



# **HARBOUR LIGHT**

**OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER April 2025**

*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 6:45; Meeting begins at 7:15 PM***

***Next meeting: 11 April 2025***

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello VHFC Members,

With the arrival of Spring on March 20th, winter is now behind us and the start of the 2025 season is here with our first Newsletter! And what a season it's shaping up to be with even more club improvements again this year. I have an article later in the Newsletter highlighting all the new features in more detail.

Hopefully you've already begun getting your boat and fishing tackle ready or better yet, have been out using them. Bring your equipment to our local Bait & Tackle sponsors, not only to say 'thank you' for all their help in our club events, but also to get your club discount! Do it before the rush of the Memorial Day weekend (May 24 - 26) arrives. Don't expect your gear to be at its peak after spending many months lying around the house, basement or garage. At a minimum, remove your reels from your rods, wipe them down to remove any accumulated salts or grime, check your guides, remove several feet of braid or replace any older mono and lube your reels as recommended. For spinning reels, remove the spool and clean the inside of the spool and the

reel shaft. Add some reel lube or petroleum jelly and you should be good to go. **Remember, tighten every screw and nut securely.** Otherwise, bring them in for service **now!** Go through your tackle and discard anything not worth repairing or that you haven't used in years!

Finally, get out there and fish! White Perch and Striped Bass are definitely here. Bayside Dave had a string of Perch and a short Striper from the Mullica back on March 7th, Alan Goracy had a keeper Bass on March 11th at Graveling Point and new member Glen Minor had some nice Perch there two days later. So it has definitely started! **And they all forgot to enter their fish into our FOM contests that opened 1 March!** But our Weighmaster Pat Presutto got a Striper just shy of 31" on bloods that he entered for our first 2025 entry! Earlier this week Al Goracy fished Graveling point and had 6 bass with one keeper! White Perch are also making an appearance with Bill Bond catching one at 12 1/2 and Dave Spendiff getting one at 13". Hopefully the weather cooperates to really kick the spring fishing into high gear. **From Tony's B&T April 6th Report** *"Striped bass action is very good in proximity to Causeway bridges. Bloodworms are the bait of choice for bait anglers & white or pearl paddle tails on the artificial scene. Tautog bite is slow off the south jetty in Barnegat Light, but I have spoken to a couple anglers that were able to hook a keeper. White perch bite is picking up in Beach Haven West lagoons on grass shrimp, minnows and/or bloodworms.*

I look forward to seeing everyone on April 11th at our first meeting for 2025. Once again, **meetings start at 7:15 but doors are open at 6:45.** As always, be sure to take a photo of your catch for our awards and submit a report for others to enjoy and learn where the fish are.

**NOTE: I am on vacation Apr 24 - May 7 with only email service. Also, the May NL will be out one week later than usual on May 11.**

Ed

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**UPCOMING VHFC 2025 EVENTS - For your long term planning and participation.**

1. Club Meeting to kick off 2025 on April 11
  2. Battle On The Beach May / June - Local HS fishing contest on the Barnegat Light sands. VHFC officiates the event.
  3. Party Boat Spring Bottom Trip on Mary M Tuesday May 20
  4. VHFC Inshore Slam May 12 - 18 New for 2025
  5. Fluke Tournament / BBQ in July 12 with (13th as Rain date)
  6. Tri Club Tournament /BBQ July 26 / 27
  7. Party Boat Fluke Trip on Super Chic Tuesday August 19
  8. VHFC Open Late August - New for 2025
  9. Party Boat Bottom Trip on Mary M Wednesday October 1
  10. Dinner in October
  11. Surf Tournament in November
- 



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**NEW JERSEY REGULATORY NEWS by Phil Simon** - Sector Separation: I was against it but now I am for it.

The Mid Atlantic Marine Fishery Council has been soliciting input on the proposal (in the form of a formal amendment) to divide the regulations concerning recreational fishing into one group for party and charter captains, and the other for the rest of us. My initial reaction, which I expressed

at one of the open meetings run by the Council, was in opposition to the idea. Here were my reasons:

1. This is a zero-sum game with winners and losers, and the losers in this case are recreational boat and surf fishermen, the winners are the charter captains and party boats.
2. Private recreational fishermen will likely face a loss of fishing days or reduced keepers or both, as the recreational RHL will now have to be allocated to two separate groups.
3. This introduces yet another “us vs them” factor into the discussions on fishing regulations, adding to the already uncomfortable animosity between the commercial and recreational sectors.
4. This would add another layer of complexity to the regulation setting process as well as the set of regulations the recreational community will have to deal with.
5. At least for New Jersey, this would primarily impact fishing for Summer Flounder, which is already tight. Scup fishing is not a major fishery in NJ, and bluefish are already subject to sector separation under current regulations. And as Black Sea Bass are quite plentiful currently, the allocations probably would not be too impactful, although some changes are likely here as well. So, the battles will be primarily over Summer Flounder and would be highly contentious. Loss of catch in this fishery will have a big impact on the bait and tackle shops, and other business dependent on Summer Flounder private boat and surf fishing, as this is the primary summer fishery in NJ.
6. A significant problem with the amendment as written is that it is hard to judge just what the magnitude and scope of potential changes to RHL allocation are under consideration. Without the specific numbers that could result makes it difficult to support the overall proposal. Hopefully the next version will give us a clear indication of just how much the private sector will be impacted.

