



*Fish Hawks Celebrates 48 years.*

## **MARCH FISH HAWKS NEWSLETTER**

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



### **FISH HAWKS OFFICERS & All BOARD MEMBERS:**

**PRESIDENT:** Karl Dahl 609-693-4674  
**VICE PRESIDENT:** David Bye 908-892-1385  
**C.F.O.:** Tony Guadagnino 609-242-9471  
**TRESURER:** Mickey Sherry 732-421-6668  
**SECRETARY:** George Royston 908-456-3132

**Bob Dunlap 609-242-3745**  
**Frank Genty 732-604-0591**  
**Ken Rylak 609-575-7477**  
**Paul Schell 609-440-0907**

### **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 offers 13 months for the price of 12 and an additional \$20.00 off for a yearly membership for Fish Hawk members!”

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

## *Presidents Message*

Hello everyone, By the time you read this article, we will be close to or in the month of March, and April will soon be here. Most of our “snowbirds” will be back home and we can start to get our boats open, prepped, and maybe splashed for the 2025 fishing season. Now we can also clean off all our fishing tackle and give our wives the dining room table back! Don’t forget to register for your NJ fishing registry card at.

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/saltwaterregistry>. Unless you fish on a charter or party boat everyone else in NJ who fishes and is over the age of 16 needs to register. As in the past, we, the E/board, unfortunately had to remove some members because of lack of not paying their dues on time. And, as usual we had some members renewed after the deadline and had to pay the extra \$10 reinstatement fee. At this writing, we have about 125 active members. For all you late payers, take the time right now to add a reminder to your calendars in Oct. to renew your dues and avoid the additional charge next year. If you missed the Feb meeting, you missed out on an informative presentation from two officers from the fraud dept of the State Police. I thought they were great!!! Ken Kawalek has been busy, he has scheduled one of our own honoree members, assistant Prof. Doug Zemeckis from Rutgers University to speak this month. Doug will report on the stock assessment of sea bass. At April’s meeting, we will hear from the founders of the BHCFA Jr. Mates, and Reef Programs, located on LBI. May is slated for one of our favorite speakers, Miss Jenny Ackerman, who will show us more tricks she has in her bag for targeting Fluke. The executive board and directors have many activities planned for this year. Look at your 2025 Fish Hawk calendar for the dates. Thank you, Tony G., for doing a great job on the calendar again this year.

Unfortunately, I must mention how bummed we all are that we had to cancel our yearly Flea Market. Rich Leahy did all he could to pull it off, but the Elks couldn’t promise us the room, in fact after promising us all along, the “Big Shot” of the Elks called me only one month before on Feb 3, to tell me that they might not be able to get a Certificate of Occupancy to allow us access! We couldn’t take the chance of having the vendors show up that morning and no place to set up! Your E/board has been busy selecting organizations for whom we give monetary donations to during the year. I will list them next month in my Pres. message. Birthdays this month of March are as follows. 7<sup>th</sup> Kenn Seefelt, 11<sup>th</sup> Rich Greger, 12<sup>th</sup> Dawn Itjen, 15<sup>th</sup> Richard Newmark, 18<sup>th</sup> Bill Grochowicz, 18<sup>th</sup> Mike Knoblock, and 24<sup>th</sup> Jeff Scaramozzino. Happy Birthday all. Are you thinking about all the fish you expect to catch? Make sure to join our fishing contest, forms and rules are in this month’s newsletter and on our website. We even added a few extra free tournament days this year. Entrance fee and forms are due on the night of our April meeting. Kenn or Val Seefelt will collect them. Just remember that for all these fish you try for, you “Have to Hook em to Cook em”! See you all in March. *Karl*

**“THE HAWK”**  
**(MARCH 2025)**

**THE BIRD:** Here we are at the end of February with some cold & very windy weather. As March arrives so does many of our club activities. Our Annual FISH HAWKS Flea Market had to be cancelled this year due to the Elks club construction (a major financial loss to the club). On Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> our monthly members meeting, DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME March 9<sup>th</sup> & the first day of SPRING, March 20<sup>th</sup> and soon after, the beginning of our fishing season.

