

## PENINSULA

Salt Water  
Sport  
Fisherman's  
Association

# CHUMLINE

FEBRUARY 2022

Supporting Hampton Roads Fisherman since 1957

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. The meetings are free and open to the public and 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 plus prizes we buy ourselves. 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 on last page.

### REMEMBER

**Next Meeting 15 March 7:00pm**

Please be advised that we are approaching that time of year when dues are due again. Our year goes from 1 March to the end of February.

If you plan on entering any fish in our monthly tournament for March you will need to have paid your dues. The form is on page 3 or you can contact Johnny Boyd directly at [jrayboyd@aol.com](mailto:jrayboyd@aol.com).

We'd like to welcome our two newest board members, Richie Moore and Charles Randolph. Both come to many of the board meetings anyway and figured they might as well make it official.

We have a Tog tournament starting 1 March to 11 April 2022. With 100% payout to the top 3 winners. Entry fee is \$20 for members. Contact Rick Wineman at: [wineman5@outlook.com](mailto:wineman5@outlook.com) or sign up at the March meeting.

A lot of nice Tog have been caught so far this year on offshore wrecks.

Stay well - Mike the Editor

## BEST SPOTS ON THE BAY TO WATCH NASA WALLOPS ROCKET LAUNCH

February 14, 2022

NASA Wallops Flight Facility is poised to send the Antares rocket off to the International Space Station (ISS) from the Eastern Shore of Virginia on Saturday, and NASA has released a handy list of the best vantage points to watch the launch in the Bay region.

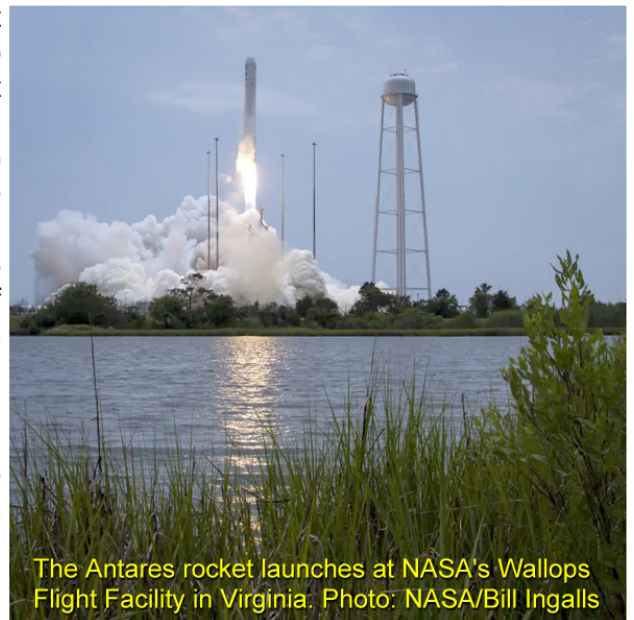
As shown at right, you can bundle up and watch this wintertime launch from Chincoteague Island, Assateague Island National Seashore,

Ocean City, Md., the Delaware beaches, and Virginia Beach.

Set for this Saturday, Feb. 19 at 12:39 p.m. EST (weather-dependent), this will be the first launch of supplies bound for the ISS since NASA announced the space station will be retired in 2030, crashing into an uninhabited area of the Pacific Ocean called Point Nemo. It's the point in the Pacific that is farthest from the nearest land, about 1,450 nautical miles away from anything.

ISS will be replaced by three free-flying space stations developed by commercial companies Blue Origin, Nanoracks LLC, and Northrop Grumman, based in Dulles, Virginia. By passing the mission to private platforms, NASA believes it will save \$1.3 billion.

In the meantime, Northrop Grumman's Antares rocket will continue to



The Antares rocket launches at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. Photo: NASA/Bill Ingalls

*Continued on Pg 5 Bottom of Col 1*

# COAST GUARD CHANGES FIRE EXTINGUISHER REQUIREMENTS FOR BOATS

15 Feb 2022

As you anxiously await boating season, now is the time to take a good look at the fire extinguishers you have on board. Beginning April 20, new U.S. Coast Guard regulations takes effect that change extinguisher expiration dates and the minimum classification of fire extinguishers carried aboard newer boats.

The new U.S. Coast Guard regulation puts a 12-year expiration on all disposable (non-rechargeable) fire extinguishers. The manufacture date may be two or four digits (e.g., 08 or 2008) stamped into the bottom of the bottle or near the UL label.

And the other big change: boats that are model-year 2018 or newer must carry newer “5-B”, “10-B”, and “20-B” classified extinguishers rather than those with the older “B-I” and “B-II” labels, which are being phased out. The number in the new labels refers to the size (in square feet) of a potential fire the device is suitable to extinguish. For boats less than 26 feet and 2018 model year or newer, fire extinguishers must be unexpired “5-B” “10-B” or “20-B”. For 2018-and-newer recreational boats 26-65 feet, requirements vary. Check this table and flow chart from BoatUS Foundation to see what you need.

If your boat is a 2017 model or older, you may carry older “B-I” or “B-II” disposable extinguishers until their 12-year expiration date, and then they must be replaced with newer class extinguishers. The 12-year expiration date puts Coast Guard regulations in line with the National Fire Protection Association’s recommendations.

BoatUS strongly urges boaters to go above the minimum requirements for fire extinguishers on board. Two may be better than one when there’s a rush to make an emergency call or prepare to abandon ship. They also point out that some double-rated extinguishers protect against liquid and electrical fires, while triple-rated ones also protect against combustible fires.

