



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. You can visit us at www.pswsfa.com.

Next Meeting

19 March 2024 7:00pm (1900)

Welcome to March and our first meeting of the new year. Sorry for not getting any pictures from the boat show into the Chumline last month.

Dr. Ken Neill will be speaking about fisheries management.

For April: PSWSFA is excited to have Captain Pete “Walleye” Dahlberg speak at our April Meeting. Walleye Pete has guided more than 4,300 trips throughout the Chesapeake Bay in his 24 years as a light tackle guide. Pete is considered by many to be the best light tackle guide in the middle Chesapeake Bay.

Prior to being a fishing guide, Pete served in the Air Force for 22.5 years and retired in 2004.

Pete has been an early adopter of utilizing technology like Google Earth, sidescan & spot lock and will present how he combines his on-water experience with modern tools to help his clients catch quality fish. This meeting is free for members and non-members,

So don't miss it!

You can check out Pete's latest catches on his Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CaptWalleyepete>

Website: <https://walleyepete.com/>

The Great Bridge Fishing Flea market on 2 March went well. We sold a bit over \$500 in raffle tickets for the 7' medium fast Fenwick rod and the Diawa BG2500 reel which club members can get tickets for at the next 3 meetings. We also sold about \$80 for the Speck trip with Stan

At the Poquoson flea market on 9 March we didn't do as well, a bit over \$300 but there were far fewer people there and it was a bit shorter in length.

Dues are DUE this month. Scan the QR code below to pay on line. Fees apply! Mail in Form on web site.



Stay well
Mike the Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Folks,

March is here and the weather is warming. Crabs are out of the mud and crawling onto the flats. Things are about to take off soon.

The PSWSFA Board has been busy the last few weeks with the Virginia Beach Boat Show, the Great Bridge Fishing Flea Market and the Poquoson Kiwanis Nautical Arts and Fishing Flea Market. All of which have been very successful events for the club. The custom rod and reel combo was a big success where we sold all 400 tickets at the boat show. At the two flea markets we sold a good number of tickets for the other rod and reel and the fishing trip raffles further helping with our finances.

At the Poquoson flea market both Gary Lawson and I were asked to give seminars. Gary on tautog and mine on speckled trout. Gary had a very good turnout on his tog presentation and gave out several great pointers. The speckled trout seminar was standing room only with over 55 attendees. Both groups had a lot of questions and I believe we did well representing PSWSFA.

Continued on page 3 Col 2

2024 Club Officers

Stan Simmerman
President
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Vice President
Wally Veal
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Christina Grice
Treasurer
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Past President

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Ronnie Wilson Mike Frielingsdorf
Gary Donaldson Richie Moore
Dailey Vandergriff Paul Downey
Rick Wineman Johnny Boyd
Charles Randolph Gerald Abrams (alt)
Jenny Williamson



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 2024 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



President's msg continued from Page 1

Once again, the club members owe Mike Frielingsdorf and Daley Vandergriff a big thank you for all the time that they have put into setting up, tearing down, and representing the club at all of these events. A shout out goes to Richie Moore and Dave Brabrand for their assistance also.

Mike Frielingsdorf and I met with Dave Tuck last week and presented him with the custom rod and reel that he won at the boat show. He was both surprised and pleased that he had won. He only purchased one ticket, but it proved to be the right one. He stated that although he isn't much of a fisherman, he did buy a ticket to support the club and that Richie had presented a compelling argument for purchasing a ticket.



Stan presenting Mr Dave Tuck with the custom rod and reel he won after participating in our raffle at the Virginia Beach boat show. Way to go Dave!

The club banquet was a great event even though the turnout was smaller than we had hoped for. We ended up with about 55 attendees and Kevin Smith did a tremendous job setting up the banquet room. Many folks were recognized for their achievements throughout the year and a big thank you to Milton for all the hard work he puts into the awards presentation. Johnny Boyd deserves a big thank you for bringing all the drinks and ice as does Ronnie Wilson for running the raffle. I would be remiss if I didn't also extend a big thank you from all the club members to those who arranged for raffle prizes and to the businesses that provided them to us. I would also like to extend a huge thank you to L & S Tackle from Largo Florida who provided us with a multitude of mirrolures, ball caps, other tackle and a metric butt ton of keychains to give away at the banquet and flea market.

