



HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER August 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: 14 August 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,

The 2026 Summer is quickly disappearing! Today is the 49th day of summer so we are more than halfway through with 44 days until fall arrives on September 22nd. By that time, the temperature, crowds and traffic will have begun to diminish. Hopefully the weather and winds allow the fishing to heat up. Per Greg Cudnik's report last Monday, surf water temp last Monday was 72 degrees and clean and green. Probably the most consistent fishing is Bluefish in Barnegat inlet but that's at first light and at last light for the best action. Not the most convenient times for most anglers. Greg also mentioned and club members reports concur, the Triggerfish, Kingfish and Croakers are starting to be caught with Blowfish happening 'any day'. You just have to put your time in to be in on the action when it happens. Fluking has improved after the most dismal kickoff that most folks remember. There are still a lot of shorts being caught to get a keeper. Our Fluke Tournament was on July 11th and 53 anglers weighed in 12 keepers. At the Tri-club, VHFC had 30 anglers weigh in 17 fish. There were a few additional keepers to be sure and many shorts were also caught but although improving, that is still an awful statistic. More

details on both Tournaments appear later in the Newsletter but I have to say **CONGRATS to VHFC!**

Just a reminder, Blackfish re-opened on 1 August for one fish at 15". So now you can catch and keep one Blackfish, one Sea Bass and one Weakfish for a real mixed bag fish fry - that's pathetic! Go to [NJ Saltwater Regulations](#) for all the season, size and bag limit details.

There are probably some stripers to be caught near the inlet rocks or sod banks in the early and late hours but I have no recent report to back that up. And then there's Tuna! There are fish in our area and they should stay around for several months. It's an investment in time and money to travel out to the Tuna grounds (weather permitting) and pay for the gas, bait and equipment needed to land these fish, but if that's your thing, go for it! So far, Tim Naples has made several trips and bagged a few Yellowfin and Andrew Thomas landed a Bluefin outside of LEI. There will be others before the season closes.

Finally, I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on August 14th. Lastly, be sure to take a photo of your catch for our FOM / FOY and POM awards and submit a report of your success for others to enjoy and learn where the fish are biting.

Ed

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

- **Next Club Meeting August 14**
- **VHFC Open August 24 - 30**
- **Ocean Fluke Party Boat Trip Thursday September 17**
- **Club Dinner October 21 at Kosta's in Tuckerton**
- **Bottom Party Boat Trip Wednesday November 4**
- **Surf Tournament Saturday November 21**

AUGUST MEETING - Our next meeting will be at the Community Center on Friday August 14th. Remember, we have a new earlier start time of 6:30 with doors opening at 6:00. Our speaker for the meeting is **Peter Clarke**, a Principal Biologist with the Bureau of Marine Fisheries at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Division of Fish and Wildlife. He serves as the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Specialist and is the current head of New Jersey's Artificial Reef Program, overseeing 17 artificial reef sites along the state's coast. His work focuses on artificial reef construction, biological monitoring, and habitat enhancement for fish, shellfish, and crustaceans, while also supporting recreational fishing and scuba diving. **Peter will discuss the present status of NJ's Artificial Reefs,**



That's our July speaker Capt. Brett Taylor. Brett Jim made an interesting and timely presentation on Tournament Fluke Tactics.

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WHAT'S UP WITH THE 2026 FLUKE FISHING? by John Stuebing Have you noticed that there are a lot of short Fluke and very few keepers this year. Many of us have seen a significant

decrease in the Keeper to Short ratio this year. I started asking questions about this and thought I would summarize what I learned.

One theory centered around commercial fishing hitting our area hard but I could not verify this. In fact, the opposite may be true.

- So far in 2026, Summer Flounder has not been overfished by the commercial fisherman. The way the harvest is regulated is very complex. The season is broken up into 6 two month periods. Every vessel that participates in the fishery selects an option of when they fish and how much they can take per trip. If they go over their harvest limit on any one trip, it is deducted from the quota on the next trip. I confirmed this is correct.
- There are boats from multiple states participating in this fishery. Regardless of how many boats are fishing, the quota does not change and the number of permits issued does not change. Because the number of days these boats can drag for scallops has been severely reduced, boats are buying or leasing quotas from other boats to try and stay in business.
- According to a commercial fisherman I talked to, they do not fish a piece of bottom from Barnegat Ridge out. In addition, Fluke don't migrate straight out and straight back. They leave the inlets of New Jersey, Delaware and the NY Bight and head to an area in 30 – 40 Fathoms between the Mudhole and the Texas Tower to the north. They cover this area to spawn. Fish leaving our inlets make the trip out and to the North. This is the area the draggers focus on. The fish are tightly schooled and the hauls are the most efficient. Sometimes they drag farther south but, it rarely pays

Following is a chart showing a summary of where we are on the commercial quota. You can see that in the January – February season it was overfished by 23,009 pounds. They immediately made up for this in the March – April Season. In the May – June season they were under the quota by 81,176 pounds.

