



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER April 2026

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 6:00; Meeting begins at 6:30 PM

Next meeting: 10 April 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,

Welcome to the 2026 fishing season! Today is April 5th and spring officially arrived on March 20th just over two weeks ago. Today is Easter Sunday and Passover began on April 2 and ends on April 9th - so **Happy Easter and Happy Passover to all celebrants!**

As in years past, 2026 will start quickly with White Perch being caught in the usual early season haunts and Striped Bass reported around the bridges, sod banks and even a few on the surf. Maybe 2026 will be the year the hungry yellow eyed demons, aka Bluefish, invade our local waters in spring as evidenced by Member Reports a few years back. Tautog, or if you prefer Blackfish, officially opened on 1 April and can be caught on local wrecks, sod banks and the Barnegat Light jetties and bulkheads. As our bay waters are warming, a good bet for early fishing action will be to try for striped bass off the many bulkheads in our area, off Graveling Point and certainly near the Causeway bridges. Schoolie Striped Bass action will be your likely

catch but you never know when a keeper will bite or a Black Drum as a surprise catch. And don't forget about those tasty White Perch who should be gathered for their spring spawning runs in Mill Creek and the Mullica River. If the winds and waves are favorable, the reef sites are a good bet for keeper Tog. If your boat isn't ready yet, hop on one of our party boats or charters to get in on the action. **Bottom Line - ready or not, the 2026 season has arrived!**

As I always mention, Spring is a busy time for everyone made perhaps more difficult this year due to needed winter weather repairs. Of course, you still have to bring out all the items in your garage, shed or under the house and have them cleaned, painted and sometimes thrown out. Things like picnic table & chairs, plant containers, boat whips & ropes, kayaks, BBQ grill and all the other items needed for a fun time 'down the shore'. This is also prime time to get your boat and fishing equipment all ready to go before the fishing goes into high gear. My yearly recommendation - unless you have a lot of time and talent, allow our local bait & tackle shops to help out. For a modest fee, they will service your reel, replace your 10 year old heavy braid with a newer lighter product and fix any damaged guides on your rods. Of course, you can always throw out or better yet donate your old equipment to a local high school and buy yourself some new equipment. Who deserves it more than you!

This year could be our best ever with all kinds of fun events planned. Jerry Nichols has done a great job getting an interesting lineup of speakers for our meetings and John Stuebing with help from other Board embers has a good batch of new recruits signed up. So, please come out to our meetings to enjoy the presentations and meet our new members or catch up with 'the regulars'. Later in the Newsletter, I will detail this year's events and our Fish of the Month (FOM) contests. As per my usual reminder, if you have any suggestions to improve our club, you can email or verbally give them to me or any board member or discuss your idea at a club meeting. We want your input!

Ed

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APRIL MEETING by Ed Valitutto - Our next meeting will be at the Community Center on Friday April 10th to kick off the 2026 season and this will be our first meeting at our new earlier

start time of 6:30! Oh and I should mention it will be our first pizza meeting! So come on out and enjoy a few slices while getting reacquainted with fellow anglers and meeting some new members. **Jenni**



Ackerman, Media Coordinator for *The Fisherman Magazine*, returns to open the season with **Early Season Doormats – Tips to Wipe Your Feet on Your Biggest Fluke Yet!** If you haven't seen Jenni in her weekly "Open Boat" presentations as part of the Fisherman Magazine videos, you have been missing out on a ton of extremely useful tips on fishing the New Jersey coast.

The photo on the left is the cover from ***The Fisherman Magazine*** May 2023 issue and shows Jenni with a solid Jersey Shore Fluke. You will have to ask Jenni what her fish weighed since it wasn't listed in the articles.

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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 under 18 by the May 8th meeting. **The spouse of a member is a co-member and may participate in all meetings and fish contests.** Dues are required by the May meeting but can be paid ahead at our April meeting or mailed to our PO Box below. **Mailing your dues to our PO Box is highly recommended to minimize chaos and time consuming efforts at the meeting.**

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

VHFC MEMBERSHIP
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Remember: Dues must be paid at least 24 hrs ahead of any entry into our contests and there are 21 FOM contests including 6 Young Angler contests already open!



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UPCOMING VHFC 2026 EVENTS - For your long term planning and participation.

