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Fish Hawks was founded in 1977 as a non-profit fishing club whose objectives are to foster and promote:

The development of the coastal and estuaries of Barnegat Bay and to improve the aquatic environment for the general public; To promote fish stocks in cooperation with the Division of Fish and Game and Wildlife of the state of New Jersey; To provide social and recreational activities to its members. Meetings 1st Thursday of each month, 7:30 pm, at Lacey Elks Lodge, 900 Beach Blvd., Forked River, NJ 08731.

Visit our Website at:
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for a list of our monthly speakers.

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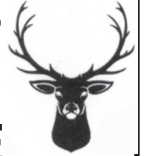
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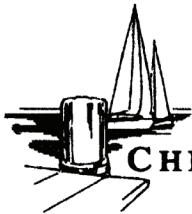
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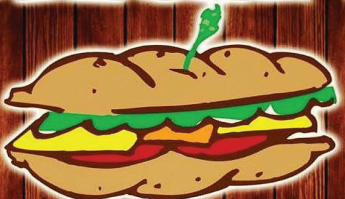
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APRIL 2026 FISH HAWKS NEWSLETTER

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SHORE CASTS

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO PATRONIZE ALL OF OUR SPONSORS.

Our Club radio channel is 19. We ask our members to please monitor it at all times.

If you have changed your mailing address, phone number, e-mail address, or you do not receive or miss an issue of the newsletter, please contact Membership Chairwoman, Sandi Roy. Sandi's cell phone is 609-618-6211 or an email can be sent to robandsandi@yahoo.com. Please do not leave a message on her home phone.

Please call Good & Welfare Chairwoman Marilyn Dahl if you know of any member who is ill or has been hospitalized. Marilyn can be reached on her cell phone at 201-232-6896 or home phone at 609-693-4674. You may also email her at marilynjd@comcast.net.

Yearly membership cards for those current in dues are available at the meeting. If you have paid your dues and have not received a current dues card, please see Mickey Sherry Treasurer, at the meeting. If you have or want a speaker on a specific subject, please contact our Guest Speaker Chairman Ken Kawalek at 609-575-1230

“SEA TOW Now offers 12 months and an additional \$50.00 off the yearly membership for Fish Hawk members!”

Boat US membership discount code is **GA83831B**. Ask for new member applications.

Presidents Message

Fellow Fish Hawks,

Spring is finally here, and with it comes the start of another great season on the water!

First, I want to thank **Rich Leahy** and **Jeff Scaramozzino** for organizing our Flea Market and ensuring that we had a successful day! From the members that helped set up tables, to those who spread the word and came out to support the event — it was a fantastic day for the club. Events like this not only raise funds, but they also bring our Club together. Great deals, great conversations, and plenty of stories swapped — that's what the Fish Hawks are all about.

Looking Ahead

We are fortunate to have **Professor Doug Zemeckis** joining us as our guest speaker at our meeting on April 2nd. Professor Zemeckis has valuable insights on fisheries science and management that help us better understand the species we target and the waters we fish. It's always a privilege to hear from experts who bring real-world knowledge and research to our meetings. Doug will give a presentation on: "Biology and Movement Patterns of Summer Flounder in New Jersey"

We will learn about summer flounder biology, including their preferred habitats, seasonal migrations, spawning, and growth. We will also learn about tagging research being done at Rutgers University to better understand summer flounder behavior and movements in our bays and offshore waters. It is a presentation you won't want to miss!

As we move into April, the fishing action is starting to heat up — and so is our **Monthly Fishing Contest**. Don't forget to sign up at the April meeting! Whether you're a seasoned competitor or just looking for some extra fun and friendly rivalry, the contest is a great way to get more involved. If you have any questions or need to register, please see Contest Chairpersons, Kenn or Val Seefelt at the meeting — they'll be happy to help.