NJ Commercial Summer Flounder Quota Summary 2026

NJ Annual Quota	1,996,380
Previous year overage:	0
Transfers to NJ	0
Total Adjusted Quota:	2,109,868
Total Pounds Harvested:	825,605
Percent of Quota Harvested	39.13%

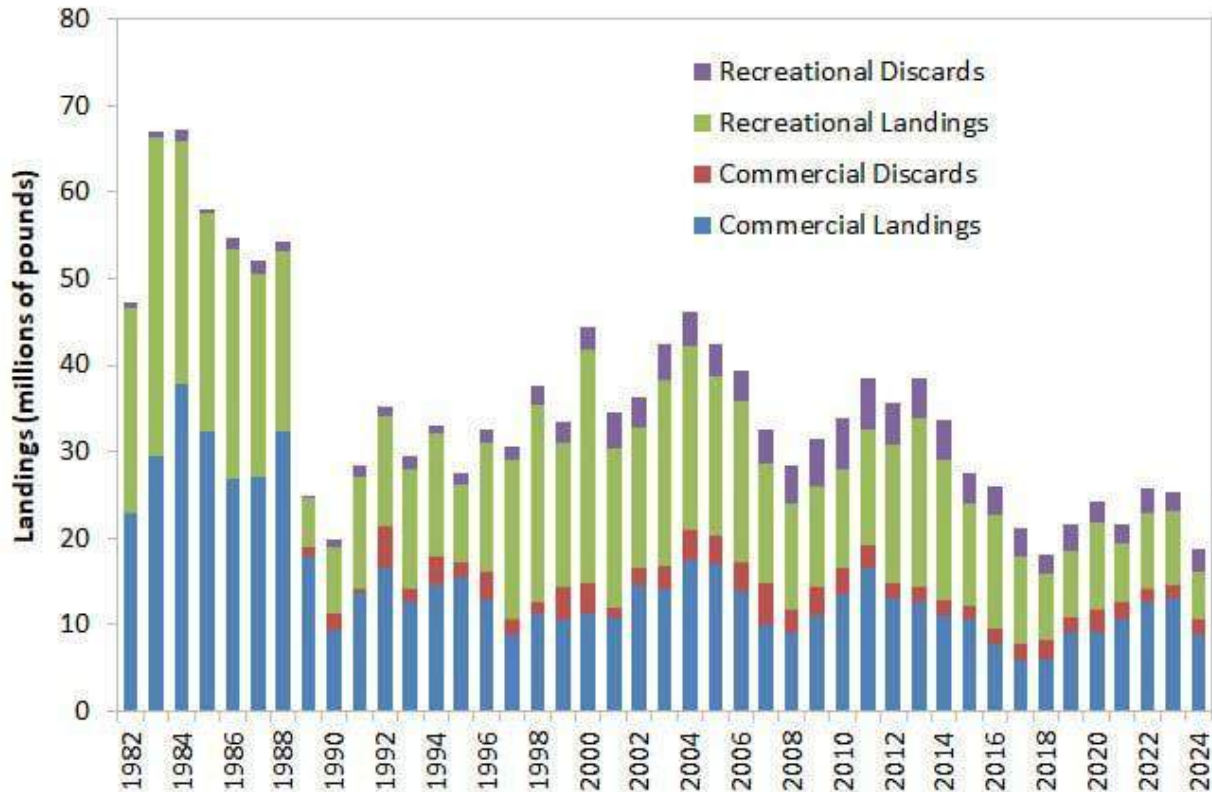
	Season	Directed Quota	Directed Landings	By-Catch Quota	By-Catch Landings	Total Season Quota	Total Season Landings	Season Quota Remaining	2026 Trip Limits
1	January 1 - February 28	534,763	613,772	56,000	0	590,763	613,772	-23,009	1,000x4 or 2,000x2 or 4,000x1
2	March 1 - April 30	187,077	185,813	22,000	0	209,077	185,813	23,264	500x4 or 1,000x2 or 2,000x1
3	May 1 - June 30	337,288	26,020	21,000		358,288	26,020	332,268	285x7 or 500x4 or 1,000x2
4	July 1 - August 31	200,536		21,000		221,536	0	221,536	285x7 or 500x4 or 1,000x2
5	September 1 - October 31	553,862		58,000		611,862	0	611,862	550x7 or 1,000x4 or 2,000x2 or 4,000x1
6	November 1 - December 31	210,085		22,000		232,085	0	232,085	750x4 or 1,500x2 or 3,000x1
Total		1,909,868	825,605	200,000	0	2,109,868	825,605	1,284,263	

A burning question remains: Why are we struggling to get keeper sized Fluke. After all this research I do not believe it is due to the commercial fishing off our inlets. Something else is at play.

