



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER September 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: 13 September 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,

Well this summer has certainly flown by! It seems like it just arrived and now fall officially begins with the autumnal equinox on Monday, September 22 at 2:19 PM or 2 weeks and a day from now. By my accounts, this summer had to be close to a record for heat and humidity. especially from July through the first half of August. Then Erin arrived to cool things down. Although we managed to avoid serious weather, Erin's winds and resulting tides / waves certainly impacted our area and our fishing. Our planned one week Offshore Tournament and Super Chic bottom charter both were canceled. Let's just hope all the remaining hurricanes and storms for 2025 travel even further out to sea as they pass our coastline.

As for fishing, fluking is still the prime fishery until the season closes on September 25th. If you can manage to find a day when the winds are down, make a trip out to our reefs while the season is still open. There have been some nice notable catches from 'the usual suspect' like

the Leary Clan and Marty Friedrich and pals! And to start off our September FOM on a high note, Cheri Hebert caught a 24.75" beauty of a Fluke and the next day caught a 25.75" to lead the pack! Sea Bass is now closed until 1 October but we did have a few weighed in for August along with a few Triggerfish! I read Brett Taylor's report about catching a bunch of Blowfish so if you can't get outside, consider doing a short bay trip for a tasty dinner.

Now that the LBI Fall Classic has opened, I'm sure some of our members will be reporting in with surf-caught Kingfish and Fluke or dare I even mention a nice Bluefish or Striped Bass! We haven't had any Blackfish yet but both boat and jetty Tog should start being caught. I even heard from a friend at the gym who said earlier this week, he headed out a short ways from BI and saw masses of birds and breaking fish. He said they were Albies and they had a blast catching and releasing them. I didn't ask if they were true Albacore, False Albacore or even Bonito. It didn't matter - they were hungry fish! We have also had a few Mahi Mahi in the mix and a few Cobia sightings so you just never know what might take your bait and come home for supper!

Of course, the best thing about post Labor Day 'down the shore' besides the nice weather and warm water, is the lack of people and car / boat traffic. So make the most of it and enjoy this great time of year. As always, please be sure to share your reports for fellow club members. Hope to see you this Friday!

Ed

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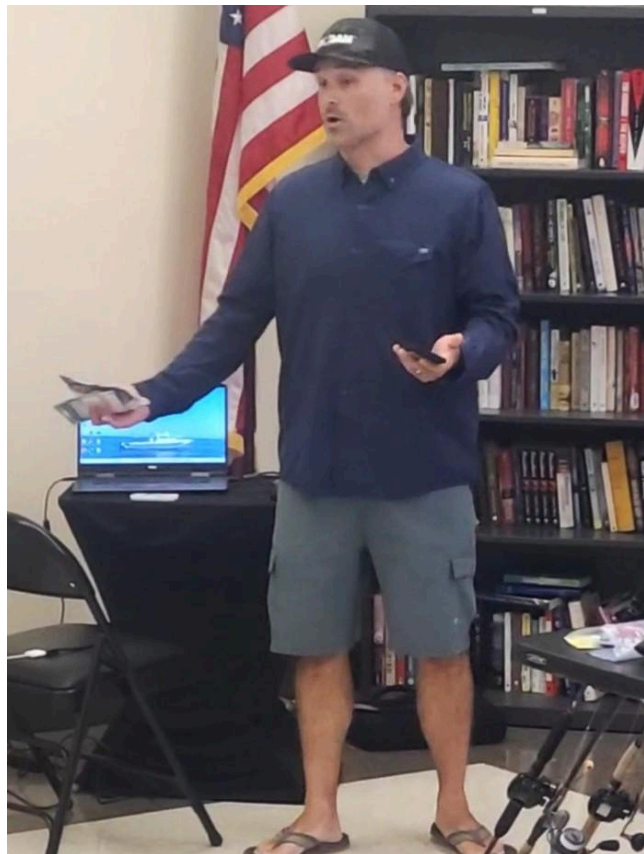
'On The Causeway'

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SEPTEMBER SPEAKER - Club member Dave Etelman moves off the beach to discuss the best tactics and gear for catching trophy tog from our local jetties. Well known in the local fishing community through his YouTube videos, Facebook page, and other social media, Dave will give us the best advice possible on claiming keepers from the jetty. Dave runs a popular Facebook group called [Surf Fishing LBI with Bayside Dave](#) which has 7,243 members and growing. It's an online forum for surf anglers, novice through expert, to share their knowledge of the sport and fishing reports from the beaches and jetties of LBI. The group also supports and promotes the local bait and tackle shops.

