



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 Former Plumbers Union Hall at 7812 Warwick Blvd until we find a new home. 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. 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 <https://pswsfa.com/services/>

Greetings, and welcome to March. It's amazing how time flies the older you get.

Speaking of our first meeting of 2020 it is **back at our old (current) meeting place at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Hall at 7812 Warwick Blvd Warwick NN.** It actually sits on Union Street. It will once again start at 7:00pm on March 17th. Seems there was some last second changes made by both parties that just didn't allow the club to consider the Seaford Ladies Club any longer. Too bad to since it was just down the road from me.

As might be expected with the warmer than normal weather the offshore fishing has been pretty productive so far this winter. A lot of sea bass, tautog, blues, triggerfish, and the occasional monk fish or pollock plus other odds and ends have made most trips a success. The only people that seem to be posting anything are Ken Neill and Stan Simmerman plus the headboats and charter guys. I need way more input from other club members.

Personnaly since I don't have a boat, shore fishing rather sucks so far this year with most of that fishing at Fort Eustis in the James river. Folks are catching some catfish but that is pretty much it until it warms up a bit. Early April should see large Carp spawning up into the marshes at Eustis bringing challenging fishing on light tackle, and always under the watchful eyes of the base game wardens. There are several small beaches along a bay in the James on base and only one is accessable by humans, all the others are off limits due to supposed erosion issues. There is also no swimming. These beaches change every tide cycle and worse during storms, fishing from them isn't hurting anything. People stomping down the march grass is another story, however.

I'll probably try more along the colonial parkway on the York and maybe the Cheatum Annex pier, which has some odd hours of operation. M-F 1600-0600 and Sat-Sun all day, go figure. Not having a boat is a bummer.

Be sure you check out page 9 "Fishing Around The World" and the "So you think you know your Piscis" column. More than one person at the banquet that read the February Chumline said they didn't see it. I'm crushed.

You don't want to miss the March meeting when I win my 3rd fishing rod in a row.

Our guest speaker this month is Lewis Gillingham he is the Director of the Saltwater Fishing Tournament at VMRC. Expect a lot of good information from his talk.



Attention 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 2020 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



From the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

An historic day yesterday for “the most important fish in the sea!” Menhaden to fall under VMRC.

“This action sets the course for a more thoughtful and responsive management program that removes politics from fisheries management decisions. We look forward to working with VMRC on a sound, science-based approach to managing Virginia’s various menhaden fisheries, just as they do with all others.”





Excerpts from the VMRC COMMISSION ACTIONS Feb 25, 2020

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING Proposal to amend Chapter 4 VAC 20-510-10 et seq. "Pertaining to Amberjack and Cobia", and Chapter 4 VAC 20-610-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Commercial Fishing and Mandatory Harvest Reporting" to establish weekly harvest reporting and commercial fishery closure procedures for cobia, to comply with Amendment I of the Interstate Fisheries Management Plan for Atlantic Migratory Group Cobia. *THE COMMISSION VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADVERTISE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND CHAPTER 4 VAC 20-510-10 ET SEQ. "PERTAINING TO AMBERJACK AND COBIA", AND CHAPTER 4 VAC 20-610-10 ET SEQ., "PERTAINING TO COMMERCIAL FISHING AND MANDATORY HARVEST REPORTING" TO ESTABLISH WEEKLY HARVEST REPORTING AND COMMERCIAL FISHERY CLOSURE PROCEDURES FOR COBIA, TO COMPLY WITH AMENDMENT I OF THE INTERSTATE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ATLANTIC MIGRATORY GROUP COBIA.*

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING Proposal to amend Chapter 4 VAC 20-1090-10 et seq., "Pertaining to Licensing Requirements and License Fees" to establish a license fee for the new Commercial Electrofishing License. *THE COMMISSION VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADVERTISE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND CHAPTER 4 VAC 20-1090-10 ET SEQ., "PERTAINING TO LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AND LICENSE FEES" TO ESTABLISH A LICENSE FEE FOR THE NEW COMMERCIAL ELECTROFISHING LICENSE.*

(Electrofishing? really!)