But, I also heard what sounded like a cry for help from the charter and party boat captains at the meeting, and I started to think about the other side of the question. So here are my reasons to support the initiative:

1. The charter and party boat businesses have been in decline for a number of years, due to the changing demographics of the recreational fishing sector, the increased costs of fuel and crew, and the loss of target species due to a combination of climate factors, environmental decay, and regulatory mismanagement. Help for this sector is needed now.
2. For many recreational fishermen, charter and party boats provide their only access to open water fishing (bay and ocean). The ongoing loss of these businesses that we have witnessed over the last 20 years has reduced fishing opportunities for many people. Several members of our fishing club use charters exclusively, signing up for dozens of trips each season.

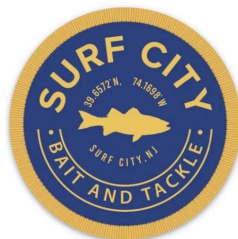
3. For me personally, even though I have my own boat, I still go out on 3 to 4 charter trips each season, as I know these captains can find the fish when I can't. It's also nice to have someone else responsible for the boat, the cleanup, and the filleting. Yes, it probably costs me more, but the cost/benefit ratio for me is favorable.
4. Our fishing club brings in guest speakers at each monthly meeting from April to October, and many of these speakers are local charter fisherman who are willing to share their techniques and best practices in exchange for exposure to our club membership and the potential to attract new customers. This is a valuable source of fishing knowledge for us and serves to increase the overall knowledge and enthusiasm of our club members.
5. For some of us, party boats provide an opportunity to get out fishing when conditions are a little too sporty for small boats, or when the distance to the best fishing grounds is farther then we would like to go in a small one-motor boat. Party boats and large charter boats provide the opportunity for larger groups of families and friends to fish together. Our fishing club now organizes three large charters per season, ranging from 10 to 25 members fishing together. Our choice of boats has diminished steadily as the economics of the business model and the restricted harvest limits have reduced both the profitability of the boats and the size of the customer base as the opportunities to bring home a fish have diminished.

Weighing the pros and cons concerning this issue, my reaction is to support sector separation, at least for now, because I think we need to take care to save the Charter/Party sector from going totally out of existence. Allowing their customers a greater chance to take home a fish should help to support the commercial viability of the sector. But care would be needed to avoid damage to the private sector. Reduced opportunities to fish will impact the businesses that they support, including bait and tackle shops, marinas, boat dealers, fishing publications, and more. And as they say, the devil is in the details, which we cannot see yet.

Next steps, the Council staff will re-work the amendment taking all the comments into consideration, hopefully adding some details about just what the regs could look like, and the process will continue with another round of public meetings. **What do you think?**

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**2025 VHFC CHANGES AND RECAP OF CLUB BENEFITS by Ed Valitutto**

1. **Doors Open Earlier** - Last year we started the club meetings at 7:15 and will continue but doors will be opened at 6:45 for 2025. The earlier time will allow members to pay their dues, buy raffle tickets, 50 / 50 tickets & hats, look at our library books, grab a drink or just talk to fellow anglers.
2. **Pizza Nights!** Last year, we added two additional pizza nights. 2025 pizza nights are scheduled for the May meeting, for our July meeting and for our final yearly November meeting.
3. **Club Member Rewards For New Member Sign Ups Continues!** Starting last year, a \$20 gift certificate was given to club members for each new adult member they recruited to join VHFC. So get your friends and neighbors to join our club and earn yourself rewards.
4. **Melanie Boytos Award (MBA)** - In 2024 we added Blackfish making the eligible species for MBA the same as our 6 FOY species. Thus, the angler with the highest point total for any or all species will have their name engraved on a special trophy displayed at a local Bait & Tackle store or elsewhere per their request. For 2025, we modified the table used to determine the points awarded for your largest catch per species. VHFC will also provide the monthly leading contenders on both our website and Newsletter. See [VHFC Contest Rules](#) for full rules and the Point table.
5. **Fish of the Year (FOY)** - No changes to a great contest for the anglers who land the largest of six species - Weakfish, Striped Bass, Bluefish, Fluke, Sea Bass & Blackfish. Each winning angler receives a lovely engraved personal plaque.
6. **Increased Junior Angler Awards** - Last year, per Bill Figley's suggestion, VHFC increased the Junior Angler awards to \$50 each for five species! For 2025, we have added two new species - Striped Bass and Sea Bass for seven awards. Note: if a Junior Angler wins an adult contest, they may enter a second fish for a junior award. Junior Anglers are members who have not reached their 18th birthday by the May meeting and cost only \$10. So sign up your kids and grandkids now for some fun competitions.
7. **Increased Adult FOM (Fish of the Month) Awards** - Last year we had 29 awards. In 2025, we eliminated Red Drum and added 6 new awards for a total of 34. We added Striped Bass over the 31" slot size caught from the surf (Tyler Leary's suggestion), we added a separate Spring Blackfish caught from land and we added 4 Pelagic species awards - Yellowfin Tuna, Bluefin Tuna, Mahi Mahi and False Albacore. Most award certificates will continue to be from FHQ, but we are also planning on having some awards available to our other sponsors. Full details of all 34 adult contests appear later or can viewed at [2025 FOM Standings](#)
8. **Great Club Events for Members and Their Families:**