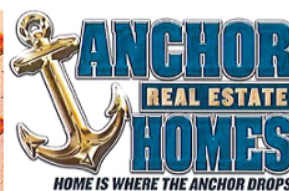


Shown here is our August speaker, Greg Cudnik, a passionate saltwater angler with a vast knowledge on our local fishery and saltwater fishing tackle. Greg is the general manager of Fisherman's Headquarters and also runs Fish Head Charters, a Light Tackle & Fly Guide Service. He is also the Editor of FishingLBI.com a fishing report blog focused on the waters of Long Beach Island. Greg's weekly reports are also featured on YouTube.

Greg held everyone's attention with his presentation on successfully targeting big offshore Fluke by anchoring via a trolling motor or your main motor and lightly jigging. That's right, no drifting! Just make small moves once the action slows. Several members have tried this technique and it definitely works!

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

1. Party Boat Bottom Trip on Mary M Wednesday October 1
2. October Dinner at Kosta's in Tuckerton on Wednesday October 15 at 6:00 PM
3. Fall Surf Tournament November 22



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NEW JERSEY REGULATORY NEWS by Phil Simon - “How did we get here?” This is a two-part article on recent developments in the regulation of several of the fisheries of interest to us as recreational fishermen. In this first part, I describe what is happening, and my views on the causes of the problems that we are experiencing. In the second part (October Newsletter), I will focus more on the issues with Atlantic Striped Bass, and some possible solutions for the long term.

At the recent meeting of the Mid Atlantic Fisheries Management Council (MAFMC) in Annapolis MD, a joint session to set the specifications for the years 2026 and 2027 was held with the management board for Bluefish, and for the combined management group of Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass, which shared with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). ASMFC handles fish stocks from 0 to 3 miles off the coast, while the MAFMC does the job for stocks 3 to 200 miles out. Joint custody of regulation of some stocks that cross the 3-mile line are handled by joint boards with members from both the Council and the Commission. The goal was to set the numbers for both the Commercial Quotas and the Recreational Harvest Limits (RHLs), i.e. how many fish can we keep.

On the surface the outcome appears to be good for all of us, with substantial increases in recreational and commercial harvest limits for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass. (Bluefish are still subject to a rebuilding program, where liberalization is more controlled.) And yet there was an undercurrent of pessimism with the recreational harvest future, with a sense that the new higher limits would not get translated into higher bag limits or relaxed size limits or seasons. Apparently, there are no such worries regarding the commercial numbers. Final recreational specifications will be made in November, after reviews of the data and process by additional committees, including the Advisory Panels of which I am a member. However, I am

pretty sure that unless there is some intervention from forces outside the normal Council/Committee system, Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Seabass will see no increases in their recreational harvest limits, Bluefish will continue to be highly restricted, and we may well see new plans to impose no-targeting closures on Atlantic Striped Bass.

So how can it be that the scientists now believe that liberalization of our recreational harvest is now recommended for several of the species, but it's likely that we will not see any increase in our catch. This is a complex situation, with multiple issues and a fair amount of subjective opinion on my part, but in my view here are the major culprits:

1. Commercial and Recreational harvest numbers are managed differently. Commercial landings are managed by direct reporting of the offloads from the fishing vessels at the docks. Disregarding for the moment the possibility of illegal fishing, accounting for the number of fish removed from the water is relatively straightforward, at least for the management teams. Recreational harvest is much more difficult, as there is no practical way to count the number of fish brought home by thousands of individual recreational fishermen. Thus, the management people must rely on indirect methods to estimate our removals and as we shall see this causes more grief than we deserve.
2. Let's start with the Marine Recreational Information Program, MRIP, which is the process that attempts to count both the number of recreational trips taken (the Fishing Effort Survey, FES), and the kinds and numbers of fish caught by individual fishermen, via Dockside Surveys. While both parts of this program have been subject to revisions and overhauls over the years, it is the FES that has become a real thorn in the side of the recreational sector. Revamped from a random telephone survey to a mail survey in 2018, the MRIP team reported that the new method for the FES was showing that the recreational sector was catching way more fish than indicated by the old FES. In some cases, the increases were astounding, with up to eight times as many fish being caught according to the new numbers. Without blinking, the ASMFC and the MAFMC accepted the new estimates without question. Even more astounding, they decided that the numbers justified revisions to the stock sizes as well. In the case of summer flounder, the stock size was re-estimated and increased based on the new MRIP numbers as were the Commercial quotas and recreational RHL, but the recreational increase was then negated because the new numbers showed we were catching more than our RHL; so no increase for us.