February is usually a decent month for seabass fishing but most of us weren't able to get out at all because of the weather. It blew almost the entire month. Speckled trout fishing was pretty good and should only start getting better as the water continues to warm. Tog, flounder, specks, etc should start showing up very soon. The tuna are still off of NC and the first Spanish mackerel have been caught off of Hatteras. Spring is definitely in the air.

Get out there and fish and try to get a youngster/youngsters out with you. Enter your fish in the monthly tournament and especially the youth entries. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting on the 19 th where Ken Neill will be educating us on fisheries management.

Tight Lines: Stan





Watermen, Charter Captains Weigh in on Impact of New Rockfish Limits, Loss of Trophy Season

By Timothy B. Wheeler, Bay Journal News Service / February 27, 2024

It's going to be a lean year for those who like to catch or eat Atlantic striped bass—with still leaner times perhaps to come.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, which regulates inshore fishing for migratory species, has ordered new curbs, starting May 1, on both recreational and commercial catches of the popular finfish, also known as rockfish in the Chesapeake Bay region.

Amid persistent signs of trouble with the species, the commission's striped bass management board decided Jan. 24 to limit all anglers in the Chesapeake and its tributaries to landing one striper a day, and only if it's between 19 inches and 24 inches long. Ocean anglers likewise can keep just one fish a day, but with a narrower legal-size window of 28 to 31 inches.

Maryland and Virginia watermen, meanwhile, face a 7% reduction in their allowed commercial harvest of the fish.

The board ordered those curbs with the hope of restoring the species' abundance after a worrisome decline in recent years. Whether this will be enough for the struggling species to rebound is a toss-up. Equally uncertain is how many people who now earn a living pursuing them will be able to do so in years to come.

One of the most sought-after commercial and sport fish in the Bay and along the coast, striped bass range the Atlantic from Canada to the Carolinas. The Chesapeake serves as the primary spawning and nursery ground for 70–90% of the coastwide population. For five straight years, they've suffered from poor reproduction in Maryland's portion of the Bay and its tributaries, with below-par spawning reported last year in Virginia.

The commission had already tightened catch limits after scientists warned in 2019 that striped bass were being overfished and that the number of adult female fish had fallen below what is needed to sustain the population. Scientists noted then that the widespread practice of catch-and-release fishing was killing a significant number of striped bass, especially in summer when warm water temperatures and lower oxygen levels further stress fish that are caught and handled.

After cutting recreational catches to one fish a day virtually everywhere, East Coast fishery managers thought that would be enough to eventually restore the population. They were jolted last year when surveys indicated the estimated recreational catch had nearly doubled in 2022.

In response, the commission took emergency action in May 2023, imposing a 31-inch maximum size limit on all recreationally caught fish. That was an interim measure to protect fish spawned in 2015, the last year of abundant reproduction. But managers agreed then that more curbs likely would be needed to help the fish back reach a sustainable level by the legally mandated deadline of 2029.

Few decisions by the Atlantic states commission have generated as much public debate. Nearly 700 people spoke at 15 hearings in 13 states in November and December; the commission also received more than 2,800 written comments.

The new recreational catch size "slots" were chosen with the hope of conserving two groups of fish: those not yet old enough to spawn and larger ones that are prolific spawners.

The board's scientific advisors project that the new size restrictions will reduce the overall recreational catch of striped bass by 14.5%. For Maryland's charter fishing industry, though, the cutback will be more severe because until now their customers have been allowed to keep two fish a day.

Mike Luisi, a commission member and fisheries manager with the Maryland Department of Natural



Charter guests haul in a catch.
Photo: Will Parson/ Chesapeake Bay Program

Continued on page 7

Resources, warned that cutting the state's charter boat clients' catch to one fish a day "will put people out of business." He tried, without success, to persuade the board to soften the economic impact on the for-hire fleet.