“We expect that the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Power Squadrons vessel safety check program will soon include this new regulation as part of their free, no-penalty vessel exams. Because this change affects a critical piece of safety equipment aboard your boat, we also expect the U.S. Coast Guard will initially focus on education. You may want to start checking extinguishers now while your boat may be ashore this winter.”

Rechargeable and fixed-mount fire extinguisher regulations have not changed; they require regular servicing by a technician.

“We expect that the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States Power Squadrons vessel safety check program will soon include this new regulation as part of their free, no-penalty vessel exams, says BoatUS Foundation Assistant Director of Boating Safety Ted Sensenbrenner. “Because this change affects a critical piece of safety equipment aboard your boat, we also expect the U.S. Coast Guard will initially focus on education. You may want to start checking extinguishers now while your boat may be ashore this winter.”

If your fire extinguishers aren’t mounted where they are easily accessible, buy a bracket and relocate them. “Burying them in the bottom of a compartment ensures they will be hard to reach when you need them the most,” Sensenbrenner points out. Make sure you’re familiar with the PASS method (Point, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep) before an emergency arises.



On-board fire extinguisher expiration dates and regulations are changing this year.

-Meg Walburn Viviano



## CRANE FALLS INTO WATER AT HAMPTON ROADS BRIDGE-TUNNEL

There was some unexpected excitement Tuesday morning for the large-scale bridge-tunnel expansion project underway in Hampton Roads.

A construction crane fell into the water in Norfolk's Willoughby Bay before 8 a.m., near the eastbound lanes of I-64 at the Willoughby Bay Bridge. According to Stephen Meyers, spokesman for Hampton Roads Connector Partners, an operator was moving the crane to reposition it on a barge. But the crane was unable to stop and the crane "walked-off" the barge into the water.



The fallen crane is seen above the water line in Willoughby Bay

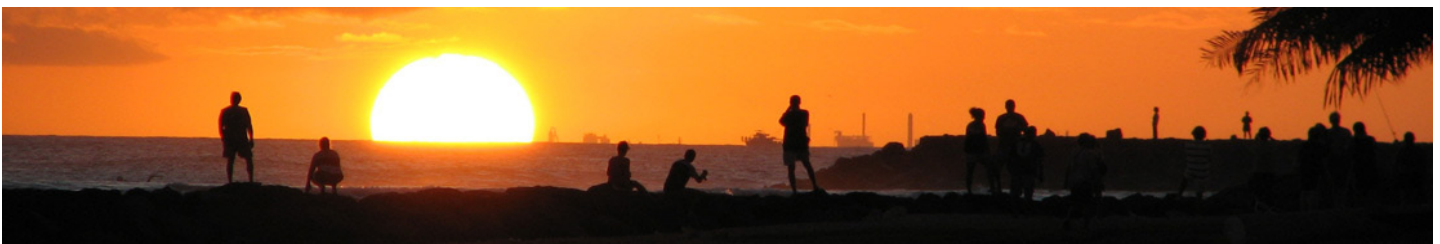
Thankfully the crane operator was able to exit the machinery before it entered the water. With a water temperature hovering around 41 degrees, an operator would not have had much time before losing control of their muscles.

Meyers says weather doesn't appear to be a factor, with no notably high winds to speak of. There will be an investigation to determine what did cause the incident. In addition to the crane operator escaping without injury, there was no damage to the highway, the construction site or other equipment.

But the crane itself remained in the water, and leaders were working to make an "equipment recovery plan" to retrieve it. The Coast Guard was notified, and the area where the crane fell in was already restricted to marine traffic due to construction.

The \$3.8 billion Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel (HRBT) Expansion Project has been underway since October 2020, and is expected to be completed in 2025. The massive project will increase tunnel and interstate capacity along 9.9 miles of I-64 between Hampton and Norfolk, allowing better access to the Port of Virginia and the world's largest naval base. It is the largest infrastructure project in Virginia history, and among the large-scale logistics, there is a 400-foot-long, 4,000-ton tunnel boring machine with a 46-foot diameter cutting tool that excavates soil under the James River, while concrete liners are set in place.

-Meg Walburn Viviano



## 2022 Club Officers

### **Danny Forehand**

President

### **Milton Hudgins**

Vice President

### **Wally Veal**

Secretary

### **Christina Grice**

Treasurer

### **Charles Southall**

Corresponding Secretary

### **Stan Simmerman**

Past President

## Board of Directors

John Hunt Jr.

Ronnie Wilson

Gary Donaldson

Dave Boyce

Rick Wineman

Charles Randolph

David Agee

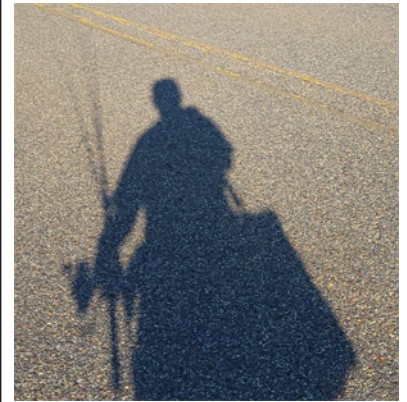
Mike Frielingsdorf

Richie Moore

Daily Vandergriff

Johnny Boyd

Gerald Abrams (alt)



**A**ttention all members: This is a reminder that all memberships will now expire on the last day of February of each year. Forms are available from Johnny Boyd (membership committee). At the December 2019 board meeting the board voted to increase the dues by \$10. As before, the \$40 is per individual or family. We haven't had a dues increase in pretty much forever and this will help the club pay for the increased cost of our meeting space as well as supporting events like the picnic, awards banquet, and fishing related events, organizations, and tournaments.