Panic followed with other stocks with the revised numbers that were generated by the "New MRIP". It was determined that Bluefish were now being overfished, and a rebuilding program was instituted along with a reduction of the recreational bag limit from 10 fish to 3. Normally, when you change methodology and get dramatically different data, you step back and attempt to determine why the new data is so different, before you institute the

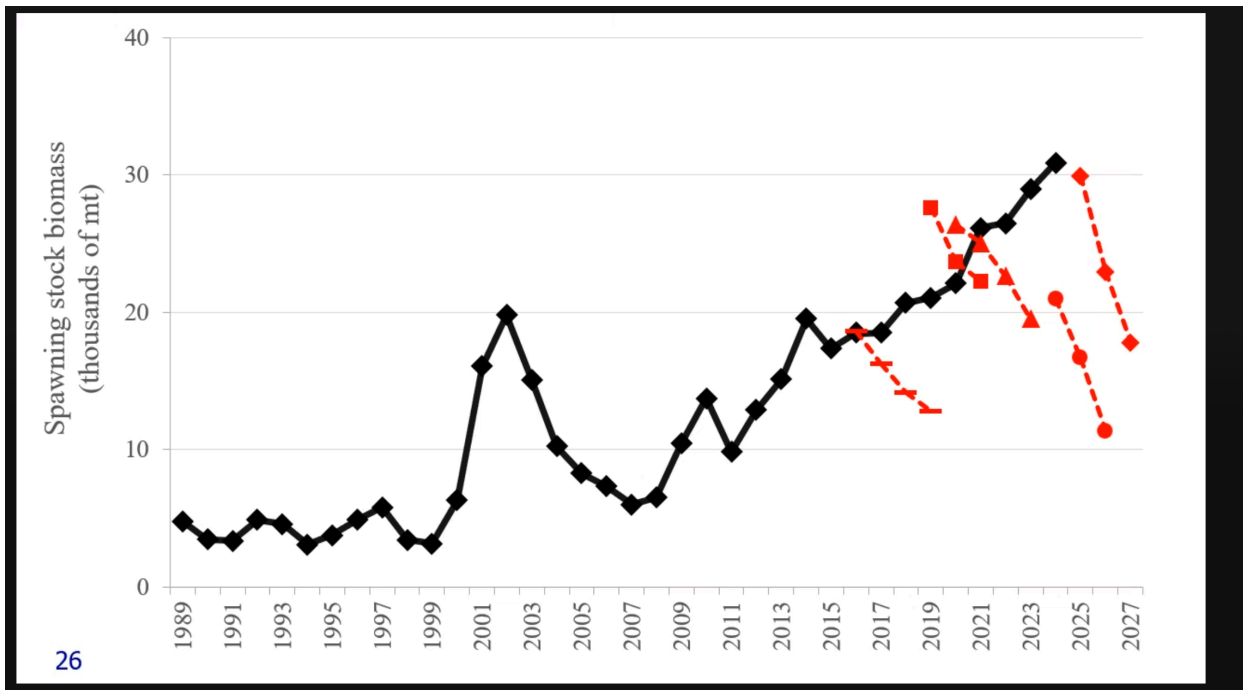
new methodology. Not so here, it was full steam ahead. We are only now finding out that the new FES survey has been systematically overcounted by 30% and higher, with devastating impact on all the subsequent regulations derived from this faulty set of data. (A classic case of Ready, Fire, Aim) The current buzzword is that the FES needs “recalibration”, maybe to be done for 2027. In my view, mail surveys have clearly shown to be a poor choice to generate data that is reliable, and the MRIP team should look at revamping the entire approach.

3. Estimates of catch and stock size have varied considerably from year to year, resulting in sometimes significant swings in determinations of RHLs, and yearly changes in the regs. To smooth out the process so that swings would not be as drastic, a new system was added to the recreational regulation setting process four years ago. The Percent Change Approach attempted to base bag and size limits not solely on the hard numbers of the previous year’s catch, but on other factors including state of the stock and the longer-term trends of the stock. While implemented with the best of intentions, it quickly turned out that no matter what, the results always came out with decreases in catch. No matter how big the stock grew, more cuts were indicated. It got so bad that for Black Sea Bass, the parent group to the MAFFC and the ASMFC, the Greater Atlantic Regional Fishery Office, GARFO, had to intervene last year to keep cuts from being implemented (the Science and Statistical Committee, SSC, also played a role in calling for cuts, more on that in a moment).