Others, though, insisted on a uniform one-fish daily limit in the Bay and coastwide.

"The dark days are coming," warned David Sikorski, a commission member and executive director of the Coastal Conservation Association of Maryland. "It's time to buck up [and] reduce fishing mortality."

The striped bass management board also struggled over what to do about the commercial harvest.

Some members, heeding appeals from recreational anglers, wanted to cut the fishing industry's catch quota by 14%, roughly on par with the recreational reductions. But others argued the industry shouldn't pay for the excesses of recreational anglers along the Atlantic coast, who had been mainly responsible for the big increase in estimated fishing mortality. More than half of the 2022 recreational catch came from New Jersey and New York, the commission said, with just 20% from the Bay.

"The problem is not with the commercial fishery," argued Robert T. Brown Sr., president of the Maryland Watermen's Association. Commercial fishing is tightly regulated, he pointed out, with each fish caught, tagged and accounted for, and the catch quota already reduced in previous years. In the Chesapeake, commercial harvest accounts for just over one-third of the total catch.

In the end, the board compromised on a 7% reduction in harvest quota. But in ordering that the cut take effect May 1, the board made it difficult if not impossible for Maryland and Virginia to comply. The 2024 commercial fishing season for striped bass is already underway in both states.

Brian Hardman, head of Maryland's charter boat association, said he expects at least some of the state's 377 for-hire fishing businesses to founder. He said many clients won't be interested in going out for just one fish, and some repeat customers have already called to cancel bookings for this year.

"If we had a whole host of other fish to fish on, we would have other options," he said. But with business already down from what it had been before the pandemic, Hardman predicted bookings would decline another 35–50%. "How long can we sustain that?" he asked.

The Maryland charter fleet reported catching 101,000 striped bass in 2022, according to state data. That's a tiny fraction of the total recreational catch of around 3.4 million fish in the Bay and coastwide that year, according to estimates drawn from voluntary angler surveys.

"We're the smallest user group and catch the least amount of fish," Hardman said. "You can't solve any problems on our backs."

Meanwhile, Maryland is imposing additional striped bass fishing restrictions beyond what the Atlantic states commission has ordered.

A joint legislative committee in February approved emergency regulations that lengthen the time in spring when recreational fishing for striped bass is prohibited in Maryland's portion of the Bay and its tributaries. "Targeting" of striped bass, which includes catch-and-release, will be banned from April 1 through May 15.

Fishing for striped bass was already prohibited in April, but the new rules extend the closure by two weeks. That eliminates the state's "trophy" striped bass season—the first two weeks of May, when recreational and charter anglers had been able to keep one fish a day 35 inches or longer.

The rules also extend an existing early-season ban on fishing for striped bass in the Susquehanna Flats, prime fish habitat, until the end of May.

"We wanted to give striped bass as much chance as possible not to be interacted with [in April and May] to complete their spawning activity," he said.

Hardman, the charter captain, countered that DNR's proposal didn't go far enough. If the state really wants to promote successful spawning, he said, then it should stop allowing recreational catch-and-release fishing even earlier—during the first three months of the year, when there's evidence the big fish are entering the Bay to spawn earlier than in the past. "You're going to put a Band-Aid on May and act like you're doing something. It's ridiculous," he said. "If you want to protect them, protect them. Close it down."

DNR has said it intends to propose further regulations later this year, including a one-week extension of the summertime closure of striped bass fishing. That would run from mid-July through the first week of August, when hot temperatures weaken fish and increase the likelihood that catch-and-release would kill them. Luisi said DNR might consider including a March closure in those proposed rules.

Virginia Charter Boat Workshop Scheduled for March 30th, 2024

The Virginia Charter Boat Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 30th at the Gloucester Point campus of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and online 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.

