



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 May with Covid 19 still kicking us in the butt. When you go out to the store please wear something over your face. I'm trying keep myself and wife alive. Unless you've been tested, and most people haven't, you could be a carrier and never know it.

There have been a few people taking their boats out and doing pretty well. I spoke with a guy named Keith who had just returned from the Bridge tunnel with a load of Tog. Stan Simmerman and Johnny Boyd were out at least twice in April and did very well with Specks between the two bridges at Fort Monroe. Ken Neill has also been doing pretty well with red drum so far this year.

I tried casting for Specks on the York River along the parkway a couple of times but only managed to get my lure wet with a side of bottom growth (whatever those semi-transparent balls of goo are).

We had our first ever board meeting via Zoom on 14 April. After an initial hiccup getting everyone dialed into the right place everything went extremely smoothly. It was pretty much the same as having the meeting at Joe and Mima's but without the food and drink. I think I saved about \$20 to boot. The May board meeting will also be via Zoom so more good times to be had by all. The board should get something delivered to the house from their favorite restaurant.

I'm still hoping we can get past this virus by July so I can go up to my sister's lake house near Syracuse. I spent \$50 for a year long NY state fishing license last August and I'd like to use it again before it expires.

On a sadder note, Bob Bolden's wife, Livinia Ann, passed away peacefully on 14 April 2020, with her family members at her side. For additional information please go to the following site: <https://www.claytorrollins.com/obituary/Lavinia-Bolden>.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The only thing I have is that the 19 May 2020 general membership meeting is canceled.

Danny



2020 Club Officers

Danny Forehand

President

Milton Hudgins

Vice President

Rachel Nelson & Wally Veal

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Christina Grice

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Charles Southall

Corresponding Secretary

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Ronnie Wilson

Gary Donaldson

Dave Boyce

Rick Wineman

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Wally Veal

Johnny Boyd

David Agree

Steve Martin

Jerald Abraham

Wes Blow

Don Lancaster

Mike Frielingsdorf



That is one big crab!

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



April 27, 2020: Virginia Announces the Recreational Black Sea Bass Season - the Virginia Marine Resources Commission is extending the recreational black sea bass season in 4 VAC 20-950-45 to be open from May 29 to December 31. This closes the regular May 15 to December 31 season for 14 days to account for 14,236 pounds of black sea bass landed during the February recreational season. All other regulations pertaining to the recreational black sea bass fishery remain in effect. This action is pursuant to the authority afforded to the Commissioner by the Governor's Executive Order 51(C) and in agreement with the Secretary of Natural Resources.

April 30, 2020: Commercial Fishermen, the license renewal deadline of April 30th has been extended until further notice during the MRC's COVID-19 office closure. Once the offices re-open their will be a grace period before 2020 licenses will be required. Visit our COVID-19 Information Page for more updates on interim procedures for commercial fishermen during MRC's COVID-19 office closure. [[COVID-19 Information Page](#)]

Last Month's Mystery Fish: Lady Fish



The Elopidae are a family of ray-finned fish containing a single living genus Elops. They are commonly known as ladyfish, skipjacks, jack-rashes, or tenpounders.

The ladyfish are a coastal-dwelling fish found throughout the tropical and subtropical regions, occasionally venturing into temperate waters. Spawning takes place at sea, and the fish larvae migrate inland entering brackish waters. Their food is smaller fish and crustaceans (shrimp). Typically throughout the species, the maximum size is 1 m (3.3 ft) and the maximum weight 10 kg (22 lb). The body is fusiform (tapering spindle shape) and oval in cross-section; being slightly laterally compressed, and the eyes are large and partially covered with adipose eyelids.

This family is fished, but the body is bony and therefore this fish is not marketed widely for consumption. They are caught and used as bait or may be ground down for fish meal.

The name comes from the Greek ellops - a kind of serpent.

Editors Note: I caught several small lady fish last year fishing at Ft Eustis in the James. The first thing they did was fly out of the water like a tarpon and usually shook out my single hook jig. The small ones at least have a fairly delicate mouth that doesn't seem hold a hook well.