- a. **Three Party Boat Trips - Two** Bottom Trips on **Mary M IV** on May 21 & October 8 and a Fluke Trip on **Super Chic** on August 19. VHFC will provide coffee and donuts to start off your morning.
  - b. **Battle on the Beach** - VHFC volunteers judge this fishing competition between several local high schools on the Barnegat Light sands. Winning school gets bragging rights, year long trophy display and a \$1,000 scholarship donated by the LBI Surf Fishing Committee. No date yet but stay tuned. This is a fun event watching these great kids compete.
  - c. **Fluke Tournament & BBQ on July 12** - Great day on the water and fantastic free BBQ for contest members and families held at the Mill Creek Park.
  - d. **Tri Club Fluke Challenge** – Initiated in 2024, the tournament is Saturday July 26 with the BBQ on Sunday at the Forked River Tuna Club. This is a tournament between Village Harbour, Fish Hawks and Forked River Tuna Club. VHFC will host the BBQ for 2025.
  - e. **Club Dinner** - Fall fun at Kostas Grill in Tuckerton. This is a nice gathering off the water with members and their families to enjoy a lovely dinner made even better with wine and appetizers provided by VHFC!
  - f. **Two New Tournaments for 2025** - VHFC Inshore Slam May 12 - 18 and VHFC Open in late August. These events allow club members to compete for prizes while enjoying some great fishing. Brainchild of John Stuebing, more details will be given at our April meeting and later in the Newsletter.
  - g. **VHFC Surf Tournament** – Started last year and managed by our very own “Bayside Dave”, members compete from the Beach, Land or Docks of LBI. Held in November with a BBQ at club sponsor Surf City Bait & Tackle.
- 9. Picture of the Month (POM) Continues-** Started and well received last year, send in your photos sharing the fun you have with friends and family while fishing or just spending time on the water or at the shore. More details later in the NL
- 10. Great Fishing Information Dissemination**
- a. Nine (April - December) Monthly Newsletters filled with all the latest local, club & JCAA fishing news as well as club member fishing reports.
  - b. Fantastic website [VHFC Website](#) with all the latest contest entries, rules, standings, forms. archived newsletters, members’ reports and more.
  - c. Member distribution of NJ F&W bulletins, JCAA Newsletters and the latest seminars offered by Rutgers Cooperative Extension.
- 11. Great Monthly Meetings with Speakers, Fishing Discussions, Snacks / Pizza -** Here’s the speaker lineup for 2025. Topics are still being discussed.
- a. **April 11: Jenni Ackerman** *The Fisherman Magazine* -Tog Fishing
  - b. **May 9: Steve Palmer** Jingles B&T - Fishing our local NJ waters

- c. **June 14: Chase Wunder and Doug Zemeckis** Rutgers University Fluke Tagging Study
  - d. **July 11: Jim Hutchinson Sr & Jim Hutchinson Jr** *The Fisherman Magazine* will present the MBA award. Topic TBD
  - e. **August 8: Greg Cudnik**, FHQ & Fish Head Charters - Tips to Improve Your Catch
  - f. **September 12: "Bayside" Dave Etelman**, Jetty Tog Fishing
  - g. **October 10: Brian Favre** Martek Marine Electronics - Seldom Used Electronics Features
  - h. **November 14:** As usual, no speaker for our final meeting. We celebrate with a pizza meeting along with a slide show presented by Phil Simon
- 12. New Hats** - New hats were ordered with a khaki cap and dark blue brim with a mesh back. Hats may be available at the April meeting. Hats will have our logo on them and will be \$25. Eight original caps are still available for \$20 if you prefer. Decals are also available for you to proudly display your club affiliation.



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**NEW JERSEY SALTWATER RECREATIONAL REGISTRY** - Individual saltwater anglers ages 16 and older MUST register with the State of New Jersey. Registrations expired on 31 December. So if you are now age 16+ or you have not yet renewed your registration for 2025, go to [NJ Fish & Wildlife Electronic License System](#) and complete the appropriate form. Registration / **renewal is free and is required if you fish NJ waters**. Also, your registration number is needed if you plan to apply for a Striped Bass Bonus Tag. If you haven't already seen it, here is a link to the 2025 NJ saltwater fishing regulations: [2025 NJ Fishing Regulations](#)



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**NEW JERSEY STRIPED BASS BONUS PROGRAM** - NJ F&W has not opened the Striped Bass Bonus Program (SBBP) applications but it should happen soon since the bonus tagged bass season opens May 15. As soon as applications are open, we will notify all members.

