



# HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER June 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: 12 June 2026***

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hello VHFC Members,

Do any of you remember the ***Alice in Wonderland*** expression “curiouser and curiouser”? In its original context, it was used by Alice to express her amazement at the bizarre creatures and situations she encountered in Wonderland. Over time, “**curiouser and curiouser**” has evolved into a widely recognized idiom that is used in everyday language to describe anything from unusual behavior to mysterious circumstances - basically anything weird, puzzling, baffling or perplexing. Why do I mention this? That’s how I would describe the fishing so far this season.

**White Perch** - Hardly a showing at all. Dave Spendiff who has won more White Perch FOMs than anyone has had hardly a touch fishing off his dock on William Cook North.

**Fluke** - No one is really catching them. Just a few here and there. Even seasoned captains like Brett Taylor - who is as good as anyone for getting limit catches of quality fish - has been having a tough time.

**Black Sea Bass** - They are not on our close in wrecks as usual and according to Captain Greg Carr of the Kev n' Ash are not out in the deeper waters either. If you work real hard you can put a catch together, but the lights out early season fishing has not happened.

**Bluefish** - A few here and there including some 'gators' but overall, few and far between.

**Striped Bass & Black Drum** - Absolutely phenomenal season especially off the sands and near the north jetty. The 'Sand Smurfs' are getting them almost everytime out! Bayside Dave estimates between himself, Pat Presutto, Bill Bond and Glen Minor, they have beached over 40 Stripers and a dozen Black Drum! You have to reach way back for a comparable year like 2026.

The cause - extra cold winter, cold and windy spring, bait migration changes, stock population changes - you pick your favorite reason. For sure, the Striper / Drum bite will lessen as their migrations continue and Fluke / Sea Bass should improve with the warmer weather. Until then, things are "Curiouser and curiouser".

Well, we just completed the first of the big three summer holidays - Memorial Day and the other two July 4th and Labor Day are fast approaching. So make the best of what this area has to offer and get on out and enjoy our beaches and waterways and catch some fish!

Ed

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

- ***Bottom Party Boat Trip Wednesday June 10th***
- ***June 12 Next Meeting***
- ***July 11 VHFC Fluke Tournament & BBQ (July 12 rain date)***
- ***August 1 Tri Club Fluke Tournament & BBQ (August 2)***
- ***VHFC Open - August 24 - 30***
- ***Ocean Fluke Party Boat Trip Thursday September 17***

- **Club Dinner October TBD**
- **Bottom Party Boat Trip Wednesday November 4**
- **Surf Tournament Saturday November 21**

**JUNE MEETING by Ed Valitutto** - Our next meeting will be at the Community Center on Friday June 12th. Remember, we have a new earlier start time of 6:30 with doors opening at 6:00. Our speaker for the meeting is Jim Hutchinson Jr. Jim has his fingers on the pulse of everything Saltwater Fishing related plus he always shares useful information on the current status of our regulations. Jim Jr. will share what fishing action is happening at the central Jersey shore and how and when to catch it. Jim Sr usually also attends but unfortunately, Jim Sr experienced a quad injury and had to undergo surgery so Jim Jr will present the Melanie Boytos award to our 2025 winner Marty Friedrich.



**That’s our May Speaker Greg Cudnik keeping everyone’s attention with his discussions on Spring Striper Fishing in the Barnegat area. As always, Greg shared some “special techniques” and answered all questions.**

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**USING SPOT AS BAIT ( by Google Gemini, edited by Phil Simon) Or MORE THAN YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SPOT (*Leiostomus xanthurus*)** - Spot are candy to predatory striped bass and big "doormat" summer flounder (fluke). Because they are incredibly hardy on a hook, vibrant, and make a distinct croaker-family drumming sound under water. They are a premier live bait.


1. Where do early-season spot come from?

Since you noticed water temperatures in New Jersey are still a bit low for our local run, the spot your charter captain used almost certainly originated from the Chesapeake Bay region (Maryland and Virginia) or North Carolina.

