

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](http://www.pswsfa.com).

### Next Meeting

21 May 2024 7:00pm (1900)

Welcome to May

Please note that I updated the VMRC Recreational Fishing chart on page 11 since last month to show the most recent changes to the Striped bass size limits and dates.

Our guest speaker this month is Susanna Musick from VIMS. She will be talking about her stint on Ascension Island where she was the lead biologist. This should be a good presentation about a place none of us has had chance to see up close and personal. Not to mention the outstanding fishing.

On Memorial Day remember the men and women who gave their lives to defend our country, our democracy, and the oppressed around the world.

**You can now pay your dues online** Scan the QR code on the last page. The web site also has a way to pay for the upcoming Sheepshead tournament.

[WWW.PSWSFA.COM](http://WWW.PSWSFA.COM)

Stay well: Mike the Editor

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Folks,

May is here and so are all of our summer species. Spanish Mackerel are in abundance off of Buckroe as well as the Ocean View area out to the CBBT and Virginia Beach ocean front. Red Drum and Black Drum are on the shoals and along the CBBT. Puppy drum, both red and black, are just about everywhere. Cobia are here and have been caught off of Buckroe and at the Hampton Bar. Big blues are available almost anywhere. Nice flounder are in our area as well as the CBBT and Eastern Shore. There have been a few decent size croakers caught in the bay and Hampton Bar. Decent size sea mullet (whiting/roundhead) are throughout the bay. Tog are at the CBBT and at the reefs. Seabass season is opening soon and they are pretty plentiful on any nearshore/offshore structure. Spadefish will probably be early and I wouldn't be surprised to hear of catches at the light tower in the next week or two. There are plenty of rockfish around and that season opens soon also.

Over the past month we have lost two folks that are near and dear to the club. Milton's wife passed recently and our most sincere condolences go out to Milton and his family. That same week Don Lancaster passed away. Don was a long time member of the club up until covid and a long time member of the A-Team with Don Foreman who helped pioneer cobia fishing in the bay. Our sincere condolences are also extended to Don Lancaster's family.

Remember to turn in your Monthly Tournament Entry Forms to Milton by the beginning of the meeting. It could very well be worth \$10. You can't win if you don't enter. Especially remember to enter youth entries for the youngsters.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting on the 21st.. Until then get out there and fish and try to get a youngster/youngsters out with you.

Tight Lines,  
Stan

**2024 Club Officers**

**Stan Simmerman**  
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**Milton Hudgins**  
Vice President  
**Wally Veal**  
Secretary  
**Christina Grice**  
Treasurer  
**Danny Forehand**  
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Ronnie Wilson                     Richie Moore  
Gary Donaldson                   Paul Downey  
Dailey Vandergriff               Johnny Boyd  
Rick Wineman                     Johnny Boyd  
Charles Randolph                 Gerald Abrams (alt)  
Jenny Williamson



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

**PSWSFA 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

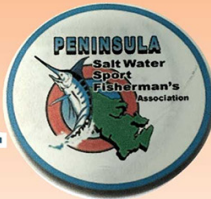
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
**Sheepshead Tournament**



**September 21, 2024**

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For information go to [PSWSFA.com](http://PSWSFA.com)

Hosted By:

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## Prizes

1st Place: \$1000

2nd Place: \$600

3rd Place: 400

Optional Calcutta available for \$100

Toad Prize: \$100 for the heaviest  
Oyster Toad

## Early Bird Discount

Register online or Mail in Form before the end of August to save \$50

### 2024 Sheepshead Tournament Online Registration

**Earlybird Boat Entry - 4 Anglers MAX - \$150**

**Earlybird Boat Entry - 5 Anglers MAX - \$200**

**Earlybird Boat Entry - 6 Anglers MAX - \$250**

After 31 August 2024 add \$50 to all entries

Click for Online Signup: [PSWSFA Sheepshead Tournament Online Sign Up](#)