Some improvements were implemented to the Percent Change Approach at the end of 2024, but it looks like we will still see the process call for no change or even cuts to fisheries where the overall safe catch level has been raised significantly. We could again see increases in commercial catch with decreases in recreational catch. (No wonder I heard some of the comments from the Commercial reps to the MAFMC saying how they think the Percent Change Approach was “really working pretty well”). I’m guessing GARFO may be needed to fix things yet again, if the Council does not figure out how to deal with this nonsense, or even the commerce secretary, as we have seen in other instances in the past, might be asked to override the Council. Fishermen vote, yes?

4. As a group, fisheries managers tend to be conservative in their approach to fisheries management. And who can blame them? No one wants to be responsible for the collapse of an economically (and politically) important stock of fish, such as what occurred with the Atlantic Cod, so they tend to be cautious in allowing any sort of liberalization when it comes to setting catch limits. The scientists on the Science and Statistical Committee have shown a similar trend, often falling back on computer models and statistics when the answers these tools provide appear to be wrong. Just put up a complex algorithm and computer projection showing future stock declines, and who is

going to challenge you? An egregious example of this can be seen with the management of the Black Sea Bass fishery; the red lines on the chart below show the periodic predictions of stock decline, which never materialized, while the stock continued to grow and grow. It now stands at 2.8 times its target level.



Have you wondered why we kept seeing cuts to our catch while the stock was two to three times above its target? This is why. Projections by the scientists of crashing stocks caused the managers to tighten up the recreational catch. The good news is that the SSC has finally figured this out and are now backtracking on many fronts. Witness the recommendations from the SSC to increase Bluefish, BSB, Scup, and SF at the August MAFMC. The bad news is that these increases may not be turned into actual changes to our catch allowances, due to the questionable data and decision-making tools of MRIP and the Percent Change Approach. The people responsible for developing and implementing these tools have invested their careers in their efforts and will not give them up without a fight. We will have to raise our voices whenever possible to help ensure that the Commission and the Council and their various boards come to the proper decisions.

Next month I will continue with more details on Atlantic Striped Bass, including the issues surrounding poor recruitment numbers, and the resulting drive to further limit recreational and commercial harvest of these gamefish.

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ROD n' REEL RAFFLE by John Stuebing - Tickets for our next raffle will start at the August meeting and a lucky winner will be drawn at our September meeting. **Scott's Bait & Tackle** has donated a great outfit for this event. Here are the details:

- Daiwa BG 4000 Spinning Reel
- The reel is paired with a Jigging World Nexus Spinning Rod. The rod is rated for 20 – 50 LB line and is rated for 2 to 6 oz lure weight.
- This outfit is perfect for Stripers, Sea Bass, Ocean Fluke and Tog.

This will be a great outfit for the Fall.



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AUGUST POM WINNER by Jerry Nichols & Phil Simon - We will announce the winner at the September club meeting and at each month thereafter, along with showing the other entries. The winning photo will be shown in the newsletter for the next month. We also want to encourage more shots with people, maybe without necessarily having to display a successful catch, but

having a good time fishing. Sunsets and the like are OK, but people are what most folks want to see (especially if it's a picture of themselves and their family). Here's last month's winner:



Bill Bond, Pat Presutto and Glen Minor joined John Stuebing on a Tuna trip. Unfortunately, the Tuna eluded them but on the way back to port, a floating wooden pallet looked like an ideal home for Mahi Mahi. A few peanut bunker tossed around the pallet got the Mahi feeding and several were brought home for dinner!



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SOCIAL MEDIA by Bayside Dave Etelman - Our VHFC sites are [VHFC FB Site](#) and [VHFC Instagram](#) . The FB site has **207 followers with 122 Likes** with each post reaching thousands of people; our Instagram account has **206 followers**. Dave shares Members Reports, club activities, monthly meetings as well as tips for fishing and boating on both social media networks. It's important to Like and Comment on each post to help boost distribution. Here's a recent post.



Here's a couple of kids (at heart) enjoying a few donuts from Ferrara's Island bakery. Larry has the Nuclear Chicken and Jimbo is enjoying the New Penny Shrimp!



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BOTTOM TRIP - by Phil Simon We have the Mary M IV out of Barnegat Light booked for opening day of the full Black Sea Bass season, on Tuesday October 1st. 10 fish at 12.5...full coolers for sure! Plus there is a chance for Triggerfish, Porgy, Blackfish, etc. As we have only one meeting between now and then, I am providing this notice to give everyone a chance to sign up. Last year we had 25 people and there was plenty of room. Cost should be around \$100 pp but this will vary up or down depending on how many sign up. Departure should be at 6:00 AM with return about 2:00. Coffee and donuts will be provided by the club.



