



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 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: 8 April 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,

Did you notice the line above the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE? **Next meeting 8 April, 2022.** Can you believe we are already into December and rapidly closing out 2021! Our membership meetings are over and this will be the last Newsletter for this year.

I certainly hope you had a great fishing season. If everything we attempted was always successful, we would quickly become bored by it. Fishing is no exception. Some days are great, some are okay and some we're glad when they are over. The 2021 season also had some highs and lows. Bluefish were almost nonexistent but weakfish showed signs of improvement with several being caught this year. Fluke were decent but you had to work for them. Strippers locally were hard to find most days but better than the last couple of years if just based on the number of fish entered into the Surf Fishing Derby. Bottom fishing for tog as well as bay fishing for white perch and crabs were generally very good while blowfishing and seabass were exceptional. At least that's my assessment of 2021 but your results may have

been vastly different. But the most important thing is that you get out and enjoy time fishing with friends and family.

Later this winter, on Saturday, February 12th, Southern Regional High School will hold their annual fishing flea market fundraiser unless again canceled due to COVID. I will send out a reminder with more specific details when available. VHFC will be there recruiting new members so stop by and say hello to your fellow club members or even help with the recruiting.

On a personal note, my wife, Pat and I leave for Cape Coral, FL on 1 January and return on 2 April. I am available via email edvalitutto@gmail.com, phone or text 609 994 1311 so feel free to contact me to discuss any issues or share your suggestions for improving our club.. Finally, have a safe Happy Holiday and great New Year! I look forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting.

Ed

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday April 8 2022 - VHFC Club Meeting

APRIL MEETING - More details provided when available for our kickoff meeting but it will be special!.

NEW JERSEY FISHING REGULATIONS by Phil Simon - I was hoping to have something for our last newsletter of the year regarding the upcoming meeting of the Mid Atlantic Council planned for December 13 - 16. Per the agenda, they will be addressing the overall quotas for bluefish, scup, summer flounder, and black sea bass, as well as a decision on the options for reallocation of summer flounder, black sea bass, and scup between the commercial and recreational sectors. All of these could impact our 2022 fishing season, although I expect the bigger changes to show up in 2023. Since I don't have an up to date picture of the options on the table I can only guess what the decisions might be. In addition, once the quotas are set, each state will still have to set their own season and bag limits.

We also have the impending "recreational reform initiative", an effort to address summer flounder discards, a new stock assessment on summer flounder, and more decisions on striped bass - all coming up over the next months. It's clear the storm is about to break and early in 2022, I will write up all the good and bad news.

Regarding the Mid Atlantic Council meeting homepage. Anyone can look at or download the materials or even sign in to the meeting. Details are provided on the site. Briefing materials will

be posted as available and supplemental materials posted by December 10. Here's the link to use: <https://www.mafmc.org/council-events/2021/december-2021-council-meeting>

The entire 4 day agenda has some very interesting topics, but those most impacting recreational anglers are shown below:

Monday, December 13th

Council Meeting with ASMFC Bluefish Management Board

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. 2022-2023 Bluefish Recreational Measures

5:00 p.m. Council and Bluefish Board Adjourn

Tuesday, December 14th

Council Meeting with ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) Recreational Summer Flounder Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. 2022 Summer Flounder Recreational Measures

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 2022 Scup Recreational Measures

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. 2022 Black Sea Bass Recreational Measures

3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Final Action on Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Commercial / Recreational Allocation Amendment

WINTER DOLDRUMS by Ed Valitutto - The coming months offer a good opportunity to inspect, repair and even replace your fishing tackle. Remove the reels from your rods and clean all the salt and corrosion off. Then clean & lube the reel seat before installing back on your rod. Look closely for damaged or worn guides using a magnifier or by running a piece of fine cloth through them. Determine if the line on your reels needs replacing due to age, wear or loss of line. Braid can last several years but still eventually wears out. If you have the time and ability, service your own reels or bring them to one of our local tackle shops. They have the time during the winter to do any repairs quickly before the spring rush.