If you look over time, the relationship between the harvest of Summer Flounder by Commercial Fishing and Recreational Fishing is changing. Total Harvest has been relatively stable since 2019. During the same period, Commercial Harvest is taking a bigger percentage of the total. However, it is interesting that in 2024, there is a noticeable drop in Total Harvest.

Summer Flounder Commercial and Recreational Landings & Dead Discards

Source: Northeast Fisheries Science Center, 2025



Many Summer Flounder exhibit **homing behavior**. Research and tagging studies indicate that a large proportion of the population returns to the same bays, estuaries, and coastal waters in subsequent spring and summer seasons.

However, it is not an absolute rule for every single fish:

- **Homing Ability:** Studies utilizing acoustic telemetry have shown that a large percentage of tagged fish return to the exact same estuaries year after year.
- **The "Northward Drift":** While they generally return to the same inshore regions, older and larger Flounder tend to drift northward as they age. This means a fish might shift to a coastal habitat north of its previous summering location in successive years.
- **Seasonal Shifts:** Their exact location within a local watershed won't be identical every month. They migrate inshore to shallow estuaries in the spring, move to deeper channels and inlets as summer temperatures peak, and migrate miles offshore to the continental shelf in the fall to spawn.

I had an opportunity to discuss this with Dr. Doug Zemeckis, from Rutgers, recently. He confirmed that they are seeing the same thing we are. In his opinion there are a lot of variables at play.

- While there is a slight northward “shift” in migration, it is more limited than I thought. With all the tagging Rutgers has done, only a few fish tagged in New Jersey show up in New York or Rhode Island. The trend is a more a northward movement of a few estuaries. Fish from Avalon may move to Great Bay or Barnegat Bay.
- In general, warming waters have caused many marine species to move more East and North. As of today, there is insignificant data to say that is happening with Fluke.
- Dr. Zemeckis suggests that a lot has to do with environmental conditions. Bigger fish in warmer waters have to eat more to survive. They are cold blooded creatures and they have to eat more when conditions are not ideal. That may be forcing bigger fish to find more suitable conditions (more food and/or better environmental conditions) and they may not be in the usual haunts. Did bigger fish stay more offshore? Not sure...
- Why are we seeing so many 13” and 14” fish? These fish are two to three years old. They are from a very strong period of recruitment.
- There seems to be a lot of fish, just small. That may bode well for the future.

Dr Zemeckis told me that they are preparing a stock assessment for 2027. That information may be available when we start our season next year. Dr. Zemeckis and his team agreed to present the data at one of our early meetings in 2027. For now, there are a lot more questions than answers. All we can do is keep fishing and cherish those keepers when found. It may also be worth your time to look in different places than in the years past.



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AUGUST ROD N' REEL RAFFLE by John Stuebing - Hold on! You will not believe the next Rod & Reel Raffle. During the July meeting, we will be selling raffle tickets and holding the drawing 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.

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SOCIAL MEDIA by Bayside Dave Etelman - Our VHFC sites are [VHFC FB](#) and [VHFC Instagram](#). The FB site has 290 followers with each post reaching thousands of people; our Instagram account has 653 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:



Here's a photo of member Ken Chew's boat with a question for everyone:

"Has anyone ever tried to spray the inside of their boat with Yard Guard when the flies are bad? Don't use the Off brand, it doesn't seem to work!"

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VHFC FLUKE TOURNAMENT by Ed Valitutto This year's Tournament once again exceeded our prior years' stats. It was a great event despite the lousy fishing and questionable late afternoon weather that never really happened. This was our best turnout ever with 53 anglers for a whopping \$1,060 prize purse resulting in \$530 (50%) for first place and \$530 divided 30% and 20% for second and third places. Burgers, dogs and fixins supplied by our members and wives were eagerly consumed. Now for the fish statistics as weighed in:

Angler	Weight	Place
Glen Minor	2.00	
Marty Friedrich	3.06	
Will Kresge	3.09	
Ed Valitutto	2.00	
Louis Salgado	2.00	
Phil Simon	3.08	
Bill Dabney	2.39	
Larry Leary	3.76	First
Tyler Leary	3.04	
Bryson Wyatt	3.10	Third
Tom Godfrey	3.51	Second
Dave Etelman	2.89	

Photos of the winners are on the next page



Larry Leary First Tom Godfrey Second

Bryson Wyatt Third

TRI CLUB FLUKE CHALLENGE by John Stuebing

In case you haven't heard, Village Harbour Fishing Club took first place in the Tri Club Challenge. While the Fluke Fishing was difficult on Saturday (8/1/26), with too many shorts, we managed to weigh in a total of 17 fish totaling 44.9 pounds. Our top ten fish weighed in at 30.2 pounds. The Fish Hawks came in second with their top ten fish weighing 27.8 pounds. The Forked River Tuna Club came in third with 25.2 pounds. We will be displaying the trophy at the August Meeting.

