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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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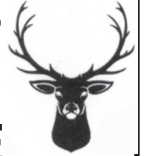
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MAY 2026 FISH HAWKS NEWSLETTER

FISH HAWKS OFFICIAL WEB SITE 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
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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. 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

MAY 2026

Fellow Fish Hawks,

There is no better sight than our local marinas buzzing as boats finally return to their slips. Before setting out on your first fishing trip, every angler should make sure that they visit the NJ Fish and Wildlife website and obtain your Saltwater registration. Registration is free and is required annually. Go to this link to register <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/marine/saltwater-registry/>

As the weather warms and the fishing gets good, I'm reminded of exactly why we all joined this club: the love of the salt, the thrill of the catch, and the camaraderie of a community that shares that passion.

Upcoming Events & Reminders

- **May Club Meeting:** Our next meeting is May 7th. Our guest speaker this month is **Capt. Walt Bohn**. He going to give us a presentation about boat insurance and what to look for in your policy. Bring a copy of your insurance declaration page for him to look at. He is also going to discuss the conditions in the bay since the harsh winter. As a Sea Tow Captain, Walt has invaluable insight into the conditions in Bay. We look forward to an interesting and insightful presentation—don't miss it!
- **Awards Banquet (May 17th):** Time is running out! Please get your sign-up forms to VP Paul Schell as soon as possible so we can finalize the headcount.
- **First Club Fishing Trip (May 21st):** We're heading out for Sea Bass aboard the *Miss Michele III* out of Point Pleasant, NJ. See Whitey or Bob Merkle to secure your spot on the rail.

A Note on the Season

May is a pivotal month for us. With the season now getting in full swing, I encourage everyone to share their fishing reports and tips with club members. Whether you're working the back bays or heading out front, let's work together to make it a great season. Remember that we are stewards of these waters. Let's keep our catches ethical, our waters clean, and our stories (mostly) true.

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

Dave

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

ALL MONEY FOR MAY BOAT TRIP HAS TO BE IN BY MAY 8TH.

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

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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Contact Karl Dahl 201.240.3679 or email maloka@comcast.net

“THE HAWK” MAY 2026

THE BIRD: Spring has finally arrived & with that we kick-off our clubs MONTHLY CONTESTS & TOURNAMENTS. Thursday, MAY 7TH is our meeting. Friday the 8th is our third tournament day.

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.

SUNDAY May 17th is our ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET.

Our club ROSTER for 2026 will be available on the website. 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!!! NOTE: The ROSTER is only for your personal use to contact club members & NOT TO BE COPIED OR DISTRIBUTED!!!!!!

FISH BITES:

Our first club fishing trip is scheduled for Thursday May 21st for Sea Bass. Any questions contact Whitey @ (609)276-1899

REGULATIONS:

BLACKFISH: Is CLOSED! Re-opens August 1st thru November 15th 1 fish & from November 16th thru December 31st 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.

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 ½”)

FLUKE: Opens May 4th thru September 25th 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.

“OPTOMETRIST”
“IF YOU CAN’T SEE WHAT YOUR’E LOOKING FOR”
“YOUR IN THE RIGHT PLACE”!

“BE SAFE OUT THERE”
“THE HAWK”

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!

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

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

MAY 2026

Congratulation, Fish Hawks, so far this year we have collected over 100 lb.'s of food and supplies for the Lacey food bank. While talking to the volunteers at the food bank they said many non-food items are not covered by the SNAP program are always needed like, Toilet Paper, Diapers, Paper Towels, Soap, Shampoo, Cleaning supplies and Pet Food.

Of course, Chips and Popcorn plus other treats will always be welcomed by the children. If you don't remember to bring something to the meeting,

we have a jar at the door that can fit a lot of \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ so, Filler UP!!!

Sincerely **Joe Regatts**



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 _____