If you have not done so yet, make sure to get your sign-up form to Vice President Paul Schell for our **Awards Banquet on May 17th**. This is always a great time to spend with your fellow club members and tell a few fishing stories about the big one that got away! Bring your attached form to a meeting or you can mail it to Paul.

Let's make the most of the season ahead!

Fair winds and following seas – see you out on the water,

Dave

“THE HAWK”
APRIL 2026

THE BIRD: Spring has finally arrived & with that we kick-off our clubs **MONTHLY CONTESTS & TOURNAMENTS.** **Thursday, April 2nd** is our monthly meeting & that’s the **FINAL** day that your entry form & fee are due. **Friday the 3rd** is the start of our **MONTHLY CONTESTS.**

Our first tournament day is Saturday April 18th.

NEW MEMBERS who join in 2026 can enter at any time.

Val & Kenn Seefelt committee chairs will be collecting your entry forms & checks at the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Val or Kenn. Updated forms & rules are available on our website, enclosed in this month newsletter & will also be available at Thursday’s meeting.

FLEA MARKET

Our March Flea Market was a major success!!! We had 375 paid attendees, 57 vendor tables the 50/50 & rod /reel brought in nearly a thousand dollars. Thanks to the “Hard Work” of GEORGE ROYSTON, KARL DAHL, RUTH FIZZAROTTI, TONY GUADAGNINO, PAUL SCHELL, DENNY JOYCE, KEVIN O’ROURKE & especially our “COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN” RICH LEAHY & JEFF SCARAMOZZINO, (and all of the members that helped set-up & break down the tables).

FISH BITES

Our first club fishing trip is scheduled for Thursday May 21st for Seabass & Bottom Fish? Any questions contact Whitey @ (609)276-1898

Our club ROSTER for 2026 will be mailed out in the month of April. A whole lot of thanks to SANDI ROY who puts a lot of time & effort in putting the roster together. Sandi, we appreciate all that you do!!! RUTH FIZZAROTTI WILL BE ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP & THE ROSTER.

NOTE: The ROSTER is only for your personal use to contact club members & NOT TO BE COPIED OR DISTRIBUTED.

MORE FISH BITES

Capt. Seagull has donated local fishing charts to our club (we will auction some off at our upcoming banquet), see attached Banquet sign-up form.

2026 REGULATIONS

BLACKFISH: OPENS April 1st thru April 30th, (4 Fish; 15”) Fishery is CLOSED from May 1st to July 31st. From August 1st thru November 15th 1 fish & from November 16th thru December 31st 15 fish.

STRIPED BASS: Is OPEN; 1 fish at 28” to 31” You can sign -up for the Striper Bonus program which allows 1 fish @ 24” but less than 28”. If interested go on-line to N.J. FISH & WILDLIFE.

SEABASS: (option #6) 231-day season & “NO” closed season during the summer months. (this is a 16.2% increase), 10 fish (5/15 to 6/21): 1 fish (6/22 to 9/22): 10 fish (9/23 to 10/31): 15 fish (11/1 to (12/31).

(All Waves have a size limit of 12 ½”)

FLUKE: Opens May 4th thru September 25th 3 fish: 18” & up (WE HAD A WIN) Thanks to all the recreational fisherman who sent in their surveys & those that attended the meetings. Especially our ASMF representee MICKEY SHERRY who is our VOICE at these meetings.

PORGY’S: OPEN I/I to 6/30 CLOSED 7/1 to 8/31, re-opens 9/1 to 12/31. (30 fish @ 10”).

BLUEFISH: **NEW**, No closed season or size limit. 5 fish for private boat/shore-based anglers & 7 for hire-charter anglers.

**“YOUR NOT FAT YOUR JUST EASIER TO SEE”
“BE SAFE OUT THERE”**

2026 Fishing Contest Rules

Monthly Fishing Contest

- Entry: \$2 per species, per month, **or** \$100 all-in (all species, all months marked “X”).
- Deadline: Submit entry form and payment **by the April Club Meeting**.
- Contest Period: Begins the Friday after the April meeting and ends **December 15** (close of final weigh-in station).
- **No phone-ins** — hard copy weigh-ins only.

