

# **HARBOUR LIGHT**

**OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER November 2021**

*Editor: Ed Valitutto VHFC Website: <http://www.vh fishingclub.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: 12 November***

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello VHFC Members,

Can you believe we are already into November with Thanksgiving less than three weeks away followed quickly by the holiday season that will end 2021 and usher in 2022! Well the good news is the fall fishing season has arrived and hopefully any day now the fall run of striped bass will commence. Until then, there are seabass, blackfish, porgies and the last of the summer visitors like sheepshead, kingfish and triggerfish to be caught. Perhaps even a bluefish or two will be there for the taking. So far, the weather has been fairly mild but we all know how quickly that will change. Even though most of us have the necessary winter gear, fishing in milder weather is definitely more comfortable. So don't delay and enjoy fishing the rest of 2021. Besides, there's nothing like a tog or striper served alongside that holiday turkey!

Our next meeting will be at the Community Center on Friday November 12th. Please come out and say hello to your fellow club members. **This is our pizza meeting!** So come on out and enjoy a few slices while you swap fishing stories with fellow anglers. We normally do not have

a speaker scheduled for November but this year Phil Simon suggested a slide show of VHFC photos taken in 2021 - what a great idea! Since I do the review and approval of our website fishing reports, I have a folder of all VHFC photos along with photos from all our special events listed in chronological order. Phil will format them and load them on a memory card for display at the meeting. Be sure to attend and provide your colorful comments. It should be a fun final meeting for this year.

Hope to see you at the meeting,

Ed

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Friday November 12 - VHFC Club Meeting

**NOVEMBER MEETING** - As already mentioned in the President's Report, our November meeting will have pizza for all to enjoy!. New for this year, there will also be a slide show (suggested by Phil Simon) of all pictures from the 2021 season that appeared in the Newsletter or in our Fishing Reports. If you have any other photos that you would like to share, please send them to either Phil or me. It should be a lot of fun!

**NEW JERSEY FISHING REGULATIONS by Phil Simon** - Not much to report this month from JCAA or the fisheries organizations. JCAA will run its Sports Person of the Year dinner Nov 14<sup>th</sup> at Yesterday's Family Restaurant in Bayville. Prices are \$85 per person and \$750 for a table of 10. For more info and to make reservations call Don Marantz at 908-347-1434. JCAA president John Toth, and former president Paul Haertel, who are both members of the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel, will be pushing for a proposed extension of the black sea bass season to cover the gap between the end of fluke season and the current October re-opening of the black sea bass season starting in 2022. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Tautog Management Board reports improvements in the tog stock over most of the coast. Although the stock in our area appears to be trending upward, it still remains officially "overfished", meaning the stock numbers are below the desired level. For now it looks like no changes are expected in quotas and bag limits for 2022.

**VHFC 2021 PARTY BOAT TRIP** - On October 20, 6 VHFC members - Phil Simon, Caesar Passarini, Gene Geld, Marty Friedrich, Tom Siciliano and Ed Valitutto - went on a bottom fishing trip on the party boat Dauntless. The weather was beautiful but the winds kept the boat bouncing all day. The porgies and seabass were hungry but there were a lot of smaller fish that were returned to grow some more. Everyone had an enjoyable day on the water.

VHFC offered a \$50 FHQ certificate for the largest fish. The contenders were Gene Geld with a sizable porgy and Tom Siciliano with a nice seabass. Unfortunately, when I suggested we borrow the mate's balance scale to determine a winner, Tom said he already had his fish

filleted so Gene took the award! Despite both Gene and I reminding each other to take pictures, the only photo available was my rendition of Porgy Francaise taken in my kitchen. **Thanks Phil for doing a great job organizing the event!**



**Fish Francaise** - fish fillets dipped in a light egg batter, pan fried in butter and EVOO and served with a light lemon wine sauce. The recipe appeared in the August '20 NL and is repeated in this issue.