**SOCIAL MEDIA by Bayside Dave Etelman** - Our VHFC sites are [VHFC FB Site](#) and [VHFC Instagram](#). The FB site has 172 followers with 102 Likes with each post reaching thousands of people; our Instagram account has 163 followers. Dave shares Members Reports, club activities, monthly meetings as well as tips for fishing and boating on both social media networks.

As a follower of these platforms you can be interactive with the posts by sharing your thoughts, ideas and pictures in the comments. It's important to Like and Comment on each post to help boost distribution. **Here's a recent post**



**That's a Bunker from the stomach of Pat Presutto's 30 7/8" Striped Bass caught on Bloods on the West side of the bay!**

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**NEW ADVERTISING INITIATIVE by Chuck Dishian** - You probably already noticed that VHFC has embarked on a new advertising initiative by encouraging business owners to advertise in our newsletter, website and on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

The cost is 1/8 page for \$50 and 1/4 page for \$100. The ads run in our Newsletters from April through December and on our website / social media through March 31, 2026. Now here's where you come in. The club is offering a 20% discount to members. So, if you are

a VHFC member and you own, run or manage a business, you'll be able to showcase your business to our members, our Facebook and Instagram followers.

Also, if anyone has experience / expertise in advertising and would like to help, please contact Chuck Dishian at 914-439-6244 or by email, [cdishian@yahoo.com](mailto:cdishian@yahoo.com)

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**CLUB DUES** - VHFC yearly dues are \$50 for adults and \$10 for junior members and worth every penny! Junior members must be 18 or less by the May 9 Meeting. Dues are required by the May meeting but can be paid ahead at our April meeting or preferably mailed to our PO Box below. **Mailing your dues to our PO Box is highly recommended to minimize the chaos and time consumed at meetings.**

Please fill out the [Membership Form](#) and mail with a check to:

**VHFC MEMBERSHIP**  
**PO BOX 1026**  
**MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050**

**Remember: Dues must be paid at least 24 hrs ahead of any entry into our contests and there are 12 adult FOM contests and 2 Junior Angler contests already open!.**

**WEBSITE UPDATE by John Stuebing** - The Village Harbour Fishing Club has a new Website! If you have not had a chance, make sure you visit our new site at: [VHFC Fishing Club](#). The site has been updated with a new look. Many of the old features are still there like Members Reports. If you explore the site, you will find lots of useful information. On the Home Page there is a place where you will find Announcements and also Upcoming Events.

We have updated the list of Speakers for 2025. You will not want to miss any of the meetings. Also, we have a working Calendar of Events. Check it out to see what is coming up. Lastly, you will see the tracking of FOY, FOM & Melanie Boytos Award has been revamped. Ed, Bayside Dave and myself worked with Web 2.0 to get this all done over the winter. We hope you like it!

**BOTTOM FISHING ON THE MARY M IV by Phil Simon**- We are now scheduled with Capt Sam (Rescigno) for a bottom fishing trip on Tuesday, May 21 2024, on the Mary M IV. The average cost per person should be about \$100 including tip depending on the total number of anglers. I took a chance and scheduled it for a week after the 2023 start and luckily, the 2024 opening

dates will be the same as last year - 10 fish at 12.5 inches May 17 - June 19. So we will be hitting the wrecks just days after opening. Keep the date open and sign up for some great early season bottom fishing. VHFC will provide coffee and donuts for your enjoyment.



This is a full size party boat with plenty of space. Captain Sam and first mate Sammy provide a great day on the water.

***The 62' Mary M IV is Barnegat Light's largest charter boat and has the speed and range to get you to the best fishing grounds on the Jersey Coast! She has a large heated cabin where you can stow your gear or eat your lunch. The decks are fully walkaround and can accommodate up to 38 anglers on fishing trips.***

**VHFC INSHORE SLAM by John Stuebing** - We have a new tournament scheduled for May 12th to the 18th. We will be fishing for Fluke, Bluefish, Weakfish and Striper for an entire week (7 days). Every angler can fish any two days of their choosing. The rules give every type of angler some advantages and some disadvantages. **Full rules explanation at our meeting!**

- Boat Anglers can only fish in the Bay. They cannot enter or fish in any inlet. This gives Kayakers even chances with other boats.
- Surf Fishermen can fish from shore, piers, bulkheads or jetties. If fishing from the jetty, they cannot go out on the jetty further than the shore line. They can fish the Ocean (from the beach) and part of the Inlet. They lack the mobility of the Boat Fisherman.

All fish will be weighed in at designated Weigh-In Stations. All NJ fishing regulations apply. Anglers earn points for most weight by species. Winners are determined by total points earned across all species. Entry Fee will be \$20 with all fees returned as prizes. Top three anglers will win a percentage of the pot. Below is a look at how points are earned.