So far, we have 24 sign ups out of a possible 30.

Please respond to me at sciman2@gmail.com or text me at 908-656-4086 if you would like to sign up. Let me know if you want to bring any non-member guests as well.

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NEW JERSEY MARINE COUNCIL MEETING by John Stuebing - On September 6th, I attended the New Jersey Marine Council Meeting in Manahawkin. There were many topics discussed but I am only going to summarize a few key topics that I think affect most of us.

Blue Crabs: If you like crabbing and are using non collapsable pots, there are changes coming to the NJ regulations. You are allowed two traps with a non-commercial license. These traps must have a line and buoy attached with your CID number on the float. In addition, the trap itself must have a tag affixed with your CID number. These requirements apply to traps soaking in open water or secured to a dock, pier, jetty, etc. The question was asked; if crabbing from your bulkhead or floating dock (at your residence), do these regulations apply. Answer: YES! There will also be revisions to the terrapin excluders on these traps. They cannot be bigger than 6" by 2" and must be applied to every tunnel.

Croakers: Without going into a lot of details, NJ may be required to establish bag and size limits for next season. The Council has requested the Technical Committee (TC) to research what other states are doing.

Bluefish: It is estimated that the stock is not at the target levels but it is not overfished. As a result, the NJ commercial harvest level (CHL) will be increased by 50% and the recreational harvest level (RHL) will be increased by 40%. Most likely the changes for the recreational angler will be an increase in bag limit from 3 fish to 5 fish. Season and size limits (currently no size limit) will remain the same.

Black Sea Bass: The Bio-Mass is at twice the target and is not being overfished. For next year the CHL will be increased by 30%. It is expected that the RHL will be increased but it is unclear by how much. Why is that? I will briefly discuss in the Fluke Section. Several council members are floating the idea of an earlier start date (5/1/26) instead of increasing bag limits.

Summer Flounder (Fluke): Oh boy, hold on to your hats. We are at 83% of the Bio Mass target. It is estimated that we are not over fishing. The harvest levels will be increased for 2026 – for some people. As of this writing the CHL will be increased by about 38%. The RHL *may* not get any increase at all. Why? It is due the methodology that is being applied. Currently, a method referred to as "Percent change" is being used. Based on this method the results of multiple years are combined. That means in bad times the harvest reductions are not as drastic and in good times, liberalization of regulations is less. In this particular case, the numbers are right at the point where under this method, the recreational side of the fishery will not get any increase.

This started a spirited conversation between the Council and members at the TC. This is, in fact, a transfer of quota from the recreational side to the commercial side. Keep in mind that currently the commercial side gets 55% of the harvest and the recreational side gets 45%. The council asked the TC to examine options to get around this. There is big concern that the Public will not understand why this is happening. The representative from the TC explained to the council that there is no possibility that there will be a change in methodology between now and time the

regulations have to be set. The only hope we have at this time is a change in the estimates. If between now and the time regulations have to be set (December), the estimates of the size of the Bio Mass increase from 83% to 90% of target, there may be some room for increases in the RCL. I would not bank on it....

Striped Bass: I am not going into a lot of detail here. Phil has already updated everyone on what is going on. Everything that was discussed leads me to believe that there will be closures in 2026. There is a lot of fighting between the states about when the closures take place. As it is at this time, regardless of when the closures take place, New Jersey takes the brunt of the harvest reduction (12%). There is also a debate about "No Target" and "No Harvest". This entire situation is a complete mess. I asked the council and attending members of TC to explain "No Target". Specifically, how is it defined and how will it be enforced? They could not answer. The chairman, Dr Pat Donnelly, finally told me they have no idea.

The committee passed a motion to write a letter to the ASFC (Atlantic States Fishery Commission) recommending we maintain a status quo for 2026 based on potential economic hardship and other factors.

After the meeting, me and the representative from JCAA met with the lead representative from TC. I asked if we could implement closures at our discretion (for New Jersey). I was told that may be possible. One solution may be to implement a closure starting in June or July and another closure in December. That may have the least impact on the B&T stores and Charter businesses. We will have to see where this goes.

Enforcement: It was reported that there were 50 summonses written in the last two months for Blackfish alone. Some of those summonses were for possession of more than 40 fish. The council finally had enough. They are forming a committee to lobby with members of the State Legislature to form a separate Fish & Game Court. If successful the summonses would not get adjudicated in Municipal Courts that are overwhelmed. The goal is to start enforcing the fines. I hope they are successful.