**VHFC DINNER** - Approximately 25 VHFC members enjoyed some fantastic food and conversation at Kostas Grill earlier this month as shown in the photos below. **Thanks Bill Dabney for making all the arrangements!**



67th ANNUAL LBI SURF FISHING CLASSIC by Jim Hutchinson Sr - The Long Beach Island Surf Fishing Classic was rolling right along when last week's strong northeast storm arrived, complete with rain, severe winds, and waves as high as 9-feet. The question is what will fishing be like now that the storm has departed our area.

During the first 30 days of the contest, only two striped bass have made it to the tournament scales but no bluefish, or red drum yet. Kingfish, however, cooperated with forty-three officially weighed in for eligible prizes.

The LBI Classic began on October 9 and will run until December 12 with prizes available on a daily, weekly, two-week segment, and grand prizes. Go to [Live Results](#) for the latest weigh-ins.

**2021 OCTOBER FOM ENTRIES** - There were 4 FOM entries for October and 1 so far for November as shown below:

10-01-21 Blackfish 18 3/4" Bill Figley Little Egg reef

10-04-21 Weakfish 19 3/4" Dave Spendiff ICW near Morrison's

10-08-21 Seabass 17" Bill Dabney Garden State North reef 10-08-21

Seabass 20 1/2" Bill Figley Atlantic City reef

11-02-21 Blackfish 20" Brian Leary

**2021 FISH of the MONTH (FOM) Winners** - Congratulations to our FOM winners for their impressive catches:

1 April - 31 October	Weakfish Dave Spendiff 19 3/4"
1 April - 31 October	White Perch Dave Spendiff 14 1/4"
1 May - 31 October	Blowfish Vinnie Rossi 10 1/4"
1 May - 31 October	Kingfish Gene Geld 16"

Four awards are now open through 30 November as shown in Bold in the following table!

## 2021 FOM Categories (17 Awards)

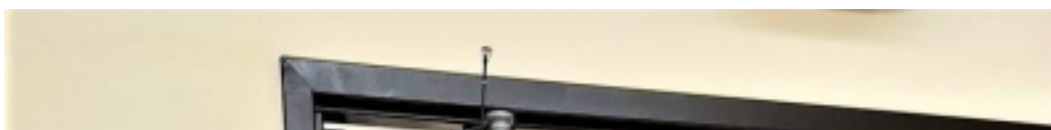
**Time Period Species Angler**

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 Dave Spendiff won 19 3/4"
1 April - 31 October	White Perch Dave Spendiff won 14 1/4"
1 May - 31 October	Blowfish Vinnie Rossi won 10 1/4"
1 May - 31 October	Kingfish Gene Geld won 16"
15 May - 22 June	Seabass Nathan Figley won 18"
22 May - 30 June	Fluke Bob Dodds won 22 3/4"
1 - 31 July	Fluke Tyler Leary won 24 3/4"
1 - 31 July	Seabass Nick Salamone won 18 1/2"
1 - 31 August	Fluke Marty Friedrich won 25 1/2"
1 - 31 August	Seabass Bob Dodds won 18 1/4"
1 - 19 September	Fluke Tom Siciliano won 26"
<b>1 October- 30 November</b>	<b>Blackfish Brian Leary leads 20"</b>
<b>1 October- 30 November</b>	<b>Bluefish No Entry to Date</b>
<b>1 October- 30 November</b>	<b>Striped Bass No Entry to Date</b>
<b>8 October - 30 November</b>	<b>Seabass Bill Figley leads 20 1/2"</b>

For contest entry, **take a photo of your catch with a ruler visible from the nose to the center of the tail, without bunching the tail fin together or counting that little dangler on a seabass, for all species entered except kingfish. Due to their sloping tails, kingfish are measured to the bottom of the tail fin.** There are L shaped rulers that make this an easy task to show your catch. Send your picture to our Weighmaster Pat Presutto at [pat1016pat@aol.com](mailto:pat1016pat@aol.com) with a backup copy to [edvalitutto@gmail.com](mailto:edvalitutto@gmail.com).

**ROD & REEL WINNER** - The October meeting was planned for our second rod & reel raffle. Attending were two new members; Wade Alt and his son Kaiden. They purchased two tickets.