**MONTHLY FISHING CONTESTS & BONUS:** We drew the \$25 Bonus winner for DECEMBER at our FEBRUARY meeting There were only 2 first place entries in the drawing. **TOM KOWITSKI** won the bonus with his 11.14 lb. Striped Bass. **GENE MAKITRA** 4.67 lb. Blackfish;

The Winners for the **“LARGEST FISH OF THE YEAR”** (2024) Final  
**BLACKFISH:** 9.62 lbs. **TOM KOWINSKI;** **BLUEFISH:** 10.43 lbs. **GENE MAKITRA;**  
**SEABASS:** 3.46 lbs. **FRED ARROYO;** **STRIPED BASS:** 13.53 lbs. **DOUG ITJEN;**  
**FLUKE:** 7.73 lbs. **ROB ROY;** **WEAKFISH:** 2.53 lbs. **VALERIE SEEFELT;**

**REMINDER:** Up-dated Monthly Contest & Tournament forms & entry fees are due **NO LATTER THAN OUR MEETING ON THURSDAY APRIL 3rd OUR MONTHLY CONTESTS WILL BEGIN THE NEXT DAY FRIDAY APRIL 4<sup>th</sup>.**

You can buy-in 100 contest days for \$100 or you can select individual months at \$2 a box. There is a \$30 buy-in for up to 20 tournament days for 6 fish species & it also makes you eligible for THE LARGEST FISH OF THE YEAR. Up-dated entry forms & rules will be available at our monthly meeting & also on our website. “NEW MEMBERS CAN ENTER THE ABOVE AT ANY TIME AFTER BECOMING A MEMBER. Valerie & Kenn Seefelt will be collecting the forms with full payment. “REMINDER” Especially for our New Members, when weighing in your catch make sure the species meets the minimum length requirements & when you initial the “log-in sheet” that the info is accurate. Another important note is our “CLUB RULE” of only weighing in the fish “YOU CATCH”! As a suggestion, you can use tie wraps, cut off a fin (it’s what I do with my grandchildren). Our club is a group of friends & family & we expect everyone to abide by these rules.

**FISH BITES:** It’s time to register for fishing in 2025 at:  
**[WWW.SALTWATERREGISTRY.NJ.GOV](http://WWW.SALTWATERREGISTRY.NJ.GOV)**

**STRIPED BASS: OPENS IN THE BAY MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>.** 2025 Regs. 1 fish @ 28” to 31” & 1 fish 24” to less than 28” if you have a “BONUS TAG”.

**WINTER FLOUNDER:** 2 FISH @ 12”.

**FLUKE:** “STATUS QUO” 3 @ 18” & UP.

**We do not have the 2025 regulations confirmed yet. Meetings are being held during the last week of February & the first 2 weeks of March. IT'S STATUS QUO for SEA BASS fishery BUT THEY'RE THREATENING A 20% REDUCTION.**

**Remember**

**“WE FISH WE VOTE”**

**“NOT SO FAMOUS SAYINGS”**

**GYNECOLOGIST: “AT YOUR CERVIX” ELECTRICIAN: “WE REMOVE YOUR SHORTS”**

**“BE SAFE OUT THERE”**

**“THE HAWK”**

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

**MARCH 2025**

**Lacey Food Bank looking for Food & Monetary Donations:** The Lacey Food Bank is providing food items to over 287 families that are in need of any and all food items that you can spare from your pantries. We often forget those less fortunate who are in need of grocery items during the months of March and April. As I said in previous newsletters, we always strive for 100% participation from our membership each month. Your food and monetary donations are always appreciated. Let's make our March meeting donations the best one yet.

Again, as we start this new year, here is a list of items that are always in need at the Food Bank:

Peanut butter

Jelly

Macaroni and cheese

Pasta and Spaghetti sauce

Cereals

Chicken noodle soup

SpaghettiOs

Snacks like pretzels, peanut butter crackers, Goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, cookies, etc.