- The Southern Supply: Spot overwinter in the deeper, warmer offshore waters of the Mid-Atlantic Bight and South Atlantic. In the early spring, they flood into the massive, shallow estuaries of the Chesapeake, where the water warms up much faster than the open ocean or NJ's coastal bays.
- The Bait Pipeline: A massive commercial live-bait industry exists down south. Commercial watermen catch spot in large numbers using traps, haul seines, or peeler pots, and sell them to distributors. These distributors use specialized trucks equipped with heavy-duty aeration and temperature-controlled tanks to transport the live bait up the coast to New Jersey bait shops.

2. Is it legal to buy bait from out of state and bring it to NJ?

Yes, it is legal for consumers and bait shops, provided certain conditions are met.

 **The Big Caveat: VHS and Transferred Pathogens** - While legal, the primary environmental concern with moving live marine bait across state lines is the introduction of diseases (like Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia) or invasive species.

3. What are the New Jersey regulations for catching, keeping, and using spot?

If you plan to catch your own spot later in the season to use as bait, New Jersey has incredibly relaxed regulations for this specific species. No Size Limit, No Daily Bag Limit and No closed season. You can catch them on rod and reel (using tiny hooks with bits of bloodworm or Fishbites), or use a minnow trap or cast net in the creeks and lagoons.

If you are looking to purchase SPot - usually ~\$3 each - the top local spots to look into include: Van's Bait & Tackle (Barnegat Light), Bobbies Boats Bait and Tackle (Barnegat Light), Fisherman's Headquarters / "Fish Heads" (Ship Bottom) and Tony's Bait & Tackle (Manahawkin). **Call ahead, spot are highly sought after by local enthusiasts**

Or you can catch your own along the Waretown flats due east of Waretown, near the BI Marker in the stretch of the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) running along the west side of the bay, or the Oyster Creek outflow and channel edges. Anchor up and drop a clam or bunker chum log in a

chum pot to draw them in. Spot have tiny mouths so use a multi-hook Sabiki rig (size #4 to #8) or a classic two-hook bottom panfish/porgy rig with very small long-shank hooks (Size 6 or 8). Tip the hooks with tiny pieces of bloodworms, Fishbites or small bits of fresh clam or squid.

Using live spot is one of the absolute best ways to weed out the small fish and target trophy **striped bass** and doormat **fluke** in the Barnegat Bay area. Because these two predators hunt differently, you'll want to adjust your rigging to match how they strike.

Here are the most effective ways to rig them up for both species:

### 1. Rigging Spot for Striped Bass

Striped bass are open-water, aggressive predators that usually swallow their prey head-first. Depending on whether you are drifting or anchoring, you have two primary options:

#### Option A: The Live-Lining Bridle or Nose Hook (Best for Drifting/Slow Trolling)

- **The Rig:** Use a standard fish-finder rig or a simple 3-way swivel rig. You'll want a **4/0 to 6/0 Circle Hook** attached to a 3-foot section of 40lb or 50lb leader.
- **Hooking the Spot:** Pass the hook cleanly through the hard part of the spot's nose, just ahead of the eyes, from the bottom jaw up through the top snout.
- **Why it works:** This allows the spot to swim naturally forward into the current as your boat drifts. When a striper inhales it, the circle hook will slide to the corner of its mouth for a clean hookup.

#### Option B: Dorsal Hooking (Best for Anchoring or Using Planer Boards)

- **The Rig:** If you are anchored up in a current, you want the fish to swim *away* from the boat or downward.
- **Hooking the Spot:** Lightly pass the circle hook just under the skin right in front of the dorsal fin. Be careful not to pierce the backbone, or you will paralyze the bait.
- **Why it works:** Hooking them in the back forces the spot to fight the tension of your line by swimming downward and away, creating a frantic distress signal that stripers can't resist.

### 2. Rigging Spot for Summer Flounder (Fluke)

Fluke are ambush predators that lie flat on the bottom and look up. They are notorious for "tail-nipping" larger baitfish before turning them around to swallow them, meaning a standard single nose hook will often lead to missed strikes.

- **The Rig:** Use a classic drift setup with a 3-way swivel or a sliding sinker sleeve. Run a long leader—about **4 to 5 feet of 25lb or 30lb fluorocarbon**.
- **The Hook Setup:** To prevent the fluke from biting the tail off your spot without getting hooked, use a **tandem rig**.

1. **Lead Hook:** A 3/0 or 4/0 octopus or circle hook passed up through the lips/nose of the spot.