When it was time for the raffle, Dave Spendiff motioned for Kaiden to come up and pick the winner. Kaiden mused,  
"Wouldn't it be



funny if I picked  
my own ticket".  
He did and it  
was!

**Kaiden Alt with his newly won rod & reel ready to catch a future FOM winner!**

**MONTHLY RECIPE SUBMITTED BY ED VALITUTTO - Flounder / Chicken Francaise -**

This is another family favorite that can be made with either fish or chicken. Since my wife

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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.

**Ingredients**

2 beaten eggs  
1 TBS Olive oil  
1 TBS Butter

½ Cup Flour  
½ TSP Salt  
½ TSP Onion powder - Optional  
½ TSP Garlic powder - Optional  
½ TSP Paprika - Optional  
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 or less if you prefer less acidity  
Capers - optional  
Garnish with lemon slices and parsley - optional

In a large skillet, heat the oil and 1 tablespoon 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 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.

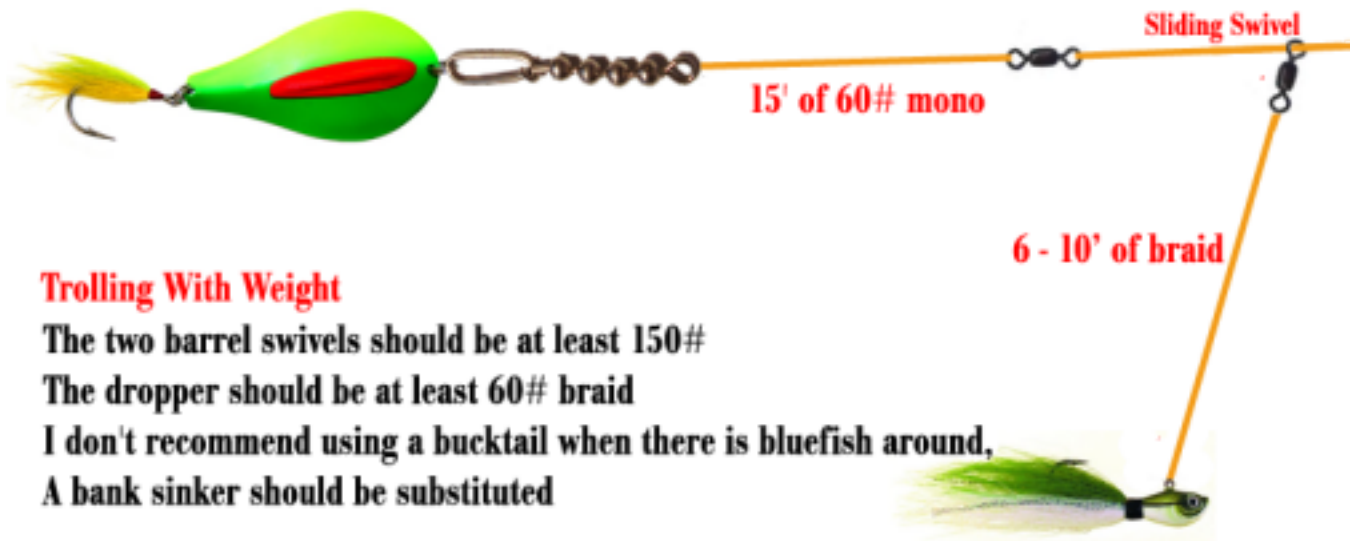
Save 1 tablespoon of the flour mixture for the sauce.

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!

**ANOTHER OLDIE from a PRIOR NEWSLETTER** - An alternative to rigging up for stripers with a three way swivel is shown in the figure below.