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Sponsor Update by John Stuebing - If you live in the Tuckerton, LEH area you probably know that Empire Fishing Tackle is out of business. A new business will be opening at that location in the near future. Travis Bogin is going to be starting the Bogin Bait & Tackle business. I talked to Travis this week. He still does not have a CO from Tuckerton and has to do some repairs to the building. He plans to start with a small retail area selling seasonal tackle as the seasons progress. Right now, he is starting to stock some Striper, Tog, Sea Bass, Perch and Blowfish tackle. He will also have bait including Green Crabs. I talked to him about being a sponsor once he is up and running and he is very interested. Let's see how things develop.

I have removed Empire from our Website. Until further notice the new business will not honor any discounts we had with Empire.

Tackle Tips by John Stuebing - If you were at the last meeting, you may have benefited from Greg Cudnik's presentation on catching Fluke. Specifically catching Fluke out of the wrecks. As I tried to tie the twisted dropper loop that Greg showed us, I had a problem "spinning" the leader between my fingers.



I came up with a solution (literally) that solves the problem. I had a bottle of "Spin It" that I use when gripping golf clubs in wet or extremely cold weather. A drop between the index finger and thumb works great. I get a secure grip on the leader and can twist as much as I want. I included a picture of the bottle. It sells on Amazon for around \$14.00. A single bottle will last multiple seasons. Catch Em Up!



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LBI SURF FISHING CLASSIC - The 71st LBISFC kicked off August 30th and runs to November 30th. This legendary event, one of the world's oldest and most prestigious surf fishing tournaments, offers anglers a shot at over \$25,000 in prizes for landing striped bass, bluefish, kingfish, blackfish, red drum and now *New for 2025 - Summer Flounder!*

Be sure to check out the new details in the [Tournament Rules And Prizes Brochure](#). ***Don't miss out on this legendary island tradition, hit the surf and make history!*** [More Info.](#)

As of today, there are 220 registered anglers who have entered 26 fish - 9 Kingfish, 7 Fluke 5 Bluefish. 3 Striped Bass and 2 Blackfish.

VHFC SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT & BBQ by Bayside Dave

Date: Saturday, November 22nd Fishing time: 6 AM to 11 AM

Registration: \$20 VHFC members only - All fees returned as prizes

BBQ by VHFC: 12 noon at Surf City Bait & Tackle (317 Long Beach Blvd., Surf City)

Rules:

- Fish must be targeted from the beaches of Long Beach Island
- Maximum 2 rods per angler
- Baits and lures can be used
- Inline circle hooks are to be used when targeting striped bass with natural baits
- Bring your largest legal fish to Surf City Bait & Tackle for weigh in

Bluefish: Minimum length: 16"

Striped Bass: Legal length 28" to 31" or 24" to less than 28" with a bonus tag

Prizes:

Largest Striped Bass: 50% of fees collected

Largest Bluefish: 50% of fees collected

Tie broken by length

If only one species is entered, money will be split 60 / 40 for 1st and 2nd place or 100% if only one entry. If no species are entered, one winner for all the money by raffle.



Kayak sales, rentals, accessories, rigging and repairs as well as bicycle and e-bike sales and repair.

Discounts of 5% -10% for VHFC

2025 FOM ENTRIES - Here's our list of 2025 entries since the last Newsletter. Go to [2025 FOM Entries](#) for the list of all entries and contest standings.

Angler	Species	Category	Date		Size	MBA Pts	Location
Larry Leary	Fluke	Boat	Aug	5	21	2	Seaside
Tyler Leary	Fluke	Boat	Aug	5	21.25	2	Seaside
Larry Leary	Sea Bass	Boat	Aug	5	17	3	Seaside
Cheri Hebert	Fluke	Boat	Aug	7	24.5	5	Oyster Creek
Glen Minor	Fluke	Boat	Aug	14	19.5	1	GSS Reef
Glen Minor	Triggerfish	Boat	Aug	14	17.25		GSS Reef
Glen Minor	Sea Bass	Boat	Aug	14	14.5	2	GSS Reef
Phil Simon	Triggerfish	Boat	Aug	14	15.50		BL Reef
Mallory Figley	Bluefish	Boat	Aug	25	14.5		AC Reef
Mallory Figley	Fluke	Boat	Aug	25	22.25		AC Reef
Alexa Figley	Sea Bass	Boat	Aug	25	15.25		AC Reef
Alexa Figley	Bluefish	Boat	Aug	25	14.5		AC Reef
Bayside Dave	Fluke	Boat	Aug	25	20.5	2	Wreck
Tim Naples	Fluke	Boat	Aug	25	25.25	6	Wreck
Cheri Hebert	Fluke	Boat	Sept	1	24.75	5	Oyster Creek
Cheri Hebert	Fluke	Boat	Sept	2	25.75	6	Oyster Creek

Here are a few photos of August entries:



That's Ken Chew with a 25" Striper caught off the Barnegat docks on a sand flea while fishing for Tog in early August! Ken said the fish peeled 75' of line with a tight drag!