1. *April 11 First Meeting for 2026*
2. *Bottom Party Boat Trip Thursday May 21*
3. *Inshore Slam May 25 - 31*
4. *Battle on the Beach Wednesday May 27 (rain date June 10)*
5. *July 11 VHFC Fluke Tournament & BBQ (July 12 rain date)*
6. *August 1 Tri Club Fluke Tournament and August 2 BBQ*
7. *VHFC Open - August 24 - 30*
8. *Ocean Fluke Party Boat Trip Thursday September 17*
9. *Dinner Date October TBD*
10. *Bottom Party Boat Trip Wednesday November 4*
11. *Surf Tournament Saturday November 21*

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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 expire on 31 December. So if you are now age 16+ or you have not yet renewed your registration for 2023, go to [NJ Saltwater Registry](#) and complete the appropriate form. Registration 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.

STRIPED BASS BONUS PROGRAM (SBBP) - From NJF&W, *Applications for the 2026 SBBP are currently not yet being accepted. NJFW will provide information about the 2026 SBBP in early spring.* As soon as available, VHFC will send out notices to all members. Last year, it was early May with the permits valid starting May 15th. **2025 permits are no longer valid!**

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NEW SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS FOR 2026 – By John Stuebing

VHFC is delighted to welcome the following four new sponsors for 2026.

- **Knot Easy Bait and Tackle:** Located in the Mystic Island section of Little Egg Harbor (formally Scott's B&T). The store has been completely renovated and is fully stocked with more tackle coming in. They are stocking the Dark Matter (John Skinner) rods along with many other brands. In addition, they have their own line of custom rods that are really sweet. For the "Offshore" crowd they are stocking Nomad Lures along with all your needs for a day of fighting Tuna. I was told they will be stocking "pre-cut" flats of Butterfish, nice! They are also stocking 20lb bags of ice. VHFC Members get 10% off anything but



reel service. They are planning some tournaments for this year so stay tuned. Stop by and say hi to Tom and Gavin. Make sure you let them know you are from VHFC. **Located at 945 Radio Road, call 609-294-1300**

- **Bogin's Bait & Tackle:** Located in the middle of Tuckerton (formally Empire), this shop is a great place to get your bait and tackle. The store is stocked with all your basic needs for a day of fishing. They will be offering all VHFC members a 10% discount. While visiting the store Travis Bogin gave me a tour and explained the services he will be offering. He wanted to convey the following: "Please let the guys know about the afterhours bait. They can call the shop line at any hour of the night. It takes me 5 mins to get there even if they need just a sinker. If they know they are going at a certain time and can't get there before I close, we can set something up for later that night or early morning as well. I look forward to serving the community and your club for a first full year." **Located at 11 E Main Street, call 640-281-9433.**
- **Allen's Dock:** I had the opportunity to visit with Justin Theno at Allen's Dock. This is a full-service marina along with a well-stocked Bait & Tackle store located on the Bass River (across the river from Viking). They are located just up-river from the free boat ramp in New Gretna. This is a great spot for access to the Bass River and the lower section of the Mullica River. While getting a tour of the Tackle Shop, I realized that Justin has a wealth of knowledge about this area. This area of Bass River, Mullica River and Nacote Creek are "hidden gems" without the crowds. Justin can steer you in the right direction and set you up with everything you need to fish this area. They will be offering VHFC Members 10% off Bait & Tackle. **Located off Rt 9 in New Gretna (look for the sign), call 609-296-5660.**
- **South Harbor Marina:** South Harbor Marine in Waretown has been owned by the Mackie family since 1968. Tom Mackie Sr was 11 years old when his father purchased the business and he immediately went to work for his dad as a boat engine technician. Tom runs the business now along with his son, Tom Jr.
South Harbor is a full-service Marina offering boat slip rentals, fuel, supplies, parts, repairs and winterization. They specialize in repowering boats and are certified experts on Yamaha and Honda motors. Their crew is highly competent, conscientious and honest. Everyone gets a fair price so no discounts are needed. **Located at 116 Oregon Ave in Waretown. Phone: 609-693-3658**

Check out all our Sponsor ads throughout the Newsletter



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Visit [BHW Marine Center](#)

VHFC LUNCH BUNCH GET TOGETHERS - By John Stuebing

On Friday March 20th we had our second Lunch Bunch get-together. About 25 of us VHFC Members gathered at Calloways in West Creek for a fun time over lunch. We shared fishing stories and talked about our high hopes for the upcoming season. This was the brainchild of fellow member Jerry Gherardi. What a great idea! Our original plan was to have these lunches once a month in the off season (December – March). At the last lunch we talked about possibly adding a lunch get together in the middle of the season (Late July, early August). We will discuss that further when together for our General Meetings.

