



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER July 2021

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: 9 July

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,

Happy Independence day to everyone!

Well summer has definitely arrived with 90 degree temps - at least up until this holiday weekend, strong southerly winds and pop up thunderstorms most any afternoon. Schools are out and that means the summer influx of friends, relatives and tourists will be visiting our area to enjoy the water and everything the Jersey shore has to offer. That also means traffic congestion both on the roads and the waterways, long lines at the food and liquor stores, crowded restaurants and difficult parking beachside. We all know the drill - shop during the off hours and try to avoid the prime time weekend rush if possible.

Summer also means boating, fishing and crabbing are in their prime. If I may paraphrase a recent FHQ report, *"Right now at the beginning of summer, local waters have the largest*

variety of species than any other time of the year. Barnegat Bay continues to have solid fluke fishing and recently ocean fluking has picked up. There's kingfish and fluke on the surf with surfcasters occasionally catching striped bass and bluefish. Large stingrays and sharks were also caught and released by surf anglers fishing meaty baits. The summertime species are also showing: sheepshead, triggerfish, mahi, spanish mackerel, king mackerel and cobia among others." So gather your gear, bug spray, sun protection and plenty of water and get out and enjoy yourself with family and friends!

Our next meeting will be at the Community Center on Friday July 9th. Please come out and say hello to your fellow club members. Our speaker is our own Phil Simon discussing *Past, Present and Future of Fluke Fishing in NJ*. We will also discuss any last minute items for our fluke tournament scheduled for Saturday July 10th as well as lots of club news.

Finally, I mentioned in my last message that this has been a banner year for both used and new boat sales resulting in first time boat owners joining the fleet of summer boaters. Be careful and remember that not everyone hydrates with water!

Ed

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 09 - VHFC Club Meeting

July 10 - VHFC Fluke Tournament

JULY SPEAKER - Phil Simon - Returning for a second time after last year's "Striper Wars II" presentation, fellow club member Phil Simon will update the membership on the biology and regulatory controversies surrounding our summer flounder fishery. Phil had a long career in biological research and has used much of that experience to keep an eye on the various regulatory agencies that manage the species of interest to NJ recreational fishermen. He will share what he has learned regarding why summer flounder stocks are declining (or are they?) and will present a few facts not normally heard from the experts.

NEW JERSEY FISHING REGULATIONS by Phil Simon - JCAA continues to promote their two fluke tournaments for 2021: the "Heavy Hitters", and the long running Annual Fluke Tournament. The first runs from August 5 to 8: you pick one day out of the 4 to fish. There are multiple cash prizes including calcuttas. The second tournament is a one-day rain or shine tournament scheduled for September 4th, with the awards ceremony held on September 10th at the Resorts Hotel/Casino. This tournament includes a \$50,000 prize for the largest fish over

12 pounds. For entry forms and more information visit the JCAA website at www.jcaa.org, or the JCAA facebook page.

The Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC, federal waters) and the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission (ASMFC, state waters) have approved a joint Bluefish Rebuilding Program, which is required after the stock was declared overfished and with overfishing. It's a seven-year rebuilding program, along with a small re-allocation of some of the stock from the commercial sector to the recreational. More details in later newsletters, as details emerge concerning specifications for the 2022-2023 fishing years.

I have been appointed to 3-year terms to two MFMC Advisory Panels: the Bluefish panel, and the Ecosystem and Ocean Planning panel. Hopefully, this will allow me to have some impact beyond sending in my opinions after the Commission has already decided what it is going to do. I'll do my best to keep the club informed on what's being addressed by these two panels. Stay tuned.

2021 JUNE FOM ENTRIES - There were eight entries for June as shown below:

| | | | |
|---------|--------------|--------------|---------|
| 6/01/21 | Bluefish | Cheri Hebert | 24-1/4" |
| 6/03/21 | Kingfish | Joe Filice | 14-1/4" |
| 6/12/21 | Striped Bass | Joe Filice | 26-3/4" |
| 6/17/21 | Fluke | Joe Filice | 20" |
| 6/21/21 | Kingfish | Cheri Hebert | 14-1/2" |
| 6/26/21 | Weakfish | Ron Roshelli | 15-1/4" |
| 6/26/21 | Fluke | Cheri Hebert | 19-1/2" |
| 6/27/21 | Fluke | Cheri Hebert | 22" |



That's Ron Roshelli's Weakfish entry caught in the Middle Grounds near Beach Haven on 26 June. Let's hope a few more of these pretty fish show up in our area.