## **PSWSFA 2022 MEMBERSHIP**

**Dues: \$40 per year for entire family\***  
**(March through February - not prorated throughout the year)**

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



## Virginia Beach Fishing

When anglers can get out, ocean wrecks are holding some really nice tautogs. Blue crabs are hard to find right now so most are being caught using fresh clam.

Rick Wineman and Wally Veal checked in with VBSF. They had a weather window to get out and do some tautog fishing on 1-13-22. They fished some of the offshore wrecks in 100+ feet and managed to find some nice ones. Had several double digit (15lb 14oz / 17lb 9 oz} specimens and a few other very respectable ones that were tagged and released. They used left over crabs from last year as bait. They also had some bluefish in the mix. If you run into them and decide to keep any just remember bluefish are 3 per person these days. (*Pictures on page 9*)

The Chesapeake Bay rockfish season has closed but you can still practice catch and release.

Speckled trout and puppy drum will be a possibility in the inlets all winter. Most are being caught on Mirr-O-Lures and soft plastics.

We've been spoiled the past few years with a February black sea bass season. Not this year. The fishery is managed jointly by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. At a recent meeting, it was determined that states would be required to reduce the recreational harvest in 2022 by 28% coastwide. Based upon the changes in the fisheries regulations, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission will be unable to open February for the species.

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### *Rocket Launch - Continued from Pg 1*

make commercial resupply missions. This one, Northrop Grumman's 17th mission to deliver NASA science investigations, supplies, and equipment. Among the fascinating research that will be conducted with the materials carried by Antares is an investigation on skin aging in microgravity that may help protect aging skins, testing on a lithium-ion secondary battery that works under extreme temperatures in a vacuum, and a study looking at a drug's impact on prostate and breast cancer cells.

Antares will launch from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport's Pad 0A on Wallops Island. If the sky is clear, launch fans will be able to watch from Robert Reed Park on Main Street or Beach Road spanning the area between Chincoteague and Assateague Islands. The Virginia, Maryland and Delaware Atlantic beaches also provide good viewing locations.

The NASA Visitor Center at Wallops Island will not be open for the launch. If you can't stomach standing out in the cold to watch, there are numerous ways to see the launch from afar. You can register to attend this launch virtually.

-Meg Walburn Viviano

## Last Month's Mystery Fish A Dentex



Dentex fish is a species available in the Sparid family, commonly known as sea beams. Dentex Fish, scientific name *Dentex dentex*, also called the Common dentex is found in the Mediterranean, but it is also found in the Black Sea and the East Atlantic Ocean. Both the genus and the species are related to the Latin name *Denetex dent* which means "tooth".

Dentex are a great species for sportfishing and are targetted mainly trolling or drifting with live bait. Squid or cuttle fish are irresistible for these predators. A downrigger is a must to fish close to the bottom. Trolling artificial lures with intense colours (yellow, pink...) close to the bottom can also produce great fish. Drifting, a big weight can keep the bait close to the bottom. Jigging is another technique to fish for detex. They live around rocky areas, wrecks and reefs. The larger fish are 1m long and can weigh up to 15 kg (35 lb).

Distributed throughout the subtropical waters of the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, the Canary Islands, Morocco and Senegal, the dentex live in inshore waters up to 100m deep. The best dentex fishing destinations are Spain (Balearic Islands, Barcelona, Costa del Sol, Alicante area), France (Mediterranean), Italy (Sardinia, Sicily, Imperia...), Montenegro and Croatia.



# Select Recreational Fishing Regulations

January 2022



## Atlantic Croaker

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 50 per person; additional 50 live bait per customer capacity on for-hire or charter vessels



## Spot

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 50 per person; additional 50 live bait per customer capacity on for-hire or charter vessels



## Kingfish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: No bag limit



## Grey Trout (Weakfish)

- Minimum Size Limit: 12 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person



## Bluefish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person from shore or a rented or private vessel
- 5 per person on for-hire or charter vessels



## Spanish Mackerel

- Minimum Size Limit: 14 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 15 per person



## King Mackerel

- Minimum Size Limit: 27 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person



## Cobia (Permit Required)

- Minimum Size Limit: 40 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person or 2 per vessel, whichever is more restrictive. Only 1 fish per vessel may be greater than 50 inches total length.
- Season: June 15 - September 15



## Summer Flounder

- Minimum Size Limit: 16.5 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



## Striped Bass

Any person fishing striped bass recreationally shall use non-offset, corrodible, non-stainless steel circle hooks when fishing with bait.

### Chesapeake Bay Spring Season

- Size Limit: 20-28 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: May 16 - June 15

### Chesapeake Bay Fall Season

- Size limit: 20-36 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: October 4 - December 31

### Coastal Season

- Size Limit: 28-36 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person
- Season: January 1 - March 31, May 16 - December 31

**Select species provided for information purposes only. Not all regulated species are included. All regulations are subject to change. It is the angler's responsibility to know and abide by all current regulations and laws. Check for new regulations before you go fishing. [www.mrc.virginia.gov](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)**



## Spadefish

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



## Sheepshead

- Minimum Size Limit: No size limit
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



## Black Sea Bass

- Minimum Size Limit: 12.5 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 15 per person
- Season: May 15 - Dec 31



## Tautog

- Minimum Size Limit: 16 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person
- Season: January 1-May 15, July 1- Dec. 31



## Speckled Trout

- Minimum Size Limit: 14 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 5 per person, only 1 greater than 24"



## Red Drum

- Minimum Size Limit: 18 inches
- Maximum Size Limit: 26 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 3 per person



## Black Drum

- Minimum Size Limit: 16 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 per person



# “CHESSIE” THE MANATEE RESURFACES AFTER APPARENT GATOR ATTACK

January 28, 2022 By Jeremy Cox, Bay Journal News Service

Chessie, the manatee that gained fame for making sporadic visits to the Chesapeake Bay over three decades, has made yet another reappearance, easing fears that a possible alligator attack last summer had done him in.