It was great seeing everyone and catching up. I think we all agree, let's get this winter over!



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SOCIAL MEDIA by Bayside Dave Etelman - Our VHFC sites are [VHFC FB Site](#) and [VHFC Instagram](#). The FB site has **233 followers** with each post reaching thousands of people; our Instagram account has **344 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.



VHFC members attended the Pasta Night fundraiser for the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) held at the Forked River Tuna Club.

That's Chuck Dishian, Bayside Dave, and Bill Bond showing the saltwater lures they won as raffle prizes.



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Kayak sales, rentals, accessories, rigging and repairs as well as bicycle and e-bike sales and repair. Discounts of 5% -10% for VHFC

VHFC YOUTUBE CHANNEL – By John Stuebing The Village Harbour Fishing Club now has a YouTube Channel. In the next week we will be setting up an application where members can upload videos (or pictures) that will make it onto our channel. This is an effort to expand our presence on social media and attract people to the club. In addition, it will be fun to watch either “How To” or Fishing Videos. **As of today, we have 2 videos and 1 short: Building a Bait Pen for Peanut Bunker, How to Spool with a Top Shot and How to Clean a Blowfish.** Check them out!

If you have access to a camera, start filming. Share with the rest of us anything that relates to fishing: tying rigs, how you set up your boat or car for surf fishing, tackle tricks or days on the water catching fish. Bayside Dave and I will do the final editing and get the videos loaded onto the site. I am sure we will discuss this more at the April Meeting. Until then – film away!

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2026 CLUB EXPECTATIONS by Ed Valitutto - This year will be the best yet with several new and exciting things happening plus continuing our best yearly traditions!

1. Great Monthly Meetings with Speakers & Fishing Discussions

- a. **April 10: Jenni Ackerman** – *Tips to Wipe Your Feet on your Biggest Fluke Yet*
- b. **May 8: Greg Cudnik** – *Spring Striper Fishing*
- c. **June 12: Jim Hutchinson Sr & Jr** – *Current Regulations, Latest Fishing Reports, Clamming & Melanie Boytos Award Presentation*
- d. **July 10: Brett Taylor** – *Tournament Fluke Fishing Barnegat Inlet / Outside plus Drift and Trolling Motor Etiquette*
- e. **August 14: Peter Clarke** – *NJ Artificial Reef Program*
- f. **September 11: Jim Freda** - *Fall Striped Fishing Special Tri-Club Meeting with VHFC, Fish Hawkes and the FRTC at the FRTC facility*
- g. **October 9: Matt Sorrentino** - *Targeting Tog in the Fall*
- h. **November 14: Phil Simon** - *Year in Review Slide Show*

2. Wonderful Club Events (Additional details provided as available)

- a. Battle on the Beach - VHFC judges this local high school fishing contest on the Barnegat Light sands. May 27 / June 10 (rain date). **More info in this NL.**
- b. Annual Club Fluke Tournament - July 11 /12 (rain date) Great day on the water and fantastic free BBQ for members and families.
- c. Tri Club Fluke Tournament planned for August 1 and BBQ on the 2nd. Great fishing competition between VHFC, Forked River Tuna Club and Fish Hawks followed by a wonderful BBQ at their clubhouse.
- d. Fall Dinner - Fun time gathering off the water for members and their families to enjoy a lovely dinner together. October date TBD
- e. Three Party Boat Fishing Trips - Members enjoying a day out on a local party boat fishing and relaxing together. **More info in this NL**

3. Fantastic Fishing & Photo Contests

- a. Melanie Boytos Award - The angler with the most points for their best striper, fluke, bluefish & weakfish will have their name engraved on a special plaque.

- b. Fish of the Year (FOY) - The angler with the largest striper, bluefish, fluke, seabass, blackfish & weakfish will receive a lovely engraved personal plaque.
- c. Fish of the Month (FOM) - Forty three (43) contests for multiple species over the entire fishing season. Thirty five (35) for everyone and eight (8) Young Angler (12 and under) contests. Winners receive \$50 FHQ certificates. **More info in this NL**
- d. Picture of the Month - Send in your favorite photos each month for a chance to have it displayed on our FB page and win a yearly prize. **More info in this NL.**

4. Great Fishing Information Dissemination

- a. Nine (April - December) Monthly Newsletters filled with all the latest local, club & JCAA news as well as any member news.
- b. Fantastic website [VHFC Website](#) with all the latest contest entries and our members' reports.
- c. Social media presence on FB and Instagram. Details provided earlier in the NL
- d. Member distribution of NJ F&W bulletins, JCAA Newsletters, latest seminars offered by Rutgers Cooperative Extension and any local fishing news.

