



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER September 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 September 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,

Well the Summer of 2022 is quickly coming to a close. If it wasn't the hottest and driest on record, I'm sure it will be a close contender for the honor. Anyway, weather aside, there were many fishing opportunities the last several months for some fun on the water. But lest I sound like things are over, I believe the best is yet to happen. The coming months offer the best times to be on the water / beach with diminished crowds, moderate weather and hopefully soon reduced insect populations. Fluke has more than three more weeks (until September 27), kingfish and blowfish are everywhere, crabs are big and hungry, bluefish are roaming the bays and inlets, blackfish are hitting and soon the summer invaders should be showing up - false albies and bonito! The only closed species is black seabass until October 7th. Enjoy your Labor Day holiday with your family and friends!

Our next meeting on Friday September 9th will feature Brett Taylor of Reel Reaction charters. Brett has appeared as our speaker several times and he always delivers some very interesting

fishing insights on our local fishing scene. Please come out and enjoy his presentation. Unfortunately, I will not be in attendance. My wife Pat and I have reservations for the Manahawkin ELKS Mad Hatter Charity Fundraiser Ball for special needs children. Phil Simon will run the meeting for me and I'm sure everything will be fine.

Keep on fishing and as always, please be sure to share your reports for fellow club members!

Ed

UPCOMING NEAR TERM EVENTS

September 09 - VHFC Club Meeting 7:45

October 13 - VHFC Annual Dinner 6:00 at Kostas Restaurant

October 14 - VHFC Club Meeting 7:45

September Meeting - Our September meeting will feature Captain Brett Taylor (Reel Reaction Charters) - Brett's topic is "**Light Tackle Striped Bass**". Captain Brett has been avidly fishing Barnegat Bay and surrounding ocean waters for the last 18 years and specializes in Fluke, Striped Bass, and a variety of inshore species.

NEW JERSEY JCAA & FISHING REGULATIONS by Phil Simon - JCAA is still in summer mode, hence no meetings and no newsletter (yet). The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) are seeking comments on Amendment 22 to the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan. Go to the link for more detail.

(<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/proposed-rule-amendment-22-summer-flounder-scup-and-black-sea-bass-fishery-management-plan>) Amendment 22 would shift the allocations of these three species towards higher numbers for the recreational fishery. Let's see how that goes, but it looks like this will pass.

The council set a 1.6% increase in the bluefish Recreational Harvest Limit for 2023, a modest increase, so I do not expect much change in our limits for 2023 as the stock is currently in a rebuilding plan. Black Sea Bass and Bluefish are both on the schedule for full stock assessments in November. The fluke season ends on September 27, Black Sea Bass is now closed until October 7, when the limit goes to 10 fish at 13", Tog is still 1 fish at 15" until November 15, when it shifts the next day to 5 fish until the end of the year. No changes for Bluefish, Weakfish, or Striped Bass which are still open until December 31. For all the NJ regulations, go to our VHFC website [2022 NJ Regulations](#)

LATEST REEF BALL DEPLOYMENT by Ed Valitutto - As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, reef balls were deployed on LER as reported by CAPT John Lewis...

*On August 12, we deployed 17 reef balls on Little Egg Reef on the eastern end. **The center of the deployment is 39-28.515 x 74-10.464.** The next deployment should happen in a week or so and will be our first on Barnegat Light reef. There will be a delay after that as the boat will not be available..*

Thanks for all your support.

John

Captain John Lewis

captjohn22@comcast.net

www.insatiablesportfishing.net

609-670-5980

BARNEGAT INLET CHANNEL BUOY CHANGES - In case you missed the special announcement email, FHQ sent out a notice regarding channel buoy changes near Barnegat Inlet. Looks like they made the alternate channel or short cut from High Bar near the dyke to the CG station the main channel now. They also removed the original channel markers and in the video, two boats got stuck. See [BI Buoy Changes](#) Thanks Greg for the video!

FALL FISHING TRIP by Phil Simon - We want your feedback regarding VHFC chartering a boat this fall for our annual club fishing trip, as opposed to just going out on one of the party boats. To charter a boat, we would need to make a deposit up front, and this means we need to know how many of you are strongly interested. This would be a midweek 6-hr trip, most likely in mid to late October for Black Sea Bass, with a cost of approximately \$125 per person including tips. This could be a little less if we have more than the boat minimum (usually 8). Another option would be to wait until November for the Tog limit to increase to 5 fish. Please voice your opinion at our Friday meeting. For those of you unable to attend the meeting but are really interested in joining us, please email me at sciman2@gmail.com

LBI FALL SURF FISHING CLASSIC - This year's event will run from October 8th through December 11th. Be sure to enter early for your hat and decal. In addition to all the offered prizes for striped bass, bluefish, kingfish & red drum, this year's classic will offer \$200 for the largest tautog caught in each of the three segments. VHFC member Gene Geld states that the LBI bait shops have the hats and paperwork. Gene signed up earlier this week. Full prize details will be available soon on their website [The LBI Fall Classic](#)