2. **Stinger Hook:** A size #2 or #4 treble hook trailing on a short piece of monofilament line, lightly tucked into the skin near the spot's tail. Ensure there is a slight bit of slack in the line between the two hooks so the spot can swim freely without its body being bent.
  - **Why it works:** As you drift over bottom structure or along the edges of the Waretown flats, the spot will hover just above the bottom grass. When a doormat fluke rises up and grabs the back half of the spot, the stinger treble hook ensures an immediate hookup.

### 💡 Pro-Tips for Managing Live Spot

- **Keep the Water Moving:** Spot are relatively hardy, but they require highly oxygenated, cool water. Keep your livewell pump running constantly.
- **Let Them Run:** When live-lining for stripers or drifting for fluke with large live bait, **do not set the hook immediately** upon feeling a strike. Give the fish a few seconds to fully scale, turn, and commit to swallowing the spot. If using circle hooks, simply engage the reel and let the line tight up on its own.



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**JUNE / JULY ROD N' REEL RAFFLE by John Stuebing** - Hold on! You will not believe the next Rod & Reel Raffle. During the June and July meetings will be selling raffle tickets for a fabulous outfit designed for both Bay and Ocean Fluke. Donated by Knot Easy Bait & Tackle, this outfit consists of Skinner – Dark Matter rod paired with a Quantum accurist reel. The outfit is rated for 10-20lb. line. The outfit can easily handle a 2-oz bucktail or Jig head. **Perfect outfit for the upcoming VHFC Fluke Tournament!**



The full retail value of this outfit is over \$370 (with tax). The rod alone is over \$220. Don't miss out on this outfit. If you cannot make the meeting contact Bill Bond or John Stuebing to make arrangements to buy your tickets. Donated by Knot Easy, 945 Radio Rd, Little Egg Harbor, NJ 609 294 1300

**That a smiling Perry Hoagey with his raffle winning combo from the May meeting.**



**SOCIAL MEDIA by Bayside Dave Etelman** - Our VHFC sites are [VHFC FB Site](#) and [VHFC Instagram](#) The FB site has **272 followers** with each post reaching thousands of people; our Instagram account has **604 followers**. Dave shares Members Reports, club activities, tournaments, monthly meetings as well as tips for fishing and boating on both social media networks. VHFC also has a YouTube channel at [VHFC YouTube](#) where you can send in your videos on anything related to fishing: tying rigs, how you set up your boat or car for surf fishing, tackle tricks or days on the water catching fish. It's important to Like and Comment on each post to help boost distribution. Here's a recent post showing The Battle on the Beach attendees..



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**BATTLE on the BEACH by Ed Valitutto** - As expected. the 'battle' was a wonderful outing for the anglers from the four competing schools as well as for the many VHFC volunteers. Thanks so much for your time and effort helping out. The weather was perfect as was the tide. Unfortunately, the fishing was tough due to the cold water. The dolphins patrolling the beach also did not help! There were only 11 fish entered. If dogfish were counted it would have been 111! Of major significance, there were two keeper Fluke - 18" & 19.25 and several Bluefish including a 29".

The final tally was:

**Lacey - 0" All Dogfish**

**Mates - 29" Due to a 29" Bluefish**

**Barnegat - 63" Due to 4 Bluefish from 11.75" to 18.5"**

**SRHS - 94.75" Due to several Fluke including an 18" and 19.25"**

Thank you everyone and special thanks to Ann Gherardi for taking pictures.



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**PICTURE of the MONTH by Ed Valitutto** - 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. This month's winner was submitted by Ann Gherardi.





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## **SECOND ANNUAL VHFC INSHORE SLAM - IN THE BOOKS** by John Stuebing

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual VHFC Inshore Slam Tournament ran from May 25th through the 31st. There were 19 anglers signed up for the event. The fishing was difficult with cold water and lots of wind in the beginning of the week. But for those who waited, the back end of the week turned out to be nice.

Ten anglers managed to score points with Dave Etelman taking first place with 7 points. John Rubino took second with 6 points. There was a three-way tie for third place. We had to use both tie breakers (Biggest Bluefish and Biggest Fluke) to determine third through fifth. Glen Minor landed a 31.5" Bluefish from the surf to secure third place.

In the end, scorable fish were landed from both surf and boat. Awards will be distributed at our club meeting.



