



CHUMLINE

April 2018

Newsletter of the Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman's Association



Editor – Danny Forehand
pswsfa_chumline@cox.net

The PSWSFA is a family-oriented fishing club established in 1957. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (March-Dec.) at 7:00pm. We meet at the Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 540, 7812 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, VA 23607. The meetings are free and open to the public. Our meetings are a great place to swap stories with other local fishermen, find new fishing partners and plan trips together. We have raffles with nice giveaways-donated by local businesses. Each month we have speakers sharing their experience on one of the local fisheries. Come join us and get to know some of the other fishermen in your local area. Directions can be found at www.pswsfa.com/meetings.htm.



We will have two speakers for the upcoming monthly meeting. Club member Wally Veal will get things started by sharing his experience catching trophy sized red drum. Club president Stan Simmerman will follow this up with a talk on catching the large black drum that spend their summers in these waters. This is normally the time of year that

both these species show up on the end of our fishing lines in good numbers. Come out and join Wally and Stan on Tuesday, April 17th.



The Virginia Institute of Marine Science located at Gloucester Point has a very nice website full of great information regarding their research of the marine environment. They have many seminars and interactive programs for the public. Visit the [VIMS Public Programs web page](#) to see more information regarding these programs.

Visit the [VMRC recreational fishing website](#) to get the latest fishing information regarding regulations, licensing and the annual saltwater tournament. This page has many different links related to saltwater fishing, including permits that may be required for some species. You will also find a link to the [Va Saltwater Journal](#), which acts as a fish reporting tool for species requiring permits and reporting. Don't forget that you will need a permit again this year to fish for cobia.



2018 PSWSFA TOURNAMENTS

Download "Official Entry Form" at

<http://www.pswsfa.com/MonthlyEntry.pdf>



FOR ALL TOURNAMENTS

You must register prior to fishing and use the official monthly form filled out by an official weigh station with time, date and weight of fish, & weight master's signature to verify catch. All Club Tournaments will have Awards for the first 3 places.

Questions Contact: Tournament Director Rick Wineman: rick@getanetsportfishing.com or 757-268-1539.

CLUB TOURNAMENTS

For Club Members: \$20 entry fee for each individual tournament or \$60 if you sign up for all tournaments at one time

Bishop's Triple Threat Tournament

Cobia – Channel Bass – Black Drum

"Combined total number of inches"

April 1, 2018 through July 31, 2018

\$20/each member & \$30/each non-member

Leave from any port, no weigh in (length total of 3 fish)

Must Receive Completed Form no later than the Board Mtg. Aug.14, 2018

See Rules below for Catch and Release fish totals. (Witness or photo)

Don Forman

Club Cobia Tournament

sponsored by Bishop Fishing Supply

August 1-31, 2018

\$20/each member & \$30/each non-member
Leave from any port

Must Receive Completed Form no later than
the Board Mtg. Sept. 11, 2018

Grafton Fishing Supply Club Spot Tournament

September 22-23, 2018

\$20/each member & \$30/each non-member

Weigh in: 2:00pm Sept. 23rd at Dare Marina

All entries will be weighed using the same scale

followed by the **Annual Club Picnic and Awards Ceremony** for the Spot and Youth & Ladies Croaker / Flounder Tournaments

Spot Tournament - Two categories with 1st – 3rd place winners:

"ALL ENTRIES" and "KID ONLY"

(Anglers for the Spot Tournament must be present to win)

RSVP by Sept. 19th if you are coming to the Annual Club Picnic to the
Tournament Director

Wilcox Bait and Tackle

Irv Fenton Rockfish Tournament

December 1-31, 2018

\$20/each member & \$30/each non-member

Must Receive Completed Form no later than
the Board Mtg. Jan. 8, 2019

MAIL ENTRY FORMS TO: MR. MILTON HUDGINS, 1894 KATIE LANE, HAYES, VA 23072 (e-mail: judygee03@gmail.com)