2022 Fluke Tournament & BBQ by Ed Valitutto - The VHFC Annual Fluke Tournament was held on Saturday August 13th and a great time was had by all! Originally scheduled for July, several members had COVID forcing the tournament move to August. Unfortunately, strong North East winds made fishing outside very difficult for the 27 entrants. However, there were weigh-ins to claim the \$540 in prize money. Here are the list of winners / weigh-ins:

William Dabney	5 lb 2 oz	First \$270
Will Kresge	2 lb 9 oz	Second \$162
Wally Jones	2 lb 2 oz	Third \$108
John Barrett	1 lb 11 oz	
Bill Dabney	1 lb 11 oz	
Mike Almasi	1 lb 8 oz	

All weigh-ins were caught on two boats! Bill Dabney and Will Kresge fished LEI on Marty Friedrich's boat. Wally Jones, Mike Almasi and John Barrett fished the Seaside pipeline on John's boat. Except for First and Second places, the remaining fish were slots! Also, only one prize can be awarded per entrant. Bill was just curious what his other fish weighed.

Whatever the fishing lacked, was more than made up by the BBQ. Thank you to everyone who participated and special thanks to all those who brought the wonderful treats to share. Thank you to my co-chef Vic Harris and folks who helped put out the food and clean up. Enjoy the following photos from the event.



First place winner Bill Dabney accepting from Weighmaster Pat Presutto. A fluke over 5 lbs is impressive!



Second place finisher Will Kresge accepted his winnings for his 2 lb 9 oz catch. That's Marty and Cecilia Friedrich looking on!



Left Photo - Weighmaster Pat talking to Cheri Hebert and yours truly. Cheri has had some impressive catches recently but not on tournament day!



Right Photo - Pat Valitutto trying to get grilling secrets from Vic Harris

Impressive Catches on The Red Herring - VHFC members Bill and Nathan Figley and two friends caught 22 three to seven pound Mahi Mahi in the 75 degree, crystal-clear water in the Lobster Hole, located 12 miles off LE Inlet on Saturday, August 20.



Those are some impressive Mahi catches! If you didn't know better you would think they were down in Florida.

VHFC DINNER - Also mark your calendars for our annual dinner party planned for 6:00 on Thursday evening October 13 at Kostas Grill - a lovely restaurant featuring Greek cuisine down in Tuckerton. We did this last year and everyone had a great relaxing evening with a chance to talk and have some fun! See [Kostas Grill](#) for the full menu. Everyone will order and pay individually. Kostas is BYOB so bring your favorite libation but **VHFC will provide Prosecco for a lovely toast to start the evening.** We would like a non-binding headcount to reserve adequate space at the restaurant. Contact Bill Dabney at dabney372@outlook.com or 609 709 5093 OPA!



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

08-02-22	Tog	16 1/2"	Tyler Leary	BI Jetty
08-07-22	Weakfish	18 1/4"	Vinnie Rossi	BI Buoy
08-07-22	Blowfish	10"	Nick Rossi	BI Buoy
08-13-22	Fluke	19 1/2"	Larry Gonnello	
08-13-22	Fluke	24"	Bill Dabney	Little Egg Inlet
08-13-22	Blowfish	8 3/4"	Mallory Figley*	Off ICW Holgate
08-13-22	Blowfish	9"	Mila Ellis*	Off ICW Holgate
08-13-22	Blowfish	9"	Theresa Ellis	Off ICW Holgate
08-20-22	Fluke	22 3/4"	Marty Friedrich	12 mile wreck off LE
08-21-22	Fluke	25"	Cheri Hebert	Drifting Barnegat Inlet
08-20-22	Seabass	17"	Nate Figley	Lobster Hole off LEI

* Mallory Figley's and Mila Ellis's entries are for Young Angler (12 and under) awards.

CONGRATULATIONS to our August FOM Winners:

Cheri Hebert	Fluke	25"
Nate Figely	Seabass	17"
Mila Ellis	Blowfish	9" (Young Angler)
Hannah Ludwick	Fluke	20 3/4" (Young Angler)

This is the full list of 30 FOM awards for 2022. Currently, there are 6 contests open. All 4 Young Angler awards are closed. Open contests are shown in **Blue**. 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.

2022 Bill Figley Young Angler FOM Awards (4)

1	1 April - 31 August No Entry	White Perch
2	1 June - 31 August Mila Ellis 9"	Blowfish
3	1 June - 31 August No Entry	Kingfish
4	1 June - 31 August Hannah Ludwick 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 Caesar Pesarini Leads 10 1/2"	White Perch
15	1 July - 31 October \$100 FHQ Award Nick Rossi Leads 10"	Blowfish
16	1 July - 31 October Vinnie Rossi Leads 18 1/4"	Weakfish
17	1 July - 31 October \$100 FHQ Award Gene Geld Leads 13"	Kingfish

18	1 - 31 August Cheri Hebert 25"	Fluke
19	1 - 31 August Nate Figley 17"	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

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.