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VHFC APPAREL STORE - NEW for 2026 by Chuck Dishian VHFC is excited to announce a new way to purchase your club T shirts, fleeces, sweatshirts, hats and lots of other apparel. We have teamed up with Artist Tees, a supplier of promotional clothing located in Barnegat and they have set up an on-line store specifically for items featuring our club's artwork.



There are several ways you can access our store. Simply click on or copy the following link [Artist Tees](#) and it will take you right to the store.

We also have [Purchase VHFC Apparel](#) buttons in several locations on our website including the Home page, below the Calendar and at the bottom of all pages showing our Sponsors on the right side. Just scan this QR code, download it onto your phone and you'll be ready to roll.

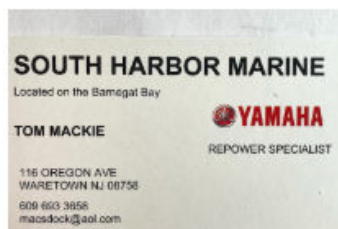


The QR code will be posted at our meetings. Once you've accessed the VHFC apparel store, you can shop around for items with the Village Harbour Fishing Club logo proudly displayed with your choice of a logo on front and back or just front. You can even choose to have your name embroidered on the right front. You can choose to have your order shipped to your home or pick it up at their store at 323 South Main Street (Route 9), in Barnegat.

A sample of the tee shirt will be on display at our meetings for you to examine for yourself. Note, the club will update any changes, but if you have any questions or are having difficulty navigating their site, please contact Chuck Dishian cdishian@yahoo.com or call 914-439-6244

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SPICING UP THE 50 - 50 by Jerry Nichols We're making our 50/50 raffles a little more interesting this year. In addition to a shot at a cash prize, ticket holders will have a chance to win various fishing tackle throughout the year. Looking forward to seeing you all at the meetings and good luck!



Some of the prizes you might win with your 50 - 50 ticket

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Sign up Required

at Club Meetings

BATTLE ON THE BEACH by Ed Valitutto - This year's annual high school surf fishing contest is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27th starting at 4:00 PM on 9th Street in Barnegat Light with June 10th as the rain date. Four high schools (Southern Regional, Barnegat, Lacey Township and MATES Academy) compete for bragging rights and displaying the coveted trophy engraved with their school name for one year in their school lobby. The winning school also receives a \$1,000 scholarship provided by LBI Surf Fishing Committee for their fishing club use..

Each school gets one entire block to fish for 45 minutes before being rotated to a new block until each school has fished all four blocks. Since VHFC officiates the event, eight volunteers are needed. One person does the tape measurement and one person records the entries for one of the four blocks. VHFC's Bob Massa. Bob will provide all materials for manning the 4 stations.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy a day on the beach and spend time with our future anglers. Anyone interested should contact me to confirm your support. I'll send out further details as available. We usually meet at 3:30 at 9th St and walk in together. Note that at this time of the year it can get quite chilly. Therefore, dress appropriately for a day on the beach. The photo below is from 2025. Those are some happy young anglers eager to fish.



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Keeping Lines Tight

boginbassman@aol.com

PARTY BOAT TRIPS by Dave Etelman This year, VHFC has three trips booked on the *Mary M IV* out of Barnegat Light. This is a full size party boat with plenty of space and Captain Sam and first mate Sammy provide a great day on the water. **Our trips are May 21 just after Sea Bass opens, September 17 just before Fluke season closes and November 4 just before things get cold.** Space is limited so sign up now for the May trip. More details at the club meeting,



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.

VHFC FOOD BANK INITIATIVE by Chuck Dishian The VHFC Board is excited to propose a new public service project: collecting and distributing essential items to our local food banks. This is a meaningful way for us to give back to the community while increasing VHFC's visibility and local impact.

To make this a success, we need your help. We are looking for a dedicated team of members to help design and implement this project from the ground up.