Thank you to Creekside Outfitters for sponsoring this event and providing the prizes.

Special mention goes to Kevin Lane (two fish totaling 7.46 lbs) and Marty Friedrich (two fish total of 6.94 lbs. The largest fish was caught by Kevin Lane – 4.22 lbs.



Individual Awards went to Kevin Lane – First Place and Marty Friedrich – Fourth and Fifth place.

This year VHFC hosted the event so we purchased and prepared all the food for the picnic on Sunday. A lot of work went into this event by a lot of people. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the event: ***Jerry & Dawn, Phil & Susan, Chuck & Ellen, Marty & Ceil, Myself & Christine, Pat & Lisa, Bill D., Bill B. Glen, Doug, Jim, Bayside Dave.***

We are now the defending champions and will need our "A" Game next year for a repeat!



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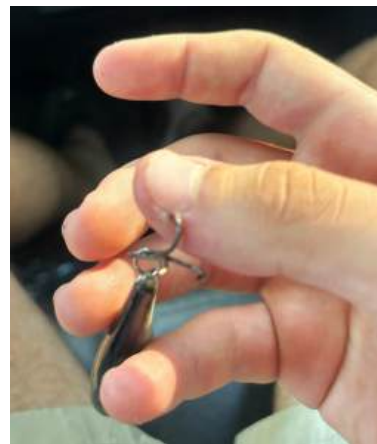
VERMONT FAMILY TIME by Ed Valitutto This article has two purposes 1) Explain my absence from the Tri-Club and 2) Tie back to an article last month about the dangers fish pose.

For the last 7 years, my wife and I have treated our three adult kids, their spouses and our 6 grandkids to a one week vacation. Unfortunately, the date is determined by the NJ Sports Athletics Blackout commission and occurs from August 1 - 8. It's ridiculous but if a kid plays a high school sport, they can only be absent during that week. For the third consecutive year, we have rented two lovely homes on South Hero Island right on a Lake Champlain beach. NOTE; These islands were gifted in 1779 by the Vermont Legislature to **Ethan Allen** and several other Revolutionary War veterans as a reward for their service. Lest you think we are on a tiny piece of land, South Hero Island has ~1,000 permanent residents and is 1.4 times the size of Manhattan!

Regarding the dangers of fish, three of my grandsons took the canoes and went fishing. They caught a Smallmouth Bass but unfortunately, their hook removal skills were lacking.



That's my grandson Vinnie with a Crankbait lure embedded in his thumb. Since the barb was under his nail, I had them travel to Urgent Care for the hook removal. Vinnie said the worst pain was the anesthesia needle! On a later trip, they managed several nice bass for a tasty meal!





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VHFC OPEN by John Stuebing We are planning another tournament that will take place in August (8/24– 8/30/26). As of this writing, we only have 7 people signed up for this tournament. Unless we get to around 20 anglers we may decide to cancel this event. Some details about the tournament are below.



This tournament will be different from what we have run in the past. We will be fishing for Fluke, Bluefish, Sea Bass, Blackfish and Tog. It will run for an entire week (7 days). Every angler can fish any two days of their choosing.

All fish must be measured and a photo sent to Pat Presutto and Ed Valitutto. **Only your largest fish, per species, per day will count.** Just like we do for the FOM's, the pictures must clearly show the total length of the fish or will be disqualified. All NJ fishing regulations apply as does the club's geographic boundaries. Anglers earn points for the most total inches by species. Winners are determined by total points across all species. Entry Fee will be \$20. Top three anglers will win a percentage of the pot (50%, 30%, 20%). The Table below shows how points are earned.

We will review the details again at the August Meeting. A sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting or contact John Stuebing: (stuebs@comcast.net) or Jim Healy: (bkupmstr@yahoo.com)

PTS	Fluke	Bluefish	Sea Bass	Blackfish	Triggerfish
1	5th Most Inches	5th Most Inches	5th Most Inches	5th Most Inches	5th Most Inches
2	4th Most Inches	4th Most Inches	4th Most Inches	4th Most Inches	4th Most Inches
3	3rd Most Inches	3rd Most Inches	3rd Most Inches	3rd Most Inches	3rd Most Inches
4	2nd Most Inches	2nd Most Inches	2nd Most Inches	2nd Most Inches	2nd Most Inches
5	Most Inches	Most Inches	Most Inches	Most Inches	Most Inches



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AUGUST 50 / 50 DRAWING PRIZES by Jerry Nichols

The extra prizes pictured will be raffled off to the 50 / 50 ticket holders at our August meeting. Three bags of 6 inch Gulp! ideal for those big end of season Fluke, a 6 inch Floating SP Minnow and an AHAB Walk the Dog Style Spook topwater lure.