**Mail-in Forms and Tournament Rules are available at the bottom of the linked page. Make checks payable to PSWSFA**



# IN LOVING MEMORY OF JUDY GRAY HUDGINS



## JUDY GRAY HUDGINS

Judy Gray Hudgins, age 82, of Hayes, passed away on Friday, April 19, 2024, at Heron Cove 2, Gloucester. Judy was born on December 7, 1941 (Pearl Harbor Day) in Newport News, to the late J. Carlton Diggs Sr. and Pauline P. Diggs. Judy grew up in Onemo of Mathews and graduated from Mathews High School class of 1960. She went to work at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, and



spent 39 years at VIMS in various positions and departments, finishing her career in the Wetlands Department. Judy was an active and supportive member of Bethany United Methodist Church of Gloucester Point from 1964 until her death. Judy was a founding member of The Five Rivers Women's Club and held many positions. A fall in August of 2020 limited her mobility but her heart was still with the Women's Club. Judy was an active reader, especially John Grisham. She loved watching the squirrels, butterflies, and especially the hummingbirds. She enjoyed traveling and was fortunate to have been to all but eight states. Judy had also traveled to many foreign countries. Some of her favorite trips were to Hatteras, North Carolina, with family and friends. One of Judy's great loves was her granddaughter, Adelle. They spent many hours together during Adelle's early years and quite a few shopping trips which Adelle really enjoyed. Judy was preceded in death by her parents, and survived by her husband of 63 years, Milton Hudgins; son, Michael Hudgins (Jennifer); granddaughter, Adelle Hudgins; brother, Jimmy Diggs (Charlene); nephews, David Diggs, Ryan Brooks, and Brent White; nieces, Ellen Poynter and Krista Chase; nine great-nephews; three great-nieces; sisters-in-law, Mary Linda Brooks and Nancy White. She is also survived by special cousin, Catherine Morgan, along with other family members and many friends. The family will receive friends at Bethany United Methodist Church on Friday, April 26, 2024, from 11-11:45 a.m., followed by a Celebration of Life service, conducted by Pastor Paul Song, Pastor Arthur Wolz, and Pastor Braxton Allport, to begin at noon. The inurnment will follow in the church cemetery and a reception will be held in the church fellowship hall. A special thank you to Dr. Ronald Haggerty and his staff at Direct Access Internal Medicine for their loving care over the last 12 years. The family cannot say enough about the love and excellent care she received from all staff members at Heron Cove 2. In memory of Judy, contributions may be made to the Abingdon Volunteer Fire & Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 9, Bena, Va. 23018, and/or Bethany United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 527, Gloucester Point, Va. 23062.

Services under the direction of Hogg Funeral Home.

# Elizabeth River “Otter Spotters” Wanted as National Program Arrives in Norfolk

By Lauren Hines-Acosta / May 6, 2024

Megan Isadore, co-founder of the River Otter Ecology Project, led a nature walk to Plum Point Park in Norfolk on March 23. The group reached a dock—a popular site for evidence, if not sightings, of their favorite critter. Some combed through the shore’s sand, and others scoured the dock.

Finally, they found something. It was otter scat, or poop. While not exactly the cute creature everyone hoped for, they were excited to be on the right track.

In collaboration with the Elizabeth River Project, the River Otter Ecology Project and Fieldscope, a nonprofit data analysis organization, **Otter**

**Spotter** is a community science program, imported from the West Coast, to assess the otter population in one of Norfolk’s most environmentally challenged waterways. Participation is open to the public.

Isadore started the program in 2012 in San Francisco, where river otters were thought to be extirpated. The animal had essentially disappeared in the area, initially from fur trapping and then from pollution and habitat loss. But Isadore wasn’t convinced they were gone, so she solicited the public to map locations where the public saw or photographed otters. The resulting dataset increased the official California river otter range map by 4,100 square miles.

Now, Isadore is going national, and one of her first stops is the Elizabeth River. Like San Francisco, Norfolk is where water meets urban landscapes and connects to a large bay.