Next, go through your tackle inventory and rediscover all the items you've bought over the seasons and could not remember where you stored them due to an age related malady known as CRS. Discard, repair or replace badly rusted hooks and lures. You will not believe the results you can achieve after a few minutes with an emery cloth and black permanent marker on your lure hooks. Another option is to buy replacement trebles or single hooks. This works really well on expensive plugs you find at flea markets for a fraction of their original price. Not

your thing - throw out your old tackle in bad condition and buy new. You deserve it but do not put it off until the next time you need to use your tackle!

COSTA RICA FISHING by Wade Alt - Wade Alt and son Kaiden went fishing in Costa Rica in mid November. Wade said they had an absolute blast catching 12 Mahi all ~60lbs. "It was the most exhilarating 8 hours I've ever had."



Those memories will last a lifetime!

VHFC 2021 HIGHLIGHTS by Ed Valitutto - Here's a summary of all the great things we - the members of VHFC - enjoyed in 2021 as a result of our membership:

1. Being allowed to hold in person meetings at the community center was a highlight in itself. Zoom was passable when no other options were viable but I think everyone is glad that's over and hopefully for good. Phil Simon did a fine job lining up guest speakers for us. Here's a reminder of our 2021 speakers and topics:
 - a. **April Anthony Arcabascio (Tony Maja Products) – Trolling Strategies for Striped Bass**
 - b. **May Doug Zemeckis (Rutgers University) – Wind Farms and Recreational Fishing**
 - c. **June Greg Cudnik (FHQ) – Approaches to Striped Bass and Other Species**
 - d. **July Phil Simon (VHFC) – Past, Present and Future of Fluke Fishing in NJ**
 - e. **August Brett Taylor (Reel Reaction Sportfishing) – End of Season Fluke Fishing**

- f. **September Bill Figley (VHFC) – Selecting and Installing a Trolling Motor**
 - g. **October Captain Mark Finelli – Fishing the Fall Striper Run**
 - h. **November Pizza Meeting with a Slide Show of all your Photos**
2. Seventeen Fish of the Month (FOM) contests. Congratulations to all our FOM winners. Fish of the Year (FOY) and the Melanie Boytos Award (MBA) winners aren't determined until 31 December but the leading contenders along with FOM winners are listed later in the newsletter. Thank you FHQ for offering a 'club discount' for the certificates!
 3. Donations - That's to your dues, VHFC was able to make three \$500 donations in 2021 to the Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association's reef replenishment campaign.
 4. Fluke Tournament - Perfect weather for fishing and enjoying a BBQ made for a fantastic outing on July 10th at Mill Creek pavilion. Prize winners were:
 - a. First Joe Filice 3 lb 7 oz \$280
 - b. Second Ron Roshelli 3 lb 4 oz \$168
 - c. Third Larry Leary 3 lb \$112
 5. Club Dinner - A great time was enjoyed by everyone in attendance at Kostas Grill on October 17. A copious supply of Prosecco certainly contributed to the fun!
 6. Fall Fishing Party Boat Trip - October 20 on the *Dauntless*, was a fun time for members trying their luck catching porgies and seabass. Gene Geld won the FHQ award for the largest fish.
 7. Rod Raffles - Although intended to raise club funds, our two rod raffles offer a chance to win some fine fishing tackle. Special thanks to FHQ's Greg Cudnik for assisting with the prizes for this effort. Our winners were:
 - a. July Raffle Bob Dodds
 - b. October Raffle Kaiden Alt
 8. Website - Our website vhfishingclub.com is a wonderful asset providing club news, fishing reports, all the latest entries into our many contests and lots of other fishing information. Special thanks to CMA Solutions - VHFC member Jeff Barnhart CEO / Founder - for their design and support.
 9. Newsletter - Club Newsletters were provided from April through December to keep everyone informed of all the club happenings and events.
 10. Sponsors - Our sponsors offer discounts to club members and we should all strive to support them when possible.

67th ANNUAL LBI SURF FISHING CLASSIC - 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. Despite the absence onca again of bluefish, striper weigh-ins have definitely increased over the last two years. Lures including bucktails, Hopkins, Daiwa SP Minnows, rubber swim shads and topwater plugs now seem to be catching the most bass rather than bait.