Remember You Gotta' Be in It to Win It





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ROD & REEL RAFFLE by John Stuebing Our next Rod & Reel Raffle is ready to go. Thanks to Creekside Outfitters, we have a great spinning outfit for jigging Fall Stripers and much more. This outfit consists of a Jigging World Rod (MH – rated for 15 – 30 lbs. line) and a Shimano NASCI5000XG Reel rated for 20 – 40 lbs. Line. **Total combo value is ~\$275!**

Tickets for the raffle will only be available at the August and October meetings. **Remember we will be at the Forked River Tuna Club in September for a joint meeting with the Fish Hawks and the FRTC and we will not be selling tickets at that meeting.**



This will be the last Rod & Reel Raffle for the 2026 season. Don't miss out!

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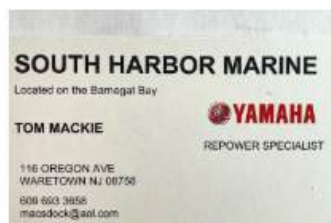
Go to [Allen's Dock](#)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED by Chuck Dishian - There's a great fishing event happening out in Lake Julianna on August 22nd.

This is a day of fishing for disabled kids and veterans called Play Hook-E and this year marks the tenth anniversary of this great event. I repped the club last year and can honestly say I was deeply moved to see kids with a variety of challenges as well as vets of our armed services enjoying a day of fishing on Lake Juliana. The JCAA is seeking volunteers for this event. They need help with baiting hooks, releasing fish, fishing technique instruction and something as simple as helping participants with parking. Overall supervision of the volunteers is being handled by American Warrior Outdoors and the event is sanctioned by the Jersey Coast Anglers Association. There will be free food and drinks available.

This will be a great way to show support for AWO and the JCAA as well as a means of our club giving back to the fishing community. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Chuck Dishian (914) 439-6244 or by email at cdishian@yahoo.com. There will also be a sign-up sheet at the general meeting on August 14th. A flyer with more details will be sent out with the Newsletter.

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LBI SURF FISHING CLASSIC by Dave Edelman - Registration for the 72nd Annual LBI Surf Fishing Classic is now open!

The Derby kicks off early again this year on August 29th and runs through November 29th. 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, fluke, kingfish, blackfish, weakfish, and red drum. The Surf Master Award

category returns again this year with prizes offered for the largest striped bass 38" or larger entered via catch, photo, and release.

The registration fee is \$40 for adults and \$20 for juniors (under 18). Register on their website www.lbisfc.com. You can also register in person at Fishermans Headquarters, Jingles Bait & Tackle, and Surf City Bait & Tackle. A free tournament hat and sticker is included with all registrations.

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at Club Meetings

FOM ENTRIES by Ed Valitutto- Here's our list of entries for the month of July. Go to [2026 FOM Standings](#) for the complete list of entries.

Angler	Species	Class	Date		Size “	MBA	Location
Marie Godfrey	Fluke	Boat	June	29	22.75	3	GSS Reef
Tim Naples	Yellowfin Tuna	Boat	July	4	44	N/A	Canyon
Mike Woodrow	Bluefish	Boat	July	10	24.75	4	Barnegat Inlet
John Barrett	Bluefish	Boat	July	11	23.75	3	Barnegat Inlet
Dave Puzak	Triggerfish	Boat	July	11	13.25	N/A	
Bill Bond	Triggerfish	Boat	July	11	14.5	N/A	GSS
Bryson Wyatt	Fluke	Boat	July	11	20.5	2	GSS
Marty Friedrich	Fluke	Boat	July	11	20.25	2	Wreck
Jim Witczak	Fluke	Boat	July	13	22	3	Little Egg Bay
Dave Puzak	Triggerfish	Boat	July	13	14.25	N/A	
Tyler Leary	Fluke	Surf	July	14	20.75	2	LBI Surf

Cheri Hebert	Fluke	Boat	July	16	25	6	BL Inlet
Tom Godfrey	Sea Bass	Boat	July	17	14.5	2	GSN Reef
Andrew Thomas	Bluefin Tuna	Boat	July	18	32	N/A	Offshore
Marty Friedrich	Fluke	Boat	July	18	22	3	Wreck
Tim Naples	Yellowfin Tuna	Boat	July	20	53	N/A	Offshore
Luis Salgado	Fluke	Boat	July	20	18.25	1	Oyster Creek Channel
Luis Salgado	Fluke	Boat	July	25	19.5	1	Oyster Creek Channel
Ken Chew	Triggerfish	Boat	July	28	13.5	N/A	

Some impressive July FOM entries:



That's Cherie Hebert's winning July FOM 25" Fluke



That's Bill Bond's leading 14.5" Triggerfish and 16.5" Seabass



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2026 CONTESTS by Ed Valitutto - VHFC has three year-long contests: Melanie Boytos Award, Fish of the Year and Fish of the Month. Go to [VHFC Contest Rules](#) for full details.