NEWS FROM VIMS

Oyster aquaculture partnership offers new funding for watermen

by Barbara Bowen, USDA NRCS | April 16, 2020

When you think of the Chesapeake Bay, an iceberg probably isn't the first thing that comes to mind. Yet it's probably the most accurate picture of ongoing conservation activities to improve the health and vitality of the world's third largest estuary. There's a lot more going on below the surface than meets the eye.

One such conservation activity is a new collaborative program to restore about 40 acres of privately leased oyster beds. The newest chapter in a now 8-year partnership among USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), the program seeks to improve Bay water quality through targeted funding and resources to create habitat for oysters, fish, and other wildlife.

Through the program, oyster growers who receive services from the Accomac, Chesapeake, Gloucester, Quinton, Smithfield, Tappahannock, and Warsaw NRCS



A VIMS researcher deploys a tray of oysters.

Continued on page 4

service centers may be eligible for \$180,000 in funding to deploy new shells and begin spat-on-shell production in target areas. Interested individuals must submit a signed VMRC pre-approval form and a completed NRCS application by May 15, 2020 to be considered for FY 2020 funding.

“Oyster aquaculture is a rapidly growing industry in Virginia,” says NRCS State Conservationist Jack Bricker. “This partnership to reestablish reefs on private shellfish grounds offers a win for watermen and the Bay as the growing populations remove large volumes of nutrients from these waters.”

“Overharvest is often the first contributing factor that comes to mind when people think about the decline of the Chesapeake Bay Oyster,” adds Andrew Button, VMRC Department Head, Conservation and Replenishment.

“However, habitat loss and oyster diseases played an equal, if not larger, role in the decline. This project tackles both of these issues by encouraging the creation of new oyster habitat, and by utilizing oysters that have been selectively bred in hatcheries at VIMS for increased resistance to common oyster diseases.”

NRCS helped fund this project through USDA’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Created in the 2014 Farm Bill, RCPP draws on local knowledge and networks to fuel collaborative projects and empowers communities to design conservation solutions that work best for their regions.

For more information on Virginia RCPP projects, visit www.va.nrcs.usda.gov. To learn more about VMRC projects and activities, visit www.mrc.virginia.gov/Shellfish_Aquaculture.shtm.



Foster’s Striped Bass

Mark Alexander Foster started 2020 off on a hot note breaking the IGFA All-Tackle Length Record for striped bass not once, but twice, within a week’s time. On January 7, he caught-and-released a 122-centimeter (48.03in) striper, then followed it up with this 124-centimeter (48.8in) fish, measured to the fork in the tail, a week later. Both fish were caught trolling live eels off Cape Charles, Virginia. Congratulations to Alex on his first and second IGFA World Records.



News From Virginia Beach Sport Fishing

27 April 2020

Tautog fishing remains good to excellent. Look for them around underwater obstructions like wrecks, reefs, rocks and the pylons of the CBBT. The Virginia season closes May 15th, so you need to go ASAP! The tautog state record was set in 2012, a 24 lbs 3 oz fish caught by Ken Neill.

Red drum are on the shoals at the mouth of the bay, Latimer Shoal and the shallow bar near the north end of the CBBT. Next month as the water warms and the number of fish increases, anglers will begin having success sight casting near the islands of the CBBT.

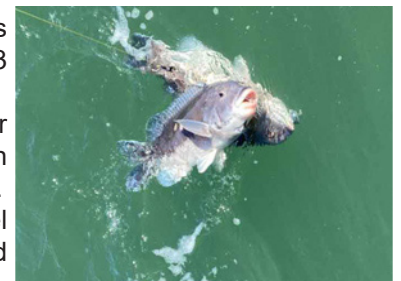
I’ve heard very few black drum reports. But they should be along the shallow channel ledge running from Fisherman’s Island to north of Cape Charles. Look for boats anchored close together near Kiptopeake, the Cabbage Patch and the Concrete Ships.

Flounder, speckled trout and bluefish are starting to bite inside local inlets. There have been keeper size specks caught in Rudee Inlet this week. The best flounder catches will come from Wachapreague, Oyster and Chincoteague on the Eastern Shore. Flounder should be showing along the CBBT. Numbers will continue to improve as the water warms.

