dock at 3AM headed for Barnegat Ridge and eventually further out. Besides the tuna shown, they later released a short one. Long beautiful day with family and a calm ocean.



Bill Figley went to the AC Reef and caught these nice sea bass. The larger one went 16 5/8".



The Leary crew were at it again! This time grand daughter Addy joined Carter, Tyler and Ryan Mollicone. Carter had a 24" and Addy had a 19" & a 21". Together they kept 11 keepers with an additional 3 nice sea bass. Made it back by 1:00 just before the heavy rain and lightning!

VHFC T Shirts - The outstanding order for VHFC T Shirts has been placed, received and delivered by Dave Spendiff. We ordered three extra shirts that are available for purchase at \$31 each. They are: **White, XL - 1 and Aqua, L -1, XL - 2.** You can still order from the full range of colors and sizes below but we need 12 minimum to place an order.

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. 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. Contact Dave at dnspeidiff@netscape.net for placing an order.

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**