“It’s our serenity within a large urban area,” said Chesapeake resident Angelique Thames, who attended the Otter Spotter presentation at the **Pru and Louis Ryan Resilience Lab and Learning Park**. “And so, we kind of have that ownership to it and wanting to protect it, keep it safe and keep it clean.”

As the apex predators their food chain, otters need many things to thrive, from plenty of food sources to adequate shelter. So, if an otter is present, there’s a good chance that the ecosystem is fairly healthy.

“The fact that there are river otters here indicates that there are some good things going on in the [Chesapeake] Bay,” Isadore said.

Like the situation out West, trapping took a heavy toll on the otter population in the Bay region, as did water pollution, habitat loss and disruption of natural streams. In Virginia, for instance, their numbers were extremely low by the 1970s, and in 1978 the state both outlawed trapping and added otters to its endangered species list.

The population rebounded fairly quickly, even with the animals’ comparatively slow pace of reproduction. Otters were delisted in Virginia in 1990, though the state continues to restrict trapping to three months of the year. Pennsylvania and Maryland also restrict otter trapping. Isadore believes that has made a difference, but she also attributes their return to the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act.

Otters, like this one near the Nauticus museum, have even been spotted in busy urban areas of Norfolk.  
Photo: Eric Alton



*Continued on page 6*

Leah Card, a Virginia Department of Wildlife biologist specializing in furbearers — animals trapped for fur — said the state’s river otter population is rising and doing well.

“We only have a few scientists, so having this citizen science project [tell us] where the otters are, note any behaviors — that’s really helpful,” Card said. “I think just getting a better glimpse of what the population is now will help us going forward.”

In California, the data collected by Otter Spotter has helped agencies make decisions on development plans, land usage and oil spill response plans.

Isadore hopes to bring that knowledge to the Chesapeake Bay — and she’s counting on citizens, even outside the Elizabeth River watershed, to join the search and submit their photos at [elizabethriverotter.fieldscope.org](http://elizabethriverotter.fieldscope.org). The Elizabeth River Project is also offering **FieldScope training** 5:30–7 p.m. June 20 to teach how to enter the data.

To spot an otter, Isadore recommends not only watching for movement on the water’s surface but also for signs on land, including smashed vegetation, pawprints and especially scat. It’s not unusual to spot them in storm drains, rip rap and gravel bars. They also love docks and are most active at dusk and dawn.

Otters often get confused with muskrats, beavers and nutria. Features unique to otters include a long tail that is a third of its body, extremely smooth fur when wet and a weight of 15–20 pounds — smaller than an adult beaver, but bigger than any muskrat.

While otters are cute, they are wild animals. Isadore recommends maintaining distance.

“I hope people will pay attention to this good news,” Isadore said. “It’s one of our few good news stories that we have these days. And it shows that people can remediate the problems that we’ve caused, and that we need to not give up.”



Megan Isadore pointing out Otter poop on a dock near Plum Point Park in Norfolk

## Oxford-Bellevue Ferry, Nation's Oldest Privately Owned Ferry, is for Sale

History buffs on the Chesapeake Bay have seen numerous opportunities to own an historic lighthouse in recent years—but how about owning a ferry service that dates back to 1683?

The Oxford-Bellevue Ferry, which shuttles passengers back and forth between St. Michaels and Oxford in Maryland's Talbot County, holds the title of the oldest privately owned ferry in America. It's a unique experience for tourists and for locals showing off the beautiful Tred Avon River to out-of-town guests.

Tom and Judy Bixler have owned and operated the ferry since 2002, but as they reach their 70s, they are ready to dial back their involvement and spend more time watching their four grandchildren grow up.

After this summer season, the Bixlers are looking for a successor to keep the 341-year-old ferry alive. It's been around this long and the Bixlers certainly don't want to see its run end now.

The service began in November 1683 as a ferry service for "Horses and Men". The operator, a family member of Tilghman and Poplar islands' owners, was paid his salary in tobacco.

