HARBOUR LIGHT

OFFICIAL VHFC NEWSLETTER November 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: 13 November 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello VHFC Members,

Well to quote Charlie Brown "Good Grief" regarding how fast this year once again disappeared! Today is November 8th and Thanksgiving is two weeks from next Thursday. Then just as quickly the holidays will arrive to put a festive end to 2026 and usher in 2027! I can't even bring myself to say "2027". Well the good news is the fall fishing season has begun and hopefully the fall run of striped bass will come into full swing. Read my report on fishing with Brett Taylor last Monday. Stripers are definitely in the inlet and just north along the beach gorging on bunker. There are also seabass, blackfish, porgies and triggerfish to be caught. Read the article on the club Bottom Trip for more details. This is also the season that surf fishing comes into play either from the sands or along the inlet rocks. Migrating stripers are making an appearance and will offer great fishing opportunities along with blackfish and an occasional bluefish for those days when the waves & winds make boating difficult or you just want to spend a few hours fishing from land. The LBI Surf Fishing Tournament opened this year on August 29th and will end on November

29th and during the last two weeks, the numbers of Striped Bass and Blackfish being entered has increased significantly. Additional details are provided later in the Newsletter.

So far, the weather has been fairly mild the last two weeks but that can drastically change at any time.. Even though most of us have the necessary winter gear, fishing in milder weather is definitely more comfortable. So pick your days or just bundle up and enjoy fishing the rest of 2026. Besides, there's nothing more impressive than a whole tog or striper served alongside that holiday turkey!

Our next meeting will be at the Community Center on Friday November 13th. This is our pizza meeting, so come on out and enjoy a few slices while you swap fishing stories with fellow anglers. We do not schedule a speaker for our last meeting but Phil Simon will have a slide show of all our VHFC photos and statistics from 2026 based on your fishing reports and our special events. Be sure to attend and provide your colorful comments for a fun final meeting for this year. I look forward to seeing everyone at our meeting and continue to make the most of the fall season. As always, be sure to take a photo of your catch for our FOM / FOY awards and submit a report of your success for others to enjoy

Ed

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

- **Final Membership Meeting Friday November 13**
- **Surf Tournament Saturday November 21**

NOVEMBER MEETING by Ed Valitutto - Our next meeting will be at the Community Center on Friday November 13th starting at 6:30 with doors opening at 6:00. Per our club tradition, Phil SImon will present the **Year in Review,** a compilation of 2026 statistics and photos from your weigh-ins, Reports and Club Events. It's always fun to see the pics and listen to the many comments from the peanut gallery! **And YES, it is PIZZA NIGHT!**



That's our October speaker, Matt Sorentino, President of the **NJ Fishing Club**, an organization dedicated to hosting fishing tournaments and community events that bring anglers together throughout New Jersey. A lifelong saltwater fisherman, Matt has spent decades fishing the waters of the Garden State with expertise in inshore fisheries such as Tautog and Fluke. Matt's topic was ***Targeting Tog in the Fall. His presentation was enjoyed by everyone!***

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ON THE WATER VHFC OFFER by Jonathan Rust - My name is Jonathan Rust, and I'm the Growth Operations Manager at On The Water. I'm reaching out to offer members of Village Harbour Fishing Club a complimentary copy of our January/February issue, the Angler's Almanac. OTW would love to connect with your club and members who are interested can sign up directly to receive their free copy. **OTW Sign Up Link**

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2027 ISLAND BEACH STATE PARK VEHICLE PERMITS by Chuck Dishian

Island Beach State Park is offering an unlimited number of Mobil Sport Fishing Vehicle. Permits for the upcoming 2027 calendar year. This is a departure from the previous policies of caps and lottery-only restrictions. The cost is 195.00 for New Jersey Residents and 225.00 for non-residents. The permits will be valid from January 1 through December 31, 2027.

For more information or applications visit the **New Jersey Outdoors Portal** or the **IBSP MSFV Permit Lottery Page**

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SOCIAL MEDIA by Bayside Dave Etelman - Our VHFC sites are **VHFC FB** and **VHFC Instagram** The FB site has 305 followers with each post reaching thousands of people; our Instagram account has 722 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 from our Mary M trip.



That's Ed V, Carmen Bufardeci and Glen Minor standing at the rail and anxiously waiting for the go ahead to drop our lines from Captain Sam!

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NOVEMBER 50 / 50 DRAWING PRIZES by Jerry Nichols - New for 2026, VHFC added some nice consolation prizes offered to the 50 /50 ticket holders after the cash draw..



The photo shows our November items up for grabs:

Magictail Ahab 'Walk the Dog' Spook, Jigging World Burst Popper, Yo-Zuri Minnow. Spro Bucktail and 4 Ava jigs.

