



# **HARBOUR LIGHT**

**OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER JULY 2023**

*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 July 2023***

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello VHFC Members,

In last month's Newsletter, I mentioned that Memorial Day Weekend was now behind us. In the blink of an eye, now the July 4th holiday is also history and the summer season at the 'Jersey shore' is in full swing. Route 72 is jammed on the weekends, stores are mobbed, restaurants are booked and the weekend boat drivers are out and about. So be careful and have a little patience. Please don't tell my wife I said that! And the spring weather that had been on the cooler side with non-stop strong winds has now been sweltering with high heat and humidity.

On the fishing front, unless you have a boat to take you offshore, the summer fishery in NJ is fluke either in the bay or out on one of our reefs. There are a few bluefish and stripers still around and you can always try for your one allowed seabass, but mainly it's all about fluke. As the waters continue to warm through July and August, you may have a chance of hooking a Spanish Mackerel, Bonito, Triggerfish, Mahi, Cobia, Sheepshead or any other exotic riding the Gulf Stream northward, You just never know what might take your bait. Water temperature last

month at Station 44091 15 miles off Barnegat Inlet ( [Buoy Data Off BI](#) ) was 61.5°F. July 9th, it is 77.2°F That's almost 16 degrees higher than last month!

Just a reminder, the new east coast wide striped slot regulation that was dropped by surprise upon us has gone into effect on July 2nd. **Only one striped bass can be kept between 28" and less than 31". All bass 31" and greater must be safely returned to the water.** If you have a slot tag, you are entitled as usual to a bass from 24" to less than 28". Tag it immediately and report your catch on the NJF&W website and you will quickly receive another tag.

So get on out there and do some fishing. Wear sunscreen, drink plenty of liquids and please share your reports with fellow club members!

Ed

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## UPCOMING NEAR TERM EVENTS

**July 14 Friday - VHFC Club Meeting 7:45**

**July 15 Saturday - VHFC Fluke Tournament (July 16 Rain Date)**

**JULY MEETING - Our guest speaker is Dr Doug Zemeckis (Rutgers Extension) – Doug's topic is "Stock Assessment Surveys"** Doug returns to VHFC for the fourth time. Doug has a BS degree in Marine Science from Rutgers University and a PHD in Marine Science and Technology from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. He currently works as a County Agent, Assistant Professor with Rutgers Cooperative Extension where he focuses on delivering educational programs and conducting research to address issues related to fisheries, aquaculture, and coastal resource management. This year Doug will bring us up to date with the survey methods used for determining the size and status of our various fish stocks, which play a central role in the annual rituals of setting bag and size limits. Come on out and support the meeting.

**NEW JERSEY JCAA & FISHING REGULATIONS by Phil Simon - They're coming!**

Construction approval for the first of the giant wind turbine farms has been granted by the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). The project, situated 13 to 15 miles offshore from Atlantic City, still needs some additional approvals from other organizations, including the EPA, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Army Corp of Engineers, so it's not a done deal just yet. However, no one really believes that at this point there will be any roadblocks. **In theory, actual construction will start in 2024, and the turbines could be in operation by 2025.** Construction of the turbines is mostly on land, and then they are hauled out to pre-built foundations, so it is relatively fast. NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard)

notwithstanding, these projects have been studied and debated to death for over ten years, and at the end of the day there are powerful interests fully supporting the installation of the wind farms. If you fish out of the Little Egg Inlet, you will have a front row seat to watch as the turbines are installed. For a very detailed look at the Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind Construction Plan, you can go to <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/state-activities/atlantic-shores-offshore-wind-construction-and-operations-plan>.

The recent JCAA fluke tournament in July had another \$50,000 winner in the optional 12 lb doormat Calcutta. You just never know what you might catch. FYI, JCAA has an insurance policy to cover the \$50K. You can bet their premium will be going up next year! For more details regarding the winners, go to the website at <https://jcaa.org/> . **VHFC's John Barrett placed second in the LBI home port section.** John's fish was 24.5" and weighed 4.93 lbs. Second place doesn't pay anything but still an impressive catch!

JCAA lost some serious clout this past month when Tom Fote lost his seat at the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and was replaced by a representative from Lund Seafood. Obviously, the governor knows where the money comes from and where it does not. JCAA has other issues as well: the board leadership is aging and they have been unsuccessful in finding new younger replacements, and their bank account is shrinking and fundraising has not kept pace with expenses such as the recent fluke tournament. JCAA depends on the fishing clubs for financial support, including club dues, individual memberships, purchase of raffle tickets, entries into tournaments, attendance at the annual Sportsperson of the Year Dinner, ads in the JCAA newsletter, and individual and group charitable contributions. Besides working for the recreational fishing community as a voice to the government and the various fishing regulatory agencies, the organization supports activities for disabled veterans, and several youth fishing activities. The next JCAA tournament will be the Heavy Hitters Tournament August 3 to 6, in which you get to select which one of the four days you want to fish. More details should appear soon on the JCAA website (which unfortunately has not been updated as of my writing this report) at <https://jcaa.org/> .