Points	Striper	Fluke	Bluefish	Weakfish
5	Heaviest Total Weight Caught Over 2 Days	Heaviest Total Weight Caught Over 2 Days	Heaviest Total Weight Caught Over 2 Days	Heaviest Total Weight Caught Over 2 Days
4	2nd Place	2nd Place	2nd Place	2nd Place
3	3rd Place	3rd Place	3rd Place	3rd Place
2	4th Place	4th Place	4th Place	4th Place
1	5th Place	5th Place	5th Place	5th Place

Total Weight is the cumulative catch per species over two days. Therefore, each angler can enter 2 Striper, 6 Fluke, 6 Bluefish and 2 Weakfish for the tournament.



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[Scott's](#)

**NEW SPONSOR by John Stuebing** - VHFC is pleased to announce that we have a new sponsor, **Martek Marine Electronic Specialists**. Located in Avalon, NJ they service the entire New Jersey Coast. They sell and install all major brands of Marine Electronics. VHFC members receive a 10% discount on purchases. Contact Joe Catanzariti at 609-390-3355.



**Martek Marine Electronics is a full service marine electronics equipment dealer.**

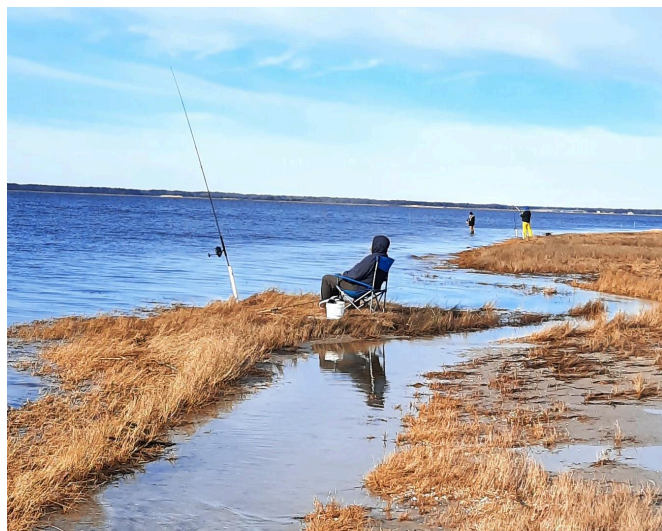
**We can help you decide on the best piece of equipment to suit your needs.**

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**PICTURE of the MONTH by Jerry Nichols** – This contest ran as an experiment last year. We knew VHFC members are very good at taking pictures of dead fish but could they reveal some more artistic ability? They could and they did with several very impressive photos like this one taken by John Stuebing. The contest will run again this year with rules as follows. Photos should be related to fishing in some way and include sights you encounter along the way. Submit photos anytime within the calendar month via email to Jerry and Phil at [jerry\\_nichols\\_tx@yahoo.com](mailto:jerry_nichols_tx@yahoo.com) and [sciman2@gmail.com](mailto:sciman2@gmail.com).

A winning photo will be chosen after the close of each month and published in our newsletter. Each winner will be entered in an end-of-year drawing for \$50 (yes, if a person wins more than once they'll get a ticket for each win). As you hit the water this season, keep your cameras and phones charged up close by. Good luck!





This is John Stuebing's winning entry from last March taken at Gravelling Point. It also was the winning entry selected at the November meeting. John took the photo and then introduced himself to Glen Minor - shown waiting patiently for a fish. Glen has now joined VHFC!

**2025 FISHING CONTESTS** - VHFC has three yearly fishing contests: Melanie Boytos Award (MBA), Fish of the Year (FOY) and Fish of the Month (FOM). Full rules and details are on our website at [VHFC Contest Rules](#) and standings to date are at [VHFC Standings](#).

**New for 2025 – All fish must be caught south of 40° 06' (Manasquan Inlet) and north of 39° 05' (Townsend Inlet). This applies to both Boat and Surf fishing. Head boats leaving from both Pt Pleasant and Brielle are legal. Tuna can be entered from the Hudson Canyon to Wilmington Canyon.**

Take a picture showing the entire fish with the measuring device, preferably a hard ruler, visible. Mail or text your photo to Weighmaster Pat Presutto ([pat1016pat@aol.com](mailto:pat1016pat@aol.com) or 609 994 8361) with a copy to Ed Valitutto ([edvalitutto@gmail.com](mailto:edvalitutto@gmail.com) or 609 994 1311). All fish must be IAW NJ F&W size limits and in season. Bluefish must be 14" minimum and bonus stripers must have the tag visible to enter.

**Melanie Boytos Award (MBA)** - The angler with the highest point total for any or all species - Striped Bass, Bluefish, Fluke, Weakfish, Sea Bass & Blackfish - will have their name engraved on a special trophy displayed at a local Bait & Tackle store or elsewhere per their request. Points are awarded for your largest catch per species IAW the table listed on our website [VHFC Contest Rules](#)

### **Congratulations to our 2024 MBA Winner Tyler Leary**

**Fish of the Year (FOY)** - Each angler with the largest Striped Bass, Bluefish, Fluke, Weakfish, Sea Bass & Blackfish will receive a lovely laser engraved plaque with their name, fish picture

and catch length. Congratulations to our 2024 winners. Your plaques will be awarded at our April meeting.