Youth and Ladies Croaker/Flounder Tournament

July 1-31, 2018

Free Tournament for Lady and Youth members/Guests

(Do not need to register to participate)

Must Receive Completed Entry Forms no later than the Board Mtg. August 14th

Awards will be given at the **Annual Club Picnic on Sept. 23rd at Dare Marina**

(Anglers for the Youth & Ladies Tournament are not required to be present to win)

RSVP by Sept. 19th if you are coming to the Annual Club Picnic to the Tournament Director

2018 PSWSFA Tournaments Rules

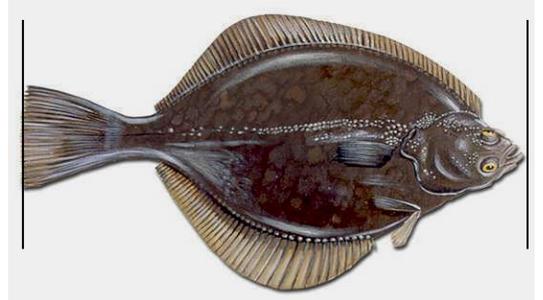
ALL Club Tournaments (Except as noted on front):

- Entry Fees: \$20 for member & \$30 for non-member. Youth and Ladies croaker/flounder tourney is free.
- You must register before fishing by e-mailing Rick Wineman: rick@getanetsportfishing.com or call 757-268-1539.
- Leaving a message will be sufficient to register, give all anglers names (specify club members and club guest), and also give a phone number.
- Guest(s) must fish with at least one member on boat/shore/pier/kayak
- Use a club "Official Entry Form" and weigh in fish at any Va. Saltwater Tournament official weigh station. Record the weight of fish, date and time caught and have the weigh master sign the form to verify catch. If two identical fish are caught on the same day, the earlier fish wins. That is why time is so important. ***Triple Threat entries require witness or photo since this is a length total tourney.***
- All pertinent PSWSFA bylaws apply.

**To register or ask questions, e-mail Rick Wineman, Tournament Director
at rick@getanetsportfishing.com or call Rick @ 757-268-1539**

MEASURING INSTRUCTIONS

With the fish lying on a flat surface, measure in quarter inch increments, from the tip of the mouth to the tip of the tail with the fish in a natural position and the mouth closed.



www.pswsfa.com

Fish News

by Dr. Ken Neill III

Spring has sprung and a new fishing season is upon us. There have been some changes for this year and likely, there will be more to come.

Shark fishing has become even more regulated this year. Anglers fishing for sharks in federal waters must now use non-offset circle hooks. They also have to have a special shark endorsement with their HMS permit. We catch sharks in state waters but if you do have an HMS permit (used to be your tuna permit) for fishing offshore, you have to abide by circle-hook rule even in state waters if you are fishing from an HMS permitted vessel. You can get this endorsement online, while ordering your permit. You watch a video on shark identification which is followed by a quiz.

NOAA has been encouraging anglers to release shortfin makos for some time. Now you will have to release most any that you catch. The possession limit is still one fish per boat but the minimum size has been increased to a 83-inch fork length.

There has been a good run of large bluefin tuna. We are allowed to keep one "trophy" bluefin tuna per vessel per year but what has become the norm, this fishery has been closed early again this year. The current bluefin tuna regulations allows for the retention of one bluefin tuna per vessel per day measuring at least 27 inches but less than 73 inches fork length.

The bluefin tuna have been large this spring. Before the closure of the trophy season boats out of Oregon Inlet, along with some boats making the run south out of Virginia, experienced great action on fish in the 500 plus pound class. On the last day the trophy fishery was open, an 877 pound bluefin was weighed in as the pending North Carolina record. Big tuna continue to be caught but now must be released.

Tautog regulations have been relaxed a bit. The bag limit has been increased to 4 fish. Minimum size is 16 inches. The season length has been greatly increased with a closure from May 16 through June. It is open the rest of the year.