**2023 FOM CONTESTS** - Please see the following table for all FOM contests. There are presently 15 Open contests shaded in blue & Congratulations to the Winners shaded in green

### 2023 Bill Figley Young Angler FOM Awards (4)

1	1 April - 30 September No Entry to Date	White Perch
2	1 June - 30 September No Entry to Date	Blowfish
3	1 June - 30 September No Entry to Date	Kingfish
4	2 May - 27 September Braddock Cline Leads 18 3/4"	Fluke

### 2023 Regular FOM Awards (26)

1	15 March - 30 June Dave Puzak 37 3/4"	Striped Bass
2	15 March - 30 June (Surf Only) Pat Presutto 37 3/4"	Striped Bass
3	15 March - 30 September Brian Leary leads 26 3/4"	Bluefish
4	15 March - 30 September (Surf Only) Pat Presutto leads 31 1/2"	Bluefish
5	15 March - 30 June Dave Spendiff 14 1/4"	White Perch
6	1 April - 30 June Tyler Leary 27 1/4"	Weakfish
7	1 April - 31 October No Entry to Date	Blowfish
8	1 April - 31 October No Entry to Date	Kingfish
9	1 April - 31 December Ron Nachmann leads 37 1/2"	Red or Black Drum
10	1 - 30 April & 1 Aug - 30 Sept Marty Friedrich leads 22 1/4"	Blackfish
11	2 May - 30 June John Barrett 24 1/2"	Fluke
12	2 May - 27 September (Surf Only) Cheri Hebert leads 22 1/2"	Fluke
13	17 May - 19 June Bill Figley 21 1/4"	Seabass
14	1 - 31 July Marty Friedrich leads 24 1/2"	Fluke
15	1 - 31 July Ed Valitutto leads 16 3/4"	Seabass
16	1 July - 31 October No Entry to Date	White Perch
17	1 July - 31 October No Entry to Date	Weakfish
18	1 - 31 August	Fluke

19	1 - 31 August	Seabass
20	1 - 27 September	Fluke
21	1 Oct – 31 Dec	Bluefish
22	1 Oct – 31 Dec (Surf Only)	Bluefish
23	1 Oct – 31 Dec	Striped Bass
24	1 Oct – 31 Dec (Surf Only)	Striped Bass
25	1 Oct – 31 Dec	Blackfish
26	7 Oct – 31 Dec (Closed 27 – 31 Oct)	Seabass

**2023 FOM ENTRIES** - Here's our list of the latest 2023 entries to date from last month's Newsletter. Go to [VHFC Standings](#) for the complete list of entries.

06-02-23	Fluke	23"	Bob Rode	Caught on a Bobcat
06-05-23	Fluke	21 3/4"	Jim Healy	Behind the dike
06-09-23	Fluke	22"	Dave Puzak	Barnegat Bay
06-13-23	Weakfish	22"	Tyler Leary	Outside Barnegat Inlet
06-15-23	Weakfish	27 1/4"	Tyler Leary	On Barnegat Light Beach
06-16-23	Seabass	16"	Bill Dabney	Little Egg Reef
06-17-23	Fluke	24 1/2"	John Barrett	GSN
06-18-23	Bluefish	26 3/4"	Brian Leary	Barnegat Inlet
06-19-23	Fluke	21 1/2"	Cheri Hebert	Barnegat Inlet
06-22-23	Fluke	23"	Cheri Hebert	Barnegat Inlet
06-28-23	Fluke	18 1/2"	Maddie Ludwick	Barnegat Bay
07-01-23	Fluke	22 1/2"	Cheri Hebert	Off the BI Jetty (Surf Only)
07-03-23	Fluke	18 3/4"	Braddock Cline	Middle Grounds
07-06-23	Fluke	22"	Marty Friedrich	Little Egg Reef
07-06-23	Fluke	24 1/2"	Marty Friedrich	Little Egg Reef
07-07-23	Fluke	22 1/2"	Bob Dodds	High Bar Harbor
07-07-23	Seabass	16 3/4"	Ed Valitutto	GSS Reef

**Be sure to check out the next photos!**





**Tyler Leary with his 27 1/4" FOM winning Weakfish caught off the Barnegat Light surf! Great fish and photo! Notice the small jig with pink Gulp. Weakies love pink.**



This is a friend of Pat Presutto with a very impressive fluke caught off the LBI surf. The fish was 7.26 lbs and 26" length at Surf City B&T. Pat's been teaching him striper beach fishing in exchange for some surf fluke pointers.



