



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER August 2022

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: 12 August 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,

Well folks, if this isn't the warmest summer on record, it definitely feels like it is. Summer 2022 started on June 21 and runs through September 22 for a total of 94 days.. Today is day 48 so we are just over halfway through. Let's hope the second half has moderately warm days and cooler nights because it has been brutal out there. With the strong periodic south winds we have been getting, the ocean temperature has gone from lovely beach water to frigidly cold, barely allowing you to get your feet wet. The lifeguards posted that the temperature at Surf City 10 days ago was 55! Two days later after some E/NE winds, it was back up into the low 70's. No wonder the fishing has been so erratic!

Just a reminder, next Saturday August 13th is our fluke tournament and BBQ at Mill Creek Park. If you haven't signed up, please let us know if you will attend so we can be sure to have enough food for the BBQ. You can pay at the meeting this week. As always, please be sure to share your reports for fellow club members!

Ed

UPCOMING NEAR TERM EVENTS**August 12 - VHFC Club Meeting 7:45****August 13 Saturday - Fluke Tournament / Rain Date August 14**

August MEETING - Our August meeting will have a representative from **Save Barnegat Bay** present their film **Drift** - a documentary that takes you along the 42 miles that make up NJ's largest body of water – Barnegat Bay. Mark your calendars and bring a friend.

FLUKE TOURNAMENT - As you all know by now, the VHFC Fluke Tournament is scheduled for August 13th. As of today, this is the list of names planning on attending - 18 entrants and 28 for the BBQ. Please advise if there are any changes needed.

Participants	Number for Picnic
1 Donna Harris	2
2&3 Marty Friedrich & Will	3
4 Pat Presutto	2
5 Cheri Hebert	2
6 Bob Dodds	1
7 Bill Dabney	1
8 Ed Valitutto	2
9 Larry Leary	2
10 Brian Leary	2
11 Sean Wyatt	2
12 Bryson Wyatt	1
13 Jimbo	1
14 Tyler Leary	1
15 Ron Nachman	1
16 Mike Woodrow	1
17 John Barrett	2
18 Jim Healy	2

NEW JERSEY JCAA & FISHING REGULATIONS by Phil Simon - JCAA suspends its monthly meetings during July and August, so I have nothing to report regarding their activities. As of today, I have not received the JCAA newsletter so I have nothing to discuss with regards to the newsletter.

You may have seen an editorial in **The Fisherman** regarding a revised proposal to nominate the Hudson Canyon to become another of the National Marine Sanctuaries. The fear is that the sanctuary folks, once in control, would move to limit recreational fishing there. This could be a concern, but the people who are making the nomination insist that they have no intention of

limiting fishing. Their primary concern is to prevent exploitation of the area by oil, gas and mineral development companies. But this is a real problem, since there are few current mechanisms to effectively block this kind of activity. Oil, gas, and mineral exploration and development have already produced significant damage to fish habitat for both commercial and recreational fishing.

The Mid Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils have been opposed to the sanctuary proposal, because they see it as stepping on their toes with regards to management of the fish and shellfish stocks in the EEZ. However, I'm not sure a turf battle will go over as a reason to block the sanctuary designation. Therefore, it boils down to whether you think we should ensure that the oil, gas, and mineral companies are blocked from potentially destroying prime habitat via the sanctuary mechanism, or, whether you trust the sanctuary folks not to step in and mess with the fishing regulations. Nothing is ever easy, is it?

LATEST REEF BALL DEPLOYMENT by Ed Valitutto - I received an email from Captain John Lewis regarding the latest reef ball deployment...*After multiple delays I have been informed that the next deployment will be on Friday, August 12th on Little Egg Reef. This would not be possible without your continuous support for our Junior Mates and their Reef Project. As soon as the ETA is announced I will pass it along.*

Captain John Lewis

captjohn22@comcast.net

Members - VHFC has made three \$500 donations to date to the BHCFA (Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association) 'Save the Reefs' project as a result of your dues!.

2022 July FOM Entries - Here's the list of entries for July followed by the July FOM winners in Bold. Congratulations to our winners! For a full list of entries to date go to [VHFC Standings](#) and scroll down to **2022 VHFC Entries**

07-04-22	Seabass	18 1/4"	Nick Salamone	Barnegat Light Reef
07-07-22	Fluke	20 3/4"	Hannah Ludwick	Barnegat Bay
07-07-22	Blowfish	7 1/4"	Hannah Ludwick	Barnegat Bay
07-11-22	Fluke	20"	Ed Valitutto	Barnegat Light Reef
07-13-22	Fluke	21"	Brian Leary	10 Miles off BL
07-14-22	Fluke	24 1/4"	Cheri Hebert	Drifting Barnegat Inlet
07-15-22	Bluefish	27 1/2"	Jeff Barnhart	Barnegat Ridge
07-18-22	Kingfish	13"	Gene Geld	Mid Island LBI
07-29-22	White Perch	10 1/2"	Caesar Pesarini	Mullica River

Note: Hannah Ludwick's entries are for the Young Angler (12 and under) awards.