MONTHLY RECIPE - Pecan Crusted Fish - Good with any filets - Fluke, tog, seabass**INGREDIENTS:**

- 1 cup pecan or any nut pieces
- 1 cup dry bread crumbs
- 1/3 cup flour
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 2 lbs fish
- salt and pepper, to taste
- 3/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 1 bunch fresh Italian parsley, chopped

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.
2. Combine the pecans and bread crumbs in a food processor. Process until they are coarse crumbs then transfer to a shallow dish.
3. Place the flour in a shallow dish. Place the beaten egg in another shallow dish.
4. Season the fish with salt and pepper. Dredge each piece first in the flour, then in the egg, letting any excess drip off. Press each side of the fish into the pecan crumbs to coat.
5. Melt 1/4 cup of the butter in an oven-proof skillet over medium-high heat. Cook the fish for one minute on each side. Place the skillet in the oven and bake for 10 minutes or until the fish flakes easily with a fork. Transfer the fish to a serving platter and keep warm.
6. Wipe out the skillet and add the remaining butter to it. Cook over high heat until the butter starts to brown, stirring constantly. Stir in the lemon juice and parsley. Pour the browned butter sauce over the fish and serve immediately.

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 6 reports submitted since the August Newsletter.



Larry Leary and The Jen-Jen crew left midday to kickoff the tog season. Several wrecks produced only shorts so they went to the BI rocks and caught 5 nice keepers to 16-1/2".



With my grandsons, Nick and Vinnie eager to fish and my boat finally back in the water, we headed out for fluke with a later plan for blowfish.

Everywhere we tried, the fluke were all short. But the boys did manage two small bluefish and Vinnie caught a nice 18 1/2" weakfish.

We then fished for an hour and caught 4 keeper blowfish near the BI buoy.



Once again, Larry Leary and crew did some serious damage to the local fish stocks. They fished several wrecks and the Seaside pipeline keeping 4 overs, 3 slots and 1 sea bass. There were also lots of shorts in the mix until the Northeast winds picked up and shut the bite right down.



Marty Friedrich reports he finally had a decent trip in the ocean! He took his neighbor 12 miles out to fish a couple of wrecks. All together they had a nice catch of 5 fluke including 1 over at 22 3/4" and 4 sea bass.



An early morning decision to fish the LE buoy near the Middle Grounds was a good one. The flies were scarce and the drift was perfect. I caught several shorts, dogs, birds and two keepers – a slot and a nice one at 20”.



Phil Simon went out with club member Dan Ludwig and his son Joey to the waters off Island Beach State Park bathing beach. In waters from 40 to 50 feet, they had multiple 18"+ fish, a lot of shorts, and a few slot fish, coming back with 7 keepers. We ended up throwing back at least 3 over-18" fish due to the NJ limit structure.



Phil Simon went back to the same grounds with new club member Jerry Nichols.

Although not as good action as the previous trip, they managed two nice keepers including a respectable 22 7/8 fish plus a dozen or so shorts, assorted sea robins and skates.



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 - Our order for VHFC T-Shirts has been placed and delivered!

If you had previously paid or said you wanted one, they will be available at the September meeting. Otherwise, we can arrange to drop them off at your residence.



Custom Clubs Performance Wear www.rattlinjack.com

Our manufacturer has raised prices a small amount. If you previously paid, VHFC will absorb the cost. Otherwise Sizes/Cost are: XS, S, M, L & XL @ \$35, 2XL @ \$36, 3XL @ \$37 4XL @ \$38, 5XL @ \$39 & 6XL @ \$40. 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.

VHFC member Jeff Barnhart has decided to see his 2006 Boston Whaler.

*For Sale in Excellent Condition: 2006 - Boston Whaler 180 Dauntless LOA 18'6", Beam 8' - The Unsinkable Legend & one of the safest, highest quality, most durable boats in the world with a self-bailing cockpit. Features a Mercury 135HP 4 Stroke Verado outboard motor with Hydraulic Tilt Steering (winterized and serviced every year by West Creek Outboard), 60 gallon built in gas tank, Reversible Pilot Seat - w Locking Backrest & storage, Full Width Stern Seat with Folding Backrest that transform into a casting platform with storage below, 54 Qt Cooler Seat w Backrest, Bow Cushion, Recessed Stainless Steel Telescoping swim Ladder, Live Well, Rod Holders, Blue Sunbrella Sun Top with Boot, Blue Sunbrella Console Cover, Fisher Heavy Winter Canvas, Garmin GPS and Depth / Fish Finder, Compass, Coast Guard Required Safety Equipment included. Boat in Beach Haven West. **Asking \$29,500 See photos...***



More photos are on the next page...



Contact Jeff if you are interested or have questions regarding his boat -
jbarnhart@cmasolutions.com

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**