This annual workshop enables members of the charter industry to speak with regional and state experts in fisheries and maritime safety. Participants can look forward to presentations from Robert Beal, Executive Director of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, in addition to the U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, and the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Tips for getting started in the business will also be shared from experienced captains. The workshop is targeted to both established captains and those just getting started (or thinking about starting) in the charter industry. "This workshop helps captains ensure that they are staying up to date with fishery regulations and operating their business safely, in addition to providing networking opportunities with others in their industry." says Susanna Musick with VIMS.

The workshop will be offered in a hybrid format with in-person attendance at the Gloucester Point campus of VIMS and virtual participation via Zoom (based on availability). Advanced registration is required. The workshop is free, but space is limited, so please register before March 22 online: <https://forms.gle/5STES8NQBxrcNVe98> . If you have questions, please contact Susanna Musick: susanna@vims.edu . **There are still seats available for this event.**

Save the Date!

Virginia Charter Boat Workshop

at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point

Saturday, March 30, 8:15 - 12:45

Featured speakers: United States Coast Guard
 Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
 Virginia Marine Resources Commission
 NOAA Greater Atlantic Region
 Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association
 Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Space limited, register for free:
<https://forms.gle/5STES8NQBxrcNVe98>

Questions? susanna@vims.edu

More sites for VIMS

Fish Tagging
<https://www.facebook.com/vagamefishtagging/>

VIMS Marine Advisory Program
<https://www.facebook.com/VIMSMarineAdvisory/>

In Search of Owls on the Chesapeake: How Expert Birders Spot Them

By Mark Hendricks / February 15, 2024

We are fortunate enough to have eight different species of owls in the Chesapeake region. Some, like the majestic snowy owl, are winter visitors. Others are permanent residents, such as the screech and great horned owls. Owl watching provides a fascinating look into the lives of these secretive birds.

Owls are perhaps the most sought-after species for beginning birders. And it is during the wintertime when you are most likely to encounter one, both due to the lack of leaf cover as well as increased activity during the breeding season.

The first thing beginning birders should do is research which species of owl live in your area.

What is their behavior, range, and habitat? For example, the incredibly acrobatic short-eared owl are only in this region during the winter months, are crepuscular (or twilight) hunters, and are found in areas of wide open space. Think marshes, farms, and even county dump sites. When located, they are usually found flying over the landscape in search of prey. In contrast, the barred owl is a resident breeding owl that prefers the cover of forest and wooded swamp to wide open marsh. When located, they are usually perched in a tree looking below for an unsuspecting meal.

Winter is also a time of courting and breeding. In December and January, the nocturnal great horned owl begins its courtship ritual by hooting to its mate on cold, winter nights. By February, the pair is usually found in or near their nesting site. These very large birds do not build their nests, but instead procure nests constructed by other large raptors, such as eagles and hawks. Nests may be in a forest, on a tree adjacent to a marsh, or even trees next to a road.

The ubiquitous barred owl begins courting in February. A pair will communicate to each other at night, usually within a patch of forest, with an array of grunts, caws and their distinctive “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?” call. By March they are nesting in some type of natural cavity, typically a tall tree, though they may even use human-made boxes or nests made by another animal.

When venturing into owl habitat, humans play the role of wildlife detectives. Owls are good at leaving evidence of their presence, which, when found, is a good indicator that they are still nearby. Look for whitewash and owl pellets, or excrement and oval-shaped masses of undigested food regurgitated by the owl. Whitewash, technically uric acid, is usually found underneath a tree, on the trunk, or in branches where the owl roosts. Owl pellets will contain parts that are not safe for digesting, such as bones, teeth, skulls, hair, and feathers. Finding a pellet and/or whitewash is the equivalent of an owl gold mine, and if you do come across the evidence, look up because there’s a good chance you will find the owl or its nest nearby.

If you are fortunate enough to encounter one, as with all wildlife, give them plenty of space and just maybe you will have a very special encounter.

Happy Owling!



Photo of a Snowy Owl by: Mark Hendricks

Necropsy Reveals Parallels in Virginia Beach Humpback Whale Deaths

By Meg Walburn Viviano / March 12, 2024

A week after two humpback whales washed up dead in Virginia Beach, marine biologists are revealing the findings of the necropsies (animal autopsies) conducted on those animals. And the two whales, which were both found dead on the same day, have some notable similarities.