The ferry was run by a woman more than once during its history, notably beginning in the early 1700s. The ferry was rowed both ways across the Tred Avon River, according to the Bixlers. This "entailed the scow being propelled by a fourteen-foot sweep oar operated at the stern. It required strength and skill few men possessed," so it was a relief when the ferry was swapped out for a small coal-fired steam tug called the William H. Fisher in 1886.

Today, the ferry the Bixlers operate is a bit more efficient. The Talbot is a steel-hulled, double-ended ferry. The vessel is equipped with two rudders and two engines so the captain never has to turn it around to make a return trip. At 65 feet long and with a 30-foot beam, The Talbot can carry 99 passengers with no vehicles aboard or 82 people with up to nine vehicles aboard.

Judy Bixler says the vessel is in great shape despite being built in 1980 and was restored and painted over the past two years. Its most recent Coast Guard out-of-water inspection found the steel hull to be "as new". Bixler also notes that the ferry has "a pair and a spare" of most parts. It comes with all the needed equipment, plus a trailer and a shed for storing them.

The ferry's new owner will receive life jackets, tools, and even uniforms with the sale.

While Tom and Judy Bixler have served as the primary captains of the ferry for about 3/4 of its trips, they do employ part-time captains. These licensed captains do it for the love of the ferry and they range from retirees to airline pilots (who are especially knowledgeable about steering to the wind) and even a Talbot County lawyer who started as a ferry crew member at age 14 and still enjoys being aboard.



The Oxford-Bellevue Ferry, known as The Talbot, is for sale to a new owner/operator. Its legacy dates back 341 years

The Bixlers are willing to be as hands-on or hands-off as the buyer wants. “We aren’t leaving the area. We are willing to work part-time with someone. We do have a wealth of knowledge and are happy to share that,” Judy says.

They do acknowledge that the next stewards of the ferry will have to work hard. “It’s a 24/7 job, even though it doesn’t operate 24/7,” Judy says. During the off-season, there’s still maintenance to be done as with any boat and any business.

The Oxford and Bellevue landings themselves are owned by the county and the state, so the ferry owner is not responsible for maintaining those.

One of the important roles of the ferry operators is fostering tourism, the Bixlers say. “The ferry is a mode of transportation, but the majority of the business is tourism,” Judy says.

When the Bixlers first took over the ferry service, there was still a number of commuters traveling between St. Michaels and the Oxford boatyards. But today there is only a handful. For most, it’s a pleasure cruise. It even includes a museum exhibit with photos and information on the ferry’s history.

The ferry boat shuttles visitors back and forth constantly from 9 a.m. to sunset during the summer season. The ride takes 8-10 minutes each way. By water it’s only a 3/4-mile trip, which saves people about 20 miles of driving by going the long way around by land.

The captain serves as an ambassador for the towns of Talbot County. People ask their captain where they should eat and what they should do. Interested kids on board get the chance to come up and see how the vessel is steered. Judy Bixler has positioned herself well over the years as Chairman of the Talbot County Tourism Board and served as Chair of the Maryland State Tourism Board until recently.

As they start their 23rd season running the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry, the Bixlers have their sights set on the future. “We really love the ferry and it’s been a wonderful run. We want to find someone to carry on this legacy,” Judy Bixler tells us.

It’s a rare opportunity, seeing that there have only been three different owners of the ferry since the early 1930s. And unlike the rundown lighthouses that come up for sale around the Bay, the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry is a profitable business, making money six months out of the year.

Judy Bixler calls the decision to sell “a bittersweet thing,” but looks ahead to the next person’s chapter.

“It’s been going on a long time and we want it to continue going on,” she says.

For inquiries about the sale of the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry, email [obferry@aol.com](mailto:obferry@aol.com). Eastern Shore College



Tom and Judy Bixler, owners and captains of the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry.

# Students Win National Electric Boat Competition

By John Page Williams

Electric boat models (and motors) are gaining momentum at boat shows and on the water—now the industry is turning its attention to the next generation of engineers. A national competition held in Virginia Beach this spring pitted 42 student designs from 34 universities against each other, and a small college on Maryland’s Eastern Shore rose to the top of its class.