When his satellite tag stopped transmitting last June in waters near Jacksonville, FL, scientists suspected that an alligator or a boat had damaged it. For more than six months, Chessie's whereabouts were unknown.

But on Tuesday, Jan. 25, an underwater microphone deployed by the Clearwater Marine Aquarium detected a separate—and apparently still-operative—tracking device attached to the 1,500-pound mammal. The sonic transmitter showed that Chessie was basking in the warm discharge from a power plant in Fort Lauderdale, more than 300 miles south of his last known location.

The aquarium's staff hurried to the canal. They located the manatee and fastened a fresh satellite tag to him, according to the nonprofit's press release. The tag allows researchers and the public to track Chessie's movements remotely.

Scientists estimate the manatee to be at least 35 years old. His lifetime has been marked by a dramatic series of appearances and disappearances, beginning with his sighting in the Chesapeake Bay in 1994. That was the first time a manatee had been spotted in Maryland waters. He bypassed the Bay during his northward trek the following year but ventured as far north as Rhode Island, adding another first to his ledger.

He popped up in the Bay again in 2001 and 2011. But then he was off the grid until he was recovered in February 2021, emaciated and suffering from pneumonia. Unlike hundreds of Florida manatees that have died of starvation amid a recent mass die-off of seagrass, Chessie survived.

After rehabilitating at SeaWorld Orlando, he was released last May. He then swam up the coast to Jacksonville, mimicking earlier northward journeys.



Past Bay visitor "Chessie" is scanned for a microchip in Florida.

Photo: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.





By Ann Eichenmuller

The headboat was anchored in the Newport News Middle Ground, eager fishermen with poles out, the first mate chumming off the stern. He and the captain had their eyes on the northwest sky, focusing on a build-up of heavy, dark clouds. They watched in horror as a thin funnel dipped down and touched the surface, then began to twist its way toward them.



The captain, normally a gregarious soul, ran to the helm without saying a word. He turned over the engine and slammed the boat into gear as the mate scrambled to the bow. The young mate got his hands on the anchor line and pulled with all his might as the boat catapulted forward. The anchor came loose, and as he wrestled it aboard, he turned to see the captain standing white-faced, hatchet in hand—ready, if need be, to cut the line.

That first mate was my husband, and he realized then that any weather phenomenon capable of shaking a seasoned headboat captain is one worth taking seriously. It's no wonder waterspouts are the stuff of legends. Decade ago, sightings were considered a rarity, but today Facebook and Instagram are flooded with photos of water-borne twisters on the Chesapeake. What has changed? According to Channel 6 Richmond's chief meteorologist Zach Daniel, it's not necessarily the weather.

"Twenty years ago, there were very few cell phones. If you were out on a boat and you saw a waterspout, maybe you'd come home and call a friend. That's as far as it would go. Now everyone carries a smartphone with a camera all the time. Nothing escapes being documented."

That doesn't mean it's good idea to chase waterspouts to get the perfect shot to share. Waterspouts may be photogenic, but they are also dangerous.

"We're often talking about tornadic activity associated with strong thunderstorms," Daniel explains. "These supercells can produce waterspouts, or they can form tornadoes over land that then move across the water without losing much of their strength."

A particularly devastating example of the latter is the 2016 EF-3 tornado that ripped through Essex County in Virginia, then crossed a mile-and-a-half-wide section of the Rappahannock River before moving ashore on the Northern Neck, leaving widespread damage in its wake. And though storm-created waterspouts that form over water tend to be weaker, they are often accompanied by high winds, rough seas, rain, lightning, and even hail. They can travel at up to 80 miles per hour, and have a diameter anywhere from a foot to the size of a football field.

If that isn't enough, Daniel says it is even possible for waterspouts to form without any storm at all. "We call those fair-weather waterspouts, akin to a 'dust devil' or a 'leafnado.' Anytime you have cooler

*Continued on Pg 9*

air above a warm, humid surface, you've got an atmosphere that we call buoyant. Situations like this can easily produce waterspouts in quiet conditions."

Fair-weather waterspouts tend to be short-lived, move very little, and fall apart when they touch land—but that doesn't mean they couldn't capsize a small boat or cause damage to a larger vessel. That is why the National Weather Service warns boaters to take precautions whenever encountering a waterspout, regardless of origin:

- If you spot a waterspout, seek safe harbor immediately.
- Avoid the waterspout by traveling at right angles to its apparent direction of movement.
- If a collision is likely, take down sails, secure loose items, close hatches, and go below deck if possible.
- Under no circumstances should a boater try to navigate through a waterspout.

And even though legend has it that firing a cannon into a waterspout's path will break it up, this myth is unsubstantiated, so don't fire your flare gun or launch your deck chairs toward one.

In terms of waterspout myths, several local watermen say they have heard tell of it "raining fish" that were suctioned up with the water in a waterspout. Daniel points out that the funnel you see is not "sucked-up" seawater, but rather a swirling mist of condensed water vapor. However, he agrees that a tornado over water does have enough suction to carry objects—including fish. According to New York meteorologist Bill Evans in his book *It's Raining Fish and Spiders*, all sorts of creatures have in fact been reported raining down during tornadic activity, including snakes, worms, and crabs, but fish and frogs are the most common. Worldwide, he writes, such events are reported about 40 times a year.

So next time you're boating and see a waterspout, keep your distance—and just to be safe, you might want to cover your head.