If you have experience in community outreach or simply want to get involved, please reach out to **Chuck Dishian** at cdishian@yahoo.com or speak with Chuck at the April 10th general meeting



For all your Bait & Tackle needs, visit
Knot Easy Bait & Tackle in Tuckerton
Formerly [Scott's](#)

2025 FISHING CONTESTS by Ed Valitutto - 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 in the photo. Fish have different tail structures so the rules vary a bit by species. Striped Bass are measured per NJ F&W 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). Except for Kingfish, all other fish are measured to the center of the tail or fork (Bluefish). Since Kingfish have a sloping tail, the measurement is based on the bottom tail lobe. Mail or text your photo to Weighmaster Pat Presutto (pat1016pat@aol.com or 609 994 8361) with a copy to Ed Valitutto (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.**



This is a 16" Kingfish



Sea Bass get help from the extra length of their center tail that stretches out a bit. This fine specimen went 18 1/2"

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 2025 MBA Winner Marty Friedrich

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 2025 winners. Your plaques will be awarded at our April meeting.

Fish	Angler	Size
Bluefish	Pat Presutto	30"
Fluke	Perry Hoagey	27"
Sea Bass	Paul Pintinalli	20"
Striped Bass	Tom Godfrey	44.5"
Weakfish	No Entry	
Blackfish	Marty Friedrich	25"

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 2026, there are now 43 FOM awards - 35 open to**

all and 8 Junior Angler Only awards each for a \$50 certificate. New for 2026, Blackfish was added to the Junior Angler list and everyone's favorite, the ferocious Ling was added. A full list of all the contests and which ones are open appear later in the Newsletter.

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PICTURE of the MONTH CONTEST by Jerry Nichols & Phil Simon - Please send in your favorite photos each month, and our expert panel of judges (including a professional photographer) will select the winner based on subject matter – fishing activities, fishing locales, sunsets, beaches, club activities, subjects and composition, proper exposure and focus. Emphasis should be on the fun of fishing and related activities. Winners and submissions will be posted on our website, on our Facebook page and our Instagram account. Winners get bragging rights and entry into a drawing at the November meeting for a \$50.00 gift certificate. Send your photos to Phil Simon at sciman2@gmail.com

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2026 FOM ENTRIES - I know it's early in the season and the winter was pretty severe, but usually by now there are several White Perch and Striped Bass entries. Well so far, we only have two entries! That will change for sure! Go to [2026 FOM Standings](#) for the list of all entries and contest standings especially when the entries start rolling in!

Angler	Species	Category	Date	Size	MBA	Location
Alan Goracy	Striped Bass	Boat	3/24	31.25"	2	Barnegat Beach
Pat Presutto	White Perch	Boat/Surf	3/30	12.75"	-	West Creek

6 Junior and 15 Adult FOMs are open - 4 Surf, 6 Boat, 4 Boat/Surf & 1 Offshore.

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

Junior Angler Awards

Species	Start	Finish	Leader / Winner	Size
White Perch	1/1	12/31/26		
Bluefish	1/1	12/31/26		
Kingfish	3/1	12/31/26		
Blowfish	3/1	12/31/26		
Fluke	5/4	9/25/26		
Sea Bass	5/14	12/31/26		
Striped Bass	1/1	12/31		
Blackfish	4/1	12/31/26		

2026 Surf FOM Leaders

Species	Start	Finish	Leader / Winner	Size
Striper	1/1	7/31		
Striper	8/1	12/31		
Striper Over 31"	1/1	12/31		
Bluefish	1/1	6/30		
Bluefish	7/1	12/31		
Fluke	5/4	6/30	1	
Fluke	7/1	9/25		
Blackfish	4/1	4/30		
Blackfish	8/1	12/31		

2065 Boat FOM Leaders

Species	Start	Finish	Leader / Winner	Size
Striper	1/1	7/31		
Striper	8/1	12/31		
Striper Over 31"	1/1	12/31		
Bluefish	1/1	6/30		
Bluefish	7/1	12/31		
Blackfish	4/1	4/30		
Blackfish	8/1	12/31		
Weakfish	1/1	12/31		
Ling	1/1	12/31		
Triggerfish	5/1	12/31		
Porgy	5/1	12/31		
Sea Bass	5/15	6/21		
Sea Bass	6/22	9/22		
Sea Bass	9/23	12/31		
Fluke	5/4	6/30		
Fluke	7/1	7/31		
Fluke	8/1	8/31		
Fluke	9/1	9/25		

2026 Boat or Surf FOM Leaders

Species	Start	Finish	Leader / Winner	Size
White Perch	1/1	12/31	Pat Presutto	12.75
Black Drum	1/1	12/31		
Blowfish	3/1	11/30		

Kingfish	3/1	11/30
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2026 Offshore FOM Leaders

Species	Start	Finish	Leader / Winner	Size
Bluefin	4/1	11/30		
Yellowfin	5/1	11/30		
Mahi	5/1	11/30		
False Albacore	9/1	11/30		

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 **5** reports submitted for 2026.