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**ADDITIONAL AWARDS ANNOUNCED** by Ed Valitutto Starting this year, we augmented our 50/50 raffles so that ticket holders not only had a shot at a cash prize, but ticket holders also had a chance to win various fishing items throughout the year. The June meeting

'goodies' include a set of Ava jigs, a large SP Minnow, a set of No Live Bait Needed (NLBN) jig heads and tails and two bags of Gulp. Be sure to purchase your tickets,

The VHFC Board has also agreed to augment our FOY and MBA awards with additional prizes. The MBA will still include having the winning angler's name engraved on our trophy to be displayed at his place of choosing for one year. **Now, the MBA winner will also receive a \$200 Visa gift card.** The six FOY winners will still receive the lovely engraved plaque to commemorate their success. **Now, the six FOY winners will each receive a \$100 Visa gift card.**



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

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**JCAA HI ROLLERS RAFFLE by Chuck Dishian** - The Jersey Coast Anglers Association is holding a Hi Rollers Raffle and has made 5 books of 7 tickets each available for purchase to the membership of VHFC. The drawing will be held on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at Toms River Knights of Columbus Council #4969, 113 Tennyson Ave., Toms River, NJ 08753. **Winners need not be present.** Here's the list of prizes:

1. Jersey Nutz Six Man Charter Experience. An exciting six-hour inshore weekday charter for up to six guests with Jersey Nutz. This prize, valued at \$1,300.
2. 10' 6" TFO Tactical Surf Rod and Shimano Reel Win a 10' 6" TFO Tactical Surf Rod (TAC SUS 1064-2, two-piece) paired with a Shimano Sustain 8000FE reel, valued at \$625
3. \$500 Gift Certificate from Fisherman's Headquarters
4. Engel 123 QT High Performance Hard Cooler and Ice Box high performance hard cooler and ice box, valued at \$469.
5. 7' Penn SSVI6500LL701MH Spinfisher VI Spinning Combo, valued at \$249.

Tickets are 2.00 each, 3 for 5.00 or a book of 7 for 10.00. We have 5 books and they'll be made available to the VHFC membership at the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. See Chuck Dishian at the meeting.

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SATURDAY,  
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**VHFC ANNUAL FLUKE TOURNAMENT by Jim Healy**

All right the gauntlet has been dropped.

If you're any kind of fluke fisherman our next tournament is for you.

What's at stake: bragging rights for an entire year on who's got what it takes to catch big fluke.

It's been a great turnout the past few years between the tournament and our phenomenal BBQ so what could be better.

Get on board and come sign up at next week's meeting.

THE SPECIFICS:

**VHFC Annual Fluke Tournament**  
TO BE HELD Saturday July 11, 2026.  
Entry fee is \$20 per angler  
**All fish weighed in at the Mill Creek Pavillion starting at 5:00 PM**

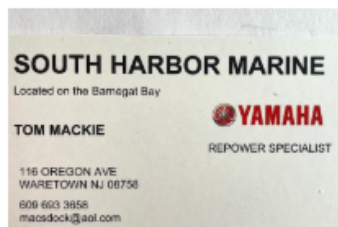
**ALL MONIES RETURNED IN PRIZES**

END OF THE DAY BBQ AND weigh in at the Mill Creek Pavilion for entrants and their guests. Make sure to sign up for this event at the General Meetings or contact: John Stuebing or Jim Healy.

Last year's winners were Ron Nachman First Place, Jerry Nichols Second Place and Brian Leary & John Stuebing tied for Third Place.

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**DOUBLE CREEK CHANNEL STILL AN ISSUE** by Phil Simon - As of today the Double Creek was still unmarked, and the stakes for the High Bar channel were not in place. If anyone sees or hears of any change, please let the club know. The following was written by Phil Simon and sent out to the membership and repeated here if anyone missed it.

Phil Simon spoke with the DEP last week. **Double Creek is fully shoaled in ( 2' or less water depth) at the 8 to 10 markers, and the buoys can not be deployed.** This is quite different from the shoaling we experienced in the past, which occurred at the western end of the channel near the open bay. No warning buoys can be put out as there are no marked buoys in place - a circular logic nightmare. Thus anyone unaware of the situation may attempt to barrel through only to find themselves stuck at the halfway point, which is what SeaTow was reporting. The situation is still "under discussion" at DEP, with possible dredging on the table, but don't hold your breath. Apparently they are short of money for even routine maintenance. And they have only 10 people to cover the entire state. Stay tuned.