BOARD MEMBERS - Board members meet monthly from March through December to discuss club business, plan events, pay the bills, etc. I would personally like to thank all of them for their dedication and effort. Here's a list of board members and their responsibilities:

Dave Spendiff - Dave handles the membership roster, recruiting at events and does the fluke tournament and the raffles

Phil Simon - Phil coordinates our meeting speakers, legislative regulations & he is our JCAA representative. He also organized the fishing outing and the yearly photo slideshow.

Jeff Orsoe - Jeff is Treasurer, our Boat US representative and does vessel safety inspections

Donna Harris - Donna does our club communications and does the 50 - 50 drawing

Vince Sibona - Vince is Sergeant at Arms

Pat Presutto - Pat is Weighmaster and Awards Chairperson

Bill Dabney - Bill maintains the club library and organized the club dinner

Joe Filice - Joe sits on the board and helps out as needed

Ed Valitutto - Ed has been President for four years, handles the website updates and does the newsletter

If you would like to be on the board, please submit your name to any member.

2021 NOVEMBER FOM ENTRIES - There were 5 FOM entries for November as shown below:

11-01-21	Blackfish	20"	Brian Leary Barnegat Light Surf
11-11-21	Striped Bass	40 1/4"	Pat Presutto
11-17-21	Striped Bass	29"	Bill Figley Trolling the 3 mi line off the wheel
11-17-21	Bluefish	24 3/4"	Bill Figley Trolling the 3 mi line off the wheel
11-29-21	Blackfish	21"	Marty Friedrich

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

1 October- 30 November	Blackfish	Marty Friedrich 21 1/4"
1 October- 30 November	Bluefish	Bill Figley 24 3/4"
1 October- 30 November	Striped Bass	Pat Presutto 40 1/4"
8 October - 30 November	Seabass	Bill Figley 20 1/2"

All FOM awards for 2021 are now closed and all results are listed 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"
1 October- 30 November	Blackfish	Marty Friedrich 21 1/4"
1 October- 30 November	Bluefish	Bill Figley 24 3/4"
1 October- 30 November	Striped Bass	Pat Presutto 40 1/4"
8 October - 30 November	Seabass	Bill Figley 20 1/2"

MELANIE BOYTOS AWARD (MBA) - This award is an annual tribute to our dearly departed friend Captain Melanie Boytos also known as the Fisherqueen. To honor Captain Mel's fishing prowess, an angler must complete the Grand Slam by entering at least one of each species (Bluefish, Weakfish, Fluke & Striped Bass) during the year to be eligible to win. If no one enters all four species then Seabass can be substituted. The annual winner's name will be

engraved onto a plaque that will be displayed at the VHFC clubhouse. Points are based on length as listed in the table on our website **VHFC Contest Rules** under the pulldown menu **Contest / Tournaments**.

Although the official winner will not be declared until 31 December, only Bill Figley has entered four of the five species. Bill's catches and point totals are:

Bluefish	24 3/4"	5 pts
Striped Bass	29"	2 pts
Fluke	23 1/4"	7 pts
Weakfish	No Entry	
<u>Sea Bass</u>	<u>20 1/2"</u>	<u>6 pts</u>
Total Points (To Date)		20 pts

FISH of the YEAR (FOY) AWARD - Trophies are awarded to the anglers catching the largest Blackfish, Weakfish, Bluefish, Fluke, Seabass & Striped Bass. Fluke is closed but all other species remain open until 31 December. Here are the standings to date:

Blackfish	Marty Friedrich (Leads to date)	21 1/4"
Weakfish	Dave Spendiff (Leads to date)	19 3/4"
Bluefish	Bill Figley (Leads to date)	24 3/4"
Fluke	Tom Siciliano (Winner)	26"
Seabass	Bill Figley (Leads to date)	20 1/2"
Striped Bass	Pat Presutto (Leads to date)	40 1/4"

FUNDRAISER for JERSEY COAST ANGLERS ASSOCIATION by Paul Haertel - I created this Facebook fundraiser to benefit JCAA. Please consider making a donation. It does not matter whether it is \$5.00 or \$500 as every donation is appreciated. Please also share this link with your fishing friends and on your FB page as well.