VMRC is looking to hire a Chief of Law Enforcement, Virginia Marine Police Pos. 00159 \$85,000 - \$100,000. go to their site for more info.

For additional information about all things VMRC to include your basic fishing regs: <https://mrc.virginia.gov/>

Commercial License for Electrofishing

From Redow's Fish Talk Magazine

At a recent Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) meeting, (see above) the commission voted to create a commercial license for electrofishing—yes electrofishing. The practice is to be prohibited within 100 feet of public boat ramps, fishing areas, and people in the water. The ever-expanding domination of invasive blue catfish was given in testimony as the reason why expanding the commercial fishery is necessary for management purposes, and electrofishing for cats is expected to cull the huge population of 25-inch and smaller fish which are allegedly reducing the ability of larger catfish to grow to trophy sizes. Both commercial fishermen and recreational anglers testified in support of the idea, so the people in attendance were not surprised when the commission voted unanimously to make it happen. The blue catfish, however, were reportedly shocked at this development.

Last Month's Mystery Piscis (Fish) The Yellow Tang



The yellow tang (*Zebrasoma flavescens*) is a saltwater fish species of the family Acanthuridae. It is one of the most popular aquarium fish.

It is commonly found in shallow reefs, from 2–46 metres (6.6–150.9 ft) deep, in the Pacific Ocean, west of Hawaii and east of Japan. Hawaii is the most common place for aquarium harvesting, where up to 70% of the yellow tangs for the aquarium industry are sourced.

The yellow tang has been recorded in waters around Florida, where it is not native.

Adult fish can grow to 20 centimetres (7.9 in) in length, and 1–2 centimetres (0.39–0.79 in) in thickness.

In the wild, yellow tang feed on benthic turf algae and other marine plant material. Yellow tang provide cleaner services to marine turtles, by removing algal growth from their shells.

Life expectancy in the wild can exceed 30 years.



NEWS OF ALL THINGS FISHING

Trophy fish now off-limits as N.J. reels in rules for striper fishing

Updated Feb 14, 2020; By Michael Sol Warren | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

The days of keeping trophy stripers is over — for now, at least — for New Jersey anglers.

The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council approved new, tighter regulations for striped bass fishing in the Garden State at packed-house meeting in Stafford Township Thursday night.

The new rules allow anglers to keep one fish between 28 inches and less than 38 inches long, per fishing trip. The rule is what is known as a slot limit, because it sets a minimum size and maximum size for fish that can be kept.

The new rules also allow for the state's popular striped bass bonus permit program to continue. Possession of a bonus permit allows an angler to keep one additional striped bass between 24 inches and 28 inches, starting on May 15. There will be 27,000 bonus permits available.

But the state council rejected regulations that would've allowed for a small amount of trophy permits to be issued, which would've allowed an angler to keep a single fish 43 inches or longer.

The new rules are the culmination of a process that began in May, when striped bass along the Atlantic Coast were determined to be overfished by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the entity which regulates a number of fish species swimming between Florida and Maine.

To allow the striper population to recover, the ASMFC decided that coast-wide removals of the fish must be reduced by 18%.

An ASMFC decision in October set a coast-wide standard regulation for striped bass at one fish between 28 inches and less than 35 inches, but states were given the chance to create their own regulations if those alternatives were projected to reach the target 18% reduction.

New Jersey's new rules now must receive final approval from the ASMFC. If the state's rules are rejected, New Jersey will be required to adopt the coast-wide measure.

Jeffrey Brust, a research scientist for the New Jersey Bureau of Marine Fisheries, said at the meeting that there had not been any indication that the ASMFC would reject New Jersey's rules. Brust added that the ASMFC decision was expected to be made Friday.

The ASMFC did not immediately respond to a request for comment for this story.

Dick Herb, the acting chairman of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, said he understood that fisherman would be frustrated with the new rules, but the council tried to do the best it could.

"It was a tough choice, given the options we had," Herb said, referring to what rules would be allowed by the ASMFC.

Anglers from across New Jersey came to the Stafford Township municipal building for the meeting for the chance to voice their opinions in the public comment section before the new rules were voted on. The crowd filled the room to capacity, and dozens of people were forced to stand in the hallway and outside of the building as the meeting was held.