Sea bass is another fishery that has been expanded. We had an open fishery this February for the first time in many years. The regulations for the rest of the year will be set at the April VMRC meeting but are expected to be an opening May 15 with the season open the rest of the year, without the one-month closure in the fall that we have had for a number of years. We also expect to have a January and February sea bass fishery for 2019 but keep following this.

The keeper-size for flounder has been reduced to 16.5 inches. The bag limit is 4-fish per person.

Tilefish regulations are undergoing major changes. We had no regulations from Virginia on north. When this fishery was "discovered", Virginia enacted regulations while waiting for the federal system to catch up. Virginia cannot set regulations for federal waters but can regulate what is brought into Virginia. We have had a 7 fish tilefish (combined species) and a 1 fish grouper bag limit with a year-round fishery for a number of years. The federal system has caught up with tilefish (no changes with grouper so still just Virginia's one per person bag limit). We now have an 8-fish golden tilefish bag limit and that fishery is open year-round. Blueline tilefish was closed. It will re-open May 1 and remain open through October under the most bizarre bag-limits I have ever seen. Recreational anglers will have different bag limits based on the type of boat they are fishing from. If you are on an inspected vessel (those licensed to carry more than 6 passengers) your bag limit is 7 fish. Examples of these boats here are the High Hopes and Ocean Pearl. If you are fishing from most charter boats, your bag limit is 5 fish. If you are fishing from non-charter boat, your bag limit is 3 fish. These new blueline tilefish regulations come with new federal reporting requirements. These new requirements are not being applied to those fishing under the 3-fish bag limit this year. We still have Virginia's mandatory permit and reporting requirements for tilefish and grouper.

Cobia regulations have been very contentious the past couple of years with federal managers using data that is simply unbelievable to many. Virginia did not go along with a federal closure and set very conservative regulations for state waters. This year, the ASMFC is involved with cobia management and we are working to

get better data. Based on what data we have, a 3-year rolling soft quota has been set. This gives us a number to aim for but will not require a fishery shut down if we get some crazy spike one year in survey estimates.

Virginia had the option of relaxing cobia regulations this year. We could have increased the boat limit to 4 fish, gotten rid of the "only one over 50 inches", and gotten rid of the no-gaffing provision. A bit surprisingly, the vast majority of anglers and charter captains who weighed in favored keeping the boat limit at 3 fish and keeping the only one big fish rule. They did want to get rid of the no gaff rule. There were a number of options on the season with the majority favoring a June 1 opening and remaining open through the end of September. The second most popular choice was a May 15 opening and a September 16 closure. Personally, this second option was my favorite and I have not gaffed a cobia in years. What I supported at VMRC was what was most asked for by recreational anglers and that is what passed. I was rather proud of Virginia's anglers supporting regulations more conservation oriented than we could have done.

So for 2018, our cobia season will begin on June 1 and you can keep fish through September. The daily bag limit remains 1 fish per person up to 3 fish per boat. Only one fish per boat may be over 50 inches. The minimum size is still 40 inches. The prohibition on gaffing is removed but please do not use a gaff unless you are sure it is fish that you are going to keep. The free Cobia Permit along with mandatory reporting is still required for an ongoing effort to get more accurate data.

We've been getting a lot of questions about the Cobia Bowl. The Cobia Bowl was begun as a fun way for anglers to help gather information about Virginia's cobia fishery and to help raise funds for fisheries research. Due to great sponsorship support and angler participation, this fishing tournament has been a great success. We are pleased to announce that we have even bigger and better plans for 2018. The Cobia Bowl is joining forces with the Old Dominion University Alumni Association for the Monarch Cobia Classic. Our goal is to create the largest cobia tournament on the East Coast. We invite Cobia Bowl sponsors and anglers to join us for what will be a fantastic event with great fishing, bigger parties, and even more fun all while supporting great causes. The Monarch Cobia Classic will raise funds to support scholarship and research. This event will be held July 19-21, during the peak of the cobia season. For more information about the Monarch Cobia Classic and to learn about sponsorship opportunities, visit www.odualumni.org/cobiaclassic.