The MBA winner receives a \$200 Visa gift card name plus their name engraved on a trophy they display at a place of their choosing for one year; FOY winners each receive a \$100 Visa gift card plus an engraved plaque; FOM winners receive a \$50 gift card to a local Bait & Tackle shop.

Melanie Boytos Award (MBA) - Here are the top 5 Leaders

Angler	MBA Points
Glen Minor	18
Pat Presutto	14
Dave Etelman	12
Rocky Vendett	11
Tom Godfrey	10

Fish of the Year (FOY) Leaders

Species	Angler	Size Inches
Bluefish	Glen Minor	32
Fluke	Jim Witczak	25.75
Sea Bass	Ed Valitutto	19.5
Striped Bass	Glen Minor	42.25
Weakfish	No Entry	
Blackfish	Rocky Vendett	19.25

FOM CONTESTS by Ed Valitutto - There are 30 FOMs open at present: 8 Junior & 22 Adult FOMs: 5 Surf, 10 Boat, 4 Boat / Surf and 3 Offshore.

Three FOM contests closed 31 July (1 Surf & 2 Boat) and 6 FOM contests opened on 1 August - 2 Surf, 3 Boat & 1 Jr Angler. Here are the July FOM closures and winners:

Surf	Sriper	Bayside Dave	31"
Boat	Striper	Jim Healy	30.75"
Boat	Fluke	Cheri Hebert	25"

Congratulations to the July FOM winners



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FOM CONTEST STATUS by Ed Valitutto Go to [VFHC Contest Rules](#) for full details.

Open FOM Contests shaded Green; Closed Contests shaded Red

Junior Angler FOM Leaders					
Species	Start	Finish	Leader/Winner	Size Inches	Status
White Perch	1/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Bluefish	1/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Kingfish	3/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Blowfish	3/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Fluke	5/4/26	9/25/26	No Entry		Open
Sea Bass	5/15/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Striped Bass	1/1/26	12/31/26	Bryson Wyatt	29	Open
Spring Blackfish	1/1/26	4/30/26	Gaige Grant	16.75	Closed
Fall Blackfish	8/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open

Surf FOM Leaders					
Species	Start	Finish	Leader/Winner	Size Inches	Status
Striper	1/1/26	7/31/26	Dave Etelman	31	Closed
Striper	8/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open

Striper No Size Limit	1/1/26	12/31/26	Glen Minor Leads	42.25	Open
Bluefish	1/1/26	6/30/26	Glen Minor	32	Closed
Bluefish	7/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Fluke	5/4/26	6/30/26	No Entry		Closed
Fluke	7/1/26	9/25/26	Tyler Leary Leads	20.75	Open
Blackfish	1/1/26	4/30/26	No Winner		Closed
Blackfish	8/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open

2026 Boat FOM Leaders

Species	Start	Finish	Leader/Winner	Size Inches	Status
Striper	1/1/26	7/31/26	Jim Healy	30.75	Closed
Striper	8/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Striper No Size Limit	1/1/26	12/31/26	Rocky Vendetta Leads	40	Open
Bluefish	1/1/26	6/30/26	Doug O'Brien	28.75	Closed
Bluefish	7/1/26	12/31/26	Mike Woodrow Leads	24.75	Open
Blackfish	1/1/26	4/30/26	Rocky Vendett	19.25	Closed
Blackfish	8/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Weakfish	1/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open

Ling	1/1/26	12/31/26	Marty Friedrich Leads	17.25	Open
Triggerfish	5/1/26	12/31/26	Bill Bond Leads	14.5	Open
Porgy	5/1/26	12/31/26	No Entry		Open
Sea Bass	5/15/26	6/21/26	Ed Valitutto	19.5	Closed
Sea Bass	6/22/26	9/22/26	Bill Bond Leads	16.5	Open
Sea Bass	9/23/26	12/31/26			Not Open
Fluke	5/4/26	6/30/26	Jim Witczak	25.75	Closed
Fluke	7/1/26	7/31/26	Cheri Hebert	25	Closed
Fluke	8/1/26	8/31/26	Jerry Nichols Leads	23.25	Open
Fluke	9/1/26	9/25/26			Not Open