The council did allow for people in the crowd outside the room to give public comment.

Paul Haartel, who considers himself a trophy fisherman, said that the new rules unfairly impacted anglers like him by setting a maximum size limit on striped bass.

"[The ASMFC] disregarded the will of the people and forced a slot limit on us," Haartel told the council.

Haartel and other fisherman worried that the inability to keep trophy fish would take the fun out of striper fishing for some anglers, and would place the future of striped bass fishing tournaments in question.

Some anglers warned that New Jersey's refusal to adopt the coast-wide regulation will only impede the striper's recovery.

"Conservation equivalency has not proven to be effective in the past," George Bucci, the president of the Cape Atlantic Striper Club, told the council "New Jersey has proven to be a thorn in the side of the states trying to turn this around."

Fletcher Chayes, who operates Two Rivers Charters out of Highlands, told NJ Advance Media that he had mixed emotions about the new regulations.

"When people do have the opportunity to catch a world record (fish), it would be nice if they could weigh that in and get the recognition they need for all the hard work and everything they've done to catch something like that," Chayes said. "But we want to protect the breeders, and that means giving up something, so it looks like we're going to be giving up the trophy tag. It's tough, but we've got to do it."

PSWSFA Banquet 2019



FISH TALES

The only club boat I can see that went fishing off shore in February was Ken Neill's Healthy Grin. I'm sure other members went but I don't see other pictures other than some charters. I don't see me though, I know Ken took my picture in early February.



Monthly Tournament Awards - December

Species	Minimum Size	Angler	Length
Albacore Tuna	35 inches		
Amberjack	40 inches		
Big Eye Tuna	40 Inches		
Black Belly Rose Fish	14 inches		
Black Drum	40 inches		
Blackfin Tuna	20 inches		
Bluefin Tuna	45 inches		
Bluefish	25 inches	Rick Wineman	37"
Blue Line Tilefish	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 Tilefish	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	Chris Boyce	24"
Shark	60 inches		
Sheepshead	15 inches		
Snapper	12 inches	Stan Simmerman	18"
Spadefish	18 inches		
Spanish Mackerel	20 inches		
Spearfish	Release		
Speckled Trout	21 inches	Stan Simmerman	24"
Spot	8 inches		
Striped Bass	36 inches	Wally Veal	50"
Swordfish	Release		
Tarpon	Release		
Tautog	18 inches		
Triggerfish	15 inches	Stan Simmerman	19 1/2"
Wahoo	40 inches		
White Marlin	Release		
Whiting (Roundhead)	14 inches		
Yellowfin Tuna	35 inches		

MAIL ENTRY FORMS TO:

MR. MILTON HUDGINS

1894 KATIE LANE

HAYES, VA 23072

(e-mail: judygee03@gmail.com)

Deadline for turning in your 2020 entry forms:

Month of Entry	Deadline (Brd Mtg)	Month	Deadline (Brd Mtg)
January	11 Feb	July	11 Aug
February	10 Mar	August	8 Sep
March	14 Apr	September	13 Oct
April	12 May	October	10 Nov
May	9 Jun	November	8 Dec
June	14 Jul	December	12 Jan 21

PSWSFA 2020 TOURNAMENTS



2020 PSWSFA TOURNAMENTS

Download "Official Entry Form" at
<https://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, 2020 through July 31, 2020

\$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. 11, 2020

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, 2020

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

Leave from any port

Must Receive Completed Form no later than
 the Board Mtg. Sept. 8, 2020

Grafton Fishing Supply Club Spot Tournament

September 19-20, 2020

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

Weigh in: 2:00pm Sept. 20th 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 / Spanish Mackerel Tournaments

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

"ADULT ENTRIES" and "YOUTH ENTRIES"

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

RSVP by Sept. 15th if you are coming to the Annual Club Picnic to the
 Tournament Director