Payouts (Monthly Contest prize payout per species per month):

- 1st: 50%
- 2nd: 30%
- 3rd: 20%
- If only 1 fish: 100% to 1st
- If 2 fish: 60% / 40% split
- **One win per angler per category**

Rules:

- Bluefish must weigh **minimum 2 lbs.**
- Commercial license holders are **ineligible** for listed species
- Winners announced monthly by Contest Chair

Monthly Bonus

- Each month (April–December), **one** 1st-place winner (random draw from all species) receives a **\$25 cash bonus**

Tournament Days

- **Entry Fee: \$30** (covers 20 days + **eligibility for Largest Fish of the Year**)
- Deadline: Submit form by April Club Meeting

Payouts (per species per month)

- 1st: \$25
- 2nd: \$15
- 3rd: \$10

Club Trip Tournament Days

- All club head boat trips = **FREE Tournament Day**
- Open only to trip participants
- Weigh-ins and winners determined **onboard**
- **To qualify for Monthly Contest, fish must also be weighed at an official station**

2026 Fishing Contest Rules continued

Largest Fish of the Year

- Eligible Species: Weakfish, Bluefish, Striped Bass, Fluke, Sea Bass, Blackfish
- Prize: **\$75 cash per species** (awarded at Annual Banquet)
- **Must be entered in Tournament Days to qualify**

Official Weigh-In Stations

- Creekside Outfitters (Waretown)
- Grizz's Bait & Tackle (Forked River)
- Grumpy's Tackle (Seaside Park)

Procedures

- Angler must verify: **Name, Date, Species, Weight**
- Initial sheet — **once signed, it is final**
- Fish must be caught in **New Jersey waters** for contests

Club Records

- No location restrictions
- Out-of-state fish require certified weigh slip
- Submit Club Record Form with documentation
- Subject to Board of Directors approval

Catch & Release Formula (all species):

$$\text{Weight} = (\text{Length} \times \text{Girth}^2) \div 800$$

- Length: tip of lower jaw to fork of tail
- Girth: widest point

Sportsmanship Rule

- **You must personally catch the fish you enter**
- No entering fish caught by others

Good luck, fish hard, and stay safe!

Monthly Contest and Tournament Day Entry Form

PLEASE NOTE: MONTHLY CONTEST BEGINS THE
FRIDAY AFTER APRIL'S MEMBERSHIP MEETING.
*****NEW FOR 2026: MONTHLY CONTEST ENDS DEC 15**



Date _____

Name _____

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	# Of Months	Totals Dollars
Blackfish*****	X				X	X	X	X	X		
Bluefish*****	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Fluke*****		X	X	X	X	X					
Sea Bass*****		X	X	X	X		X	X	X		
Striped Bass*****	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Weakfish*****	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		

Blowfish		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Kingfish		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
COD	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Flounder	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Ling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Porgy	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		
Triggerfish		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			

Place a circle around the X in the box for the species and months that you wish to enter the monthly contest for a cost of \$2 per month.
Or you can ***go all in*** for all species denoted by an X (100 months) for \$100.

Additionally the cost for up to 20 scheduled tournament days is \$30
Entries and all money must be received by the first Thursday in April at our monthly meeting.

Monthly Contest Total at \$2 per Circled X Box
OR
Buy All X Boxes For \$100

Give the completed form to Kenn or Val Seefelt at our monthly meeting or mail it to address below. \$ 30 Tournament Day Buy In

Mail: Fish Hawks P. O. Box 700 Total Amount
Forked River 08731 _____

Contest Chairman Signature _____

***** Only 6 Species eligible for Tournament Days and Largest Fish of The Year *****

Only fish caught in New Jersey waters are eligible for Monthly Contests, Tournament Days and Largest Fish of The Year.
Entry into Tournament day also enters you into "Largest Fish of Year" contest.
New Members can participate at any time once after becoming a new member.