Cheri Hebert once again has entered a nice Fluke caught along the bottom of Oyster Creek. Cheri entered a 24.75" fish on September 1st and followed up the next day with a 25.75" beauty!



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 7 Junior Angler and 20 Adult contests open.

2 Boat FOMs closed in August. Congratulations to the Winners!

Drew Kraycirik Sea Bass 17.5"

Tim Naples Fluke 25.25"

We closed our Bluefin Tuna FOM IAW regulations. Sea Bass is now closed until 1 October but Fluke & Albacore Opened on September 1st.

As of 1 September, there are 7 Junior Angler and 20 Adult contests open

5 Surf, 8 Boat, 4 Boat or Surf & 3 Offshore

Open contests are shaded Green. Closed contests are shaded Red.

Junior Angler Awards

Species	Start	Finish	Leader / Winner	Size
White Perch	3/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Bluefish	3/1/25	12/31/25	Mallory and Alexa Figley	14.5
Kingfish	3/1/25	11/30/25	Alexa Figley	10.5
Blowfish	3/1/25	11/30/25	TBD	
Fluke	5/4/25	9/25/25	Bryson Wyatt & Mallory Figley	22.25
Sea Bass	5/17/25	12/31/25	Bryson Wyatt & Alexa Figley	15.25
Striped Bass	3/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	

Surf FOM

Species	Start	Finish	Leader / Winner	Size
Striper	3/1/25	7/31/25	Pat Presutto	30.875
Striper	8/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	

Striper Over 31"	3/1/25	12/31/25	Tom Godfrey	44.5
Bluefish	3/1/25	6/30/25	Pat Presutto	30.25
Bluefish	7/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Fluke	5/4/25	6/30/25	Pat Presutto	22
Fluke	7/1/25	9/25/25	TBD	
Blackfish	4/1/25	4/30/25	Mike Woodrow	15.25
Blackfish	8/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	

2025 Boat FOM Leaders

Species	Start	Finish	Leader / Winner	Size
Striper	3/1/25	7/31/25	Drew Kraycirik	26.5
Striper	8/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Striper Over 31"	3/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Bluefish	3/1/25	6/30/25	Jim Healy	20.75
Bluefish	7/1/25	12/31/25	Mike Woodrow	26
Blackfish	4/1/25	4/30/25	Bert Kern	17.5
Blackfish	8/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Sea Bass	5/17/25	6/19/25	Marty Friedrich	19.5
Sea Bass	7/1/25	8/31/25	Drew Kraycirik	17.5
Sea Bass	10/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Triggerfish	5/1/25	11/30/25	Glen Minor	17.25
Porgy	5/1/25	12/31/25	TBD	
Fluke	5/4/25	6/30/25	Cheri Hebert	26.5
Fluke	7/1/25	7/31/25	Ron Nachman	26.25
Fluke	8/1/25	8/31/25	Tim Naples	25.25
Fluke	9/1/25	9/25/24	Cheri Hebert	25.75
Weakfish	4/1/25	10/31/25	TBD	

2025 Boat or Surf FOM Leaders

Species	Start	Finish	Leader / Winner	Size
White Perch	3/1/25	12/31/25	Dave Spendriff	13
Blowfish	3/1/25	11/30/25	Dave Puzak	8.25
Kingfish	3/1/25	11/30/25	Perry Hoagey	13.5
Black Drum	3/1/25	12/31/25	Tyler Leary/Tom Godfrey	39

2025 Offshore FOM Leaders

Species	Start	Finish	Leader / Winner	Size
Bluefin	5/1/25	11/30/25	TBD	
Yellowfin	5/1/25	11/30/25	TBD	
Mahi	5/1/25	11/30/25	Glen Minor	34
False Albacore	9/1/25	11/30/25	TBD	

2025 MBA Point Leaders (Top 6 Shown)

Angler	MBA Points
Pat Presutto	13
Tom Godfrey	12
Tim Naples	12
Ed Valitutto	11
Mike Woodrow	11
Bill Bond	10

2025 Fish of the Year Leaders

Bluefish	Pat Presutto	30
Fluke	Cheri Hebert	26.5
Sea Bass	Marty Friedrich	19.5
Striped Bass	Tom Godfrey	44.5
Weakfish	TBD	No Entry
Blackfish	Bert Kern	17 1/2

VHFC SHIRTS by Chuck Dishian - Our recent shirt order has been delivered and will be available at our next club meeting.. **PLEASE NOTE!** We've just been informed by our supplier that prices and order minimums will increase after August 30. We are presently looking for a new supplier with possibly different options and styles. Stay tuned!