[www.EzOutrodder.com](http://www.EzOutrodder.com)

**BoatUS / BOATING SAFETY** by Jeff Orsoe - Check out this video showing volunteers experiencing the 3 effects of cold water immersion - cold shock, cold incapacitation & hypothermia. Learn how to survive a fall into cold water. Go to [Cold Water Boot Camp](#)

**BEACH HAVEN CHARTER FISHING ASSOCIATION REEF NEWS** - VHFC received a very nice thank you letter from Captain John Lewis, BHCFA President acknowledging receipt of our third \$500 reef replenishment donation supporting this worthy and essential cause. As you may recall, last January, donations and matching funds allowed BHCFA to deploy three vessels onto Little Egg reef. This past September, reef balls were deployed on Little Egg and Garden State South reefs. Per Captain Lewis, all donors will receive a commemorative certificate stating who is the sponsor and the approximate location along with information about the benefits of reef balls for the marine habitat..

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**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](mailto:edvalitutto@gmail.com) or call 609 994 1311 and I will submit a report for you.



our fishing trip and

Bill Figley went out on October 1st to fish Little

Egg reef.

Bill caught a nice  
tog that went 18  
1/2"



He also caught a nice  
triggerfish that was just  
over 15".



Dave Spendiff

joined me for an early fall fishing trip south to fish for tog near the Rutgers building and anchored in 20' of water. We caught ~30 tog and 6 small seabass before the crabs were gone. All were small except for the one keeper I got at 16+". We then went north and made several drifts with peanut bunker near Morrison's.

Dave immediately hooked up and reeled in a beautiful 19 1/2" weakfish. We also caught at least 6 small fluke and had many bunker cut in half by bluefish.



On opening day for seabass, Bill Dabney joined me for a trip to the Garden State North reef. My new trolling motor performed flawlessly but you still have to find the wreck (coordinates aren't always 100%) and you have to get positioned over it. It's not that easy and I definitely need more practice!

We ended the day with 13 keepers, many throwbacks and even one fluke! As an added attraction, we saw a huge mola mola (ocean sunfish) alongside my boat.



Once again, Dave Spendiff joined me for a quick trip south to the sod banks near the Rutgers Research

Center.

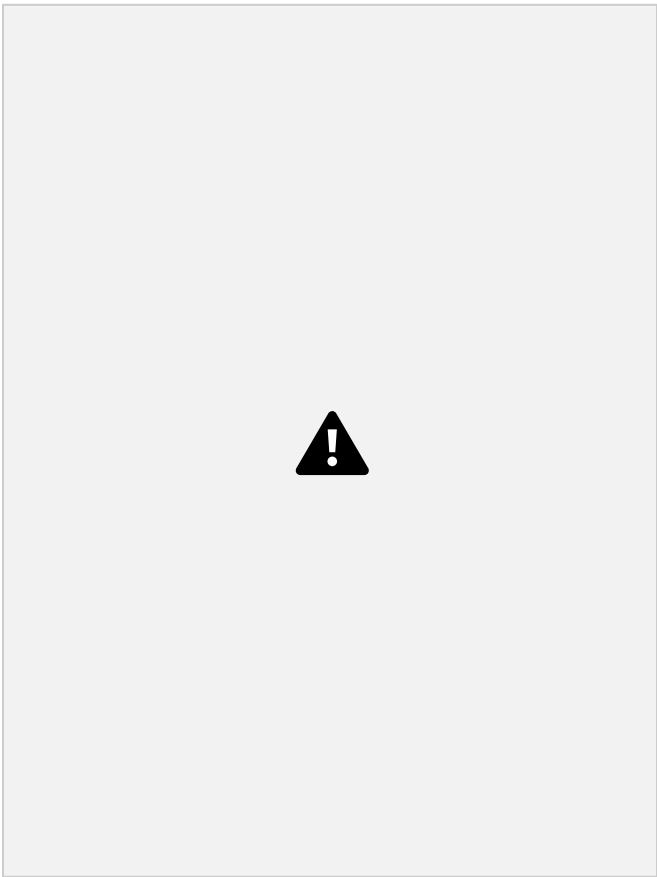
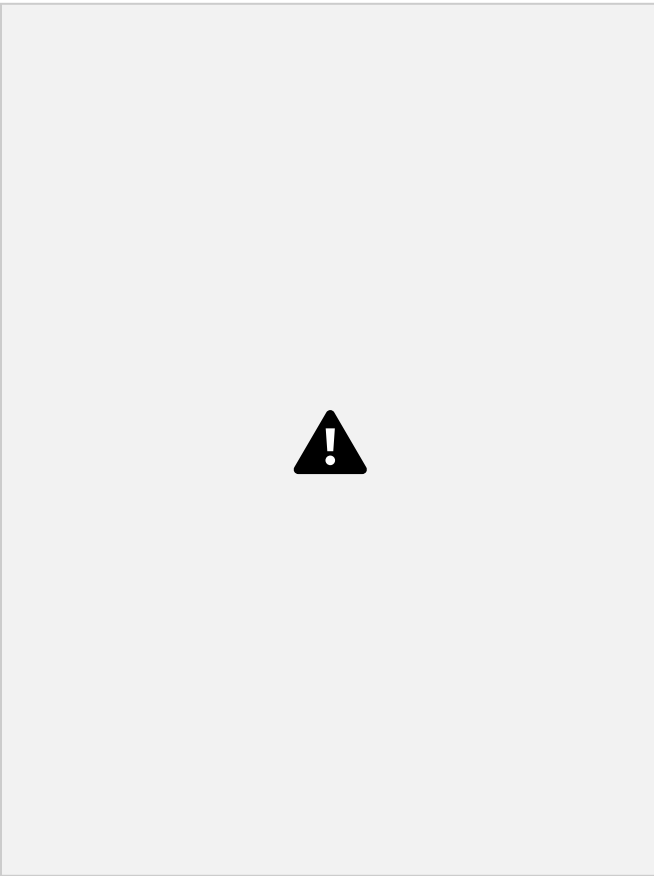
We anchored using my trolling motor and within minutes Dave had a keeper tog. Despite my 'encouragement' to dehook his fish inside the boat, the loud splash meant it would live to swim another day. After several shorts, I finally hooked my 16 1/2" keeper on a jig. We caught several more shorts until the hard incoming tide brought a lot of seaweed to end our fishing.