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/722642148713976/>

This will be the only time during the year that JCAA will ask for donations. JCAA has worked tirelessly for recreational anglers and the marine resource in the past and will continue to do so. While you may know that we are involved in environmental and fisheries issues you may not know that we also run fishing events for special needs children and disabled veterans. In order to continue our work on all of these issues, we need you to support our fundraising efforts. Thank you for your support.

STRIPER VIDEO - Here's an interesting video Phil Simon discovered from one of the tackle companies <https://youtu.be/wMY00yRzVBw>

8 Tips for Longer Marine Battery Lifespan from Minn Kota - Marine Battery Maintenance is important to get more life out of your trolling motor and cranking batteries. Checkout this interesting article from Minn Kota [Simple Battery Tips](#)

MONTHLY RECIPE SUBMITTED by Bill Dabney Marinated Tuna Steaks - This is a classic example of a fish dish that pairs perfectly with red wine. Meaty tuna steaks are almost sweet with a briny, nutty edge that comes from the soy marinade. They are also very easy to prepare and you can make the entire recipe in less than 30 minutes. For a side dish, enjoy something as simple as brown rice drizzled with olive oil, salt and pepper. DaVince chianti with its fruity edge and fine acidity provides a perfect match.

Ingredients:

1 1/2 lbs tuna steaks
1/4 cup soy sauce or tamari
2 TBS extra virgin olive oil
1 TBS freshly grated ginger
Pinch of cayenne pepper
Canola oil or whatever type you prefer
Coarse salt

Directions:

1. Stir together the olive oil, ginger, soy sauce and cayenne in a bowl large enough to hold the tuna. Place tuna in the marinade for 15 minutes.
2. Take a skillet large enough to hold the steaks and fill with canola oil to a depth about equal to half the thickness of the tuna or ~1/2 ". Heat on high until oil shimmers.
3. Remove tuna from marinade and blot with paper towels. Carefully add to the pan and sear for 1 minute per side for very rare or up to 2 minutes per side for medium.
4. Sprinkle steaks with coarse salt and 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 do a report for you.

There were 5 reports submitted in November / Early December plus a few photos sent in from members. Please take a moment after fishing and provide a report for other members to enjoy.



That's Caesar Pesarini with Ed Valitutto after a morning on the sod banks across from the fish factory. We had fun feeding the bait stealing tog. Eventually we hooked up and landed ~15 fish with two keepers! The weather stayed beautiful all day for once.



What a great photo taken by Cheri Hebert of Weighmaster Pat Presutto on the beach. Pat is holding a beautiful bass prior to releasing it to 'fight another day'. That striper measured 40 1/4" and was the winning entry for the striper FOM.

Editor's note: Pat fishes most mornings and goes through as many as 15 dogfish per outing. That's dedication but he has caught 3 bass over 38" thus far this season.



Alan Goracy and Bill Dabney joined me for some striper action on 29 November off IBSP. Throwing paddle tails, it didn't take long to get two fish just under 28" on bonus tags and three fish over 28". Bill had applied recently for his bonus tag but hadn't yet received it. Lesson learned: Apply early for your tags!



That's Bill Dabney's grandson with a nice striper caught up in Raritan bay. Bill said it was one of 30 he caught in 2 hours on both surface and swimming plugs!



That's Marty Friedrich holding two nice stripers caught off the Red Tower in Beach Haven in early December. Marty said they boated four and kept two for the table.



Dave Spendiff showing the pair of slot stripers he caught together on a small three shad umbrella rig. Dave and I were fishing off the Red Tower on Saturday December 4. I also caught a slot but that had to go back since our tags were filled!



Marty Friedrich was also at the Red Tower on December 4th. This 22" fluke struck a Mann's Stretch lure and of course was safely released. Marty and his pal had two stripers and lost two others.



For the second day in a row, Dave and I had a great time with the stripers. We had 14 on the troll and 4 throwing lures. Perfect weather make for a truly great day on the water!

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 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. If you would like a hat for a holiday gift, please contact Dave Spendiff for details.



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.

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**

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