Wilcox Bait and Tackle Irv Fenton Rockfish Tournament

December 1-31, 2020

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

Must Receive Completed Form no later than
 the Board Mtg. Jan. 12, 2021

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

Youth and Ladies Croaker/Spanish Mackerel Tournament

July 1-31, 2020

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 11, 2020

Awards will be given at the **Annual Club Picnic on Sept. 20th at Dare Marina**

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

RSVP by Sept. 15th if you are coming to the Annual Club Picnic to the Tournament Director

Continued on Pg 9

2020 PSWSFA Tournaments Rules

ALL Club Tournaments (Except as noted on previous page):

- 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. **Please note the flounder is an example only.**



2020 VENDORS FISHING FLEA MARKET AGREEMENT

I will participate in the Great Bridge Fisherman's Association 11th Annual Anniversary Fishing Flea Market on Saturday March 14, 2020 at the Chesapeake Conference Center, 700 Conference Center Dr. Chesapeake Virginia 23320. I agree and understand the following:

Saltwater) New, used, custom and home-made equipment including rods, reels, lures, All merchandise must be geared towards the Fisherman/Outdoor needs. Fly, Fresh Water Tackle, storage boxes, electric or gas motors, boating gear and electronics are acceptable. Boats are available to be displayed at \$3.00 per foot. The staff reserves the right to request the Vendor remove any merchandise deemed unacceptable during this event.

The hours of operation on Saturday are from 8:00 AM – 2:30 PM. Vendors will be allowed to set up after 4:00 PM on Friday and starting at 5:30 AM on Saturday morning. Vendors must vacate the building by 4:00 PM on Saturday. Locations are determined by the staff and will be assigned to each Vendor when registering. Only booths are guaranteed, not the location. There will be a limit to 3 booths per Vendor. All Vendors, need to set up before 7:00 AM. After 7 AM, booths will be reassigned as needed. After unloading merchandise, Vendors must move their vehicles to assigned area. Security will be provided overnight Friday. We encourage all Vendors to set up Friday afternoon or Friday night up to 10 PM. All payments, once deposited are non-refundable if a Vendor cancels. The GBFA and the Flea Market staff are not responsible for any loss or damage to Vendors merchandise

Two admission tickets per Vendor. This will be strictly enforced. Vendors with more than two tables will be discussed.

ATM machine will be available.

GREAT BRIDGE FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION FLEA MARKET APPLICATION

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ BOOTHS, TOTAL AMOUNT _____

\$60.00 PER TABLE

BOAT INFORMATION: \$3.00 Per Foot ENCLOSED _____

SIGNATURE _____


PLEASE RETURN TO:

GBFA


P.O. BOX 15742

CHESAPEAKE VA 23322

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT: BUTCH PIERCE/ 757-287-0330



11th ANNUAL Fishing Flea Market

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Best Locations Go Fast. Register Now!

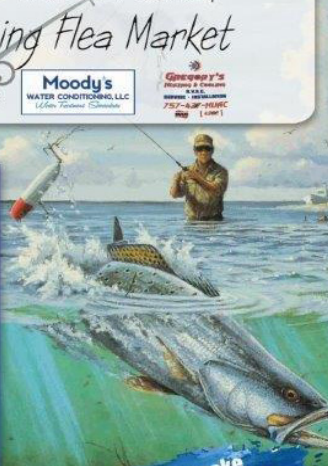
Come buy, meet, greet, and eat !!

- New & Used Rod & Reels
- Fresh & Saltwater Gear
- Custom Lures
- A Variety of Boats & Trailers
- Hot Food & Cold Refreshments
- Admission \$3 (Children 12 & Under Are Free)
- FREE PARKING

Over 3,000 customers in the past year

March 14, 2020
8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Chesapeake Conference Center
700 Conference Center Drive
Chesapeake VA 23320



Chesapeake Conference Center

Butch - lbpocean@aol.com 757-287-0330
George - geva1963@cox.net 757-421-7333
Joe - 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.com
Or Visit 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, Wish-A-Fish, & Sentara Nursing Home

Fishing words from our past President

Fished out of Cape Hatteras on 3/2/20 for blackfin tuna. We only caught one. We did catch several amberjacks. I had several that I caught and released that were up to 42 inches. Got two amberjack heads up that the captain estimated would have weighed around 80lbs and 60lbs if the sharks hadn't eaten the rest of the fish. The one head was huge. I caught several false albacore with one measuring 36 inches. We finally gave up on jigging for tuna and went over to bottom fish for seabass. We caught 25 with the largest at about 18 inches. We did catch several red snapper up to 18 inches that all had to be released. I had one that was 14 inches. I also caught a blackfin snapper that I'm entering as a critter. I caught one of the two silver snappers that we kept.