My read: You can not traverse the full length of the channel, but you can enter at either end. Just stay clear of the middle section. IMHO, **if you are traveling from the Bay heading to the inlet you should get there via the Oyster Creek Channel and not take a chance with the DCC.** I do not know if the "north cut" (aka the Waretown cut) is accessible from the channel. For me, for the time being, I'm going to stick mostly with the open Bay, Oyster Creek Channel, High Bar, and the Inlet/Lighthouse/Dyke grounds until I see some more info. Of course all the big fish are going to congregate at Double Creek, right?

The buoys into High Bar Harbor are now set, but the marker stakes further in won't be placed for another couple of weeks. Apparently their deployment schedule was not coordinated with the fishing season. I have fished this channel without the marker stakes in the past, and it can be "interesting". I have saved tracks on my control head but I have no info that the channel is clear. If you are there keep an eye on the guys heading to and from their docks at High Bar and see where they go. Apparently the short section at the head of the channel is OK as it is now marked

with buoys, and this has been productive for fluke in the past...it just gets crowded, especially on weekends.

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at Club Meetings

**BOTTOM PARTY BOAT TRIP by Dave Etelman** Here is the information about the sea bass trip on Wednesday, June 10th and **there is still room available - contact Bayside Dave**

The boat is the Mary M IV, located at the Lighthouse Marina on W 6th Street in Barnegat Light on Long Beach Island. Departure time is 6 AM, so please arrive by 5:30 AM.

The fee, including tip for the mate, is \$115 per person. I will be collecting the money before we sail. Please bring exact change if you can, cash only. Bring extra cash if you want to buy into the pool that we will be running.

Bring whatever rod/reel combos and tackle you like. The boat does have rods, reels, tackle, and sinkers available, which is included in the price. They also provide clam for bait that the mate will cut up.

There will be free coffee and donuts for everyone. Dress for the weather. Bring whatever food and drinks you like, no alcohol please. The mate will clean all the fish we catch which will be shared evenly with everyone. Bring a cooler or bucket if you wish to keep your catch separate. This is a full day trip, so be prepared to be out for 8 hours. The forecast looks good for weather and conditions.



*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.*



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Formerly [Scott's](#)

**2026 MAY ENTRIES** - Wow - what a month with 44 entries! Go to [2026 FOM Standings](#) for the list of all entries and contest standings!

Angler	Species	Category	Date	Size	"	MBA	Location
Dave Etelman	Blackfish	Boat	April 30	17.25	3		Wreck
Carmen Bufardeci	Striped Bass	Surf	May 1	32.5	3		Mid LBI
Dave Etelman	Striped Bass	Surf	May 3	31.5	3		Beach Haven
John Stuebing	Striped Bass	Surf	May 4	35	4		Surf City
Pat Presutto	Striped Bass	Surf	May 4	29	2		Beach Haven
Bill Bond	Striped Bass	Surf	May 8	30.125	2		LBI Surf
Pat Presutto	Black Drum	Surf	May 8	25.125			LBI Surf
Glen Minor	Striped Bass	Surf	May 13	31.5	3		Surf City
Dave Etelman	Striped Bass	Surf	May 15	31	3		Beach Haven
Pat Presutto	Sea Bass	Boat	May 18	18.5	4		Deep Wreck
Glen Minor	Sea Bass	Boat	May 18	17	3		Deep Wreck
Dave Etelman	Sea Bass	Boat	May 18	18	3		Deep Wreck