I was driving down Allens Mill Rd in Yorktown on Jan 31st and came across this young man fishing on a small back channel of Chisman creek. At a place and time of year when I wouldn't have believed anything could be caught besides maybe minnows. I went up the road a ways, turned around, and went back to ask him how he was doing. To my surprise, he told me he had caught a small drum and a trout. My hat is off to this intrepid youngster for going the extra mile to catch fish in a very unlikely spot.







# FISH TALES



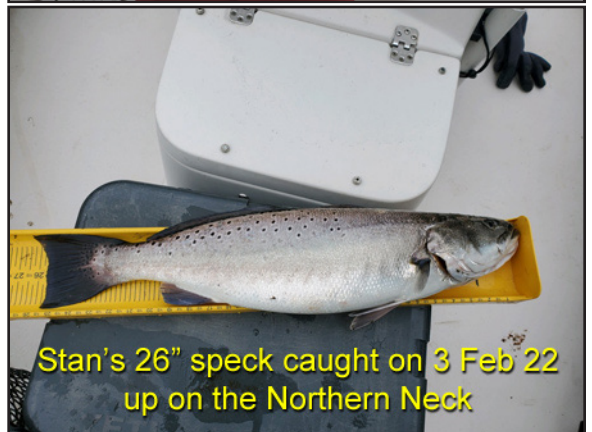
Ken with previously tagged Tog



Ken and nice 7 lb sea bass - released



Ken with Tog 28 Jan 22



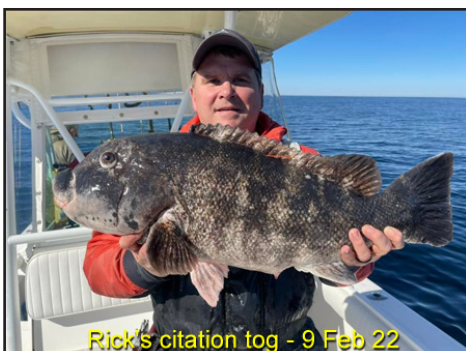
Stan's 26" speck caught on 3 Feb 22  
up on the Northern Neck



Wally with Sea Bass caught in January



Wally and nice Bluefish



Rick's citation tog - 9 Feb 22



Wally with Tog - 9 Feb 22



Stan with Tog - 9 Feb 22



# Monthly Tournament List January 2022

## Sea Bass

Wally Veal 24"

## Tautog

Rick Wineman 29"

## Bluefish

Wally Veal 34"

## Striped Bass

Wally Veal 51.5"

Wally had 11 sea bass from 20-24"

Monthly Tournament Contenders	
Species	Min Size
Albacore Tuna	35"
Amberjack	40"
Bigeye Tuna	40"
Black Drum	40"
Blackbelly Rosefish	14"
Blackfin Tuna	45"
Bluefin Tuna	45"
Bluefish	25"
Blueline Tilefish	20"
Blue Marlin	Release
Channel Bass	40"
Cobia	40"
Croaker	16"
Dolphin	35"
False Albacore	25"
Flounder	22"
Golden Tilefish	30"
Gray Trout	24"
Grouper	16"
Jack Crevalle	36"
King Mackerel	35"
Pompano	12"
Sailfish	Release
Sea Bass	15"
Shark	60"
Sheepshead	15"
Snapper	12"
Spadefish	18"
Spanish Mackerel	20"
Spearfish	Release
Speckled Trout	21"
Spot	8"
Striped Bass	36"
Swordfish	Release
Tarpon	Release
Tautog	18"
Triggerfish	15"
Wahoo	40"
White Marlin	Release
Whiting (Roundhead)	14"
Yellowfin Tuna	35"

Photo taken in 2017 by the Editor at the Hilton Waikoloa lagoon, Da Big Island, Hawaii

Bring your entries to Milton at our monthly meeting by 7:00 pm or send an email or snail mail to the address' on the left (Yellow Box). Please direct any questions to Milton.

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

### Deadline for turning in your 2022 entry forms:

Month of Entry	Deadline (RegMtg)	Month	Deadline (Reg Mtg)
January	15 Feb	July	16 Aug
February	15 Mar	August	21 Sep
March	19 Apr	September	18 Oct
April	17 May	October	15 Nov
May	21 Jun	November	20 Dec
June	19 Jul	December	by Brd Mtg 10 Jan 2023

## Virginia Charter Boat Workshop Scheduled for March 26th, 2022

The Virginia Charter Boat Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 26th via Zoom.

Organized by the Marine Advisory Program at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in partnership with the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association (VSSA), the workshop will highlight fishery resource, regulatory, and US Coast Guard updates.

“We are excited to offer this program to charter and head boat captains, mates, and marina professionals, in addition to folks interested in entering the charter business,” says Susanna Musick with the VIMS Marine Advisory Program.

