



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER December 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: 14 April 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,

Our final 2022 meeting is on Friday December 2nd. **No speaker but it's PIZZA night!** Once again, Phil has prepared a slide show of all the fishing photos everyone submitted through this year to look back at all the good times in 2022.

Although our club contests continue on through 31 December, 2022 is fast becoming history with only four weeks left to go. But there is still time for some last minute winter fishing primarily for tog and striped bass. If your boat is still in the water, watch the weather and if the winds & waves are down, go on out for a last shot at fishing this year. Another option, consider jumping on a party boat or charter for a little more comfort and possibly some added species like seabass, porgies & ling. Another option, fish the beach. Pat Presutto has been knocking them dead with three keepers so far. Otherwise, relax, stay warm and prepare for the holidays!

Ed

UPCOMING NEAR TERM EVENTS

December 02 - VHFC Membership Meeting

February 11 - Southern Regional Flea Market

April 14 - Membership Meeting

DECEMBER MEETING - Due to the Community Center (CC) closure on Veterans Day, our November meeting had to be moved to December. Since the CC closes early December for staging holiday toys and clothes, our only location for the meeting is in the smaller building off on the right. However, since the Auxiliary Coast Guard has the room for the second Friday of the month, our final 2022 meeting will be on the first Friday, December 2nd.

There will not be a speaker but last year, Phil Simon put together a collection of the photos submitted throughout the year. I sent Phil all the photos and he added some captions to make an enjoyable recap of the year. Feedback from everyone was great and we will do it again this year! **Oh and yes there will be pizza for all to enjoy!** Please come out and enjoy the presentation and the good natured banter along with a few slices. Depending on the turnout, we may be a little cramped but come on out!

NEW JERSEY JCAA & FISHING REGULATIONS by Phil Simon - As I predicted last month, the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission (ASMFC) decided not to make any changes to the quotas for Striped Bass for 2023, as the current rebuilding plan seems to be on track to rebuild the stock by 2029, as required by the Magnusen-Stevens legislation. Of course we will have to see what the NJ Marine Fisheries Commission eventually decides to do on the local size and bag limits, but again I do not anticipate much change if any.

On Tuesday and Wednesday Nov 15 and 16, the Mid Atlantic Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held its annual meeting in Asbury Park. I attended the meetings to see what was happening regarding issues of interest to the recreational fishing community. This is a meeting of academic, government, and other scientists and students, mostly from Rutgers U., Stockton U., the U. of Delaware, some of the NOAA labs, the wind farm companies, and even some high school students. Data from quite a few research projects was presented, both orally and at a poster session. Here are just a few of the things I learned that I thought might interest you:

1. There are a fairly large number of research projects being established to monitor the impact of the offshore wind farms on the ecology off the coast of NJ. However, I asked two of the wind farm representatives who gave talks what they were prepared to do if the results of those studies showed significant damage being produced to the coastal fish stocks. They squirmed! Should the first of the 300+ turbines that will be installed (off Atlantic City to start) a) cause changes to the migration of fluke larvae into the estuaries, b) cause changes to the cold pool that forms each spring and summer, c) redirect the

striper migration, or d) who know what else! There is no plan in place for where the scientists would take their findings, nor any indication that any negative data would ever cause any change to the installation of the rest of the turbines. The wind farm companies have focused most of their spin doctors on the commercial scallop and ocean clam draggers in terms of where they place the turbines and have actually given much less thought to concerns of the recreational community, or in fact to the concerns of the fisheries scientists. **The current approach seems to be to build the turbines first, then let's see what happens.** What could go wrong with that!

2. I'm sure most of you know that the green crabs that we use for tog fishing are in fact an invasive species from Europe and have been having a rather negative impact on local competitive species. Did you know that they have also invaded the west coast, and are now causing a threat to several fisheries in Alaska? I did not. Did you know that our blue crabs have invaded the Mediterranean, and have caused panic over there, as they are equally damaging to the ecology there, killing other commercial fish and crabs, destroying fishing nets, and destroying the local plant life. However, some of the fishing communities have caught on that money can be made by switching from net fishing for finfish to cage fishing for blue crabs, and there is a growing new business there. Spain and Tunisia both are making the change. Tunisia has already implemented a regulatory harvest program to prevent overfishing, so as not to lose their newfound industry. Speaking of blue crabs, the climate change-induced warming of the oceans that we are already seeing should be favorable for the expansion of the range for blue crabs, but a study from New York shows that their harvest of blue crabs has been in serious decline now for several years. Overfishing may be the culprit, but the data is not conclusive.
3. As we know the Atlantic Striped Bass stock has been under severe strain for years now, and the current tight regulations are the result of management attempts to fix the problem. Did you know that the forage species that stripers eat (including not just bunker, but also fish such as American Shad and River Herring) are also in need of stock rebuilding? Both stripers and forage fish are under the preview of the ASMFC, and they have separate teams working on their respective management plans. Some not-so-new data were re-presented at this meeting showing that in the Delaware River, when striper numbers are up, the shad numbers are down, and visa versa, suggesting that the goals of "restoring" both types of fish are in conflict. When stripers are present in large numbers, they decimate the shad population. In my opinion the best way to fix this problem is to re-open the many rivers along the coast that were dammed up in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, allowing both types of fish to have more areas to breed and thrive. What's stopping us? Money and politics, as usual.
4. When it comes to keeping us happy regarding summer flounder bag and size limits, things are just fine, yes? Okay, so maybe not. Some of the scientists have been looking for ways to re-adjust the size limits or find a way to catch more males so as to reduce the selective harvest of females that the current regulations are causing - remember