<b>Fish</b>	<b>Angler</b>	<b>Size</b>
<b>Bluefish</b>	<b>Dave Puzak</b>	<b>33 1/4"</b>
<b>Fluke</b>	<b>Cheri Hebert</b>	<b>27 1/4"</b>
<b>Sea Bass</b>	<b>Bill Dabney</b>	<b>21"</b>
<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>Tyler Leary</b>	<b>47"</b>
<b>Weakfish</b>	<b>Charles Tortorella</b>	<b>26 1/2"</b>
<b>Blackfish</b>	<b>Tyler Leary</b>	<b>22"</b>

**Fish of the Month (FOM)** - The largest fish caught during the specified period will be awarded a \$50 gift certificate to a local tackle shop. For 2025, there are 34 FOM adult awards and 7 Junior Angler Only awards each for a \$50 certificate. AS of today, there are 5 Junior Angler and 12 Adult contests open. **Open contests are shaded Green.**

### **Junior Angler Awards**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Size</b>
White Perch	3/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Bluefish	3/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Kingfish	3/1/25	11/30/25	TBD	
Blowfish	3/1/25	11/30/25	TBD	
Fluke	5/4/25	9/25/25	TBD	
Sea Bass*	5/17/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Striped Bass	3/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	

### **Surf FOM**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Size</b>
Striper	3/1/25	7/31/25	Pat Presutto	30 7/8 "
Striper	8/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Striper Over 31"	3/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Bluefish	3/1/25	6/31/25	TBD	



Bluefish	7/1/25	12/31/25	TBD
Fluke	5/4/25	6/30/25	TBD
Fluke	7/1/25	9/25/25	TBD
<b>Blackfish</b>	<b>4/1/25</b>	<b>4/30/25</b>	<b>TBD</b>
Blackfish	8/1/25	12/31/25	TBD

**2025 Boat FOM Leaders**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Size</b>
<b>Striper</b>	<b>3/1/25</b>	<b>7/31/25</b>	<b>TBD</b>	
Striper	8/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
<b>Striper Over 31"</b>	<b>3/1/25</b>	<b>12/31/25</b>	<b>TBD</b>	
<b>Bluefish</b>	<b>3/1/25</b>	<b>6/30/25</b>	<b>TBD</b>	
Bluefish	7/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
<b>Blackfish</b>	<b>4/1/25</b>	<b>4/30/25</b>	<b>TBD</b>	
Blackfish	8/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Sea Bass	5/17/25	6/19/25	TBD	
Sea Bass	7/1/25	8/31/25	TBD	
Sea Bass	10/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Triggerfish	5/1/25	11/30/25	TBD	
Porgy	5/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Fluke	5/4/25	6/30/25	TBD	
Fluke	7/1/25	7/31/25	TBD	
Fluke	8/1/25	8/31/25	TBD	
Fluke	9/1/25	9/25/24	TBD	
<b>Weakfish</b>	<b>4/1/25</b>	<b>10/31/25</b>	<b>TBD</b>	
Black Drum	3/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	

**2025 Boat or Surf FOM Leaders**

Species	Start	Finish	Leader	Size
White Perch	3/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Blowfish	3/1/25	11/30/25	TBD	
Kingfish	3/1/25	11/30/25	TBD	

**2025 Offshore FOM Leaders**

Species	Start	Finish	Leader	Size
Bluefin	5/1/25	11/30/25	TBD	
Yellowfin	5/1/25	11/30/25	TBD	
Mahi	5/1/25	11/30/25	TBD	
False Albacore	9/1/25	11/30/25	TBD	

**2025 FOM ENTRIES** - Here's our list of 2025 entries to date. Hopefully warmer weather will encourage more anglers to get out on the water.

Date	Angler	Species	Length	Location
3/27	Pat Presutto	Striped Bass	30 7/8 "	Dock Rd
3/30	Bill Bond	White Perch	12 1/2 "	Dock Rd
4/02	Dave Spendiff	White Perch	13 "	BHW Lagoon



Here's a photo of Pat's Striper. When enlarged, it's just shy of 31"!



Dave Spendiff caught this 13" White Perch to the fork of the tail for the FOM lead.

**FOM RULES REVIEW by Ed Valitutto** - All FOM entries are made by taking a photo of your fish against a ruler showing the tip of the fish down through its tail. This method allows anglers to enter a fish and release it if desired. Use a rigid ruler widely available, not a measuring tape which stretches with use. Send your photos to Weighmaster Pat Presutto via text (preferred) at **609 994 8361** or email him at [pat1016pat@aol.com](mailto:pat1016pat@aol.com). Please copy me on your entry, Ed Valitutto via text at **609 994 1311** or email me at [edvalitutto@gmail.com](mailto:edvalitutto@gmail.com). Pat will determine the official length and it will appear on our website and in future Newsletters. Ties split the award.