All great items for the Striper run!

Remember You Gotta' Be in It to Win It

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CLUB DINNER by Ed Valitutto - Our annual club dinner event was held on Wednesday October 21st at Kostas Grill in Tuckerton. Once again, our turnout set a new high at 43 attendees. VHFC wine expert, Bill Dabney, had a great assortment of wine complements of VHFC, that included Prosecco, robust reds and lovely whites from Italy, Spain, Germany and California. VHFC also provided appetizer platters that included Spanakopita, meatballs, stuffed grape leaves, feta, tzatziki, hummus, pita and Calamari for everyone's enjoyment. This is always a fun event for members and their spouses to get together as you can see from the photos.



This photo shows members and spouses enjoying their appetizers and the wine table with empties under the table!



We forgot to yell “Say Cheese” before taking this pic!

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VHFC SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT & BBQ by Bayside Dave Here's everything you need to know for this fall fishing event. **Contact Bayside Dave at bayside425@gmail.com or text him at 201-638-5774 to sign up.**



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LBI SURF FISHING CLASSIC by Dave Edelman - Registration for the 72nd Annual LBI Surf Fishing Classic is still open! The Derby kicked 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. There is also a weekly photo contest for great merchandise for registered entrants.

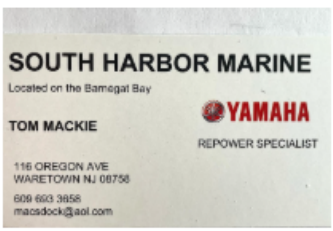
The registration fee is $40 for adults and $20 for juniors (under 18). Register on their website **www.lbisfc.com**. You can also register in person at Fishermans Headquarters, Jingles Bait & Tackle, and Surf City Bait & Tackle. A free tournament hat and sticker is included with all registrations.

As of today, November 7th, there are 28 registered clubs including VHFC and 284 registered anglers. Entries to date: 46 Blackfish, 29 Kingfish, 4 Weakfish, 14 Bluefish, 10 Fluke and 12 Stripers. No Red Drum have been entered to date. See all results at **2026 Live Results**

Still 21 days to fish and win some great prizes. Sign up today!

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PICTURE OF THE MONTH by Phil Simon & Jerry Nichols



Here's our October POM winner submitted by Jim Healey. Congratulations Jim!

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NOVEMBER FISHING TRIP by Bayside Dave - A successful bottom fishing trip was enjoyed by 21 club members & guests on Wednesday November 4th aboard the Mary M IV. After an unsuccessful attempt at a 10 mile wreck yielded nothing but Bergalls, Captain Sam Rescigno moved the boat further south and off shore to a large wreck in over a 100' depth. That was the key to our successful trip! On the ride back, first mate Sammy. cleaned 56 Sea Bass and 15 Porgies that were in the shared fish basket, as well as another couple of dozen fish which a few guys chose to keep separate. The largest Sea Bass pool was won by Russ Minor and the largest Porgy pool was won by Pat Presutto.

Thank you to all who came and to Bayside Dave Etelman who arranged this trip. Thanks Ed Valitutto for bringing the coffee and donuts that were paid for by the club, and Pat Presutto for running the pools.

Thank you Captain Sam. for a great trip and First Mate Sammy. for doing a great job serving all the anglers. Thanks also to Co-Captain Tommy for all his help and encouragement.



That's the Sea Bass pool winner Russ Minor with his 18" catch!



Several members are waiting for the anchors to set so the fishing can begin. You can see how calm the sea was!



Mate Sammy filleting the catch during the ride back to port.



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FOM ENTRIES by Ed Valitutto- Here's our list of entries for the month of September / early October. Go to **2026 FOM Standings** for the complete list of entries.

Angler	Species	Class	Date	Size "	MBA		Location
Caesar Pesarini	Sea Bass	Boat	October	6	18	4	Wreck
Boston Bob	Sea Bass	Boat	October	6	19	4	Wreck
Bob Dodds	Porgy	Boat	October	6	14	N/A	Wreck
Bayside Dave	Sea Bass	Boat	October	7	18.5	4	Wreck
Marty Friedrich	Blackfish	Boat	October	7	16	2	Wreck
Tom Godfrey	Blackfish	Surf	October	7	15.5	1	BL Jetty
Mike Lettera	Triggerfish	Boat	October	7	16.25	N/A	Wreck
Bob Dodds	Blackfish	Boat	October	26	17	3	Wreck
Rick Santos	Triggerfish	Boat	October	29	15.5	N/A	Wreck
Rick Santos	Sea Bass	Boat	October	29	16.75	3	Wreck
Ed Valitutto	Striped Bass	Boat	November	2	32.25	3	Barnegat Inlet
Pat Presutto	Striped Bass	Surf	November	3	45.5	8	LBI Surf
Boston Bob	Sea Bass	Boat	November	3	17.5	3	Wreck

Tom Godfrey	Striped Bass	Boat	November	3	44	8	Off Mantoloking
Russ Minor	Sea Bass	Boat	November	4	18	4	Wreck
Marty Friedrich	Blackfish	Boat	November	4	16.5	2	Wreck
Marty Friedrich	Sea Bass	Boat	November	4	16.75	3	Wreck

Some recent FOM entries:



That's Bob Dodds' 14" Porgy



Boston Bob's Nice 19" Sea Bass



Nice Tog from Marty!