This is the full list of 30 FOM awards for 2022. Currently, there are 11 contests open including 4 Young Angler awards. Open contests are shown in **Blue** in the following table. Since there were no entries for the spring boat striper, blowfish and kingfish, those awards will be added to the awards for those species during the second half of the season. **CONGRATULATIONS to ALL WINNERS!**

2022 Bill Figley Young Angler FOM Awards (4)

1	1 April - 31 August No Entry to Date	White Perch
2	1 June - 31 August Hannah Ludwick Leads 7 1/4"	Blowfish
3	1 June - 31 August No Entry to Date	Kingfish
4	1 June - 31 August Hannah Ludwick Leads 20 3/4"	Fluke

2022 Regular FOM Awards (26)

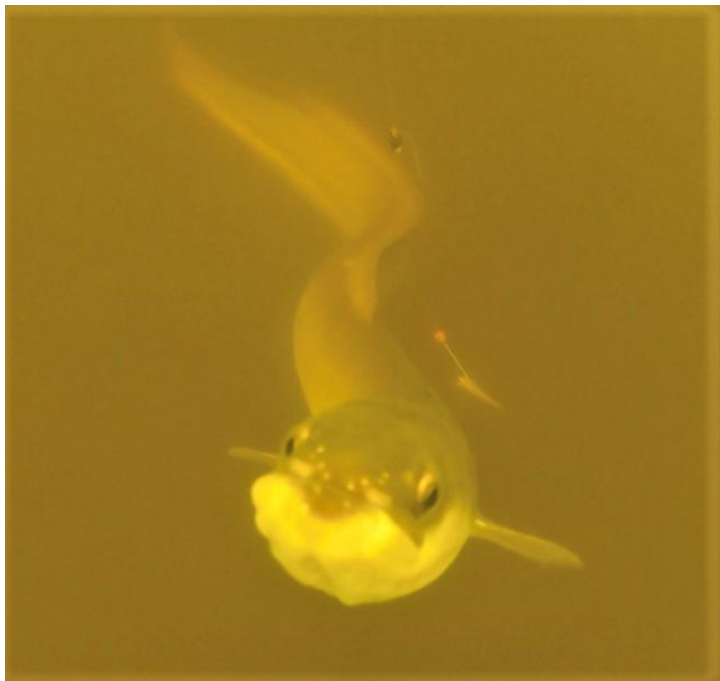
1	15 March - 30 June No Entry	Striped Bass
2	15 March - 30 June Bryson Wyatt 18 3/4 "	Bluefish
3	15 March - 30 June (Surf Only) Pat Presutto 36 3/4 "	Striped Bass
4	15 March - 30 June (Surf Only) Dave Etelman 32 1/2 "	Bluefish
5	15 March - 30 June Dave Spendiff 15"	White Perch
6	1 April - 30 June Tyler Leary 23 1/2 "	Weakfish
7	1 April - 30 June No Entry	Blowfish
8	1 April - 30 June No Entry	Kingfish
9	17 May - 19 June Bryson Wyatt 20"	Seabass
10	02 May - 30 June Larry Leary 23 1/2"	Fluke
11	02 May - 27 September (Surf Only) Cheri Hebert Leads 26"	Fluke
12	1 - 31 July Cheri Hebert 24 1/4"	Fluke
13	1 - 31 July Nick Salamone 18 1/4"	Seabass
14	1 July - 31 October	White Perch
15	1 July - 31 October \$100 FHQ Award	Blowfish
16	1 July - 31 October	Weakfish

17	1 July - 31 October \$100 FHQ Award	Kingfish
18	1 - 31 August	Fluke
19	1 - 31 August	Seabass
20	1 - 27 September	Fluke
21	1 October - 31 December	Blackfish
22	1 October - 31 December	Bluefish
23	1 October - 31 December (Surf Only)	Bluefish
24	1 October - 31 December \$100 FHQ Award	Striped Bass
25	1 October - 31 December (Surf Only)	Striped Bass
26	07 October - 31 December	Seabass

THIS WAS DEFINITELY NOT A FLUKE by Giacomo Agnello -



I was fishing on Saturday evening July 23rd for fluke in the North Beach surf. I was using a standard fluke setup with Gulp when this beast struck! I still can't believe it. The fish measured 47 1/2 ". I didn't have a scale but it was definitely in the 40 - 50 lb range. I'm used to carrying 40 lb bags of salt at work and this was comparable. I was too excited to remember to get the fish's girth.

ANOTHER ODDITY OF THE DEEP by Ed Valitutto -

This Photo was taken from my grandson Nick's Go Pro camera recording. Nick set everything up and when dropped over the side of my dock, this sizable eel showed up. The eel kept poking at the camera throughout the video. I will definitely try to catch him when striper season returns!

ROD & REEL RAFFLE - Bob Dodds was our winner for the first Rod & Reel raffle. Our second raffle is planned for the October meeting and tickets are \$5 each. The second offering is a Fenwick HMG 7', medium power, fast action with a cork handle rated for 1/8 - 1 oz and 15 -30 lb line. The reel is a Daiwa Crossfire LT2500 with Tough Digigear and 4 bearings. This combo is a great bay and inshore outfit suitable for fluke, sea bass, tog, and stripers. See photo below.