STEAMED CLAMS & MUSSELS from OTW Magazine -

I saw this recipe in OTW and thought this classic seafood dish is both simple and satisfying. Use whatever mix of clams and mussels just enough to pile into a big bowl, tear up some crusty bread, and dig in. Definitely add your own extras like chopped tomatoes, hot peppers and herbs. Feel free to send me your favorite recipe!

Ingredients

- 2–3 lbs fresh shellfish (mussels, littlenecks, steamers, or a mix)
- 1–2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1–2 cups white wine
- 1–2 cups water
- Crusty bread, for serving
- Optional: fresh parsley, lemon wedges

Instructions

1. Prep the Shellfish. Rinse the clams and mussels under cold water, scrubbing the shells and discarding any that are cracked or won't close when tapped.
2. In a large pot over medium heat, add olive oil, chopped onion, and garlic. Cook, stirring, for 2–3 minutes until the onions are slightly softened and fragrant. Add the butter and stir until melted.
3. Dump the rinsed shellfish into the pot. Pour in the white wine and water (use more or less depending on how much broth you want), and cover tightly with a lid.
4. Increase heat to high and steam until all the shells have opened. Clams take a little longer than mussels so put them in first. Give the pot a shake halfway through to help everything cook evenly. Discard any unopened shellfish.
5. Ladle the shellfish into wide bowls, spoon over the broth, and serve with toasted bread to soak up the liquid gold at the bottom. Garnish with chopped parsley and a squeeze of lemon if desired.

MEMBERS' 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 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 **9** reports for the month of August.



That's Tyler Leary out for some fishing with Grandpa Larry. They limited out with 6 nice Fluke to 21" and two Sea Bass.



Greg Kraycirik and good friend Mike limited out on Fluke at Barnegat Reef using Greg's technique presented at the September meeting.



Larry Leary and crew (Son, grandsons and friends) ended up with 11 nice keeper Fluke, a Sea Bass, Bonito and Bluefish!.



Finally a season limit for the Salty Dog crew. We also used Greg's technique of anchoring on or very close to a wreck.



That's Wil Kresge who was part of a 4 man crew out with Marty Friedrich for a limit of Fluke. The largest fish was 4.5 lbs!



That's our Melanie Boytos Award winner Tyler Leary with a magnificent 42 lb Golden Tile. No MBA points and no FOM but fond memories of such a phenomenal catch and some great eating!



Ed V and John Stubing were out on the *Salty Dog* for some wreck fishing for Fluke pre Hurricane Erin and managed their second limit of Fluke - again using Greg Cudnik's technique.



That's Larry Leary and friend Jimbo (earlier seen munching on donuts) with a nice Fluke and Triggerfish.



Marty Friedrich and crew went to Garden State South reef and still managed a four man limit of Fluke and two Sea Bass despite some nasty seas at the start of the Labor Day weekend.

VHFC Hats by Chuck Dishian - As previously reported, new hats with a khaki cap and dark blue brim with a mesh back were ordered and received. Hats are available at all meetings. Hats will have our logo on them and will be \$25. Some 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.

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS By Jeff Orsoe - I am available to perform a Vessel Safety exam on your vessel at any time and have the VE stickers (Vessel Exam decal) that is placed on the vessel upon successful completion of the checklist. 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. The boat owner just needs to take care of the problem and reschedule another exam for the decal to be awarded. **Contact: Jeff Orsoe**
Cell / Text: 732-672-5530 or email: jorsoe786@gmail.com.

A fire extinguisher is required onboard and all fire extinguishers now have 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.

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

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

Martek Electronics

701 Old Avalon Blvd Unit 4 Avalon, New Jersey 08202

609 390 3355

The Boat Shop 10% discount with VHFC card

756 E. Bay Ave, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

609-597-1271

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

West Marine - Special discount with VHFC card

424 Rte 9 S, Little Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08087

609-296-6243