Bill Figley invited Bill Dabney, Ron Roshelli and Ed Valitutto for a seabass excursion on the AC reef.

With beautiful weather, the reef had a large number of boats fishing the larger structures. Therefore, we fished all the small structures like individual tanks, rolls of wire and a subway car. Each had a few keepers and we moved from one spot to another once the action slowed.

Our 40th fish preserved Bill's continuous record of limiting out! The photo shows 1/4 of our catch!





**Dave Spendiff went fishing with son Garth and grandson Carson in Savannah, GA. Both Garth and Dave had a Bay Slam on Saturday by catching a flounder, redfish & sea trout.**

**On Sunday, Garth's first cast with a killie below a cork hit the water and instantly disappeared. The rod was slowly raised but the line parted! As the tide went out, the catching became intense with 80 redfish and two small flounder boated. Absolutely insane fishing with 4 triple landings and 6 doubles.**

**On the way out, Garth spotted the cork from his first cast and grabbed it with the fish still hooked up!**



Dave Spendiff joined me for a trip to the Garden State North reef. Unfortunately, it was shorts, shorts and more shorts! We probably caught over 80 short seabass overall. The last spot we tried was a small barge close to the edge of the reef. We quickly caught four keepers including a nice 16 1/2" keeper by Dave and a very nice triggerfish I caught.

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**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.

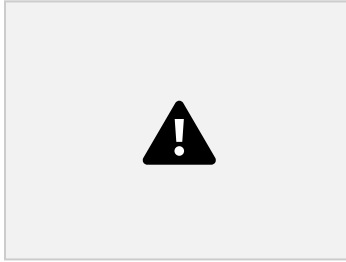


Sizes/Cost: XS, S, M, L & XL @ \$31, 2XL @ \$32, 3XL

@ \$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 [dnspendiff@netscape.net](mailto:dnspendiff@netscape.net) for placing an order.

**VHFC Hats** - Hats are khaki colored and feature a high definition VHFC patch on the front. They are high quality and available at club meetings 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](mailto: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.

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## **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&region=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:**

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

**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

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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**