VHFC measures **Striped Bass** per NJ F&W rules "Total length (TL) is the distance from the tip of the snout with the mouth closed to the tip of the longer lobe of the caudal fin (tail), measured with the lobes compressed along the midline (tail squeezed). All other fish, except Kingfish, are measured to the center of the tail (**Fluke, Weakfish, Sea Bass, Blowfish, & Tog**) or fork (**Bluefish & White Perch**). **Kingfish** are measured to the bottom sloping tail lobe. See photo:



Since Kingfish have a sloping tail, length is based on the bottom tail lobe. This was Gene Geld's 2021 winning 16" beauty!



Here's a Weakfish caught by yours truly. This was 17 1/2" and won nothing!

**BEST TROLLING LURE by Ed Valitutto** - I saw this article by John Skinner touting the **Hogy Perfect Tube** as the best trolling lure for Bass. John listed the Pros as phenomenal productivity and the ability to troll in as little as 5 feet of water. His only con was that it gets bit by interference fish such as Blues and Sea Bass. The Key features include: 16', 19', and 24" lengths in black, wine, and bubblegum colors with a Mustad Hoodlum Stinger Hook.

John claims these lures get big stripers to hit any time of the day by shallow trolling or fishing deeper with the aid of egg or drail weights. John likes to troll them slowly at ~2 kts. Give it a try and report out at an upcoming meeting.







**LBI 23rd Annual 2024 Spring Derby - See [LBI Spring Derby](#) Saturday, April 5th @ 12 AM to Sunday, June 22nd @ 6 PM**  
**\$20 - Registration Fee For All Anglers**  
**100% Payout Prize Structure**  
**Striped Bass 50%/25%/10% Bluefish 15%**  
**Striped Bass Catch & Release "Surf Master"**  
**Prizes: \$150 in gift cards awarded to the angler with the longest striped bass over 38",**

**FISHING REPORTS by Ed Valitutto** - 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 our website. If you prefer, please email Ed Valitutto @ [edvalitutto@gmail.com](mailto:edvalitutto@gmail.com) or call 609 994 1311 and provide the details so I can do a report for you. Other members enjoy your reports and gain some valuable fishing insight. There were 7 reports to start the 2025 season.



My wife and I rent a house in Cape Coral, FL from January through March. SW FL was cooler than normal but warmed up for this charter in late January. I had several Spotted Trout and Redfish including this 24" beauty. Shown Blackened on the Half Shell, just leave the skin and scales on, brush with oil or butter and your favorite rub. Cook skin side down for ~5 minutes, turn and cook 2-3 minutes. Super easy and tasty! The picture shows my cooked fish on a pizza tin for two nice dinner meals.

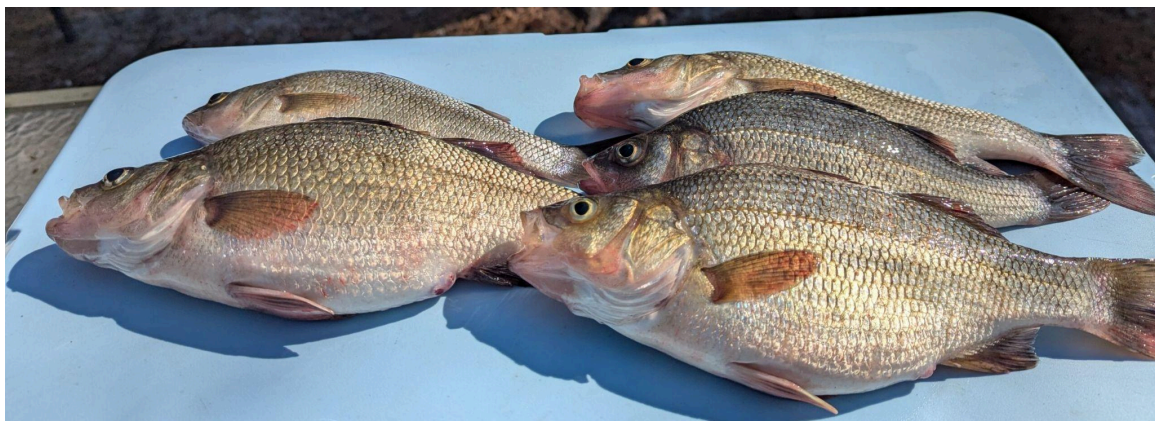




Bayside Dave went to the Mullica River with a dozen bloodworms. One rod had a striper rig with 4/0 inline circle hooks, and perch rig was on the other. Perch were biting well but an hour later he reeled in his first striper of the year. It went 26" and swam away strong after release. Dave ended up with a stringer full of good size perch by the time the worms were depleted.