Beautiful 45.5” Striper caught on the LBI sands by Weighmaster Pat Presutto!

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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	**18**
Rocky Vendetti	**16**
Dave Etelman	**15**
Tom Godfrey	**15**

Fish of the Year (FOY) Leaders

Species	Angler	Size Inches
Bluefish	**Glen Minor**	**32**
Fluke	**Perry Hoagey**	**28**
Sea Bass	**Ed Valitutto**	**19.5**
Striped Bass	**Pat Presutto**	**45.5**
Weakfish	**No Entry**	
Blackfish	**Rocky Vendetti**	**19.25**

FOM CONTESTS by Ed Valitutto - There are 28 FOMs open at present: 7 Junior & 21 Adult FOMs: 4 Surf, 9 Boat, 4 Boat / Surf and 4 Offshore. There were no FOM contest closures in October.

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FOM CONTEST STATUS by Ed Valitutto Go to VHFC 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	Bryson Wyatt	20.5	Closed
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	20.75	Closed
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 Vendetti Leads	40	Open
Bluefish	1/1/26	6/30/26	Doug O'Brien	28.75	Closed
Bluefish	7/1/26	12/31/26	Tyler Leary Leads	29	Open
Blackfish	1/1/26	4/30/26	Rocky Vendetti	19.25	Closed
Blackfish	8/1/26	12/31/26	Ed Valitutto Leads	17.5	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	Ed Valitutto Leads	16	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	Larry Gonnello	17.5	Closed
Sea Bass	9/23/26	12/31/26	Glen Minor Leads	17	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	Cheri Hebert	26.25	Closed
Fluke	9/1/26	9/25/26	Perry Hoagey	28	Closed

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	Dave Puzal Leads	11	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**	**Gage Grant Leads**	**26**	**Open**
False Albacore	**9/1/26**	**11/30/26**	**No Entry**		**Open**

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SIMPLE PAN SEARED BLACKFISH by Ed Valitutto - Nothing really special here, just a good, simple and quick preparation. I made it last night and will enjoy the second fillet tonight.



Ingredients

- **2 Blackfish fillet (6 -8 Ozs each) dusted with flour**
- **1 - 2 tbsp olive oil (or any other neutral oil)**
- **3 tbsp butter, unsalted**
- **2 tsp capers**
- **1/2 lemon, for juice**
- **kosher salt & black pepper, to taste**
- **mixed herbs (optional, for garnish)**

Instructions

1. **Rinse blackfish and pat dry with paper towels.Sprinkle each side of the fish with salt and pepper then dust with flour..**
2. **Heat skillet on medium-high heat with oil.**
3. **Place fish into the skillet and press gently for a few seconds to prevent curling. Sear for about 3 minutes and fish easily releases.**
4. **Flip the fish, then add butter and capers. Tilt the pan and baste the fish with melted butter. Continue for about a minute till the fish is cooked. Squeeze lemon over fish.**
5. **If desired, garnish with herbs. Add lemon wedges on the side and serve.**

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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.

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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 only 3 reports since the last Newsletter due to high winds and the nasty nor'easter that struck the East coast and especially New Jersey!





Bob Dodds had a Sea Bass Trip on the Kev n' Ash with Ed V, Caesar Pesarini, Boston Bob and friend Paul. We had to work hard but ended up with a 47 count of Sea Bass – three short of our 5 man limit - and several Porgies!.

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Ed V, Alan Goracy and third angler Dave had a good Striper / Tog trip with Brett Taylor. Alan had two keeper Bass, Ed had two just over 31 and Dave had an over. Alan also had a near 40” on bunker.

Togging at the north jetty was lights out!





Jerry Nichols and Tom Godfrey had a blast with the jumbo Stripers. They ended up catching six fish: two 44”, two 42”, one 39”, one 33” and lost two.

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FISHING WITH CLUB MEMBERS - Members may place free ads in this section if you wish to find someone to fish with. Maybe you need to find someone with a boat or you are interested in finding someone to share expenses on your boat. With gas prices reaching the sky, helping out with fuel costs is almost a necessity.

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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

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