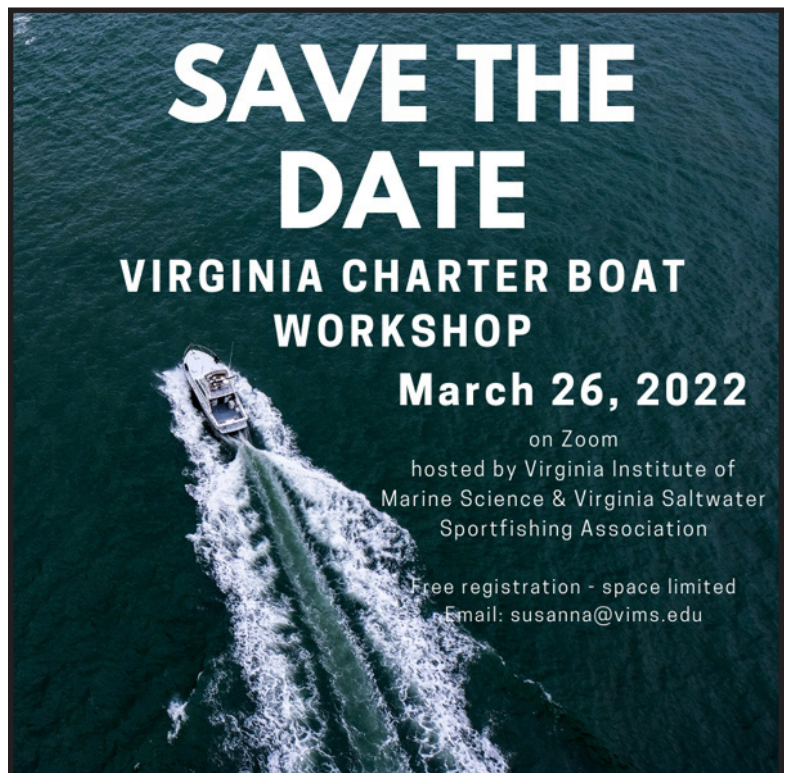
Workshop speakers will be regional experts in their respective fields. Participants can look forward to a fisheries keynote address from Robert Beal, Executive Director of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, in addition to talks from the U.S. Coast Guard, our Virginia NOAA Port Agent, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and some business best practices from established captains. This is a great chance to participate in a program committed to helping the charter boat operator address current topics and challenges in the for-hire industry. Attendance is expected to fill quickly, so advanced registration is strongly encouraged.

The **workshop is free**, but space is limited, so please **register by March 14**. As COVID restrictions change, a hybrid format (with some in-person attendance at the Gloucester Point campus of VIMS) may be available. Registered participants will be notified if this option becomes available closer to the date of the event.

To register please email your contact information to: Susanna Musick, [susanna@vims.edu](mailto:susanna@vims.edu).

Susanna's e-mail to me (the editor) mentioned that even though the workshop is targeted to the for-hire industry, **interested anglers are very welcome to participate.**

If you register, she would like your name, business name, email & mailing address and phone number.





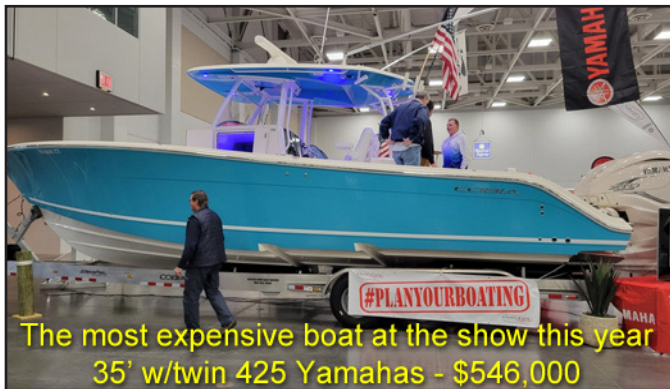
# THE 2022 BOAT SHOW

Editors Notes: To say I was disappointed by this years boat show in VA Beach is an understatement. Their ads online promised an additional 125,000 sq foot space from last years show. Personally, it didn't look that way to me. Perhaps it was the lack of apparent diversity of boats being represented or a good mix of sizes. At least one dealer had an 8% markup on his boats with one having a \$40,000 extra profit fee tacked on. Personally, I think charging \$500,000 for a 35ft center console is obscene plus \$40K more....yikes.

There was also an usually large showing of pontoon boats on display, way more than in years past. There was also very few 18-20ft fishing boats shown with most being 24-27ft and priced to match. I also missed not seeing any kayaks for sale at this year's show, unless I missed them, but I never missed them in other shows. There were also no boats displayed outside like in years past.

If I had to guess I would say that a number of dealers either didn't show up because their allotment for 2022 was already sold out or the ones that did come only had a hand full of boats to display due to a lack of inventory. I really should have asked the question to some of the dealers. Boston Whalers were a no show this year as were Grady Whites.

That's my two cents on the boat show this year, if you went ,let me know what you thought.



The most expensive boat at the show this year  
35' w/twin 425 Yamahas - \$546,000







PLEASE HAND DELIVER TO MONTHLY MEETING or MAIL TO:  
PSWSFA, P.O. Box 5194, Newport News, VA 23605

## OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

### Eligible Species

Amberjack	40"	Pompano	12"
Albacore Tuna	35"	Sea Bass	15"
Big Eye Tuna	40"	Sailfish	Release
Black Belly Rose Fish	14"	Shark	60"
Black Drum	40"	Sheepshead	15"
Black Fin Tuna	20"	Snapper	12"
Blue Fin Tuna	45"	Spadefish	18"
Bluefish	25"	Spanish Mackerel	20"
Blueline Tilefish	20"	Spearfish	Release
Blue Marlin	Release	Speckled Trout	21"
Channel Bass	40"	Spot	8"
Cobia	40"	Striped Bass	36"
Croaker	16"	Swordfish	Release
Dolphin	35"	Tarpon	Release
False Albacore	25"	Tautog	18"
Flounder	22"	Triggerfish	15"
Golden Tilefish	30"	Wahoo	40"
Gray Trout	24"	White Marlin	Release
Grouper	16"	Whiting (Roundhead)	14"
Jack Crevalle	36"	Yellowfin Tuna	35"
King Mackerel	35"		

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE THE TRUTH, AND THE RULES OF THIS CONTEST HAVE BEEN COMPLIED WITH (see back of this sheet)

### Required Information:

Tournament \_\_\_\_\_ Fish: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Caught: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Caught: \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Youth