2026 Boat or Surf FOM Leaders

Species	Start	Finish	Leader/Winner	Size Inches	Status
White Perch	1/1/26	12/31/26	Dave Spendiff Leads	13.75	Open
Blowfish	3/1/26	11/30/26	No Entry		Open
Kingfish	3/1/26	11/30/26	Luis Salgado Leads	13.25	Open
Black Drum	1/1/26	12/31/26	Dave Etelman Tied with Bill Bond Leads	40.5	Open

2026 Offshore FOM Leaders					
Species	Start	Finish	Leader/Winner	Size Inches	Status
Bluefin	4/1/26	11/30/26	Andrew Thomas Leads	32	Open
Yellowfin	5/1/26	11/30/26	Tim Naples Leads	53	Open
Mahi Mahi	5/1/26	11/30/26	No Entry		Open
False Albacore	9/1/26	11/30/26			Not Open

CLUB DINNER by Ed Valitutto - Mark your calendars for one of our most enjoyable club events! Once again, Bill Dabney has done all the leg work and coordinated our dinner event for **Wednesday October 21st at Kostas Grill in Tuckerton**. Kostas serves Greek cuisine - see [Kostas Menu](#) for details. Everyone pays for their own selections off the menu but our own wine expert, Bill Dabney (I'm not kidding, Bill has really worked in the wine industry), will select an assortment of wine complements of VHFC for the occasion and once again this year, VHFC will provide appetizer platters for your enjoyment. Kosta's is BYOB so if you prefer to bring your own favorite libation, certainly do so. There are no space problems but please let Bill know if you will attend so he can coordinate with Kostas Grill. This is always a fun event for members and their spouse to get together for some fun.

Bill's info is dabney372@outlook.com or 609-709-5093.

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PICTURE of the MONTH by Phil Simon & Jerry Nichols - Here's our July winner



That's Andrew Thomas and Arden McQuaid holding two nice BFT's.

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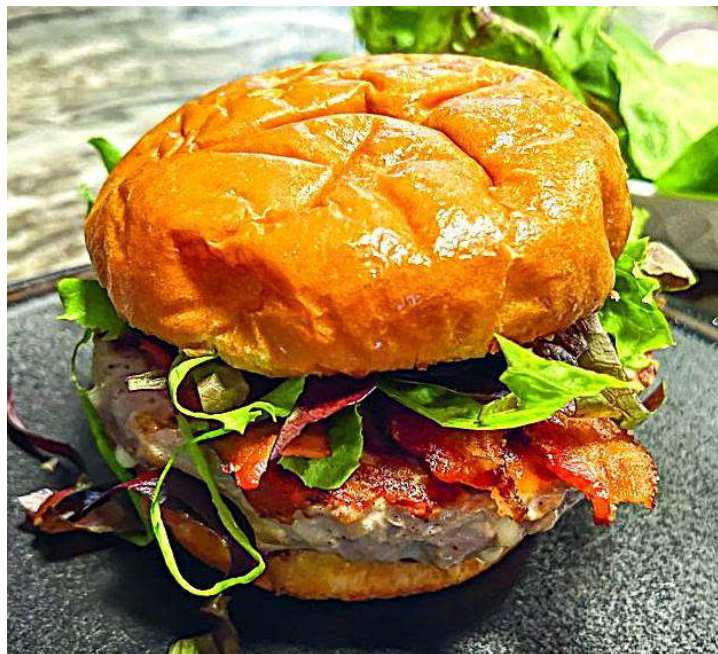
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ALL AMERICAN TUNA BURGER RECIPE by Ed Valitutto - This recipe is from *On The Water* magazine who claim "If you closed your eyes, you would have a hard time knowing this was not a real cheeseburger." I'm not sure that's a good thing. If you spend \$20 - \$25 for a lb of Tuna or several times that to catch your own, I want to taste Tuna! Try it and let me know.



Ingredients:

1 pound fresh tuna, diced
1 egg white
1/2 English muffin, diced
2 teaspoons olive oil
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon mayonnaise
2 teaspoons soy sauce
2 slices American cheese, diced
Black pepper
Kosher salt
2 – 4 brioche burger buns, toasted
4 slices of bacon, cooked
Lettuce, sliced thin

Directions:

1. Mix the tuna in a bowl with the next seven ingredients including the cheese. It helps hold it together, and adds a nice crust. Feel free to add more cheese on top at the end.
2. Form 2 - 4 patties, sprinkle both sides with salt and pepper, and refrigerate for 1/2 hour.
3. Cook the bacon in a cast-iron skillet, then remove and discard the fat.