2021 FISH of the MONTH (FOM) - Congratulations to our first four FOM winners for 2021. They are:

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 March - 30 June | Striped Bass | Pat Presutto | 11 May | 35 1/4" |
| 1 March - 30 June | Bluefish | Cheri Hebert | 1 June | 24 1/4" |
| 15 May - 22 June | Sea Bass | Nathan Figley | 18 May | 18" |
| 15 May - 30 June | Fluke | Bob Dodds | 27 May | 22 3/4" |

This is the full list of the 17 FOM Awards for 2021. Currently, with the addition of fluke and seabass for July, 6 awards are now open as shown in Bold.

2021 FOM Categories (17 Awards)

| Time Period | Species | Angler |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 March - 30 June | Striped Bass | Pat Presutto won 35 1/4" |
| 1 March - 30 June | Bluefish | Cheri Hebert won 24 1/4" |
| 1 April - 31 October | Weakfish | Ron Roshelli leads 15 1/4" |
| 1 April - 31 October | White Perch | Dave Spendiff leads 14 1/4" |
| 1 May - 31 October | Blowfish | No Entry to date |
| 1 May - 31 October | Kingfish | Cheri Hebert leads 14 1/2" |
| 15 May - 22 June | Seabass | Nathan Figley won 18" |
| 22 May - 30 June | Fluke | Bob Dodds won 22 3/4" |
| 1 -31 July | Fluke | No Entry to date |
| 1 -31 July | Seabass | No Entry to date |
| 1 -31 August | Fluke & Seabass | |
| 1 - 19 September | Fluke | |
| 1 October - 30 November | Blackfish, Bluefish & Striped Bass | |
| 8 October - 30 November | Seabass | |

For contest entry, **take a photo of your catch with a ruler visible from the nose to the end of the tail for all species entered.** Send your picture to our Weighmaster Pat Presutto at pat1016pat@aol.com with a copy to me at edvalitutto@gmail.com for backup.

All fish must be caught off land / surf in Ocean County NJ or from a boat departing and returning to Ocean County NJ. **Fish caught on Brielle party boats do not qualify for entry.**

Bluefish must be 20" minimum for entry. Bonus tag bass can be entered for awards but the photo must show the tag. Bass over 38" can be entered but please take your photo and

release it quickly. If no entry is made for a species for a specific award period, the award will be added to the next period that species is offered.

BATTLE ON THE BEACH - Due to the threat of late afternoon thunderstorms, Friday's June 6th event was rescheduled for Tuesday June 8th. However, thunderstorms made that date untenable. Unfortunately for the contestants, their high school teachers thought silly things like final exams, graduation and proms were more important than a fishing competition and the event was cancelled for 2021. Oh well, let's wait and see what next year brings!

VHFC 2021 FLUKE TOURNAMENT - The fifth annual VHFC Fluke Tournament will be held next Saturday July 10th with a rain date on Sunday the 11th. Any schedule change due to weather will be decided at Friday's club meeting. So far, there are 24 anglers resulting in a total prize payout of \$480 allocated to First - \$240, Second - \$144 and Third - \$96. The list of participants is as follows:

Ed Valitutto
Nick Rossi
Dave Spendiff
Caesar Pesarini
Donna Harris
Bill Dabney
Larry Leary +4
Marty +1
Joe Filice
Cheri Hebert
Bill Figley +3
Dave Glassberg
Tom Siciliano +1
Pat Presutto
Phil Simon

Following the tournament, the club will sponsor a BBQ from 3:00 to 7:00 PM held at the Beach Haven West Pavilion located on Mill Creek Rd. The VHFC will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, sides, soda and water. Please feel free to bring your favorite side dish to share.

All fish must be weighed in at the pavilion from 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Only one entry permitted per person.

MELANIE BOYTOS AWARD WINNER - That's Bill Figley accepting the Melanie Boytos award for the 2019 fishing season from Dave Spendiff. This is the third time Bill has won and his name will be engraved on the plaque for display at our meetings and other events. The award requires completing the Grand Slam by entering at least one of each species - Fluke, Weakfish, Striped Bass and Bluefish - over the course of the year to be eligible to win. Due to the Weakfish population decline, VHFC amended the rules to include a fifth species - Black Sea Bass in the mix. Therefore, the award is based on point totals of 4 of the 5 qualifying fish with the original four getting preferential consideration.



COBIA ADVENTURE - VHFC members Bill Figley, Nathan Figley, Joe Mayo & Ron Roshelli trailered Bill's *Red Herring* down to the Chesapeake Bay bridge tunnel area for cobia in mid June when the fish migrate inshore. Cobia are powerful fish that can weigh 100+ lbs. Bill said the fishing was good and the guys landed 6 fish in some sporty seas. See the proud anglers in the photos on the next page.