Juice boxes

Apple juice

Applesauce

Should you forget to bring some food items to our March meeting, there is a jar by the Lacey Food Bank bin where you can place both checks made out to the Lacey Food Bank or money into. Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely,

Ken Rylak

## ALL FISHING CONTEST RULES: AND CHANGES

### 1-Monthly Fishing Contest:

You must enter the contest by submitting this form and paying the entrance fee of **\$2.00 per fish per month or you can go all-in for all species for all months that are denoted by an X for a \$100 buy-in. The Monthly Contest Form must be submitted no later than our April Members Club meeting. The Monthly Contest begins on the Friday after the April Club Meeting.** Phone-ins are no longer accepted, (Hard Copy Only). Example: \$20.00 is received for a specific fish ie. Bluefish, 3 blues were caught and entered (weighed in). The total money in this category is \$20.00. 1st place 50% or \$10.00, 2nd place 30% or \$6.00, 3rd place 20% or \$4.00. **NOTE: For the Monthly Fishing Contest and Tournament Days, Bluefish MUST WEIGH a minimum of 2 lbs.** **NOW:** If only one fish is weighed in, **ALL** the money collected (100%) goes to the 1st place fish. If there is only a 1st and 2nd place fish entered, the split is 60-40. Winners for both the Monthly Fishing contest and Tournament Days can only win one place in each category. **NOTE: If you have a Commercial License, you are not eligible to fish tournament days or monthly contest for the species listed on the license.**

**2-Each month** our Chairperson or Designee for the Fishing Contest will inform the club members of the winners for the monthly contest and tournament days.

**3-Bonus Money:** For the 9 contest months (April-December), an additional \$25.00 (cash bonus) will be awarded each month to just **ONE** of the 1st place monthly contest winners for that month. **All 13 species are eligible.** The 1st place winner that is drawn at the meeting will receive \$25.00 (cash). **NOTE: All fish species listed on the front side of this form that are entered in the monthly contest for that month are eligible for a chance to win the \$25 cash bonus.**

**4-Tournament Days have a \$30 ENTRY FEE:** This fee enters you into **20 Tournament days** and it makes you eligible for the **LARGEST FISH OF THE YEAR** for the six species listed on front with an asterisk (\*\*\*\*\*). **The Contest Days Form for Tournament Days must be submitted no later than our April Members Club Meeting.** Cash payouts are as follows 1st (\$25), 2nd (\$15), and 3rd (\$10) **NOTE:**

### 5 – Club Fishing Trips Tournament Days:

All club organized Fishing Trips held on a Head Boat for club Members will be considered a **FREE TOURNAMENT DAY**. Only members who participate in these club trips will be eligible for the **FREE TOURNAMENT DAY PAYOUTS**. There are 6 species eligible for tournament day payouts, as noted on the front side by an asterisk (\*\*\*\*\*). All fish will be weighed in while on board the boat and the tournament winners will be announced at that time. **Note: If you are also entered in the monthly contest and want your fish to qualify for the monthly contest, you must weigh in your fish at one of the club's official weigh stations.**

**6-THE LARGEST FISH OF THE YEAR** for the following six species, **WEAKFISH, BLUEFISH, STRIPED BASS, FLUKE, SEA BASS and BLACKFISH**, winners will receive \$75 (cash) at our annual AWARDS BANQUET. **Note: You must be entered in the Tournament Days contest to be eligible for the largest fish of the year.**

**Weigh-in Station Procedures** The three official club weigh-in stations are: *Creek Side Outfitters, Grizz's Forked River Bait & Tackle and Grumpys*. It is the Angler's responsibility, when weighing in a fish, to verify that all of the information on the weigh-in sheet is accurate i.e. NAME, DATE, SPECIES and WEIGHT. The angler will initial the weigh-in sheet verifying that all of the information is correct. If you are weighing a fish in for another angler, the same rules apply. **ONCE INITIALED, THE WEIGH-IN IS FINAL! All fish caught from Ports & Beaches in New Jersey Waters must be weighed in at one of the above stations.** CAUGHT FISH, ONLY IN NEW JERSEY WATERS, ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MONTHLY CONTEST, TOURNAMENT DAYS AND LARGEST FISH OF THE YEAR.

### **Club Record**

A fish submitted for a club record may be taken from any location, there are no geographical limitations. For fish caught out of state you must submit a weigh-in slip including species name, length and weight on letterhead, or business card or invoice from that station signed by the weigh master, tournament chairman, or Captain of the vessel. A Club Record Form must be submitted to Ken Rylak and attached to the weigh-in slip from one of our official stations or other documentation as described above. The BOD shall approve all records before becoming official. Here are the guidelines for all "Catch & Release" Club Record submissions. Measurement formula for (ALL SPECIES) as follows: Length X Girth squared divided by 800. Example: Length 60" X 25" Girth squared = 37,500 Divided by 800 = 46.875 Lbs. Please Note: LENGTH is measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail and GIRTH is measured (circumference) at the widest part of the fish, usually behind the gill plate.