<b>Bert Kern</b>	<b>Sea Bass</b>	<b>Boat</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>GSN Reef</b>
<b>Tom Godfrey</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>Surf</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Mid LBI</b>
<b>Pat Presutto</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>Surf</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Surf City</b>
<b>Doug O'Brien</b>	<b>Fluke</b>	<b>Boat</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Near Graveling Point</b>
<b>Drew Kircirik</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>Boat</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Sod Banks</b>
<b>Bob Rode</b>	<b>Fluke</b>	<b>Boat</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Great Bay</b>
<b>Pat Presutto</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>Surf</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>37.75</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>LBI Surf</b>
<b>Bill Bond</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>Surf</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>LBI Surf</b>
<b>Mike Woodrow</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>Boat</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28.25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Morth Jetty Rocks</b>
<b>Glen Minor</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>Surf</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>LBI Surf</b>
<b>Dave Etelman</b>	<b>Bluefish</b>	<b>Boat</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16.75</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Great Bay</b>
<b>John Stuebing</b>	<b>Fluke</b>	<b>Boat</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Great Bay</b>
<b>Doug O'Brien</b>	<b>Bluefish</b>	<b>Boat</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28.75</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>North Jetty BL</b>
<b>Lou Salgado</b>	<b>Bluefish</b>	<b>Boat</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>12.75</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Great BAY</b>
<b>Dave Etelman</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>Surf</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>LBI Surf</b>
<b>Glen Minor</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>Surf</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>42.25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>LBI Surf</b>
<b>Dave Etelman</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>Surf</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>LBI Surf</b>
<b>Pat Presutto</b>	<b>Bluefish</b>	<b>Surf</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30.75</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>LBI Surf</b>
<b>Bill Bond</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>	<b>Surf</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30.875</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>LBI Surf</b>
<b>Glen Minor</b>	<b>Bluefish</b>	<b>Surf</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>LBI Surf</b>

Glen Minor	Black Drum	Surf	May	29	24.25	N/A	LBI Surf
Chuck Dishian	Fluke	Boat	May	29	20.5	2	Barnegat Bay
John Rubino	Bluefish	Boat	May	29	16.25	1	Barnegat Bay
John Rubino	Fluke	Boat	May	29	18.75	1	Barnegat Bay
Pat Presutto	Black Drum	Surf	June	1	38.5	N/A	Brant Beach
Dave Etelman	Black Drum	Surf	June	3	40.5	N/A	LBI Surf
Bill Bond	Striped Bass	Surf	June	4	39	5	LBI Surf
Bill Bond	Black Drum	Surf	June	4	40.5	N/A	LBI Surf
Paul Pintinalli	Sea Bass	Boat	June	4	18	4	Deep Wreck
Marty Friedrich	Sea Bass	Boat	June	6	16	3	Deep Wreck
Marty Friedrich	Ling	Boat	June	6	16.75	N/A	Deep Wreck

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**2026 FOM CONTESTS by Ed Valitutto - There are 7 Junior & 20 Adult FOMs (4 Surf, 9 Boat, 4 Boat / Surf and 3 Offshore) open. No FOM contests closed in May.**

**Open contests are shaded Green. Completed contests are shaded Red.**

### Junior Angler Awards

Species	Start	Finish	Leader / Winner	Size
White Perch	1/1	12/31	No Entry	
Bluefish	1/1	12/31	No Entry	
Kingfish	3/1	12/31	No Entry	
Blowfish	3/1	12/31	No Entry	
Fluke	5/4	9/25	No Entry	
Sea Bass	5/15	12/31	No Entry	
Striped Bass	1/1	12/31	No Entry	''''
Blackfish	4/1	4/30	Gaige Grant	16.75"
Blackfish	8/1	12/31		

### 2026 Surf FOM Leaders

Species	Start	Finish	Leader / Winner	Size
Striper	1/1	7/31	Dave Etelman Leads	31"
Striper	8/1	12/31		
Striper Over 31"	1/1	12/31	Bill Bond Leads	39"
Bluefish	1/1	6/30	Glen Minor Leads	32"
Bluefish	7/1	12/31		
Fluke	5/4	6/30	No Entry	
Fluke	7/1	9/25		
Blackfish	4/1	4/30	No Entry	
Blackfish	8/1	12/31		

**2026 Boat FOM Leaders**

Species	Start	Finish	Leader / Winner	Size
Striper	1/1	7/31	Drew Kircirik Leads	28.5"
Striper	8/1	12/31		
Striper Over 31"	1/1	12/31	Rocky Vendetta Leads	40"
Bluefish	1/1	6/30	Doug O'Brien Leads	28.75"
Bluefish	7/1	12/31		
Blackfish	4/1	4/30	Rocky Vendetta	19.25
Blackfish	8/1	12/31		
Weakfish	1/1	12/31	No Entry	
Ling	1/1	12/31	Marty Friedrich Leads	16.75"
Triggerfish	5/1	12/31	No Entry	
Porgy	5/1	12/31		
Sea Bass	5/15	6/21	Pat Presutto Leads	18.75"
Sea Bass	6/22	9/22		
Sea Bass	9/23	12/31		
Fluke	5/4	6/30	Bob Rode Leads	24.5"
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	Dave Spendiff Leads	13.75
Black Drum	1/1	12/31	Dave Etelman & Bill Bond Tied	40.5"
Blowfish	3/1	11/30	No Entry	