Chestertown’s Washington College may not have its own engineering school, but it does have its remarkable IDEAWORKS Innovation Center. Sited along the upper Chesapeake’s Chester River, this college of only about 1,000 undergraduates is an ideal setting for trying out electric propulsion ideas on boats.

The college has become a power player in race competitions at the collegiate level. Its vessels have outperformed rigs from many larger institutions with well-known engineering schools

Examples include their home competition, the Earth Day eRegatta; the long-running Wye Island Challenge, and, most recently, the sixth annual Promoting Electric Propulsion for Small Craft (PEP) regatta, conducted at the end of April on Virginia Beach’s Broad Bay.

PEP is a collaboration between the American Society of Naval Engineers, the U.S. Navy’s Sea Warfare and Weapons Department, and the Naval Sea Warfare Center Carderock. It’s designed specifically to attract and showcase young engineers and entrepreneurs to work with these agencies and their industry partners. Competing craft include multiple classes for both manned and unmanned craft, with both mono- and multihulls made of varying materials competing. The PEP Broad Bay course is a timed run out-and-back around a buoy, over a total of five miles (statute).

One of WC’s race-winning manned craft a traditional-looking wooden runabout that placed third in the planing monohull category. The other is a high-tech trimaran with three lithium-iron-phosphate battery banks ingeniously wired in series to drive its 144-volt motor, with significant safeguards for cooling and emergency failsafe mechanisms. The trimaran was victorious with a win in the displacement manned category. It also ran second in its class in 2023.

Washington College was the only institution to place in two different categories.

In addition to WC, winning institutions in this year’s competition included Princeton University, whose Big Bird set the current record for fastest electric speedboating last fall at 114.20 mph, and the University of Alabama. Other institutions from the Chesapeake watershed participating in PEP this year include the College of William & Mary (third in unmanned multihull in 2023), Old Dominion University (third in the manned monohull category in 2023, plus a spirit award for acting as the hometown team to assist other teams), Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, George Mason University, Howard University, and Johns Hopkins University.

One element in the success of these schools’ programs is the blending of multiple disciplines in each venture. For example, the WC venture at IDEAWORKS includes a Design Team, a Testing Team, an AI Team, an R&D Team, and, significantly, a Business Team. As WC’s IDEAWORKS website explains, “There was a time when you could follow a simple formula to success: Work hard in college and climb the corporate ladder.”

But no longer—The program website likens today’s complex global economy to a maze. “To navigate this elaborate maze, today’s student will need to employ creative and critical thinking, learn from mistakes and solve complex problems through iterative design. They need to know how to communicate effectively. They need to know how to pivot, how to adapt, how to revise, how to persevere. They need to think divergently.”

Princeton’s team is built around the same kind of synergy. The engineers behind Flux Marine’s innovative electric outboards participated in the program as undergraduates there. There is strong motivation across all of PEP’s growing roster of competing institutions to approach the challenge of carbon-neutral boating broadly, exploring ideas that can lead to comprehensive, real-world governmental and business solutions that range from pleasure boating on the Chesapeake to global shipping and naval operations.

One of Washington College’s winning electric boats, a high-tech trimaran with three lithium-iron-phosphate battery banks. Photo: Tiyaba Jamil, Electric Boat team member.



## Virginia Saltwater Fishing Report

Large schools of red drum continue to migrate along the coast on their way to Chesapeake Bay. Large schools popped up along the oceanfront this week, anglers were able to sight-cast them. If you don't find a school on the surface, your best chance at landing one of these beasts is to anchor up near shoals. The north end of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel near Fishermans Island or Poquoson flats are good locations. Black Drum are still a good possibility in the same area. A released red or black drum measuring 46 inches or more qualifies you for a Virginia State citation award. Captured Black Drum citation is 80 pounds.

Large Bluefish have shown up just about everywhere. And Spanish Mackerel numbers are on the rise. Try trolling or casting to schools near inlets, along tide lines and over coastal wrecks. Anglers on the Virginia Beach and Buckroe piers caught both Spanish and Blues this week. So far, the Spanish are averaging between 1 and 2 pounds. A much larger class is on the way.