**One final note:** Perhaps this rule has not been properly communicated in the past but **you personally** have to catch the fish you enter in all of these contests/tournaments and not enter a fish caught by someone else on your boat. This is an **individual** contest and besides we are all friends and family and we expect **GOOD SPORTSMENSHIP**. Thank you, Good Fishing and be Safe out there.

Monthly Contest and Tournament Day Entry Form

PLEASE NOTE: MONTHLY CONTEST BEGINS THE  
FRIDAY AFTER APRIL'S MEMBERSHIP MEETING



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

Make Checks payable to the Fish Hawks.

Buy All X Boxes For \$100

OR

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  
Forked River 08731

Total Amount

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.

	A	B	C	D
1		<b>FISH HAWKS</b>		
2			<b>2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS</b>	
3	<b>January</b>	XXX	XXX	NO GENERAL MEETING    **BOD Mtg.(Ops Rev) Thurs. 1/30
4	<b>February</b>	6th	Thursday	General Meeting    **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 2/27
5	<b>March</b>	1st	Saturday	F.H. FLEA MARKET    LACEY ELKS CLUB
6		6th	Thursday	General Meeting    **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 3/27
7	<b>April</b>	3rd	Thursday	General Meeting    **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 4/24
8		19 & 28	Sat & Mon	Tournament Day # 1 & 2
9	<b>May</b>	1st	Thursday	General Meeting    **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 5/29
10		9th	Friday	Tournament Day # 3
11		25th	SUNDAY	Tournament Day # 4
12	<b>June</b>	1st	SUNDAY	ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET (Captains Inn)
13		5th	Thursday	General Meeting    **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 6/26
14		7th	Saturday	Tournament Day # 5
15		13 & 14	Fri & Sat	LADIES 2Day Fluke Tournament
16		20th	Friday	Tournament Day # 6
17		30th	Monday	Tournament Day # 7
18	<b>July</b>	3rd	Thursday	General Meeting    **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 7/31
19		11th	Friday	Tournament Day # 8
20		19th	Saturday	FISH HAWKS YOUTH SEMINAR
21		26 & 27	Sat & Sun	Sat TD #9 Tri Club T.    Sun Awards Picnic Tuna Club
22	<b>August</b>	7th	Thursday	General Meeting    **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 8/28
23		9th	Saturday	Tournament Day # 10
24		16th	Saturday	MA 22 VETS FISHING TRIP (rain day Sun. 17th)
25		18 & 31	Mon & Sun	Tournament Days # 11 12
26	<b>September</b>	4th	Thursday	General Meeting    **BOD Mtg. Thur. 9/25
27		8th	Monday	Tournament Day # 13
28		13th	Saturday	ANNUAL PICNIC (Gille Park) 1 PM TO ????
29		21st	Sunday	Tournament Day # 14
30	<b>October</b>	2nd	Thursday	General Meeting    **BOD Mtg. Thur. 10/30
31		5/17/27	Sun/Fri/Mon	Tournament Days 15,16 ,& 17
32	<b>November</b>	6th	Thursday	General Mtg/Nom. Of Off. **BOD Mtg. Thur 11/20
33		7 & 22	Fri & Sat	Tournament Day # 18 & 19
34	<b>December</b>	4th	Thursday	PIZZA & BEER Night / Election of Officers
36		5th	Friday	Tournament Day # 20
37	<b>1/1/25</b>	(Tony G)		NO BOD Mtg. in December    **BOD Mtg. Thurs. 1/29/26





## FISH HAWKS SALTWATER ANGLER'S CLUB

### 29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 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 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**

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

#### **Our Buffet Dinner Includes:**

Carved Prime Rib

Shrimp and Scallop Scampi

Herb Crusted Chicken

Rolled Lasagna with Vodka Sauce

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Mixed Vegetables

Asian and Caesar salads

Dessert: Tartufo

Coffee, Tea and Soda are included

**Cash Bar**

*Cost is **\$70.00** per person for Members and Guests 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: David Bye, 1413 Tamiami Rd. Forked River, N.J. 08731.

**Deadline is May 25, 2025.** Dave 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 \_\_\_\_\_