While they are not able to yet declare a cause of death, the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center Stranding Response team completed in-field assessments of the two whales. The first washed up in a popular area of the Virginia Beach oceanfront near 25th Street on Sunday, March 3. That whale was 32 feet long and about 32,000 pounds. The second, spotted floating in the water that same day, stranded at False Cape State Park on Monday, March 4. It measured 27 feet long and weighed about 21,800 pounds.

A necropsy is conducted on a humpback that washed up at the oceanfront. Photos courtesy of the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center.



The second, smaller whale washed up at False Cape State Park the day after the first stranding.

From examining the whales, the Virginia Aquarium team has learned they were both immature/juvenile males. Both had “abnormal skin lesions” the team is now investigating. They also note both whales had healed scars that appear to be from past entanglements with fishing lines, nets or other pollution. An Aquarium spokesperson notes that previous entanglements are “a sub-lethal and chronic part of these animals’ lives”.

The Stranding Response Team took tissue samples, photos and data they will analyze in hopes of determining a cause of death for both whales. That process takes “careful assessment and time,” the Aquarium tells us.

So far in 2024, there have been three humpback whale deaths in the Chesapeake Bay region—the two from last week in Virginia Beach and one at Assateague Island in Maryland. However, whales stranding in the Chesapeake region has been a problem for the last several years, as we’ve extensively reported. Since NOAA declared an Unusual Mortality Event for humpback whales along the Atlantic coast in 2016, at least 215 whales have died.

With the external and internal exams completed on the most recent Virginia Beach cases, both of the whales have been buried at the beaches where they washed up.

Virginia Saltwater Fishing Report

Way South Chesapeake Bay Fishing Report, March 8 Update:

Warmer days are signs of Spring arriving soon which will bring many more fishing opportunities with it. A reader checked in with tepid redfish action on the southern Western Shore, but between three anglers, five puppy drum did hit soft plastics. He noted that a lot of casting went unrewarded all day long, and all of the fish came from a single lucky pier. The inlets and other tidal tributaries have speckled trout and puppy drum in them right now. As the days get warmer, more fish will move into the area and their activity level should pick up. One of the best ways to find redfish right now is to fish on warm sunny days and search for them in shallow mud bottom areas. The water in these locations tends to warm up quickly which attracts fish. Recent reports are showing that anglers are finding them as shallow as three to 10 feet of water.

The various wrecks, rock structures, and reefs in the southern Bay will also begin to see the awakening of more tautog as water temperatures slowly climb. Crab baits work great when targeting the tog, which are a hard fighting fish known for their delicious white meat. Surf anglers should also start preparing their gear because the black drum should be arriving at the end of the month along the oceanfront. We have had some very mild days this month and if that pattern continues we could see some of the Spring runs of fish kick off early too. Many exciting opportunities are on the way. Don't forget that clocks spring forward this weekend meaning that sunset will finally be after 7pm. After work fishing trips are back on the table!



As the temps creep up the tog will begin to stir once again.

February's Mystery Fish Bergall or Cunner



The Bergall, like last months fish, is a species of wrasse native to the northwestern Atlantic, where it is found from the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Newfoundland to the Chesapeake Bay. They inhabit inshore waters living near the sea floor at depths from 10 to 128 m (33 to 420 ft), preferring areas with beds of seaweed, shipwrecks, or wharf pilings.

They spend the winter months in a state of torpor underneath rocks. Often, cunner is found mixed in with tautogs, living on or near the same structures. Much of the food eaten by those bergall living among blackfish are the leftovers from the blackfishes prey.

Cunners are generally smaller, so are usually thrown back by anglers who think they caught a "short" tautog. In past years, they have been important commercial fish, but now are considered pests. They can be confused with black sea bass, rockfish and other grouper, as well as tautog, for their ability to change color.

Editor: I used to spend all day catching these as a kid on Long Island. Rumor has it they are good eating. I would think they taste like sea bass.