So, what has been happening out on the water so far? In addition to the great bluefin fishing out of Oregon Inlet, both yellowfin tuna and some bigeye tuna have been caught. Blackfin tuna are being caught out of Hatteras. As early as late January, big red drum were being caught out of the Hatteras surf during that early spring we had. Typically, about 2 weeks after that bite starts, we get them here on Virginia's Eastern Shore. It was simply way too early, but there were rumors of both red and black drum encounters on the seaside. Then winter came back and stopped that talk. Now that spring has come back, expect the black and red drum fisheries to begin soon.

We had a winter fish kill that affected speckled trout, juvenile red and black drum, mullet and even striped bass. We will see if this has a significant impact on our fisheries with speckled trout being the greatest concern. The population appeared to be healthy and growing this past fall. Striped bass have made their move into the bay and rivers and are available for catch and release fishing until May when there are some open seasons. Anglers practicing catch and release in the rivers have also caught some puppy drum with some of those in the keeper-slot range. Boston mackerel have made a showing and some have been caught by gill-netters in the bay. Tautog are the main fishery at the moment with the coastal wrecks being the most productive location. Bay structures have produced some fish during the warm times then shut down after the snow events. The bay will turn back on quickly as water temperatures raise a bit. The fish are there, it is just their activity level that is affected.

BRAGGING BOARD

The fishing has been extremely slow as evidenced by the number of pictures on the bragging board this month. Mother nature decided that most of us would not get the opportunity to get out and try to catch the few species of fish available during the winter months. As temperatures start to increase and the local waters begin to warm, let's hope the wind lays down enough for us to get out and get after some fish.



Help fill this space up. Send your fishing pics to pswsfa_chumline@cox.net

Stan Simmerman provided this pic of the day's catch fishing out of Pirate's Cove on April 12th. Nice haul of yellowfin!

****no big fish turned in for January
February Monthly Tournament Awards**

SPECIES	MINIMUM SIZE	ANGLER'S NAME	LENGTH
Albacore Tuna	35 inches		
Amberjack	40 inches		
Bigeye Tuna	40 inches		
Black Belly Rose Fish	14 inches		
Black Drum	40 inches		
Blackfin Tuna	20 inches		
Bluefin Tuna	45 inches		
Bluefish	25 inches		
Blue Line Tile Fish	20 inches		
Blue Marlin	Release		
Channel Bass	40 inches		
Cobia	40 inches		
Croaker	16 inches		
Dolphin	35 inches		
False Albacore	25 inches		
Flounder	22 inches		
Golden Tile Fish	30 inches		
Gray Trout	24 inches		
Grouper	16 inches		
Jack Crevelle	36 inches		
King Mackerel	35 inches		
Pompano	12 inches		
Sailfish	Release		
Sea Bass	15 inches	Stan Simmerman	21 3/4"
Shark	60 inches		
Sheepshead	15 inches		
Snapper	12 inches		
Spadefish	18 inches		
Spanish Mackerel	20 inches		
Spearfish	Release		
Speckled Trout	21 inches		
Spot	8 inches		
Striped Bass	36 inches	Stan Simmerman	43 3/4"
Swordfish	Release		
Tarpon	Release		
Tautog	18 inches	Wally Veal	30"
Triggerfish	15 inches		
Wahoo	40 inches		
White Marlin	Release		
Whiting (Roundhead)	14 inches		
Yellowfin Tuna	35 inches		

If you need an entry form, you can download a copy from the club's website at <http://www.pswsfa.com/MonthlyEntry.pdf>

Deadline for turning in your 2017 entry forms:

MAIL ENTRY FORMS TO:
MR. MILTON HUDGINS
1894 KATIE LANE
HAYES, VA 23072
(e-mail: judygee03@gmail.com)