Tautog action continues to be good. Catches along the CBBT and on Bay structure remains steady. There are only a couple days left in the Virginia season, it closes at midnight the 15th.

Our upcoming cobia season should be a very good one. A few have arrived along the Virginia Beach oceanfront and large schools are migrating along the OBX on their way to the Bay now. Anglers to our south have been sight-casting cobia and drum swimming together. Virginia recreational cobia regulations are as follows: 40-inch, total length, minimum size limit; 1-fish daily possession limit or 2-fish-daily vessel limit, whichever is more restrictive; only one fish per vessel per day may be greater than 50 inches in total length; an open season of June 15 through September 15; and gaffing is prohibited.

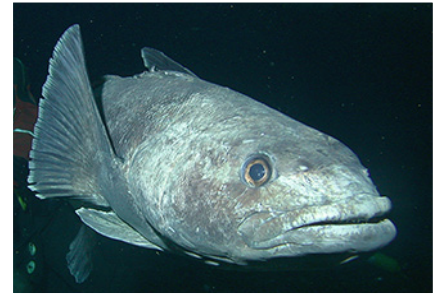
As nighttime air temperatures start remaining above 60 degrees the inshore flounder bite should heat up ... it's off to a good start with most of the big fish coming from the inlets and tidal marshes on the Eastern Shore barrier islands. Long Bay Pointe Bait and Tackle is reporting a few flounder catches inside Lynnhaven Inlet. Generally large baits will catch larger fish, especially in deeper Bay locations.

Sheepsheads are starting to arrive at the Bridge Tunnel. Their numbers will peak in June, and they will hang around until September. They love fiddler crabs, sand fleas or clams fished up against the pylons. Most fish are in the 3-to-8-pound class, but the state record is 20 pounds, 12 ounces.



Dr. Neill getting in on some late season Tautog

## The March Mystery Fish Antarctic Toothfish



The Antarctic toothfish (*Dissostichus mawsoni*), also known as the Antarctic cod, is a large, black or brown fish found in very cold (subzero) waters of the Southern Ocean near Antarctica. It is the largest fish in the Southern Ocean, feeding on shrimp and smaller fish, and preyed on by whales, orcas, and seals. It is caught for food and marketed as Chilean sea bass together with its sister species, the more northerly Patagonian toothfish. The common name "toothfish" refers to the two rows of teeth in the upper jaw, thought to give it a shark-like appearance.

Fully grown, these fish can grow to more than 1.7 m (5 ft 7 in) in length and 135 kg in weight, twice as large as the next-largest Antarctic fish. Being large, and consistent with the unstructured food webs of the ocean (i.e., big fish eat little fish regardless of identity, even eating their own offspring), the Antarctic toothfish has been characterized as a voracious predator. Furthermore, by being by far the largest midwater fish in the Southern Ocean, it is thought to fill the ecological role that sharks play in other oceans. Aiding in that role, the Antarctic toothfish is one of only five notothenioid species that, as adults, are neutrally buoyant. This buoyancy is attained at 100–120 cm in length and enables them to spend time above the bottom without expending extra energy.



# Virginia Recreational Saltwater Fishing Regulations

*Last Revised  
March 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: Jan 1-May 31: 16 inches
- Jun 1-Dec 31: 17.5 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 4 per person



### Striped Bass

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

#### Chesapeake Bay Spring Season

- Size Limit: 19-24 inches
- Recreational Bag Limit: 1 fish per person
- Season: May 16 - June 15

#### Chesapeake Bay Fall Season

- Size limit: 19-24 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](http://www.mrc.virginia.gov)*



### Spadefish

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



### Sheepshead

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



### Black Sea Bass

- Minimum Size Limit: 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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**Andrea's**  
*Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria*



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



# FISH TALES



Wally and 53" Black Drum



Wally and 27" Tautog



My First decent Striper 22"