Virginia Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

*Last Revised
January 2024*



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

- 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
- Gaffing prohibited



Summer Flounder

- Minimum Size Limit: 16 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: 20-31 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: October 4 - December 31

Coastal Season

- Size Limit: 28-31 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



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: 13
- Recreational Bag Limit: 15
- Season: Feb 1-29 (permit required); May 15-July 15, July 27-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

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PSWSFA would like to thank our sponsors for their support



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We'd like to thank Legasea Marine for being the first sponsor for our 2024 Sheepshead Tournament



FISH TALES



Chuck taking it easy while fishing for Cats



Prepping bait for cats



Stan with a nice February speck



Not a bargain anywhere in sight



A master salesman at work...



Setting up at the boat show



Winners of the 2023 Tagging program. Most fish tagged was again Mr. Ed Shepherd, just behind Susanna

Monthly Tournament List December 2023

Sea Bass
Barclay Shepard 24.5"

Speckled Trout
Stan Simmerman 29.75"

Bluefish
Wally Veal 26"

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 - Drum	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 Oct 2022 by the Editor at Hapuna Beach, 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)

Deadline for turning in your 2024 entry forms:			
Month of Entry	Deadline (RegMtg)	Month	Deadline (Reg Mtg)
January	13 Feb	July	20 Aug
February	19 Mar	August	17 Sep
March	16 Apr	September	17 Oct
April	21 May	October	19 Nov
May	18 Jun	November	17 Dec
June	16 Jul	December	by Brd Mtg 14 Jan 2025



- Three ways to turn in your forms:**
- hand deliver to monthly meetings
 - e-mail to judygee03@gmail.com
 - mail to: Milton Hudgins, 1894 Katie Lane, Hayes, VA 23072

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

ELIGIBLE SPECIES

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

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).

NOTE: Copies of release citations with this form are acceptable.

Required Information:

Tournament: _____ Fish: _____

Date Caught: _____ Time Caught: _____ ^{circle one} am / pm Length: _____

Name (printed): _____ ^{check one:} Adult Youth

Signature: _____ Witness Signature: _____

Optional Information:

Weight: _____ Where Caught: _____

Weight Master Signature: _____



2024 PSWSFA TOURNAMENTS

Download "Official Entry Form" at

[Monthly Tournament - Peninsula Salt Water Sport Fisherman's Association \(pswsfa.com\)](http://pswsfa.com)



FOR ALL TOURNAMENTS

You must register prior to fishing and use the PSWSFA official monthly entry form

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

Bishop's Trophy Red Drum Tournament

April 1st – May 31st, 2024

Must Receive Completed Form no later than the Board Mtg. June 11, 2024
See Rules below for Catch and Release fish totals. (Witness or photo)

Club Multiple Species Tournament

June 1st – 30th, 2024

Angler who catches the most saltwater species in a single day
Must Receive Completed Forms no later than the
Board Mtg. July 9, 2024

Youth and Ladies Croaker/Spanish Mackerel Tournament

July 1st -31st, 2024

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 13, 2024

Don Forman Club Cobia Tournament

sponsored by Bishop Fishing Supply
August 1st -31st, 2024

Must Receive Completed Form no later than the Board Mtg.
Sept. 10, 2024. See Rules below for weight tournament

Sheepshead Tournament

September X, 2024

Separate paid entry tournament. Details and rules to be announced. Rules
and fees listed below do not apply to this tournament.

XX

Club Spot Tournament

September 21st – 22nd, 2024

Weigh in: 2:00pm Sept. 22nd at (Location to be determined)
All entries will be weighed using the same club scale
followed by the Annual Club Picnic
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. 20th if you are coming to the Annual Club Picnic to the
Tournament Director

Club Puppy Drum Tournament

October 1st – 31st, 2024

Most number of Spots Wins (photos required)
Must Receive Completed Forms and copies of photos no later than the
Board Mtg. Nov 12, 2024

Wilcox Bait and Tackle Irv Fenton Rockfish Tournament

December 1st -31st, 2024

Must Receive Completed Form no later than Jan. 14, 2024
See Rules below for weight tournament