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

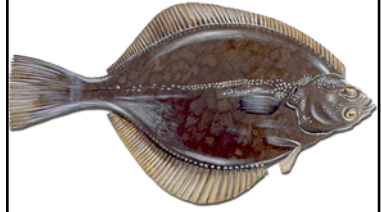
### Optional Information:

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Where Caught: \_\_\_\_\_

Weight Master Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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. **All paid club tournaments will be judged by weight, unless otherwise indicated.**



### FISHING CONTEST RULES

1. Contest will run from January 1 to December 31. Only fish caught for recreational purposes, in accordance with state regulations, are eligible.
2. The territorial limits for this contest shall be from Ocean City, MD to Morehead City, NC. Slight variations north or south of these limits will not disqualify entry.
3. This contest is open only to PSWSFA members and their families whose dues have been paid before the catch. Youth anglers must be 15 or less on the date of the catch. Youth entries must also meet state minimum requirements.
4. Only fish caught on hook and line, rod and reel are acceptable. No assistance at the rod or line shall be permitted, except holding the leader while the fish is being gaffed or boated.
5. There are no restrictions on tackle with the exception that power reels are not permitted.
6. Awards will be made for fish caught each month (1<sup>st</sup> through last day) at the next monthly meeting. All entries must be in the hands of the tournament chairman by the beginning of the meeting. A later entry will not be accepted. Only monthly entries are eligible for awards.
7. Acceptability of fish entered in this contest is to be entirely within the discretion of the Tournament Committee or the Board of Directors.
8. In case of a tie, the first caught will win.
9. Signature of witness or release must accompany entry
10. November and December entries must be submitted/received by January 10<sup>th</sup>.
11. Monthly prize money must be picked up within 3 months after being announced.
12. A person who enters fish into another fishing club is ineligible to enter fish into the PSWSFA monthly tournament

### Angler of the Year Award

The angler of the year award is designed to honor the fisherman who consistently submits qualifying entries. The Tournament Committee will recommend Angler of the Year candidates and the PSWSFA Board will make the final Angler of the Year determination.

### Angler of the Year Scoring System

- 2 points will be awarded for each species of fish entered for the monthly contest. The fish must meet the club's minimum length to qualify, including all release entries.
- 2 points will be awarded when an entry is accompanied by a copy of a State Fishing Tournament Citation
- 2 points will be awarded for any fish that wins the monthly contest in each species
- 6 points will be awarded for the 1<sup>st</sup> place annual award winner in each species
- 4 points will be awarded for the 2<sup>nd</sup> place annual award winner in each species
- 2 points will be awarded for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place annual award winner in each species
- 5 points will be awarded for the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of any PSWSFA tournament
- 3 points will be awarded for the 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner of any PSWSFA tournament
- 1 point will be awarded for the 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner of any PSWSFA tournament
- 5 points will be awarded for any fish that becomes a new club or state record

Anglers are limited to 3 fish per species

Those fish with the highest point value will be entered in the Angler of the Year point system.

### Fish of the Year Award

The Tournament Committee will make Fish of the Year recommendations to the PSWSFA Board of Directors. If in the opinion of the Board of Directors, no fish is deemed worthy of Fish of the Year, no award will be made. Regardless of the method used to determine Fish of the Year, the decision of the PSWSFA Board of Directors will be final.

### Critter of the Year Award

Any unusual catch submitted by a club member will be eligible for award when approved by the PSWSFA Board of Directors.





# ANNUAL *Fishing Flea Market*

SPONSORED BY



## March 12, 2022 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

### CHESAPEAKE CONFERENCE CENTER

Free Raffles!

50/50

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Joe - [mysteri2@cox.net](mailto:mysteri2@cox.net) 757-685-6823

You are invited to visit or join the best fishing club in Tidewater. Each month the club has a speaker to present an informative program on various local fishing topics. Check us out at [www.fishgbfa.org](http://www.fishgbfa.org)

Or Visit [facebook.com/GreatBridgeFishermansAssociation](https://facebook.com/GreatBridgeFishermansAssociation)

Benefits include:

- Monthly Newsletter • Annual Awards Banquet
- Fishing Tournaments (Boat & Surf) • Special Events such as Oyster Roasts & Picnics
- Philanthropic Events to Benefit Organizations such as Hope House and Wish-A-Fish



# THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

## Brown Pelican's - Moving on Up: At Home on the Bay

July 2008 by Julie Dunlap

To most Bay residents, the brown pelican's outsized beak is just another comical trait of this popular but gawky bird. Two decades of banding pelican chicks, however, have given Dave Brinker, an ecologist for Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, a different perspective. "They're not dainty," he says of the almost-Canada geese-sized young he handles. "That big bill has a long and effective nail at the tip."



Once stalked by plume hunters and poisoned by DDT and other pesticides, brown pelicans have recovered and expanded beyond their historic range. They now nest on Maryland and Virginia islands in the Bay, and scientists predict colonies may soon appear in New Jersey.

Besides dodging defensive jabs by the chicks, Brinker and his banding team suffer through biting insects, boot-sucking mud, and stifling summer heat to reach nesting colonies. "It's fun," he says, "but you have to really want to do it."

Brinker began his banding study in 1987, when he found the first brown pelican nests ever recorded in Maryland on Tizzard Island in Chincoteague Bay. That discovery made national news, celebrated as evidence that the once-endangered bird was recovering from the egg-thinning effects of DDT. "It was cool!" Brinker remembers.

Neither American Indian refuse heaps nor early explorers' journals contain any evidence of brown pelicans nesting on the Chesapeake Bay. Many attribute the species' recently expanded range to the warming climate, which offers a longer season for the young to become self-sufficient. It takes a long time to raise a pelican chick, Brinker explains. Young birds must be nine weeks old to fly, then must develop the skills and muscle strength to catch enough fish for survival. Until the latter half of the twentieth century, he says, the Bay's frost-free period was too short to accomplish that.