That's Rod n' Reel winner Phil Gaetani holding his new outfit won at the raffle at the June meeting. Year before last, Phil won both rod raffles so that is his third combo!

**BEACH HAVEN CHARTER FISHING ASSOCIATION** by Capt John Lewis - BHCFA is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year. Formed by local charter boat captains on LBI and the surrounding mainland to improve opportunities for both the captains and the fishing public and to provide a formal training for teenagers to learn the skills necessary to work on charter boats. During the fishing trips, the mate is the face of the boat as well as representing the captain. They are a very important part of the experience and critical to the success of the trip. We cannot guarantee the fish will bite every day but a good mate, between his or her fishing and social skills, goes a long way to help make it a fun, educational and an overall enjoyable time on the water.

It's easy to critique kids today and that is nothing new. But the youths we recruit to join our program break that stereotype. They are energetic, curious and friendly people who get up early and work hard and are eager to learn. In 2019, after hearing Bill Figley, the father of the artificial reef program in NJ, give the class a talk on the artificial reefs, their benefits and the current state of deterioration, they started asking questions. One of the last questions was "What can we do to make a difference?" That was the start of the Junior Mate Reef Project.

Most people don't realize that the State of New Jersey does not invest in artificial reef material. Every deployment is paid for with donations of materials or money. Even free materials have transportation and equipment costs associated with the delivery and deployment. It is only through the generosity of individuals and groups like the Village Harbor Fishing Club that we are able to add to the marine habitat off LBI.

One common misunderstanding is that artificial reefs only gather the existing fish populations. In reality, like all creatures, the more food and shelter marine animals have the more they reproduce. Therefore, we are actually growing our own fish. Additionally the new materials develop habitat quickly. Our first deployment consisted of a 140' barge, a tugboat and a push boat that were deployed on Little Egg Reef on January 14, 2021. Stockton University, with whom we have a working relationship, took underwater video that August and you can see the growth and fish that are all over it. We also got feedback of keeper fluke and sea bass so the return on investment comes quickly.

We have now deployed vessels on Little Egg and Barnegat Light reefs and reef balls on all four reefs off Long Beach Island. The plan is to have a multigenerational project so our Junior Mates will be successfully fishing our reefs when they are my age. You can find more information and pictures and videos on our website, [www.bhcfa.org](http://www.bhcfa.org) or on our Facebook page. The Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association is an IRS approved 501.c.3 so your donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your continued support.



Our second deployment of 2023 happened on Thursday July 6th. The 45 foot tug ***Tibor*** was deployed on Barnegat Light reef at 10:00 am.



***TIBOR*** ready for transport to Barnegat Light reef



The last minutes for *TIBOR* on the surface before being sunk to rest forever on the sandy bottom of Barnegat Light reef. Within a few months, marine life will abound over and around her.

I asked Capt Lewis for the coordinates but all he has so far is where the tow boat was when the tug went under so *TIBOR* should be within a few hundred feet.

Those coordinates are: 39-45.792 N x 074-01.192 W

Capt Lewis will provide the exact numbers next week.

**VHFC 2023 FLUKE TOURNAMENT** - The seventh annual VHFC fluke tournament will be on Saturday July 15th with a rain date on Sunday the 16th. The details are on the next page. **If you plan on attending and have not yet made that known to me, please do so immediately. We will be buying the BBQ foods this coming week and would like to have a reasonable headcount estimate.** You may sign up and pay at the July meeting. All entrance fees will be awarded as prizes. VHFC will provide the BBQ (burgers, dogs, soft drinks, etc) at Mill Creek park. Per the township rules, VHFC cannot provide alcoholic beverages. If you wish to bring beer or wine for our own consumption, that's acceptable.

The same rules for the Fluke Tournament apply as with all our contests. You must be fishing from Ocean County on land or from a boat that departs and returns to Ocean County. For the tournament, you can fish from the beach or off a jetty, by boat or kayak, on a party boat or even on a charter.

If there are members looking to jump on someone's boat, please let me know and I will see if someone has room.



**VHFC 2023 FLUKE TOURNAMENT****Saturday, July 15, 2023**

Once again, VHFC will hold our 7th fluke tournament for members, family and their friends. Following the tournament, the club will sponsor a BBQ for tournament entrants to be held at the Beach Haven West Pavilion located on Mill Creek Rd. VHFC will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, sides, soda and water. Please feel free to bring your favorite side dish to share.