It’s time for sheepshead to arrive in the bay. Their numbers will increase in May and peak in early June. The best baits are fiddler crabs or mole crabs, fished very close to structure.

Anglers fishing off the Virginia Beach Fishing Pier are catching skates, sand perch, spots, pufferfish, roundheads, trout and bluefish. The water temp is 56°. Anglers are using bloodworms, clam bites and gulps.

Sea bass, blueline tilefish, golden tilefish, snowy grouper, black belly rose fish and dogfish are available this time of year to Virginia offshore deep droppers. Make sure to keep up with seasonal regulations for each. In June the Rudee headboats start offering 17-hour deep drop trips on Thursdays and daily half day inshore trips. There will be pent-up demand, so book early.





BoatUS.com
800-395-2628

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FISH TALES

The Coronavirus is still putting a damper on things. However, Stan and Johnney Boyd once again were doing well, this time with Speckled Trout and Ken Neill managed a couple of nice Drum from the Eastern Shore. Richie Moore was able to get out from Hatteras in February and picked up a Blackfin Tuna.



Ken Neill caught the nice drum shown above left on a trip to Fisherman's Island on 23 April. He went to the breakers on 2 May and caught another one, above right, and he pulled off two more. The one capture was tagged prior to release.

Hatteras Blackfin Tuna

2-23-20



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

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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.**



THREE TIPS FOR OFFSHORE ANGLERS

by Lenny Rudow with permission



You want to tip the scales of encountering marlin, tuna, mahi-mahi, and other pelagics in your favor, the next time you go offshore trolling? Now's the time to begin prepping your gear, your boat, and your brain—start by taking these three tips into account.

1. Pull a dredge. If space is at a premium on a small boat, get one like the StripTeaser, which is easy to stow, deploy, and pull from a small boat. In fact, if you're smart you'll never leave the inlet without one. Weight it down enough to keep it well below the surface and always, always, always run a small naked ballyhoo from a flat-line set just 10' or 15' behind the last teaser on the dredge. Sure, everyone thinks of dredges as billfish-attractors, and they are. But yellowfin home in on these dredges a lot more often than one might think. That ballyhoo will often get snapped up by a tuna, and afterwards if you check the dredge, as often as not you'll discover pin-holes in the mylar teasers. You're not familiar with running dredges? No problem, check out this Deploying a Dredge video. <https://youtu.be/ayKScQcU8jk>

2. If you're pulling spreader bars for tuna—and most of us are—run another small naked 'hoo just off to the sides and/or behind each one that's not in the whitewater. Keep an eye on those bars, too. Quite often you'll see a marlin swinging his bill at the squid, and the ballyhoo will be pre-positioned properly to feed the billfish. Grab the rod, crank the ballyhoo even with the bar, swing the rod tip to get the bait properly positioned, then go into freespool and try a drop-back. It may take a few attempts because often the fish seem intent on bashing a squid or two out of the "school" and they don't always pay attention to the ballyhoo on the first or second try. But eventually you can usually divert their attention. If not, you can post an angler on the rod with the spreader bar and have him or her reel the bar up while you send the ballyhoo back. It's a risky maneuver because the marlin might follow the bar until it gets too close to the boat for comfort, then disappear forever. But sometimes, making this move is necessary to distract it from the squid.

3. Lower the volume level on your boat. Fish can hear (or at least sense the vibrations) of things like slamming hatches, sliding coolers, and yelling people. Pulling a hydrophone in the spread and recording the noises coming from a boat will give some shocking insight into just how loud it can be 50 feet behind the transom. You'll clearly hear noises from the boat that are far louder than the engines, especially the noise of people yelling. You've heard of "window shopper" billfish that came up on a lure or bait, then disappeared without attacking, right? When a billfish gets spotted in the spread people often yell and shout as cockpit mayhem ensues. Could there be a connection? We can't say for sure, but the bottom line is that in virtually every type of fishing, anglers recognize that making noises can spook fish. So, why should it be any different offshore?