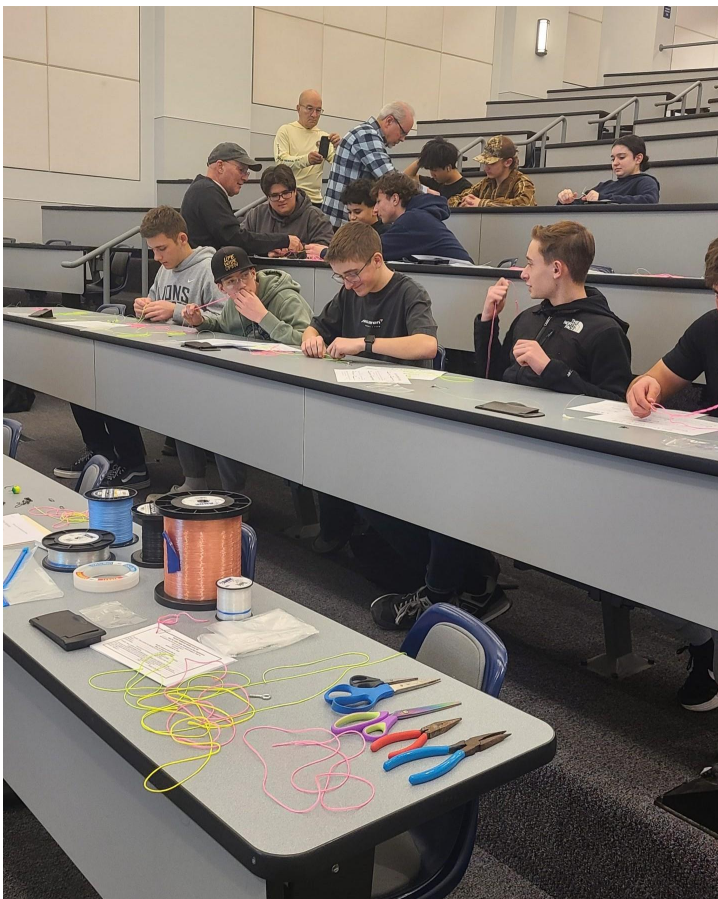
That's Roy Richards with a beautiful tuna he caught in Costa Rica! Roy also landed an impressive sailfish on the same trip!



That's Ed Valitutto with a keeper Redfish and a Spotted Trout caught over the winter in Cape Coral FL.



Jerry Nichols and his wife Dawn went to Long Key, FL to visit friends who had a boat! Conditions were a little rough but they still caught fish for a fun trip!



On March 5th, Members Weighmaster Pat, Treasurer Jerry, Bayside Dave, Secret Agent Bill, Chuck D and John S hosted a knot tying seminar at the Lacey Township HS Fishing Club. They taught the students the Clinch, Uni, Dropper Loop and Double Surgeon knots. They also discussed types of lines and the need to use different knots.



The most recent report was from Alan Goracy who fished Barnegat Beach with Bloodworms and was rewarded with a keeper Striped Bass! Alan's fish went 30.25" and gives him the lead for the Shore Striper FOM, FOY and MBA - at least for now.

VHFC Hats by Chuck Dishian - As previously reported, we now have an online store for an assortment of apparel including knitted beanie style hats. However, we still have a few 'baseball' hats with a khaki cap, dark blue brim and a mesh back. Hats are available at all meetings. Hats have our logo on them and cost \$25. If you would like a hat, purchase one at our meeting.

VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS By Jeff Orsoe - Give me a call in the spring for your vessel safety check. **Contact: Jeff Orsoe Cell / Text: 732-672-5530 or email: 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 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/>

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**

Great Bay Outfitters 5% -10% discount with VHFC card

955 Radio Road Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey **609 848 3657**

JB Awards 10% discount on engraving and trophies with VHFC card

609-290-5851

Knot Easy Bait & Tackle 10% discount with VHFC card **609 294 1300**

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**

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**