Now, up to 2,500 pelican pairs nest on Chesapeake islands. The fastest population growth came in the 1990s, when storms destroyed nesting habitat in the Carolinas. Displaced birds ventured north, says Brinker, where "they found the Bay. They found the menhaden."

From as high as 70 feet up, brown pelicans can spot menhaden and similar schooling fish below the surface. Nature photographer Ian Plant describes their feeding dive as a full-speed, twisting plunge. Air sacs under the skin cushion the impact, and the capacious throat pouch scoops up almost three gallons of water and fish. Contrary to myth, the bird cannot carry away its catch in the pouch. Instead, it squeezes out the water and swallows its meal before taking off again. "They're not the most elegant birds," says Plant, "but they get the job done."

Plant photographed scores of pelicans on South Point Marsh Island for his new book, *Chesapeake: Bay of Light* (Mountain Trail Press, 2007). Traveling by sea kayak, he got close enough to their bustling colony to hear hundreds of nestlings hissing and clacking their bills. Pelican parents feed their chicks by coughing up partly digested silversides, and the growing birds need as many as three to five menhaden

*Continued from page 18*

a day. “They look prehistoric,” says Plant of the downy white young.

All that effort seems to be paying off for the Chesapeake’s pelicans. Bay pairs raise, on average, one and a half to two chicks per nest—more than some Florida populations, which average less than one chick per nest. Ecologist Paul Spitzer, who has studied the relationships between Bay birds and menhaden, speculates that the South Point Marsh colony’s success may stem from the surrounding waters, which are rich with menhaden and too shallow for purse-seine fishing.

Brinker, too, attributes reproductive success to a healthy food supply, but cautions, “If the forage they feed on is to decline significantly, we’d see declines in pelicans.”

The birds face other threats, especially in the long term. Plant and Brinker fear that rising sea levels could erode the beaches at South Point Marsh and other nesting areas. “Warming will expose more area to occupy, but the associated sea level rise will take the small islands they need to breed,” says Brinker.



A once-robust colony on Fisherman’s Island, where four of Virginia’s first nests were found in 1987, is already shrinking. Pam Denmon, a biologist at the Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge, says raccoons are the likely culprits, but points to dangers from creatures that can be tougher to manage than the masked bandits: human sightseers. Prominent signs in the refuge warn that the area is closed to visitors during nesting season. “If people cause the pelican parents to fly,” explains Denmon, “gulls would

go for the eggs in a minute.” To protect island-nesting birds, she says, “One of the best things you can do is keep your distance.”

Some view pelicans as an indicator species, an animal that should be monitored closely for changes in population or movements. “Because of their position on the food chain, they’re a good indicator of the health of the Bay,” Brinker explains. Photographer Plant sees another value. “I think people want to protect wildlife that they grow emotionally attached to,” he says, and charismatic wildlife help people feel connected to the whole ecosystem. With their ungainly bodies and dramatic dives, says Plant, “Pelicans fill the bill.”





## Fishing in the Canary Islands

The Canaries are an archipelago located just off the southern coast of Morocco. We're not always aware but they are Europe's number 1 for sport fishing only 4 hours flying from London, Paris or Düsseldorf. The Canary Islands are famous for their subtropical waters with plenty of sport fishing possibilities. They attract anglers from all around the world to practice big game fishing, jigging and spinning around these beautiful Islands. Some islands even have carp fishing lakes!

Situated on a marine bottom with over 3000 meters of depth, Tenerife, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote, La Palma, La Gomera and El Hierro are constantly nourished by the currents of the Atlantic Ocean. There are plenty of off shore seamounts that rise thousands of meters from the ocean floor and stop short of the surface. The marine nutritional chain is formed by its huge variety and quantity of species of sedentary and migratory fish, sharks and cetaceans.



The Canaries are a privileged place for big game fishing. The Blue Marlin, the king of the ocean, visits the islands from June to September chasing the huge supply of pelagic baitfish such as mackerel, tuna and bonito. During the high season, several blue marlin up to an estimated 500 pounds are released every week. The bigger billfish can weigh up to 1100 pounds in these waters!

Big eye tuna, yellowfin tuna, wahoo and dolphin fish are few of many species that can be captured in the Canary Islands.

The archipelago is also a paradise for jigging and spinning. The mixed bottoms with sand or other rocky zones give shelter to fascinating species, such as the Moroccan dentex, the amberjack and the grouper, among others.

A good option to fish on this breathtaking Island is to contact a fishing charter, commanded by guides with expertise and knowledge of the area.

**So you think you know  
your Fish**

Name this Easy Fish?  
Answer next month





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## Directions to PSWSFA Meeting

### Former St Mark's Episcopal Church

From 64 (either direction) take the Mercury Blvd exit towards the James River Bridge (West) stay in the right hand lane and turn right at the light onto Todds Lane. Go past Zaxby's chicken about 400 ft and the driveway to the church is on the right. The original St. Mark's sign is still on the lawn just short of the driveway.

If you come to the traffic light at the intersection of Cunningham you went to far. Turn right on Cunningham and look for the Cunningham entrance to the church (500ft). If it is blocked you will need to do a U-turn on Cunningham and go left onto Todds Lane.

From Mercury, the church driveway is just short of the Bercuese Funeral home entrance or just after if coming from Cunningham.

## WHAT'S UP NEXT & BEYOND



No February 2022 MEETING



No Club Banquet again this year



12 March 2022 - Fishing Flea Market see Pg 16



15 March 2022 - Next Regular Members Meeting  
7:00pm

