



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER December 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 (Venue TBD): 9 April, 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,

Well, this is the last Newsletter for 2020 and what a year it has been! While the Zoom meetings were a reasonable means for holding our club meetings, I look forward to the return of our in person gatherings at the Community Center. Let's hope this happens early into 2021.

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank Carmine Tocci for the outstanding job he's done as our weighmaster over the last several years. Carmine and his wife Diana have decided to forsake New Jersey's taxes, politicians and high cost of living and head south. Their primary relocation spot is Little River, SC which is just below the border of the Carolinas. Warmer weather, lower taxes and really great fishing - hmm that does sound appealing! You will both be missed and we all wish you best of luck in your new great adventure!

On a personal note, my wife, Pat and I leave for Cape Coral, FL on 1 January and return on 15 March. I will be available via email, phone or text so feel free to contact me at any time to discuss any issues or share your suggestions for improving our club..

Finally - Have a safe and happy Holiday and New Year!

Ed

NEW JERSEY REGULATORY & JCAA NEWS by Phil Simon - This is the final report for 2020 with not a lot going on. However, we may be getting some relief with the summer flounder fishery, as the proposed overall coastwise quotas for 2021 are now equal between the commercial and recreational sectors – a first ever. Since the 80's it's been 60/40. We will have to see if this holds up and how it will be translated into the NJ quota and into our bag limit and season. Should have this info and lots more when we return in April.

The email containing this Newsletter also had an urgent plea from Paul Haertel for a donation to JCAA. Please support the request if possible. Even \$5 or \$10 would be greatly appreciated.



I saw this at my daughter's home this weekend. My grandson Nick Rossi's idea for a Christmas tree.

2020 Fishing Review by Ed Valitutto - Overall, 2020 was a very good fishing year - at least in my opinion - and it's not over yet. Despite all the conjecture and discussion about fluke, we ended up with the same size and quantity limits as last year and the fluke were there for the taking. As just reported by Phil Simon, 2021 recreational anglers may get a quota increase that could result in a longer season among other options. Two of my neighbors caught many large fluke well into October by throwing small spot and peanut bunker along the inside of the north jetty while targeting bass. Something to remember for next year!

Tog and seabass were large and abundant and are still available for fishing until year's end. Crabs, white perch and blowfish were plentiful throughout our area and kingfish were there too. VHFC's Gene Geld entered a 1.18 lb beauty into the LBI Surf tournament! From what I've read, 2020 had to be a banner year for inshore tuna with lots of great catches reported.

Like it or not, restricted striper regulations went into effect this year with fish over 38 inches being returned to swim and hopefully spawn another day. While my catches were limited to one bonus tagged fish, a few 'unders' and photographing Dave Spendiff's 'over' in my boat, 2020 had decent striper fishing - and it's still happening if and when this weather lets up! From the surf, the latest LBI Surf Fishing tournament total is 25 stripers with the tournament running until 13 December. Far from a record year, that's already better than 2019's 13 striper total and fast approaching 2018's 37 fish total. And remember, 2020's total does include the over 38" fish that had to be returned. Our new weighmaster and surf rat Pat Presutto entered a fish that went just over 8 lbs but Pat also caught a beauty that went 39 1/2". However, before releasing his fish, a photo was taken and entered into our November FOM.

Bluefish unfortunately were the spoiler again this year. After being treated to several surprise years of gators appearing springtime in the bay, the blues have disappeared. For the second year in a row, there were no bluefish entries into our FOM. So far, the LBI Surf tournament also does not have a bluefish entry just like 2019 and 2018. That's some serious money for the taking! 2017 was the last year with 11 bluefish entered. There are plenty of smaller fish in our area but none big enough to be entered. VHFC's Carmine Tocci caught dozens of smaller blues off the BI south jetty but not one met our 22" minimum for FOM entry!

Hopefully, everyone reading this had some fun catching fish this year. What makes our area special is the diversity of opportunity for folke to enjoy. From tuna fishing, inshore ocean action, surf fishing, protected bay action or like Donna Harris has repeatedly displayed, catching some great eating white perch from your dock, we all have lots of opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors.



No, this was not a personal photo from one of our members! Thanks to Caesar Pesarini for the photo!

2020 FOM - We have now completed our 2020 FOM contests. There were 22 possible \$50 FHQ awards for this year.

Tyler Leary took the November Blackfish FOM with a nice 18 ¼" fish and **Pat Presutto** won the Striper FOM with a 39 ½" fish that was photographed and returned. Pat's award was \$100 since there wasn't a striper entry for October. **Marty Friedrich** won the seabass FOM that ran from 6 Oct thru 30 Nov with a 18" fish caught on 10/9 and **Tom Siciliano** won the winter flounder FOM that ran from 1 Mar thru 30 Nov with a 13 ½" fish caught on 9/24. There were no bluefish entries for the entire 2020 season.

See the Table below for all 2020 FOM awards.

