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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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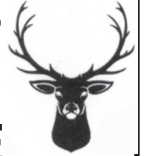
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## JUNE 2026 FISH HAWKS NEWSLETTER

**FISH HAWKS OFFICIAL WEB SITE [www.fishhawksnj.com](http://www.fishhawksnj.com)**



### FISH HAWKS OFFICERS & All BOARD MEMBERS:

**PRESIDENT:** David Bye 908-892-1385  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** Paul Schell 609-440-0907  
**C.F.O.:** Tony Guadagnino 609-242-9471  
**TRESURER:** Mickey Sherry 732-421-6668  
**SECRETARY:** George Royston 908-456-3132

**Bob Dunlap 609-276-1899**  
**Frank Genty 732-604-0591**  
**Kevin O'Rourke 908-300-2427**  
**Karl Dahl 201-240-3679**

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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*

## *JUNE 2026*

### **Fellow Fish Hawks,**

If May was the warm-up, June is officially game time! Fishing is in full swing, the days are at their longest, and the chatter at the docks is getting louder. Whether you're chasing stripers in the surf or plotting your first offshore run of the season, there is no better place to be than on the Jersey Shore right now!

The current edition of the N.J. Marine Digest is available for download here: <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/njfw/digest-marine-2026-complete.pdf>. Find all the 2026 regulations, season dates, and possession limits now. No need to wait for the printed copy!

### **Club Updates & Highlights**

- **Recap: The Awards Banquet:** A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Banquet on May 17th. As usual, the Captains Inn did a great job and I think everyone enjoyed their dinner. The chatter I heard around the tables was all positive. I know that my prime rib was fantastic! We had an enjoyable night of celebrating our top anglers, and more importantly, the friendships that make this club what it is. Big winners were Doug Itjen, Tom Kowitski and Robert Mauro. Congratulations to all our winners!
- **Sea Bass Trip Cancelled:** Unfortunately, our first fishing trip was cancelled by the captain due to hazardous sea and wind conditions. Another trip has been added on **June 25<sup>th</sup>** to make up for the cancelled trip. Our next regularly scheduled trip is on **June 11<sup>th</sup>**.
- **June Guest Speaker:** Our meeting this month will feature **Randy Rietz from the Coast Guard Auxiliary**. Randy is a new member and has graciously offered to give us a presentation about the Auxiliary. As we move into the heat of the boating and fishing season, this presentation will be very appropriate.

### **Looking Ahead**

As the waters continue to warm and fishing heats up, keep an eye on our [Fish Hawks Website](#) for updated tournament standings and upcoming event registrations. Remember, the best intel doesn't just come from the tackle shop—it comes from each other. Keep sharing those reports and supporting your fellow members out there. Remember that our club channel is 19 on your VHF radio. Use it to reach out to fellow members on the water.

### **A Reminder on Safety**

At our May meeting, Capt. Walt reviewed several important safety checks every boater should complete before launching for the season and about hazards that exist in the bay. As boat traffic continues to increase this month, now is the time to stay extra vigilant on the water. Keep an eye out for one another, respect the "No Wake" zones, and remember that courtesy and safety go hand in hand. Let's continue to lead by example and represent our club as the most professional anglers on the water.

**Fair winds and following seas-see you out on the water.**

**Dave**

## **“THE HAWK”**

Has flown the Nest

**THE BIRD:** Summer is finally coming & with that we kick-off our clubs two other big TOURNAMENTS see below. Thursday, June 4th is our meeting.

If you have any questions, contact Val or Kenn Seefelt committee chairs. Contest rules are available on our website, enclosed in this month's newsletter & will also be available at Thursday's meeting.

Our club ROSTER for 2026 is available on the website. Again, a whole lot of thanks to SANDI ROY who puts a lot of time & effort in putting the roster together.

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

### **FISH BITES:**

Our next club fishing trip is scheduled for Thursday June 11<sup>st</sup> for Fluke /? A make-up Fluke trip was also added for Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> Any questions contact Whitey @ (609)276-1899

### **REGULATIONS:**

**BLACKFISH:** Is CLOSED! Re-opens August 1<sup>st</sup> thru November 15<sup>th</sup> 1 fish & from November 16<sup>th</sup> thru December 31<sup>st</sup> 5 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 [www.n.j.fish&wildlife](http://www.n.j.fish&wildlife).

**SEABASS:** 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). "NO CLOSED SEASON"

(All Waves has a size limit of 12 1/2")

**FLUKE:** Open thru September 25<sup>th</sup> 3 fish: 18" & up (WE HAD A WIN) Thanks to all recreational fisherman who sent in their surveys & those that attended the meetings.

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

**BLUEFISH:** No closed season or size limit. 5 fish for private anglers & 7 for head boat anglers.

“A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush”

“Less is more”

**“FROM THE EMPTY NEST”**

## FISH HAWKS BOAT TRIPS

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

All bait included for targeted fish

**MONEY FOR JUNE 11th BOAT TRIP HAS TO BE IN BY JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>**

Please, only one check or cash for each trip, checks for multiple trips will be returned.

### 2026 Special Tournament Day Boat Fishing Trips\*

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

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

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

**\*\*\*New Friday September 25, Fluke / Bottom fish, Miss Michelle III - Point Pleasant**

Thursday Oct. 15, Sea Bass & all Bottom fish, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before the next Fish Hawks meeting.