4. Turn the heat to high. Once the pan starts smoking, sear the burgers for 3 minutes on each side or until they register 100 degrees in the thickest part.
5. Place them on the toasted buns, top with bacon, and fix 'em up with your favorite toppings: ketchup, mustard, mayo, pickles—whatever makes you happy.



Sara's Salon**220 Ocean Gate Dr. Bayville, NJ****732 269-2522 4.8 Stars | 58 reviews****Barber Shop, Beauty Salon, Manicure**

VHFC APPAREL by Chuck Dishian - As previously reported, we 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](#). You also have the option to customize your apparel with either club logos or your name.



New Scent Emitting Soft Product**Most Effective Bait Available****Use Code VHFC15 for 15% off**

[Click here for the Q8 website](#)

FLUKE FISHING TRIP by Dave Edelman - The fluke fishing trip is scheduled for Thursday, September 17th, on the Mary M IV out of the Lighthouse Marina in Barnegat Light on LBI. The boat leaves at 6am, so try to arrive no later than 5:30am. The cost will be about \$100 per angler, depending on how many sign up. The money will be collected on the boat the day of the

trip. Contact Bayside Dave Etelman if interested. Club members are welcome to bring guests. VHFC will provide the coffee and donuts.



The 62' Mary M IV with Capt Sam Rescigno and mate Sammy

FISHING REPORTS - Please go to the VHFC website at <http://www.vhfishingclub.com> to read fishing reports submitted by fellow club members. Please submit your reports using the simple form on the pull down menu. If you do not feel comfortable using the form, please email Ed Valitutto @ edvalitutto@gmail.com or call 609 994 1311 and provide me with the details so I can do a report for you. Please take a moment to provide a report for other members to enjoy and gain some valuable fishing insight. There have been 9 reports since the last Newsletter.



Tlm Naples loves his Tuna and went out to the ledge with two friends. They didn't see any birds, whales, or dolphins, but thankfully, he was marking a lot of bait. They got the gear out, and 30 minutes later had a triple hookup. Unfortunately, they lost one of the fish but managed to boat the other two.



Not everything you reel in from the sea is delicious. That's Weighmaster Pat P with a lovely towel. I'm sure Lisa was thrilled!



Larry Leary with grandsons Tyler Leary and Bryson Wyatt fishing our Fluke Tournament. Larry took first place and Bryson third.



That's Bill Bond hiding behind a Triggerfish he caught.



If you can't catch fish, then catch crabs! That's John Stuebing's motto!



With my daughter Lisa, grandson Nick and Nick's girlfriend Liv visiting, we went to the Middle Grounds drifting the ICW from the fishing docks southward. A few hours of fishing yielded ~25 shorts, two keepers including the 23" keeper Liv caught and a 19" fluke that I caught. For extra fun, Lisa had a short on the teaser and a cownose snagged on the bucktail.



That's Andrew Thomas with a beautiful Bluefin Tuna. Andy was fishing with pal Arden McQuaid just outside Little Egg Inlet when they saw some tuna and put out their spreader bars.

You saw an earlier photo of both as the winning POM for July.



That's Marty Friedrich with a double header – one was a keeper and the other was just a quarter inch shy.

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/>

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.

[Allen's Dock](#) (10% discount on bait & tackle w/ VHFC card)
5698 US-9, New Gretna, NJ 08224
609-296-5660

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.

Bogin's Bait & Tackle (10% discount w/ VHFC card)
11 E Main St Tuckerton, NJ 08087
640-281-9433

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% off Kayaks and 10% off Accessories with VHFC Card)
955 Radio Road, Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087
609-848-3657

JB Awards 10% discount on engraving and trophies with VHFC card
609-290-5851

Knot Easy Bait & Tackle (10% discount w/ VHFC card)
945 Radio Rd, Little Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08087
609 294 1300

Martek Marine Electronics Specialists (10% discount w/ VHFC card)
701 Old Avalon Blvd, Unit 4, Avalon, NJ 08202
609 390 3355

Pietro's Pizza
712 E Bay Ave, Manahawkin, NJ
609 597 6708

Q8 Super Baits

30540 SR 44 Eustis, FL. 32736

352 357-0902 Members use Code VHFC15 for 15% off

Sara's Salon Barber Shop, Beauty Salon, Manicure

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732 269-2522

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Surf City Bait & Tackle (10% discount w/ VHFC card excluding worms)

317 Long Beach Boulevard Surf City, NJ 08008

609 494-2333

The Boat Shop 10% discount with VHFC card

756 E. Bay Ave, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

609-597-1271

West Marine Pro Team (Varied Discount by Product Purchased) You must sign up to be part of the West Marine Pro Team. Sign Up Sheets will be available at our Meetings. You can also contact John Stuebing (stuebs@comcast.net) to sign up and get access to our West Marine Account.