Attached is a picture of the red snapper and the blackfin snapper.

On 3/3/20 I fished the Piankatank river with Keith Nuttall. We had 4 specks up to about 19 inches. Keith lost one that was probably a citation. We tagged and released all but one fish.

On 3/4/20 I fished on the Corrottoman River for specks with Keith Nuttall and legendary Matagorda, Texas inshore charter captain Bill Pustejovsky. We ended up with 13 specks. We kept 4 to eat and tagged and released the rest. I had a personal best 26 1/2 inch citation speck and Cap't Bill had his first Virginia citation speck at 24 inches. both of the citations were tagged and released.



THE GREAT PENINSULA PICKUP

SIGN UP TODAY TO BE A
PART OF OUR
COMMUNITY WIDE CLEAN
UP DAY.

#THEGREATPENINSULAPICKUP

4.25.20

8AM-11AM

PARKING LOT PARTY TO FOLLOW!
TO FIND OUT MORE DETAILS VISIT:
[HTTPS://REM.AX/39ZMLYA](https://rem.ax/39ZMLYA)

IT'S TIME TO
STEP UP TO
CLEAN UP!

EMPLOYERS. YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.
ADULT GROUPS. CHURCH GROUPS.
GIRL SCOUTS AND BOY SCOUTS....
ANYONE AND EVERYONE WHO CARES
ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY...
THIS OPPORTUNITY IS FOR YOU!





Fishing Around the World

There are a huge number of different species of fish found in UK waters – this article has profiles on a number of those species. With such a huge range of fish species for anglers to target it can be difficult to pinpoint exactly what can be caught and from where. However, many species of fish which come to the UK are migratory and broad conclusions can be drawn about the season of the year at which they will be found in British waters.

Spring (March, April, May)

Spring, especially early spring, can be a quiet time around some parts of the UK for sea fishing, as many of the winter species will have moved away and the summer species have yet to arrive. Later spring can be seen as a transitional time as many of the species which have migrated away

A clear spring day on Cromer Beach, Norfolk UK



© Martin Richards

from the UK for the winter will begin to come back – plaice arrive in many parts of the UK in later spring, and mackerel, sprats, sandeels and garfish may start arriving. Other species such as pollock and wrasse are present throughout the year but spend the colder months in deeper, offshore waters where they are mostly out of range of the shore angler. Once the seas start warming up they will begin to come back into shallower waters and can be targeted by anglers. However, it must be noted that sea temperature lags behind the air temperature and it can take a sustained period of warm weather to get the sea to heat up. Silver eels can also be caught around estuaries and rivers during this time due to their migration patterns. Some parts of the UK see an upturn in cod fishing during the 'spring run' – the process of cod feeding to fatten themselves up before setting off for their migration to colder Scandinavian and Nordic waters.

Summer (June, July, August)



Brighton Beach, UK: Anglers may need to fish early in the morning or late at night to avoid the crowds.

Summer brings many species to the UK, but anglers may need to fish early in the morning or late at night to avoid the crowds.

By summer the seas should have warmed up which will see the summer species move into shallower waters and within range of sea anglers. Summer is one of the busiest times for UK anglers as shoals of sprats move

So you think you know your Piscis (Fish)

Can you name it?