Note: To view all contest rules please go to <http://www.fishhawksnj.com> and select contest form and rules.

*****LACEY FOOD BANK*****

APRIL 2026

It is amazing that our Fish Hawk Membership has been providing food items for over 220 plus families thru the Lacey Food Bank. We often forget those less fortunate who need grocery items during the months of April and May, as we have said in the past newsletters striving for 100% participation from our members each month had been our goal.

I am stepping up to keep this wonderful program going So, like in the past here is a list that are always needed at the food bank.

Peanut butter, Jelly	Macaroni and cheese
Juice boxes	Apple juice
Pasta	Spaghetti sauce
Cereals	Chicken noodle soup
Spaghetti O's	Applesauce
Snacks i.e. Pretzels	Peanut butter crackers
Goldfish crackers	Fruit snacks, cookies, etc

Should you forget to bring some food items to our April meeting, there will be a bin & a jar where you can place both cash and checks made out to the Lacey Food Bank.

Thanks again for your support in the past.

Sincerely **Joe Regatts** RM

FISH HAWKS BOAT TRIPS

Don't miss out! on our great club fishing trips.
We have secured 4 boat trips cost \$100.00 per person.

All bait included for targeted fish
Sign up to reserve your space NOW!

2026 Special Tournament Day Boat Fishing Trips*

All Boat trips leave the dock at 6:30 sharp.

Thursday May 21, Sea Bass / Bottom fish, Miss Michelle III - Point Pleasant

CHANGE Thursday June 11, Sea Bass / Fluke, Bottom fish, Miss Michelle III - Point Pleasant

Monday Aug. 17, Fluke / Bottom fish, Miss Michelle III - Point Pleasant

Thursday Oct. 15, Sea Bass & ? Miss Michelle III - Point Pleasant

*A reminder every club boat trip has its own Tournament Day Prizes w/no buy-in's,
There is a cash prize for 1st, 2nd & 3rd size fish. *See Club Trip Tournament Days.

Whitey and the Club provide all the sandwiches, condiments, soft drinks & snacks and
It's nice to include a generous tip for the mate(s)

TRADERS CORNER

Notice: All ads run for three (3) months and will be deleted for 4th month's issue unless you renew them. To place an ad or renewal of a current ad(s) No later than 15th of the month before the next Fish Hawks meeting.

Call Bob Merkle 609-902-7394 or send an Email UBFishing@comcast.net

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drag washers by Penn Reels. Ready to Fish \$ 450.00

NEW Tony Maja Adjustable (2) rod Holders \$175.00 or \$100.00 ea.

NEW (3) original Packaged Tony Maja Bunker Spoons \$ 75.00

NEW (2) Reverse Pulsating Trolling Lures, Your choice **FREE**

Have lots of other trolling plugs and eel's etc for sale, more Trolling stuff come next month.