HOW TO CLEAN BLOWFISH by Ed Valitutto - A few years back, I did a video showing my technique for cleaning blowfish. With assistance from my grandson Vinnie, we redid the video showing the cleaning of the four fish my grandsons caught and posted it on YouTube. You can view it at [Easiest Way to Clean Blowfish](#)

**MONTHLY RECIPE - FRIED**

BLOWFISH - Since blowfish are now showing up in larger numbers, they are featured in this month's recipe. Nothing fancy, just fried but still so good. If you watched my video, you saw how easy it is to clean up a batch of fish. Sometimes there are small appendages on the sides of the fillet that I also remove. I keep them 'on the bone' but you can easily remove the meat for a boneless smaller morsel. Of course, you now have twice

the number of pieces to coat and fry. The recipe can be doubled as needed for the quantity of fish you have to cook. Also, if you use a kitchen shears or knife to remove the dorsal fins, the fish will lie flat in the pan when cooking making it easier to fry evenly.

INGREDIENTS:

- 6-8 blowfish fillets
- 1 egg mixed with 1 tbsp milk
- A few tablespoons of flour plain or with S & P, Old Bay or whatever seasoning you like
- 1/2 cup Italian breadcrumbs or a mix of bread crumbs and panko
- 4 tbsp unsalted butter
- 4 tbsp (1/4 cup oil) or more as needed

DIRECTIONS:

1. Place the flour on a plate or even better in a plastic bag. Coat each piece in the flour.
2. Dip fillets one at a time in egg mixture then generously coat with the crumbs. Place on a rack until all pieces are done. I like to let them rest for 15 minutes before frying to set the coating.
3. Add oil and butter to a skillet and place on medium heat.
4. When hot, add fillets and cook for ~3 minutes per side until nicely browned.
5. Serve with lemon wedges, tartar sauce

Note: This month's **On The Water** magazine suggests using finely crushed Ritz crackers for the breading. I always use Ritz crackers as a topping for baked fish but have yet to try them as a coating for fried fish. Next time for sure!

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 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. Please

take a moment to provide a report for other members to enjoy and gain some valuable fishing insight. There were 7 reports submitted since the July Newsletter.



New member John Barrett, retired NYPD, went out fluke fishing two days last week with nephew Kevin, a NYS trooper on vacation. John fished a spot N/W of the LER and reported lots of shorts but managed a limit for both days.



Since my boat was still in the yard waiting on the Lift / Tilt Assembly, I went out on the Miss BL With Carolyn Ann III sold and summer in full swing, nearly every spot on the rail was filled with vacationers.

The fishing was great but catching was dismal with 6 keeper fluke and 3 seabass for the whole boat. I caught one fish - a whopping 20" but good enough for the \$310 pool!

Winning the pool was great but 5 hrs is a long time with only one bite!



Larry Leary on The Jen-Jen with 5 guys on board ended up with 13 keeper Fluke to 21" and released many shorts and overs! They also caught their Sea Bass limit also with many releases. As a bonus, they caught 6 Red Hake! They also caught a ton of Tog which were all released! What a memorable day!





Gene Geld had been fishing daily for Kingfish but after 3-4 days, the eelgrass in Barnegat Light and Harvey Cedars was too much for him. He decided to try mid- island and landed 12 kingfish and kept 7. The largest fish was 13" and all were caught on blood worms!



Larry Leary once again was out on The Jen-Jen with a crew of 4 and had a spectacular day.

They were able to box 8 keepers to 24", which tired out poor Tyler. They also had 1 red hake and released a bunch of fluke over 18".

Check out Tyler on the next page with his catch!



Tyler Leary with a magnificent 24" fluke caught on grandpop's The Jen-Jen!



Ed Valitutto with 2 fluke caught in the Middle Grounds. One was just over 17" and the second was 18.5". Good thing my wife, Pat, quickly snapped the photo because my arms were killing me from the weight of those fish!



VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS - By Jeff Orsoe Both the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and the United States Power Squadrons have certified vessel examiners who will perform a free Vessel Safety Check ("VSC") at your boat, at a time of mutual convenience. There is no charge and no consequences if your boat doesn't pass. Our goal is simply to help make boating as safe as possible for you, your family and your friends. Personal pleasure craft, only.

I am available to perform a Vessel Safety exam on your vessel. As stated above, there is no charge for the exam and if you do not qualify for the sticker, the results will not be reported to any agency. Contact: Jeff Orsoe Cell / Text: 732-672-5530 or email: jorsoe786@gmail.com



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,, please contact Dave Spendiff for details.

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



Custom Clubs Performance Wear www.rattlinjacks.com

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.

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. With gas prices reaching the sky, helping out with fuel costs is almost a necessity.

USEFUL INFORMATION LINKS

See the full list on our website [Links](#)

Wave Information (Height, Period, Direction and Water Temperature) from a Buoy 15 Miles Outside Barnegat Inlet Updated Every 30 minutes: [Buoy #44091](#)

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.

Creekside Outfitters 10% discount with VHFC card

403 Rt. 9 Waretown, NJ 08758

609-242-1812

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**