Answer next month



Continued on Pg 10

in, closely followed by mackerel and garfish – providing sport for anglers using spinners, feathers, daylights and float fished baits. For many anglers using these techniques to catch these species is the only time they will go fishing all year. Other predatory species such as bass and larger pollock spend the colder months in deeper water and summer will see them coming close to the shore as they feed on sprats, sandeels and smaller mackerel. Wrasse is another species which spends winter offshore and is caught in its highest numbers in the summer months, with the same being true for gurnard and mullet. Anglers should be careful, the venomous weever fish can also be caught on feathers and daylights. Other smaller fish such as pouting and rockling will also be around. Summer is also the best time to catch a large species from the shore as this is the time that conger eels feed closest in, and species such as smooth-hound, tope and ray species are most commonly caught by shore anglers around this time of year. Semi-migratory species such as cod may be present over the summer – especially in the northern parts of England and Scotland. However, smaller specimens will dominate numbers and it is often only boat anglers who can access the larger cod in the warmer months. Whiting are similar to cod in their seasonal variations. Plaice remain in British waters throughout early to mid summer, and those caught at this time of year will have had several months to feed in inshore waters and fatten up, meaning those caught in summer are much heavier fish (and in a much better condition) than those caught in the spring. Summer also represents the best time to fish for large and relatively rare flatfish species such as turbot, and can also be the time when anglers are in with the best chance of catching something very rare indeed such as a rare bream species (white, Pandora or gilt-head), a triggerfish, or a John Dory – although there is much more chance of catching a sub-tropical exotic species around the south of the UK, particularly the south west of England.

Autumn (September, October and November)

Early autumn can provide the best of both worlds for anglers, as there is often overlap between the summer and winter species. In fact in some parts of the UK it is possible for anglers spinning for summer mackerel to catch an autumn/winter cod on their lures! Larger species such as conger eels, smooth-hound and thornback ray will still be present and a fine early autumn evening can be an excellent time to target these species. The same is true for larger bass, pollock and wrasse. As autumn goes on these species will begin to thin out to be replaced by the larger mature cod, who will migrate down from the colder Scandinavian waters to join the smaller immature cod which have remained around the UK all year long. Whiting will also be beginning to arrive and while the plaice will have migrated away by autumn the colder water flatfish such as dab and flounder will certainly be around to provide anglers with sport. There is a great deal of regional variation with the arrival of the winter species. For example cod, migrating from the colder north will be out in greater numbers around Scotland and northern England than around the southern parts of England.

Winter (December, January and February)

The winter is synonymous with cod fishing in many parts of the UK (as described above this is particularly true in north of Britain). Whiting are often caught alongside the cod and small, hungry whiting can become a bait stealing pest for many anglers trying to catch a big cod, although larger whiting can provide good, solid sport when the cod are not biting. Catches of flatfish such as flounder and dab are likely to remain steady as well and coalfish will also take bottom fished baits, especially around the north. Again it is anglers fishing the north of the UK that will be in with the best chance of catching a very rare coldwater species when winter is at its coldest, such as an Atlantic wolffish. Other smaller fish which are non-migratory such as three-bearded rockling and pouting will also turn up in catches around the UK in winter. As winter turns into spring many species head away to spawn and we reach the quiet time described at the start of this article before the whole process begins again.



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A BoatU.S. Cooperating Group, you are invited to **become a BoatU.S. Member**
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Directions to PSWSFA Meeting Location

Plumbers and Steamfitters Union Hall
7812 Warwick Blvd, Newport News, VA

Going west on Mercury Blvd (towards the James River Bridge) make a right onto West Warwick Blvd, then almost immediately, at the 1st light, make a right onto Union Dr. Follow the road around to the largish one story building (about 150 yards). I don't believe the Union sign is still on the building.



WHAT'S UP NEXT & BEYOND



Fishing Flea Market
14 March 2020
0800-1630
See Ad on page 8



March PSWSFA Meeting (Old Location)
Guest Speaker: Lewis Gillingham VMRC
17 March 2020, 7:00pm
Plumbers Union Hall
7812 Warwick Blvd, NN



Peninsula Caged Bird Society Bird Mart
4 April 2020, 0900 - 1600
Sts Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church
60 Traverse Rd. Newport News
Just off I-64, Exit 258B & US 17N
(where they have the Greek Festivals)
numerous vendors, most not selling bird stuff
FREE entry

PENINSULA SALT WATER SPORTS FISHERMAN'S ASSOC.
P.O. Box 5194
NEWPORT NEWS, VA 23605