Contact Bob Merkle 609.902.7394 or email UBFishing@comcast.net

FREE* 55" VISO TV used in good condition, Needs a stand or wall mount.**

Contact Karl Dahl 201.240.3679 or email maloka@comcast.net

FISH HAWKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

MONTH	DATE	DAY	NO GENERAL MTG **BOD Mtg. Thurs.1/29 (Ops Rev)
February	5th	Thursday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 2/26
March	5th	Thursday	General Meeting ** BOD Mtg. Thurs. 3/26
	7th	Saturday	F.H. FLEA MARKET LACEY ELKS CLUB
April	2nd	Thursday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 4/30
	18th /27th	Sat/Mon	Tournament Days #1 & #2
May	7th	Thursday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 5/28
	8th	Friday	Tournament Day #3
	17th	Sunday	ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET (Captain's Inn)
	24th	Sunday	Tournament Day #4
June	4th	Thursday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 6/25
	6th	Saturday	Tournament Day #5
	12th /13th	Fri/Sat	Gail Matuska - Ladies Day Fluke Tournament
	19th	Friday	Tournament Day #6
	29th	Monday	Tournament Day #7
July	2nd	Thursday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 7/30 (Ops Rev)
	10th	Friday	Tournament Day #8
	11th	Saturday	FISH HAWKS YOUTH SEMINAR
	25th/26th	Sat/Sun	Sat TD #9 /Tri Club Tourn/Sun Awards Picnic Tuna Club
August	6th	Thursday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg. Thurs.8/27
	8th	Saturday	Tournament Day #10
	22nd	Saturday	MA 22 VETS FISHING TRIP (Rain Date Sun. 23rd)
	17th/30th	Mon/Sun	Tournament Days #11 & #12
September	3rd	Thursday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg Thurs. 9/24
	7th	Monday	Tournament Day #13
	12th	Saturday	ANNUAL PICNIC (Gille Park) 1 PM TO ????
	20th	Sunday	Tournament Day #14
October	1st	Thursday	General Meeting **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 10/29
	4/16/26th	Sun/Fri/Mon	Tournament Days #15, #16 & #17
November	5th	Thursday	General Mtg/Nom. Of Off. **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 11/19
	6th/21st	Fri/Sat	Tournament Day #18 & #19
December	3rd	Thursday	PIZZA & BEER Night / Election of Officers
	6th	Sunday	Tournament Day #20

**NOTE: BOD meets the Thursday PRIOR to General Meeting, NO BOD Mtg. in Dec,
 BOD Mtg. Thurs. 1/28/27



HOOK IT

In case you are wondering about that “**Green Box**” that’s at all our meetings. It’s a reminder of those who stepped up to keep us safe from harm. Now it’s our time to keep them safe from harm. We Fish Hawks are planning another one-day fishing trip for those veterans on Saturday August 22nd rain date August 23rd.

Your donations can offset our costs and the costs of the Gold Star Mothers that provide Food & Refreshments.

PLEASE DONATE WHAT YOU CAN, JUST ONE DOLLAR A MONTH HELPS TO TAKE MANY VETS FISHING.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT. Larry Hannawacker



FISH HAWKS SALTWATER ANGLER'S CLUB

30th ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Sunday May 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location: CAPTAIN'S INN, 304 East Lacey Rd. Forked River, N.J. 08731

AGENDA

The Fish Hawks Annual Awards Banquet is a **casual** evening of socializing, dining, telling fish stories, and extended truths. The purpose of this event is to present Trophies, Gift Cards and Monetary Awards to the winners of our various fishing events held during the year such as, Ladies Day Fluke Tournament, Bay Tournament, Largest Fish of the Year, Monthly Fishing Contest and Tournament Days. We will have a "Gift Auction", and 50/50 raffle. Tickets will be available throughout the event.

This is always a fun evening! We hope to see many members and guests in attendance.

EVENT

Doors Open: **6:00 pm**
Program Start: **6:30 pm**

Please Use Rear Entrance for Check-In Purposes!!!!

Our Buffet Dinner Includes:

- Carved Prime Rib
- Shrimp and Scallop Scampi
- Chicken Parmesan
- Cheese Tortellini Alfredo
- Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- Mixed Vegetables
- Asian and Caesar salads
- Dessert: Tartufo
- Coffee, Tea and Soda are included

Cash Bar

Cost is \$75.00 per person. The Club will subsidize \$10.00 for members making the member cost \$65.00 and the guest cost \$75.00 per person, Tax and Gratuity included.

Seating will be set up with tables for ten (10).

Detach and Return This Section

Make checks payable to "Fish Hawks" and mail to: **Paul Schell, 102 Clifton Road, Barnegat, NJ 08005**
Deadline is May 10, 2026. Paul will also take money or checks, along with the form at meetings.

Member Name _____	Fee _____	
Member Name _____	Fee _____	
Guest Name _____	Fee _____	
Guest Name _____	Fee _____	
Guest Name _____	Fee _____	TOTAL _____