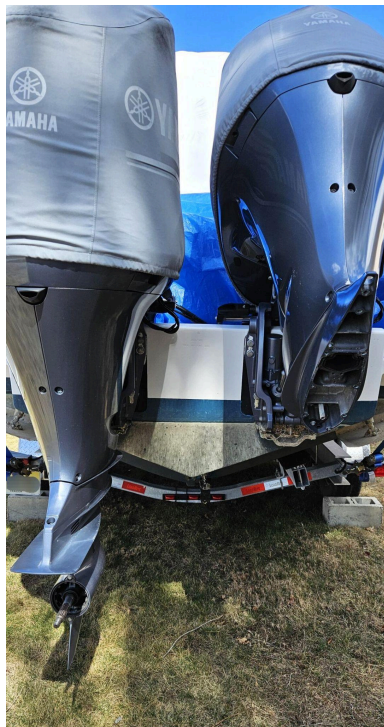


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New member Glen Minor got his first perch of the season at Graveling Point,





After a long winter, it's exciting to start getting the boat ready. Tim Naples serviced both lower units with new impellers in early March. Someone can't wait for Spring and warm weather!



With only a few days left until we head home from our Cape Coral winter rental, I did my last charter. What a day, several Snook including the one I am holding - 31 3/4" – that's just under the legal max size but I chose to return her for another day. The 22" Redfish went home to dinner and once again, I made it on the half shell.

Despite some great fishing, I was ready to return to NJ for Stripers and White Perch along with all the other species NJ has to offer.





**Weighmaster Pat Presutto decided to try a different area to fish to escape the winds. He wasn't too sure if it was going to be good, but he had to give Dock Rd a shot. The fish gods rewarded him with a nice almost 31" striper. Choice of bait was bloodworms.**



**Even that fat 12 1/2" White Perch wasn't enough to get Bill Bond to smile. Bill said it was a chilly, windy day but his old stinky Bloodworms were the ticket! Bill released the Perch for another day.**

**A WORD ABOUT SAFETY by Jeff Orsoe** - I'm sure that many of us are having thoughts and dreams of the approaching season with plans and goals for catching fish. This is also the time that all of us are either readying our boats for the season or already in the water and wetting those lines. As we write down all the items we need to do, such as preparing the power system(s) whether we contact our mechanic, or you are a DIY person, those chores include bottom preparation, checking our electronics that they are operating as intended. Whatever it is, we need to get it done to be on the water ASAP.

But have you considered the other side of chores to be checked? I'm speaking of the safety items that are stored aboard. Several of our members have a Vessel Safety Check performed each year. If you haven't had one done, maybe this is the year to add another item to your list. It doesn't cost you a penny. It is a free service provided by members of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and the US Power Squadron.

If your vessel is less than 26 feet in length, there are maybe approximately 7 or 8 items that are needed to receive the inspection decal. It is a simple check and only takes less than half an hour. But, there are a few items you need to check prior that will otherwise cause you to fail. They are the Navigation Lights (red, green and the notorious white stern light that usually is not working because of a bad bulb or corrosion in the plug connection. Another item is the Fire Extinguisher expiration date. Not a frequent item but you need to check the date of manufacture and add 12 to it. State law nationwide is that the extinguisher has a 12 year life span.

Also, let's not forget the distress signals. Because our waters are tidal, we must have an onboard visual distress signal. You are required to have both day and nighttime signaling devices. So that date needs to be checked. In recent years, manufacturers have produced the "electronic" distress signal. When you purchase one, besides the distress signaling device, it will also be packaged with a distress flag. Light is for night time and the distress flag is for use during the day. All the items that are inspected can be found at this link [Vessel Safety Check \(VSC\)](#). If you wish to have a Vessel Safety Check performed please contact me at 732-672-5530 or email at [jorsoe786@gmail.com](mailto:jorsoe786@gmail.com).

### **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.

**VHFC Hats - As previously reported**, new hats were ordered with a khaki cap and dark blue brim with a mesh back. Hats may be available at the April meeting. Hats will have our logo on them and will be \$25. Eight original caps are still available for \$20 if you prefer. Hats are khaki colored and feature a high definition VHFC patch on the front. They are high quality and available at club meetings. If you would like a hat, come to a meeting to purchase one.

**VHFC Shirts - Only 1 Medium left on hand** - We no longer need to order a minimum of 12 shirts, so please let us know your size and color preference. Sizes range from XS (Extra Small)

to 6XL and are available in nine colors. Shirts feature UPF 50 Sun Protection.

These are quality shirts to be worn proudly. White is shown in the photo.

Sizes: XS, S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL, & 6XL. Colors: White, Pale Green, Sand, Pale Orange, Pale Yellow, Pale Teal, Aqua, Lime & Medium Blue.

Contact Chuck Dishian at

[cdishian@yahoo.com](mailto:cdishian@yahoo.com) for placing an order. Last order prices were from \$30 - \$36 depending on size.



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**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**

**The Boat Shop** 10% discount with VHFC card  
756 E. Bay Ave, Manahawkin, NJ 08050  
**609-597-1271**

**Empire Fishing & Tackle** 10% discount with VHFC card  
11 East Main St Tuckerton. NJ 08087  
**609 857 5291**

**Scott's Bait & Tackle** 10% discount with VHFC card  
**609 294 1300**

**Surf City Bait & Tackle** 10% discount with VHFC card  
317 Long Beach Blvd, Surf City, NJ 08008  
609 994 2333