Month of Entry:	Deadline: (Board Mtg.)
Jan.	Feb. 13
Feb.	March 13
March	April 10
April	May 8
May	June 12
June	July 10
July	Aug. 14
Aug.	Sept. 11
Sept.	Oct. 9
Oct.	Nov. 13
Nov.	Dec. 11
Dec.	Jan. 8

PSWSFA 2017 MEMBERSHIP

Dues: \$30 per year for entire *family
(January through December - not prorated throughout year)

<input type="checkbox"/>	New Membership		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewal		
<input type="checkbox"/>	cash	<input type="checkbox"/>	check

(Please Print)

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Dependents Names and Ages:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1) _____ | 4) _____ |
| 2) _____ | 5) _____ |
| 3) _____ | 6) _____ |

*FAMILY – must be living with you

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____ Home Phone: _____

e-mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Boat Name/Call Sign: _____

Total number in your membership: _____

Send this form with a check (payable to PSWSFA) to:

**PSWSFA
P.O. Box 5194
Newport News, VA 23605**

Please check one of the following:

- Yes, please add my name to the club Membership Book
- No, please do not publish my information



Visit the [NOAA website](#) for access to all necessary HMS permits and reporting information. This website is loaded with links and information regarding fisheries controlled by NOAA.



NOAA FISHERIES
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Upcoming Events:

Calling all cobia fisherman. The PSWSFA has partnered up with the ODU Alumni Association to host the 2nd Annual Monarch Cobia Classic. Visit the [website](#) to get any and all information regarding this tournament.



The poster features a central illustration of a cobia fish leaping from a fishing rod. The text '2ND ANNUAL Monarch Cobia Classic' is prominently displayed at the top. Below the fish is the 'ODU' logo. The event is sponsored by the ODU Alumni Association in partnership with the Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman's Association. The poster includes logos for various sponsors such as PRA Group, MSP Design Group, Old Dominion University, Nationwide, SJS, ODAF, astyra, WM Jordan Company, Alcaraz-Fisher-Justis, and Southport. The dates 'JULY 19 - 21 • 2018' are shown in a large yellow font on a blue background. Contact information for the ODU Alumni Association and Old Dominion University is provided at the bottom.

2ND ANNUAL
Monarch Cobia Classic

ODU

SPONSORED BY
ODU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
PENINSULA SALT WATER SPORT FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION

PRA Group
MSP DESIGN GROUP
OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
Nationwide It's on your side.
SJS solutions
ODAF BECAUSE OF YOU
astyra
WM Jordan COMPANY
ALCARAZ-FISHER-JUSTIS WEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP
SOUTHPORT GRAND SOLARIS

JULY 19 - 21 • 2018

ODU Alumni Association
757-683-3097
odualumni@odu.edu

OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

For More Information
odualumn1.org/cobiaclassic



As a member of _____ Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman's Association _____,
A BoatU.S. Cooperating Group, you are invited to **become a BoatU.S. Member**
at a special discounted rate:

**\$15 BoatUS Membership Dues and
10% off Water Towing Services**

BoatUS Coop Group#:

Contact Gary Donaldson at
tarpon05@gmail.com to acquire the
PSWSFA COOP number _____

NEW MEMBERS

Sign up online at **BoatUS.com/join**
(enter your Boat US COOP Group #
on the first page of the application)

CURRENT MEMBERS

Not receiving the discount? Email
Membership@BoatUS.com

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- 24/7 Dispatch to over 600 towboats in 300+ ports nationwide
- Marine insurance for boaters with 24/7 claims service
- Discounts on fuel, slips, repairs & more at over 1,200 boating businesses nationwide
- Subscription to BoatUS Magazine - 6 issues per year

Visit **BoatUS.com/Membership** to learn about all the benefits and services offered to BoatUS Members.



INSURANCE



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TOWING



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DISCOUNTS