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

2024 PSWSFA Tournaments Rules

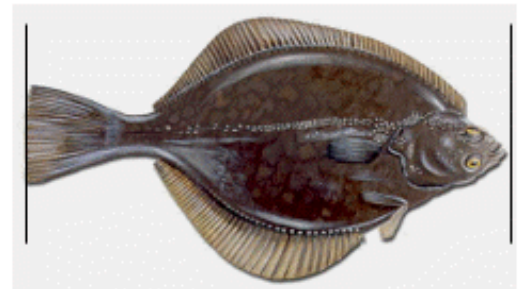
ALL Club Tournaments (Except as noted on front):

- Entry Fees: \$20 for member & \$30 for non-member. Youth and Ladies croaker/Spanish mackerel tourney is free.
- Rules and Entry Fees listed below do not apply to the Sheepshead Tournament. This is a sperate paid entry tournament.
- 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 for weight tournaments. 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. Length tournament entries require witness or photo.
- All pertinent PSWSFA bylaws apply.

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

MEASURING INSTRUCTIONS

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



WWW.PSWSFA.COM

Fishing Around the World

Fishing the waters around Phuket and Khao Lak Thailand, gives you the chance of spectacular battles with Marlin, Sailfish, Wahoo, GT, and many other sought after game fish!

Sailfish are present all year round, and the name “Sailfish Capital of Asia” refers to the huge numbers around Racha Yai, in the rainy season

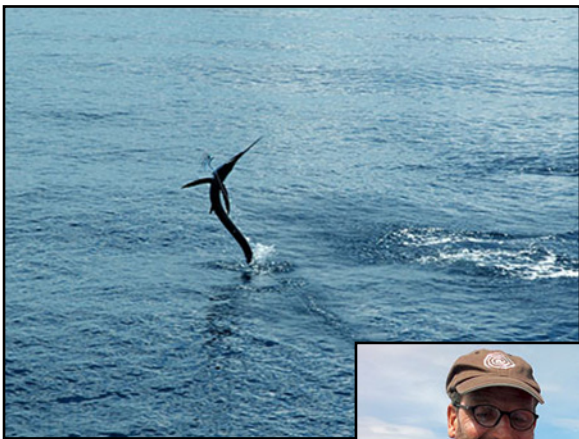
(June – August), and “High” season (October–March) around Racha Yai, Racha Noi, Koh Ha, Koh Rok and the Similan Islands.

From October through April, visiting anglers can furthermore encounter “The Ultimate Fighter”, the Black Marlin. The normal size in Phuket waters is 200 – 300 lbs, but every year specimens around 500 lbs are caught.

Other species include: Wahoo, King Mackerel, Barracuda, Giant Trevally, Cobia, Dorado, Rainbow Runner, Yellowfin and Dogtooth Tuna plus several species of Shark.

Fishing Khao Lak offer a wide range of trips, with the most popular being exclusive day charters, or multi–day safaris.

For anglers on a budget we offer Dorado and Giant Trevally fishing from local boats.



So you think you know your Fish

What is it?

A few different varieties but still Way to easy!





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

\$15 Boat U.S. Membership Dues and 10% off Water Towing Services

BOAT U.S. COOP GROUP #: Contact Gary Donaldson at
GaryD66@Cox.Net
For the PSWSFA Coop group #

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and services offered to BoatU.S. Members.

MS11 8/11



INSURANCE



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DISCOUNTS

Directions to PSWSFA Meeting

**Former St Mark's Episcopal Church
Now used by Peninsula Baptist 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 with a new Baptist church message.

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 you miss it you will need to do a U-turn on Cunningham and go left onto Todds Lane.

The church driveway is just short of the Bercuese Funeral home entrance or just after it if coming from Cunningham.

WHAT'S UP NEXT & BEYOND



**19 March - First member meeting of 2024
Guest speaker is Dr. Ken Neill.**



**16 April - Member Meeting
Guest Speaker: Captain Pete "Walleye" Dahlberg**



21 September - Sheepshead Tournament

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