The tournament entry fee is \$20.00 per person, which includes the BBQ for the member and their spouse and non-member fishing participants. Members and non-member participants may invite a guest(s) to attend the BBQ, but each guest, 13 years old or older, must pay \$10.00. All tournament entry fee money will be paid out as prize money.

**TOURNAMENT RULES**

- **Entry Fee** – \$20.00 per person
- **Date** – Saturday July 15, 2023 (Rain date - Sunday July 16)
- **Time** – 12:01 AM to 5:00 PM
- **Where** – From the surf or boat leaving / returning to an Ocean County port.
- **Weigh In** – BHW Pavilion from 4:30 – 5:00 PM. One entry per person.
- **Prizes** – **1<sup>st</sup> Place** = **50%** of prize money **2<sup>nd</sup> Place** = **30%** **3<sup>rd</sup> Place** = **20%**

Cut here

**SIGN UP SHEET**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

VHFC Member Will spouse attend BBQ? Y N 1 X \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Non - VHFC participant Will attend BBQ? Y N 1 X \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Non Fishing Guest(s) attending BBQ # \_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Names of guests: \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL =** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**MONTHLY RECIPE SUBMITTED by Jerry Nichols    Striper Tacos****Ingredients:**

White fish, striper works great, cut into bite size chunks (about an inch square)

Taco seasoning: 1 part each chile powder, cumin, smoked paprika, salt, and coriander plus a dash of garlic powder or use packaged taco seasoning

Slaw: red cabbage shredded, chopped cilantro, juice of one lime

Sauce: 1/2 cup mayo, lime juice, ground chipotle or canned chipotle in adobo sauce (chop up chipotle pepper and mix with mayo to taste).

Note: For a simpler option, mix 1/2 cup mayo with sriracha sauce to taste.

Good quality soft corn or flour tortillas.

**Directions:**

- 1) Cut fish into cubes, toss with olive oil to coat all sides and sprinkle liberally with taco seasoning. Let sit for 20-30 min. Prepare and toss slaw ingredients then make sauce.
- 2) Warm corn or flour tortillas in skillet one at a time until lightly brown but still pliable and set aside in a warm place.



- 3) Add olive oil to the skillet and heat until hot but below the burning point of the oil and add fish in uncrowded batches. Flash cook the fish with the goal of browning each piece but not over cooking. Serve immediately allowing guests to build their own tacos.

**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](mailto:edvalitutto@gmail.com) or call 609 994 1311 and provide me with the details so I can 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 June Newsletter and the July 4th holiday.



That's John Barrett's 24 1/2" beauty that went 4.93 lbs caught for the JCAA Tournament held on June 17th. Unfortunately, it was second place for the tourney and didn't win any money. John did win FOM for June with his catch.



That's my neighbor Chris who asked me to join him on Father's Day. We started in Tuckerton Creek and Chris quickly landed a nice 19" fluke.

We went to the Middle Grounds near the LE buoy where Chris had another 19" fluke and I had two shorts.

Our final drift was up by the gas docks where I hooked a nice just under 19' fluke that went back unharmed!.





**That's Bob  
Dodds, Caesar  
Pesarini and  
me after a  
Brett Taylor  
Fluke outing.**

**We set a new  
record!  
Previous  
worst for this  
season was  
four keepers.**

**You will have  
to work hard  
to beat our  
catch!**





That's Larry Leary and friend Jimbo who had nice action on the AC reef.

They had 4 nice keepers to 23-3/4" along with a few sea bass.





That's Bob Dodds, Caesar & Greg, past member Bert & future member Boston Bob out for a day of fishing with Greg Carr on the Kev n' Ash. They had a rough trip out, but perfect weather when they arrived at a wreck that Greg knew well. They had their boat limit of 60 in 2 hours.





With a beautiful weather forecast, Ed V went out with his four grandsons (Nick and Vinnie Rossi and Jacoby and Braddock Cline) to the Middle Grounds. They ended up with a Barnegat Bay Slam – two keeper fluke, several short fluke, a cow nosed ray and a dogfish. Junior Angler, Braddock Cline age 9, was ecstatic with his 18 3/4" Fluke!



**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](mailto:jorsoe786@gmail.com).

A fire extinguisher is one of the items that is required. Last year, a new law regarding them went into effect. The extinguisher now has a 12 year qualifying life cycle. If you look at the bottom, you will see the year it was made. Just add 12 years to that date to figure the expiration date.



**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



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.

### **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. 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&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:**  
<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**

**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**