that 95% of the summer flounder over 18" that we catch are females. If we could catch more large males, maybe this would help. Unfortunately, it turns out that there are plenty of large males, but they tend to stay out in the deeper waters where we don't normally fish for summer flounder. So it's not just the regulations, but the natural behavior of the flounder population that is causing the selective harvest we see. Better use of the slot fish approach might be an answer to our inability to take home a fish to eat, but the number crunchers tell us that this will cause us to go over our quota. In my opinion the only thing that is going to improve the recreational summer flounder fishery in the short term is to put further restraints on the commercial boats that drag their way through the offshore grounds during the winter, and that's not likely to happen.

Remember though that we are fighting the climate change- induced shifting of the fluke biomass north and east, which means more trips to Montauk and the Nantucket Shoals if you want to stock up on fluke filets or catch that big one.

5. Did you know that scientists can now extract DNA from the water and tell us what fish are present and possibly how many? Studies are underway to see if this can supplement the costly trawl surveys that are conducted to estimate the size of our fish stocks.
6. Northern Snakeheads, an invasive Asian fish species I thought was a problem for the southern US, are in fact moving north, and are now in Delaware, NJ, and NY. Maybe you knew this already? If you catch one, kill it, don't throw it back.

SURF FISHING by Ed Valitutto - This year's LBI Surf Fishing contest continues through December 11th with several prizes still available. Full prize details, tournament rules and daily weigh-ins are on their website [The LBI Fall Classic](#). I've been on the sand six or so times and all I've caught are dogfish! But not so for Weighmaster Pat Presutto. Pat has three in the box at last count, several released and he isn't finished! Pat fishes on several LBI beaches driving

his truck wherever he has buggy permits. Enjoy his photos on the next several pages.



Pat holding one unlucky bunker taken from the stomach of one of his bass! Since bunker were hard to find, Pat used this one to catch his third bass!



Above - Pat's first fish (32 ¼" 11.8 lbs) with granddaughter Sophia.



Above Right - Pat's second fish with Sophia. He caught 3 and "lost a big one".

Right - Pat's third fish (34" 12.4 lbs). I guess Sophia got tired of all the posing with fish!



2022 Latest FOM Entries - Here's the list of entries for November. For a full list of entries to date go to [VHFC Standings](#) and scroll down to **2022 VHFC Entries**

11-01-22	Bluefish	27"	Marty Friedrich	Deep Wreck
11-04-22	Blackfish	24"	Tyler Leary	Local Wreck
11-19-22	Blackfish	18 3/4"	Marty Friedrich	AC Reef
11-20-22	Striped Bass	34 1/2"	John Barrett	Off IBSP
11-25-22	Striped Bass	32 1/4"	Pat Presutto	North Beach Surf
11-30-22	Striped Bass	34"	Pat Presutto	Surf City Surf

Here is the full list of the 30 FOM awards for 2022. Currently, there are 6 contests open until 31 December. Open contests are shown in **Blue**. Since there was no entry for the spring boat striper, the fall award will be \$100.

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 Cheri Hebert 25"	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 Dave Spendiff 13"	White Perch
15	1 July - 31 October \$100 FHQ Award Bryson Wyatt 11 1/4"	Blowfish
16	1 July - 31 October Vinnie Rossi 18 1/4"	Weakfish
17	1 July - 31 October \$100 FHQ Award Bryson Wyatt 14 1/2"	Kingfish
18	1 - 31 August Cheri Hebert 25"	Fluke
19	1 - 31 August Nate Figley 17"	Seabass
20	1 - 27 September Larry Leary 25 1/2"	Fluke
21	1 October - 31 December Tyler Leary Leads 27"	Blackfish
22	1 October - 31 December Marty Friedrich Leads 27"	Bluefish
23	1 October - 31 December (Surf Only) No Entry to Date	Bluefish
24	1 October - 31 December \$100 FHQ Award John Barrett Leads 34 1/2"	Striped Bass
25	1 October - 31 December (Surf Only) Pat Presutto Leads 34"	Striped Bass
26	07 October - 31 December Marty Friedrich Leads 18 1/2"	Seabass

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 4 reports submitted since the November Newsletter.



Marty and a pal had 3 hours of tog fishing with lots of short fish. They ran out of crabs with 8 in the box – just 2 fish short of their 2 man limit.



John Barrett and crew fished the Stafford PBA Tournament. Their largest fish (John's) went 34 1/2". They didn't finish in the \$\$ but had a great day on the water!

Pat Presutto submitted the other two reports featured earlier in the Newsletter.

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 dnspendiff@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**