

PROFILE OF THE WEEK

CAPT'N HIPPO BAIT AND TACKLE - SANDY AND LENNY HAHN

Story and Photo by Chris Lido

The Hahn name is known along the Jersey shore and especially in the last three years due to Capt'n Hippo Bait and Tackle and owners Sandy and Lenny Hahn. Sandy fished Round Valley and Stokes State Forest as a young lady, while Lenny and his plug-making brother Bob started fishing around Forked River. "A friend had a 43 Pacemaker and Bob and I were always fishing," said Lenny.

After a career with CMX, Lenny kept his boat the *Grumpy Hippo* at the marina in South Toms River and would travel to get bait and tackle. The store sits right in front of that marina. Sandy and Lenny were able to secure the space and Lenny went back to school and got an entrepreneur certificate. They have everything for saltwater, freshwater and the brackish fishery that exists at Mathis and Huddy Parks right near the shop. "Everything from stripers and weakfish to pickerel, perch and even trout swim right near the shop, depending on rainfall," remarked Sandy.

They close on Wednesdays to fish and shop for products they keep in stock like the Hippo Spear-it Rig.



Lenny and Sandy Hahn of Capt'n Hippo Bait and Tackle pose near their community bulletin board.

They retail Bob Hahn plugs and Lenny has his own line of tube lures aptly named Lenny's Tempt'n Toobs by Field Editor Tom Pagliaroli. Reel repair is offered and they also got over 900 people entered into the Saltwater Registry.

They have a son, a daughter and two grandchildren. Their son Josh, an avid crabber, even works in the store. Regulars stop by and frequently post on the shop's Facebook page, which has now been linked to *The Fisherman's* page. Kids at Capt'n Hippo have

watch Nemo the clown fish and Dory the hippo tang swim in the tank while their parents shop.

"We will have clams and eels for fall stripers and there is always a fresh pot of coffee on here in the shop, so come on in," said Lenny and Sandy, who both make you feel unbelievably welcome as soon as you come through the door.

TIP OF THE WEEK

"Crabbing is fantastic, but I ask that people do not use chicken. Raw chicken carries salmonella and a lot of kids get sick when they touch it and then eat their lunch," said Sandy

"Snappers are a favorite quarry and you need to make sure that you use a rig like the Hippo-Spear-It where the tail of the spearing is near the hook. They bite the tail first and you will catch a lot more," said Lenny

CAPT'N HIPPO BAIT AND TACKLE

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