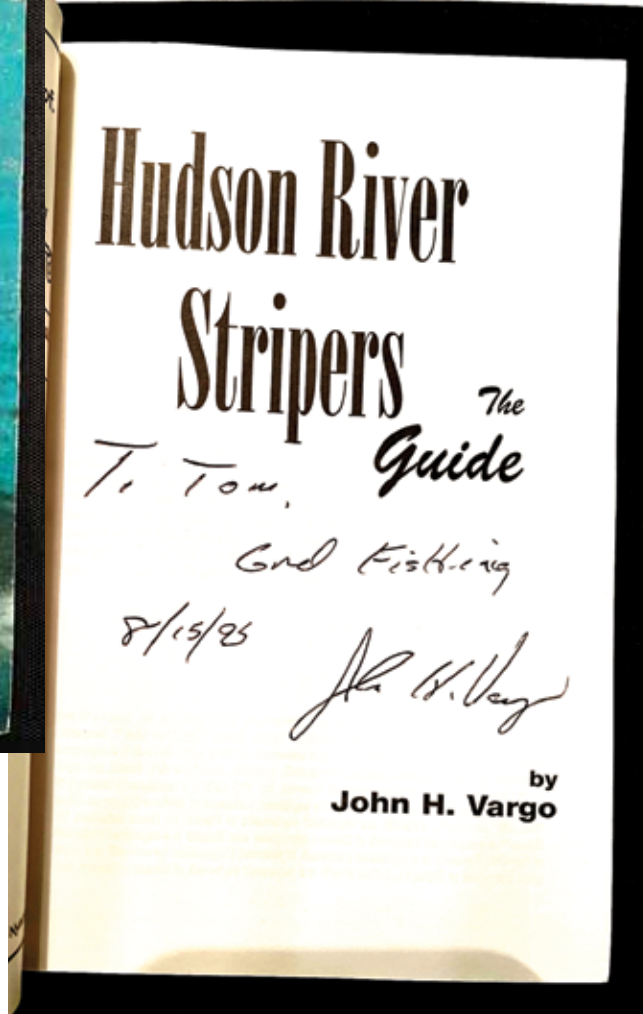
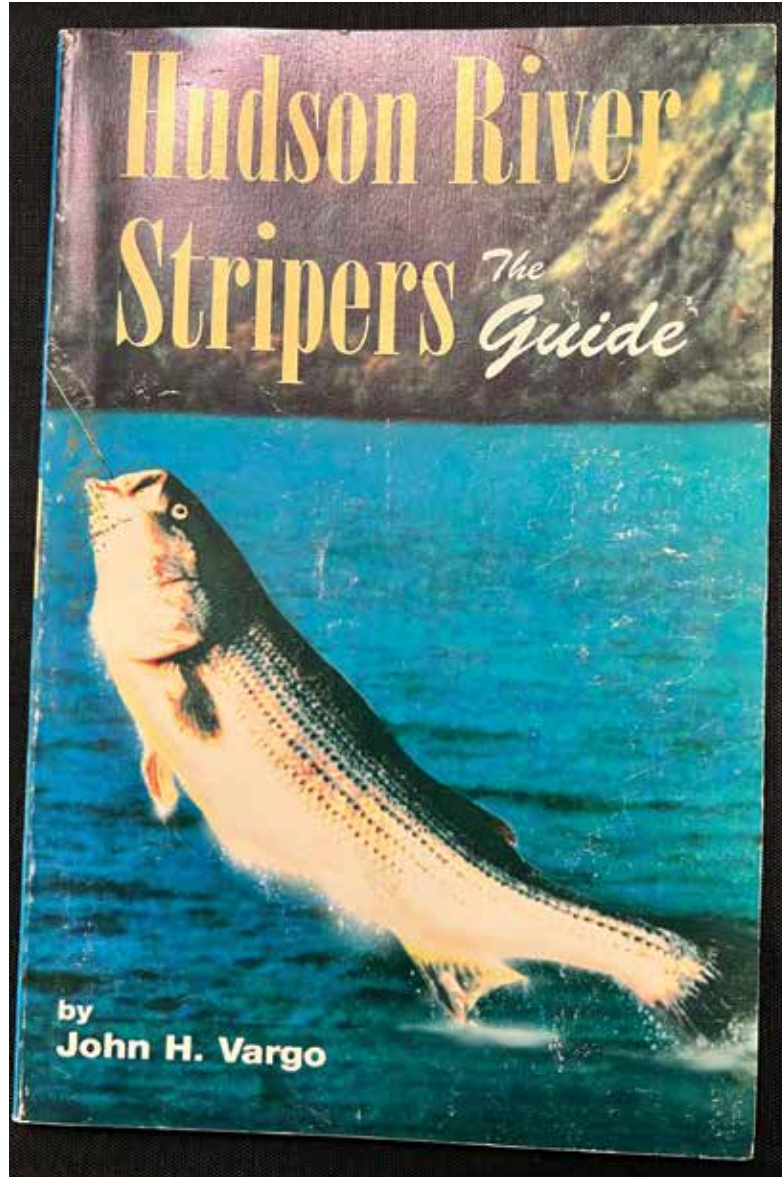