Month	Species	Name	Length	Date
1 MAR – 30 APR	Striped Bass	No Entry / Rolled Forward		
1 MAR – 30 APR	Bluefish	No Entry / Rolled Forward		
1 MAR – 30 NOV	Winter Flounder	Tom Siciliano	13 1/2	9/24
1 APR – 30 JUN	White Perch	Caesar Pesarini	12 1/2	4/16
1 APR – 31 OCT	Weakfish	Cherie Hebert	19	7/03
1 - 31 MAY	Striped Bass	Pat Presutto	36 1/2	5/20
1 - 31 MAY	Bluefish	No Entry / Rolled Forward		
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	Bob Dodds	19	7/23
1 - 31 JUL	Fluke	Ryan Mollicone	27	7/17
1 JUL - 30 SEP	Sheepshead	No Entry - Closed		
1 - 31 AUG	Seabass	Brian Leary	16 1/2	8/22
1 - 31 AUG	Fluke	Bob Dodds	25	8/15
1 - 19 SEP	Fluke	Larry Leary	22 3/4	9/17
1 - 31 OCT	Blackfish	Larry Leary	18	10/18
1 - 31 OCT	Striped Bass	No Entry / Rolled Forward		
1 - 31 OCT	Bluefish	No Entry / Rolled Forward		
8 OCT - 30 NOV	Seabass	Marty Friedrich	18	10/9
1 - 30 NOV	Blackfish	Tyler Leary	18 1/4	11/6
1 - 30 NOV	Striped Bass	Pat Presutto	39 1/2	11/13
1 - 30 NOV	Bluefish	No Entry - Closed		

November Entries:

Seabass	Rob Rode	16 3/4	11/5	
Blackfish	Tyler Leary	18 1/4	11/5	FOM Winner
Striped Bass	Bill Figley	35 /12	11/7	
Striped Bass	Larry Leary	38	11/9	
Striped Bass	Pat Presutto	39 1/2	11/13	FOM Winner
Striped Bass	Len Casin	35	11/21	

Once again I would like to thank Carmine Tocci for his fine job as our Weighmaster for the last several years and wish him and Diana all the best on their new adventure down south!.

TUNA TRIP FROM HELL BY BASIL DUBROSKY - A few years back, several of my friends arranged a tuna trip out of Barnegat Light. I told them all to come down to my place in Manahawkin and stay overnight before our trip. The 6 of us had a great night of cards and drinking. Unfortunately a storm was passing through and it rained and blew all night long.

In the morning we headed out to Barnegat Light in the wind and drizzle and arrived at the boat in the dark. The captain was not there at the appointed time. I guess he thought it was too sloppy to fish. The guy who set up the trip called him. While we waited for the captain we headed over to the diner for pork roll, egg and cheese sandwiches.

When we got back to the dock the captain and his son were getting the 40 foot boat ready. The captain tried to talk us into an inshore blue fishing trip that would be less expensive but the inexperienced guy (let's call him Wacky Wacky) who had made the reservation talked us into going for tuna.

The seas were rough, very rough. We no sooner cleared the inlet that Wacky Wacky along with another guy got sea sick and went below. Another guy went down shortly after.

When we began trolling the captain shouted orders abusively to his son, the mate. It was no fun listening to the captain's constant ranting at the mate and we all felt sorry for him. We started to catch some false albacore and bonito. As we waited for the next hit the waves

towered above the stern of the 40 foot wooden boat. Another one of our crew went down below and then the mate got sick.

My friend Nick and I continued to fish and mate for ourselves until it was time to go home with no tuna. We turned for home and got beat up all the way in. When we cleared the inlet Wacky Wacky came up from below. The wind blew his brand new designer hat into the water. He proclaimed that we should all chip in to give the mate an extra tip because he worked so hard. Nick and I looked at one another in disgust. Wacky Wacky was down below when Nick and I were mating for ourselves, what did he know.

Such is the chance you take when you reserve a tuna trip in advance and have Wacky Wacky as the group leader.

RECIPE by Ed Valitutto - This month's Spinach Balls recipe is a family favorite appetizer that has no seafood in it. We posted it in my daughter's kindergarten cookbook 30+ years ago and 15 years later she won first prize when submitted at Mary Washington College. It's easy to prepare and is just perfect for the holidays.

Spinach Balls - Ingredients:

- 2 Packages chopped spinach defrosted and squeezed dry
- 1 package of stuffing mix prepared per directions. Any flavor but we prefer cornbread.
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup parmesan cheese
- 4 TBSP butter - that's half a stick

Combine all ingredients then chill for 30 minutes. Roll into small balls (walnut sized) and bake at 400 degrees for 15 minutes or until lightly browned. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Can be made ahead and frozen. Bake frozen balls 2 - 3 minutes longer. 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 4 reports submitted for November.



That's Larry Leary and The Jen - Jen crew showing the results of a good day on the water. Per Larry, "It was a slow pick but we were able to land 6 Bass and kept 3. One @38" we entered for FOM, one @ 29" and one @26" using a bonus tag."



Dave Spendiff is holding an 'over 38' caught while trolling a Stretch Mann's plug aboard my boat. Dave opted for a quick release after the photo so we never took an accurate measurement except to see that she was definitely an 'over 38'.



During that same trip, my grandson Nick caught an 'under 24' on a black tube umbrella rig. You can thank me for the photo partially cutting off Nick's head and the fish!



Our final November entry was from our new weighmaster Pat Presutto. Pat's persistence fishing both in the morning catching dogfish and returning in the evening was rewarded with this fine 28 ½ " beauty.

Just in Time for the Holidays - Consider a VHFC T Shirt or hat as a stocking stuffer for someone on your list for the holidays. We have 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 will need 12 minimum to place a new 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. 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. Contact Dave at dnspendiff@netscape.net for placing an order.

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

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>

SPONSORS / : 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 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 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 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 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 - 10% discount with VHFC card
387 Route 9, West Creek, NJ 08092 **609-857-3516**