TROLLING MOTOR INSTALLATION BY ED VALITUTTO PART II - As promised in last month's Newsletter, here are the pictures of the battery installation in the forward center hold of my SEA PRO 239.. The left photo shows the work in progress and the right photo is the completed installation of the battery box and foam looking down into the hold.



Total Cost:: Parts - 72" Terrova by Minn-Kota, 3 batteries, cable, foam, battery box, charger, breaker and rotary switch - \$4,600, Installation \$1,400 and tax made it \$6,400. Of course, if my wife ever asks, it was about a thousand! Give Matt a call at 609 573 1918 or check out his website at [Beachview Marine Service's](#) He's licensed, insured and has done several motor installations.

RECIPE BY BILL DABNEY - Mussels with Pastis (French Anise Flavored Liquor)

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1/3 cup dry white wine | 6 finely diced garlic cloves divided |
| 4 bay leaves | 4 finely diced shallots |
| 2 TBS unsalted butter | 4 peeled & diced tomatoes |
| 1/4 cup heavy cream | 1/2 cup pastis or Pernod, Ouzo or Sambuca |
| Ground black pepper to taste | 3 TBS chopped parsley |
| Buttered & toasted baguette slices | |

Cook the mussels, wine, half the garlic & shallots and bay leaves until the mussels open about 5 minutes. Remove the mussels and simmer the broth until reduced by 1/3. Strain & set aside.

Melt the butter and cook shallots for 1 minute. Add tomatoes & garlic and cook for a minute or two to dry out the tomatoes. Add the reserved broth and simmer for 3-4 minutes. Add the

mussels and then the pastis. Cook on high for 2 minutes until the alcohol is cooked out. Stir in the cream & black pepper and cook until combined and heated through. Off the heat, add the parsley. Serve with the toasted bread slices and a nice chilled white wine. 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 609 994 1311 and I will submit a report for you. There were 4 reports submitted in June and all were by yours truly. I know many more of our anglers are out fishing so please provide a report for other members to enjoy.



In the left photo, I'm holding two fish that were 18" on the nose! I caught one on the North cut off Double Creek and one just south of Oyster Creek near the BI buoy.

In the right photo, I took a ride to gas up my boat at Morrison's and brought along some leftover killies and a rod. One quick drift near the channel across the Middle Grounds to the ICW yielded the 19" keeper shown.



Dave Spendiff and Alan Goracy joined me for a day of fishing in the Double Creek area. I had 2 keepers at 18.5 & 19.5 and Dave had a 20.5. All were caught on Gulp with a fluke belly on mine. Alan had a slower day using his go to killies. Overall we had ~20 shorts.



Dave Spendiff joined me for a day of fishing and he was the hot hand! Dave had four keepers from 18" to 20" with several shorts. I had one fouled hook 10" fluke! Three fish were caught in the North cut off DC and the fourth was near the BI buoy.

BoatUS / BOATING SAFETY by Jeff Orsoe - VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS - No cost, no penalty vessel safety checks (VSC) at launch ramps, boat clubs and marinas are back. Contact your local U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or U.S. Power Squadrons to see if there is a VSC event scheduled at a marina, boat club or launch ramp. VHFC Jeff Orsoe can also perform the VSC. Call Jeff at 732 672 5530. Leave a message if he doesn't pick up or email him at jorsoe786@gmail.com

VHFC Shirts - VHFC T-Shirts are available for purchase but we need to order a 12



lot minimum. Sizes range from XS (Extra Small) to 6XL and are available in nine colors. Shirts have long sleeves and feature UPF 50 Sun Protection. Let us know your size and color preference. 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 dnspeidiff@netscape.net for placing an order.

VHFC Hats - Hats are khaki colored and feature a high definition VHFC patch on the front. They are available at club meetings and sell for \$20.



CLASSIFIED ADS

BUY, SELL or TRADE

Classified ads may be placed free of charge by any club member for non-commercial fishing related items. Please contact Ed Valitutto via email at edvalitutto@gmail.com to place your ad.

FISHING WITH CLUB MEMBERS - Members may place free ads in this section if you wish to find someone to fish with. Maybe you need to find someone with a boat or you are interested in finding someone to share expenses on your boat.

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 - 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.

Creoside 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**

West Creek Kayak and Canoe 10% discount only on accessories with VHFC card
224 Route 9, West Creek, NJ 08092 **609-296-8030**