Kingfish 3/1 11/30 No Entry

**2026 Offshore FOM Leaders**

Species	Start	Finish	Leader / Winner	Size
Bluefin	4/1	11/30	No Entry	
Yellowfin	5/1	11/30	No Entry	
Mahi	5/1	11/30	No Entry	
False Albacore	9/1	11/30		



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Go to [Sara's Salon](#) for more info!

Here are some pics of FOM entries:



**Marty's leading Ling**



**Dave's 31" Striper**



**Paul Pintinalli's  
18" Sea Bass**



**Pat Presutto's  
Drum - one of  
many caught  
& released!**



**Bob Rode's 24.5"  
leading Fluke**



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**BLACK SEA BASS RECIPE** by Ed Valitutto I found this Black Sea Bass recipe topped with jumbo gulf shrimp in a lemon scampi sauce that looked delicious,



### **Ingredients**

- 1 lb Sea Bass filets
  - 6 16-20 count shrimp Peeled and deveined
  - 1 tablespoon capers
  - 1 clove garlic – finely chopped
  - 1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice more or less depending upon your likes
  - splash of white wine
  - 2 ounces vegetable stock
  - 1 tablespoon of butter rolled in flour
- 1 TSP Parsley chopped

### **Instructions**

1. Preheat oven to 350
2. Place fillets in a baking pan and drizzle with extra virgin olive oil, then sprinkle with sea salt and black pepper. add a little water to the pan to keep the sea bass moist
3. Roast Sea Bass for 15-20 minutes
4. In a sauté pan add olive oil and chopped garlic, when the garlic starts to cook add the shrimp.
5. Turn the shrimp over and add the capers.
6. When shrimp are almost fully cooked add a splash of white wine.
7. Add stock, lemon juice and butter rolled in flour.

8. As the sauce begins to thicken up add chopped parsley, remove from heat and serve over plated Black Sea Bass fillets.
9. Garnish with sliced lemon and serve with your favorite sides.

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**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](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 **13** reports submitted since the last Newsletter. I am only showing the 10 submitted through May. The others will appear next month. I am also not showing the memorial report for Eugene Tedeschi or the Southern Regional HS report. Go to our Member Reports to view them.



**It was another good outing for secret agent 006 7/8ths with fellow members Pat Presutto and Glen Minor.**



**Pat Presutto tried again for stripers but was only able to hook up with a nice 25" black drum. Dogfish and skates were all present in the mix. Unfortunately, he also lost a nice bass in the wash.**



**John Stuebing and crew had 31 Sea Bass and 4 ling. In addition they had several tog including two around 20" or more. Everyone caught fish.**



**Look who's holding a Striper! Pat and Bill Bond hit the beach pre-Memorial Day weekend. Besides skates and dogfish, they managed one over, one under and one just right in the slot.**



**New member Jim Helle had an awesome sea Bass trip yesterday on White Crab Charter Neptune, NJ. AVA17s with teaser were hot, but bait turned on mid-morning. Limited out little after noon.**



**Members Perry and Rick went 10 miles off Atlantic City on a wreck. It was nonstop action of Sea Bass, several nice size Ling, two Atlantic Cod and probably a good 10 Blackfish as well.**



**Phil Simon had an awesome charter with friends on the Kevin n' Ash catching their limit of Stripers on Spot at the North Jetty.**



The 'Sand Smurfs' have had a banner year fishing off the beaches of LBI. Shown here are a couple of beautiful Drum caught and released.

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**VHFC APPAREL 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 our '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.

But for a huge selection of club apparel purchased directly from the supplier that you can either pick up at their store in Barnegat or have shipped directly to your home, visit [Artist Tees](#) or scan the QR code.

**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](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.

**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/>**

**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.

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