Autographed copies of "Hudson River Stripers, The Guide" have sold for as much as One Hundred and Fifty dollars on Ebay!



The Fred Rung Memorial Catch, Tag & Release Striped Bass Derby

April 15, 2023
to May 13, 2023

by Joseph Albanese
President HRFA 2023

At the December 2022 Hudson River Fishermen's Association Fishing Gear Green Marketplace, I discovered Hudson River Stripers – The Guide by John H. Vargo published in 1995 and knew I just had to add it to my personal library. The seller was asking the hefty sum of \$5.00 for the used paperback book in very good condition. It is signed by the author and was the property of the late Tom Siciliano. Sold! No need to negotiate a lower price. When I finish reading it, it will go into the HRFA's new lending library for other members to enjoy.

Just by reading a few of the early pages of the book I learned new things about the history of tagging stripers in the Hudson, the organizations participating, types of tags employed and methodologies for collecting, analyzing, and sharing the data by scientists. These combined efforts continue to build upon the body of knowledge of striped bass biology.

The striped bass is one indicator to gauge the health of the river. It has economic importance to the region. It is a most beautiful fish, worthy fighter, and good eating. These attributes make it one of the most sought-after gamefish. It must be understood to protect it from over harvesting by recreational and commercial fishermen, predators, pollution, etc. As mentioned in the book, one of the earliest and most prominent organizations tagging stripers in the river is the HRFA. Given the rich history of our organization's concern for the health of the river (Afterall, our credo remains "Fight for the Hudson") and the critical role it plays in the striper's propagation we created a new type of derby.



Namely, the springtime Fred Rung Memorial Striped Bass Derby added a new component to the conservation-minded no-kill catch & release derbies that thankfully predominates in the angling community today. While not mandatory, participating anglers have the option to win additional prizes for tagging their catch with an American Littoral Society tag before photographing and releasing it back into the river system. We hope this little incentive will encourage greater numbers of anglers wanting to become citizen scientists. Tagging may mean taking time out from hooking up with another bass right away but being part of the effort to preserve the species into the future adds a satisfying extra dimension to the fishing experience.

The four-week long 2023 Fred Rung Memorial will run from April 15 to May 13. The boundaries of the derby are the river and any of its tributaries between the Troy Dam to the north and the Verrazzano Bridge to the south. Money raised goes towards cash prizes, support of striped bass conservation & tagging programs and, IF there is anything left over, to support the goals and mission of the HRFA. Each year we did not make much for the HRFA. We NEED MORE PARTICIPATION than past years for this derby to continue. Registration will open on March 1, 2023. Stay tuned for further details in the next issue of Boating on the Hudson.

It is worth mentioning here that on April 11, 2023, the HRFA will host a round table discussion on tagging stripers. Guest speakers Emily McGuckin (Tagging Director for the American Littoral Society),

J i m Hutchinson (The Fisherman magazine), Professor J o h n Tiedemann (Monmouth University, Stripers for the Future) and Steve P e r n a (Berkely

Striper Club) will present new learning from their various programs and contrast the various methods employed by scientists and sports fisher persons. Learn about spaghetti, acoustic, satellite and other tagging methods. The meeting will also be livestreamed on ZOOM.

The HRFA meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Elks Lodge in Ridgefield Park, NJ. Meetings start at 7:30 PM. <https://thehrfa.org/membership/>