Call Bob Merkle 609-902-7394 or send an Email [UBFishing@comcast.net](mailto:UBFishing@comcast.net)

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

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

**NEW** (2) Reverse Pulsating Trolling Lures or Eels 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](mailto:UBFishing@comcast.net)

**FREE\*\*\* 55" VISO TV used in good condition, Needs a stand or wall mount. 4/26**

Contact Karl Dahl 201.240.3679 or email [maloka@comcast.net](mailto:maloka@comcast.net)

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

JUNE 2026



While the Lacey Food Bank primarily assists our township residents, it has at times also been of assistance to families throughout Southern Ocean County.

And since our schools will soon be closing for the summer, their lunch programs will no longer be available to the children. So, donations of items such as Tuna Fish, Spam, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cookies, and Chips would now be greatly appreciated.

I am pictured here from left to right, with Charlene, Arlene, and Kathy, who are all volunteers giving generously of their time to the Lacey Food Bank. The smiles on their faces clearly demonstrate their gratitude for The Fish Hawks continuing support of the Food Bank's efforts.

Giving what you can, when you can, is always a blessing to those in need.

Sincerely Joe Regatts

# 2026 GAIL MATUSKA MEMORIAL

## 2 DAY LADIES FLUKE TOURNAMENT

ALL FEMALE MEMBERS & FEMALE FAMILY MEMBERS ONLY

DATE: FRIDAY & SATURDAY JUNE 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>

ENTRY FEE: NONE !

PAYOUT: 1st PLACE \$75  
2nd PLACE \$50  
3rd PLACE \$25

**NOTE: CAN WIN ONLY ONE PLACE !**

**RULES: MINIMUM AGE 12**

**\*FISH MUST BE HOOKED & FOUGHT TO BOATSIDE BY THE LADIES**

**\*JUST FISH, CATCH & WEIGH-IN, THERE'S NO SIGN-UP NEEDED**

**\*YOU CAN FISH ONE OR BOTH DAYS**

**WEIGH-IN AT ANY OF OUR CLUB SPONSORED  
WEIGH STATIONS, CREEKSIDE OUTFITTERS,  
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**GOOD LUCK TO ALL !!!!!!**

REVISED: 5-11-2026 BY VALERIE S. 😊

# **2026 JOE MATUSKA MEMORIAL** **TRI-CLUB FLUKE TOURNAMENT**

**FISH HAWKS SALTWATER ANGLERS CLUB, FORKED RIVER TUNA CLUB &  
VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB**

**TOURNAMENT DATE: SATURDAY AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**AWARDS PICNIC: SUNDAY AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup> (1 pm till 4 pm) at the TUNA CLUB**

**NO ENTRY FEE TO FISH: \$5.00 CHARGE FOR ATTENDING PICNIC  
JUST CATCH FLUKE AND WEIGH THEM ALL IN ON OUR CLUB'S SHEET.  
ALL FLUKE WEIGHED IN WILL BE COUNTED AS A FREE FH TOURNAMENT DAY  
CATCH!**

**JOE MATUSKA TROPHY: AWARDED TO THE CLUB WITH THE HEAVIEST  
TOTAL WEIGHT OF CLUB'S 10 LARGEST FLUKE**

**INDIVIDUAL PRIZES: THE HEAVIEST 6 FLUKE WILL BE AWARDED THE  
FOLLOWING:**

**1st place : \$100, 2nd place : \$50, 3rd thru 6<sup>TH</sup> place: \$25 each**

**WEIGH STATION: ALL FLUKE MUST BE WEIGHED AT CREEKSIDE OUTFITTERS  
IN WARETOWN. THEY ARE OUR TOURNAMENT SPONSER.  
WEIGH-IN ENDS AT CLOSING TIME OF CREEKSIDE OUTFITTERS.**

**MISC. INFO: THIS YEAR'S PICNIC WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE  
VILLAGE HARBOUR FISHING CLUB. THE HOSTING CLUB WILL HOLD THE 50/50  
& THE RECEIPTS WILL BE THEIRS. THE HOSTING CLUB IS RESPONSIBLE TO  
PICK UP THE WEIGH IN SHEETS & GIFT CARDS FROM CREEKSIDE.**

**THE CLUBS TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO COLLECT  
THE \$ 5.00 FOR THE PICNIC FROM THEIR CLUB MEMBERS & COMMUNICATE  
THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ATTENDING (COMMITMENT) ONE WEEK PRIOR TO  
THE PICNIC. A SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE PICNIC WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE  
JUNE FISH HAWKS MEETING. YOU MAY ALSO CALL OR TEXT KENN SEEFELT  
PRIOR TO THE WEEK BEFORE THE PICNIC.**

**THE 3 CLUBS TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS WILL MEET ON THE SUNDAY OF THE  
PICNIC AT 11:30 AM TO COMPUTE THE WINNERS.**

**THIS YEAR'S CONTACTS ARE:**

**TUNA CLUB: ERIC ENGARD (609) 313-2281**

**FISH HAWKS CLUB: KENN & VAL SEEFELT (609) 423-8982**

**VILLAGE HARBOUR CLUB: JOHN STUEBING (610) 212-8419**



# 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 22<sup>nd</sup> rain date August 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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**

## 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!**