Wally and Tautog with new T-bar tag



Rick Wineman and nice Black Drum



Danny with multi-spotted Puppy Drum

# Monthly Tournament List March 2024

## Sea Bass

Wally Veal 21.5"

## Tautog

Wally Veal 21.5"

## Speckled Trout

Stan Simmerman 27.25"

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](mailto: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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>circle one</sup> am / pm Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_ <sup>check one:</sup>  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](mailto:rick@getanetsportfishing.com) or 757-268-1539

### Bishop's Trophy Red Drum Tournament

April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

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

### Sheepshead Tournament 21 September 2024

This is a Separate Paid Entry Event.  
Details and rules to be announced.  
Rules and fees listed below  
do not apply to this tournament.

**XX**

### Club Spot Tournament

September 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

Weigh in: 2:00pm Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners:  
"ADULT ENTRIES" and "YOUTH ENTRIES"  
(Anglers for the Spot Tournament must be present to win)  
RSVP by Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> if you are coming to the Annual Club Picnic to the  
Tournament Director

### Club Puppy Drum Tournament

October 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto:judygee03@gmail.com))

# 2024 PSWSFA Tournaments Rules

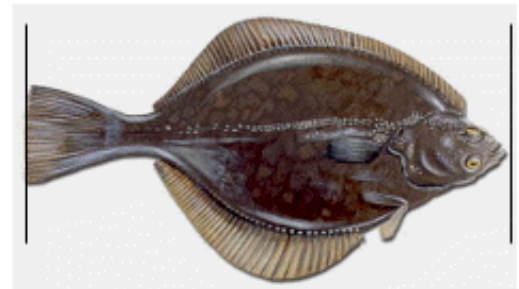
## **ALL Club Tournaments (Except as noted on front):**

- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## New Caledonia: An Angler's Haven of Fishing Spots

New Caledonia boasts of having some of the best fishing spots in the Pacific. From the blue lagoons to the deep sea, there are plenty of opportunities awaiting fishing enthusiasts.

The South Grand Terre is a well-known fishing spot that is a favorite among locals and tourists alike. Here, you can catch different fish varieties, including yellowfin tuna, marlin, and broadbill swordfish.

The Isle of Pines is another popular fishing spot with its calm waters and diverse marine life. You can expect to catch reef fish, Spanish mackerel, and mahi-mahi, among others.

The Barrier Reef, which extends to over 1,500 kilometers, offers endless fishing opportunities. You can catch anything from small reef fish to large pelagic fish such as marlin, sailfish, and yellowfin tuna.

Apart from the general spot descriptions, New Caledonia is also known for its incredible coral reefs, which make for prime fishing habitats. The abundance of fish, coupled with the warm, clear waters, creates a perfect environment for fishing.

For an excellent fishing experience, it is advisable to hire a local guide who knows the waters well. The guide will show you the best spots and ensures that you have all the necessary equipment. Additionally, it is essential to adhere to regulations and fish only within the designated fishing zones.

For more: <https://seafishingadventurer.com/the-seas-of-new-caledonia-an-anglers-dream/>



So you think you know  
your Fish  
What is it?





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](mailto:GaryD66@Cox.Net)  
For the PSWSFA Coop group #

### NEW MEMBERS

Sign up online at [BoatUS.com/Join](http://BoatUS.com/Join)  
(enter your BoatU.S. Coop Group #  
on the first page of the application)

### CURRENT MEMBERS

Not receiving the discount? Email  
[Membership@BoatUS.com](mailto:Membership@BoatUS.com)

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

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

Visit [BoatUS.com/Membership](http://BoatUS.com/Membership) to learn about all benefits  
and services offered to BoatU.S. Members.

MS11 8/11



INSURANCE



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SAFETY



ADVOCACY



TOWING



TRAILER ASSIST



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



**21 May 2024 - Member Meeting**

**Guest Speaker:** Ms Susanna Musick  
Speaking about her time on Ascension Island as lead biologist



**21 September - Sheepshead Tournament**

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

**Scan Link with your phone to Pay Dues**