Fishing Around the World



Sportfishing Destinations

So what's the scoop on fishing in Costa Rica and when is the best time to visit?

Well, the truth be told, fishing in Costa Rica is great year round. The real key to a great fishing trip is making sure you are in the right part of the country at the right time. Also, there are some strategic hot spots to consider that are home to some of the best guides in the country, laid out below.

If you prefer watching videos, here is Justin DeBoom, our fishing expert, explaining when is the best time to come down and enjoy some excellent fishing. Justin also shared his top tips for planning and booking your fishing trip to Costa Rica, just below the Destinations section, check them out!

North Pacific

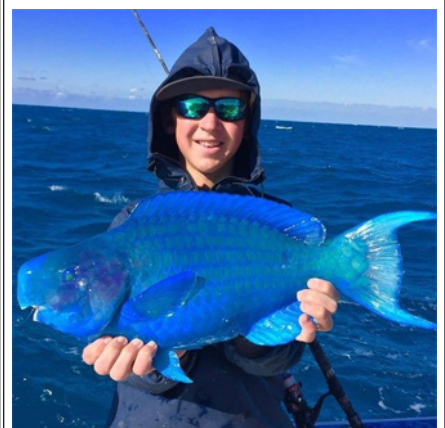
This area spans from the Nicoya Peninsula to the border of Nicaragua. From December to March, things can be tough here. This area is plagued by the Papagayo winds, which are the trade winds blowing from East to West off of Lake Nicaragua. During these months, the winds can blow 15-20 knots, which makes for very poor fishing conditions offshore. However, this is a great time for inshore fishing and the gulf of Papagayo is home to some of the biggest roosterfish in Costa Rica.

June through October things really begin to heat up here. The winds have died down and the seas are calm. This is the time of year where the sailfish start showing up in numbers, as well as the marlin, tuna, and dorado. During these months, on any given day, you can catch all four in one trip. This is one of the best areas to target all the pelagic species at once.

May and November are transitional months when the seasons are changing. I personally consider these months great in any part of Costa Rica!

So you think you know your Fish

Can you name it?
Don't strain your brain.
Answer next month



Continued on Pg 11

Central & South Pacific

This area spans from Jacó and the Los Sueños marina down to Golfito, including the Osa Peninsula where there have been more world records caught than any other part of the country. During the months of December–April, the bit is all about sailfish, the occasional marlin, and some dinner fare. These are the days when boats see double-digit sailfish releases and all the records are broken in the tournaments. You can expect relatively flat, calm seas, great weather and incredible offshore fishing throughout these months.



From June to August this area gets a grab bag of species. This is the time of year when the tuna traditionally show up, and with that, the marlin is here in numbers. There are sailfish still around, as well as plenty of dorado for dinner. Many captains will also spend time targeting snapper, grouper, roosterfish and other reef dwelling species.

In September and October, things slow down a bit as the weather is typically wet and things are slower offshore. Many captains use this time to do their annual maintenance and get ready for the next season.

May and November are once again transitional months and offer great fishing in any part of Costa Rica.



Caribbean

The northern Caribbean coast from Parímina area north to Barra del Colorado is home to some of the best tarpon fishing in the world. Fortunately, here the tarpon don't migrate too much, so fishing can be good year round. However, due to the weather on the Caribbean, and keeping in mind the ability to get out of the river mouths, there are months which are much better than others. Mid-February to mid-May is a great time to fish here as well as September and October. These two windows offer anglers the best chance of great weather and easy access to the prime fishing grounds, with September and October being the absolute best months of the year.

With all these fishing options, there is much to enjoy. The best part about the great fishing in Costa Rica is that it can be for anyone. In the past, it was thought that big game fishing was just for the avid anglers, but with today's professional crews and top of the line equipment anyone can enjoy this activity. So if you are looking to try something new or want to plan a world-class fishing vacation, Costa Rica has something for everyone.

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

We will let you know when to expect the next meeting. Keep a safe distance and keep washing your hands and wear a mask when in public.



*12 May- Board meeting 1800 or 1830 via Zoom
Danny will let us know the codes and the correct time.*

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

